

**Conference Presentation:** Hilbrands, Nathan, Afua A. Brantuo, Samuel Fyneweever, Isaiah J. Hageman, Benjamin J. Kielar, and Robin Kollar. 2020. "Spatial distribution of Pitcher's thistle on a Lake Michigan blowout." Annual Meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, Virtual Conference hosted by Lawrence Technological University (Southfield, MI), 26 September 2020; presentation.

**Abstract:** Spatial distribution of a species is an important factor for success and frequently not well understood in areas with small-scale environmental variation. Our study investigated the distribution of Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*), a nationally threatened species, in an active blowout within a Lake Michigan dune system. We compared this distribution to local dune characteristics of erosion, vegetation, and slope angle. We classified and mapped Pitcher's thistle into four categories: seedling, juvenile, flowering, and dead. We collected erosion data using erosion pins and surveyed vegetation communities using GPS and vegetation quadrats. Our study