

Fall / Winter 2008

ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Association

*Supporting Environmental
and Economic Sustainability*

Mission Statement

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.

Avian Botulism Update

Almost 20 volunteers are walking the Island's beaches from the middle of September to the middle of December recording and disposing of dead birds. To date (November 10) one loon (which has been sent for testing), a few gulls and white winged scoters have been found. Certainly not as many as last year. Just in case though, we obtained avian botulism kits from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. These kits include heavy-duty garbage bags and gloves as well as information about avian botulism. Birds will be disposed of in a pit dug behind the transfer station, bagless. Forms are filled out weekly to keep track of the findings.

Avian Botulism kills. It begins naturally enough in the lake sediments. *Cladophora*, the smelly green algae that has plagued our Island shores the past couple of years, helps to perpetuate the cycle of botulism. It removes oxygen as it decays, and provides a substrate upon which the botulism can grow.

The bottom-feeders, mussels such as the Zebra and Quagga, filter the botulism into their bodies, themselves not being affected. Later, fish which feed upon the mussels, such as the Goby, transfer the botulism to their bodies and become sick and slow. Then fish-eating birds pick them off as easy prey, becoming infected themselves. Most birds succumb within a few days. It isn't pleasant. First, their flight muscles become paralyzed, then their legs, next their neck muscles can no longer hold up their heads. If the bird doesn't drown, then the chest muscles paralyze and the bird suffocates.

It is important that family pets are not exposed to the dead birds on the beach, as it can also transfer to them and make them sick and possibly die. Hunters and fishermen should not eat fish or birds acting strangely as they might be infected also. Please report any sick or dead birds found on Beaver Island's shores to Jacque LaFreniere at 448-2220.

In This Issue and online at www.BeaverIslandAssociation.org



Invasive *Phragmites*
Update



On the lookout
Purple Loosestrife



Great Lakes Islands
Symposium



State Land Logging
Including Clearcutting



Fire Prevention & Risk
Level Communication

Beaver Island Association

September 2008 *Phragmites* update:



While the Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan discusses the deteriorating trend of our coastal wetlands, Beaver Island can be proud as a community of our collective response to our vulnerable shoreline. The 2007 *Phragmites* eradication project (SOS) was very successful. This year, 80% of the remaining *Phragmites* were hand swiped vs. sprayed. We have gone from treating 27+ shoreline acres to approximately 3 acres in one year. In true Island spirit, this is cause for celebration!

In the hand-swiping process, the

dye is not seen on the sand but rather on the stem of the plant. The blue green nature of the dye mixed with the herbicide can be very discreet on the greenish blue leaves, but, make no mistake, the herbicide is just as effective. Photos are available on our website as well.

Over 300 property owners entered into the treatment program voluntarily. Our shoreline presented many new growth areas and those were targeted so that seed heads did not establish. A map showing individual *Phragmites* sites on Beaver Island along with property owner informa-

tion can be found at the Beaver Island District Library or on the BIA website.

The information returned from the JF New treatment team was very positive. They were grateful for the enthusiasm with which they were greeted along our beaches and commented on the Island residents' comprehensive understanding of the *Phragmites* plants and the project. Shoreline owners met with the contractor, Don Vyse representing the townships and Pam Grassmick for the BIA on August 26th. This opportunity provided a chance to have questions answered. The response from those in attendance was very positive. You can expect this meeting to be repeated in the 2009 treatment year.

What can you as a property owner on Beaver Island expect over the next year? First, the *Phragmites* plants will be turning yellow as fall approaches. Those individuals who

Beach Cleanup 2008

This year's Beach cleanup was a great success. 27 volunteers participated, patrolled, and cleaned over 27 miles of shoreline. Although Beaver Island beaches are quite clean, almost 180 pounds of trash was picked up by the volunteers. The most common items were: plastic bags, balloons, bottle caps, cigarette filters, and fireworks debris. The most unique item was a backscratcher.

While many volunteers participated on the "official" day, other volunteers cleaned beaches during the



This year, phragmites was also treated on the outer Islands thanks to a grant.

Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

have *Phragmites* growing on their beaches and have not submitted their permission slips will be contacted by mail with a formal request from the townships prior to enforcing the Ordinance which was passed in August of 2008. If seed heads are present on your *Phragmites* plant, research tells us that the plant is at least three years old. As part of an ongoing monitoring program, another entire shoreline survey will take place in June of next year. Mapping of infestations and an evaluation of treatment areas will occur. Further community discussions will entail designing a sustainable treatment program.

