

BIPOA

ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Summer 2004

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

June 17th, Piping Plovers of the Beaver Island Archipelago, 7:30 p.m. Peaine Township Hall

June 22nd, Conservation Easements, 7:00 p.m. Peaine Township Hall

July 26th, BIPOA Annual Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Peaine Township Hall.

July 29th, Water Quality on Beaver Island, 7:30 p.m. Peaine Township Hall

Dear Members:

As I write this spring update, Lake Michigan water levels are 7 inches higher thanks to the snow fall and cold weather that froze the surface of our lake this year. April saw several large thunder storms roll across the Island which helped to melt the snow drift on the west side of our house. Spring finds businesses gearing up for another busy season. The Peaine Township Trails Committee has done a fantastic job with signs to help visitors and residents alike identify public access sites. The view of the harbor area continues to change with new buildings. Both boat and air passengers will notice travel changes too as Beaver Island addresses homeland security issues. Changes to our Island are a given; how quickly and radically depends on planning and the economy.

The format to this *Island Currents* is a deviation from our usual newsletter. Being financially prudent with our limited resources, it is our intention to mail all current BIPOA members a copy of the new **Property Owners Manual** this summer. In order to help offset printing costs and mailings, we are sending this shortened version. We hope you enjoy the wanderings of our hikers as well as the condensed information.

Discussing inevitable change

brings us to the **Master Plan**. We, as property owners, must continue to be vigilant and take every opportunity to make our thoughts heard as to the future of Beaver Island. Both township Planning Commissions are aware of our desire to be informed and involved. Despite the change of course within the Peaine Township Planning Commission, I have been assured that meetings will take place this summer with taxpayers. Dates have not yet been decided. We will make every attempt to keep you updated and will certainly have a report available at our annual meeting.

We are excited to be able to co-sponsor a lecture on **Conservation Easements** with the Beaver Island Community Partnership Project and the Little Traverse Conservancy. Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director for the Little Traverse Conservancy, is scheduled to present on June 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Peaine Township Hall. The presentation will discuss how conservation easements work, financial and tax incentives for land owners, as well as public benefits. This is free to the public and light refreshments will be provided.

BIPOA is pleased to participate in the **Nature Lecture Series** in partnership with C.M.U. Biological Station. Nancy Seefelt will present *Continued, see Dear Members, page 2.*

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Dear Members, continued from cover.

Piping Plovers of the Beaver Island Archipelago.

Nancy is a naturalist and vertebrate ecologist who has spent many summers on Beaver Island teaching courses on the flora and fauna of the archipelago.

Dr. Donna King, when not found at the Beaver Boat-tique, can be found studying inland lakes on Beaver Island. She has been involved in research studies since the 1960's here. Aquatic Ecology is more than a thesis to Dr. King; it is a passion that she hopes to share. *Water Quality on Beaver Island* is intended to shed light on our unique environment and how we as stewards of our property can protect our natural resources.

Both presentations are free and open to the public; dates and times are listed on the front cover and posted at various businesses around the Island.

Please join us for our **Annual Meeting** on July 26th as we elect new officers, receive updates on ambitious and achievable plans such as the Recreation Plan, Master Plan, Property Owners Manual, Trail Report, and more. The board and I look forward to seeing you there!

– Pam Grassmick

Current Efforts



Rural Health Center Planning

Chair: Joe Reed
(231) 448-2247



Recreation Resources Committee

Chair: Jack Kelly
(217) 352-3801
or (231) 448-2524



Master Plan for Peaine Twp.

Chair: Paul Glendon
(231) 448-2772



Property Owner's Manual

Chair: Ron Stith
(231) 448-2001
or (706) 268-2022



Island Clean-Up

Chair: Doris Larson
(616) 243-1037



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



Membership, Promotion & Education

Chair: Ron Stith
(231) 448-2001
Co-chair: Marty Maehr
(231) 448-2926

Planning/Zoning Liaison:

Krys Lyle 448-2149

Chamber Liaison:

Rod Nackerman 448-2812

Hiking the Interior

Walking along the beaches of Beaver Island is an incomparable experience. Those of us who live and visit here count beach walks, sunrises and sunsets over the water, and broad vistas from bluffs and dunes as treasures we are privileged to experience on our wonderful Island home.

