Updating of Historical Plant Species Records
Contained in the Natural Heritage Database

RE: Project #07-L07W Vendor: Mike Bujnak

INTRODUCTION

Ben Dolbeare provided me with element occurrence records from the Illinois Natural Heritage Database that had not been verified at the recorded location for 10 years or more and are designated historical. These EOR's were for mainly aquatic and wetland plant species from IDNR Region IV and IDNR Region V. The purpose of this project is to provide current information and documentation using GPS coordinates and photographs wherever possible to justify protecting these areas (Illinois Natural Area Inventory Sites, Endangered Species locations, Nature Preserves and Land and Water Reserves). GPS coordinates, where possible, were recorded for future relocation and accurate spatial representation.

MATERIALS

I used the 2002 edition of Vascular Flora of Illinois by Robert H. Mohlenbrock, the 1991 edition of Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada by Gleason and Conquist and the 1998 edition of Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Conquist's Manual by Holmgren as my references for identification of the different species. In addition, I spent several hours with Ben Dolbeare in the herbarium of the Illinois State Museum meticulously examining preserved specimens of each species I was to look for in the field so as to avoid errors in identification.

METHODS

Ben Dolbeare provided me with location information on areas to search for several T&E plant species. I used the existing element occurrence records to locate as accurately as possible previously recorded locations of several other E&T plant species on various types of maps and aerial photographs before I physically tried to find any of the areas. I then drove to the areas and walked through each site and located as many of the plants as I could. I recorded the presence or absence of the T&E species. I also recorded any additional threatened and/or endangered plants I found growing in the area. I documented the location GPS coordinates wherever possible. I was not able to document GPS coordinates in some of the woodland

locations with a closed canopy from the trees. I exceeded 150 hours searching for element occurrences in at least 50 different locations while logging at least a total of 2000 miles on my car and countless miles walking through the different areas.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

I observed large, healthy populations of *Hydrocotyl ranunculoides* growing in LaRue Swamp in Union County during this trip as per the following picture. A specimen was taken to Ben Dolbeare for verification of the identification.

I found additional populations of *Hydrocotyl ranunculoides* growing along the shoreline of Horseshoe Lake Nature Preserve.

I spent nearly all day in Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve searching for the existence of both *Schoenoplectus hallii* and *Echinodorus tenellus*. This summer was way too dry for either of these plants to grow in this habitat. This area is relatively undisturbed; therefore, I would expect both species to come back with enough moisture if the seed bank is healthy.

I spent several days walking up and down selected shady, rocky bottom streams in western Illinois searching for *Plantago cordata*. I found healthy populations of *Plantago cordata* at several sites in one new county and possibly a second new county for at least one species; the identification is being confirmed as I write the report.

PAYMENT

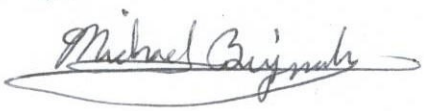
Reimbursement for the time I spent on this project should be in the form of a check for $2540.00 made out to me - Mike Bujnak. This would cover my time spent on the project in excess of 150 hours and my having logged over 2000 miles with my personal vehicle. I began this project July 15, 2007, and I finished this project August 31, 2007.

My mailing address is:

Mike Bujnak
55 Nottingham
Chatham, IL 62629

This report is being submitted in duplicate hard copies.

Sincerely,



Mike Bujnak