



Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc.



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

Summer 2023

THE STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEER CITIZENS PROGRAMMED WITH ACTION TO KEEP MICHIGAN BEAUTIFUL

From the Desk of KMB President, Beverly Smith



The saying, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder”, was on full display at our KMB Board of Director’s summer meeting in East Lansing. Executive Director,

Joanne Welihan planned a fabulous meeting with an excellent speaker,

Bridget Booth, an 8th grade science teacher who educated us about outdoor learning classes for children and arranged an exciting tour of the MSU Gardens. Bridget, who just happens to be Joanne and Dan’s smart, professional, energetic and knowledgeable daughter, really explained how outdoor learning shapes the minds of young people to care and learn how the environment around them is beneficial to their overall well being.

Margaret Wolfe Hungerford, author and credited with coining the saying, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder”, would be in awe of the beautiful landscaping and architectural design of the MSU Gardens.

The gardens are a vital part of the experience of attending MSU. Many of

the students studying horticulture are employed to take care of the gardens as part of their curriculum. The gardens are not just beautiful spaces to relax and experience the beauty of nature, but are a key component of a sustainable university, enhancing biodiversity and providing habitat for pollinators. Serving as a living learning laboratory, the gardens also provide ample opportunities to engage students and the public in experiential learning, while conducting cutting edge research to support horticultural and agricultural industries. A special thank you to Deb Kinney for an invigorating guided tour.

I’d like to give a special thank you to all KMB Directors who attended the summer meeting and shared their ideas and thoughts on KMB projects. We had a very resourceful meeting discussing ways to expand membership, improve on marketing and fundraising and ideas for sponsors of KMB programs. We encourage all of you to attend our meetings and participate in all KMB events and projects.



I extend a special invitation for you to attend our Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony on Thursday and Friday, October 19-20 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Lansing. You may nominate a beautification, environmental or historical restoration project in your community to receive a KMB recognition award. Nomination forms are on our website at www.keepmichiganbeautiful.org. Nominations may be submitted through August 16, 2023.

For more information please contact: President, Beverly Smith- 313-268-3523 or email: info@detroitmartpages.com or Executive Director, Joanne Welihan - email: jwelihan@gmail.com

Executive Director’s Message



Joanne Welihan, Executive Director

You know how it’s more fun to sit in Tiger Stadium and watch a live baseball game than just watching it on TV? Or how much more meaningful it is to see and hear a live band in concert rather than just hearing it on the radio? That’s what we experienced in the recent KMB Board of Directors summer meeting held in East Lansing at the Graduate Hotel. Much better than just doing zoom meetings, which we’ve had to do for the past couple of years due to COVID.

We not only had a more spirited meeting, but were also able to enjoy a

tour of the Michigan State Children’s Garden as well as the Perennial and Rose Gardens. Our tour was led by Deb Kinney, who is a landscape designer for Michigan State and who helped design the Children’s Garden – which was delightful, by the way. We really enjoyed her sense of fun and her knowledge of all the different plants – some, of which, we had never heard of.

We enjoyed a cocktail on the rooftop restaurant of the Graduate, where we enjoyed the sun and the beautiful view of MSU campus. Friendships were rejuvenated and we were able to catch up on everyone’s news before heading to a nearby restaurant for dinner. A lovely evening!



Our meeting the next day was equally energetic. Some of those who were not able to join us for the tour, were on hand for the Board of Directors meeting. We began the day with a presentation from Bridget Booth who is an 8th grade science teacher for Haslett Public Schools and past president of the Michigan Alliance for Environmental Outdoor Education. She spoke, and showed pictures, of her

Executive Director Message Continued...



efforts to develop outdoor classrooms where young people can learn more about the environment and what they can do to protect and improve it.

This was followed by lunch and after that President Beverly Smith led us through our first face-to-face Board of Directors meeting since last October. We were able to break into groups to discuss assigned topics – focused on providing leadership to the membership and to discuss different ways of raising funds, publicizing our efforts to

increase membership, and our plans for the upcoming Awards Conference. It was so much more productive than trying to have discussions during zoom meetings. It was also a great time for us to renew friendships with those we hadn't seen in a while and to get acquainted with our newer members.

