

Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan

Spring, 2024

CALENDAR

Quarterly Meetings

April 10, 2024
Celebrate Spring at
The Gazebo Banquet
Center Warren

June 20, 2024 We need
a host for this meeting.

September 19, 2024
Fraser First Booster
Club and Hanover
Grove Cooperative

December 13th, 2024
City of Warren
This is tentative.

CONTACTS

President
John Darin
johndarin2@gmail.com

Treasurer
Kip Smith
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Quarterly Meeting Coordinators

Pat Deck
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Kip Smith
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BCSEM IS MOVING FORWARD! By John Darin, President, BCSEM

Warm 2024 greetings to all of you from your Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan leadership! We have had another unseasonably warm winter in Southeastern Michigan. Although 50-70 degree temperatures are very welcome to some, it also is an indicator of very unsettling and escalating global warming. As I've mentioned before, it is critical that BCSEM and its members work with whatever forces they can to help mitigate and reverse these global warming trends. It is within our collective powers to control this increasingly disastrous environmental crisis, and we must do it.

Did You Know - **The Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan is now a designated IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and a Michigan Non-Profit Corporation!** BCSEM is redoubling its efforts to connect with all communities in Southeastern Michigan. The 2024 BCSEM membership drive is underway. We are seeking to increase our municipal and individual memberships. Remember that **100 percent of your membership fees, contributions, and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law!** The 2024 Membership Application and Renewal Form is available on our website, bcsem.org, and individual membership mailings are underway! If you, your municipality, organization, or business, need an IRS W-9 Form from BCSEM, please note the instructions at the top of the BCSEM Membership Application to receive your emailed copy of the W-9.

I am very excited with our schedule of upcoming Quarterly Meetings. BCSEM is again partnering with Keep Michigan Beautiful this year to co-host the Annual "Celebrate Spring!" Quarterly Meeting! It will be held on Wednesday, April 10th at The Gazebo Banquet Center in Warren. This is a wonderful event, a fantastic venue, and a great collaboration between KMB and BCSEM! And registration fees have been maintained at only \$20 per person! All members will receive a mailing or emailing for you to mail in your registration form with a check for payment. Also, check the BCSEM website to download the registration form, or to register for this event online and pay by credit card. BCSEM is enabling secure, online credit card payments for all of our Quarterly Meetings and special events.

We are also looking forward to our other Quarterly Meetings in 2024. Many thanks to the Fraser First Booster Club and Hanover Grove Cooperative for hosting the Fall Quarterly Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, September 19th! Also, many thanks to the City of Warren for tentatively agreeing to host the Winter Quarterly Meeting, to be held on Friday, December 13th! These programs will provide wonderful opportunities to comingle with your colleagues from across Southeastern Michigan, and to share ideas for beautification of your communities. I hope to see you all there! Remember – your program registration fees are all tax-deductible! We still are looking for a community to host the BCSEM Summer Quarterly Meeting, to be held on Thursday, June 20th. Please contact Pat Deck, BCSEM Quarterly Meeting Coordinator, at larryandpatdeck@gmail.com to confirm your community's interest in hosting that event.

Thank you all again for your partnerships, for your collective efforts in beautifying your communities, and for your stewardship of our precious environment. Think Spring! Happy Gardening!

Officers

President and ISA Award

John Darin

1st Vice President/ Treasurer

Kip Smith

2nd Vice President/ Membership

Michelle Hayden

Recording Secretary

John Darin

Corresponding Secretary

Kathie Brown

Directors for 2023-2024

Lois Adams

Sandie Fischer

Kathie Brown

Directors For 2022-2023

Jerald Stone

Pat Deck

Committees

Historian Open

ISA Award John Darin

Nominations & Parliamentarian

Pat Deck

Travel Trophy Lois Adams

Raffle Kathie Brown

Website Jim Keehn

Newsletter

Sandie Fischer fischerh@ameritech.net

Quarterly Meeting Coordinators

Pat Deck and Kip Smith

In Memory of Pamela A. Greening

A great friend to the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan and Keep Michigan Beautiful, Pamela A. Greening, age 70 of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 28, 2023 while in Texas for the wedding of her son. She was the victim of a horrific car crash that also took the life of her son and husband. Pam served both groups as a volunteer consultant on matters related to her computer expertise and graphic design skills. Most notably she designed several brochures for KMB and recently she designed the invitation for BCSEM's 60th Anniversary party. Her services were always free of charge including any and expenses related to her work. Her servant's heart was also evident in the Grosse Pointe communities, Crescent Sail and Yacht Club, and at Stag Island, Canada. She had creative vision, energy and a giving heart. We will miss Pam. She is survived by a son, Rob, his wife and 3 grandchildren. Prepared by A.Pat Deck



Celebrate Spring!

Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. invites you to join with our friends from the
Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan
on April 10, 2024 for a celebration of Spring and a kick-off to Michigan Clean-up
Days at the Gazebo Banquet Center - 31104 Mound Rd. - Warren 48092.
Enjoy speakers, Buffet Lunch, Raffle and time with your friends!

Schedule of Events	
10:00 am	Registration & Hospitality
10:30 am	Speakers: Charles Cross - Detroit Collaborative Design Phil Weidlauf - War Dog Memorial
12:30 pm	Invocation & Luncheon
1:30 pm	Announcement of Raffle Winners

Registration

Name(s) _____

Cost : \$20 per person Check enclosed _____ Credit Card _____

Name on Credit Card _____

Credit Card Number _____ Amount \$ _____

Exp. Date _____ 3-digit Security Code _____ Zip code _____

Make check payable to Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. Send payment with registration info to
Joanne Welihan - 9085 Cordwood Trail - Cheboygan, MI 49721 or register on our website at
KeepMichiganBeautiful.org



KMB 2023 Award Winners

Each year Keep Michigan Beautiful gives Cities, Counties, and State Governments, Community Groups, Youth/Schools and Clubs, Business and Industry and Individuals annual awards to celebrate their achievements. Four awards are given: President's Award, Michigan Award, Distinguished Achievement, and Award of Merit. KMB encourages you to apply. Nominations forms are on the KMB website, and you can talk to Pat Deck or Sandie Fischer for more details. People do amazing work for their communities and deserve recognition for their efforts. These are the 2023 award winners from our BSCEM communities.



The Henry Ford Estate Dam Fishway Habitat Restoration Project won an award for creating a fish passage to form a natural channel around the dam for fish passage and improved wildlife diversity.



The Macomb Cultural and Economic Partnership in Mt Clemens is a winner of the Michigan Award. It hosts outdoor sculptures created by Midwest artists.



The McKinley Barrier-Free Bench Respite project in Fraser was the work of Wynn Chan and volunteers took on the task of clean-up, building flower beds and planting along the walking trail in the park.

Urban Seed was awarded for its work using a vacant lot in Eastpointe to grow healthy fruits and vegetables that they donate to the community. They are nonprofit and have developed areas for native plant restoration, wildlife habitats, and

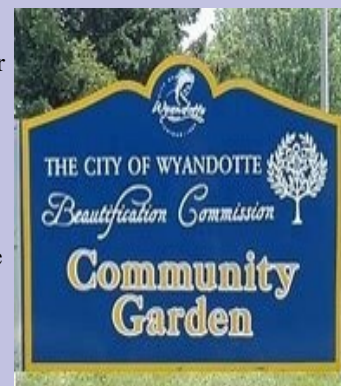


The Blossom Health Activity Pier on Lake St. Clair in St. Clair Shores once had been once unkempt and uninviting, but is now a recreation destination. It offers much to the community with a 360° view of the lake.



The Nankin Lake Restoration Project by the Wayne County Parks worked to restore the lake's ecosystem with valuable spawning and forage habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

The City of Wyandotte Community Garden was awarded for its continued its development with two wheelchair accessible U-shaped raised beds and four rectangular above ground-beds. This is accessed by a sidewalk from the entrance gate.





Seed Savers Exchange

<https://seedsavers.org>

We have all been looking into our seed catalogs this month, planning our gardens and preparing our seed orders. As prices of nursery grown annuals and perennials continue to increase, many have started to buy their own seeds, plant them in trays around March and introduce them to their gardens in May.

But you may have noticed that seed prices are also on the rise. So, this year I ordered from Seed Savers Exchange. I have a paper catalog that entertained my need to view plants but ordered online. I was even allowed to save on shipping costs!

Compared to seed packets that I could buy at big box stores, the variety and quantity of seeds available at a very affordable price helped with my decision. You may pay a couple of dollars for a seed packet that contains 5-15 seeds locally but if you are planting large garden products, being able to pay \$4 for, in this case, 250 coneflower seeds is a relief. Seed Savers Exchange will even sell seed by the ounce for those [really big](#) projects.

Seed Savers Exchange is a non-profit organization that preserves and shares heirloom seeds. Heirloom seeds are varieties of plants that have been passed down from generation to generation and are not genetically modified or patented by corporations. By saving and exchanging these seeds, the organization aims to protect biodiversity, promote organic gardening, and celebrate cultural diversity. Seed Savers Exchange operates a seed bank with over 20,000 varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers, and publishes a catalog and a magazine. Anyone can join the organization and participate in seed swaps, workshops, and events.

James Keehn

BCSEM NEWSLETTER

16 ALGER PLACE

GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230

