

KMB

Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc.

2011

Award Winners

Friday, October 21, 2011

Meijer Gardens

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Celebrating 49 Years of Service to Michigan
(1962 – 2011)

Awards Program

Members of KMB are often asked about the annual Award Program and what it entails. There is no fee to submit a nomination. The kinds of projects that are considered are consistent with the goals and objectives of KMB: that is, all exterior projects that involve environmental clean up, historical preservation, site beautification and restoration, and environmental educational programs for children and adults. Four awards are given: the President Plaque, the Michigan Plaque, the Distinguished Service Award and the Award of Merit. Anyone, including the general public, can nominate a project, program or individual for an award.

Five classifications of nominees are considered: 1. City, County and State entries
2. Community Groups 3. Youth - Schools and Clubs 4. Business or Industry 5. Individuals

KMB does not judge private residences or interior projects. Nominations must be located in the State of Michigan and not previously nominated unless it is for an unrelated project. The selection committee is made up of five or members and are chosen from the Board of Directors.

Judging is done on presentation and content. Entries are asked to be placed in a folder and not a large notebook because some years more than 50 entries are received and that many notebooks are difficult to handle. Pictures must be mounted on paper and identified for safekeeping and easier deliberation by the judges. The answers to the questions on the nomination form are read because that is what truly describes the entry and forms the criteria for judgment. The description of the project by the nominee is also carefully considered, but sometimes edited. Supporting material such as news articles or letters are considered; however, some entries can contain too much information. And last, but not least, it is noted on the form that neatness counts. It is always a plus to submit a concise, attractive entry.

Again, KMB's four awards are 1. The **President Plaque** is our highest award. It is given to an exceptional program, project or person exemplifying the goals of KMB. It is not always the biggest or most expensive program, but is usually unique, affects a number of people and is often largely volunteer in nature. 2. The **Michigan Plaque** is the second place award given for outstanding effort by a group or an individual in furthering the goals of KMB. 3. The **Distinguished Service Award** rewards those who have contributed to the beauty and clean environment of our state by varied programs and activities. 4. The **Award of Merit** is an acknowledgment of a smaller project or activity, but one KMB finds worthy of recognition.

THE AWARD OF MERIT

Floyd Maday
Frankenmuth

Floyd Maday has been in the employ of Diversified Physical Therapy for the past 16 years as facilities manager. His care and loving attention for the building, especially the landscaping, has been a source of public comment and admiration. The flower beds of geraniums, roses and perennials create an array of blooms throughout spring, summer and fall. The plain exterior of the building, brightened by its plantings, offers a vision of encouragement for the clients of physical therapy when they need it most. All who pass by are impressed by the beautiful floral displays.

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PLAQUE

The City of Sterling Heights "SHINE" Program Sterling Heights

The SHINE (Sterling Heights Initiative for Neighborhood Excellence) program is aimed at protecting property values by encouraging all residents to maintain the exterior of their homes. SHINE staff work with volunteers to help those residents who cannot maintain their property due to a physical or age related condition. Volunteers mow, weed, paint, trim bushes, plant grass, flowers and do other exterior work to bring homes up to the high standards of Sterling Heights. This free program is building community spirit among residents with neighbors helping neighbors.

The First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth Plymouth "Adopt-A-Bed"

When an addition was built on to the church in 2004, it left the church grounds in a sad state. Church members Roger Cromwell and Howard Danzer had the idea of sectioning off planting areas and recruiting other members to "Adopt-A-Bed". Most of the original members who were designers and planters have continued through the years. The church now enjoys perennials that bloom through three seasons with annuals for additional color. This year there are 19 individuals and families who tend the flower beds. The church is a lovely setting for weddings with its well maintained and lovely landscaping,

Blessed Trinity Catholic Cemetery Frankenmuth

In the spring of 2008, a feasibility study was done for the construction of a cemetery on Blessed Trinity Church property. In the previous 10 years there were 103 funerals celebrated at Blessed Trinity, with all burials or cremains being placed in other places. With the increased use of cremation, three columbariums with 96 niches for cremains were included in the project along with 500 burial sites. The land area would be north of the existing church and would need to be regraded, have drains, water hydrants, and an irrigation system installed. The landscaping was designed to reflect the complete circle of life from birth to death.

