

MicroNews

San Francisco Microscopical Society

Volume 6, #4 November 2011

Dates to Keep In Mind

November 9, 2011 at 7:30 P.M.
General Meeting: Merritt College
(See this page.)

November 13, 2011 at 10:30
a.m. Board Meeting at 20 Drake
Lane, Oakland, (510) 339-9609
for info/directions.

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2012 DUES

January 11, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.
General Meeting and Election of
Officers, Randall Museum, SF.
Micro-arthropods with Eddie
Dunbar (unconfirmed).

March 14, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.
General Meeting. (Program/
location unconfirmed)

May 9, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. Gen-
eral Meeting. (Program/location
unconfirmed)

Wednesday, November 9th Meeting

at MERRITT COLLEGE, 12,500 Campus Drive OAKLAND

SFMS and Merritt Biology Club are pleased to announce that we will be holding another Microscopy evening including "Pond Scum Exploration", in Bldg. D, Room D247, the microscopy classroom. We will formally begin the meeting at 7:30, but feel free to show up as early as 5 PM with your specimens, slides, or special demo material and pull up one of the fine microscopes available in this classroom. Contribute to the evening by bringing aquatic or other samples of your own to share in observation. (See suggestions below).

Bring your memory stick since it will be possible to record interesting material.

Learning how to image and ID aquatic microbes and invertebrates will be part of the experience. However, the theme is not written in stone, so feel free to bring in anything that might be interesting to look at, aquatic or otherwise.

Some ID books will be available, but if you have books for keying aquatic plants, algae, inverts, or microbes, please bring them.

Peter Werner, President of SFMS, may give a short presentation on aquatic mi-

crobial life as well as molds and chytrids.

Invite a friend. Our meetings are open to the public. Our guests will enjoy exploring and learning to use these fine instruments.

We'll have a lot of neat specimens to photograph. Location see: <http://tinyurl.com/merrittmicromap> (Building D, upper floor, south wing, Room D247). Parking is \$2 (in quarters) unlimited time in the Merritt student and guest parking lots, or free along Campus Drive.

Please send to:
HSchott@aol.com short
accounts of what you have
observed through your
microscope.

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FINDING AND COLLECTING SPECIMENS FOR AN EVENING OF EXPLORATION

It is true that we are surrounded by microscopic organisms and materials that we have never explored. So where do we begin? Start in the supermarket with a box of baggies, the kind that have a double seal and are called **freezer storage bags**. The small size will do fine, especially if they have a white area on which you can write notes. These will hold specimens, wet or dry, live or dead, and will be

easy to carry in a small pouch or back pack. A **Sharpie pen** will come in handy for writing on the outside such basic information as where you collected and what you put into the bag (and date).

Finding a good place to collect should be easy. If you know of open water, a pond, a fountain, a small stream, a lake or a beach you have already a natural incubator of small and interesting organisms. Damp

ground under trees also can be rich in microscopic materials. Keep your samples small, but sufficient to share with two or three other microscopists.

Collecting **tools** that might come in handy and are easily acquired include an eye dropper, tongue depressors, meat baster, knife, scissors, sieve, tweezers, spoon, hand trowel. It all depends upon what you want to collect as to what

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No Need For a SFMS Constitution.



SFMS can hardly call itself a large organization. During the past 15 years we have never (or hardly ever) exceeded 50 members and some of these have been many miles from the SF Bay Area.

Our Articles of Incorporation as a non-profit corporation in California were drawn up by a lawyer

in 1954 and signed by then president George H. Needham and Secretary-Treasurer James F. Fidiam. Copies of the document were filed with the Secretary of State, Frank M. Jordan. A constitution was written and if there were any bylaws, they have been lost and/or forgotten. The current constitution of the society does not meet our needs because it is cumbersome and in an age of elec-

tronic communication makes no provisions for efficiency. Constitutions are meant to be legal instruments that are not easily changed. Bylaws are where the rules and obligations by which the organization functions are described and can be augmented and modified to meet new requirements.

Articles of Incorpora-

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What is 501(c)(3) and Why SFMS Must Pursue It

We have always been a nonprofit organization and because we were handling such small sums of money, we did not need to file with the IRS. All that changed when we received a bequest.

The problems multiply the moment more than one governing body gets involved. First, the Federal

and State governments want to be sure you are not collecting money for a terrorist organization. That is why we have to have some new statements in our Articles of Incorporation. Then these new statements must be certified by the State and we then send the certified copies to the IRS.

Also interested in our

funds, is the State Franchise Tax Board who requires reports and that we are a Public Benefit Corporation.

The 501(c)(3) is an IRS designation that lets us avoid paying taxes if we follow all the rules, such as not selling things commercially, or making donations to political parties. - I say, elect a microscopist for president! HS

Collecting Specimens cont.

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tools will work best.

