



Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc.

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE



Fall 2021

THE STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEER CITIZENS PROGRAMMED WITH ACTION TO KEEP MICHIGAN BEAUTIFUL

From the Desk of KMB President, Dan Welihan....



My wife Joanne and I have lived in northern Michigan for many years, but we were both raised in southern Michigan. Together we spent our formative years well below the 45th parallel, raising our family and working. Living so many years in southern Michigan, we like many others, came to expect the occasional warm day in February. Just one sunny, warm day is often enough to give people hope that winter will soon be over...

Wait a second! Nobody cares when winter is over this year. People want to know, "When can I shop without a mask? When can I shake hands with my neighbor? When can I hug my grandkids? When will Covid-19 be over?" There seems to be light at the end

of the tunnel, but the risk of Covid-19 is not over quite yet.

Even though the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Michigan have relaxed many Covid restrictions, I am playing it safe. Keep Michigan Beautiful meetings will continue to be virtual through the summer. This includes the typical onsite two-day event held in July. There will be a board of directors meeting on July 8th, but it will also be virtually online with no extracurricular activities.

Plans are being made for a real, live, people getting together KMB Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony, October 8th and 9th at the Lansing Crowne Plaza Hotel. Conference rooms and hotel rooms have been reserved for our use. However, hotel staff have stated, if there is a Covid surge and government requirements change that affect the hotel operation, the meeting could be restricted or cancelled.

We are banking that the

Covid-19 threat will continue to abate through the coming months and the conference can be held. But, if Covid-19 rears its ugly head and the conference at the Crowne Plaza must be cancelled, the show will go on. There will be, at the very least, an online, virtual meeting and Awards Ceremony. So, continue to find people, places and organizations in your area to nominate for KMB awards. Need applications? Let me know and I will email one to you or visit our website at www.KeepMichiganBeautiful.org. Judging for KMB Awards nominations will be held on August 18th. Nominations, whether hand delivered, emailed or USPS mailed, must be received by August 16th to be considered for a KMB Award.

Plans for the July, 2022 KMB 60th Anniversary Celebration have started. Pam Frucci has volunteered to chair the planning committee. The anniversary celebration is tentatively planned to be held in Lansing. Volunteers are needed for the event. To assist in the planning of the event,

contact me or Pam Frucci. You can contact Pam at jpfrucci@ameritech.net.

Finally, back to my question, "When will Covid-19 be over?" The answer is when enough people in Michigan and across the county get vaccinated. If you have been vaccinated - Good for you! You've done your part to keep yourself, family and neighbors safe. Still hesitant? Ask yourself these questions:

1. Do I get a flu shot every year?
2. Have I gotten a shingles vaccination?
3. Did I get vaccinated against Polio?
4. Did I get a smallpox vaccination?

Hint: If you are over 50, your answer to #3 and #4 is "Yes.") The Covid vaccine is safe and tested. As of May 19th, over 4,584,000 Michiganians (or Michiganders if you prefer) have received at least one dose of the Covid vaccine. Still unsure? Get advice from your doctor or healthcare provider. Don't take the risk, take the shot.

KMB Annual Awards Update



Joanne Welihan

Keep Michigan Beautiful is happy to announce that we will have our Annual Awards Conference this year. Unfortunately we had to cancel the entire program in 2020 due to the COVID epidemic. This year, the conference will be held October 8-9, 2021 at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West at 925 S. Creyts Rd. in Lansing. However, because of the hotel's COVID

regulations, wearing a mask is mandatory if you have not been vaccinated. If you have been vaccinated, the hotel requires that you wear a mask when entering the hotel until you reach the ballroom and then again as you leave the hotel. To date we have 24 awards to give out this year.

Our guest speakers this year will be Dave Lorenz from Pure Michigan and Roger Gauthier with the Straits of Mackinac Alliance. In addition there will be two award winners who will speak about their award-winning projects. Keep

Michigan Beautiful, Inc. has been recognizing beautification and restoration projects throughout the State of Michigan for over 30 years.

The nominations are judged on exterior projects that involve environmental clean-up, historical preservation, site beautification and restoration and educational programs for children and adults. Three categories of awards will be given this year: The President's Award, given to an exceptional program, project or individual that most exemplifies the goals of KMB; the Michigan Award,

given for outstanding efforts in furthering the goals of KMB; and the Award of Merit recognizes projects smaller in scale but still worthy of commendation.

Registration for the Conference is \$25.00, which includes the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon. To find out more about the programs of KMB and the Annual KMB Awards Ceremony and Conference, please visit our website at www.KeepMichiganBeautiful.org. To register for the event, please contact Joanne Welihan at 231-818-3838 or jwelihan@gmail.com

KMB Director, Brian Colter Receives ISA-MI “Honors Award”

In February 2021, the International Society of Arboriculture Michigan (ISA-MI) awarded KMB Director, Brian Colter, the “Honors Award” for his dedicated, faithful and honorable service to arboriculture and urban forestry. ISA-MI is the state affiliate of ISA, the international certifying agency for arboricultural professions.