Power Elementary School Nature Club Farmington Hills

The Nature Club combined nature and creative writing. 1. Members wrote about nature to express feelings and improve writing. 2. Earth Day Celebration - Raised awareness of animal habitats by raising funds to adopt 4 habitats and made bird feeders to hang in the gardens. 3. Writing on the Walk - Students wrote poetry with chalk on the school front sidewalks and read the poems aloud. 4. Students created Kovar's Korner, a garden to thank departing Principal Bob Kovar for his dedication to the school and gardens. 5. Flanders Shade Garden• the members moved plants and bulbs from a school before demolition, so the plants could continue to grow as the students do.

Clare Adamus Maybury Elementary School, Detroit

Clare Adamus completed her yearlong teaching internship at Maybury Elementary School in southwest Detroit during the 2010-2011 school year through Michigan State University. She found that her students had an interest in recycling, although Detroit lacks curbside pickup. She then researched programs and implemented a sustainable school wide paper recycling program through the help of Ron Covert of Covert Shredding. To increase students' knowledge, she created language arts and science units about recycling, protecting the planet and becoming empowered individuals. Clare has transformed the school community with her dedicated, organized teaching about recycling.

John Michael McNamee Grosse Pointe Woods

John McNamee, an Eagle Scout, organized 68 volunteers for an environmental project at Algonac State Park on June 12, 2011. Through his efforts, 68 garbage bags, over 1500 pounds, of Garlic Mustard were removed. Garlic Mustard is an invasive species of plant that crowds out native Michigan plants on the forest floor. In coordinating the project, John assigned tasks to the volunteers and divided them into smaller work groups with leaders for efficiency. He also provided walkie talkies for safety and communication. This beneficial project will increase annual DNR grant money for similar projects next year.

THE MICHIGAN PLAQUE

[Rochester Hills Public Library](#) [Rochester Hills](#)

The public garden adjacent to the Rochester Hills Library provides year round beautiful and interesting views from the library as well as providing a quiet respite along the Paint Creek Trail for bicyclists and walkers. Initially the plantings were funded in 1992 by the Rochester Branch -WNF&G, and are now being maintained by volunteer Master Gardener Karen Sadovsky and other volunteers including Boy Scout troops. The garden has been enhanced with sculpture donated by Dick and Robyn Moore, a flagstone path installed by Joe Stouffer as part of his Eagle Scout project and a butterfly garden that has been developed.

[Village of St. Charles Lumberjack Park](#) [St. Charles](#)

The Lumberjack Park Water Feature began in 2002 with a local landscaper's idea at a Beautification Day event. The Village council approved the project; the D.P.W. with two area landscapers obtained 150 tons of farmers' field stone to create the falls. Water from the Bad River was lifted up 7 feet by two pumps to the top of the Feature; it then flows back 140 feet in length through a series of 6 waterfalls, with ponds and rapids between the falls, to the river. Completed in 2009, the waterfalls are a popular photo area for visitors plus there is a view of a water fountain in the river that shoots 20 feet in the air!

[City of Farmington Hills](#) ["Revitalization of Farmington Hills City Hall"](#)

The renovation /addition of the city hall was awarded a Leed® Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council for its sustainable building practices. The use of pervious pavement, solar panels, heat pumps and a green roof are examples of environmental responsibility and energy efficiency. After the striking new building opened in 2010, it hosted a Green Expo featuring "eco-friendly" family fun emphasizing environmental awareness, sustainability and energy efficiency. Recycling at city hall uses the LEED standard of diversified dumpster use, separating various waste materials. Inside and outside, the new city hall is Green building showcase.

