

B I P O A

I S L A N D C U R R E N T S

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Fall - Winter 2006

Mission Statement

The mission of BIPOA is to:

1. Represent the combined interests of our membership on issues of mutual concern that may affect the fundamental character of Beaver Island.
2. Support the preservation of the natural resources and beauty of Beaver Island and appropriate environmental conservation policies and/or methods.
3. Work with local government units in support of property owners' shared perspectives, concerns, and investments.
4. Foster and support economic growth that is consistent with the preservation of the natural beauty of Beaver Island and the quality of life, which is the reason for our original and continuing attraction to Beaver Island.

What does BIPOA do in the winter?

A few years ago, an Island resident (Jayne) did a number on the theme of "What do we do on Beaver Island in the winterbesides drink?" I know nothing of the drinking habits of other BIPOA members, but the "other than" question remains.

Some BIPOA Board members are still in the work force and spend winters saving for BI tax bills. Some engage in family responsibilities including sandwich caregiving. Some of us go elsewhere and work on other projects ...as well as play. All will be voting somewhere responsibly with due concern for more than the "pocketbook." Issues such as lake water quality, unchanging poverty rates, access to health care, etc. are of concern, wherever we vote.

However, all this is not BIPOA. What are we up to in the winter?

1. We will do what we can to keep things going on the

phragmites issue. As you may have read in one of the Island papers or the website, there have been some hopeful developments. In an early October meeting with the responsible MDNR staff person, the following agenda was set out:

The DNR will take the lead in securing further scientific information from its own botanist specialists and other sources.

Utilizing this information, the DNR will explore the possibility of securing an overall treatment permit from MDEQ to cover shoreline up to the traditional high water mark. This will include almost all Lake Michigan infestation, but not the inland lakes. Perhaps the townships can move into this area.

The DNR will negotiate with licensed treatment services to try to develop an overall contract for services. The hope would be that

continued on page 2.

Current Efforts



Rural Health Center Planning

Chair: Joe Reed
(231) 448-2247



Recreation Resources Committee

Chair: Jack Kelly
(912) 635-3921 or (231) 448-2524



Master Plan for Peaine Twp.

Chair: Paul Glendon
(231) 448-2772



BIPOA Information Center

Chair: Dan Wardlow
(231) 448-3196



Island Clean-Up

Chair: Doris Larson
(616) 243-1037 or (231) 448-2470



Trails Committee

Chair: Krys Lyle
(231) 448-2149



Newsletter and Web Site

Chair: Pam Grassmick
(248) 489-0784 or (231) 448-2314
Co-chair: Doris Larson
(616) 243-1037 or (231) 448-2470



Phragmites Australis

Chair: Jack Kelly
(912) 635-3921 or (231) 448-2524



Beach Clean-up & Protection

Chair: Pam Grassmick
(248) 489-0784 or (231) 448-2314



Planning/Zoning Liaison:

Krys Lyle (231) 448-2149

BIPOA in the winter, from page 1.

individual property owners can be given a means of contacting the contractor about their own needs.

At least two summer public meetings will be organized by BIPOA, presumably in cooperation with the townships, to explain the proposed program. At that time there will be a method available for any property owners to mark their property so it will not be treated. The DNR will provide expert information, possibly in conjunction with CMU.

Following these meetings a program for Fall, 2007, treatment will be finalized.

All this is subject to step-by-step development as well as further funding. However, it is a positive approach to dealing with a problem that not only threatens our beaches, but is also a major element in the quality of life, property values, and economic development of the Island. We plan to try to help keep this moving.

2. There will continue to be the winter task of writing grant proposals. Some relate to educational projects. Recent contacts with the school by Doris Larson and Pam Grassmick suggest there is more

that we can do to help educate BI students about Island environmental issues. The video being developed by Barbara Lucas may also expand into a web site, and funding will be sought for this program.

