



# Arisaema

## Michigan Botanical Club State Newsletter

<http://michbotclub.org/>

### *Corresponding Secretary's Report*

The Michigan Botanical Club in the past two years has to adapt to many new ways of communicating and gathering. Dan Skean, our president, brings us up to date. The state board has continued to meet and we have continued to enjoy our meetings and presentations virtually.

There is nothing like being together in person and we can look forward to gathering in the future. The Spring foray will go forward in 2022 and we will keep you posted about a fall gathering.

We celebrate the milestones and remember others we have lost. Our organization is sustained by members and moves forward with the contribution of volunteers.

Please note that the Michigan Botanical Club is looking for an historian. If you are interested, please contact Dan Skean.

### *President's Report*

This past winter has tested us all with an enduring pandemic and the social isolation necessary to help beat it. However, the wretchedness of COVID-19 has not stopped the arrival of spring and its wildflowers or the ability of our Club's chapters to hold interesting online programs. Chapter program organizers and speakers have been generous in sharing access to their meetings more broadly across the Club. This availability has helped us weather both the botanical doldrums of winter and isolation from each other. Fortunately, the availability of vaccines is now letting us get out and botanize.

By the time you read this, the spring ephemerals will be past and ladies'-slippers are likely at the tail end of flowering. I hope that you have seen these while botanizing in 2021, or at least on the Club's wonderful Facebook pages administered by Judy Kelly, Emily Nietering, and Shelia Bourgoin. Want to know what is flowering in Michigan and where? Pay a visit to the site. This is as close as we will come to a statewide Spring Foray this year.

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The good news is that individual chapters are now holding field trips.

Our Spring Foray, organized by the Southeastern Chapter, is postponed until May 28-30, 2022. We will be at the same locality, the UAW Black Lake Conference Center in Cheboygan County, Michigan. Although very uncertain because of current room capacity restrictions, our next statewide gathering might be a Fall Mini-Foray at the Calvin University Ecosystem Preserve. An announcement about this event is forthcoming.

Finally, I thank everyone who has volunteered in any capacity for the Michigan Botanical Club in 2021. You have helped keep us together. As we move from virtual interactions to face-to-face ones, I hope that we will reach out to other botanizers and grow!

Sincerely,

Dan Skean, President, Michigan Botanical Club

## 2022 MBC Spring Foray

Since our Spring Foray had to be postponed in both 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the State Board authorized the SEC (the 2020 hosting chapter) to host in 2022. At this point we plan to hold the foray May 27-30, 2022 at our original location, the UAW Black Lake Conference Center near Onaway, Michigan. The dining room, meeting rooms, hotel rooms, campsites etc. that we contracted for in 2020 will be available in 2022, and at this point we look forward to welcoming everyone to this wonderful location. Of course we can't predict the future, especially where pandemics are concerned, but are looking forward to meeting again with fellow native plant enthusiasts in this unique corner of our state next year.

The MBC-SEC Foray Planning Committee

## MBC membership in MEC

(Michigan Environmental Council)

Since at least 2006, the MBC has been a member organization of the Michigan Environmental Council. We contribute \$100 every year, authorized by the MBC state board, to this organization. But what does the MEC do?

From their website <https://www.environmentalcouncil.org> we find the following description:

"Michigan Environmental Council -- a 501(c)(3) charitable organization -- is a coalition of nearly 70 (more than 75 as of 2020) organizations created in 1980 to lead Michigan's environmental movement in achieving positive change through public policy solutions. MEC combines deep environmental policy expertise with close connections to key state and federal decision-makers, decades of experience getting things done in the political process, and an ability to rally broad and powerful alliances in support of reforms. With our member groups and partners in the public health and faith-based communities, MEC promotes public policies to ensure that Michigan families will enjoy clear waters, clean beaches, beautiful landscapes and healthy communities for years to come."

The 2019-2020 Annual Report can be found on the website, but a few of the initiatives highlighted in it are: helping to enact the strictest state standards in the country for PFAS levels in drinking water, increasing funding for lead clean-up in homes in the 2020 state budget, supporting the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal, participating in the preparation of the Sustainability Action Agenda for the City of Detroit, working with the Michigan Public Service Commission to retire coal-fired power plants and increase renewable energy sources, advocating for the closure of Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline, working with agriculture groups to curb pollution and soil run-off, and working on coastal management plans to save our dunes.