[Central Michigan Correctional Facility](#) [St. Louis / Pine River,](#)

Central Michigan Correctional Facility Horticultural Program has the primary goal of giving its participants the ability, know how and confidence to re-enter society with the skills to obtain and hold employment in the horticultural field. It helps build a senses of accomplishment and self esteem with each seed that grows to form beautiful flower and vegetable gardens. CMCF donates these vegetables to its own Food Service and gives 17,000 pounds away to food pantries, soup kitchens and schools. They donate over 300 flats of flowers and vegetable plants to area communities to assist in teaching others to grow their own food and enhance their environment.

[City of Novi - Fuerst Park](#) [Novi](#)

Final touches are being made at Fuerst Park, Novi's new 9 acre park. Adjacent to the new Novi Public Library, the park is a gateway to the entire Civic Center campus. The Fuerst family stipulated that the land be used for public purposes when they sold it. Fuerst Park features pleasant walkways, new lighting, statue displays, and an open air amphitheater. Two formal gardens now replace two original barns. With many park benches and complete WIFI accessibility, the park is very popular with residents and visitors. Regular events include a Farmers Market, puppet shows, weekly movies and the Sizzling Summer Music and Art Series.

[Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve Garden Guild](#) [Rochester](#)

The Rochester Community Garden is a joint effort between the City of Rochester Hills and Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve. The project took an underused park with an open field and turned it into a thriving garden. Residents are able to rent small raised beds where they can grow various fruits and vegetables in an organic, community setting. The garden has had enormous support from the community and is largely a volunteer driven effort. The City and Dinosaur Hill look forward to expanding the number of beds in the future and will further develop the garden as a community meeting space and producer of quality food for residents and food bank programs.

[Marshall Area Garden Club](#) [Marshall](#)

The Marshall Area Garden Club, founded in 1987, currently has 125 members. Home and community beautification is a major objective. The club has developed and maintains several very visible public projects; most recently, the design and development of new landscaping for the historic Marshall Post Office. Also in 2011, the club completed a multi year American Liberty Elm tree planting project. From 2009 to 2011, 65 trees were planted on public property. The club sponsors a fund raising annual "Welcome to My Garden Tour", as well as landscaping projects on City street medians and West entryway, Carver Park Garden, Fountain Circle flower beds and the Library Sculpture Garden.

[ARISE Detroit](#) [City of Detroit](#)

Neighborhoods Day, since 1966, an annual day long, city wide showcase of community service events and activities, highlights the great work done across Detroit on a daily basis. It aims to reconnect people and neighborhoods to redevelop and sustain a neighborly, helpful spirit among Detroiters. ARISE Detroit organizes, coordinates and promotes Neighborhoods Day by registering organizations, churches, schools, block clubs and small businesses as official locations where events (175 in 2011) such as community parades, home improvement activities, back-to-school youth rallies and clean-ups took place. Thousands of volunteers this year were involved as Neighborhoods Day continues to grow and build a great sense of community!

[Righteous Mission 2011](#) [Clarkston](#)

In the summer of 2011, hundreds of volunteers from Clarkston United Methodist Church took part in the "Righteous Mission project". The volunteers partnered with Grace Centers of Hope (GCH) in downtown Pontiac and focused their money and energy on two major projects. The first was to build an entire outdoor playground so the Day Care Center run by GCH could become state licensed. The second part of the project was to build a 220 foot brick walkway, complete with a retaining wall, benches and a mini amphitheater. This walkway connects Grace Gospel Fellowship Church and Little Grace Village, and sits adjacent to the neighborhood playground.

