

# ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Association Newsletter - Spring-Summer 2015

Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability

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## "Warblers on the Water"

May 22 -24, 2015 Schedule of Events

**Friday, May 22: Travel day.** Whether arriving by air or boat, keep your binoculars handy for pelagic sightings. Settle into your room and enjoy island hospitality. If you have registered for the Memorial Day Birding festivities, please stop by the Community Center to pick up your BIBT pin.

**Saturday, May 23:** The field trips will begin at 7:30 a.m. with all registered participants gathering at the Beaver Island Birding Trail Headquarters in the Community Center for small group transport to sites. Participants will be limited to 12 per field trip. Please prepare for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and sunscreen. Although insects are usually not a problem this time of the year, you may want to consider carrying some insect repellent. Participants will be returned to the Community Center after the field trips at approximately 11:30 a.m. Lunch is on your own, and you should plan accordingly.

Space is limited and registration is essential for participation in field trips, so please register early! If you need some help choosing your field trip, check out the Beaver Island Birding Trail map and the associated habitat descriptions on the BIBT web site. No strenuous walking is required for any trip. The longest hike is Trip #4 from McCauley's Point to Protar's Tomb. The sites were chosen with all ability levels in mind.

**7:30 a.m.** Field Trips: All sites referenced below are shown on the BIBT map of Beaver Island.

- **Field Trip #1.** Gull Harbor, Petriz Nature Preserve, and North Shore Birding (Sites 2,3, 6) with Greg Butcher
- **Field Trip #2.** Little Sand Bay (Site 12) and Cable's Bay (Site 19) with Brian Allen

- **Field Trip #3.** Camp #3 (Site 34) and Miller's Marsh (Site 28) with Nancy Seefelt
- **Field Trip #4.** McCauley's Point Access with a hike on the Kuebler Trail, past Barney's Lake (Site 22) to Protar's Tomb (Site 23) with Darrell Lawson

**12:00 Noon:** [Community Center] **Kay Charter, Executive Director of Saving Birds Thru Habitat,** will present information on the Saving Birds Thru Habitat's Backyard Certification Program. Charter's presentation will focus on the work of Dr. Tallamy, who heads the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at University of Delaware, who lays out the connection between native plants and insect biomass in his book, *Bringing Nature Home*. Only native plants host the insect abundance required for healthy bird, bat, reptile and even mammal populations. Saving Birds Thru Habitat was founded to spread this message through its educational efforts, and by way of its Tallamy-approved backyard habitat certification program. Last summer, Saving Birds certified properties owned by Beaver Island residents Brad and Pam Grassmick. The certification signs for their lands can be readily seen from the roads bordering their properties. If you are interested in participating in this program, you can sign up for a survey of your property after Charter's presentation.

**Mid-afternoon.** Free time to explore Beaver Island's history, nature preserves, beaches, library, gift shops, or more birding on your own.

**4:00 p.m.** Join us at the Trail Headquarters [Community Center], for a presentation by **Dr. Greg Butcher, U.S. Forest Service International Programs and Migratory Species Coordinator, on "Michigan's Connection to the Tropics."**

A large proportion of the breeding birds of Michigan winter south of the U.S. border from Cuba and Mexico to Chile and Argentina. While outside of the United States, these species face many threats that they must overcome if they are to return safely. Greg will discuss the wintering habitats and geography of several of Michigan's migratory birds of high conservation priority and discuss several of the organizations working to reduce the threats to birds south of the border.

**Dr. Nancy Seefelt will conclude with "Avian Research in the Beaver Archipelago of Northern Lake Michigan."** Beaver Island and the surrounding undeveloped islands provide a variety of suitable habitats for a great diversity of

birds. This presentation will highlight some areas of avian research in the archipelago, centering on water birds, shorebirds and migrating land birds. Research has focused on the breeding ecology and population dynamics of gulls, terns, herons and cormorants that nest in colonies throughout the archipelago and on monitoring nesting Piping Plovers as part of the recovery plan for this critically endangered Great Lakes shorebird. Because the islands are part of the Great Lakes migration corridor, research has also involved investigating the timing, abundance, diversity and stopover ecology of both short-distance and long-distance migrants. Traditional techniques, such as taking censuses and mist-netting, have been integrated with remote acoustic monitoring to gain a better understanding of the importance the archipelago plays in the annual cycle of migrating birds. To date, research indicates that the Beaver Island Archipelago provides valuable habitat and food resources that support numerous resident and migrating bird species.

