



# 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. Be sure to check the [MBC website](#) for online presentations.

Please note that the Michigan Botanical Club is looking an editor for the Great Lakes Botanist and a new business manager.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this newsletter. It's a hefty one and I appreciate all the news and photos you have sent to me. A special thank you to Irene and Tim Eiseman for your help getting the newsletter in the mail. Please note that you will be asked to chose between formats (email or paper). Mailing and printing costs have made the newsletter more expensive.

Sheila Bourgoin, MBC Corresponding Secretary

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### *President's Report*

The reality of winter is here as our deciduous trees have lost their leaves – well, except for some juvenile oaks and beeches – and skunk cabbage appears a bit confused about flowering time. This special early winter issue of Arisaema gives us an opportunity to present our annual Chapter reports and some highlights of our Mini-Foray, which was held on October 9 at the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens. In addition to field trips, two years of awards were given out personally and winners were actually surprised. It was the first “in-person” meeting of our Club since October 2019 and everyone seemed to enjoy the interaction, even in masks!

At the Mini-Foray, the State Board met and discussed several items for which updates are given below. Not everyone reads Board minutes, so especially be sure to consider the first item listed.

After preliminary discussions held at two previous Board meetings, a motion recommending a name change for our organization was made, discussed, and passed unanimously

by the Board at its January 22, 2022, meeting. The Board recommends that our name be changed from “Michigan Botanical Club, Incorporated” to Michigan Botanical Society, Incorporated.” This proposed name change would require changes to our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. It would require a vote of the membership to pass. Please see the article by Tony Reznicek in this issue of Arisaema that explains the rationale for the change. Also, because this possible change is not without controversy, please take time to discuss it with members of your Chapter. Members may also email me their opinions at dan(at)gw.michbotclub.org. I plan to organize an online Club forum about this recommended name change before a membership vote is taken.

**Special Committee on Dues & Payments.** As mentioned in my last Arisaema report, at our May board meeting, I was charged to organize a special committee to investigate centralization and standardization of membership enrollment and dues payments basically as efficient ways to move these activities online. We

held two meetings, the first on August 16, which I reported to the Board as too poorly attended to draw any conclusions. Since then, we held a second meeting on November 30 with the vast majority of Chapter treasurers present. Along with yours truly, attendees at one or both meetings included: Sheila Bourgoin (State Corresponding Secretary and Website Manager), Emily Douglas (GLC Treasurer), Bob Kelly (State Treasurer), Ruth Hart (SEC Treasurer), Carolyn Miller (State Recording Secretary), Robert Ripema (WPC Treasurer), Derek Shiels (GLC President), and Toni Spears (HVC Treasurer). A summary of our second meeting is presented below.

We began by comparing the dues schedules and annual amounts for each chapter:

GLC – Student (\$15), Individual (\$30), Family (\$40), Sustaining (\$50+)

HVC – Student (\$20), Regular (\$30), Sustaining (\$40+)

SEC – Individual or Family (\$30), Benefactor (\$40)

SWC – Student (\$20), Family/Individual (\$40)

WPC – Student (\$20), Single (\$27), Family (\$30), Supporting (\$40+)

This discussion led to the conclusion that chapters each have different costs that they understand and should set their own dues schedules. A suggestion that it might be useful to have the same names for the membership categories, not necessarily the same dues, was rejected.

It was abundantly clear that the treasurers attending are of the opinion that centralized membership enrollment and dues collection at the state level are not a good idea. Our current system of "...autonomous organizations affiliated with the Club" (Bylaws 10.1) is working well at this time. Also, if centralized, it would be difficult to find a person to manage all online membership enrollments and dues payments.

Chapter treasurers held different viewpoints on the ability to join and pay dues online. These ranged, and I am paraphrasing, from: "What we are doing now is working well for our members without additional costs," to "It is inevitable that we need to move online eventually." Some at the meeting acknowledged that the inability to pay online may be a barrier to acquiring younger members. The major point made was that it should be a Chapter decision.

The Great Lakes Chapter uses Cheddar Up (<https://www.cheddarup.com/>), a service that charges the user, not the merchant; five percent is tacked on to the transaction up front. A member making a \$30 dues payment agrees to pay \$31.50. A treasurer would login to access dated names and payment data and move money to their bank account. Emily offered to help out any of our Chapter treasurers (hopefully not all at different times) who might want to try this platform. GLC uses a free version that can be linked to a single bank account.

**Online Program Series.** Since the last Arisaema, our new online speaker series organized by HVC with Club support has featured three talks: On September 20, Julia Sosin spoke on "Ecological Species Groups and Post-Fire Succession at Mack Lake." On October 18, Kris Olsson and Kate Laramie gave a talk entitled "What's in our Watershed," which described the plant communities in the Huron River watershed. On November 15, Garrett Crow spoke on "An Expedition to the Uttermost Part of the Earth: The Flora and Vegetation of Isla de los Estados, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina." Attendance at the talks has ranged from 40-75 persons. Recordings of the talks can be accessed through the "About the MBC" link on [michbotclub.org](http://michbotclub.org). Thanks go again to our speakers and the hands-on organizational skills of Robert Ayotte and Ken Shaw. The 2022 series is listed on the MBC website at <http://michbotclub.org>.

**The Great Lakes Botanist.** Finally, I want to note the resignation of Michael Huft, our wonderful editor of *The Great Lakes Botanist*, who is planning to step down from the position as soon as a new editor can be found, and no later than the end of this year. His editorial and collaborative skills over the last nine years brought our journal up to date with high-quality articles and kept it readily available online. An announcement seeking a new editor appears in this issue of *Arisaema*.

Sincerely,

Dan Skean, President, Michigan Botanical Club

## *Highlights of the Fall 2021 Mini-Foray*

Our Mini-Foray was centered at the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens at Calvin University in Grand Rapids on Saturday, October 9. It was sponsored jointly by the Preserve and Calvin University Herbarium. Fifty-three people registered to attend the event and the peak total was estimated at 70-75 different individuals, including local professors, staff, and students who participated in the day.

The morning meant a foggy drive to Grand Rapids for some, but later the weather was sunny and beautiful. The day began with a state board meeting at 9 am in the Bunker Interpretative Center (BIC) meeting room. Those not required to attend the meeting had the option of taking a tour of the Preserve led by Jeanette Henderson, Program Manager or Jon Walt, Calvin alumnus and current GVSU graduate student. Sixteen board members (three remote) and two others attended the board meeting. Thirty-one participants registered for the tour. Those I spoke with who took the tour were impressed by the facility and enjoyed their morning. Both the board meeting and tours ended in time for lunch at 11:30 am, which was catered by Venues at Calvin and included a roast beef, turkey, or vegetarian sandwich, with a pickle, chips, and water.

At about noon, Dr. Dave Warners, Professor of Biology, Calvin

University, gave a talk titled “Using Native Plants to Heal a Degraded Watershed: A Decade of Plaster Creek Stewards Restoration Work.” After a fascinating and well-illustrated talk and concluding questions, Club awards were presented. See the separate article in this Arisaema issue on the 2020 and 2021 awards.