The Michigan Environmental Council's priorities for 2020-2021 fit into several broad categories: Clean Water, Human Health, Energy and Climate Change, Land and Conservation, Environmental Justice, and greener Cities and Hometowns. More information about each category can be found on the above website. At the website individuals can sign-up for the MEC e-mail newsletter and donate to support their work as the advocate for the environment in our state. I have personally donated to MEC for many years, knowing that changing public policy is the best way to protect our land, water and air. I encourage others to keep informed and support initiatives to protect the environment in our state.

## MEC MISSION STATEMENT

Michigan Environmental Council drives the environmental agenda in Michigan. We develop innovative policy ideas; communicate them to key audiences in a compelling fashion; and engage our members, community leaders and residents as effective local advocates for shared goals. By leading powerful, diverse collaborations, we inspire state leaders to adopt pioneering solutions that set a global standard for environmental leadership.

Emily Nietering

## 2021 Michigan Flora Photo Project

The Great Lakes Chapter is inviting all MBC members to join the "Updating Photos for MICH Herbarium" photo project. The goal is to collect photos of over 400 designated plants that are currently described in "Michigan Flora Online" and in need of additional pictures. High quality (in-focus) photos that reflect the plant's identifying characteristics are most desirable. To participate, simply upload your photos to the iNaturalist Project page. <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/updated-photos-for-mich-herbarium> The project page contains a list of target plants in the Project List Tab and a stock photo to get you started. You can also download an Excel sheet from the GLC webpage that contains a list of each species. Visit Michigan Flora! <https://michiganflora.net/search.aspx> to see county distribution and plant details.

All members in the Great Lakes region can participate, however only plants that are known to grow in Michigan may be entered. Best photos will be selected by Herbarium staff for inclusion in future flora updates and photo credits will be given. This is a great opportunity to use your photographic skills and contribute to this prestigious database. Contact Group Managers: Irene Eiseman [eisemani@gmail.com](mailto:eisemani@gmail.com) and Derek Shiels [d.r.shiels@gmail.com](mailto:d.r.shiels@gmail.com)

Fun Fact: The three top Families that need photos are Poaceae (79 species) Asteraceae (50 species) and Rosaceae (42 species). So let's get started! An excel file is linked from the GLC webpage to download with the current list.

## Milestones

**Peggy Dankert** (HVC and SEC member) was awarded the Detroit City Council Green Task Force award. Congratulations, Peggy!



**Dr. Orin Gelderloos** (SEC member) delivered this Legacy Lecture on 21 May, 2021, reflecting on his 50 years of service as Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of Michigan - Dearborn. The Legacy Lecture was part of the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Environmental Interpretive Center at UM-Dearborn. Watch his lecture online here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0CKLnXznSY>

## In Memoriam

### Dorothy McMeekin

(February 24, 1932 – June 26, 2020)

Dorothy McMeekin was a long time member of the MBC and served as Vice-president of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Botanical Club from 1989-1996. She was a member of the former Red Cedar Chapter based at Michigan State University. Her life-long love of botany and plants is carried on with her generous \$10,000 bequest to the Michigan Botanical Foundation to support botanical research.

You may view her obituary at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/east-lansing-mi/dorothy-mcmeekin-9246778>

### Jeff Moore

(March 7, 1953 – February 21, 2021)

Jeff was a member of the Huron Valley Chapter and was a familiar face at meetings and field trips. We will remember his quiet, friendly disposition, his beautiful photography and his companionship in the club.

You may read his obituary here: <http://m.lynchandsonswalledlake.com/obituaries/events?obituaryId=20084308>

### Susan Reznicek

(December 28, 1952 – December 2, 2020)

Susan Reznicek passed away in December. Please take the time to read her obituary here: <https://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/annarbor/obituary.aspx?n=susan-a-reznicek&pid=197230632>

A remembrance from Julie Caroff follows.

