

ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Association Newsletter - Fall-Winter 2013
Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability

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2013 Volunteer Outer Island Phragmites Herbicide Treatment. *The Beaver Archipelago coastal wetlands-shorelines are the most biologically diverse, productive components of our islands' ecosystems. Hundreds of species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, fish, and amphibians rely on these healthy wetland habitats for their survival.*

Objective: treat and survey the Lake Michigan shoreline of Garden and High Islands for remaining non-native Phragmites. On August 31, a public meeting was held to discuss the proposed Phragmites treatment. A DEQ permit was obtained for Beaver, Garden, Whiskey, Trout, and High Islands. August surveys of Trout and Whiskey Island revealed no new growth at past treatment sites or surrounding shoreline. All herbicide treatment was to be conducted under the supervision of a State of Michigan certified herbicide application specialist. An \$11,500 bid was awarded for treatment of Beaver, High, and Garden with \$3,000 additional funding provided for transportation to outer islands by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa.

Equipment: 4 back-pack sprayers, protective equipment, and 10-1/2 gal hand sprayers for each volunteer along with gloves for hand wiping of plants. 4 GPS units were used to document the coordinates of treatment. Prior to embarking, instructions for use of equipment, safety protocol, and plant ID (native, non-native Phragmites and loosestrife) were given at the dock followed by signing of liability waiver forms.

September 3, 2013--High Island: 13 volunteers (*Lynn and Jim Flannigan, Eric Naraanjo, Annette Dashiell, Christine Miller, Brian Grassmick, Dave Blanchard, Pam Gerecke, Dawn Elzey, Stan Eagle, Pam Hilton, Marc Seeley, and Pam Grassmick*) were transported by *Mike Weede* from Paradise Bay Dive Shop to High Island. The boat left the dock at 9 a.m. and returned at 7 p.m. 4 teams were formed and dropped off at various sites: 2 teams at south end and 2 teams at north end. Large stands of Purple loosestrife were treated at the south end. Few populations of Phragmites contained seed heads. Numerous small new growth areas were treated. Most numerous new growth sites were 100 feet or less from large old treated stands indicating, seed distribution. Prior year treatment effectiveness was excellent, with large dead stands and minimal new growth around the perimeter. Lake Marie

had 1 large dense stand (20 x30) which was previously treated and that area was re-treated for new growth. Several small new growth stems were also treated around this lake. European Swamp thistle (EST) was observed around the lake with a large amount of rosettes. Treatment should be considered at Lake Marie to contain the spread since EST was minimal along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The volunteer team was unable to complete entire High Island survey and treatment. Areas in need of survey: ¾ mile north and ½ mile south of open sand dunes-west side.

September 5, 2013--Garden Island: A 10 person (*Eric Naraanjo, Annette Dashiell, Christine Miller, Dave Blanchard, Pam Hilton, Marc Seeley, Jim and Sandy Birdsall, Sue Screven, and Pam Grassmick*) volunteer treatment group was transported by *Mike Weede* to Garden Island. The boat left dock at 9 a.m. and returned at 7:30 p.m. Both native and non-native Phragmites were observed along most of the shoreline. Treatment and survey of shoreline complete with the exception of Indian Harbor and Sturgeon Bay.

September 6, 2013--Garden Island: Transported by *Mike Weede* to Garden Island- 9 a.m. and returned at 2:30 p.m. to complete the survey and treatment of Indian Harbor and Sturgeon Bay. Both sites had invasive Phragmites present and were treated, with the largest patch measuring 50 x75 ft. and runners at Sturgeon Bay. The Entire 22 mile shoreline was documented and treated. With building seas the return to west side of High was aborted.

Recommendations (Pam Grassmick): Weather was a factor throughout the treatment process. We could not land people safely on the west side of High Island during this week. If trails were not over grown, we could have hiked through the interior of both islands. The number of individuals and equipment required for treatment and survey seemed sufficient. Two days of treatment should be devoted to each island.

