

ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Association Newsletter - Fall-Winter 2011
Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability

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Volunteer to support The Beaver Island Community School College and Career Day! - May 29, 2012

As part of its 21st Century plan for student education, the Beaver Island Community School (BICS) has identified standards to help students become more aware of college and career opportunities. The standards focus on students developing understandings about college and career opportunities, and are described within three age-groups:

- Elementary students visit, interview, and write about at least five people who do various kinds of work on the Island, representing different career clusters.
- Middle school students visit, observe, interview, analyze, possibly participate in and report on at least five occupations (3 on the island and at least 2 off)

- High school students plan and complete at least two working, two-week internships in one or more career clusters of their interest (one on the Island and another off)

We have committed to support the BICS initiative by providing the school's College and Career Day Committee with a list of community members who have agreed to serve as resources for the day's events. If you volunteer, you would agree to:

- being interviewed by middle schools student about your area of expertise
- attending the College and Career Day event to interact with students and their parents
- serving as a mentor to meet with student(s) interested in the career path you have represented (mentor-

ship can range from an individual meeting to meetings or phone conversations over time)

If you are interested in participating in one of the upcoming BICS Career Day, please complete the attached form and return to the address at the end of this document. You will be representing a career field, not any particular current employment, so we encourage anyone interested to apply. The next contact will be by a member of the school's committee with further information and an opportunity to determine the exact form your participation may take.

The first College and Career Day event is Tuesday, May 29, 2012. Details are being planned by BICS.

Volunteer to participate in BICS College and Career Day Annual Event

Name: _____

Brief Career Description (to make visible career opportunities you could explain to the students and to help the BICS Committee plan the specific sessions):

Contact Information:

Email: _____ **Telephone(s)** _____

Return to: Taffy Raphael | email: teraphael@gmail.com | Mail: 1072 W Polk St. Unit 2, Chicago, IL 60607- 3415

Recently Adopted Township Property Tax Rates.

Both townships have recently filed property tax rate requests for 2012/2013; they are summarized below. For joint operations (Fire Protection, Transfer Station, EMS, Historical Society, and Airport) Peaine Township has matched the dollar amounts levied by St. James rather than the mil-rates. The total amount levied is \$1.155 million, slightly less than this year.

<u>St. James & Peaine Township Taxes for fiscal year 2012/2013</u>					
	<u>Mil Rates</u>		<u>Township Tax Levy (\$000)</u>		
	<u>St. James</u>	<u>Peaine</u>	<u>St. James</u>	<u>Peaine</u>	<u>Total</u>
Voted-Separate Mileage Limitation	0.9643	0.8100	\$ 46	\$ 56	\$ 102
Voted-Operational**(see note)	2.9976	1.4719	\$ 143	\$ 102	\$ 245
Voted Fire Protection	0.9643	0.6637	\$ 46	\$ 46	\$ 92
Voted-Transfer Station	1.4464	0.9955	\$ 69	\$ 69	\$ 138
Voted-Medical Center	2.0000	2.0000	\$ 95	\$ 139	\$ 234
Voted-Roads	1.6036	0.9209	\$ 77	\$ 64	\$ 140
Voted-EMS**(see note)	0.9948	0.6847	\$ 47	\$ 47	\$ 95
Voted-Historical Society**(see note)	0.2347	0.1615	\$ 11	\$ 11	\$ 22
Voted-Airport	<u>0.9014</u>	<u>0.6204</u>	<u>\$ 43</u>	<u>\$ 43</u>	<u>\$ 86</u>
Total Township Taxes	<u>12.1071</u>	<u>8.3286</u>	<u>\$ 578</u>	<u>\$ 577</u>	<u>\$ 1,155</u>
**note, adjusted: Peaine does not have a separate mileage for EMS or the Historical Society but matches St. James dollars from its Operational mil-rate.					
Taxable Value (\$000)	\$ 47,705	\$ 69,311			

An Update on BIA’s Initiative to Control a “Silent Destroyer”

“Enjoy the beautiful beaches and unspoiled nature. See all kinds of wildlife from swans and loons along the shoreline to deer along the streets! Enjoy the ample natural resources including nature preserves and abundant state land for walking, exploring or just relaxing! Summer is a time for beach wading, enjoying a sunset, exploring the many trails walking, the docks or watching the boats sail in.”... from The Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce Home Web page.

