

**Alberta Mycological Society
Annual General Meeting 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022

Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m. (180 Minutes = 3 hours)

Via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9022730854>

Attendees: Quorum

Meeting Called to Order: 10:00AM

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Karen Slevinsky

- Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory 6
- Brief review of specific attendee roles:
 - Liz Watts controlling meeting access and setting up polls
 - Mike Schulz sharing screen

2. Approval of the Agenda – Karen Slevinsky

- Motions will be requested for certain items, such as acceptance of Board of Directors nominees.
- Breaks will be provided.
- Guest speaker – Alan Rockefeller: “Being an Amateur Mycologist”.
- Motion to approve Agenda as presented:
m/Scott Harris s/Paul Welke Carried

3. Review of March 20, 2021 AGM Minutes – Karen Slevinsky

- No changes required.
- Motion to approve March 20, 2021 AGM Minutes as presented:
- m/Scott Harris s/ Mel Hohn Carried

4. President’s Report – Karen Slevinsky

- Review of accomplishments:
 - The AMS Graduate Award has progressed 15% towards achieving the endowment fund goal of \$50k, which allows this award to be provided in perpetuity from the University of Alberta (U of A).
 - Safe forays were held across Alberta in 2021 despite the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The 2021 Great Alberta Mushroom Foray was held at Portage College in Lac La Biche, Alberta.
 - From this event, approximately 100 dehydrated species are held at Portage College for storage and future DNA analysis.
 - The AMS aims to create, execute, and maintain our own dedicated Herbarium in Alberta in the future.
 - The AMS submitted an Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) Grant application, requesting \$ 10,400 dollars to fund the herbarium, dehydrator, and necessary supplies, including those for conducting DNA sequencing.
 - Application was developed by Martin Osis, Karen Slevinsky with contributions by Mike Schulz.
 - If the grant is rejected, the AMS will still pursue this Herbarium initiative.

- The AMS is a volunteer steward of the Poplar Creek Natural Area.
 - During 2021, AMS members visited the site to monitor and report any signs of human-caused disturbances or other significant environmental observations. No negative report was generated from any visits in 2021.
 - Pieter van der Schoot is a dedicated AMS member who champions and provides tours of the area.
- The AMS membership has grown during the pandemic.
- The AMS Expo has not been held for the last two years – the University of Alberta Botanic Garden, where the Expo is traditionally held, has been closed to events during the pandemic.
 - The U of A Botanic Garden is anticipated to be closed for events in 2022; if it opens, the AMS will try to hold the Expo in 2022.
 - Pieter van der Schoot's and the Poplar Creek property is critical to the Expo. The AMS uses these areas to gather moss and specimens to show to the public during the Expo.
- The AMS uses a variety of communication methods to reach all our members. We connect with our members using social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, as well as posted mail and email.
- The AMS finances are in excellent order.
 - Ensuring our finances are complete and balanced gives our membership confidence in the AMS organization.
- For our future outlook:
 - The AMS intends to continue to promote the AMS Graduate Award through fundraising events (best in person) and through other means. We have 4 more years to reach the endowment fund goal of \$ 50,000.
 - The AMS will continue pursuing the Herbarium Project, which includes sourcing of storage units and other equipment.
 - Forays, Speakers, and GAMF:
 - We have a tentative list of forays. We present forays on the website as they are conducted. Please continue to encourage us to host/lead them if you see mushrooms.
 - Speakers – Upcoming presentation by Sean Campbell, followed by Martin Osis in the near future.
 - The Great Alberta Mushroom Foray will be held again this year, although it might be different. It might be an urban project. Mushrooms grow everywhere, so we will plan the event wherever they may be. Planning starts in April. GAMF is tentatively scheduled for the long weekend in September. It is a great way to develop skills like learning how to identify morels, parasols, etc. It requires you to take initiative to go out with someone knowledgeable and a good fungi book.
- Motion to approve President's Report as presented:

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| m/Rob Simpson | s/ Mike Schulz | Carried |
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5. Announcement of the inaugural AMS University of Alberta Graduate Award winner by Elizabeth Lakeman – Words from the Winner.

