



Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc.



Fall 2023

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

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

From the Desk of KMB President, Beverly Smith



KMB had a wonderful year with the help of our board directors and all of you, our supporters that make up KMB's general membership. Without you, KMB would not

be able to continue its mission since 1962 of advocating for litter prevention, beautification and educational programs that include clean-up activities, environmental enhancement, historical site restoration and the distribution of information about the objectives of KMB.

KMB is also tasked with recognizing and honoring those communities, organizations and individuals that do this work across the State of Michigan. We are pleased to have such a wide range of diverse projects each year representing the commitment of those who care deeply about keeping Michigan clean, green and beautiful.

A special thank you to the KMB Directors for nominating such a dynamic group of award winners. They were absolutely OUTSTANDING!

Also, thank you to our fundraising committee for another excellent presentation of KMB's famous Paper Bag Raffle. You can view the list of honorees on our website.

As many of you know, KMB celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2022. All board directors are volunteers and willingly provide their services, dedication and commitment to the mission of KMB; many over 25 years.

As president of KMB, I am extending a clarion call to anyone who wants to join our KMB board of directors. We are looking for candidates who want to help KMB remain vital in an ever changing world and have innovative ideas to enhance KMB's footprint in keeping Michigan beautiful.

If you are that candidate, I welcome your feedback and look forward to meeting you. Membership of any organization is key to that organization's success. Please visit our website at: www.KeepMichiganBeautiful.org. You can reach me directly at: info@detroitmartpages.com or 313-268-3523. You may contact our Executive Director, Joanne Welihan at: jwelihan@gmail.com.

KMB appreciates your consideration and look forward to you joining our team of dedicated volunteers.

KMB is on facebook! When you visit our Facebook page you can keep up-to-date on events, photos, and also post your thoughts on keeping Michigan Beautiful.



Executive Director's Message



Joanne Welihan, Executive Director

Well, we're deeply into the fall season. Halloween brought frost on the pumpkins, but there is snow on the ground here in Cheboygan. Just a dusting, as they say, but it's here bearing a harbinger of what's to come.

I'm currently in the aftermath of a successful KMB Awards ceremony. We had 24 Award winners this year. Two Merit Awards, 9 Michigan Awards and 13 Presidents Awards. We had everything from individuals to

community involvement. The names of all winners are listed in this newsletter and on the website.

In addition to the excitement and high anticipation at the awards banquet, was seeing so much joy and pride in those attending for what they had accomplished. We had hoped for an attendance of at least 80, and were pleased that we had 92 people in attendance. That included many of our Board of Directors members. The Board had met the day before and there was a good turn-out for that meeting as well. We were pleased to have David

Forsell representing Keep America Beautiful, present at our Board meeting and a speaker at the Awards ceremony. We also enjoyed having dinner with him after the Board meeting and talking about our shared interest in not only keeping Michigan beautiful but keeping America beautiful.

We had three President Award winners give short presentations on their projects. Brenda Archambo of Cheboygan spoke on her development of Sturgeon for Tomorrow. Her longtime project of protecting the sturgeon from going extinct, due to

Executive Director's Message Continued...

poachers. Todd and Brad Reed from Todd and Brad Reed Photography in Ludington, spoke about their lifetime of shooting photos of the beauty of Michigan. They showed a display of their breath-taking work. Our final speaker was Phil Weitlauf from the Michigan War Dog Memorial. He spoke of his work cleaning up an abandoned pet cemetery and turned it into a burying ground for military dogs and police dogs. They brought two war dogs with them and at a certain point in Phil's talk about the burial ceremony, the two dogs began their howls. It brought many to tears. All-in-all KMB had a very successful awards ceremony!

This past September, I had the opportunity to attend the MAEOE conference as a KMB exhibitor. The Michigan Association of Elementary Outdoor Educators had their annual conference at the Alpena Community College and they had a room set for several exhibitors. It was a great experience for me, not just because KMB got to be a part of this event, but because of the exuberance for these young teachers for teaching their students about protecting the environment. I have long felt that KMB was just for older people, retired people who have the time now to devote to beautification projects. And that's good! But there is a world of

younger people who care deeply about our environment and what they can do to keep our many lakes - and Great Lakes - free of debris, oil, and other pollutants.