But what if the biologically rich ecosystems we use recreationally for hiking or hunting, or as refuge for wildlife and rare species habitats, or commercially for timber harvest disappeared? Today our environment is under attack by a silent but ruthless destroyer – invasive species!

Invasive species can be animals or plants that arrive from outside an ecosystem and then take over niches within the

ecosystem, displacing other species and disrupting food webs and subsistence patterns. Stable ecosystems evolve internal control mechanisms, with each species serving a role. When invasive species arrive, often an ecosystem will have no natural control available, resulting in proliferation and dominance of the invasive species. When invasive species dominate, biodiversity suffers. Invasive species affect our recreational activities and the ecosystems that we depend on for jobs and commercial resources.

To protect biodiversity, care must be taken to avoid introducing non-native species and to eliminate them whenever possible. The BIA launched its Endangered and Invasive Species Management Initiative at this summer’s Annual Meeting. The initiative’s focus is to identify and inventory endangered and invasive plant species on the island and develop environmentally appropriate and effective measures to protect the former and control the latter. It is led by a committee of BIA members and volunteers or-

ganized into four sub-committees – Steering, Recruitment of Volunteers, Education and Funding. Current committee members are – Craig Schrottenboer, Annette Dashiell, Beth

Leuck, Pam Grassmick, Bob Anderson and Jim Jones.

Since the Annual meeting the committee has been planning for an Island wide Invasive Species Forum on June 14, 2012, identified the top 10 invasive species for the initiative to focus on, is developing educational materials to help island residents identify, manage and treat invasive species.

Beaver Island's Top Invasives

Phragmites
Autumn Olive
Scotch Pine
European Swamp Thistle
Spotted Knapweed
Purple Loosestrife
Wild Parsnip
Japanese Knotweed
Garlic Mustard
Giant Hogweed

Endangered & Invasive Species

Management Plan Before it was re-commissioned as the NRESC, the NRETC's mission was to understand and preserve Beaver Island's natural resources and promote opportunities for appreciation and enjoyment. It defined a long-range plan of five programs:

1. Define the current state and conservation challenges of Island Habitats

–Projects: *Inland Lakes / Wetlands Shoreline / Forests / Recreation Areas*

2. Maintain viable populations of all species including game species for hunting

–Projects: *Non-game species / Bird Habitat / Deer Management / Other game species*

3. Identify and protect endangered species and eliminate invasive species.

–Projects: *Invasive / Education / Endangered / LEED*

4. Promote Tourism in the form of responsible recreation and use of island natural habitat

–Projects: *Hunting / Fishing / Wildlife Viewing / Camping / Hiking / Biking*

5. Seek government and academic recognition and funding

–Publish papers and Whitepapers / Develop and submit proposals

With input from its membership, the Beaver Island Association Board acted to

create a subcommittee to assume responsibility for of the NRETC's program 3: Endangered and Invasive Species.

- **Purpose:** to identify and inventory endangered species and invasive plant species on Beaver Island and devise environmentally appropriate and effective measures to protect the former and control the latter.
- **Problem Statement:** Beaver Island's natural resources become damaged as a result of weather, logging, recreation and nature. It is necessary to identify endangered and invasive plant species to protect the former and eliminate/control the latter.
- **Program Goal:** to continuously monitor and assess management actions to protect endangered native plants and prevent, identify and eliminate specific invasive plant species to insure that Beaver Island property owners continue to obtain the economic benefits of ecotourism and funding.
- **Program Scope:** to initially focus on aquatic and terrestrial invasive plants on Beaver Island; all islands of the archipelago may be included at a later date.
- **Out of Scope:** indigenous plants, non-endangered or non-harmful native invasive species.