The survey and treatment allowed us to evaluate the effectiveness of past treatment, deal with new growth and a few missed Phragmites infestations, and review native Phragmites stands. High and Garden differed drastically in non-native and native populations with Garden Island shorelines showing the greatest numbers of native Phragmites lightly scattered over the entire shoreline. I saw two 20-25 ft.

runners from a native Phragmites plant- both on Garden, Jensen's Bay, a first for me and apparently the botanist community. I also documented the times for teams to walk and treat specific areas on maps. All of the volunteers were knowledgeable, dedicated, hardworking and skillfully transported by Mike Weede.

Cost Summary. Volunteer hours: 23 volunteers x 27 hrs. @ \$25 (\$15,525). Pam Grassmick work on DEQ permits, education, set-up and coordinating the volunteer program: 40 hrs. X \$25 (\$1,000). Transportation grant from LTBB (\$3,000) GPS', equipment, food and water=\$3,200. Total cost of treating two outer islands with volunteers= \$22,725. Amount can be used as future budgeting and match for grants.

Submitted by Pam Grassmick to St. James and Peaine Townships for the Beaver Island Association.

A Beaver Island Birding Trail Project. The Beaver Island Association and its partners have developed a working plan to **create The Beaver Island Birding Trail in Charlevoix County, Michigan** (BIBT). This project addresses one of the goals of the recently approved **Beaver Island Natural Resources Recommendation Plan**. It will provide the capacity, through eBird, to compile surveys and population trends of game and non-game species for the first time. eBird is a program of the **Cornell University Lab of Ornithology [eBird.org]**. It includes a robust web-site with an online database of bird observations and photographs by researchers and amateurs with real time data about bird distribution and abundance). Partners in this project include:

- **Saving Birds Thru Habitat**--assistance with all areas of development of BIBT
- **Beaver Island Preservation Association/Community Center**--Trail Headquarters location
- **Beaver Island Natural Resources and Ecotourism Steering Committee**--speaker assistance
- **Little Traverse Conservancy**--birding sites and public education
- **Michigan Audubon Society**--eBird coordination with Cornell
- **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**—interpretive signage at birding sites
- **Sleeping Bear Birding Trail**--technical assistance and website development
- **Central Michigan University**--birding sites, vans, and faculty professional assistance
- **Charlevoix County Commissioners**--GIS map assistance and resolution endorsing BIBT
- **Charlevoix County Conservation District**--habitat education and maintenance
- **Conservation Resource Alliance**--assistance with bird/land stewardship practices
- **Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce**--funding assistance
- **Island Airways**--business partner and assistance with BIBT dedication transportation

The Trail. The project team has created an inventory of habitats and birds likely to be seen at thirty-three public birding sites on Beaver Island. A map of the birding trail will be printed for island visitors noting these locations as quality birding sites, listing best birding practices, and providing eBird tracking information A companion website will be developed to provide more extensive information about each location and the birds

to be found in that habitat. In addition, a birding tri-fold checklist based on the Michigan Birding Atlas will be developed and printed. The Beaver Island Community Center will be the trail head site.

Dedication Event. The dedication will take place May 24-25, 2014 with regional and state officials along with national birding experts leading field trips. Jon Allan, Director of the Office of Great Lakes, is confirmed as a speaker. In addition, Greg Butcher and Jeff Kingery have been identified as potential speakers and guides for the dedication and have agreed to attend if transportation and housing can be secured. Greg Butcher is past director of Audubon's National Bird Conservation program and is currently the Coordinator of the US Forest Service International Migratory Species program. Jeff Kingery is an international birding guide and has been named as one of the best naturalists in the country by fellow birders. Inviting well-known birding experts to the dedication should draw birders from other areas to share in the experience.

Timeline:

- January-February 2014: Complete birding trail maps and checklists.
- March 2014: Arrange for birding speakers, field guides. Arrange transportation/housing.
- April 2014: Complete website development/coordination with eBird. Send invitations to dedication.
- May 2014: Arrange media coverage, dedication ceremony, fieldtrips, and bird-sighting checklist

Project Budget: The project budget is \$37,000. We have commitments for in-kind professional donations and partner assistance of \$24,000 (including \$14,000 from the DNR for signage). The BIA will contribute \$2,500, the NRESC \$1,000 and we have requested funding of \$9,500 from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation.



