Highlands Biological Station
Botanical Gardens & Grounds Planning and Advisory Committee
Update for HBS Board of Directors
June 27, 2021

Ken Conover, Chair

The Botanical Gardens & Grounds Planning and Advisory Committee (herein referred to as Committee) continues to meet monthly to review progress on priorities and address any new business. Committee members include Bryding Adams, Lynda Anderson, Lisa Armstrong, Margie Bauer, Ken Conover, Jim Costa, Jason Love, Paul Manos, Rachel Martin, Kathy Mathews, Helen Regenry, Liz Sargent, Dollie Swanson, and Glenda Zahner.

Roadmap Implementation

Subcommittees are assisting the HBS with three top priority actions items. Following is the status of each.

1. South gateway garden (P1) and wayfinding and interpretation signage (P2).
   No activity. Awaiting funding decision from the Foundation.

2. HBS conservation mission statement and conservation program (C2).
   The subcommittee has met to discuss the scope and is benchmarking against the Botanic Gardens Conservation International accreditation standards.

3. Bridges and boardwalks (G1).
   The subcommittee is making plans to assess and document the conditions of all bridges, boardwalks, paths, steps, and handrails on the HBS campus. An assessment document is being developed.

Friends of the Garden Volunteers

All Committee members who live in the region have volunteered their time to assist with garden maintenance and projects. Paul Manos and his partner Diane Lennox also volunteered many hours during their two-month stay in Highlands this spring. Volunteers helped maintain and enhance all of the demonstration gardens, the Fern Trail, and the Bog; helped with the chemical treatment of all Hemlock trees; and helped to remove non-native invasive plants. Many thanks to Paul Manos for also identifying many species including mosses and ferns.

Foundation Proposal to Add Shade to North Campus Plaza

At the June 10 Committee meeting, the Foundation presented a proposal to add three oak trees to the new North Campus Plaza to provide shade. The Foundation has offered to "provide

the trees, the equipment and equipment operators needed to modify the driveway, and to deliver and install the trees". The Committee is reviewing the proposal to assure there will be no unintended impact to the weather station, utilities, and drainage. The potential impact of the paving of Lower Lake Road planned by the city of Highlands in 2021 on the proposed planting site of a 4 to 6 inches DBH Quercus muhlenbergii will be investigated.