[SEED Wayne](#) [Detroit](#)

SEED Wayne is a volunteer Wayne State University (WSU) organization based in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. Through students, faculty and community organizations, SEED Wayne is dedicated to building sustainable food systems at WSU and in Detroit neighborhoods. Projects include campus gardens, a roof top garden with rain barrels., Detroit FRESH - the Healthy Corner Stores Project, farm-to-cafeteria events and cafeteria composting; the Capuchin Soup kitchen is also supported. Students learn through hands on projects while the WSU campus is beautified and the core functions of WSU in teaching, engagement, research, student leadership and involvement are also embraced.

[MSU Surplus Store & Recycling Center](#) [East Lansing](#)

The Michigan State University Surplus Store and Recycling Center is three functions (property disposition, recycling collection and waste management) under one roof. It performs and oversees MSU's commitment to the three Rs: Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. Waste and consumption reduction is achieved through education and marketing; property and material reuse is attained by repurposing and reselling at the MSU Surplus Store; and commodity recycling is the result of using the expanding services of MSU recycling. The new facility combines these three Rs to bring about a sustainable campus and community. An education center also provides MSU faculty, students and K-12 grades the opportunity to learn about reuse, recycling and life cycle assessment.

[South Street Consignment](#) [Ortonville](#)

Rob and Cathy Moran decided in 2005 to restore an 1859 Italianate home in Ortonville to its original grandeur to use as their consignment shop. One of the oldest homes in town, it was built by village founder, Amos Orton. Through the years, it became the home and clinic of the village doctor. Now, after using over 15 gallons of paint on the house, Rob Moran has also tuck pointed the stonewall foundation, replaced crumbling chimneys, front walk, porches and steps. Brackets and storm windows were made to blend with the century old structure. Their work was completed in 2009. Today, the lovely home of their South Street Consignment shop is enjoyed by the whole community.

Horse Creek Daylily Farm

Alma

In the fall of 2004, Doug and Laurie Perry purchased ten acres of rolling fields and dense woods along Horse Creek. They dreamed about their land usage and found an opportunity in 2005 when asked if they would like to purchase large daylily clumps. Laurie and her aunt Sally Eichorn formed a plan to create a daylily farm where hybrid plants could be sold. Two acres were cleared and prepared; walking paths and flower beds were installed. 100 plants were separated into 2,000 "fans" that were planted in 2005. By 2007, the Perrys, with family members, had created a special daylily garden sales experience for the public plus beautiful surroundings with trees and plantings, outstanding boulders from the UP and abundant wildlife to see and enjoy.

Riverview of Frankenmuth, Inc.

Frankenmuth

Riverview of Frankenmuth, Inc., owned by Jerry and Bev Kabat, has always had its focus on offering "fun activities" for visitors and residents along the banks of the beautiful Cass River in Frankenmuth. A recent revitalization of their property to accommodate this goal involved a total waterfront renovation including the construction of a building, docks, decks, and walkways. The entire property presently offers River Cruises, Aqua Cycle Rentals, Wine and Chocolate Tastings, Retail Sales and a respite for Frankenmuth visitors and residents to enjoy the peaceful surroundings and scenic views along the banks of the Cass River.

DTE Energy's Mt. Pleasant Service Center

Mt. Pleasant

All of the open space at DTE Energy's Mt. Pleasant Service Center was at one time a mowed lawn with very little ecological value. Today the service center is a Wildlife Habitat Council-certified wildlife site and its Oak Savannah project provides natural habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Over 6,000 individual native plant plugs were planted, along with Oak and White Pine trees. Bird houses, feeders, brush piles and bat boxes were installed to encourage wildlife. Trails through the area invite strolling on the site, which has become an oasis for butterflies, birds, small animals and people.

Petals on Ashmun

Sault Ste. Marie

In a very short time, after purchasing the 100 year old florist property, Nancy Wilson has created a pleasant garden center where customers and friends may enjoy the beauty of nature in Sault Ste. Marie. Many people come to walk through the gardens taking pictures; some artists even sit and are inspired to paint the gardens. Her business, Petals on Ashmun, is located on a major thoroughfare where the outstanding gardens offer a great deal of curb appeal to the community. The grounds consist of both annual and perennial planting displays along with flowering shrubs and trees. Nancy is always willing to share her gardening "secrets" and assist with creating one's own personal haven.

