

bcsem

June 2014

Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan

Our Newest Member—The Detroit Garden Center

POINTS OF INTEREST:

The June 19th Meeting will be hosted by Auburn Hills at the Auburn Hills Community Center.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!
SIGN UP TO HOST A MEETING TODAY!**



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We are delighted to have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Ronald Smith at our BCSEM and KMB meetings. Ron is the current President of a wonderful organization called The Detroit Garden Center. This horticultural organization is a volunteer non-profit 501C3 serving Detroit since 1932. It is located at 1900 E. Jefferson, Ste. 227, Detroit, 48207. Their phone number is 313-259-6363. They contribute to gardening, education, horticultural lectures, tours workshops, outreach programs, and an extensive horticultural library.

Ron Smith is a very hands-on, active, and dedicated leader of this historical organization. The programs offered by The Detroit Garden Center weave a great deal of pride with wonderful horticultural educational opportunities. Some of those opportunities are gardening and maintenance volunteering on the Dequindre Cut Greenway. This is known as one of Detroit's best-hidden gems. The Dequindre Cut is a 1.35 mile urban greenway that adds the overlooked beauty and unique culture that can only be found in Detroit. The dog friendly, non-motorized trail extends from the Detroit River northward, with the future potential to connect additional communities. Formerly a railroad line, the Dequindre Cut links to the Eastern Market District, the University cultural center Area, the Midtown Loop and a number of residential neighborhoods. The Detroit Garden Center regularly meets with their volunteers at the Dequindre Cut to create, plant, and maintain gardens there. Dates to volunteer with them in June for this project are 6-13 and 6-27. Please see their website at www.detroitgardencenter.org for more details.

Another wonderful program The

Detroit Garden Center hosts is volunteering on days in July and August to assist Alternatives for Girls with their summer Rise and Shine program. This is a summer gardening program for girls ages 7-10, helping them plant garden beds of herbs and vegetables. It's located at 903 W. Grand Blvd. in Detroit. This is such a rewarding program for volunteers.

The Detroit Garden Center also hosts many classes and lectures at various locations. Among them are a spring perennial exchange, Black Cat pottery garden tour, an Ikebana talk and demonstration, a leaf casting class, a book sale, a sunflower workshop, a trip to Washington D.C. to view gardens, and a trip to Ojibway Prairie Provincial Park and Nature Center in Windsor, Ontario.

Ron has a background in teaching. His experience in organizing some amazing programs, his creativity, and level of service to his community really shine through at The Detroit Garden Center. Ron's dedication has made this organization thrive. Please contact the Detroit Garden Center to volunteer, and enjoy all they have to offer.



The Dequindre Cut

*From the Author of the Inward Garden—Creating a Place of
Beauty and Meaning*

“I HAVE FOUND THROUGH YEARS OF PRACTICE, THAT PEOPLE GARDEN IN ORDER TO MAKE SOMETHING GROW; TO INTERACT WITH NATURE; TO SHARE, TO FIND SANCTUARY, TO HEAL, TO HONOR THE EARTH, TO LEAVE A MARK. THROUGH GARDENING WE FEEL WHOLE, AS WE MAKE OUR PERSONAL WORK OF ART UPON OUR LAND.” *BY Julie Moir Messeroy*



Greetings From The President by James Keehn

I wanted to share an article with you from Patti Brittingham. Patti is a Master Gardener in Denver County, Colorado. We are just beginning the wonderful warm gardening season in Michigan. Patti's article, Stay Fit by Gardening, brought some great facts to mind. I'm sure they will be of interest to you, too. Patti writes:

Something happens to us when the sun shines. Our bodies rev into higher gear, and we want to exercise. Gardening is a great way to do it. You can burn calories and end up with a beautiful landscape to show for it. Flower and vegetable gardening can burn up to 300 calories an hour. You work the major muscle groups as you dig and turn the soil for mulching and fertilizing. Just lifting and carrying bags of soil and compost uses lots of energy. Then, digging the planting hole and carrying container plants to the garden fully uses the back and leg muscle groups. Always be sure to lift with the legs to protect the back!

Weeding and pruning can furnish a great workout for the arms and legs as you squat and lunge to reach different plants. Be sure to reposition yourself to redistribute the work to different muscles and avoid twisting that can lead to pulled muscles.

Avoid staying on the knees too long and hunching over the back and neck muscles for long stretches. Take frequent breaks, look up at the sky and stretch out by doing some pruning in between. By varying your overhead pruning with bending and weeding, you will take a load off specific muscles and get in some cross-training.

