



Spring 2017 MCCB Conference

MacMullan Conference Center,
Roscommon, MI

June 2 - June 4

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Please visit our website at: <http://www.mccb1.org/>

You will find information concerning conferences, job positions, general information about our organization as well useful web resources on our website. If any MCCB member knows about biology positions, upcoming relevant conferences, seminars, or workshops being held in Michigan (as well as throughout the U.S.) please email information to: Katie LaCommare (mccbmembership@gmail.com) and/or Susan Dentel (sdentel@wccnet.edu).

Events at the Upcoming Spring 2017 MCCB Conference:

Highlights:

- “The Effects of Sensory Experience and Sleep on Neural Circuits, Mechanisms Underlying Nervous System Plasticity and Memory Formation ” Susan Aton
- Kirtland Warbler Festival: Nature Presentations, Vendors and Activities.
- Guided Kirtland Warbler Tour at the Michigan Forest Visitor Center within Hartwick Pines State Park.
- “Evolution and Intelligent Design” Susan Stewart
- Biointeractive Talk and Workshop (HHMI)
- **4th Annual MCCB Photo Contest:** It's the return of the popular photo contest and silent auction. This event is at its best with more photo entries. Please keep your eyes open and camera/phone ready to snap some biological images. There have been some great cell phone photos submitted before. The more participation the merrier. (See attachments with this email or the MCCB website for the entry form for more information.
- **2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk:** Enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Higgins Lake Area by participating in the second MCCB fitness event. All are encouraged to participate. Last year about 20 people enjoyed the natural beauty while getting some exercise and everyone had fun. Forms will be available at the Conference, but some might want this advance notice to start training early. You can also preregister for this event when you register for the conference.
- For registration and details about the Spring 2017 MCCB Conference please visit the MCCB website at: <http://www.mccb.org>. **Registration Deadline: May 19th.**

Brains, Botany, and Beer!

A Summary of the MCCB Fall Conference 2016 at Grand Rapids Community College:

Instructors from at least 12 community colleges across Michigan gathered for the Fall 2016 MCCB Conference at Grand Rapids Community College on Friday evening and Saturday, October 14-15.

A pre-conference human cadaver workshop was facilitated by Dr. Greg Forbes from GRCC. Participants received an entertaining crash course in basic human anatomy while viewing plastinated and wet cadavers used in GRCC's anatomy and physiology program. Dr. Forbes provided an excellent overview on the differences, pros, and cons of the cadavers and how they can be used to enhance a student's anatomy and physiology learning experience.



On Friday evening, instead of having a social hour with wine and cheese pairings, we had beer and cheese pairings! After all, the conference did take place in “Beer City U.S.A.!” Fourteen different growlers were brought from the following local breweries: Founders, Harmony, Elks, Brewery Vivant, New Holland, Gravel Bottom, and Trail Point. There were several different cheeses to pair. The social included a list of recommended cheese and beer pairings. We even had some local root beer from Schmoz.



On Saturday, after a hearty breakfast, participants car-pooled to nearby Blandford Nature Center, where Master Naturalist, Kristin Tindall, guided a two-hour walk that started inside the Visitor Center. Here participants had the opportunity to taste Staghorn Sumac tea and meet several previously-injured wildlife animals being nurtured back to health. The walk continued on the trails of Blandford where everyone shared in a quest to find their assigned plants. As the participants identified the plants, Tindall demonstrated the best way to distinguish a particular plant from similar species and how to use it for edible or medicinal purposes. The walk ended with the tour of Blandford Farm where middle school students are taught sustainable agriculture.



After a leisurely lunch back at GRCC, 3 former students reflected on their previous community college biology experiences, looking back from their current positions in the workforce or in graduate school. Student panelists praised the personal interactions, smaller class sizes, mentoring from faculty, and intimate lab settings of their community college biology experience. Each could vividly recall a favorite or fun lab that left a big impression. Individuals mentioned biostatistics or genetics as specific skills that they wished they had more of after leaving community college. Effective teamwork, productive handling of conflict, and a lack of appreciation for data and scientific evidence by the general public were challenges these former students were dealing with in their current work situations. All of this provided ample food for thought and discussion among the the instructors present.

Who else besides community college biologists would be get together over brains, botany, and beer?!?! Thanks to all those who attended the meeting. It was great to see you all again.

And special thanks to our vendors for their support of the meeting:

Brad Beatty and Lrrr Technologies
Brittany Kingsley from Pearson
Nick Young and McGraw Hill Education

-- Session summaries provided by Lauren Elliott, Leigh Kleinert, Tim Periard, Anesa Behrem, Bob Leunk, and Holly Christopher



Upcoming MCCB Conferences:

Spring 2017 MacMullan Conference Center, June 2-4, Roscommon, Michigan

Fall 2017 Muskegon Community College, Muskegon, Michigan

Other Conferences of Interest:

2017 HAPS (Human Anatomy & Physiology Society), May 24- 28 ,Salt Lake City, Utah

**Mission of MCCB:**

MCCB (Michigan Community College Biologists) serves as a state-wide forum for sharing instructional techniques and new ideas for teaching college-level biology. The organization fosters communication, friendship, and unity among the biologists of the twenty-nine community colleges in the State of Michigan. Two state-wide meetings are held annually.

Founded in the early 1980's, MCCB began as an offshoot of COSIP (the College Science Improvement Program). Two COSIP groups were originally created in Michigan: a southern group of colleges (associated with the University of Michigan/Dearborn and directed by Dr. Hertzler) and a northern group of colleges (associated with Central Michigan University and directed by Dr. Carl Scheel). The initial meeting to form a statewide organization of community colleges occurred at Delta College in 1981. The first slate of officers was elected at that time, with Eldon Enger as President and Janet Dettloff as Vice-President.

- To promote an interest in biology.
- To improve the teaching of biology by providing opportunities to share and discuss instructional techniques and teaching methods.
- To provide opportunities for updates on current topics and trends in biology.
- To facilitate the exchange of ideas and foster communication, friendship and unity among the community college biologists in Michigan.