3. In Michigan (and in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin) the quality of Lake Michigan water remains a concern. There are efforts to protect and clean up the Great Lakes that need to be supported by state legislators and members of Congress. Raising this issue in letters, town meetings, responses to campaign requests, and other contacts should not end when the weather cools or the election is past. Algae blooms are becoming a real problem even up here in the northland. I find it strange that people can get so worked up about who wins football games and remain so calm about the natural world in which they live. How about "Go Green!"

So, wherever you are...and whoever you cheer for...have a good winter! (And I cannot help but add that it is not too cold to renew your BIPOA membership if you missed summer meetings and opportunities.)

– Jack Kelly

DNR to Selectively Log Island Land

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be selectively logging on Beaver Island over the next few months, according to Greg Gacey of the DNR's Gaylord Office. Open contracts have been let with a mainland logger, so the DNR can't give exact dates for the work.

Rumors on the Island had the DNR "clear-cutting" sections of the state forest. Gacey said that no clear-cut contracts had been let, and that ordinarily the state would not clear-cut hardwood forests. Selective logging typically removes some trees which have commercial value (maples are

highly prized) and allows new growth to occur in the opened forest canopy. When properly done, selective logging enhances the health of the forest. When poorly done, it damages the forest, wildlife habitat, watershed, and the land's aesthetic qualities.

BIPOA expressed concerns about these issues as well as potential damage to Island roads, which are easily rutted and potholed in the fall and spring. An additional road concern involves damage which may hamper snow removal during winter. The contractor selected has not previously done work for the

DNR, so Gacey assures BIPOA that they will be watching closely, and that the DNR wants to be a "good neighbor" to Beaver Islanders. A BIPOA board member (Dan Wardlow) lives within 1/8 mile of where logging is planned, and will monitor the contractor's operations. Gacey encourages Islanders with concerns about the logger's performance to contact him directly at the DNR's Gaylord office: (989) 732-3541. The Unit Manager (Gacey's supervisor) is Joyce Angel-Ling, also at the same phone number.

– Dan Wardlow, Board Member

For more information on the DNR's forestry management:

<http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301---,00.html>

And for more specific information on the DNR's forestry management activities in Charlevoix County:

http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_30505_31025-66205--,00.html

Martin's Bluff:

What happens when a publicly used bluff area begins to show signs of erosion from both human use and environmental forces? The answer is: Island groups come together to protect a beautiful park site. On October 9th, the Peaine Township Trails

Committee under the direction of Terry Saxton teamed up with the Lighthouse School students to plant beach grass in the eroded area. In order to control the human impact of running down the bluff, the Trails Committee placed downed trees along the

site. Jim Haveman provided the needed documentation to the DNR, while certified native beach grass was obtained through a grant by BIPOA from the Charleviox Conservation District. Working together is what makes Beaver Island strong.

BIPOA Annual Meeting

July 24th, 2006

7:30 p.m.

President Jack Kelly, following a period of fellowship and membership renewal, opened the annual meeting of the Beaver Island Property Owners Association at 7:30 p.m.

Approximately 50 members were present. Minutes of the annual meeting of 2005 were accepted as published in the newsletter. The treasurer's report was accepted.

The CMU/BIPOA lecture series continues on Monday, July 31st at 7:00 p.m. with a lecture by Dr. Tom Gehring of CMU *Wolves of Northern Michigan*.

Pam Grassmick reported on the project to produce a video, brochure, and website on the topic, *Beaver Island: A Great Lakes Jewel*. The video will be played on the boat and at the airport, and will be available at the library. It is designed to introduce visitors to a wide array of natural areas that are open to the public, and to seek their assistance in the preservation of

these sensitive natural sites. It will also inform visitors about Island procedures, like recycling at the transfer station. This project is being funded by several agencies. Sally Fogg, representing the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, presented a grant of \$3,000 to BIPOA in support of the project.

