

Michigan Botanical Club - State Board Meeting  
Shanty Creek Resort, Antrim County  
Minutes - Approved  
Saturday, May 26, 2018

1. Call to order and welcome, 5:00 p.m.
  - Board members present: Garrett Crow, Jim Hewitt, Bob Kelly, Sheila Bourgoïn, Judy Kelly, Emily Nietering, Renée Zimmerman, John Zimmerman, Alice Ward, Larry Noodén, Lynn Kirkpatrick, Dave Wendling, Wayne Roussel, Dorothy Sibley, Craig Elston, Dave Chambers, Irene Eiseman, Leslie Kuhn, Phyllis Higman **(19)**
  - Others present: Ruth Hart
2. Approvals
  - The agenda was approved on motion by Dave Wendling, second Wayne Roussel.
  - Judy Kelly moved to approve the minutes of the January 27 Board meeting. Second by Craig Elston and passed.
  - Garrett Crow said Robert's Rules of Order would guide the proceedings.
3. Announcements
  - There were none.
4. Reports
  - Treasurer – To the great pleasure of the Board, Bob Kelly agreed to continue as Treasurer of the Club. His report was to be combined with other issues under new business.
  - *Arisaema* – The April, 2018 Issue was 24 pages. Editor Sheila Bourgoïn said she intends to reduce the size of the next newsletter (“right-size” it) by encouraging succinct chapter reports. Other cost-reduction methods she is working on for the print version include using a different folding method and working with Fed-Ex Office on bulk mail savings for non-profits.
  - Nominating Committee – Chair Tyler Bassett was unable to attend. He sent his report to Garrett Crow who read it to the Board. All positions for terms beginning January 1, 2019 are set with the exception of Recording Secretary where the incumbent, Jim Hewitt, said he needs a few extra weeks to determine if he will seek a third term. A motion by Irene Eiseman to extend confirmation of the nomination slate until July 15 was unanimously approved.
  - Editor's Report - *The Great Lakes Botanist* – Michael Huft was unable to attend. Garrett Crow provided the information that page proofs of the next issue (Vol. 57, Nos. 1-2) is in the hands of the authors for final review. It will contain three articles and three Noteworthy Collections articles. The issue will have 48 pages (compared to 144 pages in the previous issue).
  - Constitution and Bylaws Committee – No recent activity on the Committee chaired by M. Huft. Garrett Crow had previously sent around a draft of their work (18 pages) and said that perhaps a guide to the document would be helpful. Garrett said he hoped the Committee could meet this summer.
  - Special Awards – Dan Skean was unable to attend. Garrett Crow said he would present the Dickinson Award on Sunday evening to Emily Mydlowski for submitting the best student-

authored paper to the Great Lakes Botanist for the year 2017. Her study of herbivory on a watershield, *Brasenia schreberi*, appeared in Vol. 56, Nos. 1-2.

- Forays
  - Fall, 2018 – HVC hosting. President Neal Billetdeaux unable to attend. Irene Eiseman said the event will take place on one day, Saturday, September 29, at the Eddy Discovery Center in the Waterloo Recreation Area. Plans are being formulated; in addition to the morning board meeting multiple field walks and a talk by Garrett Crow are under consideration.
  - 2019 – In 2014 the State Board replaced the disbanded Red Cedar Chapter in the Foray cycle. For 2019 Garrett Crow wondered if the young Great Lakes Chapter could organize a foray. Per Irene Eiseman, president of GLC, and others the Chapter was not ready to take on such an event at this time, lacking the cohesiveness, experience, and active members of the established chapters. It was agreed that the State Board would put on a foray in 2019 and all present who were willing to help would meet Monday morning to begin the process.
  
- Website – Sheila Bourgoin, Webmaster, reported that information on prior years forays are now on the website. The Big Tree Program tab now has search capability as well as a form on which big trees can be nominated. Sheila said it is difficult to estimate the number of human visitors to the website; “bots” impact the reported numbers. Sheila also noted that the domain name provider, Network Solutions, may have overbilled MBC; she will investigate. Emily Nietering urged board members to notify Sheila if something on the website needs to be updated.
  