- Elizabeth provides a brief overview of the AMS Graduate Award – the AMS Graduate Award was created to enhance fungal research in Alberta and be given to a student in a masters or doctoral program.
 - The Award was proposed in 2020 by Bill Richards, a long-time director. Thank you, Bill.
 - The goal is to inspire graduate students to research fungi. We have a lot of interested students in this award.
 - Donations are made directly to the U of A and a tax receipt is provided.
 - Alejandro Huerca Delgado is the first recipient of the AMS Grad Award.
- Alejandro Huerca Delgado presents: **Pollen-parasitic fungi: an overlooked trophic interaction?**
 - Q&A session followed. Questions from Mike Schulz, Rob Simpson, Karen Slevinsky, Sean Campbell, Dakota_Main, Patty Bretin were answered.
- Expression of thanks and appreciation made by Karen Slevinsky to close the presentation.
- The AMS is committed to the AMS Graduate Award and for it to become an established endowment fund.
- Alejandro Huerca Delgado is open to answering additional questions that attendees may have and can be contacted through these means: huerecad@ualberta.ca; Twitter: @HuerecaDelgado; iNaturalist: @ahuereca

6. Nominations for Officers and Directors of the Society

- **Recognition of Departing Directors – Karen Slevinsky**
 - In 2021, the AMS Board of Directors was comprised of 4 executives, one membership coordinator, and 9 directors-at-large, formally established during the October 21, 2020 AGM via ZOOM.
 - Since then, three of the newly elected directors resigned (Rosheen Tetzlaff, Jacob Dowling, and Rebekah Adams) who all served less than one year.
 - Catherine Jevic resigned in 2021. Catherine joined in 2019 after producing the Spring Spore Print in 2019 as a volunteer. (You can find the Spore Prints on the AMS website.) Catherine produced six issues in 2019 and 2020, and two in 2021. The AMS expresses many thanks to Catherine Jevic for her contributions.
 - The Board members, Lisa Oishi, Elizabeth Lakeman and Rick Watts, are up for reelection.
 - Lisa Oishi worked hard to ensure foray leaders have the documents they need to host forays.
 - Elizabeth Lakeman set up Google docs to organize documents and she played a pivotal role in establishing the AMS Graduate Award.
 - Rick Watts is the photographer at GAMF (photos can be found on website) and plays an integral role on research committee.
 - Lisa Oishi, Elizabeth Lakeman and Rick Watts are Board members due for reelection and who would like to continue serving on the board.
 - After attending the 2021 GAMF, Mel has joined the AMS. She hosted two forays, held several meetings (merch, inventory, design) and has become our social media popstar. Mel is standing for election.

- **President's Award – Karen Slevinsky**
 - Originally proposed by Peter Arabchuk in 2006, the Award was first presented to Bill Richards and Martin Osis for their contributions to the AMS.
 - In 2008, Award was redefined to specify that the Award is given to non-board members based on outstanding contributions and on the AMS President's prerogative.
 - This year, the President's Award goes to Janet Melnychuk. Janet has no real mycological interest but was committed to helping the AMS manage its finances. In 2018, Janet promised to provide bookkeeping duties, such as balancing our accounts and preparing year-end financial statements. Janet has always delivered with no compensation and no recognition.
 - The AMS will award her a Truffle book and an honorarium (to be delivered as she is unable to attend this AGM).
 - Congratulations Janet and thank you for your contributions to the AMS.
- **Slate to be presented on-site – Robert Simpson**
 - The AMS can have up to a maximum of 14 directors, including the executive officers.
 - There are currently 7 candidates for election: Lisa Oishi as Secretary, Elizabeth as Director-at-Large, Rick Watts as Director-at-Large, Mel Hohn as Director-at-Large and the nominees, Melanie Fjoser as Director-at-Large, Sean Campbell as Director-at-Large and Enoki Li as Director-at-Large.
 - Sean Campbell provides some information on himself – grew up on a fungus farm in rural Saskatchewan. Came back to Calgary, started a fungal business and aspires to set up a fungal lab. He volunteers as Foray Coordinator, potentially around Amisk Lake, which has a lot of biodiversity. There are businesses in the area who may also be interested in providing tours.
 - Enoki Li provides some information about herself – second year student at U of A in pharmacology. Realized that U of A has nothing fungal-related for undergrads. Enoki started a fungi group at U of A to bring more awareness to students. Enoki grew up with her family eating and cooking with mushrooms.
 - If all are accepted, all 14 positions will be filled.
 - The AMS has two specific positions that must be filled:
 - **Foray Coordinator** has been vacant for some time. Somebody who is expected to organize and oversee the running of forays. (Sean Campbell volunteered to take on this role.)
 - **Volunteer Coordinator** to organize and assist volunteers. The AMS will help get the volunteer coordinator rolling.
 - Benefits of being a board member: ½ cost of fees for GAMF and participation in the Board Retreat weekend at Rundle Mission at Pigeon Lake in January each year. Board of Directors receive an official AMS crest.
 - Call for any new additional nominations: None received during the AGM.
 - Motioned to approve the new Board, consisting of existing Board of Directors, re-elected board members, and new nominees:
m/Paul Welke s/Scott Harris Carried