At about 1:30 p.m., field trip leaders gathered their participants and soon departed from the BIC. Everyone had the option of attending a self-guided tour of the Preserve, but most afternoon participants drove in caravans to one of three locations (often carpooling) and were dismissed from the trips by 4:30 p.m., some muddier than others! Each of the remote field trips is described and illustrated briefly below.

**Lowell Regional Greenspace** - Led by Jon Walt, GVSU graduate student. Thirteen participants registered for this trip. It focused on dry to dry-mesic woods and some old growth.



Jon Walt, leader (right), and most of the participants on the Lowell Greenspace field trip. Photo by Maria Lam, Professor of Business, Calvin University.

**Dead-lake Bog** - Led by Peter Quakenbush, WMU graduate student. Sixteen individuals registered for the trip and it looks like 13 participated in various sorts of bog foot attire. The site is described in: Jolman, D. A., J. Van Donselaar, D. P. Warners, and G. E. Crow. 2019. Bog flora in the Grand Rapids Michigan area: a comparative study across sites and over time – 1901 to 2017. *The Great Lakes Botanist* 58: 121-143.



Dead-lake bog field trip group with leader Peter Quakenbush (right). Photo by Jane Giblin.



Peter Quakenbush, leader (second from right) and others on the Dead-lake Bog field trip. Photo by Don Drife.

**Plaster Creek at Shadyside Park** - Led by Deanna Geelhoed, P. C. Stewards Program Coordinator. Seventeen individuals registered for this field trip to the P. C. Floodplain and adjacent woods. The site is described in: Stockdale. A. W., G. E. Crow, and D. P. Warners. 2019. Floristic quality assessment of remnant natural areas in the Greater Grand Rapids, Michigan region: evaluating botanical change since the 1890s. *The Great Lakes Botanist* 58: 2-31. It is also the location of a major Plaster Creek Stewards restoration project.



Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Sylvia Taylor (left) and Deanna Geelhoed, field trip leader (just right of Sylvia) at Plaster Creek Park. Photo by Emily Nietering.



Plaster Creek restoration. Photo by Emily Nietering.



Deanna Geelhoed (far right), leader, and her group on the Plaster Creek floodplain. Photo by Emily Nietering.

We lucked out on the weather! Thanks to everyone who attended and, in nearly all cases, for being careful about wearing masks properly when inside or carpooling. Special thanks go to The Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens, The Calvin University Herbarium, our local coordinators – Jeanette Henderson, Dave Warners, and Garrett Crow, our field trip leaders, and, of course, our caterer, Venues at Calvin, for a very nice meeting. It was really great to meet in person as a Club for the first time since our Fall Mini-Foray near Hastings two years ago.

Submitted by Dan Skean

## *Michigan Botanical Club Awards 2020 & 2021*

Michigan Botanical Club Awards for both 2020 and 2021 were presented at the Club's Mini-Foray on October 9, 2021. Dan Skean, last year's Vice President and Awards Chair, presented the 2020 awards, which were delayed due to the pandemic. Tony Reznicek, current VP and Awards Chair, presented the 2021 awards. In total, three Distinguished Service Awards, one Special Recognition Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Award were presented.

The awards differ in their requirements and representations. The Distinguished Service Award is our coveted annual award to a member (less commonly two members) for their outstanding service to the Club. Our Special Recognition Award is not necessarily given annually. It recognizes an individual who has made important contributions to botanical-ecological knowledge, education, conservation, etc., along the lines of the Club's mission and aims. The recipient of the award need not be a current or former member of the Club. When appropriate, the awardee's employer is contacted.

Our Lifetime Achievement Award is given only rarely to acknowledge someone with a history of involvement in the Club whose achievements are known to the Club and to the botanical community at large. These achievements need to have significantly impacted our understanding of Michigan plants and/or their conservation. As has been the case for the last several years, this year's awards are represented by handmade botanical art tiles in custom quarter-sawn white oak frames from Weaver Tile in Horton, Michigan.

## **The 2020 Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Michael J. Huft and Sheila C. Bourgoïn.**

Mike's award was presented at the morning board meeting. This excerpt from his nomination letter points out his extensive service to our Club; "The Michigan Botanical Club is very fortunate that he has used his diverse talents to help the Club in many ways. His contributions have had a huge impact on the MBC and our mission. Very much on top of the list, on October 1, 2013, he was appointed Editor of The Michigan Botanist (TMB) at which time it was still in the process of recovery from a very deep slump. He has brought the journal up to date in its publication schedule and strengthened the scientific content over that past 6+ years. This took a lot of work requiring knowledge and dedication. Mike has also reinforced the journal by formally recognizing its broad base in changing its name to The Great Lakes Botanist. Likewise, Mike has reached out to sibling botanical organizations in neighboring states, and these connections will benefit all concerned. Beyond that, Mike has also employed his legal expertise on behalf of the MBC. Mike contributed his expertise and a lot of effort in updating and clarifying the MBC Constitution. Mike also set up the MBC as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This is a splendid legacy, and we hope that he will continue; however, it seems time to formally recognize and thank Mike for these accomplishments, which have been crucial for laying out a clear path for the Club and its Journal for the 21st century."



Mike Huft (left), recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Service Award, presented by Dan Skean (right). Photo by Judy Kelly.

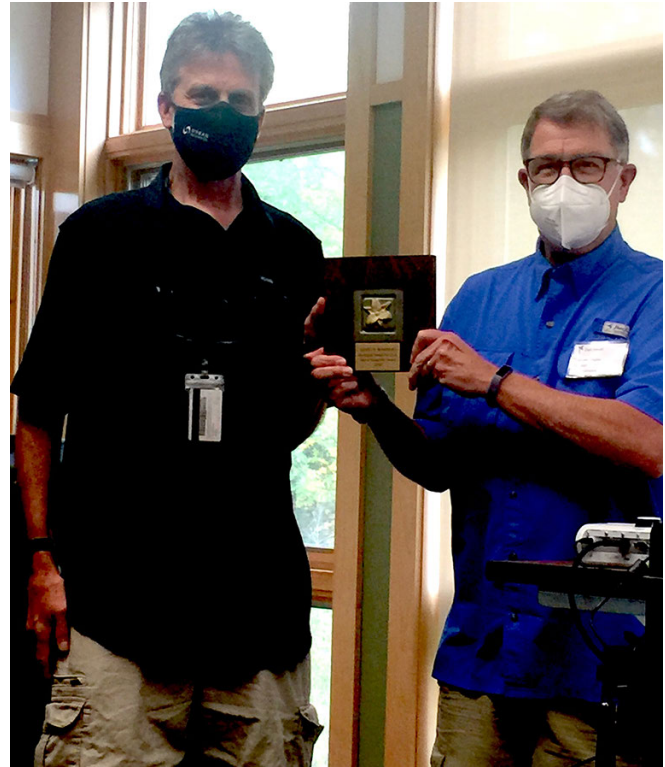
Sheila's award was presented with the others following the noon talk. This excerpt from her nomination letter points out Sheila's extensive service to our Club; "Many MBC members would recognize Sheila as the Editor of the Arisaema newsletter. Indeed, she has held the position of Corresponding Secretary since 2017 and has diligently worked at producing two informative editions every year. Her talent for graphic design was certainly on display when it came time for producing the booklets and name tags for annual Forays. It may not be evident that Sheila has actually been involved in MBC projects ever since she joined the Club seven years ago. In 2014 she took on the role of MBC Website Content Manager, and it did not take long to realize that her mind was set on a plan. We will be doing some redesigning to make the website more usable, use event calendars for the State and Chapters, archiving chapter newsletters, posting photos, blogs, and most importantly, keeping up-to-date chapter meeting and field trip announcements. Needless to say, within a few short years Sheila was appointed Webmaster of the MBC website, which included management of all the web pages including the new Big Tree Database and assisting each of the five Chapters with their Chapter pages. At a Chapter level she also took on the position of Director-at-Large in 2016 representing Huron Valley Chapter where she just recently relinquished her role as HVC Refreshment Coordinator of their monthly meetings. Her "can do" attitude continued with organizing local field trips, including a 'plein air' painting session. She currently works as a graphic designer, web designer and technical document editor for a company in the Saline area. We are truly fortunate to have such a talented person who so freely shares her time and talents in all aspects of Club activities."



