

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Richard K. Rabeler, Ph.D., research scientist, ecology and evolutionary biology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on June 3, 2022.

Dr. Rabeler received his B.A. (1975) degree from Hartwick College and his M.S. (1978) and Ph.D. (1986) degrees from Michigan State University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as adjunct assistant curator and adjunct research investigator in 1987. He was appointed an assistant research scientist in 2004, and was promoted to associate research scientist in 2013, and research scientist in 2017. He has also been a research associate at the University of Wyoming Herbarium since 2004.

Dr. Rabeler's research focused on the naming, classification, relationships, and distribution of the flowering plant family Caryophyllaceae. Recognized as one of the world authorities on these plants, he contributed 100 scholarly publications about them as well as an additional 50 on topics related to the broader field of plant systematics. In addition to the two new species that he helped describe from California, his name appears as one of the authors of over 160 additional plant names. In 2019, his work in the family was recognized by a genus, *Rabelera*, being named in his honor. He is currently the co-leader of a team assembling a world checklist of the species of the Caryophyllaceae. His book *Gleason's Plants of Michigan* (1998) has been used as a text for several field botany courses in the Great Lakes region. He served as co-editor of two volumes (2009, 2019) in the *Flora of North America* series produced at the Missouri Botanical Garden; he is an emeritus member of the Board of Directors of that organization.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Richard K. Rabeler, research scientist emeritus, ecology and evolutionary biology**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

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