*I got to know Susan when I joined the Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society. Susan was very active in the chapter for many years, holding several offices and organizing study weekends and meetings for the national organization. In 2013, the chapter agreed to host the annual general meeting. Susan chaired the organizing committee. She understood every aspect of hosting a national meeting for 150 people, including hotels, meals, speakers, vendors and tours. With her care and attention to detail, the meeting was quite a success with everyone who attended having a wonderful time.*

*While volunteering with Susan on the organizing committee, I learned that she had studied tundra ecology in the Arctic, was an accomplished botanical artist and illustrator, loved cats and was especially fond of irises, among the many plants she loved. She illustrated her husband Tony's books on the genus Carex and shared his interest and love for the natural worlds, especially plants.*

## Plant Alert!

Phyllis Higman alerted the State Board of the presence of a new invasive species. Mile-A-Minute Weed (*Persicaria perfoliata*) was spotted on the Albion College campus in Calhoun County. The vine is native to Asia and listed on the Michigan invasive species watch list. If you find this plant, please report it to Susannah Iott, MDARD Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, [IottS@Michigan.gov](mailto:IottS@Michigan.gov) or 517-420-0473.

HVC member, Robert Ayotte, wrote a brief description of the plant for the HVC newsletter and we are re-publishing it here.

Habit: Herbaceous annual, fast-growing, trailing vine; covers and eventually kills its host vegetation; variable height.

Leaves: Simple, alternate, triangular, light green-blue, barbs on the underside.

Stems: Reddish, narrow, covered with barbs that attach to other plants; stems with circular, cup-shaped, leafy appendages (ocreas) that surround the stem; stems up to 7 m (23 ft) long.

Flowers: Small, inconspicuous, white, closed, emerge from ocreas along the stem; bloom in June.

Fruits/seeds: Pea-sized, clumped berries; metallic, greenish-white, turning dark blue in fall.

Habitat: Relatively shade intolerant; found on moist sites

in open disturbed areas, woodland edges, wetlands, stream banks. Reproduction: Mainly through self-pollinated seed production. Similar species: Mile-a-minute weed may resemble native tear-thumb (*Polygonum arifolium*, *P. sagittatum*) but its leafy, expanded ocreas and pea-sized blue fruits are distinctive.

Comments: Native to East Asia, introduced in the 1930s. Monitoring & rapid response: Monitor roadsides, thickets, streambanks, meadows, woodland edges, clearcuts and utility right-of-ways—most easily recognized in late March and early April as it germinates early in the season. For small infestations, hand-pulling, mowing and cultivating may provide effective control by preventing flowering and seed production; remove and dry vines before disposal; wear heavy gloves; foliar herbicide application provides effective control. As the leaves have a waxy coating, a surfactant will help the herbicide adhere (MNFI.anr.msu.edu).



## *MBC and AmazonSmile*

The Michigan Botanical Club, being a 501(c)(3) charity, has established an AmazonSmile account that club members can use when purchasing items from Amazon.com and 0.5% of the purchase price will be donated to the club. The account was activated on February 21, 2019.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

AmazonSmile Program Details can be found at [https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi\\_se\\_rspo\\_laas\\_aas](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_rspo_laas_aas).

Judy Kelly

## *Treasurer's Report for 2021*

As of May 31, 2021, Michigan Botanical Club (MBC) had a total income of \$5,140.57: \$3,840 membership dues, \$598.66 in donations, \$524.69 in interest, and \$179.00 refund for cancelled liability insurance for 2021 Foray.

The 2021 expenditures totaled \$4,040.98: \$2,920 donation to the UM Botanical Gardens Susan Reznicek Memorial Fund, \$1,000 annual underwriting of the Great Lakes Botanist, \$125 renewal for the Michigan Environmental Council Membership and other miscellaneous charges.

I spoke with our Liability Insurance agent, reviewed our coverage, and determined to NOT add in the 2022 Foray Coverage but will include that when we have a better idea of the number of guest attendees at the Foray.

