

BMS Recording Network News

February 2019

To: BMS Recording Network Contacts
cc: BMS Field Mycology & Conservation Committee members
From: David Harries, BMS Recording Network Coordinator

Please circulate the contents of this note within your respective groups

A meeting of the BMS field mycology and conservation committee was held at Kew on 13th February 2019. Matters covered included:

Field Mycology journal & BMS library

The committee discussed the disproportionately high cost of this journal to members. Alternative options will be explored and raised with Council. Geoffrey Kibby outlined the difficulties involved in filling the journal with suitable articles and encouraged us to contribute. Geoffrey also indicated that he is now overseeing the BMS library to ensure it is kept up to date with new books, and is prepared to facilitate visits to the library by mycologists wishing to study particular references. There is no longer any provision for postal loan of books.

Request: Please contact Geoffrey if you would like to offer an article for Field Mycology journal. FieldMycol@yahoo.co.uk

FRDBI

Stuart Skeates reported on progress with the FRDBI and noted that approximately 400 individuals now have access to the database. Work is underway to transfer records across from the old to new FRDBI. This is carried out on a group by group basis - so County recorders can expect to be contacted by Stuart prior to this happening in order that documentation giving approval for the transfer and use of the records can be completed. Work is also continuing on fine tuning of a system for the bulk import of records into the system by individual recorders.

Carol Hobart thanked Stuart for his considerable efforts on this project and extended thanks to Richard Shotbolt and Eric Janke for their assistance with the work.

Foray programme

Peter Smith is looking for a volunteer to take over responsibility for foray programme. He is also keen for groups to offer suggestions for sites with access to suitable workroom and accommodation. Please get in touch with Peter at psmith840@gmail.com if you think you can help on either count. Budget requests for 2020 events in Leicestershire and Oxfordshire were supported by FMCC and will be submitted to Council.

BMS projector: Peter Smith submitted proposals for replacement of the existing, outdated, projector. The proposal was supported by FMCC and will be submitted to Council.

Workshops & meetings

Group Leaders' Meeting: FMCC endorsed a proposal for funding support for a meeting in 2020. The proposal will now be presented to BMS Council for approval.

Autumn workshop: Carol Hobart advised that an autumn workshop focusing on alder and willow carr habitats is planned for September. Details will be circulated once plans are finalised.

BMS Autumn meeting at Kew: This year's event, organised by Martin Bidartondo, is on the theme: Fungal Diversity and Ecology and will be held on Saturday 16th of November. A detailed programme will appear on the BMS website.

Local workshops: Discussion on the need for training at entry and intermediate level highlighted the value of local workshops. Carol Hobart referred to a microscopy course planned by the Shropshire Fungus Group which will be run at the Preston Montford Field Study Centre with support from the BMS. Anticipated date 22nd September 2019.

Groups are reminded that support for training events is available through the BMS small grants scheme.

DNA workshops: Following the (oversubscribed) success of the 2018 event a further workshop, organised in conjunction with the Kew LAFF project, is planned for for 26-28th July 2019. This will include a practical session using the bento lab units purchased by LAFF for group work (see www.bento.bio). [Bento lab units provide a portable genomics setup that combines a centrifuge, PCR, and gel visualisation].

DJH briefed the committee on costs associated with DNA barcoding. Sheffield University offers a cost effective service ranging from single sample sequencing for £5 (DNA extract prepared by user) to £12 for extraction and sequencing. Brian Douglas is investigating further to see how this might work for mycological samples.

Kew Lost and Found Fungi project

Brian Douglas reported on Kew matters and progress with the LAFF. His report is attached to this update and further information is available on the following web link:

<http://fungi.myspecies.info/content/lost-and-found-fungi-project-statistics>

Other matters

Websites: Pat Kavanagh enquired about the possibility of support for group websites from BMS. Currently the BMS website has a short summary of information from local groups (where supplied) and links to local websites. Stuart Skeates will look into options for support.

Facebook: Richard Shotbolt reported that the BMS FB page is proving very successful. BMS groups are encouraged to promote planned training courses on the FB page and should contact Richard with details.

Leaflets: Groups are reminded that an extensive range of promotional leaflets is available from the BMS. A list can be found under the "Resources" section of the UK fungus day site (www.ukfungusday.co.uk).

Keys: Erik Janke is keen to establish the level of interest from groups in the online keys he and Mal Greaves have been working on (see report appended to BMSRN update January 2019).

Question: Is there a demand for a training course in the preparation of these keys, and is anyone willing to have a go at developing some new ones? Contact Eric (russulauk@yahoo.co.uk) for more information

Voucher material: Nathan Smith led a discussion on the benefits on having a central (BMS) dried specimen collection available for use at training events or for study. It was noted that fungarium material held by Kew and other institutions is not readily available to field mycologists. With regard to voucher material, it was noted that care should be taken when drying samples to ensure that the DNA is not damaged - a recent Field Mycology article covering this is attached.

Question: Please contact Nathan (ns565@cam.ac.uk) if you feel a BMS fungarium would be beneficial. Also, do you have any retained material you would like held by the BMS.

DJH February 2019

BMS Recording Network Coordinator