However, for a group of three intrepid hikers, the interior of the Island affords unique treasures and challenges. For many years, Annette Dashiell, Jeanne Howell, and Doris Larson have spent hours hiking Island trails. Though they appreciate broad, easily traversed trails, like Hidden Valley, the trail to Little Sand Bay, the walk to French Bay, and the wonderful Mooney Trail from King's High-

way to East Side Drive, they feel particularly challenged by locating old trails, in particular the blue-topped trail from The Beaver Head Light to Hannigan Road and the Johnny Martin Trail from Greene's Lake to East Side Drive.

For a couple of summers, they made several attempts to locate the north/south trail. One morning, they left the Beaver Head Light hoping to find a connecting trail, which would eventually lead them to the Camp Three Trail. After hours of following and losing trail, climbing over and under downed cedars, and balancing their way across beaver dams, they were delighted to find a real trail. Thinking they were much farther north, they began walking

east and were totally shocked to find that they were just above Lake Geneserath on the Buffalo Camp Trail. Not easily defeated by this experience, they tried to locate connecting trails by starting at Hannigan and King's Highway and going south, only to be thwarted by marshy lands, seemingly impassable. They were also familiar with Camp Three Trail and Minnie Perron's Trail and John McCafferty kept assuring them there was indeed a good trail all the way from his farm to the Beaver Head Light. "Just look for the cable spool and go south." They never found the cable spool.

One memorable day in late August of 2002, this determined *Continued, see Hiking, page 4.*



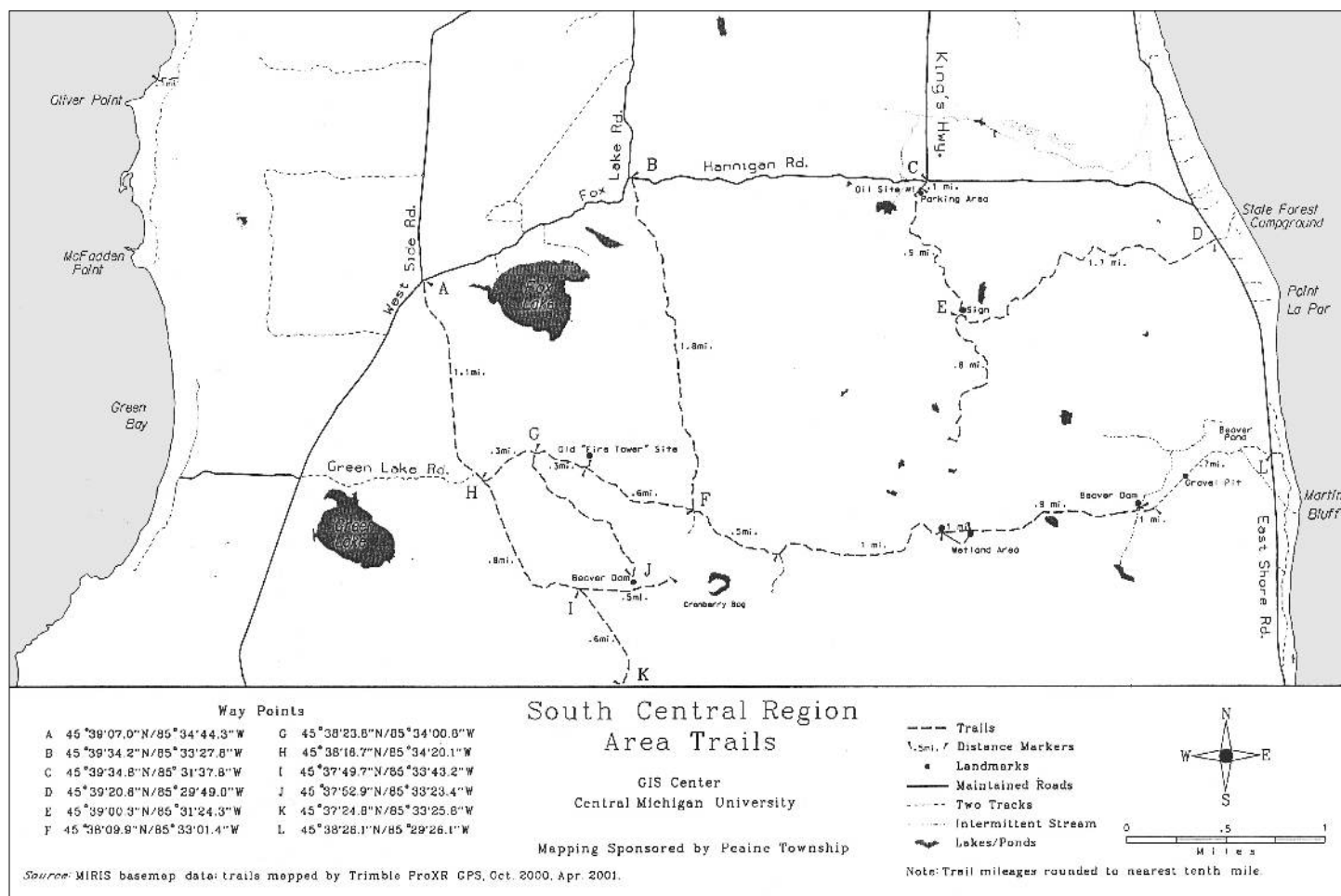
Hiking, continued from page 3. threesome left Beaver Head Light at 9:00 a.m. (having been dropped off by Joe) and directed Lars to pick them up at the intersection of Hannigan Road and King's Highway at 4:00 p.m. On this particular day, they did hike all the way from Beaver Head Light to Hannigan and King's Highway and walked out of the woods precisely at 4:00 p.m. to find Lars waiting! Don't ask the ladies to re-trace that route for you, though you could ask to see photos, which record the experience. Doris would happily show you pictures of string stretched through the woods indicating where Jim Stanbaugh and the Scouts intended to build a bridge through the marsh. (It's