Sheila Bourgoïn (left), recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Service Award, presented by Dan Skean (right). Photo by Judy Kelly.

## David P. Warners was chosen to receive a Special Recognition Award in 2020.

His work as a Calvin University professor both examines botanical changes in the Grand Rapids area since Emma Cole's *Grand Rapids Flora* (1901), and restores local degraded habitats. It has received local, state, and national attention, especially his team's work on the Plaster Creek restoration project, which was highlighted in his noon talk at our Mini-Foray. These excerpts from his nomination and award letters summarize Dave's achievements acknowledged by the award; "A major effort in ecological restoration began in 2004 as Dave and other faculty began considering the rather polluted Plaster Creek watershed that winds its way from rural areas, through 58 square miles of the greater Grand Rapids area. Pollutants derived from sediment runoff, erosion, excess nutrients from fertilizers, *E. coli* from agriculture and pet waste, as well as storm water within Grand Rapids draining into Plaster Creek. With encouragement from a staff member of MDEQ the concerns led to the development of a large project known as the Plaster Creek Students, engaging faculty, college and high school students, and locally concerned public. Today the Plaster Creek Stewards, co-directed by Dave Warners...engages Calvin students to conduct research and oversee restoration projects. Public education is a large part of the program. Workshops, talks to local organizations, growing their own plants for restoration projects -NATIVE- plants only, in greenhouses dedicated to the project, contribute to this effort. More recently an effort to engage local high school youth resulted in the development of the Green Team - to teach them about native habitats and watershed ecology, letting them get their hands dirty as they establish native plant rain gardens, bio-swales and restoration projects." This "...award is based on your teaching, research, and long commitment to fostering botanical and ecological understanding for many groups, including college and high school students, scientists, people of different faith traditions, and other local residents who otherwise might not be connected to the sciences of botany or ecology. Your work with the Emma Cole Project, which documents ecological changes in the Grand Rapids area since the late 1800s, may have important conservation implications. Your work with the Plaster Creek Project is unusual in that it translates thought into action. Many college professors study environmental problems. A much smaller number take leadership roles in striving to remediate them. Your work builds communities at both the human and ecosystem levels. It is restoration ecology with a restoration ethic based on your Christian faith."



Dave Warners (left), recipient of the 2020 Special Recognition Award, presented by Dan Skean (right). The tile in the award is a common trillium flower. Photo by Garrett Crow.

## The 2021 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Garrett E. Crow.

Garrett's service is outlined in this excerpt from his nomination letter; Garrett has "served the club admirably as state president from 2016-2020. During this time we saw our Bylaws re-written and passed, and the institution of a Fall Mini-Foray. His leadership has been exceptional, especially given the uncertain transition to pandemic conditions that crippled the club's ability to hold face-to-face meetings. Garrett's calm demeanor has helped to keep us together. Garrett championed the idea of turning the fall board meeting into more of a mini-foray with field trips, and brought it to reality. He also is working to bring together the Michigan Consortium of Botanists (MiCOB) and our Club, realizing that we need to get more of the younger academics involved, or at least subscribing to our journal! Garrett did most of the planning for our current Mini-Foray, which was initially going to include MiCOB, but changes in leadership at MiCOB and the risk of a pandemic resurgence has postponed our eventual joint meeting a second time. Garrett retired to the Grand Rapids area after a long and distinguished career as a botany professor and Department Chair at the University of New Hampshire. Since returning to Michigan, he has continued to share his botanical enthusiasm widely in ways that have helped our Club. Garrett has given formal talks at

Club meetings and continues to work with multiple students in collaboration with Dave Warners at Calvin University. Their retrospective examination of Emma J. Cole's 1901 *Grand Rapids Flora*, including floristic quality assessments of some of her collecting sites 120+ years later, is very interesting botanical detective work. Alan Stockdale, a Calvin alumnus who worked with Garrett and Dave on the Cole project, won our 2020 Dickinson Award for the best student paper published in *The Great Lakes Botanist* in the 2019 volume.



Garrett Crow (left), recipient of the 2021 Distinguished Service Award, presented by Tony Reznicek (right). Photo by Judy Kelly.

**Sylvia M. Taylor was chosen to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021** based largely on her work in conservation of Michigan's native plants that includes establishing Michigan's Endangered Species Program. Her nomination letter is presented in its entirety below.

"Sylvia Taylor is a familiar name and presence in Michigan Botany, highly notable for her career as a biologist within the Wildlife Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources following completion of her graduate degrees (MS, PhD) in botany from the University of Michigan. In this capacity, she was responsible for launching and scientifically administering the state's Endangered Species Program (1978-1985). The enabling state legislation for this program provided few if any specifics as guidance, thus the program required creating from the bottom up. Her highly successful design and implementation of this ground-breaking program in Michigan entailed, among other things, creating a permit system for this complicated area of law (e.g., in part to mesh with several Federal statutes), and most importantly, setting up statewide Technical Committees with skilled specialists to initiate the periodic listing process.

After several years of this work, which gave formal legal protections for Michigan's rarest plants, and provided a model endangered species program, Sylvia sought to work in a much broader manner by influencing the management of Michigan landscapes. In 1985 she became a Certified Wildlife Biologist, transitioning to the more challenging tasks of large-scale land

management. This ultimately resulted in her assignment as District Wildlife Biologist for nine northern Lower Peninsula counties. This expansive area not only included many wildlands but also supported numerous rare plant and animal species, including perhaps Michigan's most widely known rare species of all, the Kirtland's Warbler. Her management of this area was conducted in partnership with an allied District Forester, offering an opportunity to employ and test management strategies at a landscape scale to benefit both game and non-game species, including plants. Harkening back to her forest ecology training, her basic goal was to "learn the territory," as taught by Dr. Burton V. Barnes.

During her stint as District Wildlife Biologist, Sylvia continued to participate as an active member of the former Michigan Natural Areas Council (MNAC), an offshoot of the Michigan Botanical Club, serving once as chair. Prior to her retirement Sylvia also supported the reprising of the MDNR Natural Areas Program in the DNR Wildlife Division from about 1990-1991, providing guidance to the program and assisting in the development of new administrative rules for the dedication of state Natural Areas and their management.

