



Arisaema

Michigan Botanical Club State Newsletter

<http://michbotclub.org/>

Corresponding Secretary's Report

This issue includes chapter reports, statewide reports bylaws.

A membership wide poll was conducted on changes to the state bylaws.

Report on bylaws polling;

What was requested:

Do you approve the proposed changes to the Michigan Botanical Club by-laws. YES or NO.

468 emailed 03/21/2020

116 yes votes, 0 No votes, last vote received 04/16/2020

75 mailed with post office 05/04/2020

10 yes votes, 0 no votes. Last vote received 05/22/2020

543 ballots sent out 126 total responses, response rate: 23%

Sheila Bourgoin

Ariseaema Editor and Corresponding Secretary

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Photos by Sheila Bourgoin

Arisaema triphyllum, *Lilium michiganense*

MICHIGAN BOTANICAL CLUB

The Michigan Botanical Club, the native plant society of Michigan, promotes through its aims, the understanding, enjoyment and preservation of our Great Lakes flora, and the conservation of our natural heritage. The Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1941.

AIMS

- Conservation of all native plants.
- Education of the public to appreciate and to preserve plant life.
- Sponsorship of research and publications on plant life.
- Sponsorship of legislation to promote the preservation of Michigan native flora.
- Establishment of suitable sanctuaries and natural areas.
- Cooperation in programs concerned with the use and conservation of all natural resources and scenic features.



President's Report

As the Michigan Botanical Club approaches its 80th birthday—having been founded May 31, 1941, at a Wildflower Festival at Trout lake in Michigan's Upper Peninsula—there has been no year quite as bizarre as 2020, the year of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The MBC certainly has experienced difficult times. For instance, MBC historian Herbert E. Conant wrote in his 1984 article "The Michigan Botanical Club: An Early History" (<http://michbotclub.org/earlyhistory/>): "Due to wartime rationing of fuel and tires for automobiles, field trips and other meetings of the organization were restricted both in number and the distances traveled. When possible, they were held where public transportation was available. Notices included directions as to which street car and/or bus lines to take and where to transfer. Some state meetings and elections were conducted by mail and telephone, and activities were held to a minimum for the duration of the war."

But just as we were all anticipating a wonderful spring foray at the UAW Conference Center at Black Lake in the North Country, Michigan's governor declared a State of Emergency and we could not predict how long this COVID-19 outbreak would last. Thus March 18th, 2020, we officially cancelled the 2020 Spring Foray. We still held out hope that we could still hold a Fall Meeting—a mini-foray in conjunction with the MiCOB (Michigan Coalition of Botanists) meeting at Calvin University in mid-October. But as this pandemic stretches on and on, even that event has been cancelled—or has been put on pause for a year. We have been able to reschedule the UAW Conference Center for the 2021 Memorial Day weekend for a Spring Foray, and Calvin University is willing to host the Fall MBC-MiCOB mini-foray event in October 2021.

Each Chapter has been approaching the response to the



COVID-19 pandemic as fits their group. Some have canceled all lectures and field trips until it seems safe. Some have been able to have small field trips—social distancing in the wide open being less risky. All are making every effort to stay safe.

Some of us have become rather strongly connected to ZOOM this winter/spring/summer; others may feel ZOOMed out. But it seems appropriate for the State MBC to organize a Lecture series via ZOOM for this Fall and beyond if needed. Some of you have already heard Tony Reznicek's lecture "Looking for Tomorrow Through Yesterday: What Michigan's Flora in 1840 Can Tell Us About Our Botanical Future"—given as part of the University of Michigan Biological Station virtual Summer Lecture Series. That gives us a good sense of how a MBC lecture series would work. If you haven't watched this excellent talk, it is still available at: https://lsa.umich.edu/umbs/news-events/all-news/search-news/video--bennett-endowed-lecture-in-plant--fungal-ecology--umbs-v.html?fbclid=IwAR1nK4a8ZL_kJ9S5o8wkwz2SKsjGTGbypl2q-49IZwYtaJguCojHQfj2U9qOc

Garrett Crow

President, Michigan Botanical Club Chapter Reports

Chapter Reports

Great Lakes Chapter

The Great Lakes Chapter (GLC) stood at 66 members in June, a 30% drop in membership from last year, similar to other chapters. Three new members joined the chapter this year. Largely an online only chapter, we more easily, maybe, than other chapters were able to decide to not host any field trips or in person gatherings this year. We awarded chapter members Nathan Martineau and Alex Graeff \$100 and \$50, respectively, for their top numbers of species documented in the 2019 Michigan Botanists' Big Year Challenge. The GLC team continued the Michigan Botanists Big Year challenge this year through iNaturalist.org (Remember: this is open to anyone using iNaturalist in Michigan and prizes are open to any MBC members).