As with programs of this type, maintenance will go along with shoreline restoration work. Cutting the dead stems can occur three weeks after herbicide treatment. Again, taking care to not disturb the soil, burn them on your property or bag and take to the Transfer Station. Please refer to the

September 20 to October 17 time period. No matter when they helped all volunteers were welcome at the Community Center on September 27 for a complimentary hot dog lunch.

Many thanks to the Community Center for hosting the lunch, the Transfer Station for accepting all the trash, and McDonough's Market for donating the hot dog buns. But the greatest thanks go to the volunteers who freely gave of their time to help keep Beaver Island the Great Lakes Jewel.



2008 Spring *Phragmites* update on beaverislandassociation.org for further removal instructions.

Your stewardship of the Island's beaches is testimony to the deep sense of community and commitment to preserve and protect our shoreline. I personally extend a note of thanks to each of you who have taken the time and energy to understand this program and the threat to Beaver Island. Your funding, along with the townships' dollars, kept this program feasible. Another note of thanks to our township supervisors, Don Vyse and John Works, Jr., both of whom worked tirelessly to

achieve another successful treatment season. Brian Mastenbrook, from the MI Department of Natural Resources, assisted in securing the permits and awarding the bid to a very professional treatment company, JF New. Brian also secured the funding for treatment of Beaver, High and Garden with a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Brian Kelly deserves honorable mention for his assistance with the maps from Charlevoix County's GIS Office.

Stay tuned for Part III in the 2009 *Phragmites* saga.

— Pam Grassmick



The team used skiffs to treat phragmites on the outer Islands of the Beaver Archipelago.

Beaver Island Association

Sustainability: the Watchword for Beaver Island & the Great Lakes

We changed the name of this organization to the Beaver Island Association to better represent the breadth of an organizational mission that extends well beyond what might be considered narrow property ownership concerns. With the new name we adopted a motto or tagline to succinctly summarize the broader mission: Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability. The last word in that tagline captures both the essence of the Beaver Island Association and the challenges that face our beautiful Island and the magnificent Great Lakes of which it is our favorite part.

To enhance the sustainability of the organization itself, the Board of Directors has been expanded and has become an even more active and committed body than in years past. After last summer's Annual Membership Meeting we welcomed two new Directors, Sue Avery and Jacque LaFreniere, and they have hit the ground running. Sue now is editor of this newsletter and keeper of the BIA website. Jacque has taken responsibil-

ity for the Association's natural resource concerns and activities, which at this writing primarily involves coordinating the activities of twenty-five "Beach Rangers" she recruited to walk the Island shoreline looking for, identifying, collecting and disposing of the carcasses of migratory birds afflicted with avian botulism.

In late September we again sponsored and (through Vice President Ken McDonald's efforts) coordinated a major beach cleanup project. The first weekend in November BIA will be convener for a meeting of interested groups and individuals attempting to identify and define the most important natural, historical and recreational features of State-held acreage on Beaver Island, so that we can positively influence DNR planning for the use and management of those lands. Next summer, we will present lectures on matters of environmental interest and continue to work cooperatively with the Townships on the continuing phragmites eradication program. Director Bruce Jacobson is leading a cooperative effort with the Bea-

ver Island Fire Department to improve fire danger signage and promote Island-wide preparation for forest fire prevention and response. And planning is under way for a major new event that we hope will bring people from all around the Great Lakes to Beaver Island the last weekend in August 2009: a Great Lakes Islands Symposium, with in-depth focus on environmental and economic issues of common concern to all islands (and *islanders*) in the Great Lakes. Directors Craig Schrottenboer and Pam Grassmick are coordinating this activity.

That's a quick summary of Association efforts for the growth and sustainability of the organization itself and important aspects of Island life and environment. Now for some thoughts about larger, more troubling issues. Economically, these are perilous times for the country as a whole, and like everything else about Island living (gas prices, travel complications, you name it) hard economic times tend to hit the Island harder than other places. Traveling around the Island all summer and early autumn,

Great Lakes Islands Symposium '09

How many islands are there in the Great Lakes basin? If you guessed 31,407 you would be correct. Isn't that an amazing number?

