

Michigan Botanical Club - State Board Meeting
Albion College
Minutes - Approved
Saturday, February 9, 2019

1. Call to order by President Garrett Crow, 9:35 a.m.
 - Board members in attendance: Neal Billetdeaux, Sheila Bourgoin, Garrett Crow, Irene Eiseman, Craig Elston, Jim Hewitt, Michael Huft, Bob Kelly, Judy Kelly, Lynn Kirkpatrick, Carolyn Miller, Larry Noodén, Wayne Roussel, Derek Shiels, Dan Skean, Dave Wendling, John Zimmerman, Renée Zimmerman, **(18)**
 - Other members present: Ted Reuschel
2. Approvals
 - On motion by Neal Billetdeaux the agenda was approved as distributed.
 - Minutes from the 9/29/18 Board Meeting were approved by the Executive Committee on 10/24/18 via email.
3. Announcements
 - Derek Shiels was welcomed as the new President of the Great Lakes Chapter. He succeeded Irene Eiseman who was given appreciation for her role as founder and first president of the Chapter.
 - Craig Elston was welcomed as the new President of the White Pine Chapter. He succeeds Dorothy Sibley who founded the Chapter and served as its president for 29 years. A tribute to Dorothy will appear in the next *Arisaema*, the Club's semi-annual newsletter.
 - Two of the five chapters, the Southwestern and the White Pine, have openings for Directors-at-Large.
4. Reports
 - Treasurer – Bob Kelly, speaking from Arizona via “Google Meet”, reported a 2018 year-end balance of \$70,748. Income for 2018 was \$2,562, three-fourths of which came from memberships and the remainder from interest and donations. Primary expenses were \$1,262 for *Arisaema*, \$1,000 for *The Great Lakes Botanist*, and \$482 for insurance. Bob's oral report was approved on motion by Dan Skean. Written statement and spreadsheet to follow by email.
 - Corresponding Secretary – Sheila Bourgoin set April 15 as the deadline for *Arisaema* submissions, with publication in early June. Garrett Crow suggested that Chapter presidents and others promote this year's Foray so that members know it will be in Marquette in July and can make lodging arrangements if they do not wish to stay in a Northern Michigan University dormitory. Sheila will create a Foray Page on the website. The Fall, 2018 *Arisaema* was slimmed down with a resultant savings of nearly \$500 compared with the spring issue. More savings could be realized from bulk mailing and Michael Huft will check on how *The Great Lakes Botanist* mailing is handled. Sheila would like to have more photo submissions for the *Arisaema* and for the website.
 - MBC Brochure -- Garrett Crow passed around a copy of the brochure for updates.
 - WAM Conference – Craig Elston confirmed that an MBC advertisement will display in the program of the Wildflower Association of Michigan's annual conference on March 10-11 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The MBC brochure will be in attendee packets and the Club display board will be set up.

