

# MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: THE TRAIL FROM AN IDEA TO SPECIMEN DIGITIZATION

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# MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: HISTORY

- Sept. 2004 – NSF workshop at Michigan State University; idea for forming regional networks arises.
- Late 2004 – regional meeting at MSU – 20 colleagues from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio show interest in a Great Lakes network.
- August 2006 – Anna joins the effort.
- October 2006 – meeting of 4 to rekindle the idea, focusing on Michigan.
- January 2007 - survey sent to Michigan botanists to gauge interest; results reported in posters at Ohio Botanical Symposium and Botany 2007 meetings.
- July 2008 – Anna & Rich apply to the Hanes Fund, seeking funds for a meeting and website creation for a Michigan Herbarium Network.

# MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE : MICOB IS BORN

- Late 2009: Hanes Fund grant received

## MICHIGAN CONSORTIUM of BOTANISTS

### Mission Statement:

The Michigan Consortium of Botanists is a state-wide community of botanical professionals dedicated to advancing the study of Michigan's flora by providing a centralized platform for facilitating communication, and sharing resources, research, and expertise in plant biology.

## MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: BORN FROM MICOB

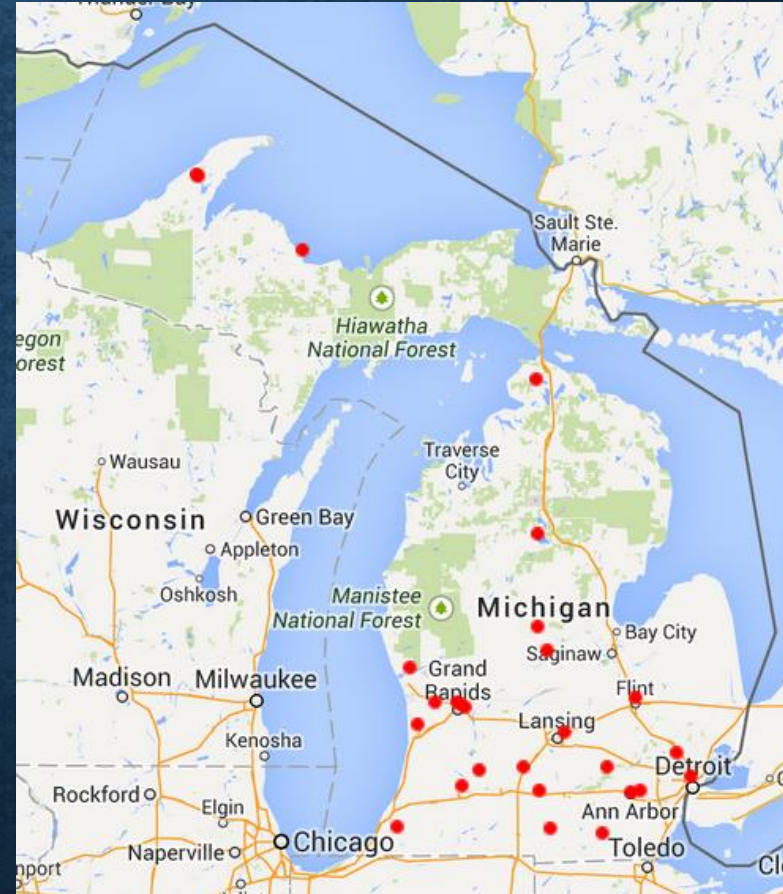
- Rich reported on digitization initiatives/proposals in the Great Lakes region at the annual MiCOB meetings in 2010, 2011, and 2012.
- Anna received internal support to digitize the CMC collection.
- Tim and Anna spearheaded a discussion at the 2012 MiCOB meeting – could the group develop a digitization project involving some of the small collections?

## MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: BORN FROM MICOB

- October 2012: MiCOB, iDigBio, and the Hanes Fund cosponsored a Workshop on Digitization of Small Herbarium Collections at CMC: Good community response:
  - 19 directors and/or curators, 2 graduate students, 7 undergraduate students, 3 herbarium volunteers, and 1 Dean(!)
- Tim and Anna write a proposal to the Hanes Fund for a portable imaging station to be shared among several of the collections, with the images and data processed by SilverBiology and stored at CMC.
- Funding received (!) in 2013. The imaging begins....

# MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE : HERBARIA IN MICHIGAN

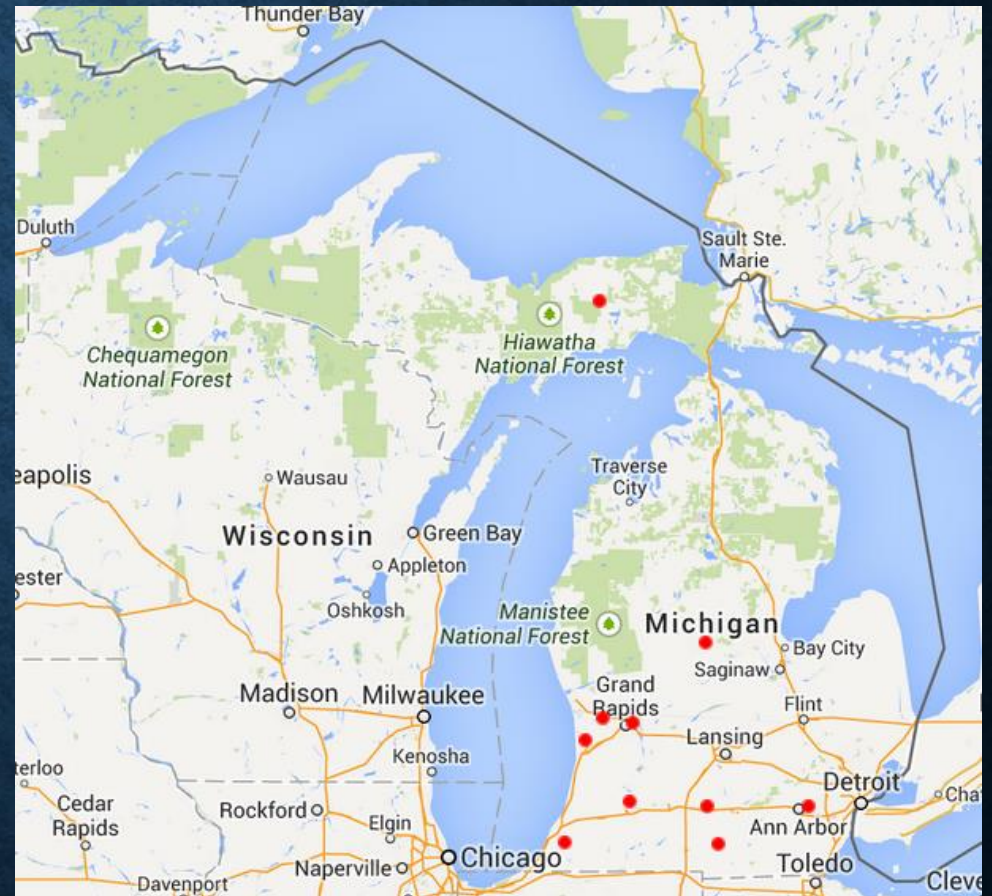
- 31 Herbaria listed in IH for Michigan
- 27 of these are active; 4 incorporated
- 500 – 1.75 million specimens
- Only 4 (BLH, MICH, MSC, WMU) have over 30,000 specimens
- 24 of 27 affiliated with a college or university



<http://www.hamstermap.com/quickmap.php>

# MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: PARTICIPANTS

- 9 of the 31 (27) Michigan herbaria listed in Index Herbariorum + 1;
- 400 – 33,000 specimens – about 90K specimens total.
- ALBC, AUB, CALVIN, CMC, EMC, GVSU, HCHM, HLSD, Seney, WMU
- 9 Universities + 1 National Wildlife Refuge



<http://www.hamstermap.com/index.php>

# MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: PROGRESS

- As of May, 2014:
  - Imaging station is currently at ALBC
  - Imaging has been completed at HOPE and CALVIN
  - Seney completed their initial commitment (400); would like a second “round” with the imaging equipment.
  - ½ of the collection at GVSU has been imaged
  - Cost per specimen for imaging (excl. student labor): 25 cents/image



# MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: WHY HAS IT WORKED?

- We formed a core group that both respect each other and enjoy working together
- We started in a rather unstructured manner – focusing on doing things rather than formalities
- Ideals:
  - Work with friends, interested colleagues. Don't force collaboration!
- Positives:
  - Links to get small collections involved in national initiatives (ADBC – TCNs, etc.); MSHI was included in two TCN proposals in 2013.
  - Exposes collections to outside researchers who otherwise would very likely not consult them.
- Challenges:
  - Remembering that Curators of small collections have primary responsibilities elsewhere.
  - IT abilities are often quite limited.

## MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: INVASIVE AQUATICS TCN (?)

- “Documenting the Occurrence through Space & Time of Aquatic Non-indigenous Fish, Mollusks, Algae, & Plants Threatening North America’s Great Lakes”.
- One of the NSF-sponsored Thematic Collection Networks that is still under consideration for funding in 2014.
- Aim: digitize specimens of 43 genera from North America that include species known to be invasive in the Great Lakes region.
- Network of Plant and Animal collections in the Great Lakes area
- One participant: Anna Monfils (CMC) – will coordinate inclusion of specimen data from MSHI collections.

## MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: FUTURE PLANS

- Promote further collection collaboration; MiCOB survey has revealed at least seven additional active small herbaria in Michigan
- Expand the network to include other interested collections
- Make the data from the network available on GBIF

# MICHIGAN SMALL HERBARIUM INITIATIVE: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Hanes Fund
- SilverBiology – Michael Giddens
- Barbara Thiers (NY) – Index Herbariorum data
- National Science Foundation – the original 2004 workshop, ADBC program
- iDigBio – Small Collections Workshop

