

## **Biographical Sketch for Katherine L. Gross**

Katherine (Kay) Gross is a University Distinguished Professor at Michigan State University (MSU) with appointments in the Departments of Plant Biology and Zoology. She received her B.S. degree (Biology, 1975) from Iowa State University and Ph.D. (Zoology, 1980) from Michigan State University. She was on the faculty of the Botany Department at Ohio State University from 1980-1987 as an Assistant and Associate Professor. In 1987 she returned to MSU and joined the faculty at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station (KBS), a year-round research and educational field station of MSU located in SW Michigan. In 1995 she was promoted to Full Professor and in 2005 was named a University Distinguished Professor, in recognition of her distinguished achievements in research, teaching and public service at MSU. Since 2005 she has also served as the Director of KBS.

Her current research is funded by grants from the National Science Foundation and A.W. Mellon Foundation and focuses on the causes and consequences of species diversity in plant communities. She has explored these questions in a variety of communities including grasslands and savannas in southwestern Michigan, successional old-fields and agricultural systems. As a co-PI on the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) in agricultural ecology at KBS she led research on how variation in the management and diversity of cropping systems effects weed communities and crop yield. She is also interested in the linkage between plant and soil communities and ecosystem processes, such as nutrient cycling and how these interactions differ in managed and natural systems. She has recently initiated a summer science institute at KBS, "Enhancing the Linkages between Mathematics and Ecology" (ELME), funded by a grant from the A. W. Mellon Foundation, that support graduate and undergraduate fellowships to study mathematics and ecology at KBS.

She has held a variety of positions in the Ecological Society of America, including Vice-President and President and has chaired several society committees. She has also served on several national research boards and panels, including the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, the Executive Committee of the LTER Network, review panels for NSF programs in Ecology and Bio-Informatics, and as Chair of the National Parks Ecological Research Fellowships program. She is currently an Editor in Chief for the journal, *Oecologia*, an international ecological research journal.