Paul Glendon reported on the Peaine Township Road Project. A committee was appointed last fall to discuss Island roads and funding possibilities for improvement. It was the understanding of the committee that the township board would have a proposal in place before the mileage vote in August of 2006. However, the plan has not yet been developed. Members of the committee are discouraged. BIPOA members who cycle Island roads are concerned about the gravel being used. It makes cycling treacherous, if not impossible. Paul mentioned that the township engineer does not recommend the gravel being used on the roads. The type of gravel which is

recommended is not available and is too costly. The road situation is currently unsatisfactory. Any opportunity to influence the township will be taken.

Doris Larson reported on a letter that was sent to all shoreline property owners to alert them to the growth of *phragmites australis* on Island beaches. Examples of *phragmites* were also shown to aid property owners in identification. The DNR will begin a 3-5 year eradication program on state lands this fall. Many property owners are hoping to schedule treatment on private lands when the eradication company is on the Island. There is no current date for treatment. Property owners will be informed about dates and companies as soon as information is available. A suggestion was made that the township be asked to provide burn barrels for the *phragmites* residents pull or dig up. Members were cautioned about safe burning procedures.

Jack Kelly reported on a wetlands publication, which has been prepared by Ed and Beth

Leuke of CMU. The report will be available to the public when funding sources are secured.

Krys Lyle circulated copies of the Master Plan, which has been completed and endorsed by both townships. The *Beaver Beacon* was commended for publishing the entire document during the review process. The Master Plan is a legal document, and planning decisions are to be consistent with the Master Plan. Krys was commended for her diligence in pursuit of the completion of this document.

Jack reported on the Nuisance Ordinance. Dennis Cady researched this issue and reported to the board with a document from an association of county and local governments in regard to enforcement. This document was passed on to both townships for consideration. The primary difficulty about enforcement is: who will police the ordinances.

New Business:

There was discussion about the desirability of a new name for

our organization. Some potential funding agencies have been hesitant to support our projects because of the negative, exclusivist association with the term “property owners.” Several suggestions were made:

- BIRA *Beaver Island Residents Assoc.*
- BIRSA *Beaver Island Resource Stewardship Assoc.*
- ISBI *Indentured Servants to Beaver Island*
- BIPA *Beaver Island Protection Assoc.*
- LBI *Lovers of Beaver Island*
- BICA *Beaver Island Community Assoc.*

The board will take these recommendations into consideration, and encourages members to send other suggestions.

Issues/Concerns:

Concern was expressed that the Charlevoix bus transfer service is being discontinued. The Transportation Authority is

the dispersal agency for county funds, which support the shuttle. Apparently there is not enough money to continue this service.

The quality of the water in the lake was discussed. Residents are very concerned about the algae/muck in the water and on the beaches. The Great Lakes Alliance is working on water quality issues. It is a huge problem and will require legislative action. Please contact congressmen about this issue.

Nominations:

Ken McDonald and Dan Wardlow were nominated to fill vacancies on the BIPOA board. Pam Grassmick was asked to continue to serve and Dennis Cady was asked to complete an unexpired term. A unanimous ballot was cast for these four people, and they were elected.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully,
Doris Larson, secretary

Beach Clean-up

The Annual Beach Clean-up which took place on September 16th was again a huge success, bringing together the Beaver Island Community School, property owners and, visitors. The data has been compiled and logged into

an international data base maintained by the Alliance for the Great Lakes. A beautiful day was spent not only picking up trash, but more, an invasive species lecture/clean-up was presented to the Beaver Island School students by

Doris Larson at McCauley Point. A total of 327 pounds of trash was accepted without fees by the Transfer Station, with permission from both townships. The most numerous beach items collected were cigarettes butts. Many

Great Lakes: protection & conservation

Last December, after nearly five years of negotiations, the eight Great Lakes governors endorsed a precedent-setting agreement to protect and conserve the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact) implements the Great Lakes Charter Annex signed by the parties in 2001. The Compact provides significant, comprehensive water use protections for the Great Lakes, their tributaries, and tributary groundwater.