The Wall Street Journal reported that mowing your lawn may just be the new aerobic exercise. When you use a push mower, you can burn 400-500 calories an hour. With a power mower, you burn 250-300 calories per hour. The muscles you use to push and pull the mower work and tone the chest, biceps, triceps, back, and shoulders. Your thighs and derriere also get a good workout. Cardiovascular and fat-burning effects come from the increased heart rate and heavy breathing it requires.

So let's take some advice from this Master Gardener. Garden safely, wear your sunscreen, and keep hydrated. I've done many gardening tasks already this year, and I intend to continue gardening successfully without injury. Please do the same. We need you and your communities need you. Enjoy the season!

Sincerely, Jim

BoBo-Hydrangea

This wonderful, dwarf hydrangea is the perfect addition for your garden. Talk about bang for your buck! Bobo is hardy in zones 3-9, thrives in partial shade, is drought tolerant, disease resistant, and has amazing blossoms that change color from green, to white, to pink, and bronze. The shrub's size is 2-3' wide x 2-3' high. A great size for a small space. This hydrangea will provide seasonal interest from spring through fall. It's great for attracting butterflies. It's perfect for cut and dried flowers. It requires average soil, and is low maintenance, which we all can appreciate. Go out and get yourself a beautiful BoBo this season. You won't be disappointed.



Meet Auburn Hills—Your Hosts for our Meeting on June 19

Auburn Hills has been kind enough to host our June meeting. Before you travel to our meeting on June 19th, perhaps you would be interested to know about the Auburn Hills Beautification Advisory Committee. This hard-working group of individuals set the standards for beautifying and preserving their community. Their objectives are:

1. To preserve, restore, and enhance the beauty of the City of Auburn Hills.
2. To encourage and assist active participation in all activities which pertain to the beautification and improvement of the City of Auburn Hills, such as home and community beautification; slum prevention; health and safety; fire prevention; civic pride and new development.
3. To study, discuss and suggest to the City Council anti-blight and litter, and beautification projects. Coordinating such projects enlisting the active support of interested individuals, businesses, and organizations.

This Beautification Advisory Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month (Jan.-Oct.), at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Conference Room at 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills.

The BAC sponsors two major programs each year. One is The Perennial Flower Exchange. This free event is held the third Saturday in May. This is a great way to meet other members of the community, while exchanging perennials, and learning about them in the process. It is also a great way to economically diversify a garden.

The second annual event is the Beautification Awards to recognize exceptional efforts in landscaping for both residents and businesses. The BAC strives to join neighbors and businesses together in the shared interest of enhancing and strengthening their city of Auburn Hills. We are looking forward to visiting this beautiful city and meeting all of the members of their BAC. Many thanks to them for hosting our meeting.





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Pesky Critters in Your Yard? —Here are a Few Tips

So, you wake up one morning to find this lovely groundhog, sitting in his slippers, sipping a Starbucks. How did this happen? How did you end up with this squatter of a garden guest? It's all about food and shelter. If they have what they need, they're staying!

Some natural ways to start would be to install a fence around your garden. Find the hole of a burrowing animal, and place a garden hose into it. Turn the water on, and flood the holes and tunnels. Repellant pellets with castor oil are known to deter moles and voles. Spread them on the ground and into burrows. Urine and fur of animals who are predators strewn around the yard will also deter critters. Hot pepper sprinkled at hole entries and around the yard will be a nuisance to these animals. Most animals do not like motion. Several pinwheels in the area, or a moving sprinkler are disliked by most animals that enter the yard. Mice can be deterred by peppermint oil. Human hair can help keep rabbits away.

These animals can be epic breeders if they get comfortable on your property. Take a look around to identify great hiding places from weather and predators. Keep garden beds cleaned up, eliminating available food in the form of dropped fruit, seeds, garbage cans, compost piles, etc. Make sure you do all you can to first free your yard of available habitat and food for critters. This would mean taking down birdfeeders and cleaning up the area. Keep tree limbs trimmed away from the house to stop leaping squirrels from

obtaining entry into your home.

We don't like to use traps, as it seems inhumane and cruel. If you suffer the destructive effects of animals in your yard even one season, it may be enough for you to consider trapping. There are several companies who will do this for a fee. You can also get traps yourself, but it becomes difficult to find appropriate places to release a trapped animal without speaking to a professional.

Deer deterrents in the form of noise would be flags, sprinklers, radios, or whistles. Floodlights may work, along with thorny bushes, moth balls, decaying fish, garlic, or fabric softener. Some shrubbery they don't like would be boxwood, butterfly bush, burning bush, holly lilac, and anything spiny or bitter.

