

BEAUTIFICATION COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Area 1 of Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc.

Quarterly Meetings 2017-2018

March 16 Novi...SEE PAGE 3!!!

June 15 Grosse Ile

September 21 Detroit
GardenCenter

December 14 Dearborn

March 2018 Chesterfield
Township

If you are thinking about having a quarterly meeting BCSEM is here to set you up for success! At our website we have a list of "to dos", expense recap, and even a format for an agenda, check it out and have some fun showcasing your community!!

April 12 KMB Celebrates Spring at Gazebo Banquet Center in Warren, Michigan (see page 4 for details)

Special thank you to Barbara Miller for beautiful newsletters last year!!

BCSEM History Fun Facts

11/18/76 The Council felt that the cost of Quarterly Meeting luncheons should not exceed \$5.00.

1/17/74 The printing of a quarterly newsletter was started. Can you believe it's been 43 years ago!

The Goal of the BCSEM is:

To make every community a cleaner, healthier, safer, more beautiful place in which to live, work and play; and thereby, develop a sense of civic pride and citizen responsibility.



Welcome John Darin, President BCSEM

As I enter this new year as your newly-elected President of the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan, I am humbled by the opportunity to continue to move BCSEM forward. I am struck by our organization's origins and history, and its longevity. I was a relatively new member when I attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2013. But that meeting provided the lens by which I was able to see the many connections we maintain as an organization. From a top-down org chart perspective, inspiration, leadership, and support flows down from the Federal level (Keep America Beautiful) to the State level (Keep Michigan Beautiful) to the Regional level (BCSEM) to the local level (Municipal Beautification organizations). BCSEM is the District 1 Chartered Affiliate of KMB, and, as such, is by far the largest regional beautification group in the State of Michigan with over 59 members.

But I know that the opposite paradigm is also true. Inspiration, leadership, and support also flow UP from the local community level. That's where the grassroots action is, where the "rubber hits the road". BCSEM prides itself in identifying and bonding with its grassroots membership, on both municipal and individual levels. BCSEM would not be an organization at all if it were not for our members. I am making it an organizational priority over the course of this year to continue to reach out to our regional communities, engage with them, and encourage their active membership in BCSEM.

We have very strong ties to the Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB) organization, with over two-thirds of the 2017 KMB leadership, Executive Committee, Members-At-Large, & Board of Directors, hailing from our tri-county area. Two-way communications with our parent organization is good, and will continue to strengthen as we continue to promote and publicize our member community's numerous beautification activities in Southeastern Michigan.

The bottom line is, the more members BCSEM has, the better leverage we have in communicating our visions for action. We cannot always get everything accomplished at a local level, whether it be a need for funding, volunteer resources, or other needs. It is always best to build as many partnerships as we can, all the while continuing to build on our strengths - you, our members. I am committed to increasing our municipal memberships in 2017 throughout the non-member SEMCOG region, a total of 7 counties officially comprising Southeastern Michigan. That means more penetration in SE MI counties where we have members (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair), and new penetration in the counties where we are seeking our first members (Livingston, Monroe, & Washtenaw).

But, WE NEED YOUR HELP! If your neighboring communities are not yet members, pass along a BCSEM Membership Application and encourage them to join us! Invite your neighbors to a Quarterly Meeting this year. I am offering to lend my assistance to this effort by speaking with a non-member community beautification representative directly, attending one of their meetings, or in other suitable ways. Our Membership Application can be found on-line at www.bcsem.org/bcsemapplication.pdf.

As I've stated before, BCSEM is your organization, responsive to your needs and interests. Our success as an organization depends entirely on continued engagement of our member communities, and continuing to engage new communities in our organization. Thank you very much for your continued support for beautification efforts and volunteerism of all forms, and thank you all again, collectively, for your tireless support of BCSEM! A HUGE thank you to Past President Pat Deck for her hard work and outstanding leadership!



Midwest Bee is Placed on Endangered Species List

The rusty patched bumblebee was named to the endangered species list Tuesday, January 12, 2017, the first bee species in the continental U.S. to receive that designation amid widespread bee losses in the past two decades.