never been dry enough to allow for completion of that project.) That little piece of string was the cause for great rejoicing on that special August day. It meant that all their twists and turns had truly connected to the old blue-topped trail ending at Hannigan Road.

After this accomplishment, the next challenge was following the old Johnny Martin Trail from East Side Drive to Greene's Lake. Annette remembered many years earlier when friends had bicycled this trail successfully. Jerry Saxton claims to have ridden the trail on his ATV. Inspired by these stories, the hikers had tried to locate the trail. On several occasions, they started at Larson's, walked past the old Gladish place,

through the gravel pit, past the entrance to the Beaver Coyote and Hunting Club and over beaver dams. On the other side of the dams, old trail could be located, using cleared areas as a guide. However, flooded trail and marshland eventually blocked forward motion.

The trail had been approached from the west as well. The trail from Greene's Lake, intersecting with Camp Three, Minnie Perron, and/or including the Lookout Tower Trail was very familiar. But once again, the original trail got mixed up with logging trails and eventually led to areas where the two-track was filled in with vegetation and led into marshy areas unfriendly to hikers.



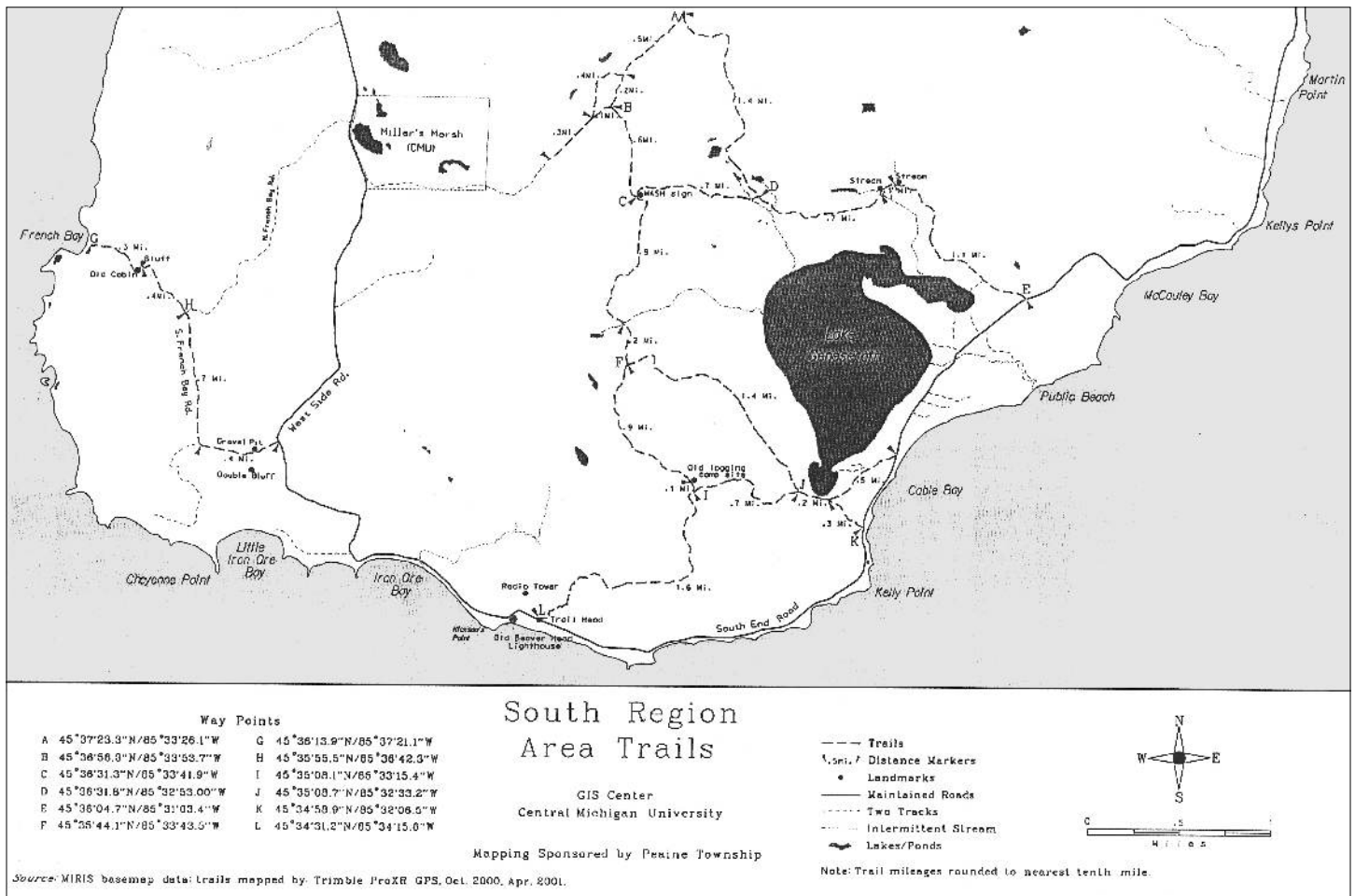
For many years these ladies hiked with nothing but a compass and the aid of Island Airways flying regular routes overhead. However, in the winter of 2003, Doris' son-in-law presented her with a GPS system. Some concern had been expressed about the safety of three women a bit beyond middle age tromping around in the woods without a cell phone or an accurate locating device. Occasionally, the three women did remind themselves that if one of them stepped in a hole and twisted an ankle, it would be somewhat difficult for the other two to rescue the victim when the terrain was old beaver dams, tufts of vegetation, and water-soaked

ridges.

