

Officers and Directors of the Special Members Chapter 2016

President, Irene Eiseman I have enjoyed botany since the time I planted my first seed, but never had the dedication that it takes to be a botanist. Instead, I pursued an MS degree in Pharmacognosy (medicinal plant products) and later an MBA. I've been a member of MBC/HVC for at least three decades at various roles, culminating in my current role a coordinator of Special Members. Mushrooms hunting and plants of all kinds keeps life interesting.

Vice President, Derek Shiels I am based in Petoskey, where I am on the stewardship staff at Little Traverse Conservancy. Prior to moving to northern Michigan, I had the fortune of rappelling into caves, hiking mountains, and searching wetlands for rare sedges, all while earning a paycheck! My graduate research was on bulrush systematics in Dr. Anna Monfils lab at Central Michigan University. As an outlet for my interest in biodiversity and conservation, I started Rate My Land, a networking website for private landowners and naturalists.

Secretary, Jim Hewitt I have a BBA from Western Michigan University which I used to get a job in the automotive industry, in materials control. Now retired, I grow wildflowers on my own property and when I am not tending to them I am often in nature sanctuaries and other public land working to restore habitat or just enjoying the flora, the birds, the insects, and the rest of the natural world. I was a member of the Red Cedar Chapter of MBC for nine years.

Treasurer, Leslie Kuhn, is a Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at Michigan State University and has been a leader of the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative (Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton County Chapter) of the Stewardship Network since 2008. She is active in natural areas restoration (especially invasive species control) and native plant gardening as well as consulting with local agencies and residents on native habitat conservation.

Director-at-large, Phyllis Higman, a Botanist with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, has spent over 20 years exploring Michigan's native ecological communities and rare and declining species. She enjoys teaching others about natural features and their threats, in order to strengthen understanding and support for their sustainable management. Currently, she is working statewide to help implement strategic action to address impacts from invasive species. She loves traveling and exploring new ecosystems by foot, bicycle, ski and kayak.