Retiring in 1991, Sylvia became more active at the U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, where she became affiliated in 1985 as an adjunct assistant professor through the now former School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE), continuing some of her past research on ashes (*Fraxinus* spp.). She has been active with the Michigan Stewardship Network, which is part of a national grass roots organization. More importantly, Sylvia remains active with the Natural Areas Association, a renowned national organization that promotes, among other things, the acquisition and management of natural areas and their heritage. In recognition of Sylvia's career and many efforts protecting natural systems, she received the George B. Fell award from the Natural Areas Association, their highest honor. More locally, Sylvia has been on the technical advisory committee for the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Program since its inception, as well as the Augusta Twp. Farmland protection board (13 years) and for two terms on the Ann Arbor Green Belt commission, working to protect thousands of acres of plant habitat.

Throughout all this time, Sylvia has remained active in the Michigan Botanical Club, regularly leading field trips, including at Spring Forays, and also leading volunteers in regular stewardship days at Horner Woods, near Ann Arbor, an area the Michigan Botanical Club was instrumental in protecting.

I have known Sylvia for just over 40 years (a long time but well under half her life!), and she remains active and vibrant in all her efforts. I cannot conceive of someone more exemplary in deserving the MBC Lifetime Achievement Award."



Sylvia Taylor (left), recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021, presented by Tony Reznicek (right). The tile in the award is a twinleaf in bud, a rare plant that Sylvia has helped to protect in Michigan through her endangered species leadership and stewardship activities at Horner Woods near Ann Arbor. Photo by Judy Kelly.

Tony announced that there was no student paper published in *The Great Lakes Botanist* in its 2020 volume and therefore no nominations for the 2021 Isobel Dickinson Memorial Award for the best student paper in the previous volume of the journal.

Nominations for the 2022 MBC Awards are due to Tony (reznicek@umich.edu) by March 1, 2022.

submitted by Dan Skean & Tony Reznicek

## *Michigan Botanical Foundation Report for 2021*

The Michigan Botanical Foundation (MBF) is a 501 (c) (3) organization whose purpose is to receive and administer funds for the support of Michigan botanical research, educational publications, and related activities that enhance the knowledge and preservation of Michigan's flora.

The MBF funded two grants in 2021 for a total of \$4,015. The details of these grants can be found at the end of this report.

This year the MBF received one donation from the estate of Dr. Dorothy McMeekin. She 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.

The Foundation is committed to protecting and using our funds in accordance with our stated purpose. The MBF continues to work with our financial planner to make sound investments. We saw good returns this past year and the

current value of the MBF portfolio as of October 16, 2021 was \$299,545.

We ask that you consider making a financial contribution to the Michigan Botanical Foundation. We welcome contributions of cash or stock. Your donation can be sent to our treasurer at the following address:

Robert Kelly,  
Treasurer Michigan Botanical Foundation,  
18863 Lakewood Circle,  
Lake Ann, MI 49650

We carefully consider all grant applications for compliance with our stated purpose. If you are interested in applying for a grant, you can obtain a copy of our grant guidelines on our website [www.michbotclub.org/botanical-foundation](http://www.michbotclub.org/botanical-foundation)

MBF Trustees are elected to two-year terms and then elected to officer positions on a yearly basis. The MBF Trustees, their current elected positions, and terms of service are as follows:

Judy Kelly – President. . . . . June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022

Mike Huft – Vice-President. . June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022

Bev Walters – Secretary. . . . . June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022

Bob Kelly – Treasurer. . . . . June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022

Michael Huft – Trustee. . . . . June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2023

Bev Walters – Trustee. . . . . June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2023

Emily Nietering – Trustee. . . . June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2023

MBF Grants Awarded in 2021:

MBF 2021-01: ReLeaf Michigan, Inc. financial support for the 15th Biennial Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest - \$1,500.

MBF 2021-02: Dr. Dave Warners and Dr. Garrett Crow for A Field-based Retrospective Assessment of Emma Cole's *Grand Rapids Flora* After 100+ Years of "Progress."- \$2,515

Donations in 2021:

One donation from the estate of Dorothy McMeekin - \$10,000.

Report submitted by Judy Kelly, President, Michigan Botanical Foundation, Board of Directors

## *Chapter Reports*

### **Great Lakes Chapter Report for 2021**

The Great Lakes Chapter (GLC) stood at 93 members in July, which is up 11 from last year. Note: last year's report erroneously only reported the chapter at 66 members (final count was 82). Twelve new members joined the chapter this year! A couple small and informal field trip outings were organized in the Grand Traverse region this past summer. We awarded chapter members Alex Graeff and Nathan Martineau \$100 and \$50, respectively, for their top numbers



of species documented in the 2020 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).

The GLC initiated an iNaturalist project to collect photos for taxa that are missing photos on the MICH website continued this year and saw an increase in participation. We had two chapter members give engaging and informative presentations over zoom and GLC vice-president, Liana May, has been actively managing an Instagram account for the chapter, which has 246 followers. Finally, the GLC online dues payment option continues to be well received. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

Submitted by Derek Shiels (GLC President) derek@landtrust.org

## Southeastern Chapter Report for 2021

I think we can all agree that 2021 was another challenging year for everyone personally and for the MBC. However, entering a second pandemic year without meeting indoors in person gave us new possibilities for participating in a wider range of online presentations. While our chapter did not present any programs ourselves, many of our members joined in some of the wonderful programs offered by the Huron Valley Chapter, Great Lakes Chapter, Michigan Nature Association, Wild Ones, The Nature Conservancy and the Royal Oak Nature Society. When spring arrived and the weather enticed us outdoors members had several local field trip opportunities. Highlights included Spring Wildflowers in Rouge Park in May, Sibley Prairie in July, Rouge Park Prairie in July and September, the Shiawassee Basin Preserve in August, and wildflower, fern, mushroom and geology trips in Tenhave Woods in Royal Oak in all seasons. Several members visited the woods on Belle Isle to check the progress of the construction work being done this year to remove roads and restore the water flow. Unfortunately, our scheduled group field trip to Belle Isle in October had to be cancelled when we discovered that construction was disrupting our planned walking route. Hopefully next year we can attempt that trip again and see the results of the reconstruction.

It was wonderful to be able to join together in person at our mini-foray in October at Calvin University in Grand Rapids. The program, field trips and award presentations were enjoyed by all who attended. Looking forward to 2022, SEC member Don Drife is planning two January and February Zoom presentations on Winter Botany, that is tree and shrub ID using twigs and bark. Three field trips are being planned around the metro Detroit area in January, February and March to use our new found knowledge. This series is being sponsored by the SEC, Royal Oak Nature Society and Friends of Rouge Park.

At this point we are planning to hold our annual MBC Spring

Foray over Memorial Day weekend in 2022, hosted by the Southeastern Chapter. Our venue is the UAW Conference Center at Black Lake near Onaway, MI. Watch for emails and the Spring Arisaema issue for updates and foray information. Remember to keep your chapter membership updated so you don't miss out on the registration materials. We're hoping to see you in 2022!