Teri Landis

Harrison Township

As event coordinator for Harrison Township's Nautical Coast Clean-Up, Teri Landis has almost single-handedly organized a small army of volunteers whose sole purpose one day a year is lakefront clean-up. On a shoestring budget of \$100 she manages to come up with three 30 yard dumpsters, breakfast and lunch for her hungry mob, tools needed to get the job done, entertainment and commemorative t-shirts. She accomplishes this by pounding the pavement and knocking on doors soliciting donations from area businesses. This year the culmination of her tireless efforts resulted in the removal of over 23 tons, that's 46,000+ pounds of debris from L'Anse Creuse Bay, Lake St. Clair, Michigan

THE PRESIDENT'S PLAQUE

City of Wixom - Village Center Area

Wixom

At the beginning of the 20th century, Wixom was a growing agricultural community with a thriving downtown. The downtown was lost, however, when a devastating fire burned through the city in the 1920's. In 1998, community leaders recognized the need for a community focal point; their vision resulted in the Village Center Area, (VCA), in 2004. A fallow farm field and blighted area have emerged as a much-used, attractive family oriented downtown with shopping and dining, a performance plaza and gazebo, a jetted reflecting pond and streetscape amenities. The VCA is the site of Concerts in the Park, Farmer's Market, movies and many civic events.

[Harrison Twp. Environmental Cmte. 2011 Clean Up](#) [Harrison Township](#)

Harrison Township is truly blessed to live on the shores of Lake St. Clair, part of the "connection" in the Great Lakes waterway system. Some enjoyable "Sea Treasures" are the Parade of Lights in August, world class fishing or sights of ships from all over the world. Other "Sea Treasures" are not as nice: discarded bottles and cans, floating trees, dead fish and rotting vegetation. Because of these items, the Harrison Township - Boat Town Nautical Coast Clean Up began in 2006. Now an annual event, this year over 100 volunteers completed the clean up during a torrential storm but managed to collect and dispose of 23 plus tons of debris. Community cooperation, cohesiveness and environmental enhancement resulted.

[Oakland County International Airport](#) [Waterford](#)

The beautiful new Oakland County International Airport, a state of the art "green" terminal, was dedicated in August, 2011. Replacing a 50 year old structure, the new LEED® certified building is an impressive air gateway to Oakland County. LEED® stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, shown in solar water heating, wind electricity generation and even the reuse of the original site and basement. A "living wall" of green exotic plants is watered by collected rainwater. Extensive landscaping was done onsite and along the entrance parkway. It is a wonderful first impression of Michigan for air travelers.

[McGulpin Point Lighthouse](#) [Emmet County, Mackinaw City](#)

McGulpin Point Lighthouse land was settled in 1761 by Patrick McGulpin, though its history dates back centuries as an important site to natives and early settlers. The lighthouse was built in 1869 to meet the needs of increasing vessel traffic through the straits of Mackinac. The keeper's dwelling and tower were constructed of Cream City brick; the tower is located in the northwest corner. McGulpin Lighthouse was decommissioned in 1906 and went into private ownership. Emmet County purchased the building, its 10.5 acre site and 400 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline in 2008. Restorations and upgrades have beautified both the exterior and interior, plus the surrounding grounds and trails. The lighthouse is open to the public at no charge.

[City of Gibraltar Municipal Complex](#) [Gibraltar](#)

In 2003, the City of Gibraltar began construction of a new municipal complex which replaced deteriorating facilities located at three different sites. Construction took approximately one year. Today, the Municipal Complex is a visually stunning building with a towering lighthouse. The complex was built with a nautical theme in keeping with the city's history and riverside location. Beautiful landscaping complements the structure and is maintained by the Gibraltar Beautification Commission. The new building combines the offices of city administration, the police department and the Department of Public Works. The municipal building meets the current and future needs of the city and offers numerous groups a pleasant place to hold meetings.

