

Great Lakes Chapter, Michigan Botanical Club
Board Meeting Minutes
Quality Inn – St. Ignace, May 28, 2017

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Irene Eiseman at 5:05 pm. In attendance were Derek Shiels, Jim Hewitt, Bob Kahl, Elaine Chittenden, and Phyllis Higman.
- Agenda Review: Irene read the agenda items previously distributed by email. Phyllis moved, Elaine second, to approve the agenda. Passed.
- Treasurer's Report: Irene read the report from Treasurer Leslie Kuhn who was unable to attend. (Updated numbers): Beginning of year balance: \$1,113; current balance after known expenses: \$2,072; balance after anticipated expenses (Great Lakes Botanist issues): \$1,232.
- iNaturalist: Derek explained the program which allows the submission of plant sightings into an online database and how it could help with plant ID, increase knowledge of plant distribution and abundance, engage and connect chapter members, and perhaps attract new members. Discussion on the feature of masking locations of listed plants to prevent the threat that such disclosure could pose. Derek has set up a page for GLC in iNaturalist and all were in favor of promoting it to chapter members. Derek will monitor its use and report on it later in the year.
- Election of Officers: Derek and Leslie have agreed to serve a 2nd 2-year term as vice-president and treasurer respectfully, beginning January, 2018. Irene asked if all were in favor of their election. Three in favor, one abstention. Irene mentioned that there is an open position on the board for a third director-at-large.
- Newsletter: Phyllis agreed to again edit a year-end chapter newsletter. Topics of interest could include information on good botanical places to visit and a botanically-themed article such as the one Leslie contributed last year on trichomes. Bob said he would look into the possibility of doing something on the former and Derek volunteered to contribute a piece on the bulrushes - genus *Scirpus* and *Schoenoplectus*. He may also be able to write up something on iNaturalist.
- Chapter Progress:
 - Irene said we have 70 members and that annual attrition runs about 14%. Thus the need to continually attract new members, preferably from a younger demographic such as college students. Irene mentioned there were nine students from Northern Michigan University in Marquette who would have attended the Spring Foray field trips had space been available and that there may be more interested students at MSU beyond the two we sponsored.
 - Field trips should be a good draw for them and although last year's outings were not well-attended it was thought we should keep trying. Derek volunteered to organize a field trip in the Straits area in the fall, with possible help from Rob Routledge, Steve Baker, or Brad Slaughter and maybe something could also be done in mid-LP.
- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm upon motion by Elaine, second by Phyllis.