Economic Benefit: We believe that the Charlevoix County region will benefit economically from the development of a birding trail to highlight the rich natural resources of this area. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-associated Recreation, approximately 47 million people observed birds around their homes or on trips in 2011. Those birding experiences generated more than \$92 billion in total industry output, created 759,000 jobs, and \$12 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenue.

Baroque on Beaver Festival and the island economy.

The 2013 Baroque on Beaver Festival was a week-long artistic gem. Congratulations to all of the musicians, the artistic director Robert Nordling, the Chorus and the Choral Director Kevin Simons, the board of the Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association, all of the generous business and individual financial supporters, and the many volunteers who helped make all of the performances run smoothly. Well done all!!!

In total, approximately 1400 people attended the various concerts and from completed surveys, 57% were visitors to the island, with a high percentage first time attendees. Almost all of the concerts were standing room only.

With regard to the economy, it was reported that during the Festival, all available rental accommodations were booked, and island restaurants were crowded to overflowing. Transportation to and from the island was up significantly with the Boat Company reporting significantly higher capacity utilization. Island Airways and Fresh Air traffic were also markedly up. Both Powers Hardware and McDonough's Market reported significant increases in traffic and sales. The Municipal Marine and Beaver Island Marine reported only small increases in cruising traffic, which may indicate an opportunity in the future for advertising targeted to cruisers who can overnight on their boats.

A good deal of the increase in attendance was driven by word-of-mouth, and with the acclaimed quality of the performances, it seems likely that next year should see further increases.

If the festival is to grow further, the infrastructure of the island to support increased attendance will need to be addressed. For venues, perhaps a program presented on two consecutive nights at CMU which seats about 150; and it might be worth considering the development of a large shorefront outdoor performance area.

As for accommodations, consideration should be given to expanding and upgrading island campgrounds, and to find the means to rent accommodations at private homes that are not currently occupied.

Peter Igoe

Important New Property Tax Legislation.

(Reprinted from an article by the Grand Rapids law firm of **Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones, PLC**). On December 31, 2012, Governor Snyder signed into law Public Act 497 of 2012 which provides that beginning December 31, 2013, a transfer of residential real property is exempt from uncapping property taxes if the transfer is to family members of "the first degree of kinship" and the use of the residential real property does not change following the transfer. This means that you can transfer your cottage or other residential real estate to your parents, siblings, or children without having to worry about the property taxes being reassessed at fair market value.

This is a huge break for families who have owned cottages and other residential real estate for a long time. Before this legislation, a transfer to family members would uncap the property taxes and the increase in the property taxes often made continued ownership by the family impractical. In recent years, Michigan court cases have held that under certain circumstances, joint ownership between parents and children avoided uncapping. However, owning property jointly with one or more children also has its disadvantages (liability exposure and loss of control, etc.).

The new legislation would allow you to transfer property to children at death without having the property taxes uncap. The legislation does not specify how the property must be transferred. For example, it is not clear that a conveyance of the property to a trust for the benefit of one's children will avoid uncapping. It may be better to consider a "ladybird" deed that would allow you to keep control of the property during your lifetime and then allow the property to pass to your children if you still own the property at death. This would allow you to keep control of the property because your children would not have a vested interest until your death, and the property would pass free of probate proceedings. The State Tax Commission may provide more guidance on its interpretation of the legislation in the future.

Note (Peter Igoe comment): while the extension of this tax preference will certainly benefit some families, it also means that overall tax rates will have to be higher than they otherwise would be in order to raise the required amount of revenue; to the detriment of the residential real-estate market and anyone newly purchasing residential property. In addition, a number of Michigan municipalities have expressed concern with the lost revenue and the effect on operational budgets. It might have been helpful if the legislature had considered this.

Bob Tidmore

Annual Beach Cleanup. Ken McDonald once again

organized the annual beach clean-up effort. Despite scattered thunderstorms 18 volunteers turned out for BIA's annual Beach Cleanup on Saturday September 7. Several people also participated the day before and day after the event. Almost 400 pounds of trash were removed from Beaver Island beaches the total weight was augmented by a small refrigerator, a tire and part of a large wire reel. After the event all volunteers were treated to a Nathan's hot dog lunch at the Community Center.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who freely gave their time to help keep our island beautiful. Thanks also to the Transfer Station crew for taking all the waste, McDonough's Market for donating the hotdog buns and Carol Creasser and the BI Community Center for donating the hotdogs.