In the late 1980s nearly 100 islands were transferred from the US Bureau of Land Management to the State of

Michigan. At that time there was no assembled information nor did a state policy regarding Great Lakes islands exist. Officials disagreed about what to do with these islands. Some thought we should ignore or sell them because they were remote and isolated. Others thought we should build campgrounds

with outhouses and boat access. Still others thought we should establish wildlife sanctuaries. Questions grew about the basis on which these decisions should be made. Years later, a barebones policy was drawn up for Michigan islands, the first one in the basin. But many more questions still

Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

the only thing more plentiful than turkeys seemed to be realtors' for sale signs, not an encouraging sight for folks concerned about the value and potential saleability of their property. Thankfully, the water level was higher and the amount of new algae sloshing up against our beaches seemed to be smaller than the past couple of years. But neither short- nor long-term climate trends and projections give much cause for optimism as they relate to Beaver Island's environmental or economic future – unless effective, concerted action is taken to change those trends.

A recent report by the National Conference of State Legislatures (in collaboration with the University of Maryland's Center for Integrative Environmental Research) focused on climate change and the economy. It showed that Michigan's average temperature rose and the amount of ice cover on the northern Great Lakes declined appreciably over the last century. Models used in that study indicate that Michigan could become hotter and drier throughout the 21st Century, with summers resembling those

of present-day Ohio by 2030. More precipitation is predicted, but continuing increases in summer and winter temperatures are expected to more than counter-balance increases in rainfall, causing a continuing long-term decline in Great Lakes water levels – as much as 1.5 to 8 feet by 2100. Such developments could have devastating effects on commercial Great Lakes shipping, recreational boating and fishing, and hydroelectric power production. They also could require annual dredging along the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence route at yearly costs exceeding \$100 million to keep commercial shipping going. Perversely, while lake levels drop, increased (and more extreme) precipitation events are likely to cause increased flooding and runoff pollution, threatening the safety of the citizenry and the water they drink and enjoy recreationally.

Continually rising temperatures also have affected—and will continue to affect—the flora and fauna that make Michigan in general and Beaver Island in particular such a beautiful place to live and a unique magnet for

nature-focused tourism. One study found that 80% of species studied are changing their behavior, migratory patterns and habitats because of rising temperatures. If these trends continue, the natural beauty and quality of life that have drawn us all to Beaver Island obviously will be threatened. But so will the Island's economic viability, because the NCSL report foresees nature-related tourism losses in Michigan running into the hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

In summary, environmental and economic sustainability is what we're all about as a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting all that is good and special about Beaver Island. That's the good news. But all the news obviously is not so good, and each of us needs to do everything in our power to meet the challenges and help solve the problems of climate change – in our personal lives, through organizations such as BIA, and by strong and persistent advocacy with our elected representatives.

– Paul Glendon, President
Beaver Island Association

remained to be answered.

Then in 1995, with a grant from the Michigan Coastal Management Program, thirty-five people gathered for a three-day workshop in Roscommon, Michigan. The workshop led to the first assemblage of information about the islands as a collection, including recog-

nition of the global significance of their biological diversity. Around the same time, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team started a significant island effort.

In December 2003, the Great Lakes program office of the U.S. E.P.A. hosted a second forum in Chi-

cago. This time over 100 people gathered and the group became known as the Collaborative for the Conservation of the Great Lakes Islands.

In 2004 the International Association for Great Lakes Research received a ranking paper and 14 other

continued on page 6.

Beaver Island Association

Islands Symposium, from page 5. scientific papers during a special island session, and island indicators were submitted to the 2006 State of the Lakes Ecosystem project.

On August 6, 2007 the Collaboration for the Conservation of the Great Lakes Islands submitted a final report to The Great Lakes Regional Program Office of the EPA regarding the

biodiversity of the islands of the Great lakes and detailed threats to that biodiversity. But many questions regarding the systematic protection of Great Lakes islands still remain.

Beaver Island Association Annual Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2008

The annual meeting was held at the Peaine township hall. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President, Paul Glendon. Board members present: Bruce Jacobson, Peter Igoe, Dan Wardlow, Pam Grassmick, Annette Dashiell, Craig Schrottenboer, and Jane Dwyer.

The minutes of last year's annual meeting (July 23, 2007) were approved.

Treasurer Annette Dashiell presented the financial report for fiscal year 2007-08. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the report was approved.

Paul Glendon presented several proposed by-law amendments which the Board recommended for approval by the membership. One, which also includes an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, was to change the name of the organization from Beaver Island Property Owners Association to the Beaver Island Association in order to convey our general

mission to be all inclusive.