Brian’s career spans almost 28 years as the Forester of Grosse Pointe Park (GPP) and most recently

for the cities of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Farms as well. During Brian’s tenure at GPP, the city received 27 annual designations of Tree City USA through the Arbor Day Foundation with an additional 13 Growth Awards, making the city one of only 6 Sterling Communities in Michigan.

Brian developed a wood reutilization program in GPP to utilize dead and removed trees in the urban forest years before “reutilization” was an up-and-coming industry. Through the years, he published a multitude of articles, often in Tree Care Industry Magazine, on topics such as emerald ash borer, tree safety, wood reutilization and anecdotal stories of life as a certified arborist.

Brian holds multiple positions on municipal commissions and nonprofit organizations supporting arboriculture and beautification, some for 20 years or more. In addition to his position with KMB, he serves as the GPP City Liaison to their Beautification Commission, is a Board of Director of the Arboriculture Society of Michigan Foundation, sits on the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan and is a member of the Grosse Pointe Men’s & Women’s Garden Club.

His achievements and affiliations illustrate his longstanding commitment to the urban forests in his charge and the communities which benefit from these natural treasures.

~ Submitted by Lisa Kyle

KMB Foundation- 29 Years of Serving Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc

The KMB Foundation was created in 1992 when Joseph Benyo, Thomas Brown, Charles Fiedler, Mervin Simpkins, Jerry Stone and Michael Swartz got together for the purpose of establishing a foundation that would financially benefit Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. and other similar organizations. It was incorporated as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation on October 19, 1992.

The KMB Foundation’s primary purpose is to solicit, receive and administer funds on behalf of Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. for programs concerning beautification, litter prevention and control and education. The funds are used to encourage groups to disseminate information and educational materials, promote publicity and assist groups with all aspects of beautification.

The focus of the KMB Foundation is to invest the donated contributions and to regularly transfer proceeds from these investments to Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. Its Board of Directors currently include KMB Board Directors Jerry Stone, President, Don Graham, Treasurer, Pat Deck, Secretary and Jack Frucci.

Now in its 29th year, The KMB Foundation has generously funded many KMB initiatives and projects including KMB’s Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony, Celebrate Spring Luncheons, donated to Oudolf Gardens on Belle Isle and now funds the newly formed Memorial Fund Beautification Program.

The Memorial Fund Beautification Program gives past winners of the KMB Awards Program the opportunity to receive \$500 grants to help with maintenance, upkeep and improvement of their beautification projects. The 2021 Winners of the Memorial Fund Beautification Program include:

1. Detroit Hives- Maintain beautification of their perennial propagator with volunteer projects, (weeding, planting, watering and monthly clean-ups) www.detroithives.com



#8 Winner

2. The Grosse Ile Garden Club- To design and develop a Children’s Sensory Garden; plants that appeal to the five senses. Grosse Ile. MI

3. St. Clare of Montefalco Garden Club- To refurbish plantings around the church sign, add bushes, perennials and mulch. Grosse Pte. Woods, MI

4. April Millsap Memorial Garden- Repairs, painting, irrigation and maintenance. Armada, MI

5. City of Southfield- Weeding, plant replacements, mulching and maintenance.

6. Project Bloom, Grosse Pointe Beautification Commission- Refurbish and beautify public streetscape, flower beds and landscape.



#7 Winner

7. Karen Martin, Environmental Clean-up- To acquire dumpsters for clean-up of illegal dumping. Cheboygan, MI

8. Gibraltar Beautification- Purchase of native flowers, clean-up of trails, and children’s garden.

9. Fremont Area Community Foundation- Purchase of native plants, and plant 2 oak trees with Girl Scout volunteers.

10. City of Auburn Hills- to enhance and beautify landscape around gazebo in Riverside Park in downtown Auburn Hills.

11. Lakeshore Garden Masters, Monet Garden of Muskegon- To purchase new plants to replace the old ones after 20 years. Muskegon, MI

12. St. Clair Shores Community Garden- To purchase English style plants for west end of the space and hope to install a gazebo in the garden.



#10 Winner

News from Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan (BCSEM)

BCSEM will have their first Quarterly Meeting since December 2019 in Grosse Pointe Shores at the Osius Park Picnic Pavillion on September 16, 2021. Our keynote speaker, Rosann Kovalcik of Wild Birds Unlimited, will speak on "Gardening for Hummingbirds."

We will also present our Individual Service Award to Elaine Bush of Grosse Pointe and our Distinguished Service Award to Kennard Duda of Redford Township. Our popular raffle will be held and travel trophy will be awarded.