Please consider helping in next year's Beach Cleanup--to be held in September 2014.

Ken McDonald

Emerald Ash Borer High Risk Site Survey – 2013.

This summer the Michigan Department of Agriculture deployed 16 survey traps from one end of Beaver Island to the other, mostly on the east side along Lake Michigan. All traps were negative for EAB. So far the embargo on firewood and other efforts to keep this devastating pest of the island are working. **Stay vigilant!**

Pam Grassmick

A Conversation with the Harbormaster. In an informal conversation, Jim White, Harbormaster, reported that slip usage at the Municipal Marina was down pretty significantly this summer. A good deal of the decline was related to power boats dealing with \$6/gal. fuel. In addition, cruising weather early in the summer was very poor, resulting in a last minute slip reservation cancel rate of 30%. Jim is considering proposing some changes to the reservation system to address the high last minute cancellation rate.

Peter Igoe

Riley Justis, Superintendent and K12 Principle of the Beaver Island Community School, on the State of Modern Education- Beaver Island and Beyond.

Thank you, and I begin with thank you purposefully and respectfully. As the superintendent and K-12 principal, I have been given one of the greatest honors; to lead, innovate and empower your children to reach their highest level of potential. These children, as passé as it sounds, are the future: the future of this small community and the future of the nation. As the year begins, we are confronted with some successes and opportunities for growth. Beaver Island Community School received a ranking of 98th percentile in the state. What does this truly mean? It means that the children of this island are receiving an educational opportunity next to none and have had the opportunity to learn from a strong, knowledgeable and dedicated staff. Among our staff we have two National Board Certificated teachers, an honor reserved for only the best within the craft and profession. This is a great honor and to add to that, our early elementary teacher, the one that has arguably the greatest impact on the foundation of developmental skill building, has been selected as one of 19 in the country to represent the profession of teaching in front of the United States Congress.

So, what does that all mean for you, a stakeholder in the education of young people on Beaver Island? It means that we have all the necessary components to not only continue the great things that are happening at the school but also innovate, transform and challenge the norm to reach great heights and more than anything else affect kids in tremendously positive ways.

How do we do this? To reach this goal, the mission of the school and the vision for the students, I have asked a simple question and posed a simple statement. How does each decision effect kids and BICS is where kids come first. In my first 90 days, I have approached the board of education with suggestions for the direction toward the school's mission in the goal setting process. To do this, I recommended that we gauge each goal into one of three categories: Academic Growth, Operations and Communications. Allow me to elaborate on each:

Academic Growth: This area deals directly with every child within the school and district (they are the same kids). We must first effectively measure true student performance. Where is each student performing against his peers at a local, state and national level? In doing so, timely and normative data is necessary to make effective programmatic shifts and effect learning in a positive way. I have introduced a systematic and

strategic assessment plan. Through its development, we assessed the how and what of assessing student growth. We identified not only gaps in the assessment structure but also the need for unification in assessment platforms to facilitate the usefulness of the resulting data. The effect of this change: increasing overall efficiency of assessment, usefulness of data, timely identification of need areas and increasing student reflective instruction. BICS "Where Kids Come First".

Operations: This area reviews the programs operations, finances and processes to ensure responsive and effective management and leadership. As a Board, it has been a goal to increase policy and process transparency for a number of years. This is the year. We have set in place, through the goal setting process, a goal to establish a development and revision process for board policy. As an action step of this plan is the unification and display of the board policy as a whole to the public as a downloadable from the school website. These two actions will allow the public to see in a completely open and transparent way how the school is operated and the policies that guide that operation. The systematic review and development process will create a more responsive and reflective operation and lead to greater program success. BICS "Where Kids Come First".