Other proposed amendments to the by-laws address term limits (extending the number of three-year terms a Board member may serve from a maximum of two to three) and number of Directors (expanding from the current composition of nine directors to a maximum of fifteen, with the exact number for each year to be specified by the incumbent Board of Directors before the Annual Meeting of members, and creating two youth board member positions with some voting limitations) and several points of clarification in the existing bylaws. All of the proposed amendments were presented for approval as a package. With the unanimous consent of the members present, they were approved.

Next it was announced that the Board had specified that for 2008-09 there be eleven regular directors, and the nominating committee (Dwyer, Grassmick and Wardlow) recommended re-election of incumbent directors Annette Dashiell, Bruce

Jacobson and Paul Glendon and election of two new nominees, Sue Avery and Jacque LaFreniere. Additional nominations from the floor were invited, but none were offered; the slate of five candidates recommended by the nominating committee received unanimous approval, and the group welcomed Jacque and Sue as new directors.

Committee Reports:

Beach Clean-Up will take place on September 27, 2008. Ken McDonald organizes the event with the Beaver Island Community school and any who wish to participate were encouraged to contact him.

E-mail reception of the newsletter *Currents* was reported on by Dan Wardlow. Progress is being made however certain technical difficulties are being worked through at this time; as progress continues, Association members will be invited to affirmatively express willingness to receive *Currents* and other communication from the Association by e-mail.

Wardlow also reported on

Beaver Island Association Committees

Phragmites SOS Project Coordinator

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

Beach Clean-up Coordinator

Ken McDonald
31570 East Side Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2981 . KJMcDonald@comcast.net

Natural Resources & Avian Botulism

Jacque LaFreniere
27435 Paid Ean Og's Road
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2220 . jacquell@tds.net

Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

Our Association has begun a dialog with the Michigan Sea Grant program, a joint program of University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Central Michigan University to

explore the possibility of hosting a bi-national islands forum on Beaver Island the last week of August 2009. We all have a stake in the long-term economic sustainability of the islands

of the Great Lakes and in seeing that an ongoing scientific bi-national dialog continues. As plans develop we will continue to keep you informed.

– Craig Schrotenboer

logging activities on Beaver Island and encouraged members to be observant about such activities and report any concerns about them to proper authorities.

Craig Schrotenboer reported on activities and issues at **Lake Geneserath**.

Pam Grassmick gave a report on the “**Save our Shores**” *Phragmites* eradication program in 2007; its continuation in 2008; efforts of the two townships to prepare and enact an Ordinance to insure Island-wide access for future identification and treatment of *Phragmites*; and a joint meeting of the township boards on June 24, 2008 at which a draft of the proposed ordinance was presented and discussed and public comment was invited and received. The ordinance is not meant to be punitive to property owners, but will authorize treatment of *phragmites* on private property even without owners' affirmative consent after thorough due process. Grassmick reported that the township boards were continuing to

work with their attorney to make minor revisions in the draft ordinance after the June 24 meeting. It is expected that it will be adopted in the near future, and a *Phragmites* Administrator may be appointed by the townships to administer the ordinance and future eradication efforts.

Township Supervisors John Works Jr. and Don Vyse were in attendance and spoke to the members briefly about last year's eradication project, (which successfully killed at least 95% of the identified *Phragmites* plants on thirteen major sites and other small infestation areas) and plans for the continuing effort this year. They were recognized and thanked for their work on the *Phragmites* project and the collaborative spirit in which both townships worked with the Association (in particular with Pam Grassmick) and with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on this major effort to combat an aggressively invasive plant species that threatened the native habitat and beauty of Beaver Island's

shores

Pam Grassmick also reported that interested persons and groups in the Grand Traverse Bay area have contacted her to learn more about Beaver Island's *Phragmites* eradication project and how its success might be duplicated there.

Jacque LaFreniere presented a highly informative report on **avian botulism**, as it manifested itself on Beaver Island shores in the fall of 2007, and plans to monitor and deal with its expected recurrence in 2008.

Member comments: Member Jim Birdsall voiced concern about forest fire danger on Beaver Island and measures that might be taken to help prevent fires in our large forested areas and keep fires that may start from getting out of control. A discussion of the issue followed, with suggestions as to how the BIA might assist the volunteer BIFD in a collaborative effort to address these concerns.

The 2008 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

For a full list of current Beaver Island Association committees and contact information, please see our website.

