Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan

Area 1 of Keep Michigan Beautiful

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Contact Us

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President's Message by John Darin

Over the course of this still early year, I'll recognize that a very significant event happened this past April. I'm not referring to another meteor. I'm referring to the first-ever joint membership meeting between the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan and Keep Michigan Beautiful organizations in recent memory. BCSEM and KMB both trace their roots to the early formative days of 1962-3. But, even as our organizations have followed our uniquely separate paths over the years, I believe the need was still there to interact and work together more closely and collaboratively. Our histories and fates are very much inter-twined.

That opportunity presented itself this year with our spring meetings. Informal discussions between the two organizations created a realization that there was a real need to focus attentions on Spring Clean-Up Events. This coincided exactly with our independent meeting schedules and our missions! After all, KAB Great American Cleanup kicked off on March 20th, and KMB Clean-Up Days runs from April 1-May 31. Precisely the time when both BCSEM and KMB held their respective spring membership meetings. What's not to like about that?

Both organizations decided to join forces and co-host our respective Spring Meetings as one. Our joint "Celebrate Spring!" program would focus on the Michigan Clean-Up Days, April 1-May 31. We would also examine local recycling and environmental greening activities to further energize the Michigan Clean-Up Days.

The result was a well-attended, very cost-effective, informative and interactive joint membership meeting "Celebrate Spring!" held April 11th at The Gazebo in Warren. The joint meeting gave members of both fine organizations the opportunity to network with each other, and also meet with the various vendors who participated by highlighting their clean-up-related goods and services at interactive exhibit booths. The speakers were informative and refreshing, and focused again on our major theme – community clean-ups.

I am continually fascinated by the big-picture trickle-down relationships between Keep America Beautiful, Keep Michigan Beautiful, and BCSEM as the inaugural District 1 of KMB. Information, resources, and volunteer ideas can then flow from the top down, and also from the bottom up. We (BCSEM & KMB) took some major steps in both directions while planning and executing this event. The entire event was handled very thoughtfully, with tons of mutual respect and courtesy.

I want to personally thank everyone involved in pulling this event off in a high-level manner. Joanne Welihan was wonderful to work with, James Keehn did an excellent job with the program and confirming the speakers and exhibitors, Helen Bai created wonderful centerpieces, the facility was great, and everyone else involved did a marvelous job. I look forward to our two fine organizations working together again in 2019 on a reprise of our "Celebrate Spring!" program, making it bigger and better, and making us stronger and more relevant organizations.

President:
John Darin

Past President:
A. Pat Deck

1st Vice President
Betty Stone

2nd Vice President
Open

Rec. Secretary
Flo Jagielski

Treasurer/ Membership
Dorothy Wood

Historian
Open

2018-9 Directors
Henrietta Baczewski & Jerald Stone

2017-8 Directors
Lois Adams & James Keehn

Committees

ISA Awards
John Darin

Travel Trophy
Lois Adams

Raffle
Henrietta Baczewaki

Parliamentarian
A. Pat Deck

Facebook/Website
James Keehn

Newsletter
Sandie Fischer

BCSEM & KMB United

The Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan joined with Keep Michigan Beautiful for their first joint meeting to "Celebrate Spring" at the Gazebo Banquet Center in Warren on April 11, 2018. KMB traditionally has marked the beginning of spring with the focus on the importance of cleaning up after the winter months. As we move into spring in our own communities, neighborhoods, and home, KMB reminds us to widen our view of cleanup to include a wider view of cleaning up our environment. BCSEM joins with us to enhance this view. The focus for both groups is the Great American Cleanup, local recycling, and environmental greening activities in Michigan, our big backyard and garden.

The two groups were well represented and seemed to effortlessly blend in conversation and interest. As Ron Smith, BCSEM member and President of the Detroit Garden Center stated, "Both groups work together and should work together. This is good for networking. There are people here who I have not met before." Pat Deck, Vice-president of BCSEM and Board Member of KMB, gave her thoughts, "I hope we can make it an annual event as we share the same goals. We had a great program, great speakers, great venue, and food. Where else are you going to learn about topics such as environmental grazing and the ongoing challenge of used tire disposal? Thanks to the KMB Foundation and Waste Management for helping underwrite a portion of costs."

The speaker part of the program began with Audra D. Carson, a beautification strategist whose vision is to recycle and reuse old tires. Armed with facts of five and one-half million used tires in Michigan alone, one tire per each person in the state, and 80 to 85 % of tires going into landfills, her strategic plan is to reduce this waste by reusing the tires to make asphalt paving. Her website is: de-tread.com/aboutus.html.

Our second speaker, Amy McIntire from City Girls Farm, began her journey into environment awareness with a need to avoid lactose in dairy products for her family. The path took her to raising goats, grazing practices, and then into grazing to avoid using herbicides to control unwanted plants. For more on this amazing story, her website is https://citygirlsfarm/aboutus.

The members enjoyed the 50/50 Centerpiece Raffle and the KMB "Paper Bag" Raffle. There were many prizes and happy people. Informative venders shared new products with displays and information. Thank you to Garbo Grappers, LLC and the Polly Products Company for their creative ideas. Having vendors was a new feature that worked out well.

Let's hope we can make this an annual event.