All Accounts Summary as of May 31, 2021:

Opening balance: \$ 76,326.02

Income: \$ 5,140.57

Total Available: \$ 81,466.59

Expenses: \$ 4,094.98

Balance Remaining: \$ 77,371.61

Balance Breakdown:

Unrestricted Funds Total \$16,705.65

Restricted (Dickenson Award Fund, CDs not available) Funds Total: \$60,665.96

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert G. Kelly

## *State Board Meeting*

Minutes - Saturday, January 30, 2021

Approved by E-mail, March 1, 2021

This meeting was held on the Google Meet platform, organized by Dan Skean.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Dan Skean at 9:30 AM.

Board members in attendance: Alice Ward, Anton Reznicek, Craig Elston, Dan Skean, Carolyn Miller, David Wendling, Derek Shiels, Emily Nietering, Garrett Crow, Irene Eiseman, John Zimmerman, Robert Kelly, Ken Shaw, Mark Koski, Michael Dombos, Michael Huft, Phyllis Higman, Robert Bloye, Sheila Bourgoin, (19)

Other members: Jim Hewitt, Judy Kelly, Ted Reuschel, Robert Ayotte (4)

The quorum of 12 members was met. Robert's Rules of Order in effect.

2. Approval

There were no changes to the agenda that Dan Skean sent out via email.

The minutes from the October 17, 2020 meeting were

approved on November 29, 2020.

### 3. Announcements

Welcome New Officers and Board Members by Dan Skean.

#### Condolences

Expressed condolences to those on the Board that has lost a loved one. The MBC Board, along with three chapters, and individuals donated nearly \$3000 to the University of Michigan Matthaei Gardens in memory of Susan Reznicek. The donation is earmarked for the Great Lakes and Mary Azary Rock Gardens.

HVC & WPC are still seeking more Director at Large persons.

It was also discussed whether an individual may serve on the State Board as well as a Director at Large in a chapter board. The decision was left up to the chapter on whether or not that would be acceptable. It should be noted that those individuals may only cast one vote as stated in 4.1 of the Bylaws.

### 4. Committee Reports

Treasurer – Bob Kelly reported that the fiscal year (Jan – Dec) for 2020, we ended at \$4000 more than we began. This was due to the interest, CD payments, and the increase in membership dues. Also, a refund of \$64 was given back from Oakes Insurance, since we did not have a 2020 Spring Foray event. A check for \$250 from the Dickinson Award has not been cleared.

Treasurer – Bob Kelly reported that from January 1 2021 to date, we've had an income of \$919.

Treasurer – Susan Reznicek Memorial Report: 36 individuals and 3 institutions (chapters, state) donated \$2,920 to Matthaei Gardens. Also, a \$9,658.66 anonymous donation was given, which totals \$12,578.66. Acknowledgments have been sent out.

The Great Lakes Botanist – Michael Huft informed the Board that the the final issue of 2020, Vol. 59 (3-4), has been sent to the printers and will be the largest issue since he became editor. Michael mentioned that in 2020, there were no student-authored submissions. Past practice has been to send current year issues to people who had not paid for the current year, but were paid up through the previous year, with the hopes that they would renew their membership. This was not limited to the first issue of whatever the current year was. This year (2020), however, because of the precipitous drop in paid membership, Michael is not sending the second issue of 2020 to non-paying members because of the cost, and because it's not certain those members will renew. Hopefully, the organization will get those subscribers back. The final issue of 2020 at the printer includes a submission from outside of the Great Lakes, a new record of a duckweed from the Ozarks. Currently, the first issue for 2021, Vol 60 (1-2), has only 3 submissions, but there is a promise for a large article on the

Flora of Elgin County, ONT.

Corresponding Secretary – Sheila Bourgoïn stated that the last email blast went out for Board elections. It was determined that a Spring 2021 Arisaema will be put out. The due date for submissions is set for 1st week of April. A series of short spring-themed articles would be excellent.

Awards – Tony Reznicek is the new chair of the committee. The 2020 Dickinson Award (best student paper in The Great Lakes Botanist, 2019) went to Alan Stockdale, an alumnus of Calvin University. It will be announced formally and awarded at the 2021 Fall Foray. Nominations are coming in and will be reviewed. Tony indicated that once this has been announced, it will need to be placed on our website.

