

Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan

Fall, 2025

2025 INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AWARDS ANNOUNCED!

By John Darin, President, BCSEM

Greetings, Friends and Colleagues! As I look back over the past 9 months of 2025, I am struck by how smoothly the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan is progressing organizationally as a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. In fact, the timing of this organization's leap forward could not have been better. The COVID pandemic has substantially passed, and sufficient numbers of the general population have been vaccinated so that face-to-face personal interactions, such as the BCSEM Quarterly Meetings, are again blossoming safely.



It is very heartwarming to see persons from all over Southeastern Michigan attending the BCSEM Quarterly Meetings. The number of communities involved in these programs is very encouraging, with some, as with the City of Trenton, winning numerous Travel Trophies as a testament to their participation! Let's keep that energy going, and assist each other along the way.

To that end, BCSEM would like to sincerely thank the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission for hosting the Summer, 2025 Quarterly Meeting this past June 12th at the Costick Community Center! The Costick Community Center was an excellent venue, and the program had very interesting speakers and very timely topics – Why Native Plants in Landscapes with Ashlie Smith, and Invasive Plant Management with April Heier. Thank you to the City of Farmington Hills and the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission for a most enjoyable and informative Summer Quarterly Meeting!

The upcoming BCSEM Fall Quarterly Meeting, scheduled for Friday, September 26th, is being hosted by the Shelby Township Beautification Committee. The event will be held at the Shelby Township Library, 52610 Van Dyke Avenue, Shelby Township. The speakers include Macomb County and Shelby Township leadership, and the topics look excellent and insightful.

A key highlight of the Fall Quarterly Meetings is, of course, the Presentation of the BCSEM Individual Service Awards. Although not rare, it is noteworthy that the BCSEM is a Committee selected both nominees to be awarded an Individual Service Award for 2025! The Awardees are Mr. Robert Johnson, Trenton, and Mr. James Keehn, Harrison Township. Both Awardees are notable, long-time volunteers and contributors at a very high level in their respective communities, and their work is very highly regarded by their colleagues. My sincerest congratulations to Mr. Robert Johnson and Mr. James Keehn on their achievement! Thank you for your service!

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BCSEM is an IRS-approved 501 (c) (3) Tax-Exempt Organization, and a Michigan Non-Profit Corporation. 100% of your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.

Quarterly Meetings

2025 Fall Quarterly Meeting with the Shelby Township September 26th

2025 Winter Quarterly Meeting with the Fraser First Booster Club and Hanover Grove Cooperative December 11th

2026 Joint Meeting with BCSEM and KMB at the Gazebo Banquet Center Warren April 8th

2026 Summer Quarterly with City of Fraser First Booster Club & Hanover Grove Cooperative June 18th

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Officers

President and ISA Award

John Darin

1st Vice President/ Treasurer

Kip Smith

2nd Vice President/

Membership

Michelle Hayden

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John Darin

Corresponding Secretary

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Directors for 2025-2026

Lois Adams

Sandie Fischer

Kathie Brown

Directors for 2024-2025

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

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Sandie Fischer

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Quarterly Meeting

Pat Deck

KMB Foundations

7Th Annual Mini-Grant Recipients

This year the KMB Foundation gave mini-grants to a wide range of projects across Michigan. The projects included youth activities and specialized gardens such as rain gardens, native plant gardens, and butterfly and bee pollinator gardens. Other projects include informational and educational signage, restoration of historical buildings, clean-up and beautification activities. These are winners from the BCSEM area.

Grant money was used for expenses for Metro Detroit Youth Day held on Belle Isle in July. Over 40,000 children attend the Youth Day. It celebrated its 41st anniversary this year.



Detroit is using grant money for the Youth Sensory Garden at the Michigan Science Center in Detroit.



Along with the sculptures that are in place, the Macomb Cultural and Economic Partnership will enhance and expand the gardens with native plants and trees in their Pollinator Park and Micro Gardens in Mt. Clemens.



The Fraser Beautification Club will use grant money to create a pollinator garden and habitat on a wedge of land where Utica and Garfield roads meet. This will be an attractive addition to this space with the height and color of the plants.

The Patterson Park Garden Club in Grosse Pointe Park will use their grant money to plant a children's garden around the playscape in the park. The park offers scenic paths for running and walking, shaded picnic areas, and kayaking on the lake.



The Chippewa Valley High School Ecology Club will use their grant money to fund their Great Campus Clean Up on their very large campus. The idea for the project came from a public service announcement by the club in 2022 and has been part of the school's goals to keep their campus in good shape.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Bob and friends



Jim and friends

Looking into next year, BCSEM is still looking for host communities for the Fall (September) 2026 and the Winter (December) 2026 Quarterly Meetings. If your community is considering hosting a Quarterly Meeting, keep in mind a few important things. There are resources available to assist. BCSEM provides a modest financial grant to host communities. Consider co-hosting this program with a neighboring community, especially if you share common needs and visions. Please contact Pat Deck, BCSEM Quarterly Meeting Coordinator, at larryandpatdeck@gmail.com if your community wants to highlight themselves by hosting.

In closing, thank you, our BCSEM members, for your continued support of BCSEM, for your community partnerships, for your collective efforts in beautifying your communities, and for your stewardship of our very precious environment! Take care and be safe!

BCSEM NEWSLETTER

16 ALGER PLACE

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