[Holland in Bloom](#) [Holland](#)

Holland in Bloom (HIB) was formed to prepare the City of Holland for its entry in the Keep America in Bloom competition for 2011. The HIB effort not only recognized the significant physical attributes of the community through the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental enhancements, but also showcased its civic volunteer commitment and pride. The AIB competition promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement; this theme was evident throughout Holland in the spring and summer of 2011. Such sites as Cappon House, Van Raalte Farm and Windows on the Waterfront were areas where community members, private citizens and business owners joined to enhance plantings throughout the city.

[Entranceways Initiative Task Force](#) [Midland](#)

Entranceways are a vital link to the outside world and offer first and lasting impressions of the community. While the idea to improve Midland's entranceways began years ago, the Entranceways Initiative was formed in 2001 in response to the Midland Area Community Foundation's Visioning Process. Two brochures and nine individual beautification Projects were identified and developed. The completed projects have improved the function and aesthetics of the community. They have been vital in making Midland a destination that can attract and retain talented people as well as business and industry.

Green Place Detroit

Detroit

Green Place Detroit is a non-profit organization focused on connecting middle and high school students with the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the community through its Urban Garden and EcoHouse projects. The first phase is the Urban Garden project where Green Place Detroit volunteers are working with students from the Cesar Chavez Academy to design, plant and maintain a community urban garden. The project was developed with the intent of fostering community ownership, student pride in the neighborhood and an eco-friendly option for seasonal agricultural growth and study by the students. Their motto: "Plant a Garden - Build a House - Inspire a Mind - Change the World" says it all.

Marquette Roundabout - M.B.R.C.

Marquette

A dangerous intersection of US 41 and Front Street in Marquette was improved with an MDOT roundabout in 2010. It linked two sections of "Petunia Pandemonium", an award winning planting by the Marquette Beautification and Restoration Committee (MBRC). The annual planting project began 23 years ago and extends almost a mile. The petunia planting is MBRC's Adopt-A-Highway project at Marquette's southern gateway. The committee spent \$11,000 for an irrigation system while it plants and maintains the new roundabout and the adjacent grassy area. Thousands of bulbs and 48 flats of annuals were planted...is it any wonder the many volunteers call the beautiful sight "Roundabout Razzmatazz"?

Gibraltar Beautification Comm. Projects

Gibraltar

The City of Gibraltar is on the Detroit River and is comprised of canals and wetlands nestled between the Lake Erie Metropark and the International Wildlife Refuge in Humbug Marsh. The Gibraltar Beautification Commission takes on several projects each year improving a few of the major corners and intersections. They plant and maintain the gardens at the new Municipal Complex and the Community Center. They also water all of the planted areas throughout the city. Benches were installed with areas of planting. A bike path connecting the Metro Park with the Wildlife Center was also also planted. Banners were purchased and installed at 3 city entrances. The commission also serves at holiday civic events, the annual classic car show and Clean Up Day.

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Grand Rapids

The Friends of Grand Rapids Parks is an independent, citizen led, nonprofit enterprise founded in 2008 to protect, enhance and expand parks and public spaces. This mission is achieved by mobilizing volunteers, generating private resources, and raising awareness about issues impacting green space. There are nearly 1,900 acres of "parkland" in the city limits with waterways, natural resources, recreational facilities and historic sites. Our goal is to help Grand Rapids rebuild and sustain an exceptional system of parks and public spaces and, by extension, increase home values, improve citizen health, safeguard air and water quality and strengthen the community's ability to attract and retain residents, businesses and visitors.