Following the end of this presentation at approximately **5:30 p.m.**, we will gather at the Shamrock Bar and Restaurant for dinner prior to heading out for an evening of night birding. Individuals pay for their own dinner and drinks. Registration would be helpful for the restaurant to prepare for guest birders.

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**Beaver Island Community School News and Activity**

(Taffy Raphael). BICS student enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year is 58. Four seniors with plans for continuing their education will graduate this spring. The students are taught by 9 certified teachers, and one guidance counselor. Riley Justis is Superintendent/Principal and Judy Lanier is President of the recently elected School Board.

The school staff, the School Board, and community members are working together. Initiatives include: a School Board commissioned externally-led Needs Assessment program to guide school improvement; a parent-teacher initiative to organize and obtain a charter for the PTA; a tutoring program; and a process of using data to drive decision-making within the school.

To create a road map for curriculum improvement, in early fall 2014, the School Board commissioned a needs assessment conducted by an external consultant. Members of the recently elected School Board are continuing this initiative, creating a set of recommendations that take into account analyses and responses from teachers, the Principal, and Board members. Common themes have focused on the need for professional development, the importance of learning goals, the importance of well-designed evaluation and accountability, and the importance of parent and community engagement. The Board will distribute the combined (Principal, teachers, Board) summary this spring, and make a full report available. In addition, the Board will oversee the Principal evaluation process and negotiations for teacher contracts due for renewal in August.

Teachers and community members have established the PTA to increase community and parental support for students and teachers. Twenty islanders have already committed to support the organization and its efforts. Beaver Island Association members are encouraged to join (for only \$6) even if you do not have children in the school. Principal Justis described the

**Approximately 7:00 p.m.**

- **Field Trip # 5.** Birders' Night Out: We will search for American Woodcocks, Wilson' Snipes, Common Night-hawks, and perhaps an owl species or two. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp and insect repellent.

**Sunday, May 24.**

**8:00 a.m.- Breakfast:** The AMVETS offer a full course pancake breakfast at the Holy Cross Parish Hall located within a 4-minute walk from the Community Center.

**Sunday 8:30 a.m. Field Trips.** All sites referenced below are shown on the BIBT map of Beaver Island

- **Field Trip #6.** Exploring the Botany of Beaver Island with Dr. Ed Leuck
- **Field Trip #7.** East Side Birding-Cable's Bay (Site 19) and Buffalo Camp Trail (Site 20)
- **Field Trip #8.** West Side Birding-Mrs. Redding's Trail and Oliver's Point (Site 25), and a stop at Camp #3 (Site 34).
- **Field Trip #9.** North End Birding-Gull Harbor (Site 2) and Little Sand Bay (Site 12)

**Noon:** Events are concluded.

importance of the PTA as a means to "include our community as an effective resource within our school." The PTA has begun cataloguing the elementary reading books, supported events such as constructing props for elementary grades' winter performance, and assisting in academic growth such as providing geometry students with hands-on activities. If you have questions or would like to join, please contact Mark Engelsman or Patrick McGinnity (Co-Presidents), Ralph Williamson (VP), Theresa McDonough (Treasurer) or Sue Avery (Secretary) at [bicspta@gmail.com](mailto:bicspta@gmail.com).

Principal Justis has acquired teaching materials to support the instruction as teachers work to help students meet high academic standards in all subjects. Technological tools such as iPads and Ed Moto (an electronic 'blackboard' and resource center) provide delivery systems that make texts and other materials more accessible to students. Various subject area support materials have also been purchased (examples include: a grammar program, *History Alive* for social studies, *Writers Workshop*, and *Great Books* in the English language arts. The *Next Generation Science Standards* will guide future curriculum development.)

