

BIPOA

Island CURRENTS

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Spring 2001

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.

Important Dates

Summer Newsletter - May 25, 2001

Submission Deadline: April 25

Museum Week - July 16th - 21st

2001 Annual Meeting - July 30th

7:00 PM Peaine Township Hall
If you would like to suggest a speaker for the annual meeting, please contact one of the board members.

Homecoming - August 10th - 12th

St. James Road Paving

The project of paving Main/Michigan Street in St. James Township is scheduled for this year. The plans are to tear up the present pavement and resurface the roadway with asphalt from the corner at Holy Cross Church Hall to the Lighthouse. Also included in the project are new sidewalks and improved street lighting. At the present time engineering and design work is underway, but, due to the need to determine the exact road right of way, this is proving to be a challenge.

There also has been an interest in forming a sewer district from Forest Street (Ace Hardware corner) to Frankie Lane (Post Office corner). This area has the highest septic field volume in the harbor. The concept is essentially a larger model of a typical septic tank and field. After the potential septic site and costs are finalized, a Public Hearing will be held. If the project moves ahead, it will be done at the time of the road paving.

Along with the Main/Michigan paving, we have an opportunity to improve the Township Airport. The Michigan Aeronautics Commission long has been interested in improving the paved runway at the Township Airport, and, with the asphalt plant on the Island, we could save money by taking advantage of the two projects together. The Airport project would bring the runway up to standards, 4,300 feet long and 75 feet wide with improved lighting. By combining the road and airport projects, we will have
Continued on page 5, See ROADS

Transportation Authority

The Beaver Island Transportation Authority (BITA) was formed as a committee of St. James Township to seek ISTEAF funding for a new ferry to serve the Beaver Island community. This idea was the brainchild of Howard Konetchy, former Island resident and previous board member of the Beaver Island Boat Company (BIBCO). He had read an article in a marine trade magazine about intermodal transportation funding that had been put in play through Congress and found that certain amounts were for surface transportation over water (translation-ferry boats). In fact, I had flown Mr. Konetchy, and Bill and Tammy McDonough to a Great Lakes Ferry Boat Association meeting and found more encouragement while attending there.

A year or so later the BIBCO management approached St. James Township with the idea; in fact
Continued on page 2, See BITA

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(Or an application if friends or neighbors are interested in joining)	

BIPOA Committees



Rural Health Center
Strategic Planning Task Force
Committee Chair: Maggie Bennett
(231) 448-2836



Trails Committee
Committee Chair: Sharon Vance
(231) 448-2842



Island Clean-Up
Committee Chair: Doug Hartle
(231) 448-2368 or (248) 585-4818



Island Roads
Committee Chair: Paul Niehaus
(231) 448-2367 or (248) 438-6374



Newsletter and Website
Committee Chair: Pam Grassmick
(248) 489-0784 or (231) 448-2314



Membership and Promotion
Committee Chair: Marty Maehr
(734) 994-8904 or (231) 448-2926



Work with Townships' Planner
Committee Chairs
E.B. Lange (231) 448-2568
& Rod Nackerman
(248) 693-9808 or (231) 448-2812

BITA, continued from Cover
Peaine Township had also been approached but declined. St. James was reluctant but when it seemed that they would not go forth, Larry Malloy who was in attendance raised a little hell with the board stating that it would be foolish not to even try. The BITA board was formed right there from the persons in attendance: Larry Malloy, Kitty McNamara, Vince Olach, Ken Taylor, and Don Vyse. I later took Vince Olach's seat when he moved back to the mainland.

After a series of miscues and missteps we got our act together and received approval to build a ferry boat, a very proud accomplishment for our board. Certainly more capacity was needed -- what we did not anticipate was that the dang thing would fill up so quickly!!! We applied and were also funded for dock improvements and continue to this day with improvements that enhance the ability of persons to get to and from Beaver Island as well as cargo.

The "Emerald Isle" has become an icon of the community in a few short years. It would be hard to imagine getting by without her. This does raise the question of where the future takes us. BITA has been approached about additional capacity (boats) but does have concerns as to the impact on the Island both naturally and financially. The BITA board has made it known that if we are to provide more transportation, an impact statement would have to be done first.

BITA is very proud of its accomplishments and looks forward to providing for transportation needs for the community for many years to come. We solicit thoughtful input on transportation issues on Beaver Island. Send your comments to BITA, P.O. Box 217, Beaver Island Michigan 49782

– Rich Gillespie

Committee Reports

Island Beautification - Doug Hartle
This group hopes to travel to other islands such as Put-in-Bay and discuss how various other communities deal with blight such as old abandoned cars. Members of this committee include: Dale Boyles, Rod Nackerman, and Rich Verduyn.