A prodigious pollinator, the rusty patched bumblebee has disappeared from much of its range on the prairies and grasslands of the Upper Midwest and Northeast. Its population has crashed by 87% since the late 1990s, according to federal officials, putting it on the brink of extinction.

“Pollinators are small but mighty parts of the natural mechanism that sustains us and our world,” said Tom Melius, Midwest Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which made the designation. “Listing the bee as endangered will help us mobilize partners and focus resources on finding ways right now to stop the decline”.

The Fish and Wildlife Service blamed several factors on the bee’s decline, including loss of habitat, parasites, disease and pesticides. Mr. Melius said people should plant native flowers, even in small urban plots, and limit the use of pesticides, to help the bee recover. Experts said the listing could affect the approval process for some construction sites and other land use.

The rusty patched bumblebee emerges early in spring and is one of the last bees to go into hibernation in the fall. Over that long season, it requires a constant supply of flowers.

Unlike honeybee colonies, which survive the winter, the rusty patched bumblebee starts nearly from scratch each year. Only the queen survives the winter, and she reemerges in the spring to lay eggs fertilized the prior fall. By Kris Maher

“Hey! You Can’t Split That!”

What I enjoy most about gardening is the relaxation it brings. And what can be more relaxing than saving money by splitting my plants in the fall. It means I don’t have to take the time to drive to the nursery, increasing my carbon footprint (spending money on gas or squandering my lease car miles!), searching for the exact plant and spending money to purchase it.

But if you check the tag that comes with most plants these days from Monrovia or Proven Winners among others, you will see the plant variety followed by ™ or ® and a message “Asexual reproduction of plant protected by the Plant Patent Act is prohibited”. The message is at the bottom of the tag which is normally buried in the pot’s soil.

This means that you cannot divide this plant by the rooting of cuttings, by layering, budding, grafting, inarching, etc.- any means of

reproducing that plant that doesn’t involve creating a seed.

The Plant Patent Act of 1930 (enacted on 1930-06-17 as Title III of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff, ch. 497, 46 Stat. 703, codified as 35 U.S.C. Ch. 15) is a United States federal law spurred by the work of Luther Burbank, states:

In the case of a plant patent, the grant shall include the right to exclude others from asexually reproducing the plant, and from using, offering for sale, or selling the plant so reproduced, or

any of its parts, throughout the United States, or from importing the plant so reproduced, or any parts thereof, into the United States.

So you could split the plant and throw away part of it, but you cannot use, offer for sale or sell the split portion. Oops. I’ll plead the fifth amendment at this time, but “Oops”. In one article I found while searching this subject was a lesson on how to root Calibrachoa cuttings with this caveat: “Note that the entire Calibrachoa “Million Bells” line of hybrid cultivars is patented, and it is illegal to propagate patented plants.” The article then goes on to describe the process.

A plant patent is good for twenty years after which period you may split the plant legally. It’s doubtful whether the corporate growers or hybridists would seek legal action against a hobbyist, but you are in violation of a law. Use this as a guideline when you host plant sales, I

know it may be hard to police the plants you acquire, but you don’t want to risk your beautification committee’s good standing with your municipality.

By Jim Keehn

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How do you do your Annual Home and Business Beautification Awards???

The seeds of the Wyandotte Commission's were planted in 2007. The vision was to recognize those residents and businesses of Wyandotte who have succeeded in displaying special care and beauty in their landscaping and in their home's or business's appearance. The nominated residential and business properties are rated on a scale of 1 to 5, based on color, texture, creative design, attention to planting and variety, hardscape elements, and garden bed maintenance. This year, the 2016 Beautification Award winners were fabulous, with 17 residential properties and 2 businesses being awarded. The actual awards are multiple: a colorful static cling decal, suitable for posting proudly on your front window or front entry door; a beautiful Beautification Award Certificate, suitable for framing; and an absolutely wonderful lawn sign with original art work entitled "Poppy" by a local artist, Ms. Karen Petry. These lawn signs are a huge hit, and are displayed proudly by the award winners. By John Darin

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN???
Beautification Award Winner Sign!! We want to see what your community is doing!!
Please submit pictures to tracylyon2004@yahoo.com



NOVI QUARTERLY MEETING...AN EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!!