The proposed Compact would protect the Great Lakes from harm by implementing a strong and effective water management program, including strong protections against water diversions outside of the basin and unwise

water use within the basin. The Compact would close the door on diversions to places like the arid Southwest U. S., put our own house in order as we manage our own water use in the basin, and put into place a system for making rational decisions about requests by near basin communities to access Great Lakes water. The Compact would also allow the Great Lakes region to maintain control over Great Lakes water in the face of growing demand from across the nation and the world. The Compact guarantees the long-term protection and sound management of Great Lakes water, ensuring that they are protected for generations to come.

While endorsement of the Compact by the eight Great Lakes governors is a tremendous accom-

plishment for the region, it is only the beginning of a challenging process to create new laws and policies for water management in the Great Lakes. This promises to be one of the most powerful and durable tools available to our region to protect our water resources, but there is a great deal of work left to be done. Before the Compact becomes enforceable law, each of the eight Great Lakes state legislatures must adopt the identical language of the Compact, and the U. S. Congress must give its consent. Three states – Illinois, Ohio, and New York – have already introduced legislation to adopt the Compact. None of these states, however, has given its legislative seal of approval to the Compact. It will require tremen-

cigarettes take as long as 5 years to decompose and leave behind traces of poisons such as arsenic. The largest and heaviest was a metal object removed from the east side, identified as a flattened row boat distinguishable by one oar lock

dous work and commitment by citizens and organizations that care about the Great Lakes to ensure that the Compact lives up to all its promises as a binding agreement across the basin.

The Great Lakes are a unique and precious resource, providing freshwater for 40 million people who live within the basin and supporting the region's ecosystem and economy. The Great Lakes basin contains nearly 20 percent of the earth's fresh surface water. It is the only freshwater system of its kind in size and ecological diversity, and is essential to humans and wildlife alike, providing homes, food, recreation, and economic sustainability.

The Great Lakes are critically

only. The event was followed by a hot dog roast at the Beaver Island Community School. Thank you extends to John and Carol Runberg for cooking, Pat Rowley serving as hostess, Deb Roberts for coordinating the students, and BIPOA for

important to the region. There are nearly 11,000 miles of coastline surrounding the Great Lakes and their connecting channels and islands. Recreation is a six billion dollar industry across the Great Lakes region. For the people of the Great Lakes states, they hold the key to our economic health, to our recreation, and to irreplaceable family experiences. The Great Lakes are a resource worth protecting and restoring.

The Great Lakes seem vast, but they are vulnerable to depletion and degradation. Each year rainfall and snowmelt replenish only about one percent of the water in the basin. The other 99 percent is finite and nonrenewable. That fact, coupled with a growing demand for water by domestic

paying the food tab. It was a delightful event and a wonderful way to spend time with friends both young and old. Thank you to all who came out to make our beaches cleaner for all our enjoyment.

users—including utilities, agriculture, manufacturers, and housing—and proposals to export water to other parts of the U.S. and to foreign countries—is cause for concerns about the Great Lakes' future. In addition to the threat of distant diversions, there is increasing pressure to access Great Lakes water by growing communities just outside the watershed divide. It is the looming threat of diversions to near basin communities and communities across the United States and the world, paired with localized water shortages in communities across the Great Lakes basin, and the uncertainties of climate change impacts on the waters of the Great Lakes, that make it imperative that the region do so.

Information Center: Land Stewardship & Best Practices

The BIPOA Reference Area housed in the Beaver Island District Library is under the new leadership of Dan Wardlow. Dan has recently moved permanently

to Beaver Island from California. This area is intended to provide Island land owners and homeowners a place to access information concerning all aspects

of land stewardship and best practices. If there is any information you would like Dan to include, please contact him at the address provided on page 11.

Dead Birds Along Shoreline

During the end of the summer many comments were made concerning the number of dead birds found along the east side of Beaver Island.