In August, the GLC launched another iNaturalist based project that seeks to engage GLC members in assisting the MICH herbarium staff in collecting high quality diagnostic photos of species that are lacking photos on the MICH Flora website. The GLC also hosts a google group listserv, which sees some chatter. The GLC leadership team is exploring additional ways to utilize this tool, such as encouraging members with knowledge about comment periods on DNR comment reviews or similar public comment opportunities to share with everyone else. In this way, the club could serve as a connector, connecting interested individuals to advocacy opportunities. Finally, the GLC online dues payment option continues to be well received. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Derek Shiels (GLC President) derek at landtrust.org

Huron Valley Chapter 2019-2020**Monthly Chapter Meetings**

September, 2019: Discover Our Underwater Forests!
Michigan's Aquatic Plants /Jo Latimore Aquatic Ecologist and Outreach Specialist, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University

October 21: Eyes on the Forest: What you can do to help prevent new forest pest invasions /Georgia Peterson Natural Resource Extension Specialist at Michigan State University

November 18 : Big weeds and tiny microbes: How do microbes surrounding Phragmites australis influence invasiveness?
Wesley Bickford PhD candidate in the Department of

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan and Ecologist , US Geological Survey - Great Lakes Science Center

January 20, 2020: Annual Potluck and Program - Ecological Classification of the Forested River Floodplains of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge / Douglas Putt

February 17, 2020: White-tailed deer and Michigan Plant Communities: Two Decades of Observations and Reflections presented by Jacqueline Corteau Plant ecologist and ecological consultant

The March meeting was cancelled due to Covid 19

April 20, 2020: Modern Systematics and Illuminating Hidden Relationships of Plants presented by Tony Reznicek curator of vascular plants at the University of Michigan Herbarium via Zoom

Biology on Tap

October 15, 2019 at Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub

Is the green stuff in the Great Lakes good or bad? The answer is yes! James Pauer - US Environmental Protection Agency/ Great Lakes

The Hidden Owls of our everyday Life Jamie Piatt – Northern Michigan University

March 9, 2020 at The Corner Brewery

Bella Mayorga from UM spoke Avant-garde(ns): Agriculture and Conservation in the Built Environment

Kenny Glynn from EMU presented his findings from Examining blood lead of songbirds in Flint, MI following the Flint drinking water crisis.

Field Trips

September 21, 2019 A visit to the Waterloo State Research Area (SRA) "Glenn Fen" /Sheila Bourgoin

September 28, 2019 Fall Botany at Leonard Preserve / Neal Billetdeaux

October 26, 2019 Fall Woodies at Nan Weston/ Robert Ayotte and Neal Billetdeaux

All 2020 Field Trips cancelled this past spring - summer due to Covid 19 but we are planning a fall trip

Other items

The HVC is exploring the feasibility of acquiring a Zoom account for future presentations.

MBC-HVC member Ellen Elliott Weatherbee was recipient of the Michigan Botanical Club - Special Recognition Award.

Ken Shaw is Director at Large for the term 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2022

Membership: HVC has 89 memberships in 2020 including 6 new members.

Submitted by Sarah Nooden

Southeastern Chapter Report 2019 - 2020

When we began our program year 2019-2020 we anticipated our usual 6 indoor programs and a few field trips in our local area, but, of course, our main focus was anticipating hosting the 2020 MBC Spring Foray. 2020 certainly didn't end up like we expected!