The March 16 quarterly meeting will be hosted by the City of Novi Beautification Commission at the Novi Civic Center from 10am-2pm.

While Novi is well-known for its shopping opportunities, it is also blessed with a plethora of natural features that make it a great place to live, work and visit. For example, did you know that Novi has been a Tree City USA for 25 straight years? The City owns approximately 39,000 trees in its 11 parks - totaling 1,333 acres - and along public roads. Add in the numerous trees in subdivisions' private parks and regulated woodlands and wetlands, and you have a pretty significant urban forest!



In addition to that, the City is blessed to have approximately 2,800 acres of wetland, 109 miles of waterways and most of Walled Lake within its boundaries. All of these provide homes and habitat to a range of wildlife, and add places of interest and respite for our residents and visitors.

Last December, Novi Mayor Bob Gatt took the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge as Novi's sign of support for the Monarch Butterfly. In support of that pledge, this coming year the city's 800-square-foot Monarch Waystation (created and maintained by the Novi Beautification Commission) will be roughly quadrupled in size with a butterfly mix seed planting that was planted last fall in a formerly weedy "wildflower" area adjacent to the Waystation.

In addition to that effort, the City is converting another half-acre of weedy area and lawn in Ella Mae Power Park to a butterfly-friendly short prairie, and is planting a large number of butterfly-supporting plants in the large parking lot islands south of the Civic Center.

While we won't have any butterflies to show you at our meeting, we will be welcomed to the city by City Manager,

Pete Auger and Farm Manager, Roy Prentice of the Michigan State University Tollgate Education Center and Farm. Roy

will tell you the ins and outs of maple syrup creation. To finish our program, Rick Meader, Landscape Architect for the City, will give you some tips about bringing more life to your garden.

Hope to see you the day before St. Patrick's Day! By Rick Meader



YES, you do get one newsletter with your membership!! However, if members of your Beautification Council would like their own copy sent directly to them, we can do that! Just send the form and check for \$5.00 (year subscription) to Dorothy Wood. Form can be found at . <http://www.bcsem.org/bcsemsubscription.pdf> just print up the form and send it in with your check. There will also be sign up available at quarterly meetings.

- President:**
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- Past President:**
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- 1st Vice President:**
Betty Stone
- 2nd Vice President:**
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- Travel Trophy:**
Lois Adams
- Raffle:**
Henrietta Baczewski
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***Traveller's Corner
Botanic Garden at
Historic Barns Park
Traverse City, MI***

The sprawling new Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park is on the grounds of the Grand Traverse Commons, a former state mental asylum built in the late 19th century. It is taking shape around what was once the asylum's farm, incorporating existing meadows, hillsides, and abandoned buildings - - including a pair of massive Victorian barns.

At its peak, the asylum housed as many as 3,000 patients and its huge farm, on which many of them found work, made the institution self-supporting.

About half of the garden's acreage will remain in a natural state, and the remainder will include

a number of themed gardens: a walled garden featuring Michigan wildflowers, a picnic area, and considering it's history, it is organized as a series of 19 interlocking "healing gardens".

The centerpiece of the year-round garden is its Visitor Center, a former granary dating to 1886 now repurposed into a state-of-art meeting and reception center area surrounded by pools, waterfall, outdoor pavillion, and generous plantings of native shrubs and perennials.



Travel around the 26 acre grounds can be done in a wagon pulled by a farm tractor

This is a great family visit opportunity. Guides are available and very

knowledgeable. Visit their website at thebotanicgarden.org to find out more!
By Regina Gersch



***Celebrate Spring
with KMB!!***

Each Spring, KMB hosts a "Celebrate Spring" event to kick off Michigan Clean-Up Days (April 1-May 31). this year the event will be held April 12 at the Gazebo Banquet Center in Warren, Michigan. The speakers will be: Dan Welihan, photographer, "Capturing the Beauty of Michigan" and Jan Bliss, gardener and founder of, "Two Women and a Hoe". We encourage all BCSEM members to attend this very special event. For info contact Pat Deck or visit the website at KeepMichiganBeautiful.org By Pat Deck

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