We were not alone being alarmed by the numbers of dead birds that were found. In October, biologists at Sleeping Bear Dunes found that an alarming number of dead seagulls, grebes, cormorants,

and loons were positive for Type E Botulism. It is a naturally occurring bacteria found in the bottom mud. It enters the food chain by invertebrates eating the bacteria which in turn is ingested by fish and finally birds. People who find such dead birds are instructed to leave them alone. If you have concerns, the proper authority to contact is the

Michigan Wildlife Services, State Director. 2803 Jolly Road Suite 100 Okemos, Michigan 48864, or call (866) 4USDA-WS. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Disease Lab, can be reached at (517) 336-5030. Further information on avian botulism can be obtained at the following web site: www.aphis.usda.gov/ws.

Thank you

The project to alert all shoreline property owners about the *phragmites* infestation was made possible by the generous donations

from the following businesses and organizations: Beaver Island Golf Course, Ed Wojan Realty, Island Property, Beaver Island Realty,

Beaver Island Wildlife Club, and BIPOA. Thank you all for helping to support the expenses incurred with the mailing of 734 letters.

Share Your Knowledge

Beaver Island property owners come from a variety of interesting backgrounds. You or a friend may be willing to share your life's expertise, such as grant writing,

environmental education, mental health, civic or governmental backgrounds—the topics are endless.

If you are willing to share your time and talent with residents of

Beaver Island, perhaps we can help you find a forum.

Please contact any of the BIPOA board members with your suggestions.

Phragmites Update

October 10, 2006

There have been a few developments in the negotiations between the Beaver Island Property Owners Association and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources since last month's report. The key contact staff member from the Gaylord DNR visited the Island last week to inspect and locate *phragmites* sites from the air and ground. His assessment reinforced the need to take some action before our shoreline has areas taken over by the invasive plant, as has occurred on the Lake Huron side of the state.

In a meeting with available BIPOA officers a general approach was agreed on. Of course, it will be a step by step



program that is subject to amendment at any point.

First, the DNR will take the lead in securing further scientific information from its botanist specialists and other sources of information.

Second, utilizing this information, the DNR will explore the possibility of securing an overall treatment permit from the state DEQ to cover shoreline up to the traditional high water mark. This will include almost all the Lake Michigan infestations, but not those on inland lakes.

Third, the DNR will negotiate with licensed treatment services to try to develop an overall contract for services. The hope would be that individual property owners will be given a method of contacting the contractor to arrange for treatment

Fourth, at least two public meetings will be organized by BIPOA, presumably in cooperation with the townships, to explain the proposed program. At that time there will be a means available for any property owners to mark their property so that it

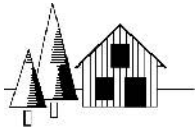
will not be treated. The DNR will provide expert information. It would also be hoped that CMU will participate in the information sessions.

Following these meetings and taking their results into account, a program for Fall 2007 treatment would be finalized and publicized.

It must be recognized that there will be no quick and final treatment program. However, this beginning offers a means of dealing with a threat to our beaches and to the environment that is a fundamental element in the attraction, quality of life, and economy of Beaver Island. We will, of course, use every means to keep everyone fully informed as all this develops.

– Jack Kelly





B I P O A
Membership Application
Beaver Island Property Owners Association

New Member Renewal Update Address

* 2007 Dues: \$20.00 *

Your Name: _____

Island Address: _____

(Address Line 2): _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different than above)

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

(Address Line 2): _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E-mail Address: _____

- I would be interested in serving on a committee.
- I would like to help with the annual meeting.
- I would like to help with special projects:

Please Mail with your Membership Dues of \$20.00 to:

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Box 390

Beaver Island, MI 49782

Watershed council partners with Michigan environmental council on algae problem

Over the summer you may have noticed the extensive stretches of shoreline where large amounts of green algae have accumulated. Vital components of all aquatic ecosystems, algae are the base of the food chain and contribute dissolved oxygen to the water during photosynthesis. While algae blooms occur naturally, they can reach nuisance level as a result of nutrient pollution, warm temperatures, excessive sunlight, declining lake levels, and invasive species.