The Community Center, the BIA, and the PTA are focused on providing tutoring to BICS students. BICS worked with the BIA, asking members to respond to a survey describing their areas of expertise and availability to support students during the summer as well as within the academic year. The Community Center has provided valuable tutoring this year to the joy of the tutors and students involved.

If you are interested, there are many ways to support the BICS, from joining the PTA, to working directly with students, to engaging in the open forums during School Board meetings. The current School Board members are: Judy Gallagher, President, Jessica Anderson, Vice-President, Kathy Speck, Treasurer, Susie Myers, Secretary; Trustees: Dave Avery, Judy Boyle, and Dusty Cushman.

**Invasive Species Treatment 2015** (Cindy Ricksgers)  
Donation letters to beachfront property holders went out in January this year, to request help in controlling and treating invasive Phragmites. They have resulted in about \$6000.00 in donations so far. The checks come with notes of appreciation, thanks and encouragement to "keep up the good work!" That, alone, reassures me that this is good, important work that should continue. With donations from individuals, contributions from the Michigan DNR, the Little Traverse Bay Band and both townships, treatment will be possible again this year.

As treatment of invasive Phragmites on Beaver Island will be handled by Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions through a grant awarded to the Conservation Resource Alliance, we will be able to look at once again treating some of the outer islands. Last year, Garden, High and Whiskey were targeted for treatment. High, in particular, had extensive stands of invasive Phragmites that should be monitored closely. With travel by boat, jet-ski or snowmobile to the other islands a year-round activity, we cannot protect this island if we don't also manage Phragmites on the others.

After many questions to contractors and others, reasons were determined for the less-than-planned treatment on Beaver Island last year. Let me assure you, invasive Phragmites was treated, as planned, on the entire perimeter of the island and a few inland sites as well. The grant that funded that treatment set aside funds to treat up to thirty invasive species: all of our "top ten" list, and others noted by the survey done by the Nature Conservancy here a few years ago. That was limited to

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**Summary of Beaver Island Invasive Species Planning Meeting, January 15, 2015** (Pam Grassmick,

Craig Schrotenboer, Bob Anderson, Beth Leuck).  
Participants: Amy Beyer, Nate Winkler, and Casey Russell (Conservation Resource Alliance), Jennifer Kleitch (Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources), Noah Jansen (Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa), Cindy Ricksgers (Phragmites Administrator), Mike Land, Derek Shields (Little Traverse Conservancy), Vickie Smith (Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions), Jim Vane (Charlevoix County Road Commission), Shaun Howard (The Nature Conservancy), Beth Leuck, Craig Schrotenboer, Bob Anderson, and Pam Grassmick (Beaver Island Association).

1. The purpose of the conference call was to coordinate activities and information related to the 2015 invasive species treatment.

2. Amy Beyer (Conservation Resource Alliance/CRA) outlined the 2012 Save Our Great Lakes grant project as it related to a multi-faceted program to inventory and control invasive species, and provide recommendations for target species. The grant is being administered over a two year period. The grant built on previous work done by partners such as The Nature Conservancy and the Beaver Island Association and assisted with building local capacity to sustain invasive species control efforts. Agreements, contracts, storage of reports and partnerships are examples of building local capacity which can be utilized in future projects. Dropbox survey reports were sent to participants prior to the conference call. Federal permitting was a challenge. The invasive species priority list developed for Beaver Island was utilized in planning the 2014 treats. This is the final year for the Conservation Resource Alliance/Save Our Great Lakes grant. The contract budget was

a few areas where they were able to get permission.

The DNR did not have all of their paperwork in order, so treatment on state lands was limited to invasive Phragmites. The team had requested permissions from Great Lakes Energy to treat under power lines and around utility poles where they have easement. They expected permission from the Charlevoix County Road Commission to treat the roadsides, where they have easement. Neither gave that permission. Their easements are "use specific." They can go on private property to do their job, but cannot give permission to a third party to go there to do something else. That permission has to come from the land-owner.