Communication: This area deals directly with you, the reader and stakeholder in BICS. How do we effectively communicate both internally and externally in a systematic and strategic way? Through the board goals setting, a few action steps were identified. First, complete work on the Data Dashboard project. This item will allow the public to identify the reality of the educational program and process at BICS. How much growth students average in a given level, what level of success they are having in their individualized educational path and also the more intangibles, the projects that they complete, or the community outreach they have conducted. This combination of hard data (fact and figures) and soft data (projects and culture) will act to support the perspective on the student as a whole and complete learner. Through the redesign of the website and the initiation of more coffee hours and community interactions, communication can be increased and transparency can be ensured. With effective communication comes increased involvement, fostering learning and achievement in our student population. BICS "Where Kids Come First".

Summary. We will reach the reality of increased academic outcomes through the development of a single minded approach to education, teaching and learning, leading and operations. Through putting kids first and working tirelessly to meet the needs of each learner inside the school and beyond, we can, together, reach the mission of the school the vision of the community and the goal of each parent as they look into the bright eyes of their child to see the possibilities their child has in front of them.

Again, thank you and it is my honor to have the privilege to work in our community with our children. My door is always open and keep in mind that I am here to put kids first.

Riley Justis, Superintendent/K-12 Principal

BICS Enrollment 2013-14

Beaver Island Community School Budget –

2013-214 Total revenues available to the BICS for the 2013-14 school year declined by \$34 thousand as a result of a reduction of \$46 thousand (3%) in local property taxes due to the decline in taxable values. Expenditures increased by \$83 thousand related to increases in the Instruction and Administration budgets of \$63 thousand and \$33 thousand, respectively. As a result of the reduced revenues and increased expenditures, the school district has budgeted a deficit of \$98 thousand, planning to reduce the reserve fund by 15% to \$559 thousand, equal to 27% of the BICS annual budget.

It seems unlikely that local property tax values will increase in the near term, and therefore it is important for BICS to develop strategies, including greater utilization of distance learning technologies, to balance its future annual budgets.

Student enrollment for the 2013-2014 calendar year is 70 students, an increase of 10 from the prior year, with 14 new students after accounting last year's four graduates. At this level, total expenditures per student are about \$30 thousand.

Pre-K	none
Kindergarten	7
First Grade	2
Second Grade	5
Third Grade	2
Fourth Grade	2
Fifth Grade	7
Sixth Grade	7
Seventh Grade	9
Eighth Grade	3
Ninth Grade	6
Tenth Grade	11
Eleventh Grade	5
Twelfth Grade	4
Total Enrollment	70

BICS 2013-14 School Year Budget (\$ Thousands)

	2012-13 Budget	2013-14 Budget		Increase/(Decrease)	
		Amount	Percent of Total	Amount	Per- cent
REVENUES (\$000)					
Local Revenues	1512	1466	73%	(46)	-3%
State Revenues	192	198	10%	6	3%
Federal Revenues	128	126	6%	(1)	-1%
Charlevoix Interm. School District	213	220	11%	7	3%
TOTAL REVENUES	2045	2010	100%	(34)	-2%
EXPENDITURES (\$000)					
Instruction	1126	1189	56%	63	6%
Administration	280	313	15%	33	12%
Operation & Maintenance	236	243	12%	7	3%
Public Support Svcs.	143	145	7%	2	2%
Technology Support	89	71	3%	(18)	-21%
Athletics	65	63	3%	(2)	-3%
Business Services	32	46	2%	14	45%
All Other	54	39	2%	(15)	-28%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2026	2109	100%	83	4%
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (\$000)	19	(98)		(118)	-6%

RESERVE FUND (\$000)					
Beg. of Year	639	658		19	
Annual Surplus/(Deficit)	19	(98)		(118)	
End of Year	658	559		(98)	-15%
Pct. Annual Budget	32%	27%			

An enlightening conversation between Jeff Powers, BIA board member, and Scott Slezak, (Annie's Heirloom Seeds) on elements of a successful Beaver Island Business.

Hi Jeff: Honestly, Annie's exists because 10 years ago we decided we wanted to move to the island. We explored a ton of different business plans trying to find something that would work here, and we settled on only a couple different business templates that are even possible on the island as newcomers.

