

Michigan Botanical Club—State Board Meeting

Four Points Hotel Saginaw, Michigan May 23, 2015

In Attendance: Alice Ward, Becky Csia, Bev Walters, Emily Nietering, Garrett Crow, Irene Eiseman, Jim Hewitt, Judy Kelly, Larry Nooden, Leslie Kuhn, Lynn Kirkpatrick, Mary Danforth, Phyllis Higman, Richard Fowler, Ruth Hart, Sarah Nooden, Sheila Bourgoin, Tony Reznicek, Wayne Roussel. (19)

Called to Order by President Judy Kelly at 5:02 PM

Approval of the Agenda and of the Minutes

The agenda was approved with no changes upon a motion by Richard, second by Bev.

The minutes of the winter meeting held 31 Jan, 2015 in Lansing were approved without correction upon a motion by Sarah, second by Mary.

Robert's Rules of Order – Judy issued a reminder to attendees to raise their hand when wishing to speak.

Announcements

Judy passed around her contact list for additions, changes, or corrections.

MBC brochure: Sarah distributed sample brochures and solicited comments or suggestions.

The brochure is intended to be made available at chapter meetings and to be used for promotion of the club.

New Business

Substitute Chapter Members – Larry expressed concern that chapters were often under-

represented at state meetings and noted the absence of members from the White Pine Chapter at today's meeting. Allowing a chapter member to fill in for a chapter president or a director-at-large when necessary could prove helpful in addressing this problem. Becky wondered if the replacement would have voting rights and if the constitution/bylaws would need to be amended. Tony and Ruth thought it a good idea to allow replacement members at meetings and was in

fact common practice in other organizations and that if the president was notified in advance of

the meeting the substitute should expect to have voting privileges. No action taken pending re-view and possible amendment of the constitution.

Non-voting members on the MBC State Board – Judy reviewed the 2015 Directory in the Arisaema which lists the officers, directors-at-large, chapter presidents, and committee chairs and clarified those on the list with voting rights at state meetings and those without.

Committee Reports

Special Members – Irene reported that a vote had been taken by the special members and that three officers and one director-at-large were elected and a constitution approved. With these steps accomplished Irene asked the Board of Directors to

sanction the special members as a chapter of the MBC. A motion to recognize the special members as a new chapter was made by Bev, second by Tony. In the discussion Richard wondered about those special members who did not wish to participate in chapter matters. Tony and others believed there would be little if any impact and these members could continue on as subscribers to Club publications as before. Mary noted there was only one director-at-large and Irene said they hoped to bring others on as the chapter matured. Garrett thought the constitution would probably need to be adjusted to resolve any conflicts brought about by this change in the status of special members. The motion was called and was

passed unanimously. The officers of the Special Members Chapter are: President, Irene Eiseman; Treasurer, Leslie Kuhn; Secretary, Jim Hewitt. Phyllis Higman is Director-at-Large.

Web Master; status of the Arisaema on Website – Aaron Fown not present. Sheila, the content manager, initiated a discussion on the merits of password-protecting the Arisaema on the website. Emily and some others thought it cumbersome, but Phyllis and Lynn were concerned with the availability of personal contact information in the Arisaema and concern was also expressed about field trip reports which might contain locations of rare plants. Tony felt such reports could be kept sufficiently vague so as not to be a likely problem. Mary said the Arisaema does not have to be the source of personal contact information and that he would create two versions, one with the contact information for distribution to members and one without for posting to the website. Sheila will then remove the password protection from the online version of the Arisaema, the MBC State Newsletter. There was additional discussion on the need for contact information for web viewers with an interest in the Club and the sensitivity many have for exposing their personal contact information to a wide audience. Sheila will address this by creating a method of inquiry which allows emails to be sent, but the sender does not see the recipient's email address.

Corresponding Secretary – Per Mary, submissions for the fall Arisaema are due by Sept. 1. Mary solicited photos from the Foray for use both in the Arisaema and on the website and noted that photos could also be posted to the Club's Facebook page. Mary said there is a requirement that the corresponding secretary receive formal notice of a new chapter and Irene, as the president of the new Special Members Chapter, will provide this to her.

Treasurer – Judy, filling in for Treasurer Bob Kelly, asked for comment or questions on the treasurer's report. There were none and upon a motion by Garrett and a second by Wayne the treasurer's report was approved.

The Michigan Botanist – Michael Huft not present; no report.

Constitution and bylaws committee – The committee consists of Becky Csia, Michael Huft, Sarah Nooden and Bev Walters. Becky reported that the committee did not plan to meet until Michael had finished bringing The Michigan Botanist up to schedule. This could take a year or more.

Big Trees – Andy Sawyer not present; no report.

Foundation Report – Becky reported that Pam Laureto and Bob Sabine will not stand for reelection to their respective positions of President and Treasurer of the Michigan Botanical Foundation at the end of their current terms on June 30. Becky recapped 2015 actual and anticipated grant activity: \$2,600 for research projects; chapter reimbursement for Foray student scholarships; \$300 to HVC for SE Michigan Science Fair; potential for multiple Dickinson Awards due to catch-up of The Michigan Botanist.

Old Business

Status of relationship between the MBC and the MBF – A letter prepared by Larry Nooden was sent to board members via email on Friday afternoon, May 22. As many had not received or not had a chance to study the document it was decided to postpone the topic until the next meeting. However, there was a brief discussion and among those who had read the letter, Becky said that not all facts about the Foundation, its operation, or its incorporation as a 501(c)(3) organization were fully represented. In response, Phyllis and Ruth expressed a desire to understand what additional information about the Foundation should be known. Judy will send to Board members a link to a website on Michigan.gov where the MBF Articles of Incorporation can be found.

"Winter Wildflowers" – An update to the publication by Helen Smith is proceeding slowly per Larry. Some photos are still needed.

Next State Board Meeting – will be held preceding the fall meeting at 11:30 AM in the auditorium of Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor on October 17.

Adjournment – Upon a motion by Tony, second by Ruth, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.

—Submitted by Jim Hewitt, Recording Secretary