Road Improvement - Paul Niehaus
The Road Improvement committee is researching and developing 2 or 3 positions relating to the environmental and physical impact of our present roads. Also to be discussed are equipment, training, and prioritizing of funds used for general maintenance. Members include: Henry Hill and E.Z. Johnson

Planning - E.B. Lange
The second contract has been signed with the planner. The present goal is to update the Zoning Ordinances with the 5 year Master Plan. Krys Lyle has replaced Bill Palidino as the Chair for Zoning in Peaine Township.

Advisory Board for Beacon - Rod Nackerman
BIPOA has been approached by the Beaver Beacon to assist on an advisory board consisting of 6-8 people. Rod has agreed to be BIPOA's representative.

Membership - Marty Maehr is currently working on the development of a packet explaining the intended purpose of BIPOA. It has been agreed that a one year free membership will be given to all first time property owners.

Trails - Sharon Vance
We hope to have an updated report relating to trails for the Summer Newsletter along with a map showing a favorite hiking trail.

Your B I P O A Board of Directors

Medical Center - Maggie Bennett will be providing an update to the two new care givers, Susan Meis and Chris Van Looy, presently employed by the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.

If you are interested in helping on any one of these committees, please contact the chairperson listed to the left. We value your participation and together we achieve more.

New Members

We wish to welcome our newest members:

Rich and Laura Gillespie

Donovan and Amy Langford III

Krys Lyle

Erik and Theresa Kausrud

Dale and Terry Keyes

Ray and Grace Matela

Dave and Patty Mueller

Dave Roop

Board Notes

Last summer, the BIPOA board directed that in order to keep costs down, 2 copies of our newsletter will be permanently housed at the Beaver Island Library. Therefore, we will no longer be placing extra newsletters on the counter for random pick up. Further, any member who is 6 months or more behind on membership dues will receive a note on their newsletter: "Last copy of newsletter, please renew membership". We currently have 40 delinquent memberships, but hopefully everyone will be up to date shortly. We do appreciate all of you taking part.

President

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B I P O A

Membership Application

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

New Member Renewal Update Address

* 2001-2002 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:

Mr. Rod Nackerman
 Summer: 27245 Darkeytown Road
 Beaver Island, MI 49782

Winter: 2514 Cole Road
 Lake Orion, MI 48362

Winter of '36

I knew it was cold when I first stuck my nose out from under the old buffalo robe that covered my bed. There was a small drift of snow on the robe which had slipped through the window of our farmhouse on Darkeytown Road. My Dad was calling me to get up for school and he had a fire going in the kitchen wood-stove and a pot of hot oatmeal simmering for our breakfast. My Mother would get up a little later when the kitchen and dining room warmed to take care of our two little sisters, Rosemary and Ellen.

My older sister Barbara and I bundled up in our home-made coats to walk to Sunnyside School, about 2 miles away. I was only 6 that winter of 1936 and in the second grade. At our gate, we joined the McCafferty boys who were older and sometimes had to help us through the snow drifts which were often fence-post high. Because our road was never plowed we walked through the woods for shelter and then up across Frank O'Donnell's field.

My grandparents Fred and Polly lived with us in those years and my Dad wasn't working except on the WPA building roads in good weather. Lawrence Malloy had come that fall and butchered our pig and we had a side of beef hanging in the old log house nearby. Also there were lots of chickens for Sunday dinner and my Grandpa would often snare a rabbit for a nice stew.

When we reached Sunnyside School, George Ricksgers had a good fire going in the big woodstove which had a circular shell around it to prevent us from getting too close. It was really a two-room school building but one room was reserved for quilting bees and elections, both welcome adult social occasions.

The Dominican Sisters walked across the cold windy field from the convent and started classes shortly after daylight. There were eight grades in one room and we small ones would watch the eighth graders recite up near the blackboard. As I remember there were Peter Doney, Bing McCafferty, and Henry Ricksgers, but probably more. I have forgotten. Almost all the kids walked to school those years, some from way up on Sloptown and even from Fox Lake Road, and we carried our syrup pails often with blackberry jam sandwiches and homemade cookies.

This is just a glimpse of life "up in the country" as it was called then during the Depression of the 1930's. I believe it toughened us up because quite a few of us are still walking around today.

— Rod Nackerman.



Natural notes

As the days lengthen, many of our thoughts wander toward spring and summertime activities. Several issues concerning protecting our Island's natural resources need to be addressed before the season is upon us.

We all know the zebra mussel story by this time but many may not realize that this little bivalve may also pose a threat to our inland lakes. Federal and State agencies have taken steps to minimize the impact of the zebra mussels and have suggested ways to control the spread to new areas. Boaters should inspect their boats and trailers before going from one body of water to the next. If the boat could harbor zebra mussels, it should be either left out of the water for at least 3 days to dry or washed with very hot water (at least 105 degrees F). Anglers should never fill their bait buckets in one lake and empty them in another. It should be kept in mind that very young zebra mussels are not visible. We hope that by taking a proactive approach, we will save our inland lakes from these invaders.