This year, letters requesting permission to survey and treat (through cutting, pulling or herbicidal treatment) invasive species went out to all property owners here on Beaver Island. The list of invasives was a long one. The letter gave opportunity for respondents to give permission for several years beyond this year. Based on the response I have been getting - two or three phone calls each day - folks are taking the letter seriously. Most questions involved worry about financial obligation in the future; some people had issues with the long list of invasive species. The brochure compiled by the Beaver Island Association was very helpful to me in addressing many questions about the harm done by specific plants. A good response will enable us to make the very best use of the grant funds this year.

\$265,000 from the overall \$369,000 award. Slightly more than half of the grant has already been obligated to contracts. Approximately \$10,000 contractor or third party cost money remains. A demonstration project, extra assistance on outer islands, or additional treatment areas could be funded by the \$10,000.

3. Jennifer Kleitch (Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources) is the current Michigan Department of Natural Resources land manager covering the Beaver Island Archipelago. Jennifer detailed the work on the variance process which allows for invasive species control on public lands. In addition, she is creating a Forest Treatment Proposal and Pesticide Application Plan. These plans are detailed oriented and include a map, acreages, types of herbicide, concentration, surfactant, and application rates. Jennifer needs shape files and Shaun will forward these from The Nature Conservancy work. Vickie smith will send Jennifer the herbicide treatment application information. Jennifer anticipates all paperwork to be approved and completed by March 1, 2015.

4. Vickie smith (Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions) discussed the final report for the 2014 invasive control efforts of Little Traverse Conservancy, Central Michigan University Biological Station, and private properties. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality permit was issued September 1<sup>st</sup> and over the following 3 weeks the field work began on treating non-native Phragmites over the Lake Michigan shoreline using the Beaver Island Townships' Phragmites ordinances. Spring treatment will target bladder Campion and spotted knapweed. Vickie related 3 years of spotted knapweed control at Wilderness State Park and felt herbicide treatment to be more effective than hand pulling. Marsh thistle was targeted at Little

Traverse Conservancy preserves. Reed canary grass was treated on Little Traverse Conservancy preserves and at Egg Lake and will require several years of treatment. Vickie recommended retreating reed canary grass prior to July. A 2016 treatment for reed canary grass could be more targeted. Jennifer Kleitch offered to make contact with Sue Tangora about recent research findings regarding best treatment of spotted knapweed near threatened and endangered species. It was suggested that a conference call would be beneficial prior to next spring's treatment with Little Traverse Conservancy, BIA, Cindy Ricksgers, CRA, Wildlife and Wetland Solutions, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. No treatment was achieved along roadways or down power line corridors. Treatment permission forms will be sent to property owners prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. Jim Vane from the Charlevoix County Road Commission reviewed their procedure for road side mowing and use of right-of-ways as an easement. The 33 ft. from the center of the road is not deeded so that property owner permission would need to be obtained. Budgetary constraints has not allowed for invasive species treatment along the county roadways at this point. Tip of The Mitt has assisted in a baseline invasive species training program for workers and have provided a laminated invasive species identification sheet. Beth Leuck stressed the importance of not impacting milkweed and monarch butterflies with treatment and mowing. Beth offered mapping of road ways for milkweeds. Shaun Howard offered Ottawa County's approach to identification and surveys by roadway workers for more desirable species and invasive species control.

6. Beaver Island organizational assistance was felt to be adequate at this point.

7. **Shaun Howard** (The Nature Conservancy) began with an update of the Michigan Dune Alliance's assistance to the islands. The 2014 Save Our Great Lakes award that directly relates to Beaver Island is funding in the amount of \$20,000 (\$10,000/yr. or all at once) to build capacity. The goal is to identify ways that small amount of resources can be leveraged out to build a sustainable model. Examples include equipment on the island to allow for training, personnel, survey tools, etc. Shaun encouraged islanders to identify local needs and will work with islanders to implement funding. Save Our Great Lakes is focusing on coastal wetland restoration. Priorities are for specific wetland monitoring sites. Shaun described her experience with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant changes that may help Amy with policy changes mid-grant cycle. Other invasive species: **Noah Jansen** (Little Traverse

