

MBC - State Board Meeting Minutes, October 17, 2015

Michigan Botanical Club - State Board Meeting Minutes

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Ann Arbor, Michigan October 17, 2015

in Attendance: Alice Ward, Becky Csia, Bev Walters, Bob Kelly, Craig Elston, Emily Nietering, Garrett Crow, Irene Eiseman, Jim Hewitt, Judy Kelly, Larry Nooden, Lynn Kirkpatrick, Mary Danforth, Michael Huft, Richard Fowler, Ruth Hart, Sarah Nooden, Sheila Bourgoin, Tony Reznicek, Tyler Bassett, Wayne Roussel. (21)

Called to Order by President Judy Kelly at 11:36 AM

Approval of the Agenda and of the Minutes

Upon request by Sarah, "Nominating Committee" was added as a Committee Report and the agenda was then approved on motion by Michael, second by Alice.

The minutes of the spring meeting held 23 May, 2015 in Saginaw were approved without correction on a motion by Sarah, second by Irene.

Robert's Rules of Order – Judy reminded members to raise their hand when wishing to speak.

Announcements

Judy asked for notification of changes to contact

information. Per Michael, the business manager of The Michigan Botanist, Nancy Robbins, can be reached at

MBC brochure -- Sarah passed around copies of the latest iteration for proofing.

New Business – no items on this agenda.

Committee Reports

Special Members – Irene reported that the new chapter has opened a bank account, held its first board meeting, and is pondering methods and frequency of meetings given the wide dispersal of the members. Sheila asked about outreach such as using Facebook and Irene said that so far she is maintaining communication mainly through electronic mail.

Web Master – Sheila mentioned the newer section for posting events of interest to website visitors. She may be adding some flower photos to the site. There is a link to the chapter Facebook page.

Corresponding Secretary – Mary said the extended write-up for Robert Riepma's Distinguished Service Award will appear in the next issue of Arisaema. She also noted that some of the submissions for the newsletter have been pushing past her deadline which can compromise preparation and publication.

Treasurer – The Board looked at Bob's report and Treasury Statement. The \$842 outflow to Special Members Chapter, Irene explained to Garrett, was that chapter's portion of 2015 dues. Noting that and the other entries for chapter membership dues

Michael commented that MBC is the only similar organization he knows of which does not have a

centralized membership structure. Garrett thought that would be a good topic to address during the upcoming bylaws review. Bob said he would be conducting an analysis of the inflows and outflows for the last 3 years since he has been treasurer and he also recommended an audit committee be formed to review the books of the Club. Judy solicited volunteers to chair and serve on such a committee; it was thought that chapter treasurers would be good candidates. Later in the meeting Michael requested that the time period covered by the Treasury Statement be displayed which Bob said he would include. The Michigan Botanist – Michael reported that the ambitious goal of publishing six double issues this year to catch up was on track with three issues

completed and two in progress; the third, an issue devoted to Burton Barnes, may have to push into next year because of the gap between printing expenditures and revenue and the weak financial health of the publishing operation. He distributed a financial statement showing costs per issue exceeding revenues, a condition brought about, in part, by the prepayment by most institutional subscribers through 2014 (in some cases 2013), most of which had already been spent at the time he took over at the beginning of the 2013 issues. This led to discussion around the price of \$25 paid by these 70 institutional subscribers for the journal which was perceived as low, maybe quite low, and which, said Garrett, should be reviewed once the backlog is eliminated. Michael expected that he would have a better sense of the cost/revenue per issue once a full year of single issues in 2016 is completed.

The financial statement showed a starting balance of just \$894 on 12/01/14 but a \$5,000 contribution made through the Michigan Botanical Foundation by Michael Huft himself has put Michigan

Botanist on a firmer financial footing and for this generosity he was sincerely thanked by the Board. Michael also reported that beginning July 1, 2016 a fee will be charged to place Michigan Botanist on the web, a service which had been provided at no cost by the University of Michigan. The combination of an annual and per-article fee will amount to about \$1,000. Michael recommended that this charge be paid for from the stipend of the business manager. Larry suggested there may be a method to use Google; Michael said he would look into it. Lynn suggested making the journal only available electronically to shed the printing and mailing costs but others felt there were too many members who would not read it on a screen (Sarah and Mary), or that we were actually making money on the hard copies (Ruth), or worried about the institutional subscribers and their income of \$1,750 per year (Larry). Finally, Michael reported that he is promoting Michigan Botanist on various Facebook pages of botanical clubs in nearby states. He also will be setting up a table in Indianapolis next month at the Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society Annual Conference.

Constitution and bylaws committee – no report was made by the committee.

Big Trees – Andy Sawyer not present; no report but Judy said he had been on a radio program in southwest Michigan about the project.

Foundation Report – Emily summarized year-to-date grants which totaled \$10,866.22 and at this point does not expect any further grant activity in 2015. With the president and treasurer stepping down, the Foundation is seeking new trustees. Emily is now serving as acting president.

Report on 2016 Foray – Tyler announced the foray will take place over Labor Day Weekend and be held at the Holiday Inn West in Kalamazoo. Mary wondered about the timing of the Arisaema with regard to a Labor Day foray. This will be determined at the winter board meeting.

Nominating Committee – Sarah, who will again serve as chairperson, said that three positions will need to be filled for the terms beginning January 1, 2017. They are: Vice-President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary. She requested volunteers for the committee which should be in place by early next year to deliver a slate of nominees by May 30. Tyler and Craig volunteered to serve from their respective chapters of Southwest and White Pine.

Old Business

Status of relationship between the MBC and the MBF

-- Larry spoke a bit about the history of the formation of Michigan Botanical Foundation as conceived by the late Woody Ehrle to be a recipient for tax-deductible donations. A reading of the bylaws and of its articles of incorporation as a 501(c)(3) confirm its existence as a separate organization from MBC. Irene thought that on the website it looked like MBF was a part of MBC and suggested Michael help explain the difference in an article for the

Arisaema. Becky responded that this had already been done, referring members to a piece by former president Pam Laureto in the April, 2015 issue. A discussion ensued on whether MBC should become a 501(c)(3) (currently 501(c)(4)) since the application process has been simplified and the lobbying restrictions clarified. Judy declared the discussion out-of-scope and said she will put the question on the next meeting agenda.

“Winter Wildflowers” – For an update to this MBC publication by Helen Smith, Larry and Tony will work to have guidelines available in time for winter photography.

Next State Board Meeting – will be held Saturday, January 23 in Lansing. Per Emily, a spring meeting with program will be held by the Southeast Chapter at a time and site to be determined.

Adjournment – Upon a motion by Tyler, second by Wayne, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm.

—Submitted by Jim Hewitt, Recording Secretary Revised 10/26/2015 & 01/24/2016