We are always looking for new Board of Directors members. If you think you would like to serve Keep Michigan Beautiful in this way, please contact President Beverly Smith.



In Memoriam



Lincoln Avery, former KMB President and member for over 50 years, passed away peacefully at 92 years on April 8, 2023. He was born on May 23, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan. He was a graduate of Holland High School, and earned a BS from Michigan State University and a Masters in Education from Wayne State University.

Lincoln and his wife, Mary, resided for 58 years in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Lincoln spent his teaching career with Southfield Public Schools as a teacher, principal and administrator. He was passionate about public service and dedicated much of his life to his community and promoting the beautiful State of Michigan. He enthusiastically provided education and recognition for beautification and restoration projects with Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. throughout the state.

Cultivating Community and Bountiful Harvests: The Michigan Seed Library Network

Written by: James Keehn, KMB Treasurer



Welcome to the world of sustainable gardening and community resilience! In the midst of our beautiful state lies a network that embodies the essence of shared knowledge, biodiversity, and self-sufficiency—the Michigan Seed Library Network (<http://misedlibrary.org>). As passionate gardeners like yourselves, this comprehensive resource empowers us to protect our local ecosystems,

preserve heirloom varieties, and foster a strong sense of community. Join us on this journey as we explore the essence and benefits of the Michigan Seed Library Network.

Preserving Biodiversity:

The Michigan Seed Library Network is an interconnected web of community-based seed libraries spread throughout the state. Its primary objective is to encourage the conservation of plant diversity by facilitating the sharing of open-pollinated, non-GMO seeds. By promoting the use of heirloom varieties and indigenous seeds, the network helps preserve plant genetics, which are often lost in commercial agriculture. This commitment to biodiversity not only safeguards our food system but also ensures future generations have access to a rich array of plant varieties.

Online Program eTree Results in Tree Planting in Kenya

Microsoft eTree is a program that rewards users for engaging with different parts of Weather from Microsoft Start. The program is available on Microsoft Edge and Microsoft Weather. Users can start planting trees by selecting “Start planting trees” on the Microsoft Edge sidebar. Users can complete daily tasks such as watering their seed to earn energy points. Once users reach level 10 and earn 10,000 energy points, they can get a tree. The program is designed to promote environmental awareness and engage individuals in sustainability. There are also videos available on YouTube that provide tips on how to grow a Microsoft eTree faster and more efficiently.

The Green Belt Movement is an organization that was founded in 1977 by the late Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai. The organization has planted millions of trees across Kenya to combat deforestation and promote sustainable land use practices. In addition, the Microsoft eTree program plants real trees in Kenya once a virtual tree is fully grown. Once your tree reaches 10,000 points, you'll receive an E-tree certificate and the Eden Restoration Projects will plant a real tree in the Mwamdudu site, just outside the bustling city of Mombasa.

Building Community Connections:

At the heart of the Michigan Seed Library Network is a strong sense of community. It fosters connections among gardeners, farmers, and seed savers by providing a platform for sharing resources, knowledge, and seeds. The network organizes workshops, seed swaps, and educational events where enthusiasts can learn from experienced gardeners, exchange tips and tricks, and discover new plant varieties. These gatherings cultivate a spirit of collaboration, allowing gardeners across the state to learn from each other, strengthen local networks, and celebrate the joys of gardening.

Supporting Local Adaptation:

By sourcing seeds from the Michigan Seed Library Network, gardeners can access varieties that are well-suited to

the state's unique climate and growing conditions. Locally adapted seeds have a higher chance of thriving, leading to healthier plants and more abundant harvests. As we face the challenges of climate change, having access to seeds adapted to our specific regions becomes increasingly important. The network ensures that gardeners have the tools they need to foster resilient ecosystems and sustain their gardens for years to come.

Encouraging Seed Saving:

Seed saving is an integral part of the Michigan Seed Library Network. It empowers gardeners to become active participants in the seed system, ensuring the availability of diverse, locally adapted seeds. Through workshops and educational programs, the network provides valuable guidance

on seed-saving techniques, including proper harvesting, drying, and storage methods. By encouraging seed saving, the network promotes self-reliance and empowers gardeners to maintain their own seed stocks, reducing dependence on commercial seed suppliers.