Our first fall program was in October when Joe Derek, former Farmington Hills City naturalist, gave a delightful slide show featuring his backyard. His yard has been a certified National Wildlife Foundation habitat for over 30 years and he gave us tips on attracting all types of wildlife to our backyards, no matter what the size or situation. In November, Suzan Campbell presented a program about the forest on Belle Isle. She introduced us to the history of the island through old maps and newspaper articles and related the changes to the native forest over time as the island became more developed. Recently, new projects have changed the hydrology in the interior of the island as some lagoons have been reconnected to the Detroit River. Suzan is the former naturalist at the Belle Isle Nature Center.

Our December program was entitled "Rethinking Municipal Playgrounds in Detroit: Community Garden, Natural Playground and Native Prairie" presented by Mary Tischler, Beth Hagenbuch and Scott Crandall. As a result of a partnership between residents of Renaissance Village Apartments, Detroit Recreation Dept., area non-profits and others, Votrobeck Playground was transformed into a lush green space of raised garden beds, an orchard, a native wildflower meadow and a poetry garden. Our February program was given by Dr. Orin Gelderloos, Univ. of Michigan – Dearborn, and was entitled "The Woody Vegetation of the Jensen Landscape of the Henry and Clara Ford Estate 100 Years Later and the Ecological Subtleties of the Adjacent Rouge River Floodplain." This was a fascinating look at the changes in both the created

and natural forested landscape along the Rouge River adjacent to the Fair Land Estate and within the Environmental Study Area of UM-Dearborn.

In what turned out to be our last program of the season (although we didn't know it at the time) Jesse Lincoln, ecologist with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, visited us in early March. "Notes from the Field: A Reflection on the Importance of Public Lands" was his program title and he (along with his young son) showed us some of the wonderful public lands he has recently surveyed for MNFI and the botanical treasures he has found.

On March 11, the Spring Foray planning team had one of our final meetings before the Spring Arisaema deadline, and three days later Michigan entered a State of Emergency due to Covid-19. As of now, the plan is to hold the 2021 Spring Foray at our 2020 location at the UAW Center at Black Lake with the same schedule of programs and field trips, but time will tell if this will be possible.

Emily Nietering

President, Southeastern Chapter

Southwest Chapter Annual Report

Our year began in January and ended before our March meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On January 20th Ted Reuschel, our Michigan Big Tree Coordinator did a presentation on the Michigan Big Tree Project. He discussed how the big tree program operates and explained the measuring processes and tools needed. He updated us on the recent progress in the on-site inspections and show some of our recent SW Michigan champions. Ted also pointed out how folks can access and use the database of big trees and explained what makes certain trees big and where to find them.

On February 17th Don Poppe, a DNR Wildlife Biologist talked to us about the restoration efforts at the Gourdneck State Game Area. He discussed the management history of the area particularly as it applies to the Hampton Creek Prairie Fen located in the Game Area and the plans for its restoration. He also updated us on the ongoing restoration of the Oak Savanna on the property.

We also started preparing the 2021 Fall Foray at the Indiana Dunes National Park, but these plans also came to a sudden halt due to the pandemic. We are hoping that things normalize next year so that we can plan our Fall Foray for the year 2022.

White Pine Chapter Annual Report

Wow, what a year! Our January meeting had to be cancelled due to the weather. We were able to hold a meeting in February with one of our sponsored students, Cole McGowen who talked to us about his bog studies "The Characterization of the

Microbial and Plant Communities of a Central Michigan Bog". Then Covid hit and we had to cancel all meetings but were able to get in one field trip to the Newaygo Prairie on July 18. It was a typically hot day in the prairie but worth the effort. Being out of doors we were able to distance pretty well and enjoy the time together. At this point in August, we are still evaluating and hoping to meet indoors this fall but uncertain whether or not we will have a facility to use.

We have also continued to pick up a few new members to the club.

Our meetings are usually held on the 3rd Saturday of the month, with the indoor winter meetings being held on Grand Valley State University's campus. If we are able to meet this fall, our schedule will be as follows:

September 19, — Plaster Creek Stewards - Overview of 10 years of watershed restoration work, Dave Warners

October 24, — Annual Photo Fest

November 21, — Kenya herbarium project, Dr Timothy Evans of GVSU

As we plan and move into 2021 we look forward to many new and interesting botanical programs including rescheduling of the ones we have missed.