Do you know that a morel has a 5 year life cycle? It has been discovered that it takes 5 years for a spore to become another morel. When hunting in areas that you visit year after year, it is important not to use paper or plastic bags. Be prepared and use a bag that will allow spores to fall back into the forest floor. When picking,

cutting or pinching the morel at the very base of the stem is important; do not pull the mushroom entirely out of the ground. By following these few simple procedures, we will be ensuring many more happy years of morel hunting on Beaver Island.

Purple Loosestrife's abundant colorful flowers and hardy nature have made this plant flourish in wetland areas. It is a very tall aggressive plant and spreads rapidly causing many native plants to be shaded and finally become crowded out. Mature Loosestrife is difficult to kill. It is not easy to pull out their roots and the roots often break off and new plants emerge. Although Purple Loosestrife is not to be sold in Michigan, some plants are still found for sale. Please, if you are choosing plants to bring to Beaver Island, be mindful of the effects on native species.

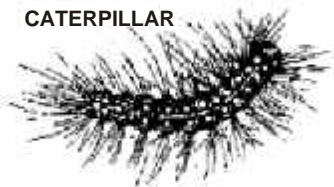
The drawings of the Gypsy Moths are intended to help property owners identify gypsy moths. The buff-colored egg masses that the female moths deposit on lawn furniture or cars are important to identify. We would like to have all egg masses removed from cars and other vehicles to prevent the pest from getting a ride to Beaver Island. See Drawings.

For those of our property owners who are scattered in various parts of the country, according to meteorologists, Lake Michigan water levels will continue to decline this summer despite the snow fall.

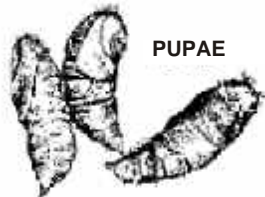
GYPSY MONTHS



CATERPILLAR



PUPAE



ADULTS



ROADS, continued from Cover
a savings in mobilization costs and the potential to attract more and better bids.

These projects most likely will be underway in June, which means a summer of disruption around the harbor areas. However, given the obvious need and the improvements that will be accomplished, all of us should be able to tolerate the inconvenience.

Don Vyse, Supervisor
St. James Township

Beaver Island Tour

If you are stuck in your office, dreaming of Beaver Island, and far from your favorite issue of the Beaver Beacon or the NorthernIslander, we have an online option. Phyllis Gregg Moore, creator of "News on the Net", has been perfecting her site for 4 years. Phyllis said what started out as a "Beaver Island-Then and Now" tour similar to her Dad's slide show of Beaver Island, has evolved into a timely news update with anecdotal articles. She updates the site at least once a week and many times several times a week on the News page. We realize how hungry our members are for information from the Island since we are scattered so far and wide. To reach this timely, humorous, and creative web-site, click on www.beaverislandtour.com/news1.htm

Your Thoughts

The goal of the BIPOA newsletter and website is to promote greater communication between all Island property owners. We welcome all opinions, interest stories, informative articles or issues that you feel would be of general interest. Please submit all articles or comments to: Pam Grassmick either via fax # 248-489-1263 or at our website: beaverisland.net/bipoa

NorthernIslander

A second newspaper has made its debut on the Beaver Island scene. The *NorthernIslander* is scheduled to appear at the newsstands this month and many have already subscribed. According to the Feature Editor, Elaine (Pike) West, the monthly newspaper will provide information, recognize achievements, entertain, provide public advertisement, and a public forum for expression. The unique backgrounds of the staff include

marketing, journalism, science, and computer technology. Many of you may know Elaine West from the Beaver Island Community School, plays, or assisting Seniors through the Rural Health Center. Jacque LaFreniere, who also wears a number of various community hats including being a teacher at the Beaver Island Community School, will be the managing editor. All questions and comments can be directed to NorthernIslander@beaverisland.k12.mi.us

Lost Members

We are looking for individuals who can either supply us with a current address or contact the individuals listed below. We've included their last known city/state for your reference.

William and Suzanne Reed

- (last known) Wichita, KS

Ernest and Betsy Brater

- (last known) Ann Arbor, MI

Dorothy Chichester

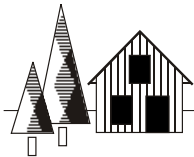
- (last known) Bissbee, AZ

Moving? Please Keep Us Updated

Anytime that you do not receive your BIPOA newsletter, there is a reason. The most common are 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. We have received several newsletters back over the past year with no forwarding address. If you would clip off your name from the

address area and return it to us when you are moving, we will attempt to get the newsletter off to you promptly. You may also e-mail us via the BIPOA website - www.beaverisland.net/bipoa.



B I P O A

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30330 East Side Drive
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