One is a tourist-based business. We went through lots of different ideas on what to sell. All of them were flawed in one way or another. All of the basic necessities (hardware, grocery, gasoline, etc.) are already being met, so there is no high-volume business to get into that wouldn't compete with an existing business. The short tourist season means income is seasonal, but expenses are not. Commercial properties are expensive, so start-up costs are high. There was no business along these lines that we could come up with that would generate the income we felt was necessary to survive and thrive. All of it was really expensive and risky. In addition, I greatly prefer to test a business plan on the small scale before going all out, and that was virtually impossible when we were on the mainland. I am not willing to move my family from a financially secure situation into an insecure situation, so all of these plans were rejected.

Two is an internet-based business. The world is your market, though shipping outside the US can be complicated for some things. We have 300 million buyers at our disposal, and we are open for business 24/7/365. With the right product and the right marketing, this sort of business can be operated from anywhere. Once we had Annie's grown to the point that we could move, we realized that this business could be operated literally from anywhere with reliable mail service. We thought hard about where we wanted to live, and decided that the island really was for us. So here we are. The internet is the portal to the world economy, and it's open for business as long as internet service is up and the planes are flying mail to Charlevoix.

The first trick then is to find something that can be manufactured or grown here. Seeds are something we developed because of our desire to work in the agricultural sector. Other successful light manufacturing or service internet business I've heard of: snowmobile salvage (basically an internet-based junkyard, selling parts from salvaged snowmobiles), organic beauty products (it's surprisingly easy to make Burt's Bees type products in your home, the hard part is marketing in this competitive market), custom clothing for girls (hair bows, foofy dresses, etc.), professional services (web design, internet marketing, heck even accounting and payroll can be done remotely), etc. It has to be something that has countrywide interest. The more niche the market, the better. However, too niche means there's no market. Beaver Island trinkets appeal to Beaver Island tourists, not a broad enough appeal. Annie's grew out of my wife's inability to buy heirloom seeds for our garden from decent suppliers on the internet. What have you wanted to buy on the internet lately that you weren't easily able to? Then explore that, and see if it's viable.

The second trick is marketing on the internet, which is hard. But I'm pretty good at it, and I'd be willing to mentor anyone with an otherwise viable business plan. There are tons of ways to lose lots of money marketing on the internet, and only a couple ways to get it right. But once you get it right, it's

extremely lucrative, because you've got 300 million potential buyers at your fingertips.

I think the biggest barrier to moving the island economy in this direction is that islanders on average are not plugged in to "internet culture". My day job has been computer-based for 20 years, and I get bored at work easily, so I've been on the internet, interacting with people, buying and selling things for a couple decades. Without that familiarity and understanding of how people communicate on the internet, it's very challenging to get people to even understand how an internet business works, much less come up with a viable business plan based on the internet. Not that I want to encourage people to sit in front of a computer all day rather than going outside in a place like this, but to some extent, that familiarity with internet culture is necessary to thrive in that space. It may be that the island has to wait until the kids that are growing up with the internet as a daily part of their lives hit the age of "develop a business or move away" before these sorts of businesses become more common.

Scott Slezak, Annie's Heirloom Seeds
<http://www.anniesheirloomseeds.com>

2014 Archipelago Panning Meeting The BIA has scheduled what has become the Annual Archipelago Environmental Planning Meeting, bringing together leaders from the DNR, DEQ, and other state agencies and the leadership from numerous other organizations working to protect the environment. For the past two years, this gathering has shared expertise and knowledge which produced amazing results for the islands.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Matt Preisser, Lake Coordinator for Lakes Michigan and Superior, has graciously offered the use of the Office of Great Lakes Conference Room in Lansing and their resources. There will be conference call-in and webinar capability for those unable to attend in person. We are compiling a list of agenda topics, and would appreciate suggestions from any interested party. An agenda will be sent out in December with further information and attendance instructions.

There will be several new participants this year, including Jon Allan, Director of the Office of Great Lakes, who will stop by to speak with us. If any member of the BIA is interested in attending via conference call or webinar, please contact Pam Grassmick (pgrassmick@gmail.com).