Promoting Food Security:

The Michigan Seed Library Network plays a vital role in enhancing food security across the state. By preserving heirloom varieties and indigenous seeds, the network safeguards genetic diversity and ensures a wide range of crops are available to gardeners and farmers. This diversity is essential in maintaining a resilient food system that can withstand pests, diseases, and changing environmental conditions. Additionally, by sharing seeds within the network, gardeners have access to a

diverse pool of plant varieties, increasing the availability of nutritious and culturally significant foods.

Conclusion:

The Michigan Seed Library Network embodies the spirit of community, biodiversity, and sustainability. Through its seed libraries, educational programs, and collaborative events, the network strengthens the bonds among gardeners across the state. By preserving genetic diversity, supporting local adaptation, and encouraging seed saving, it equips us with the tools to cultivate resilient gardens and secure our food system for future generations. Let us embrace this network and the wealth of resources it provides, knowing that together, we can sow the seeds of change and reap a bountiful harvest of community, knowledge, and sustainable growth.

KMB Foundation 2023 Mini Grants

Written by: Pat Deck, member of the KMB Foundation and KMB, Inc.

The Keep Michigan Foundation received thirteen applications this year for the Shirley Richardson Mini-Grant Program. Ten of these entries, listed below, will receive a grant of \$750.00.

- Novi Parks & Recreation for part two of their Villa Barr Garden Restoration. This will complete the restoration of two main gardens at Villa Barr Art Park, which hosts artists-in-residence and many visitors. The gardens are considered "works of art" on the property and more than just complimentary to the sculptures

- Discovery Elementary Young Fives – Learning Garden in Williamston. The mini-grant will be used to help maintain and update the learning garden space, repair garden boxes, add children's art work and a permanent sign.

- Detroit Hives for the Dresden Botanical Garden Project to create signage and establish a certified pollinator way-station. In partnership with the Detroit Oudolf Garden, Wayne Metro and the Piston's Foundation, a vacant lot in Detroit has been transformed into a botanical garden to support people and pollinators within the Osborn Community in Detroit. This is the 18th vacant lot to be transformed by Detroit Hives.

- St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Meditation Trail in Beulah. This is a half-mile trail that is designed as a

place to rest, relax and meditate. Church members work on the project and the grant will be used for the purchase of wildflowers and signage.

- Van Buren Conservation District State Trail Project in Paw Paw. The grant will be used for creating and purchasing educational signage and equipment to do a clean-up event on the Van Buren State Trail.

- Grosse Pointe Shores Beautification Committee for the maintenance and renovation of Osius Park Boardwalk Perennial Beds. The Beautification Commission has maintained the beds as part of its annual Sponsor-a-Garden Project. Six of the beds were destroyed by strong winds and waves that went over the break-wall in 2020 and 2021 and washed away most of the plants. The city has repaired and strengthened the break wall and the Improvement Foundation repaired the boardwalk planking. The Beautification Commission has re-designed the beds and grant funds will be used for replacement plants using native species.

- Eastern Middle School in Ada for native garden restoration in a courtyard at the school. They anticipate the help of 200 – 7th graders. Funds will be used for the cost of local experts, purchasing new equipment and native plants.

- Careerline Tech Center in Holland, MI will utilize their grant for a habitat

creation. Seventh grade students in the Environmental Field Studies program have designed a native plant garden and outdoor classroom. Funds would be used to purchase plants and transform a two-acre plot into a vibrant native plant garden using Doug Tallamy's concept of a Homegrown National Park. They are working in collaboration with John Ball Zoo.

- The Grand River Trail Chapter of NSDAR will plant and maintain a pollinator garden at Bartlett Elementary in East Lansing to be used as an environmental teaching tool for students. Many volunteers and students will be involved.

- The Aborigiculture Society of Michigan Foundation and Historical Society applied for funds to landscape the Historic Belle Isle Sawmill Restoration Project in Detroit. Landscaping at the sawmill has been neglected for decades. Funds will be used to begin site clean-up and to purchase initial plant material to enhance the front façade of the property.

Another Shirley Richardson mini-grant Program is planned for 2023-2024. This program is jointly funded by the Keep Michigan Beautiful Foundation and Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc.



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