- Editor, *The Great Lakes Botanist* -- Michael Huft said the next issue (120 pages) is in the mail. The issue after that is in the review process. Michael mentioned that the Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS) is holding their annual conference in Fort Wayne next fall and this proximity to Michigan would present an opportunity to interact with members of a sister organization. Reminder to include in fall *Arisaema*.
- Awards – Dan Skean said the nomination deadline for three of the awards he administers for the Club -- Distinguished Service, Special Recognition, and Lifetime Achievement – is May 1. A fourth, the Isobel Dickinson Memorial Award, is for the best student-authored paper published in *TGLB*. Dan recused himself from judging the competition this year as he has a student who is eligible for the award. Irene Eiseman graciously agreed to manage the selection process for 2019.
- Forays
 - Spring/Summer – Will be in Marquette, July 12-15. Hosted by the State Board. Committee will meet after the Board meeting.
 - Fall mini-foray – Hosted by White Pine. Craig Elston reported it will be held either October 5 or 12 in the Yankee Springs area.
- Website – Sheila Bourgoin said she will send notice when the website is temporarily taken down for maintenance. In response to a question from Irene Eiseman Sheila said she would check on the placement of the board meeting minutes on the website.
- Michigan Botanical Foundation (MBF) – President of the Foundation Judy Kelly reported live from Arizona. She said four grants were made by MBF in 2018 plus the scholarships for students attending the Foray. In 2019 two grants have already been made with a third pending. The Foundation will continue its practice of supporting a student from each Chapter with a Foray scholarship. The chapters support a second student and MBF Treasurer Bob Kelly confirmed that the Foundation has always stepped up, if necessary, to ensure all nominated students are able to attend the Forays.
- Big Trees – Ted Reuschel made an appearance to provide the Board with an update from the Michigan Big Tree Committee which he chairs as State Coordinator of the Program. Ted credited Sheila Bourgoin with resurrecting the existing data from an inoperable computer program and placing it in an accessible spreadsheet on the MBC Website. Ted updated this data with 150 newer paper records in his possession. Sheila also created a form on the website through which a big tree candidate can be nominated. Already over 50 submissions have been received using this method. Ted obtained a paper copy of an older big tree register, which, when compared with the more recent register, yielded a total of some 1,500 trees between them. This unwieldy total was pared down using various criteria to leave approximately 885 trees of which 530 are due for a re-visit since little activity has taken place for many years. Fortunately Ted has assembled a staff of 27 volunteer certifiers who he has trained, supplied with updated instructional manuals and business cards, and kept informed through newsletters. Ted reported he has worked with ReLeaf Michigan, an organization promoting the planting and appreciation of trees and which sponsors their own big tree contest every other year. Coordination between the two groups, he said, should yield benefits to both.

5. New Business

- Creation of Committee to promote MBC – Judy Kelly proposed creating such a committee and offered to chair it. She will receive assistance from Bob Kelly and Sheila Bourgoin on her revenue-enhancing ideas of registering with AmazonSmile, creating a donate button on

the Club's Facebook Page, and preparing an explanation page on the Club Website on how to make tax-deductible donations.

- Year-end Chapter Reports – These reports are typically written by chapter presidents, often at some length, and published in *Arisaema*. Garrett Crow thought a year-end chapter newsletter might better serve this requirement in that it could include color photos and articles of interest and be easily distributed electronically to all members. He held up the Great Lakes Chapter's 2018 Newsletter, edited by Phyllis Higman, as an example. The discussion raised concern from some that this might involve more work than the current practice. No action taken.
- MBC Bylaws – Bylaws Committee Chair Michael Huft walked the Board through the 14-page document which had been distributed earlier by email. He noted that these new bylaws are a complete replacement for the current constitution and bylaws and they originate from a standard template used by non-profit organizations. There is greater flexibility in some areas and new provisions include a reduction of the quorum for Board meetings to 40% and the creation of an executive committee.

Minor changes were made to the document during the Board review, mainly for typos, punctuation, and clarification. That is until Article X Section 2, which contained a provision in which a chapter could forego its status as autonomous and petition the Board for admission as an integral part of the Club. Some board members reacted to this provision with a mixture of uncertainty and suspicion. With time short for a thorough discussion and with a desire to advance the document for approval by the membership Irene Eiseman made a motion to strike 10.2 from the proposed Bylaws. The motion carried by a vote of 11 to 6.

Michael Huft made a motion that the Board recommend to the membership the approval of these amended Bylaws for adoption. Passed unanimously. Notification will be made to members that a vote will be held at the next meeting during the July Foray.

The Board expressed appreciation to Michael Huft, Garrett Crow, Dan Skean, and Sarah Noodén for their efforts to create this vital document for the Michigan Botanical Club.

6. Next State Board Meeting: July 13, 2019 at Northern Michigan University, Marquette.
7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m. on motion by Dan Skean.

Minutes prepared by Jim Hewitt, Recording Secretary