Chippewa Valley High School

Clinton Township

In 2011, Chippewa Valley High School, already a "Green" school, achieved the highest designation and became an "Evergreen" school. To achieve this, Principal Dr. Jerry Davisson established "Team Green" consisting of Andy Kohl, Tara Mona, Jason Youngblood, Karen Milczynski, and Coordinator Kevin Bai. The team needed activities beyond their original "green" projects. Team Green added an endangered species adoption, household battery recycling and an electronic waste recycling drive. The team implemented an energy-savings program and taught a unit about alternative energy. Not only did the Chippewa Valley High School become an Evergreen School, students gained an increased awareness of their school environment.

Four Star Greenhouse Display Gardens

Carleton

Over 20 in ground landscape beds and hundreds of hanging baskets and containers feature the newest Proven Winners® and Proven Selections® plants as well as favorite existing varieties. A new perennial bed was added in 2011 showcasing the new Proven Winners® perennial collection made possible through the collaboration with Walters Gardens, the largest perennial producer in North America. The Proven Winners® plant brand has become the number one plant brand by introducing the best, most unique, highest performing plants for landscapes and gardens. Four Star Display Gardens are open to both the public and industry professionals during the summer months.

[Cobblestone Manor](#)

[Auburn Hills](#)

As one of only forty remaining cobblestone structures in Michigan, this historic property was built in 1840 as a family farmhouse. Remaining in the original family for approximately 100 years, it was divided into and used as three apartments from the 1940's until 1997. As the surrounding area became commercial, the current owners converted the building into a luxury Bed and Breakfast in an attempt to preserve it. A large addition was built and the original farmhouse was renovated. It now includes ten bedrooms with private baths, whirlpool tubs and fireplaces. An intimate wedding chapel and a charming wedding garden have been added. A screened gazebo and a large fountain grace the grounds. Cobblestone manner has been beautifully preserved!

[City of Wyandotte – Purple Heart Memorial Garden](#)

[Wyandotte](#)

Originally dedicated in 1943 during World War II, the statue of an American soldier caring for a wounded comrade was designed and sculpted by Isadore DeBiasi of River Rouge. Wyandotte was honored as the first U.S. city to which the National Order of the Purple Heart commissioned and donated a monument of this type. The restoration project began with Dave Polczynski, a Purple Heart Vietnam veteran who asked the Beautification Commission to help repair the crumbling statue in a weed choked area. The original limestone statue was recast in bronze to insure its preservation. Natalie Rankine, a licensed architect (and subsequently named DDA Director) spearheaded the design and fund raising as a volunteer. Engraved paver bricks were sold; donations came from many generous sponsors. Natalie's design includes a formal monument wall, flags representing branches of the service, seating, urns and perennial landscaping by Calvin Hall Associates. It is now a serene, beautiful site honoring all veterans.

[James E. Keehn](#)

[Harrison Township](#)

James E. Keehn has spent the last 18 years as an exemplary volunteer citizen who has beautified the state of Michigan and added to the quality of life for Michigan citizens. Jim began his service after completing his Master Gardener training in 1993. Additionally he trained as a Master Composter and an Advanced Master Gardener. Projects under his leadership include: The Gourmet Garden Hour community garden series, the development of various gardens in Harrison Township, the coordination of a memorial bench donation program, the development of butterfly gardens at three DTE facilities, the creation of a meditation garden at a church, the planting of countless trees and saplings and serving on the boards of three different beautification groups. Jim has been outstanding in service, commitment, love of gardening and initiative - an invaluable volunteer!

[SPECIAL AWARD TO MEIJER GARDENS](#)

FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens and Sculpture Park - Thanks and gratitude for sustaining and preserving the natural environmental beauty of Michigan for all to enjoy by its displays of unique and colorful gardens and museum quality sculptures.

[SPECIAL AWARD TO THE GERSTACKER FOUNDATION](#)

We at KMB express our thanks and gratitude to The Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Midland, Michigan for its very generous support of the goals and objectives of Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. which promote beautification, environmental enhancement and educational programs for Michigan schools and community groups.