Goal 1: Educate

- Train Beaver Island property owners and visitors to identify invasive species and best eradication practice.
- Deliver educational events and products using multiple formats and media.
- Establish and maintain a website that provides one-stop shopping for information on invasive plant species.

Goal 2: Inventory

- Set up a communication process for reporting random sightings.
- Develop and maintain lists of endangered and high threat invasive species
- Establish a centralized GPS based database for endangered and high threat invasive plant species.

Goal 3: Recruit

- Recruit and train an EDRR (Early Detection and Rapid Response) team to help treat infestations,
- Provide volunteer opportunities to assist in detection, treatment and monitoring of invasive plants.
- Maintain a volunteer database.

Goal 4: Rehabilitate

- Prepare a Project Plan (using BIA Volunteer Program Manager's Handbook and Templates)
- Eradicate Invasive Species (dig up, spray, contain)
- Protect endangered species (signage, fencing, walk ways)
- Rehabilitate and replant sites where appropriate.

Goal 5: Administrate

- Identify the most important conservation challenges based on KPIs.
- Establish and implement protocols for documenting success measures.
- Support policies that will decrease the impacts of invasive plants to wildlife.
- Review all proposals for the impact on environment and plant species.

Goal 6: Fund

- Pursue and secure funding to address eradication of invasive species.
- Maintain a benefactor database.

To win this battle, the initiative needs your help. If you would like more information on how you can get involved please go to

www.beaverislandassociation.org

Road Re-Paving and Maintenance Initiative Update

In the Spring 2011 newsletter we advocated on behalf of our membership to support improving the condition of our roads. This article provides information on how our roads activities are funded.

All roads on Beaver Island fall under the jurisdiction of the Charlevoix County Road Commission. Each Michigan county has a similar organization that is responsible for maintenance and paving projects of roads not specifically the responsibility of the federal and state governments (i.e. I-75 and M-72); or cities or villages. Township roads are the responsibility of the County Road Commissions. Charlevoix County has fifteen townships; two are on Beaver Island. The County Road Commissions are each allocated a portion of the Michigan Transportation Fund that comes from two primary sources: vehicle registration fees and the state – collected fuel tax (19 cents per gallon for gasoline and 15 cents for diesel fuel.) Interestingly, the 6% sales tax on fuel sales does not go to roads. Since vehicles have continued to improve in fuel economy, the Michigan Transportation Fund is generating less tax revenue now than in 2001. After covering state agency administration costs, this fund allocates 39.1% to MDOT, 21.8 % to cities and villages, and 39.1% to the 83 county road agencies. As a matter of perspective, the Charlevoix County Road Commission is allocated about \$3 mil-

lion from the approximately \$1.9 billion total Michigan Transportation Fund.

How is this \$3 million spent to support Charlevoix's roads in its fifteen townships? Historically, the County Road Commission provides the equipment and manpower for road maintenance and engineering for road improvements. Cost of materials and any major paving or resurfacing activities come from elsewhere – either federal or state grants or local tax initiatives. Depending on winter weather, 1/3 to ½ of the budget is spent for snow plowing, salting and sanding. This leaves \$2 million or less for patching and grading the roads in all fifteen townships in the county, including employees, equipment purchase/lease, fuel, maintenance, facilities and administration. On Beaver Island our two townships have provided additional tax millage of approximately \$141,000 in the 2012/13 budgets. This is used to purchase road gravel for road resurfacing and brine solution for dust control in extended dry weather. We are also included in a county-wide tax millage for resurfacing projects that include the resurfacing of four miles of The King's Highway from Barney's Lake Road to Tom McCauley's Road. This is currently scheduled for 2013 or 2014. The Road Commission would like to coordinate its timing to share logistic costs with other large paving projects, such as the public airport, but it will be done by itself if necessary. If any BIA members have been thinking about a paving project (driveway, parking area, tennis

court, etc.), please contact one of the Board members and we will make sure it is included in the list compiled by the townships.