We are following the latest CDC Guidelines and will provide masks and sanitizer. The response for reservations has been great as people are looking forward to our meetings once again. Gardeners are itching to share the latest 'dirt'.

Further good news is that it looks like we will have a December Quarterly Meeting as Redford Township has stepped up to the plate to host. All are welcome!

Clinton Township — Dana Dugger has been fighting the good fight for years Volunteers clean up area along Clinton River Spillway

by: Nick Mordowanec | C&G Newspapers

A longtime resident near the Clinton River Spillway, Dugger has been at the forefront of preserving the habitat from economic development. Recently, after 15 months of encouraging local, county and state officials to clean up blight and debris, he had some help.

On the morning of March 27, he said about 30 volunteers showed up in the area of Harper Avenue and Wellington Crescent. The effort was organized by Clinton Township Clerk Kim Meltzer and Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller, with help from Value Center Marketplace — which donated trash bags, bottled water and bags of ice.



Old bicycle parts are collected and put into a pile March 27 in the Clinton River Spillway, off Harper Avenue near Wellington Crescent in Clinton Township.

Photo by Patricia O'Blenes

Dugger said the response from the community was “fantastic,” with volunteers cleaning up approximately 95% of the debris and filling about 150 commercial garbage bags. The county’s drain maintenance team cut down brush prior to volunteers arriving so garbage could be properly removed.

“It was quite a mix of people, and we got a lot done,” Dugger said. Dugger said tents on the riverbank are one thing, but called trash accumulation “unacceptable.” “You’re thinking it’s more important to not disturb the pile of junk from vagrants than protect the youngsters from getting into this pile of junk? ... When it starts to be an attractive nuisance and a hazardous debris site because of all the crap that’s brought in there and left, no,” Dugger said. “The concern about the vagrants and the



Volunteers spent a couple of hours sifting through various debris near the river, including items belonging to homeless individuals in the vicinity.

Photo by Patricia O'Blenes

homeless being held to a higher status of the general safety of the public, as well as the kids who traverse the path and may be attracted to one of these sites — the safety of the public has got to be first and foremost.”

Prior to the cleanup event, Miller said her office was happy to partner with Meltzer and volunteers “to clean up an area that’s clearly a homeless enclave.” Her office provided rakes, pitchforks, gloves and reflective vests for volunteer use. “Many people think the homeless are invisible,” Miller said. “They live among us. It’s pitiful, and it’s sad.”

After the cleanup, Miller expressed a “special thanks” to Dugger, saying his “relentless citizen activism” led to the debris’ removal. Meltzer also said it is an issue related to homelessness. She said during the cleanup that items like knives, needles and stolen bikes were part of items collected. “This is no home,” she said. “We don’t want the homeless living on what is here (in the spillway), which is garbage.”

However, she said more can be done by the spillway board to examine the accumulation of debris and individuals taking up in the area — be it by addressing possible mental health concerns or by seeking federal dollars to subsidize a lack of funds at the local level.

“How do we create an environment for (the homeless) where they’re still safe and don’t harm anybody else?” Meltzer said. “But we’ve got to keep them safe. (The spillway board) has to get involved in that; it’s got to be a priority. They’re going to have to deal with it, and I don’t think they have.”

Dugger is optimistic about the spillway area, but battles are still being waged — such as when it comes to cutting weeds. The more attention paid leads to better results, he said.

“I think we’ve got more people more interested,” Dugger said. “It’s all about making it better for all of us.”

Chippewa Valley Green School Award

This spring, Chippewa Valley High School was named the “Top Overall” green school in Macomb County for 2020-2021. With COVID 19 raging and many schools open only virtually, CVHS with its Ecology Club leading the way, put together an application composed of 23 qualified “green” activities in hopes of achieving “Evergreen” status for the twelfth year. (Points 10-14=“green”; 15-19=“Emerald”; 20+=“Evergreen”).



Many of the activity points had to be achieved differently in this COVID year. For example, instead of inviting an environmental speaker to the school, Kevin Bai arranged to have the Clinton River Watershed Council provide a Zoom link whereby his students could virtually attend a presentation about challenges facing the river. Also, instead of conducting an in-person “Battery-Bring Back” drive as part of ARD in November, students requested bags of spent batteries from family and neighbors and dropped them off in the school office’s specially marked battery bin.

Kevin credits the students’ ability to adapt and overcome for achieving “Evergreen” status again this year when faced with the obstacles that the pandemic caused. However, he said he was absolutely “blown away” with pride for the students when on April 22nd (Earth Day), Chippewa was named the County’s best green school.

KMB is on facebook! When you visit our Facebook page you can keep up-to-date on events, photos, and also post your thoughts on keeping Michigan Beautiful.





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