Great Lakes Islands Symposium

Craig Schrotenboer
26652 Hemlock Point Road
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2973 . cschrotenboer@ghfc.org

Island Logging liaison to the DNR

Dan Wardlow
31061 Camp 3 Trail
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-3196 . danbeaverisland@yahoo.com

Island Currents Newsletter & Website

Sue Avery
28629 Fox Point Trail
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2670 . cabinbythelake1@gmail.com

Beaver Island Association



The first clearcut site on Camp #3 Trail

DNR Conducting Extensive Island Logging Including Clearcutting

Much has changed with the logging situation on the Island since our last newsletter. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has let clearcut contracts for 40 acres between Fox and Greene's Lakes, and has let "selective cut" contracts for an additional 155 acres north and east of Greene's Lake and its bog. Logging is being done by Pinney Logging of East Jordan under a negotiated contract with the DNR.

Thirty acres spanning Camp 3 Trail have already been clearcut, as you can see in the photo (above). Logging operations so severely damaged the road that over 30 truckloads of gravel and clay were brought in by the Charlevoix County Road Commission to rebuild the road's surface to

keep it passable. Most of the trees taken were sent to pulp mills in the Upper Peninsula, despite the presence of beech bark disease in Island trees.

Preliminary examination of documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request reveal some interesting aspects to the DNR's logging on the Island. Typically, the DNR opens a bidding process for logging which results in bids going to the logging company which bids highest above the state's baseline appraisal of value. Looking through the past five years of bids on the DNR's website, winning bids range from 40% to 200% above the state's appraisal. In the case of Beaver Island's forest, no bids were received, so the state negotiated a contract with Pinney Logging that pays the state 70% below the

state's appraisal.

No notice was given to Islanders or to local government of the DNR's intentions. In October 2006, I reported a conversation with DNR Forestry Sales Agent Greg Gatesy in which he stated that no clearcut contracts had been let for the Island—only selective cut contracts. His statements were in obvious contradiction to the clearcut contracts discussed in a DNR management team conference call on May 16, 2006, and in contradiction to a Pre-Timber Sale Checklist signed by his supervisor on August 21, 2006.

According to the DNR's "State Forest Land Resource Assessment Checklist" proper procedure includes: Gather input for the proposed treatment from interested associations,



One of several hydraulic fluid buckets seen on the first clearcut site.

advisory groups, interest groups and the broader public. Associations and advisory groups for major program areas typically include fire, recreation activities (e.g., motorized trail users, hunting interests), timber, wildlife and fisheries management interests. This checklist item stands in apparent contradiction to the “Pre-Timber Sale Checklist” completed by the DNR on August 21, 2006 in which the DNR forestry sales agent checked “no” to the item “Were neighbors notified of DNR’s intent to harvest adjacent to their property?” In the same document, the sales agent states “There is no residential in the area” despite the fact that one home stands less than 1,200 feet from the logging area, and there are eight homes within a half-mile. Of those homes, five abut Camp

3 Trail, the single-lane county road used for all logging activity at the DNR sites.

In addition to the noise, road damage, and visual blight caused by the logging along the main entry road to recreational and hunting use of state lands, the logging activity has obliterated a site of historic interest to the Beaver Island Historical Society. Upcoming logging activity within this same sales contract will include operations along the well-established and popular Government Tower Trail (connecting Middie Perron’s Trail to Camp 3 Trail), as well as immediately adjacent to the historic site of logging Camp Number 3. Government Tower Trail itself is the most likely route that heavy logging equipment will use for work on 40 acres straddling the trail’s

route, disrupting over one-half mile of the trail. Yet the DNR’s approved checklist for this activity answers no to the question “Are there any historically or culturally significant features in the sale area?” and no to the question “Are any recreation trails affected by the sale?”

Letters and email sent to the DNR in 2006 expressing specific concerns and requesting additional information went unanswered. Combined with the logging activity, all this raises questions about the DNR’s stated commitment to being a “good neighbor.” Is this the way we want the State of Michigan to manage its resources and interact with its citizens? We invite you to tour the clear-cut logging site on Camp 3 Trail to see the State’s practices first-hand.