The proof of that is one of this year's award winners, Wynniss Chan. He won a Michigan Award for his work at the McKinley Barrier-Free Bench Respite in Fraser. I didn't know, until the Awards meeting, that he was so young. He is an Eagle Scout and led a project with his Scout Troop 1402. He not only led his troop members in the beautification project, but raised \$891.00 for the project through Go-Fund-Me. That, truly, makes my heart sing!

KMB Award Winners for 2023

Keep Michigan Beautiful is always happy to recognize projects that enhance the beauty of our state. Because of that, for close to forty years, KMB has accepted nominations from its Board of Directors for projects around the state that are consistent with the goals and objectives of KMB. That includes projects such as:

- Environmental clean-up
- Historical preservation
- Site beautification and restoration
- Native species protection
- Environmental education programs for children & adults

There are four categories of awards:

President's Award

Michigan Award

Award of Merit

Distinguished Achievement

This year's Awards Ceremony was held at the Courtyard Marriott in downtown Lansing.

The morning provided three speakers: Phil Weitlauf from the Michigan War Dog Memorial, Brenda Archambo from Sturgeon for Tomorrow and Todd Reed from Todd & Brad Reed Photography. Following lunch, the awards were presented.

Award of Merit

Natalie Jakob

Detroit

Rapunzel's Boutique

Frankenmuth

Michigan Award

Bailey Park Neighborhood Development Corporation

Detroit

Henry Ford Estate Dam Fishway & Habitat Restoration

Detroit/Dearborn

Macomb Cultural & Economic Partnership

Mount Clemens

Wynniss Chan – McKinley Barrier-Free Bench Respite

Fraser

Nankin Lake Restoration Project

Wayne County

Rescue MI Nature Now, Inc.

Detroit

Rosie the Riveter Association

Cheboygan

Rummel Studios

Frankenmuth

Urban Seed

Eastpointe

President's Award

Blossom Heath Activity Pier

St. Clair Shores

City of Wyandotte Community Garden

Wyandotte

Fort Street Bridge Park

Detroit

Frankenmuth Cheese Haus

Frankenmuth

Frankenmuth Woolen Mill

Frankenmuth

Huntington Community Park

Detroit

The Magnificent Journey – Stephen Hargash

Frankenmuth

Michigan War Dog Memorial

Lyon Township

Montcalm Community Heritage Village

Sidney

Sanctuary Farms

Detroit

Sturgeon for Tomorrow

Cheboygan

Thomas J. Moran

Onaway

Distinguished Achievement

James Keehn

Harrison Township

A Few Pictures from our 2023 Award Recipients



Michigan War Dog Memorial



Huntington Community Park



Todd and Brad Reed Photography



Sanctuary Farms



Magnificent Journey Mural

BCSEM Celebrates 60 Years of Service

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

It speaks well of an organization that they can celebrate 60 years of service. Just as KMB did the previous year, the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 15, 2023 at the Historic Bayview Yacht Club. The Club is in Detroit and is just a year shy of celebrating their 100-year anniversary. The weather was very comfortable and 90 attendees were able to enjoy the hospitality of the club both indoors and out while overlooking the Detroit River. The event was underwritten through generous donations from The Keep Michigan Beautiful Foundation, James Keehn, Henrietta Baczewski plus several BCSEM Board Members and friends. Fabulous door prizes were donated and awarded. Pat Deck chaired the event as she had done the year earlier when KMB celebrated their 60th Anniversary in Clare, Mi. BCSEM is District 1 of Keep Michigan Beautiful.

John Darin, BCSEM President led the afternoon's events. Special guest speakers included Jerald Stone who is a Past President and 60-year member of BCSEM plus Barry Burton, City of Detroit Landscape Architect.