SEC member Don Drife measures himself against a flowering stem of Prairie-dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) in the prairie at Rouge Park in Detroit on September 11. Don is 6' 4". Photo by Emily Nietering.

## Huron Valley Chapter Report for 2021

Despite the pandemic, the Huron Valley Chapter had an outstanding year of programs and field trips in 2021. Our new Field Trip coordinator, Guerin Wilkinson, organized 14 trips across a wide range of habitats and led by a variety of trip leaders. This included an energized weekend excursion to the eastern Upper Peninsula and Drummond Island with visits to several unique Great Lake shoreline habitats. Programs in 2021 were equally exciting. Robert Ayotte, our Program Coordinator, has continued to raise the bar on the quality of speakers and topics. The schedule for winter 2022 is already set! Ken Shaw, our Facilities Coordinator, has taken the reins at seamlessly coordinating the virtual meetings. I want to give a shout out to Ken for researching the numerous virtual

meeting platforms and coordinating the programs as they are now available across all the MBC chapters. The Huron Valley Chapter has also advocated with the DNR for implementing a stewardship program at the Bently Lake site (see Trips) and with the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority for a more active deer management program at Dexter-Huron Metropark where deer have devastated the Short's aster and zig-zag goldenrod populations.

## PROGRAMS 2021

January 18, 2021. Back to the Roots: the mysterious below-ground parts of forests - Monique Weemstra. This presentation was about the mysterious below-ground parts of forests: roots and mycorrhizal fungi. Together, they are noted for their mutualistic exchange of water and nutrients; but they're also the most poorly understood of forest soil components.

February 15, 2021. The Vascular Flora of the Edwin S. George Reserve, Pinckney, MI - Robyn J. Burnham. An illustrated presentation of the updated flora of the University of Michigan's E.S. George Reserve as compiled by botanists Robyn J. Burnham and Michael Penskar during 2019-20 was presented. Added to previously known occurrences were more than 100 species including ferns, orchids, grasses, sedges, and even trees.

March 15, 2021. Big Trees: How to Measure, Track, and Manage - Ted Reuschel and Jacqueline Courteau. The Michigan Botanical Club developed and maintains the Michigan Big Tree Register. Big Tree Program Coordinator Ted Reuschel described how trees are nominated, measured, and certified for entry in the Big Tree Register, and how the Register data is kept up to date. Ecologist Jacqueline Courteau facilitated a discussion about how Big Trees should be protected and managed, starting with a case study of the champion chinquapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) at Wurster Park.

April 19, 2021. Lakeplain Wet Prairie Restoration at Sibley Prairie Nature Preserve - Julie McLaughlin. The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) is in year five of restoring the remnant lakeplain wet prairie at its Sibley Prairie Nature Preserve - West Prairie site in Brownstown Township. This presentation highlighted the rare plants and obligate species found at the site, the restoration partnership with The Nature Conservancy's Oak Openings program, and what the future could look like for this globally unique habitat.

September 20, 2021. Ecological species groups and post-fire forest succession at Mack Lake - Julie Sosin. The concept of ecological species groups (sets of ground flora species that have similar site tolerances, developed for a specific area) has been widely utilized by ecologists to indicate site conditions and classify forests. This talk focused on a set of ecological species groups developed for jack pine forests in northern

Lower Michigan as indicators of differences in soil fertility and moisture.

October 18, 2021. What's in Our Watershed? - Kris Olsson and Kate Laramie. Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) has been conducting volunteer-led botanical and ecological assessments of privately-owned natural areas throughout the watershed since 2008.

November 15, 2021. An Expedition to the Uttermost Part of the Earth: The Flora and Vegetation of Isla de los Estados, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina - Garrett Crow. Tierra del Fuego is surely the "jumpin' off place" in this World. This land became the subject of a botanical expedition to participate in a biological inventory of Isla de los Estados, an island forming the southernmost tip of South America.

## FIELD TRIPS 2021

Saturday, April 17, 2021. Dexter-Huron Metropark. Trip Leader: Bill Brodovich. The Huron Valley Chapter held its first field trip of the 2021 season at Dexter-Huron Metropark.

Saturday, April 24, 2021. Leader: Bill Brodovich. This is the only area of Wayne County not located in the lakeplain. It has rolling hills, fields, large marshes, and woodlands. It will likely be developed soon, so this was a chance to see a unique part of Wayne County before it's gone.

Saturday, May 8, 2021. Spring Has Sprung at Draper-Houston Preserve. Trip Leader: Tony Reznicek. The Draper-Houston Preserve is a County Natural Area preserving a rich river floodplain along the Saline River including a small, wooded ravine down to the river, as well as successional old fields. There are large stands of pawpaw and redbud, areas with nice wildflower understories, and a diverse woody plant flora.

Saturday, May 15, 2021. Exploration of Horner-McLaughlin Woods. Trip Leader: Sylvia Taylor. Horner-McLaughlin woods, a University of Michigan property just northeast of Matthaei Botanical Gardens, has long been recognized for its outstanding spring floral display. Most of the property is classified as mesic and dry-mesic southern forest.

Saturday, May 22, 2021. Hankerd Road Barrens, Dexter Township. Trip Leader: Kelsey Dillon/DNR. Sandy lightly wooded parcel managed by the DNR featuring birds-foot violet, hoary puccoon and other species uncommon to the area.

Saturday, May 29, 2021. Ives Road Fen. Trip Leader: Bob Smith. This 700-acre Nature Conservancy property is an incredible example of what perseverance and volunteers can achieve in the battle against invasive species. Over 800 species of plants have been documented in this location.

Saturday, June 12, 2021. Pickerel Lake. Leaders: Guerin Wilkinson and Robert Ayotte led a botanical ramble on the trail around Pickerel Lake in Dexter Township.

Weekend of June 19-20, 2021. Eastern U.P and Drummond Island. Trip Leaders: Steve Baker and Tony Reznicek. The botanical expedition to the eastern U.P and Drummond Island visited a mixed coniferous forest, an Alvar community, and numerous associated shorelines.

June 26, 2021. Oak Openings, Ohio. Trip Leader: Aunita Erskine. The Oak Openings region in Ohio is a treasure trove of unique species. In a relatively small area we found oak barrens, sand dunes, wet rich woodland swales, and many prairie species. Some of these species are only found in this area of Ohio, and locally or rarely in Michigan.

July 24, 2021. Sibley Prairie, Brownstown. Trip Leader: Julie McLaughlin. Very little remains of the once extensive lakeplain prairie that is endemic to the Great Lakes region. Our field trip visited a section of the Sibley Prairie that is owned by the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. The property is home to a very large number of rare, threatened and otherwise notable plant species native to wet-mesic forests, oak openings and prairies.

August 14, 2021. Northern Shiawassee Basin Preserve. Trip Leader: Mike Losey. August is peak wildflower season and participants on this hike will have special access to explore the interior of the preserve on the north side of Long Lake.

September 4, 2021. Bentley Lake Southern Wet Mesic Prairie. Trip Leaders: Robert Ayotte and Guerin Wilkinson. We have not been to this fabulous wetland since 2014. It's simply one of the most diverse and remarkable sites in our region, with an FQA approaching 50. The site grades between Southern Wet Meadow (S3) and Wet Prairie (S1).