Beaver Island Association

Board of Directors

Another Invasive to watch: **Purple Loosestrife**

Paul Glendon – President pglendon@yahoo.com
18 Southwick Ct. 29390 Betsy Smith Trail
Ann Arbor, MI 46555 Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2772

Ken McDonald – Vice President KJMcDonald@comcast.net
31570 Eastside Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2981

Jane Dwyer - Secretary
31520 East Side Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2868

Annette Dashiell – Treasurer annetted@biip.net
2343 North Oak St. 30225 Green's Bay Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22046 Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2542

Sue Avery cabinbythelake1@gmail.com
28629 Fox Point Trail
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2670

Pam Grassmick mcgrass@ameritech.net
30710 East Side Drive 28629 Kendallwood Dr.
Beaver Island, MI 49782 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(231) 448-2314 (248) 489-0784

Peter Igoe pigoe@verizon.net
26145 Beaver Harbor Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2582

Bruce Jacobson bgordonj@gtlakes.com
29616 East Side Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2894

Jacque LaFreniere jacquel@tds.net
27435 Paid Een Og's Road
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2220

Craig Schrotenboer cschrotenboer@ghfc.org
26652 Hemlock Point Road
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2973

Dan Wardlow danbeaverisland@yahoo.com
31061 Camp 3 Trail
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-3196

One area that will need our vigilance again is with a plant known as Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.) New plants were identified during the Phragmites treatment and removed from the NW and the SW corner of Beaver Island. These plants bloom July-September, reach 3-7 feet in height, and have 1-50 stems.

The best defense against this new-



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 2: 581.

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA NRCS. Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

BIA Membership Application

est invader is to monitor all wetland sites and remove young plants promptly. One plant can produce millions of seeds so care must be taken to prevent spread, such as bagging all plant material. More information and photos can be found with the USDA online at plants.usda.gov or at www.miseagrant.umich.edu/pp/. CMU will be happy to assist with plant identification.

Thank You to all who contributed to Save Our Shoreline

This edition of *Island Currents* is being sent on a complimentary basis to non-members who contributed to the *Save Our Shoreline* in 2008. As you see from Pam's update on the *Phragmites* project, your participation has helped tremendously to protect our shoreline, and we thank you. We invite you to join our association by completing the Membership Application.

Moving? Online?

Please Keep Us Updated

Anytime that you do not receive your BIA 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 update us when moving so we will be able to get the newsletter off to you promptly. You may also e-mail us via the Beaver Island Association website or you may receive news updates via e-mail: www.BeaverIslandAssociation.org

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Update Address

* 2009 Dues: \$20.00 *

Your Name: _____

Island Address: _____

(Address Line 2): _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Mailing Address (if different than above)

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

(Address Line 2): _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E-mail Address: _____

☐

Send Beaver Island Association
News Updates via this email address

☐

Send Beaver Island Association
News via postal mail

☐

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 Association

Box 390

Beaver Island, MI 49782

Fire Prevention & Risk Level Communication

In response to a member's concern expressed at this year's annual meeting, the BIA Board has been working with the Beaver Island Volunteer Fire Department to explore ways the association might help mitigate the risk of forest fire on our Island.

Initial recommendations have centered on fire prevention awareness and education, as well as broadening communication of current fire risk level. To that end the board and Fire Chief Tim McDonough have agreed to support the procurement and place-

ment of additional fire risk signage at ports of entry to the Island, including the airports, ferry dock, marinas, and campground. These would be in addition to the sign presently in place at the campground on East Side Drive. Required permissions from appropriate persons and agencies have yet to be obtained. Fire Chief McDonough has agreed to contact the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to see if signs are available. Should they not be, the BIA Board has agreed to pursue other sources. The board has offered to

enlist a group of volunteers who would assure timely uniform and accurate posting of fire risk at the various locations. Risk-level assessment and direction would be provided by our fire department. Chief McDonough has accepted this proposal.

In addition to the above actions, the board has agreed to sponsor as an agenda item at next year's general meeting a presentation and discussion of fire prevention on Beaver Island. Chief McDonough has agreed to secure attendance of appropriate DNR representatives.

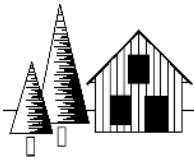
We want to hear from you

The goal of the *Island Currents* newsletter and our website www.beaverislandassociation.org is to promote greater communication.

Opinions, stories, informative articles or any issues you feel are of interest are welcome.

The next deadline for submission

is April 15, 2009. All articles should be submitted to Sue Avery at cabinbythelake1@gmail.com



Box 390

Beaver Island, MI 49782

Beaver Island Association

*Supporting Environmental
and Economic Sustainability*