This summer road conditions were noticeably improved from the past few years. Weather (periodic rains in July and August) and additional clay content in the gravel mix provided by the townships were definite positives. In addition, a water wagon was acquired with the help of County Commissioner Richard Gillespie that helps prep the road surface for grading by our truck-mounted blades when weather has been dry.

A major equipment improvement appears likely for 2014 with securing the use of a full-time road grader on Beaver Island. This has the support of both township boards and our County Commissioner. In discussion with Charlevoix County Road Commission Manager Mr. Pat Harmon, he intends to pursue assigning the use of the Road Commission's Volvo grader to Beaver Island when its lease expires. The grader would normally be turned back for credit for a new replacement machine, so this involves a lease buy-off of approximately \$80-90,000 that will have to be funded within the County, Road Commission, and/or Townships. Use of a grader will be a major improvement to establish and maintain properly crowned gravels roads. Our Association will continue to follow this closely.

Submitted by Bob Anderson

Annual Beach Cleanup.

Organized by Ken McDonald and sponsored by the Beaver Island Association, this year's beach cleanup was another success. Thirty-two volunteers participated--most on September 17, but a few volunteered earlier. Almost 30 miles of beach were patrolled and cleaned. Many participants reported that our beaches were a bit less littered than last

year and there were only three dead birds. Both are good indicators for the island environment. In total, about 500 pounds of trash was collected, with details of the various types of debris forwarded to the Great Lakes Alliance for data consolidation and analysis.

After cleaning assigned beach the volunteers returned to the Community Center

for a free lunch of hot dogs, chips, veggies and beverage.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped, the Community Center, and McDonough's Market for donating the hot dog buns.

Please volunteer next year and help your neighbors keep Beaver Island beautiful!



BEAVER ISLAND, MICHIGAN

2011 Emerald Ash Borer High Risk Survey

USDA APHIS PPQ 1011 Emerald Ash Borer Survey



Traps Negative for EAB
Roads



The MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PESTICIDE AND PLANT PEST MANAGEMENT DIVISION

EMERALD ASH BORER INTERIOR QUARANTINE

(Revised February 8, 2011)

1. The Beaver Island Archipelago including North Fox Island and South Fox Island
 2. Isle Royale National Park
 3. South Manitou Island and North Manitou Island
 4. Big Charity Island and Little Charity Island
- It is ILLEGAL To Move Hardwood FIREWOOD**

And Ash Materials

From Anywhere In Michigan To:

Without A Valid Compliance Agreement

Quarantine violators face fines/penalties ranging from \$1,000 up to \$250,000 and up to five years in jail.

**Do Not
Move
Firewood**



**Burn It
Where
You Buy it**

Michigan Emerald Ash Borer Toll Free Hotline: 1-866-325-0023

Should the Beaver Island Municipal Marina accept reservations?

In a letter to St. James Township Supervisors, Oliver LeCerf requested that the township supervisors evaluate ways to improve the occupancy rate at the Beaver Island Public Marina. Specifically, he requested they evaluate a formal reservation system for dockage to supplement the "first-come, first-serve" system currently in use. The edited excerpts from Mr. LeCerf's proposal follows. The entire proposal is included on beaverislandassociation.org. Members are encouraged to read the entire proposal.

The Township also received a letter from the current Harbormaster, Jim White, who is not in favor of a reservation system. His position and the reasons for his views are also summarized below (The Harbormaster's letter was hand-written and a typed summary is included below. Please read the entire letter from Harbormaster Jim White on our website.

At the September St. James Township meeting, Trustee, Ray Cole asked and the township agreed to evaluate Mr. LeCerf's request. No details of how this will be done were provided.

Relevant to the Harbormaster's comments below, the Beaver Island Marina

(private) takes reservations. It uses a simple diagram of the docks (1 page per day in a 3-ring binder) showing the slips. Reservations are noted on the day-page with a credit card number. No shows are charged 1 day's dockage.

Beaver Island Association members with views or first-hand knowledge on this issue should send an email to the Beaver Island Association (email : beaverislandassociation@gmail.com and these will be consolidated and forwarded to Trustee Cole for his evaluation.

