

## MICHIGAN BOTANICAL CLUB STATE BOARD MEETING

Michigan Environmental Council office,  
602 West Ionia Street, Lansing, MI Saturday, January 26, 2013

Members present: Tyler Bassett, Becky Csia, Mary Danforth, Steve Davis, Irene Eiseman, Patrick Fields, Richard Fowler, Aaron Fown, Ruth Hart, Judy Kelly, Robert Kelly, Emily Nietering, Larry Nooden, Sarah Nooden, Lynn Steil, Bev Walters, Alice Ward

Guests: Chris Graham (MNAC), Phyllis Higman (MNFI, MNAC), Brad Garmin (MEC)

1. Call To Order – Judy Kelly 12:01pm
2. Approval of the Agenda : Emily will add announcements.
  - a) Minutes of the fall meeting on October 14, 2012 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center: Tyler moved for approval, Alice seconded. Motion carried.
  - b) Treasurer’s report
3. Robert’s Rules of Order – Judy Kelly reminded everyone of the process used.
4. Announcements
  - a) Update president’s email list: Judy Kelly sent the brochure around for update.
  - b) Isle Royale Botany workshop: Announcement distributed.
  - c) MBC brochure: Sarah passed the form around for contact info update:
  - d) Emily announced books for sale from Thomson library.
  - e) Fall meeting - HVC: Sarah Nooden announced that following Oct. 12 Board meeting at the Eddy Discovery Center, Tony R. will be giving the program re: Alaska
5. Presentation about Michigan Natural Areas Council – Phyllis Higman and Chris Graham were introduced by Judy Kelly. Chris Graham said that changes have caused an “eclipse” to MNAC: see handout. Chris went on to explain that help is needed to fight Michigan Senate Bill 1276 which “prohibits MDNR from issuing or enforcing an order to classify any area for the purpose of achieving or maintaining biological diversity, or which exhibits unusual flora or fauna”. Phyllis encouraged everyone to read Dave Dempsy’s book, Ruin & Recovery. Chris invited the MBC to join them in their goals for political activity, fund raising & persuasion. He expressed that problems with a lack of enthusiasm have occurred with us all (organizations) including MNAC. Tyler asked if a co-committee to attack this issue might be in order. Larry suggested if contacted, we could respond with letters, etc. since the club was organized with the potential to be politically active. The MBC Foundation, however, was organized as a non-profit. A thought regarding a professional lobby person was mentioned. Aaron Fown suggested new methods for responding to bills. He suggested social networks, the condensed version of talking points on line, consistent messaging, factual & affirmative, humor with basic assumptions. Emily said that we are more science-based people and most of us are not attune to doing this sort of thing. Bev Walters felt that if the two organizations need to merge with a clear understanding of the monetary commitment and long term plan. Phyllis H. said that they are looking for a solution for the “no voice” and concurs with Bev, that the need for a plan is

priority. Ruth asked MEC rep, Brad Garmin, to explain how Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) has a role. He explained how MEC is a group of organizations that deals with issues with impacts on the great lakes, energy, etc. and not with natural features as much. He wanted better communication with nature groups. Alice Ward, Aaron Fown, and Larry Nooden all expressed their opinions of how this communication breakdown needs to be addressed. There was agreement that MEC might be the answer -- the center force. There was discussion regarding communication methods. Emily Nietering expressed how we need specifics for what to do when we receive the info. Brad said that he now knows that we are interested and will keep us in the loop. Judy Kelly said that she would pass on all information received.

## 6. Committee Reports

a) Web Master –Aaron Fown reviewed the changes to the website. We can include large amounts of photos, documents, etc. He encouraged contributing. -- blogs, videos, etc. There will be at least one chapter web person with access. Aaron asked editors to get back with him regarding passwords and he will get each chapter to participate right away. Aaron wanted each to get back with him regarding any ideas, etc.

b) Corresponding Secretary – Mary Danforth will be sending e-mail out to everyone. They will be publishing the Arisaema early and will need everything in by March 15th as the foray will be May 23. She also wanted chapters to ask members about getting the Arisaema electronically.

c) The Michigan Botanist – Todd Barkman The 2nd& 3rd issues should be printed and shipped in 2 months.

d) Treasurer – Bob Kelly presented the report with no issues. Steve Davis, treasurer of Red Cedar and Patrick Fields announced that RCC is very close to being defunct. Irene suggested that perhaps the membership might join as special members. Larry suggested that the group still maintain their identity as a subset. Patrick asked about a junior status that existed years ago. Patrick expressed that there will be no spring foray put on by them for 2014.

e) Spring Foray 2013 – Dorothy Sibley Everything has been shifted to Calvin College in G.R. but all other plans remain the same.

## 7. New Business

a) Smith fund committee – Judy Kelly explained how the committee began in 1962. In 1983 they revised and eliminated land acquisition. the committee is intended for support of TMB. In 1985, 1992 it was revised to include special publications. Patrick said it was supposed to be for special botanical publications. Larry suggested we ask Nancy Weber (Smith, daughter) to become actively involved in the family legacy. Irene moved that the committee, Larry N., Tony R., Pat F. with Nancy Weber, look into the copyright of Michigan Winter Wildflowers and move forward to work on a new publication and earmark funds in the treasurer's report. Emily seconded. Motion carried.

## 8. Old Business

a) Mission statement – Larry & Sarah Nooden Sarah has researched other clubs' mission statements and Larry mentioned the idea to Tony R. who is also working on it. Irene Eiseman moved that Sarah N be the chair of the mission statement committee and to report back to the next meeting. Becky C. seconded. Motion carried.

9. Future State Board Meeting:

a) May Meeting of the Michigan Botanical Club, WPC hosting

10. Adjournment: Emily announced that she will e- mail chapter presidents the new requirements for the distinguished service and life time achievement as they may announce to their chapter. Larry suggested that the criteria for the awards be listed on the website in an "administrative" area.

Patrick said that he would check with RCC regarding the 2014 spring foray capacity. Richard F. announced that before the white pine chapter was formed the state board hosted a foray. Patrick moved that depending on the decision of RCC and in the event that they cannot do the spring foray, the state take on this responsibility for 2014 only. Mary seconded. Motion passed. Irene moved that the RCC not host the spring foray and plan for the state to host it. Bev W. seconded. Motion carried. Ruth amended with the addition with the participation of the RCC as they are able. Tyler seconded the amendment. Motion carried. Patrick suggested that Judy e-mail everyone regarding nominations for locations.

Meeting adjourned 3:15pm. Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Steil, Recording Secretary