

CONSTITUTION OF THE GREAT LAKES CHAPTER OF THE MICHIGAN BOTANICAL CLUB

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Great Lakes Chapter (GLC) of the Michigan Botanical Club (MBC).

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote through its members the aims of MBC:

1. The conservation of all native plants.
2. The education of the public to appreciate and preserve plant life.
3. Sponsorship of research and publications on the plant life of the State.
4. Sponsorship of legislation to promote the preservation of Michigan native flora and to establish suitable sanctuaries and natural areas.
5. Cooperation in programs concerned with wise use and conservation of all natural resources and scenic features.

The purpose is also to provide an organization which conducts the majority of Chapter activities using online electronic communications.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person interested in the aims of MBC shall be eligible for membership.

Individuals under 18 years of age may affiliate as Associate Members, without the privileges of voting and holding office.

Active members are entitled to all the privileges of voting, holding office and receiving publications. Active members are defined as having paid membership dues for the current year.

Section 2. Membership candidates who express an interest in joining MBC and prefer not to affiliate with a local chapter may join GLC. Membership in multiple Chapters is permissible.

Section 3. All current Special Members of MBC will automatically become members of GLC upon approval of its affiliation by the MBC board.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1. The officers of this Chapter shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. The President shall schedule regular meetings of the Executive Committee, prepare an agenda and preside over all Chapter meetings. The President shall carry on general correspondence of the membership and provide an annual report to MBC.

Vice President shall assist the Presidents as needed. In the event of the President's absence or incapacitation, the Vice President shall assume the duties of interim President.

The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings including online meetings and conduct any needed correspondence of the Board. The Secretary shall forward to the Secretary of MBC all reports required by the State organization.

The Treasurer shall receive and distribute all funds of the Chapter, maintain financial records, and prepare financial reports. Disbursement of funds shall be made under the direction of the Executive Committee. An Annual Financial Report summarizing operations and the financial condition of the treasury shall be made available to the membership.

ARTICLE V – DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

The Directors-at-Large shall represent the Chapter on the MBC Board of Directors. Duties of the Directors-at-Large are defined in the MBC, Incorporated, Constitution and Bylaws.

The Executive Committee will appoint one Director-at-Large to a three year term. A maximum of two additional Directors-at-Large may be appointed to staggered three year terms.

ARTICLE VI – STANDING COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint Chairs of committees as needed.

Duties related to the management of chapter membership, including maintaining membership databases, may be distributed among the Executive Committee or appointed to a Committee Chairperson and such members as the Chairperson may appoint.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The four Officers, Directors-at-Large, and Chairs of Standing Committees (Article VI), shall constitute the Executive Committee. This committee is empowered to transact all business of the Chapter. The Executive Committee has the authority to name any special committee which it deems desirable.

Section 2. A simple majority of members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall conduct one Annual Meeting per year, (See Art. VIII and Art. IX). It shall meet at any other time at the call of the President or any three of its members. Meetings may be conducted by remote conferencing, as needed.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS AND FILLING OF VACANCIES

Section 1. The first Executive Committee shall require a favorable vote by the majority of the members voting, concurrent with the voting on approval of the Constitution (Article XI). Names of candidates for the Executive Committee shall be submitted by organizers of the Chapter. The terms of office for the first Executive Committee shall be, three years for President and Secretary, and two years for Vice President and Treasurer.

Section 2. When terms of office of the first Executive Committee are completed, subsequent officers and standing committee chairs shall serve for terms of two years, concurrent with the fiscal year, and shall be eligible for re-election and appointment.

Section 3. The Nominating Committee, shall consist of a Committee Chairperson appointed by the President and such members as the Chairperson may appoint. This Committee draws up a slate of at least one candidate and not more than three for each Office and presents it to the Executive Committee at the Annual Meeting.

The Nominating Committee Chair shall present to the Annual Meeting the name(s) of nominees for each of the Officers specified in Articles IV. The floor shall be open for additional nominations. Names of nominees and qualifications shall be made known to the membership prior to the election. No nominations shall be considered unless the nominee has consented to serve if elected.

If the Nomination Committee presents only one nominee for each office and there are no additional nominations, those nominated are declared elected. If there are two or more nominees for any office, all the Nominating Committee members who are present will count the paper ballots at the Annual Meeting (including those voting by mail/email) and the candidate receiving the greatest number of the votes cast for each contested office is elected. In the case of a tie, the Executive Committee breaks the tie by lot.

Section 4. Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS, DUES, FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Chapter shall be open to all members of the Chapter, held at a time and place to be selected by the Executive Committee and brought to the attention of the entire membership at least three weeks prior to the date.

A simple majority of members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The fiscal year of the Chapter shall be the same as that of MBC. Dues for the ensuing fiscal year (which include fees to MBC) shall be recommended, and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee in the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Any member who joins during the last quarter of the fiscal year shall, upon payment of one year's dues, be considered paid through the entire fiscal year following.

Any member whose annual dues are in arrears more than four months shall be considered inactive (not eligible to vote or have other membership privileges). Membership will be reinstated upon payment of current dues.

ARTICLE X – PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER AUTHORITY

This Chapter is subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of MBC. All business, unless stated otherwise in these documents or in the Constitution, shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XI – CONSTITUTION AND AMENDMENTS

The Constitution shall be adopted upon a favorable vote, by 2/3 of members voting and a minimum of 15 members voting.

Amendments to this constitution require a favorable vote by 2/3 of members voting on ratification, provided that notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been sent to all active members at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Adopted: May 18, 2015

Amended: February 16, 2016