A Summary of Oliver LeCerf's Proposal .

Based on the discussions with the harbormasters (*Mr. LeCerf conducted personal interviews with many harbormasters around the state*), Mr. LeCerf suggested that a reservation system would improve the occupancy rate at the Public Marina.

His reasons are:

- First time visitors who do not know the Island will feel more comfortable knowing there is guaranteed space,

especially given the remoteness of the Island.

- Multiple boat rendezvous need a guarantee of space.
- Retirees, which comprise more and more of the boating community, need the "certainty" of knowing they have a dock available and not having to launch the zodiac from anchorage.
- The state computer reservation system (SCRS) will likely continue to deploy across the lakes as its "user

friendliness" gets better recognized. We can also anticipate that as more customers become familiar with it, they will expect marinas to be part of it, or at least have a formalized reservation system.

- The courtesy dockage of dinghies is an excellent initiative as it allows anchored boaters to visit current island businesses easily and should be continued even with a reservation system in place.

A Summary of Harbormaster, Jim White's Position on a Reservation System

My figures show July and August to be the busiest with regard to demand versus capacity and 2/3rds of this demand is for my 9 deep well slips. Reservations would only increase demand, not capacity.

What would be the costs of operating a reservation system in terms of equipment and man-hours? For equipment only, approximately \$3,000-\$4,000 to

wire, \$2,000 for a computer, \$200/month service fee.

Who would enforce an open slip after hours? What cost for signage, etc. The docks are posted clearly now-"No Mooring, Restricted Mooring, Emergency Service dock, etc." and are all ignored on an all too frequent basis.

Our priorities are the safety of Transient boaters (#1). #2 is the revenue generated by boater user fees which is our capital to fund our budget. 3rd is the incidental revenue that enriches local businesses.

If we were to go to a reservation system, the Harbor Master would be continually obligated to hold those slips. Where does this leave the Transient or anchored vessel in case of weather or no-shows? What about the damaged or distressed vessel operator?

Harbormaster White included a strong recommendation for St. James Twp. to build a dinghy dock and he recommended a location near the new Veterans Memorial waterfront. ***(Note: transcribed from a hand written letter. I hope I got it right – Peter Igoe)***