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**Fall 2015 Environmental Conference Planned.** For the past several years, the Beaver Island Association has hosted a meeting which allows for federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental organizations to collaborate on projects which benefit the natural resources of the Beaver Island Archipelago. In the fall of 2015, BIA will once again gather over a dozen agencies and organizations together to share information and plan projects. Topics will include the completion of the Sustain Our Great Lakes grant, the DNR's Northern Lake Michigan

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**Save Our Shores funding-2015** Recently, Beaver Island property owners were mailed a letter from the St. James Supervisor Bill Haggard, Peaine Township Supervisor, Bill

Bay Band) related collaborative efforts in 2014 to treat invasives on Whiskey, High, and Garden islands. He has submitted a 2016 coastal zone management grant proposal for further outer island treatment. He also sits on the Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmett Counties Invasive Species Steering Committee. -. **Cindy Ricksgers** (Beaver Island Phragmites Administrator) described the outer islands treatment plan and will be presenting Beaver Island's program at the Stewardship Network. Craig Schrottenboer (Beaver Island Association) spoke on the need for building local capacity in the future.

8. 2015 action items:

- Amy Beyer to send out the 2015 work plan to everyone on the e-mail list.
- Shaun Howard (The Nature Conservancy) to send shape files to Jennifer Kleitch (Michigan Department of Natural Resources).
- Shaun Howard to send to Jim Vane, Ottawa County's Roadway Invasive Species Program.
- Vickie smith to send herbicide application plan to Jennifer Klatch.
- Vickie smith will contact Jim Vane (Charlevoix County Road Commission) prior to treatment season to discuss area treatments.
- Jennifer Kleitch to complete the herbicide application plan by March 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for invasive treatment on state held lands.
- Jennifer Kleitch will also review "preferred invasive survey status" for service area.
- Shaun Howard to follow Save Our Great Lakes priority grant and how Beaver Island sites may fall into that grant.
- Amy Beyer and Vickie smith to send outreach letter concerning the 2015 treatment year along with private property owner permission forms prior to April.
- Vickie Smith to have conference call with Little Traverse Conservancy regarding threatened and endangered species and knapweed treatment prior to herbicide application.
- Beaver Island to define and provide input to Shaun Howard regarding the funding assistance from the 2015-2016 Save Our Great Lakes grant.
- Beaver Island Association to assist Charlevoix County Road Commission with mapping of road sides for milkweed preservation from mowing.
- The Nature Conservancy and Conservation Resource Alliance to consider a joint demonstration project for an invasive work training event.

Islands Plan, results of the Emerald Ash Borer and hemlock Wooly Adelgid surveys, and information sharing on the C.A.K.E.S (Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet counties) invasive species initiative to name a few. In addition, the Beaver Island Birding Trail will be in its second year. We're fortunate to have interested engaged partners who continue to share their expertise on behalf of the islands.

**Conference details will be provided at a later time.**

Kohls, Cindy Ricksgers, the Beaver Island Phragmites Administrator, and Craig Schrottenboer of the BIA, regarding 2015 funding to control invasive Phragmites within the Beaver

Island archipelago. The letter stated: "This invasive species is of great concern as it affects nesting habitat, plant and animal species and emerging fish fry. It can quickly take over a shoreline, taking away the view and making the beach unusable. We are asking for donations to support our continued efforts. Contributions help to allay the cost of treatment, but also reflect the support of our property owners for this important work. This is crucial when seeking support

from outside sources." To fund the proposed 2015 treatment plan, a \$50 donation from island property owners is suggested, but any amount would be appreciated.