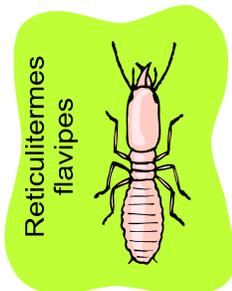
Insects are more difficult to collect if they are 'on the wing' but many crawling insects will fall onto a white cloth spread under a bush after you hit the bush with a stick. Old pill boxes make handy containers for such insects because they can hold a few drops of alcohol

to stun the beasties. Don't forget to collect leaves, mushrooms, green powder most likely algae, seeds, flowers, pollen, ferns, and if you see rotting wood, look for termites, a wonderful source of protozoa.

Your garden may be the closest place to find interesting specimens. Turn over a rock and see who is living there, lift a plant out of its container and look for the

smallest tips of roots, or pick the growing tip of a limb or the developing bud on a branch that will turn into leaves and make an investigation of what you can observe.

In the house there are multitudes of fibers that you can collect and samples of dust, hairs from the comb, or mold you can grow in a jar by adding bread and water. - o - HS



Termite:
Reticulitermes flavipes,
a great source of intestinal
protozoa.

GOOD MEETING—Poorly attended

Modern microscopy depends upon innovation and application of new techniques to make instruments responsive to the needs of researchers. Dr. Paul Herzmark shared with the small audience at the Randall Museum in San Francisco his two-photon imaging technique and the path that led to this development in an interesting PowerPoint presentation.

Did we fail to stimulate your curiosity with an esoteric title? Was Wednesday, September 14th the wrong day to hold a meeting? Is microscopy no longer relevant in your life? The board members need to hear from you in order to meet your interests and your needs.



Image by Debbi Brusco

Dr. Hertzmark making his presentation to SFMS members and guests.

Board Meeting: October 15, 2011

The SFMS Board meets quite frequently in order to conduct the business of the Society. Meetings are announced by e-mail and are open to all members. This meeting started at 10:28 a.m. in an effort to get it done before lunch. All board members were present.

The biggest challenge the Society faces is the issue of getting approval of the nonprofit status from the IRS, the all-important 501(c)(3) status. At the same time we need to meet the current code requirements of the CA Secretary of State in our Articles of Incorporation. These requirements are designed to ensure that

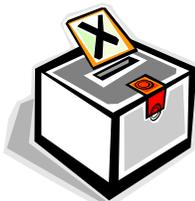
our funds are not channeled into a profitable or political system and that in case of dissolution of the Society, the funds go to another nonprofit or to a government agency.

The board also discussed the January 11 election meeting. The board will meet again on Nov. 13

we need to meet the current code requirements of the CA Secretary of State in our Articles of Incorporation.

Officers Up For Election: VOTE and enjoy a special evening.

Elections work best when there are two or more candidates for the same office. Competition makes for more dedicated participation in the work in most cases and makes us believe that we have picked the best candidate,



We have not had much competition but we keep hoping.

Every January we elect officers and we are hoping that others will step forward to run for office. We particularly need someone to be ready to stand for the position of Secretary. You do not have

to take shorthand or type fifty words a minute. It is not that kind of secretary. You do help the board by keeping records and ensuring that board members follow protocol.

All offices are up for replacement if you are ready, willing and the membership votes for you. HS



When you vote you make your voice heard.

When you run for office, you help your society and all the members have a organization that offers education, participation, and exploration.



Get more information on what is going on by logging in to <http://www.bayareascience.org/about/> There you will see what science activity is going on in your part of the Bay.

FROM:

Micro News

San Francisco Microscopical Society
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Oakland, CA 94611-2613

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To join the Society, fill in the form available at www.sfmicrosoc.org and mail it to the SFMS Treasurer with your annual 2012 dues of \$12.—made out to SFMS.

Life membership is \$144.00

TO:

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tion used to be complex and made explicit, possibly to cover future events not already defined by law. Now they can be short and compact in the case of non-profits because what such an organization can and cannot do is clearly set out in law.

Lawyers made their living by writing legalese i.e. “4. The objects specified herein shall, except as otherwise expressed, be in no way limited or restricted by reference to or inference from the terms of any clause or paragraph in these articles. The objects, purposes and powers specified in each of the clauses or paragraphs in these Articles shall be regarded as independent ob-

jects, purposes or powers.”

The language is elegant but since we no longer need to state “objects, or powers” totally superfluous. We still need to state *purposes* to make clear what we are about. The State now provides a form with most of what we need to have in the Articles of Incorporation and permits us to restate them. Instead of six pages, we will have two if the membership authorizes the board to proceed.

It comes down to this: We can hold a meeting in January and let the people who are present represent

the membership and vote. This will not meet the requirement of the State that requires approval of the Articles of Incorporation by 50%+ of the membership. An alternative is for 50%+ of the membership to empower the board to prepare and submit standard articles of incorporation and expedite the securing of our tax exempt status. This vote can be taken by e-mail and by any other means that assures a single vote by a member in good standing. I believe that this is a practical method to proceed.

If you have a better

idea or alternative suggestions, or if you would like to serve on the committee to collect, count and certify the vote, please let any board member know.

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