Big Tree Report – Ted Reuschel, State Coordinator of the Michigan Big Tree Program, indicated that there is a list of trees that still need review and he will begin to prioritize these trips. There were 45 nominations of the MBC website and most of those are being inspected. Currently, they are checking in on decade trees for 2020 (2010 recorded) and will move onto 2021 (2011 recorded) for growth. The program has 43 teams and is looking for more participants in the SE, SW, and thumb region of Michigan. A question was asked about big trees being found in a natural setting versus a yard. The majority of these trees have been in yards.

Committee to Promote MBC – Judy Kelly has been administering Facebook along with Emily Nietering and Shelia Bourgoïn. We have 2,000 followers on FB. The question was raised on 'how do we get them to join'? There was a discussion on links to Zoom meetings for HVC & WPC. Derek Shiels will look into the Facebook followers and users of iNaturalist. This may be a way to get people to join. HVC currently sends out emails to 350 people, with 150 of those being members. Discussed how to get more people to join the club and lend their knowledge. The idea of letting people know that they'll receive invitations to the Zoom meetings Phyllis Higman pointed out that Rachel Hackett from MNFI has used iNaturalist to ID unique species.

### 5. Old Business:

Spring 2021 Foray – Emily Nietering (SEC): The decision was made to postpone the Spring 2021 Foray at the UAW Center in Black Lake. We have reserved the site for May 28-30, 2022. Emily will contact the speakers and leaders to make sure they'll be involved in 2022.

Fall 2021 Foray – Garrett Crow announced that they're not canceling yet. This would coincide with MiCOB (Michigan Consortium of Botanists) at Calvin University. The morning would entail talks at the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve, while the afternoon will be field trips in the wider Grand Rapids area. The various awards will also be announced at the Foray.

WAM 2021 Conference Ad – A motion was made and passed to purchase a ¼ page ad for \$50. It was thought to make the

website more prominent for readers to see, and with the virtual conference, the website link will be live. The deadline for the ad to Craig Elston is February 22.

Michigan Environmental Council renewal – in the past, MBC has paid \$125/year. Jim Hewitt has maintained the connection, receiving emails and then disseminating them to members. A motion was passed to maintain the \$125 this year, and Emily Nietering will take over receiving & forwarding pertinent information, as Jim Hewitt is stepping down.

MBC Lectures – A discussion took place in regards to supporting Zoom meetings that HVC and WPC are putting on. Ken Shaw (HVC) mentioned that Zoom costs \$15/month and is limited to 100 attendees, and can only save so much recording data. They have seen their viewership increasing over the past, going from 35 to 85 participants. If we go to unlimited attendees, the cost would be \$50/month. The logistics of ‘sharing’ the subscription might be tricky, so at this time, it was decided to let chapters handle their Zoom subscriptions. Robert Ayotte & Ken Shaw are going to come up with a proposal at the October 2021 meeting to address the finances of the Zoom platform.

MBC Organized and Pop-up Fieldtrip Liability Insurance – Bob Kelly reported that all MBC members are covered on our field trips (State and Chapter). The question was raised that since there is no Spring Foray, do we keep or drop the coverage until June, when renewal is due. The

question was asked to whether there may be spring popup trips. Bob reported that we would only see a few hundred dollars returned to us. The next issue that was brought up is coverage for those persons who are not members. Should they be signing a waiver? Bob will be talking to the insurance company on Monday to discuss this topic. A motion was made and passed to continue with the current coverage and to look into coverage of non-member attendees.

Electronic Payment – The GLC has Cheddar-Up, an online payment program for annual dues. Derek Sheils points out that this has worked exceptionally well for the GLC. Emily Douglas (GLC) has managed this since its inception (2019). Derek will continue to consult with other chapters if they wish to get online payments up and running.

New Business

Historian – Robert Riepma is stepping down as a historian. A new person needs to replace him. The duties entail archiving historical documents, MBC actions, minutes, and other important documentation.

Next Board Meeting – May 22, 2021 @ 9:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.

Note: Since this meeting, two new director have joined the HVC board. Thank you, Ken Shaw and Nancy Stoll.

## **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.