Pam Grassmick

Continued Good Outlook on Road Commission Initiatives. This article appears very similar to the one in the Spring-Summer issue of Island Currents, but that is good news because the ongoing initiatives continue to stay on course. The future looks very promising for three different initiatives involving our island roads.

The first and most anticipated is repaving the 4.04 miles of The King's Highway from Barney's Lake Road to Tom McCauley's Road. The Road Commission Steering Committee will be meeting before the end of the year to set priorities for 2014 and The King's Highway project will be presented for inclusion in next year's work. The Road

Commission would like to coordinate its timing to share logistic costs with other paving projects so if any Beaver Island Association 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.

The second initiative, also timed for 2014, is the securing of a full-time road grader on Beaver Island. The Road Commission intends to pursue assigning the use of the Road Commission's Volvo grader to Beaver Island when its lease expires in 2014. 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. Full-time availability of a grader will be a major improvement to establish and maintain properly crowned gravel roads.

The third initiative started this past spring with the announcement of a much-needed replacement of the County Road Commission garage. The County Commissioners approved \$1.5 million to provide a multi-use

facility to properly house the three county-level functions of the sheriff's office, transit operation, and road commission vehicle and maintenance facility. As this article is being written, discussions continue with the owners of two different land parcels under consideration, so hopefully this project will progress quickly through site selection, design & engineering and construction.

In addition, this past summer a trial was conducted with a tree pitch-based soil stabilization product on East Side Drive from Four Corners to Welke Airport. It successfully eliminated the need for chloride dust control and dramatically reduced the need for re-grading, but did not provide all the surface quality results hoped for. It will continue to be monitored for durability and cost evaluated for any future use.

The BIA will continue to follow-up with the Charlevoix Road Commission on these initiatives and report on status in future newsletters.

Bob Anderson

Beaver Island Association- Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability

If you do not see your name as an active member in the list below, please consider joining to support our efforts and to continue to receive the BIA newsletter. Our membership year runs from July 1 to the following June 30. Please join us by sending a check for \$20 to Bob Anderson, Treasurer, The Beaver Island Association, PO Box 390, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

Yes, please renew our Beaver island Association for the **2013-2014** membership year.

Name(s)

Mailing Address

email address

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS. The Beaver Island Association is an organization of dedicated volunteers who seek to represent the interests of all residents and visitors on Beaver Island. From Phragmites and other invasive species control, to township governance, to support of the Community School, and everything in between, the BIA is working to support environmental and economic sustainability. If you have friends or neighbors who are not members, send the BIA their names and addresses and we will send them a copy of this newsletter.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP. If you have ideas to promote the wellbeing of Beaver Island and would like to be more involved, please consider joining our board by mailing a letter of interest to:
The Beaver Island Association, PO Box 390, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

BEAVER ISLAND BIRDING TRAIL CONTRIBUTION. If you would like to support the development of the Beaver Island Birding Trail, you may send contributions to Bob Anderson, Treasurer, The Beaver Island Association, PO Box 390, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

2013- 2014 Active Membership (178)

Keith Albin	Jack Gallagher	Herb Kayne	Joe Moore	Beth Scully
Christy Albin	Jim Gavelek	Phyllis Kayne	Phyllis Moore	Bob Simpson
Bruce Allen	John Gerrish	Jack Kelly	Charles Morris	Sandy Simpson
Bob Anderson	Sandra Gerrish	Ruth Kelly	Sandra Morris	Nancy Smith
Alana Anderson	Jan Gerson	Donna Kieselbach	Pam Moxham	John Starr
Elwood Baker	Ken Gitersonke	Bill Kohne	Eric Naranjo	Leigh Starr
Phyllis Baker	Pat Gitersonke	Marta Kohne	Sanomalynn Naranjo	Evan Steger
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Mary Dorais	Kathleen Igoe	Jane Maehr	Carol Roberts	Ed Welter
Auleen Duffy	Ronald Jakubus	John Martin	Pat Rowley	Willy Welter
Gerald Duffy	Helen Jakubus	Art McCaskey	John Rowley	Ronald Wierenga
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Ruth Fawell	Judith Jones	Ken McDonald	Bev Seiford	Annalda Worsfold
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