- Big Trees – Ted Reuschel, the new chair of the Big Tree Program, was unable to attend but Garrett Crow gave an update on the progress of the program under Ted’s leadership to the Foray participants on Friday evening. Several new trees have been nominated, two new champions have been verified, and the reporting form and database fields on the website have been revised. Sheila Bourgoin mentioned that photos would be helpful and that more people are needed to measure trees. Leslie Kuhn said the Michigan State University Forestry Club might be able to help with measuring.

## 5. Old Business

- Minutes approval and summary – Garrett Crow noted that a summary of the minutes now appears in the *Arisaema*, rather than the full report. Garrett said that per Board action in February of 2012 the Executive Committee is empowered to approve the minutes of Board meetings. Garrett said the Executive Committee consists of the MBC State Officers (as spelled out in the draft of the new Bylaws). A motion by Dave Wendling with support by Larry Noodén to expand the Executive Committee to include the Chapter Presidents was approved without dissent. The approval protocol will be for the Recording Secretary to send a draft of the minutes to the board members present at the meeting for review. When finalized, the Secretary will send the completed minutes to the President who will distribute them to the Executive Committee for approval.
  
- Payments to speakers and leaders at forays– Should the final document based on Larry Noodén’s draft be available online or in a binder? Not discussed in any detail.

## 6. New Business

- Chapter officer guidelines – Based on some transition issues at the Southwest Chapter Wayne Roussel suggested chapter officers prepare a description of their duties and responsibilities as well as “Best Practices” to help chapters improve their operations and prevent uncertainty if an officer should become unavailable. Seemed like a good idea. No action taken at this time.
  
- Finances / Insurance / Dues from Chapters to State
  - Treasurer’s report (Bob Kelly) – Current balance in MBC Treasury is \$72,775. A new H. Smith CD (42k for publications) was purchased. A MBC CD for 10k matures in April, 2019. The Dickinson Award Fund contains \$5,330. The remainder, about \$15,300, is in undesignated liquid accounts.
  - Liability insurance – The current policy covers all MBC members at all events. Bob Kelly said he would advise later on the cost of covering only members attending forays. He expected this would be cheaper but the chapters would not be covered at their events. The cost to cover all members at all events was said to be \$1 per member and in discussion it was decided renewing the current policy was the best approach. Bob said he will renew the current liability insurance policy. As for non-members, they would need to sign a liability waiver and Leslie Kuhn offered to send examples of liability waiver forms for the Board including Michael Huft and the chapters to evaluate. Emily Nietering suggested giving students who attend a foray a one-year membership in the sponsoring chapter.
  - Dues from Chapters to State -- Excluding a \$3,000 donation in 2016 the Club operated with an annual average shortfall of \$1,364 for the last 3 full years. To address this the Board will consider asking the chapters for an increase in the amount they send to the State. Bob will provide more analysis for the fall meeting. Sheila Bourgoin’s cost savings work with *Arisaema* could eat into this deficit. Donations could also help and Sheila will set up a donation button on the website. Donations will flow via Stripe, a payment processor, into a new account which Bob Kelly will set up. This new account could also be used to accept money from the smile.amazon program, discussed previously, should that come to pass.
  - Chapter dues – Ruth Hart said she felt it was important that chapter dues not be increased and thus kept affordable for Michigan Botanical Club members.
  
- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) – MBC is a member organization of MEC whose work on behalf of Michigan’s environment was praised by some members. Garrett Crow would prefer not to receive and evaluate their emails. Leslie Kuhn volunteered to receive the emails and pass along those of relevance along with her comments to the Board. Jim Hewitt moved to increase the annual member contribution to MEC by \$25 to \$125. Approved. Bob Kelly will renew the membership and designate Leslie as contact person.

7. Next State Board Meeting: Sept. 29 at the Eddy Discovery Center, Waterloo Recreation Area.

8. Adjournment: This meeting was held in two parts: Saturday, May 26 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Monday, May 28 from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.