Craig Elston

WPC President

State Board Meeting

Summary of the Board of Directors Meeting, February 1, 2020

The meeting was held at the Whitehouse Nature Center on the campus of Albion College. There were 22 members and three guests in attendance. President Garrett Crow presided.

Announcements:

- Garrett Crow noted that two board members, John Zimmerman of Southeastern Chapter and Phyllis Higman of Great Lakes Chapter, renewed their terms as directors-at-large. Michael Dombos was welcomed as a new director-at-large for Southwestern Chapter.
- The White Pine Chapter and President Craig Elston were thanked for hosting the successful mini-foray in October in Barry County.
- John and Renee Zimmerman will set up the display board at the Wildflower Association of Michigan Conference in the MSU Kellogg Center on March 1-2.

Finances: Treasurer Bob Kelly said the 2019 Foray produced income of \$1,089 which allowed the Club to finish the fiscal year with a balance \$1,400 higher than at the beginning of the year. He reminded board members that state dues increased by \$5 effective January, 2020.

Arisaema: Sheila Bourgoin said she is working on a second draft of the extra-edition Arisaema which will contain the new Club bylaws.

The Great Lakes Botanist: Editor Michael Huft advised that the second double-issue of 2019 (Vol.58, Nos. 3-4) is running late for a variety of reasons. However, he said he has more than sufficient material for that issue and intends to move some of it into the first issue of Vol. 59 (2020), which he hopes to publish soon thereafter, thus keeping the Journal on schedule.

Nominating Committee: The Chair is Craig Elston (WPC), assisted by Emily Nietering (SEC) and Brad Slaughter (GLC). Craig said the Committee is working to assemble a slate of candidates to serve a two-year term beginning January 1, 2021.

Spring Foray: Emily Nietering reported the SEC Foray Committee now has a signed contract with the UAW Conference Center at Black Lake for the May 22-24 event.

Fall Mini-Foray: Garrett Crow said the proposed date is October 17 and will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Michigan Coalition of Botanists. The location is the Calvin University Ecosystem Preserve (Grand Rapids).

Website: Sheila Bourgoin said she has added a link to access the State Board Meeting Minutes.

Michigan Botanical Foundation: President Judy Kelly reported the Foundation disbursed \$10,000 last year for research projects and for grants to sponsor students at the Foray.

Big Trees Program: Ted Reuschel, State Coordinator of the Michigan Big Tree Program, delivered his annual report. He and his team are updating lists of over 500 trees in addition to documenting 55 new nominations. Ted was shown great appreciation for his efforts in bringing the Big Tree Program back to prominence, a source of pride for Michigan Botanical Club.

New Business: Online payment of dues – In response to an interest in making this available Derek

Sheils described how the Great Lakes Chapter has implemented such a process.

Jim Hewitt, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report July 24, 2020

Latest accounting of the MBC Treasury as of July 24, 2020

Opening Balance	\$72,148.92
Income	\$ 4,376.92
Total Available . .	\$76,525.84
Expenses	\$ 2,565.38
Balance	\$73,960.46
Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,811.54

MBC currently has \$4,232.25 in checking as of July 24, 2020 vs. \$3,280.69 in 2019. Arisaema charges have not yet been received. All other expenses have been paid. As we did not hold the 2020 Spring Foray, I asked for and received a rebate (\$64.00) on the liability policy. Additionally, the Club contributed to a tree memorial for Ken Nietering (Emily Nietering's husband) after his tragic death in June 2020.

This spring all chapters sent in their 2019-20 state membership dues: (2019 members: 16; 2020 members: 286) generating \$3,544.00. Beginning in 2020 the member's state dues increased from \$7 to

\$12 per chapter member. This increase has been instrumental in eliminating the structural deficit.

I renewed both the Smith Fund CD and the MBC Fund CD effective April 30, 2020, for 1 year. The annual interest rate is 2.765%. They are up for renewal on April 30, 2021.

To date, in 2020, the Amazon Smile fund has generated \$23.94 in donations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Kelly, MBC Treasurer



Sheila Bourgoïn, Corresponding Secretary,
Michigan Botanical Club
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