7. Membership Report - Christine Costello

- Christine Costello is the Membership Coordinator.
- Christine Costello and Barb Shworak host and lead forays in the Calgary region.

- Membership was previously done on a calendar basis (i.e., January to December or June to December, etc. and always ended in December).
- In 2019, the AMS changed its website domain name to albertamushrooms.ca. With this new domain and new website, the AMS was able to offer memberships that renew on a 365 day basis (anniversary or evergreen system).
- Members can purchase one, two or even 10 year memberships.
- Most members usually join in spring/summer and enrolment slows down in the winter.
- Some are manual (mailed in) memberships.
- Every membership is added to a new email list (via Mailchimp), so that they can be notified of new events. (Members can unsubscribe any time.)
- Membership changes daily, so the Membership Report presented today is current as of March 17, 2022.
- We have 355 memberships – 625 total individuals, 141 family memberships, 3 corporate memberships, 42 student memberships and 165 individual memberships.
- Compared to 2021, the total individual memberships increased from 463 to 625 and total memberships increased from 289 to 355.
- Memberships are regionally distributed as follows: 39% in Edmonton region, 38% in Calgary, 17% in other, 5% in Red Deer, 2% in other provinces.
- Motion to accept the Membership Report as presented:
m/Mike Schulz s/Rob Simpson Carried

8. Guest Speaker – Alan Rockefeller

- Karen Slevinsky introduced Alan Rockefeller as a mycologist, biohacker, etc. who has made tremendous contributions to iNaturalist. He has identified several new species, and photographed more than 1000 species in Mexico and California regions.
- Alan Rockefeller describes techniques for how best to photograph mushrooms in both daylight and nighttime. His presentation goes over how to use iNaturalist and websites to upload and identify mushrooms. His presentation includes the components, reagents, and equipment needed to photograph, collect, and analyze samples to obtain a positive identification through DNA sequencing.
- Q&A sessions followed with questions from Martin Osis, Mike Schulz and Richard Parks.

9. Herbarium Announcement - Michael Schulz

- At the last board retreat, the AMS realized the need to establish our own Herbarium – properly termed, “Fungarium”, to accurately reflect the nature of the specimens.
- It will store collected and dried specimens from AMS forays, GAMF and potentially by other individuals or organizations.
- The need for a Fungarium is driven by the following reasons:
 - We only have two herbaria in Alberta, such as at the U of A, and they are no longer accepting specimens.
 - We have to send them to Ottawa and can never access those specimens again. The Herbarium in Ottawa has long processing times.
 - It is valuable for us to be able to be able to access them again.
 - To monitor the diversity and distribution of fungi, we need to maintain good historical records - a Fungarium is a baseline need.
- The cost for the physical materials (cabinet, dehydrator, etc.) is \$7,200.

- We expect 220 volunteer hours equivalent of funding.
- Expert identification is estimated at \$10,000, but can be done through volunteer hours.
- DNA sequencing costs approximately \$1000.
- Total cost is approximately \$40,000, including volunteer time and labour.
- The AMS will focus on \$7,200, rounded to \$10,000 to include other expenses, such as travel, to get started.
- The AMS will contribute \$5,000 of our own and hopes for \$10,400 from the ACA Grant.
- It will take time for the AMS to establish an official Fungarium (i.e., establishing processes, structure, procedures, etc.).
- We will start off with a single cabinet and expand to a series of cabinets.
- Portage College in Lac la Biche has agreed to house the cabinets for now.
- The need for portability is critical so that the AMS can move the Fungarium if needed.
- The long-term aim is to also set up a mycolab to complement the Fungarium.
- Question from Richard Parks: There's a lot of members of public who value iNaturalist because of their access to information. Is the current information and future information available to the public?
 - Response from Mike Schulz: At the moment, records in Ottawa are poorly shared by their Herbarium. We aim to ensure that it's organized, documented and shared with members of the public readily and efficiently.
 - Alan Rockefeller adds: A Fungarium requires excellent photos and organization system – alphabetical order by species is suggested.
 - Martin Osis adds: We have a good relationship with Mushroom Observer. We have resources and support from established organizations to help us get started.
 - Rick Watts adds: All the high-quality photos from GAMF are available on the AMS website, but not available on iNaturalist or Mushroom Observer yet. There is a significant amount of work to sort, name, and upload.