September 12, 2021. Furstenberg Nature Area Walk, 1 pm. Trip Leader: Aunita Erskine. Long time NAP Steward Aunita Erskine leads a re-visit of Furstenberg Nature Area in Ann Arbor, the jewel of Ann Arbor's Natural Areas. We discussed some of the recent restoration efforts while brushing up on the native grasses and early asters and goldenrods.

September 18, 2021. Fall Botany at the Reichert Nature Preserve. Trip Leaders: Neal Billetdeaux, Robert Ayotte. Legacy Land Conservancy's Reichert Nature Preserve is a 92-acre parcel north of Portage Lake straddling the Washtenaw/Livingston county line. The variety of plant communities at Reichert reflects the site's amazing underlying geological diversity. This trip focused on trees and shrubs from dry oak-hickory woods to a rich tamarack swamp.

Submitted by Neal Billetdeaux, HVC President

## Southwestern Chapter Report for 2021

There were no Southwestern Chapter gatherings or field trips during 2021. Zoom meetings and opportunities were forwarded to all of our members as received. Dave Wendling, Cheryl Lyons Jenness, Mike Dombos and Wayne Roussel met at the city park in Portage during October to discuss our chapter fate. There were no new nominations from the

election and that Joe Trapp and Sass Havilar were elected to three year terms as Program Co-Chairs.

Submitted by David Wendling and Wayne Roussel

## White Pine Chapter Report for 2021

We began our year with three Zoom meetings. Attendance to these meetings has been low. In April we had our first in person meeting in a year with a really good turnout. Dave Warners talked to us about the Emma Cole project and a student gave us a tour of the herbarium at Calvin University. In May we visited Ranger Steve Mueller's Ody Brook preserve for spring wildflowers and in June we looked for early summer woodland flowers at the Hudsonville Nature Center. For July, we visited the Karner Blue Preserve in Newaygo for prairie plants and Karner Blue butterflies. Yes, the Karners were flying and all were able to see them. In August we toured the Highlands in Grand Rapids. The Highlands is a former golf course that is being turned into natural area using native plants.

We have one more field trip planned this fall and then the Mini Foray before we attempt to meet in person in doors again. We are hoping for a more normal meeting situation as we enter the winter months this year.

Submitted by Craig Elston, WPC President

## What is in a name – “club” versus “society?”

At the October Board meeting, Garrett Crow put forth the suggestion that the Michigan Botanical Club consider changing its name to the Michigan Botanical Society. Of course, any name change would be an involved process; the name is part of our legal identity, and cannot be arbitrarily switched. Formally and legally changing our organization's name is a more involved process. Nevertheless, I volunteered to write a short piece for Arisaema about why we might consider changing our name.

So why change? In fact, despite the difficulties, organizations routinely change their names as society changes and they have to fit into new frameworks and new alignments of their missions. For example, the well-known Native Plant Trust used to be The Society for the Protection of Native Plants (1900 – 1922); Society for the Preservation of Native New England Plants (1922 – 1925); New England Wild Flower Preservation Society (1925 – 1970); and the New England Wild Flower Society (1970 – 1979). Why these changes? Some are obvious – The organization was interested in woody plants as well as wildflowers! Others simply reflect alignment with the societal emphases of a particular era.

We are not strangers to this -- The Michigan Botanical Club, the present name of the organization, has had three different names during its existence. However, under our current name, we have had a long and successful history. Why would we bother changing?

Club versus Society? What is the difference? Surely little in meaning? Nevertheless, it is notable that quite recently, we have seen the New England Botanical Club change its name to the New England Botanical Society, the Southern Appalachian Club has changed its name to the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, and the Torrey Botanical Club is now the Torrey Botanical Society. These groups are similar to the Michigan Botanical Club in focus.

What is the difference in the two words? In the modern world, we might look at Dictionary.com:

Club: a group of persons organized for a social, literary, athletic, political, or other purpose.

Society: an organized group of persons associated together for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic, or other purposes.

About the same – but the word “scientific” appears under “society” and that is significant. Meaning is one thing, connotation to the outside world is yet another. People think of a bridge club, a garden club, a book club and these are all worthwhile and important – I belong to some and enjoy them greatly. However, ask a current student what clubs do, and the impression will be fun, entertainment, etc.

Naturally, all our members enjoy the Michigan Botanical Club, but when we look at the focus of the club from our website, we see: Conservation of all native plants. Education of the public to appreciate and preserve plant life. Sponsorship of research and publication on plant life. Sponsorship of legislation to promote 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. These focal points do not align with what people in the outside world think clubs are for and do. They align with people’s impressions of what societies do.

However, a name change goes a little deeper than merely aligning our name more closely with our focus. To accomplish the goals that we focus on requires leadership and among our diverse membership, people with the appropriate backgrounds, especially in science and education. The club has been very fortunate in having strong support from such people, starting at the very beginnings with people like Marjorie T. Bingham, and extending through the history of the club with scientists and educators like Herb Wagner, Ed Voss, John Beaman, Woody Erhle, Dennis Woodland, Todd Barkman, and, most recently, Garrett Crow and Dan Skean. And we need to continue to maintain our links with the world of education and science if we are to fulfil our goals and aims most efficiently.

Here is where a name also can be important. In this day and age, “society” is the term used by scientific organizations. Students and early career professionals seek out societies to

find peers. Also, when they do service to an organization, like being an officer or giving programs, or receive awards, they need to be able to get credit from their organizations, whether they are academic institutions, environmental firms, or NGOs. Listing such activities on your resume or curriculum vitae is important.

I can’t do better than to quote the succinct statement made in the document prepared by the New England Botanical Society for their name change (see: <https://www.rhodora.org/notices/NEBC-Invitation-Open-Discussion-13Feb2021.pdf>): “...academic review boards, as well as employers, do not understand or ascribe significant value to involvement or service to a “club,” while participation in a scientific “society” is viewed positively and with more prestige. This is especially a key issue for aspiring and early career botanists seeking to build their credentials, and for NEBC’s ability to attract and retain members and officers.”

For the Michigan Botanical Club, I do not think a change like this will have any immediate impact on membership – it is not a recruiting tool. It is to align our name better with our goals, in the public view. And most importantly, in the long run, to encourage retention and service from young botanists especially, and allow them as well as us to benefit from their leadership roles.