Jerry, who was the City Manager for Lathrup Village, recalled highlights of BCSEM through the years. He served BCSEM as a Charter member, Charter

Treasurer, President and as a Board Member. He recalled how he and his wife, Betty, worked in both BCSEM and KMB in various capacities. The initial organizational meeting for BCSEM was most memorable because it happened on the day President Kennedy was assassinated. Jerry recalled his city owned car did not have the amenity of a radio because it was considered an unnecessary luxury. Despite membership ups and downs, financial ups and downs plus the challenges of COVID BCSEM has remained true to its original purpose of organizing a "Regional Clean-up/Beautification Committee." Its mission is to: "Restore, preserve, and enhance the beauty of Southeastern Michigan through networking and education." Our location at Bayview Yacht Club on the Detroit River gave Jerry pause to consider how valuable our water resources are in Michigan and how critical it is that we take care of them in the years ahead.

Barry Burton is a Michigan native but has lived and worked in several places and countries. His love for gardening began as a high school student when he worked as a junior gardener under the tutelage of an English groundskeeper who worked at a Grosse Pointe Estate. Barry is an MSU graduate and has worked at the Detroit Zoo, City of Chicago, private landscaping companies

and he City of Detroit. Two recent major projects are the Erma Henderson Garden on Jefferson and Roosevelt Park at the restored Central Train Station. He is also challenged with preparing the City of Detroit's Street plantings for hosting next spring's NFL draft. Over the years he has seen lots of changes in City beautification from the use of modern equipment for planting, the use of sprinkler systems in parks and the use of computer technology and scientific engineering to plan gardens etc. He emphasized the need to connect with the local residents in making plans for parks and gardens.

John Darin presented the BCSEM President's award to Jerry Stone for his 60 years of exceptional service to BCSEM. Communities who had been with BCSEM as a continuous paid active member for 60 years were also given special Certificates of Recognition.

We learned the value of celebrating our service is more than a good party. It also allowed us to reconnect with communities, to renew old friendships and make new ones and to reinvigorate our commitment to the organization and its' mission. Special thanks go to our member communities and our donors. We hope we can continue to be of service to Michigan Communities for many more years.



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

P.O. Box 23215
Lansing, MI 48909

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Ithaca, MI
Permit No. 35

2023 KMB Board of Directors

HONORARY CHAIR

Governor Gretchen Whitmer



www.keepmichiganbeautiful.org

KMB Newsletter Editor
Cheryl Anne Farmer
Email: keepmichiganbeautiful@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Director:

Joanne Welihan, Cheboygan

President:

Beverly Smith, Detroit

1st Vice President:

Timothy Jackson, Detroit

Secretary:

Nicole Lindsey, Detroit

Treasurer:

James Keehn, Harrison Twp.

Correspondence Secretary:

Renee Tokar, Gowen

Immediate Past President

Dan Welihan, Cheboygan

Members-at-Large:

Brian Colter, Grosse Pointe Park

Pat Deck, Grosse Pte. Park

Cheri King, Midland

Jerry Stone, Lathrup Village

William Strong, Williamsburg

Member Emeritus

Lincoln Avery, Novi

KMB DIRECTORS

Lois Adams, Taylor

Vania Apps, Fraser

Helen Bai, Grosse Pte. Shores

Alice Bailey, Ann Arbor

Becky Bottrell, Sault Ste. Marie

Ed Deeb, St. Clair Shores

Henry & Sandie Fischer, Grosse Pte.

Jack & Pam Frucci, Grosse Ile

Don Graham, Allen Park

Angela Ireland, Detroit

Kathleen Klein, Wixom

Noreen Kozlowski, Southfield

Lisa Kyle, Grosse Pointe Park

Teri Landis, Harbor Beach

Joey Lentine, Stockbridge

Angela Mabin, Marshall

Jeffery Muck, Novi

Hazel Rivers, Detroit

Frank & Carol Romano, Grosse Pte Woods

Celia Todd, Novi

Jeanette Strong, Honor

Communications Consultant:

Cheryl Anne Farmer

Accounting Consultant:

Annette Eustice, Cheboygan
CPA, Rehmann Group