OUR NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING

June 21, 2018 City of Southfield
Burgh Historical Park, 23660 Civic Center Drive
Registration and Hospitality begin at 9:30 a.m.
Speakers are Mayor Ken Siver and Tom Manino
Questions call Noreen Lusk 248 796 4156

REMEMBERING BETTY STONE

As told by Jerry Stone

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Betty's achievements and to share special memories at her memorial service to be held on Friday, May 25th at 2:00 pm at The Community Room in the Lathrup Village Municipal Building, 27400 Southfield Road.

Betty's great smile!

Betty passed away unexpectedly at home February 24, 2018 at the age of 85. She was surrounded by her loyal-loving family. She is survived by her husband Jerry (68 years together) and their children, Kim, Jon, and Tracy and her grandchildren Andrew, Hunter, Miranda and Emily.

Betty grew up in Rochester, NY and was chosen to attend U of M. There she met her future husband in the Architectural Arts and Designs schools where they both graduated in 1954. In two weeks they were married, and Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was stationed with the occupational forces in Yokohama, Japan serving in the Port Engineers. For one year they lived in a home that Jerry designed and had built for them. Their best memory was climbing Mt. Fuji. Thus began their adventurous lives together-always traveling and discovering new places. Soon after their return, they bought a new home in Royal Oak and began their family (3 kids). After 10 years, they moved to Lathrup Village where they lived for 25 years on Middlesex in a home they both designed and built. This was a great family home and was well used by all friends for many special dinners and parties. With children in college, they built their present home on California Drive and had a wonderful life together for over 30 years with Jerry active as the City Administrator for most of 37 years.

Jerry & Betty with Jack & Pam Frucci

Surffin' Betty. What fun!

Betty began working for J.L. Hudson, first downtown and then at Northland in the display department. She then moved to her job as a commercial artist with Parish Publications. Her artistic talents included home decorating, expert calligraphy, illustrator of books, designer of awards and notices, and a vast amount of artwork for the city and groups she associated with. She also designed Lathrup's city seal and flag and for more than 10 years designed and printed the weekly church bulletins for Calvary Lutheran Church. She was a warm and natural leader her whole life. Betty was elected president of her college sorority, Kappa Delta. She was also a member for over 50 years of the Lathrup Village Women's Club with the role of president for a record of 16 years over this time and until the very end. She ran the Meals on Wheels Program for the Women's club for many years.

Betty and Jerry continued to travel the world with many visits to England and back to Japan 3 times, ocean cruises (38), Egypt, Australia, South Pacific, Italy, Russia, D Day Remembrance Trip, Alaska adventures, Panama Canal and annually Hawaii and Siesta Key, Florida.

Loving gardening, she naturally followed Jerry's interest in beautification. Jerry was treasurer of the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan for 45 years and finished as president. Betty was vice-president. For the 50th anniversary, Betty designed the anniversary plate. On a state-wide basis, they both served as president of Keep Michigan Beautiful. For all her work in KMB, Betty was recently presented the Wally Bronner 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award.

All-in-all, a remarkable woman, a caring person, genuinely friendly to all she touched. She and Jerry were consummate social hosts and always enjoyed the company of good friends. Her life-long friends and family will remember her as a wonderful wife, mother, and exceptional person. Memorials may be made to the Keep Michigan Beautiful Foundation and to Eversight (Michigan Eye Bank) where she donated her eyes to this program.

IT'S SPRINGTIME - TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT YOUR ISA NOMINEE!"

It's time for the 2018 Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan Individual Service Award!! We invite all BCSEM member communities to nominate their outstanding volunteer for the 2018 BCSEM Individual Service Awards!

The BCSEM Individual Service Awards recognize the achievements of volunteers who devote their time and energy in engaging their respective communities in their love of gardening and community beautification.

Our ISA nominees are judged by the following criteria: 1) longevity as a volunteer; 2) scope of their volunteer activities; 3) leadership demonstrated during their volunteer activities; 4) recognitions, proclamations, and awards received; and 5) certifications and credentialing. The BCSEM ISA Awards Committee has conferred two levels of awards over the past 2 years: the Individual Service Award (ISA) for the one identified outstanding community beautification volunteer nominee, and the Distinguished Service Award for all other identified high-community-value beautification volunteer nominees. This year, the ISA and DSA awards will be presented at the BCSEM Autumn Quarterly Meeting hosted by the City of Inkster on September 20, 2018.

It is our hope as an organization that these high-level recognitions will engage more residents in all of our communities in beautification volunteerism for the greater public good. BCSEM wants to thank all of our member communities for their partnership, for their collective efforts in beautifying their communities, and for their stewardship of our precious environment!

To nominate an outstanding individual volunteer in your community, please visit the BCSEM web site at: http://bcsem.org. Mouse over the "Community" tab, and a drop-down menu will appear. Mouse down to the "BCSEM Forms" and then over to the "ISA Nomination Form". Click on the ISA Nomination Form and print it. Instructions are on the form. EMAIL your nomination to the BCSEM Awards Committee at: isa_admin@bcsem.org. All nomination forms and background supporting documentation must be received by July 31, 2018 to be considered. Thanks and Good Luck to all nominees!

"Celebrate Spring" Friends

Kathleen Klein, Colleen Gimple, Joanne Welihan, Audra D. Carson, Amy McIntire, Jim Keehn & Lois Adams