

Maryland Biodiversity Project

Board Meeting - 2018.02.27

The Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP) board met on Tuesday, 27 February 2018 for its annual meeting. We invited Dr. John Hall to join us for the event. We met for 2 hours at the Pour House Pub on Kent Island in Queen Anne's Co., Maryland.

The primary topics reviewed were the last year's successes and milestones, open business to include board changes, status of funding, and our top priorities for MBP in the 1-3 year timeframe.

Key business

We voted unanimously on the following changes:

- Immediately add Dr. John Hall to MBP board
- Move Jim Brighton from Secretary to President
- Move Bill Hubick from President to Treasurer
- Move John Hall to Secretary position
- Mike Walsh to remain on the MBP board as a member at large

Welcome to Dr. John Hall! John is a professional botanist and will ensure we continue to apply appropriate rigor to our data quality and overall approach. He brings international board experience and will assist us with continuing and expanding our collaboration with key partners and professional consortia.

This year's key milestones

Selected items we emphasized included the following:

- Key engagements and partnerships
 - New functionality such as the recently added heat maps and significant increases in efficiency with the data processing arms race (i.e., get faster, get way more data).
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- Community engagement, including metrics on contributors and social media outreach.
NOTE: The Southeastern Flora presentation in March will be Jim's 78th MBP talk!
 - HCC BioBlitz success and 2018/2019 BioBlitz plans
 - Maryland Plant Atlas and sync with the Knapp/Naczi plant checklist

For much more information, see our near-monthly MBP highlights reports.

- [January 2018](#)
- [October 2017](#)
- [September 2017](#)
- [August 2017](#)
- [July 2017](#)
- [June 2017](#)
- [May 2017](#)
- [April 2017](#)
- [March 2017](#)

Thoughts on the future

Bill asked each member of the Board about their hoped-for 1-year and 3-year successes for MBP. What goals stand out as especially worthwhile?

One-year goals

In summary, one-year goals included specific features (e.g., color shading on county level range maps to show extirpated ranges, etc.), collaboration with academia and harnessing intern support, emphasis on efficiency and automation in our processes to ensure continued scalability, continued focus on partnerships and key data sets (e.g., herbaria), and hiring a 1099 web developer to accelerate the rollout of new functionality.

Three-year goals

We believe in the MBP mission and the critical value we're providing to state and regional conservation, science, and education efforts. The overwhelming theme was on expanding into surrounding states and Washington, D.C., which of course requires additional resources/funding. Also emphasized was our need to more proactively drive the story and streamline our ability to

address needs in our space (e.g., fund targeted data collection to address gaps). Expanding farther into outreach/education was another welcomed theme.

In closing

Jim and I would like to sincerely thank John and Mike for believing in MBP's mission and investing their time and energy into the project's efforts. We'd also like to thank our amazing community of contributors, editors, photographers, experts, and donors who make all of this possible. We are humbled by your continued support and promise to continue working hard to earn it.

As always, donations are greatly appreciated and increase/accelerate the good we can do. Click "Donate" in the top-right of any MBP web site page (<https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/>).

Thank you!



From left to right: Jim Brighton, Dr. John Hall, Bill Hubick, Mike Walsh