The Beaver Island Association 2011-2012 Active Membership

Keith Albin	Jan. Gerson	Mrs. E.B. Lange	Therese Payne	Dr. Donald Uzarski
Christy Albin	Ken Gitersonke	Lars Larson	Fred Payne	Bonnie L. Valuet
Bruce Allen	Pat Gitersonke	Doris Larson	Pete Peterson	Alan Vicstein
Peter Amster	Paul Glendon	James Latta	Sheila Peterson	Bev Vicstein
*Bob Anderson	Ann Glendon	Greg Larson	Port of St. James Assoc.	Tina Walker
Alana Anderson	Jeanne Graham	Caroline Latta	*Taffy Raphael	Robert Warski
Elwood Baker	Ralph Graham	Ed Leuck	Marilyn Reed	Laurel Warski
Phyliss Baker	Brad Grassmick	*Beth Leuck	Joe Reed	John Wayne
Banghart Family Property	*Pam Grassmick	Little Traverse Conservancy	John Martin	Barbara Wayne
Joyce Bartels	Harold Haley	Claude A Lucchesi	Molly Resnick	Bob Welke
Jack Bauman	Marjory Haley	Ruth Lucchesi	Randy Roberts	Sue Welke
Cathy Bauman	Marjorie Hammond	Greg Lucchesi	Carol Roberts	Ed Welter
Raymond C Becker	Nackerman LLC	Linda Lucchesi	Pat Rowley	Willy Welter
Royce Beers	Jim Haveman	James Luteyn	John Rowley	Ronald Wierenga
Narin Bhatia	Sarah Haveman	Dan Lynch	*Craig Schrottenboer	Verle Wiita
Nishta Bhatia	Henry Hill	Rosemary Lynch	Sherry Schrottenboer	Nel Worsfold
Vince Beilman	Gary Huard	Marty Maehr	Beth Scully	
Audry Beilman	Carol Huard	Jane Maehr	Bob Simpson	
Eric Blalock	*Peter Igoe	Art McCaskey	Sandy Simpson	
Kathryn Blaylock	Ruth Igoe	Debie McCaskey	Nancy Smith	
Kevin Boyle	Bruce Jacobson	Ken McDonald	John Starr	
Judy Boyle	Lenore Jacobson	Deb McDonald	Leigh Starr	
Frederick J. Boyles	Ronald Jakubas	Larry McDonough	Evan Steger	
Jonathan Cain	Helen Jakubas	Kay McDonough	Suzy Steger	
Jerry Charbeneau	Thelma Johnson	Sandra Michelsen	William Steger	
Marg Charbeneau	*Jim Jones	Joseph Moore	Hans Stein	
Garett Cole	Judith Jones	Phyllis Moore	Davi Stein	
Denny Cook	Michael Kamrin	Charles Morris	Steven Steinglass	
Mary Cook	Katie See Kamrin	Sandra Morris	Dianne Steinglass	
Annette Dashiell	Cheryl Kane	Pam Moxham	Matt Steward	
Mary Kay Dorais	Martin Kane	Rick Nank	Suzi Steward	
Auleen Duffy	Herb Kayne	Janet Nank	James R. Stout Sr.	
Gerald Duffy	Phyliss Kayne	Robert Neff	Kenneth Jay Taylor	
Harris Fawell	Jack Kelly	Julie Neff	Don Taylor	
Ruth Fawell	Ruth Kelly	Harriet Nelson	Diana Taylor	
John Fiore	Donna Kieselbach	Paul Neumann	Tom Thieme	
Barbara Fiore	Bill Kohne	Florence Neuman	Nita Thieme	
Floss Frank	Marta Kohne	Paul Niehaus	*Bob Tidmore	
Frank Galati	Jacque LaFreniere	Liz Niehaus	Kathy Tidmore	
Jim Gavelek	Mark LaFreniere	Seamus Norguard		

Note: * denotes member of the board of directors
Total membership:174

Board of Directors

Bob Anderson,
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Pam Grassmick
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Peter Igoe, President
randpigoe@comcast.net
Jim Jones
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Beth Leuck
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Craig Schrottenboer
cschroboer@hidshopeusa.org
Bob Tidmore
B_Tidmore@hotmail.com

Write: The Beaver Island Association
P.O. Box 390, Beaver Island, MI 49782
Email:
beaverislandassociation@gmail.com

BIA Website

The BIA website will be changing. The first changes will be a relatively small change to the first page and the addition of new information. Once the content is correct, we will make significant changes to the home page to better introduce the association and its activities to potential new members and

benefactors; highlighted programs will include:

- Workshops & Lectures
- Habitat Restoration
- Wildlife Management
- Invasive Plant Control
- Ecology & Sustainability
- Forests, Logging & Fires
- Shorelines & Wetlands
- Great Lakes Biodiversity

- Roads and Maintenance
- Township Concerns
- Economic Growth
- Government Liaison
- Grants & Funding
- Community Support

Please let us know if there are other programs that should be considered.

Dear Beaver Island Association Members & the Beaver Island Community:

Beaver Island is a unique place in many, many ways. It is a place of historic culture, natural beauty, and an environment unique in the world. The mission of the Beaver Island Association is to promote the care of our island's environment and to help strengthen its economy. We are a non-profit, entirely volunteer organization. We share this distinction with many other organizations on the island. Volunteers led the development the Rural Health Center, the Community Center, and the Senior Housing Facility. They serve as docents for the Historical Society's two museums. The Christian Church food-bank supports those in need. The AMVETS has undertaken a number of community projects. Baroque on Beaver, organized by the Cultural Arts Association, has brought nationally known artists here, and they are helping to spread the word that this is a special place.

Celebrate the volunteers.....and join! Thanks to all!

Peter Igoe, President Beaver Island Association

***The Beaver Island Association
P.O. Box 390
Beaver Island, MI 49782***