10. Foray Report - Erica To

- Brief summary of forays held in 2021 and GAMF provided. Detailed reports may be found in Spore Print Winter 2022.
- Christine makes the correction: Dickson Dam was led by Christine Costello and Barb Shworak in Calgary. Josh Smith hosted a separate one in Edmonton.
- Motion to approve the Foray Report as presented and with the amendments suggested by Christine Costello:
m/Karen Slevinsky s/Richard Parks Carried

11. Treasurer's Report – Robert Simpson

a) 2021 Financials:

- Completed and audited on March 18th, 2022 by Melanie Fjoser and Ryan James. 2021 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss provided.
- Review of income: primarily memberships and books.
- Review of expenses: primarily GAMF with other expenses, such as honorariums, computer-related expenses, book purchases for resale, storage rentals, bank fees, etc.
- Question from Rick Watts: Does the AMS invest our funds in GICs or other investment type accounts?

- Rob Simpson: Interest rates have been low, but it's something we can look into. If we deposit it into GICs, the funds become inaccessible. There are open GICs, but the interest earned is even lower.
- Motion to approve the 2021 Financials as presented:
m/Scott Harris s/Mike Schulz Carried
- b) Nomination of Auditors for 2022**
 - These two members review the Financial Statements, general ledger, receipts, and other financial documents kept by the Treasurer.
 - We will be hiring a new bookkeeper to replace Janet Melnychuk, who will enter the expenses into QuickBooks.
 - The auditors will spend about 2 hours just prior to the AGM in 2023 to review the financial data for this year with the bookkeeper who will be available to answer any questions.
 - John Wispinski and Ryan James volunteered to be auditors.
 - Motion to approve these two individuals as auditors for the 2022 Financial Statements:
m/Mel Hohn s/Richard Parks Carried
- c) Budget 2022**
 - Karen Slevinsky presented the Budget for this year.
 - We expect revenue from membership, the ACA Grant, and book sales.
 - We do not consider revenues from event registration to be significant. It is balanced against event expenses, such as speakers, DNA sequencing costs, etc.
 - After expenses, we expect to carry over approximately \$2,510 towards next year.
 - An additional cost that was not currently included is the cost of the bookkeeper, which will be approximately \$35/hour. This will incur a monthly cost. We estimate a total bookkeeping cost of \$1000, reducing the carry over amount to approximately \$1,500.
 - If we do not receive the grant, we will be using \$7000-\$8000 of the account funds.
 - Budget document will be corrected to indicate 31 Dec 2022 from 31 Dec 2021.
 - Motion to accept the 2022 Budget as presented with amendments for the bookkeeper and date:
m/Mike Schulz s/Christine Costello Carried 2022 Budget attached to Minutes

12. Social Media Report – Mel Hohn

- Online mission: To share our knowledge and connect with mycophiles of all kinds.
- There is growth in Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram activity over the course of this past winter.
- Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook highlights provided from great AMS member contributors.
- Review of the AMS Website, such as the Mushroom Forays page.
- Social Media Goals: Foster a welcoming community of mycophiles, promote AMS events and memberships, host community events and contests, and purchase software for social media management.
- Coming Soon: Stickers, postcards, and more!
- Rob Simpson provides kudos to Mel Hohn for her significant contributions as Social Media Manager, her creativeness and initiative.

- Motion to approve the Social Media Report as presented:
m/Mike Schulz s/Ryan James Carried

13. Elections – Robert Simpson (if necessary)

- New Directors Acclaimed.

14. Motion to Adjourn:

m/Elizabeth Lakeman

Meeting adjourned at: 1:34 pm

Minutes recorded by: Erica To