Submitted by Tony Reznicek

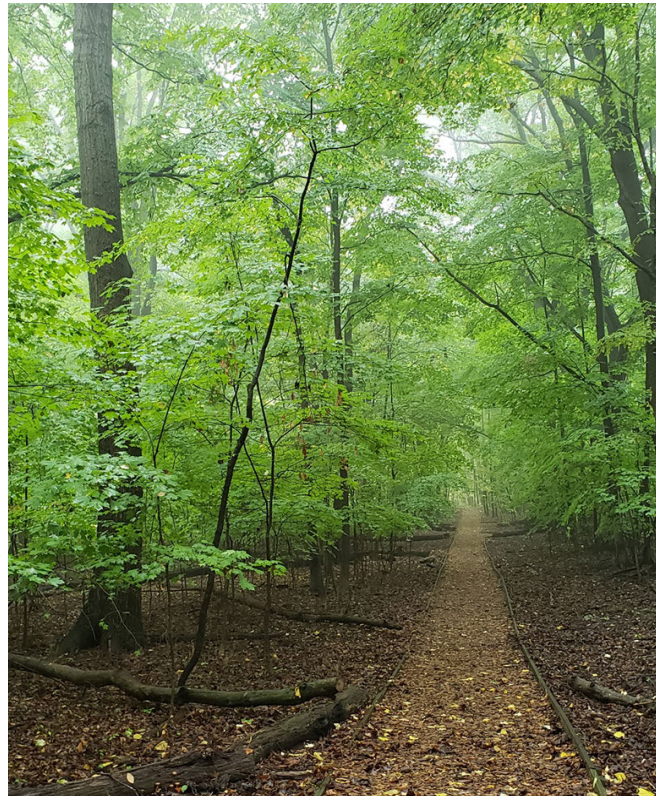


Photo by Renee Zimmerman

## Michigan Botanical Club State Board Meeting Minutes

**Saturday, October 9, 2021**

This meeting was held at the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens, and also on Google Meet organized by Dan Skean.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Dan Skean at ca. 9:10 AM.

Board members in attendance: Neal Billetdeaux (remote), Robert Bloye, Sheila Bourgoïn, Garrett Crow, Irene Eiseman (remote), Craig Elston, Phyllis Higman (remote), Michael Huft (left after TGLB report), Bob Kelly, Mark Koski, Carolyn Miller, Emily Nietering, Tony Reznicek, Ken Shaw, Dan Skean, John Zimmerman; Others present: Charlotte Gyllenhaal, Judy Kelly

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

A special thank you goes to Garrett Crow and Dave Warners for organizing the Fall Mini-Foray at Calvin University.

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

The May 22, 2021, minutes were approved by email on July 15, 2021.

3. Announcements:

Please look at the directory and inform Dan Skean via email of any mistakes or omissions.

Please look at a new draft of the MBC brochure (Emily Nietering made some changes).

4. Committee Reports:

The Great Lakes Botanist – Michael Huft

Two issues so far in 2021. Another double issue will come out at some time toward the end of the year or in early 2022.

Mike has asked the board to begin the search for a new editor. He will stay on through 2022 if necessary. Mike also served simultaneously as unpaid business manager, a position that formerly had a \$2000 annual stipend.

Dan Skean and others expressed great appreciation for Michael's work on The Great Lakes Botanist.

Bob Kelly made a motion to establish a special committee to search for a new editor and a new business manager for the journal. Motion seconded by Tony Reznicek. Motion passed.

Treasurer – Bob Kelly

Bob presented a summary statement through September 30, 2021.

Financially the organization is in very good shape and doing

well.

With the last increase in dues, the treasury has benefited.

The current balance is \$77,027.22 (there were 2 checks that hadn't cleared yet).

Ken Shaw made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Seconded by Sheila Bourgoïn. Motion passed.

Corresponding Secretary – Sheila Bourgoïn

Two Arisaema newsletters have gone out so far this year.

An additional small Arisaema that will include chapter reports is planned.

Sheila still prints and mails (via USPS) about 170 copies of each Arisaema issue. Roughly half of these members also receive electronic copies.

Garrett Crow suggested that Arisaema be sent electronically by Sheila and that printing and distributing hard copies, for those who require them, become a chapter responsibility.

Chapter secretaries would presumably know those who require printed copies of their newsletters and thus Arisaema. These actions would lessen Sheila's workload.

Emily Nietering pointed out that chapters would then accept the financial costs of duplication and mailing and that sending hard copies is a necessity for members who do not have computer access. Emily also stated that chapter presidents need to bring this discussion to the chapters to see how much of a reduction in hard copies could be made.

Sheila pointed out that, at least now, with few in-person meetings (and never any for the Great Lakes Chapter) that distribution of printed versions at meetings without mailings is not possible. Garrett suggested that chapters could bill the state treasurer for costs related to duplication and mailing.

Garrett made a formal motion that the club no longer provide both electronic and printed issues of the Arisaema; an individual has to choose one or the other. The motion was seconded by Tony Reznicek. This action presumably would start us in the right direction of moving to greater electronic distribution, reducing the burden on Sheila, and possibly reducing overall distribution costs. In the discussion that followed, the policy was suggested to be effective starting in 2022, which was accepted as a friendly amendment. Emily Nietering strongly suggested that this policy be communicated to all members in Arisaema before the end of the year because members need to make their choice before the spring issue of Arisaema that includes important registration information for the foray. The motion was passed.

Awards – Tony Reznicek

Dan presented Michael Huft with the Distinguished Service Award for 2020.

It was a surprise presentation because Mike needed to leave

early.

Garrett commented that Mike rescued the TGLB and we are very grateful.

Tony reported that three awards will be handed out for 2020 and two awards for 2021.

One lifetime achievement award will be handed out as well. There was no paper eligible for the Dickinson award this year.

Committee to Promote MBC – Judy Kelly

The MBC Facebook group has over 2000 members and is a useful service for identifying and discussing plants.

Judy has tried to put a ‘Join’ button on Facebook, but she is not the owner. She has contacted David Steen, who may have the rights.

The thought is to change the page or create a new Facebook page that will have a ‘Join’ button.

Committee for Shared Statewide Programs – Ken Shaw

Have purchased three user accounts – Google Workspace

Users are Robert Ayotte, Ken Shaw, and Dan Skean.

Each user account can accommodate up to 150 participants (not cumulative).

Waiting to see if we need to bump this to a 250-participant account.

So far only one meeting has been held and there were 40-50 participants.

In addition to Google Meet for meetings, Google Workspace also has forms, email – these are all usable, and Dan Skean created the Fall Foray registration on the platform.

Emily Nietering asked about registration for the Spring Foray and whether working with one of the Google Workspace users would be required. To use the account for the foray it currently would be easiest to work with Dan.

Bob Kelly asked about reimbursement for the Workspace accounts. The cost is \$12/user (3 users) for a total of \$36/month. Ken will accumulate a few months’ worth of billing and will then submit for reimbursement. Bob asked him to do so before year’s end.

Garrett suggested that it is probably a good policy to “wait and see” before increasing the size of our Google Workspace subscriptions.

5. Old Business:

Successor to Robert Riepma as Historian – Archiving MBC Action/Minutes/Documents

No successor has accepted the position or come forward.

Emily Nietering brought up the idea that someone from each chapter should keep a record of their chapter’s information. Emily pointed out that many early records of the White Pine

Chapter are probably at the late Dorothy Sibley’s house, which has been donated to the local community foundation. It is hoped that they will be recovered.

Should we use Google Workspace as a platform for storing documents?

The Club already has an archive at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan.

Spring 2022 Foray – Emily Nietering

Emily is staying positive that we’ll have a spring 2022 Foray.

We still have our availability at UAW Conference Center at Black Lake. The only real change is that we can no longer reserve campsites as a club. Individuals who are camping will need to reserve their campsites in advance.

We will make a final decision on proceeding with the Spring Foray in January 2022.

Ad Hoc Committee on Dues & Payments – Dan Skean

Centralized payments and standardized dues are being considered.