While phosphorus is a known contributor to algae proliferation, zebra mussels are believed to be one of the primary culprits for the noticeable increase in algae growth. Zebra mussels filter feed, consuming phytoplankton and essentially clearing the water column. The clearer water, along with current low lake levels, allows even more sunlight to reach the bottom where bottom-dwelling algae occur, resulting in greater growth. Additionally, zebra mussels excrete phosphorus as waste, adding nutrients to the water, which also encourages growth.

This green algae growth will likely continue to populate, and at times, plague our shorelines. For the time being, there is no other environmentally safe recourse than raking up algae from the water onto land and disposing of the accumulated algae that collects along your shoreline.

While there is no solution to control zebra



mussels yet, we can all take steps to reduce our contribution of nutrient pollution to keep our lakes clean. Steps include reducing fertilizer use, taking care of pet waste, reducing runoff of soil from construction activities and landscaping, properly maintaining septic systems, and encouraging our local governments to reduce stormwater inputs.

Staff at the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is hard at work on the all the factors that contribute to excessive algae. This year, we received a grant from the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) to assemble a team of volunteers to document algae outbreaks in our service areas. The data they collect will provide baseline information that will be used in the future to better understand the problem and help identify potential solutions. We will also work with partners to create presentations and publications, and eventually assist in the development of mobile educational displays to help people identify algae and offer tips on what they can do about it.

Additionally, Policy Director, Dr. Grenetta Thomassey, is participating on a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Advisory Committee formed to address phosphorus, a known contributor to increased algae growth. In addition to identifying the major source categories of phosphorus loading to Michigan's surface waters, the Committee will review and recommend management approaches. Including representatives from private, public, and tribal interests, the Committee will produce a report of findings and recommendations.

Your B I P O A Board of Directors

Jack Kelly – President

954 N. Beachview
Jekyll Island, GA 31527
(912) 635-3921
e-mail Jkelly8269@aol.com

35227 Bonners Landing
Box 382
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2524

Paul Glendon – Vice President

18 Southwick Ct.
Ann Arbor, MI 46555
e-mail pglendon@yahoo.com

29390 Betsy Smith Trail
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2772
Fax (231) 448-2350

Doris Larson – Secretary

735 Cambridge Blvd SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 243-1037
e-mail sanctuary@illinoisalumni.org

30480 East Side Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2470

Annette Dashiell – Treasurer

2343 North Oak St.
Falls Church, VA 22046
e-mail annetted@biip.net

30225 Green's Bay Dr.
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2542

Dennis Cady

33570 East Side Drive
Beaver Island, Michigan 49782
(231) 448-2922

Pam Grassmick - Past President

28629 Kendallwood Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 489-0784
e-mail mcgrass@ameritech.net

30710 East Side Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2314

Krys Lyle

28385 Eagle Hill Road
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2149
e-mail krysl@biip.net

Ken McDonald

31570 Eastside Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2981
e-mail: KJMcDonald@comcast.net

Dan Wardlow

31061 Camp 3 Trail
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-3196
e-mail: overthewoods@gtlakes.com

We want to hear from you

The goal of the BIPOA newsletter and website is to promote greater communication between all Island property owners. We welcome opinions, stories, infor-

mative articles, or issues that you feel would be of interest.

The Deadline for the Spring Newsletter is April 15th, 2007; the earlier we receive stories to

include, the better. Please submit all articles or comments to: Pam Grassmick, either via fax number (248) 489-1263 or through our website *www.bipoa.org*

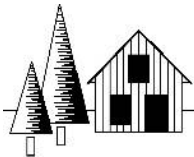
Moving? Please Keep Us Updated

Anytime that you do not receive your BIPOA newsletter, there is a reason. The most common is that either you moved and did not notify us, or that your dues were not paid and we had to remove your name from the mailing list.

Please clip off your name from the address area and return it to us when you are moving, so we will be able to get the newsletter off to you promptly. You may also e-mail us via the BIPOA website: *www.bipoa.org*

Soccer Champions

Congratulations to the Beaver Island Community School *Islander* Soccer Champions, who won the District Tournament for the first time ever, in *any* sport!



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