It's a lot more fun to play in the woods than it is to learn how to use a GPS! However, with the help of said son-in-law, waypoints were carefully plotted along the old Beaver Island map, drawn in 1977 by Bill Cashman and Ed Wojan. Armed with 20th Century technology, the summer of 2003 marked the challenge of locating the trail from west to east. That summer's memorable hike began once again at 9:00 a.m. The hike began at Greene's Lake, in the hope of making connections that would allow traverse across the entire Island. It was a glorious day! Sunlight dropping through dense foliage created an artistry of

leaf and fern on the woodland floor. Dense vegetation painted a montage of color on the forest floor, bird song filled the air, and deer came close, filled with curiosity. The morning was spent in familiar territory. These three friends had passed the Lookout Tower Trail many times. The decrepit camouflage trailer was an old friend. The periodic old corduroy road steeped in summer sun reminded us of those that traveled here before. Fragile raspberries were out in abundance along the old logging trails, providing a great snack. It wasn't easy hiking!

When they reached marshland,
Continued, see Hiking, page 6.





B I P O A

Membership Application

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Update Address

* 2004 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

Hiking, continued from page 5.

sturdy beaver-carved walking sticks were located and forward progress included leaps from hummock to hummock, sometimes landing in murky water, walking across rotting tree trunks fallen over wet areas, and traveling across beaver dams by foot or fanny. At one point they each tried a different precarious fallen tree over the marsh to find dry land. Suddenly, a nearby hill emerged above the marshland to provide a lovely moss-covered surface for lunch. There seemed to be something magical about this place of loveliness and quietude. In the afternoon the ladies continued moving eastward, using waypoints for guidance. It seemed they walked and zigzagged forever, finding no familiar territory from previous trips into the woods from the east. However, about mid-afternoon a clearing became visible through the trees to the south and investigation revealed a cleared trail. Rejoicing, they followed the trail and found themselves on the road into the Beaver Coyote and Hunting Company. A few moments on this trail brought them to the gate marking the entrance to the club. They whisked around the gate and were back on the familiar trail from the gravel pit to the beaver dam. Their east-west trail was complete!

The hikers have been teased about being lost in the woods. To this they reply, "We have never been lost. We may not have been able to get where we wanted to go but we always knew approximately where we were!" They heartily recommend woodland adventures to all lovers of the Island.

How lucky we are to have such vast areas of unspoiled land to explore and enjoy!

(Notes: The 'Friends of the Trails' Recreation Inventory map to the right may be viewed online at www.charlevoixcounty.org. The numbered squares on the map identify public access points, where new signs have also been placed. The original GPS trail maps on the previous pages may also be viewed online at bipoa.beaverisland.net/trailmap)



Welcome new members:

Mark and Jeannie Folkening
Patrick and Kathryn Nugent
Mitchel Osman and
Nancy Timmerman

We also wish to thank all of our members who for many years have helped support our collective efforts. Without your continued commitment and generosity, we would not be as strong and active as we are today. As a non-profit organization, we take our responsibilities seriously. Please feel free to contact any of the board with your thoughts and suggestions.

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

Other Island Events:

June 14th, School Board Election
July 8th, Tea/Fashion Show at Deerwood to benefit the Beaver Island Rural Health Center

July 12-17th, Historical Society Museum Week

July 19-23rd, MAD Camp. (269) 327-7252 or sue.oole@wmich.edu for more information.

Note: See the main calendar on the front cover for important BIPOA dates including the **July 26th 2004 Annual Meeting**, and the **June 17th, June 22th, and July 29th Summer Nature Lectures & Presentations.**

We want to hear from you

The goal of the BIPOA newsletter and web site is to promote greater communication between all Island property owners. We welcome all opinions, stories, informative articles, or issues that you feel would be of general interest. The Deadline for the Fall Newsletter is October 15th, 2004, but the earlier we receive articles and stories to include, the better.

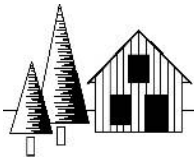
Please submit all articles or comments to: Pam Grassmick either via fax number (248) 489-1263 or from our web site: beaverisland.net/bipoa

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 web site: www.beaverisland.net/bipoa



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