One meeting has been held but only one Chapter Treasurer, Toni Spears, was able to attend.

Dan Skean encouraged everyone to look at the Indiana Native Plant Society website (<https://indiananativeplants.org/>). They have different membership categories that one can choose, as well as a ‘Donate’ button on their website.

All the Chapters in the Indiana Native Plant Society have standardized dues for each membership category.

Garrett Crow mentioned that it should be relatively easy to standardize membership dues.

Bob Kelly commented that we need to get all of the Chapter Treasurers together on this issue and that Chapter Presidents should encourage them to participate.

Consideration of Name Change to Michigan Botanical Society – Garrett Crow

Garrett mentioned that this issue was discussed previously and that changing the name from ‘Club’ to ‘Society’ would be advantageous in the academic community and might encourage more participation by academic botanists and graduate students.

Mark Koski queried foresters at Michigan Tech and they believed “Society” was a more appropriate name. Tony Reznicek agreed.

Emily Nietering checked our previous minutes and pointed out that we wanted to encourage chapter discussions on the change, but not all chapters have been meeting. Emily suggested that if we hope to take a club vote at our Spring Foray, as noted in the minutes of our last meeting, we really should have an article on the rationale for the name change in the next Arisaema, not rationale nested obscurely in our

board minutes.

Tony Reznicek volunteered to write an article about the name change consideration for the next Arisaema.

## 6. New Business:

Michigan Botanical Foundation (MBF) Capital Campaign – Bob Kelly

Bob brought up that if the MBF could increase its endowment to \$500,000 it would not have to sell stock to fund the \$5,000 to \$7,000 in grants that the foundation currently awards annually.

Bob asked if there was MBC board support for a one-time use of the MBC membership database for a MBF capital campaign and, if approved, an MBC person to work with the MBF on the campaign to avoid a conflict of interest (Bob as Treasurer of MBF and MBC, etc.).

Irene Eiseman, who manages the MBC membership database, stated that the database is highly restricted and only used for distribution of Arisaema and The Great Lakes Botanist. She would prefer to assist the MBF in a different way.

Ken Shaw suggested that the club send out an email on behalf of the MBF to members of the Michigan Botanical Club.

Tony Reznicek proposed that the end of the year Arisaema include an article explaining to the chapter members about the MBF and its capital campaign.

Tony made a motion to have a letter of information about the MBF capital campaign be distributed to club members through the chapters with some background information. This action would probably be more effective than mailing a letter. Motion was seconded by Ken Shaw. Motion passed. Emily reiterated the importance of an Arisaema article.

Garrett Crow made a motion that the MBC board reaffirm that it will not distribute our membership data beyond the club, e.g., appropriate officers. Motion was seconded by Emily Nietering. Motion passed.

Emily Nietering asked if the MBF was able to accept stock donations. Bob Kelly will investigate.

Difficulties of Recruiting Chapter Officers – Dan Skean (on behalf of Dave Wendling)

The Southwestern Michigan Chapter has had difficulty in recruiting officers.

The chapter prefers to just have meet-ups as field trips, rather than formal meetings with presentations.

Dave is afraid that they are heading toward dissolution as no one is stepping forward to continue as Chapter President.

Garrett Crow proposed and we discussed the idea that, if they dissolve, its members might join the White Pine Chapter or the Great Lakes Chapter. Garrett urged that the Southwestern Chapter have talks with the White Pine Chapter about a

possible merger, and perhaps meeting at the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve.

Dan Skean will look into the club Bylaws about a merger.

John Zimmerman pointed out that the Southeastern Chapter is working on chapter Bylaws and tax-exempt status for the upcoming foray. Others noted that activities involving the entire club are covered under the club's tax-exempt status as long as the state treasury is involved.

Garrett suggested that the state board might possibly be more involved in forays rather than individual chapters doing all the work, since the Southwestern Chapter is struggling and the Great Lakes Chapter does not host forays.

Dan Skean will contact the Southwestern Chapter about this discussion.

Possible Ag Bill support for promoting native woody plants – Dan Skean

Jim Cubie, former Chief Counsel for the Senate Agricultural Committee, wants the Senate Ag Committee to recommend a committee that would encourage policies to promote native plants in the landscape.

Cubie would like MBC to endorse this endeavor with a letter to Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

Bob Kelly made a motion for Tony Reznicek and Dan to draft a letter to Sen. Stabenow supporting this action. Seconded by Craig Elston. Motion passed.

Next meeting is set for January 22, 2022.

7. Adjourned at ca. 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Miller

Recording Secretary

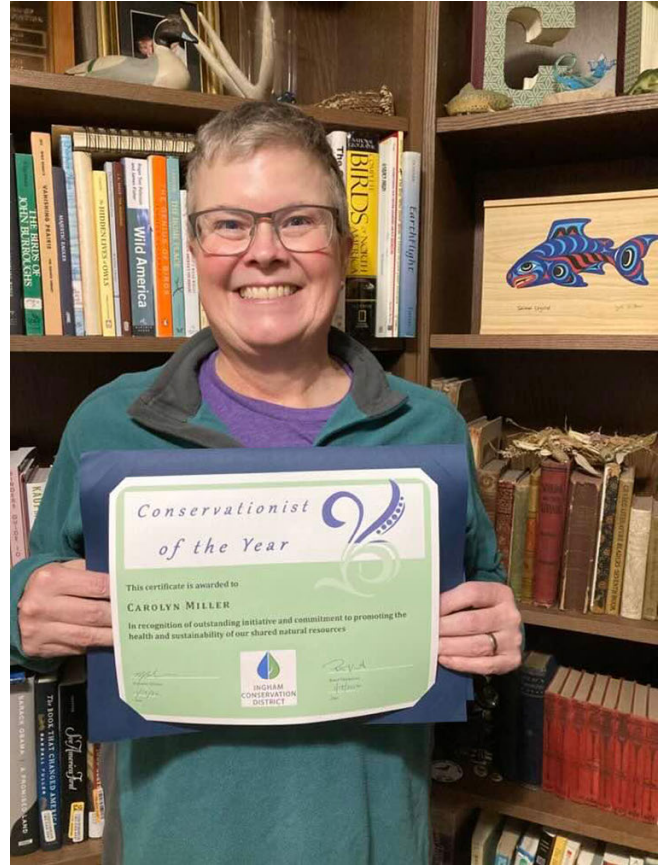
## *Search for Editor of The Great Lakes Botanist*

Michael Huft, the editor of *The Great Lakes Botanist* since 2013, has indicated his intention to step down from that position, and we are searching for a new editor. A search committee has been established consisting of Dan Skean, Garrett Crow, Tony Reznicek, and Michael Huft. Letters of interest, which should include a CV, can be sent to Dan Skean at dskean@albion.edu.

We are also seeking a new business manager. Let Dan know if you are interested in this position.

## *Congratulations to Carolyn Miller*

Carolyn Miller, the State Board Recording Secretary was awarded “Conservationist of the Year” by Ingham Conservation District. The award says “This Certificate is awarded to Carolyn Miller in recognition of outstanding initiative and commitment to promoting health and sustainability of our natural resources.”



## **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.