**Checks should be made out to: Peaine Township-SOS Program, and sent to Cindy Ricksgers, Phragmites Coordinator, P.O. Box 26, Beaver Island, MI 49782**

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**Road Commission Initiatives Update** (Bob Anderson)  
Securing of a full-time road grader on Beaver Island is almost a reality. The Road Commission intends to assign the use of the Volvo grader to Beaver Island, having bought out the lease when it expired in February. The grader would normally be turned back for credit for a new replacement machine, so this involved a lease buy-off of approximately \$84,000 that appears to be funded within the Road Commission. Full-time availability of a grader will be a major improvement to establish and maintain properly crowned gravel roads. The Road Commission staff insists on storing this piece of equipment indoors. This is not possible with the current Road Commission Garage and earlier offerings by BIA members would not work because of either size or accessibility issues, but Peaine Township Supervisor Bill Kohls assured us suitable options are available so storage will not be an issue. The Road Commission plan is to bring the grader to the island in the spring after using it for snow plowing on the mainland this winter.

The other open initiative started in October, 2012 with the announcement of a much-needed replacement of the County Road Commission garage. In January, 2013 the County Commissioners agreed "in principle" to \$1.5 million to provide a multi-use facility to properly house the three county-level functions of the sheriff's office, transit operation, and road commission vehicle and maintenance facility. It hoped to get \$750,000 of this from various grants. The third attempt for a federal grant was rejected last fall, and it will again be pursued in this year's grant cycle. A working committee consisting of the three users and a county administrator continue to evaluate options and costs. After three years, we are faced with lots of options but no firm proposals. In discussion with our new County Commissioner, Nancy Ferguson, she is aware of the issue and will continue to advocate on our behalf as a member of the Building and Grounds Committees. As many have commented in the past, a comparison of the facilities for the three county departments on our island compared to those on the mainland make it clear this needs to be a priority.

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**What's happening with Lake Levels and Temperature?** (Peter Igoe) As of March 15, 2015, water levels of Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are 9.4 and 21.6 inches, respectively, above their levels of a year ago. Lakes St. Clair and Erie are 5 and 4 inches, respectively, above what they were at this time last year. Lake Ontario is 4 inches lower. Lakes Superior is predicted to fall 2 inches over the next month while Lake Michigan is expected to rise 1 inch. Lake St. Clair is projected to rise 17 inches during the next month, while Lakes Erie and Lake Ontario are expected to rise 7 inches and 2 inches respectively.

Lake Michigan water level is now 579.06 feet above sea level, 8 inches above the long term average ("datum"). This is 24 inches below the highest water level recorded for the month of March (1986). As of March 15, Lake Michigan ice coverage was about 37%, versus a high of over 60% in February. The average Lake Michigan surface water temperature (Mar. 16) is 33.9 degrees F.

The following link to the Christian Science Monitor includes more information on lake levels.  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2015/0320/Great-Lakes-buoy-to-new-heights-after-15-years-of-low-water-levels-video>

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**Beach Cleanup 2015.** (Ken McDonald) The Beaver Island Association Beach Cleanup for 2015 will be held on Saturday, August 29. As in previous years, everyone should meet at the Community Center at 9am to get their beach assignment and pick up their data forms and trash bags. Then return to the

Community Center with your trash at noon for a complimentary hot dog lunch. Forms and bags will be available at the Community Center a week before the event. Call Ken McDonald at 448-2981 if you have any questions.

**St. James Township, financial and governance problems** (Peter Igoe). Recent articles in northern Michigan news outlets have disclosed financial issues in St. James Township related to missing funds and lack of legally required financial record keeping. For more information, please see The Beaver Island Forum and a March 16, 2015 article by Benjamin Gos, News editor of the Boyne City Gazette (<http://www.boynegazette.com/2015/beaver-island-st-james-township-sewer-finances-records-in-dubious-condition/uncategorized/69787>). There is more information on Joe Moore's website: [www.beaverislandnews.com](http://www.beaverislandnews.com).

The Beaver Island Association would like to be helpful in working to address identified issues. Please share your comments and suggestions with the Beaver Island Association. By mail, send to PO BOX 390, Beaver Island, MI 49782; by email, [beaverislandassociation@gmail.com](mailto:beaverislandassociation@gmail.com).

We've received one recommendation for discussion during the July Beaver Island Association Annual Meeting of ethical considerations typical of townships. An article that could be used as a starting point for the discussion can be downloaded by pasting the following link into your browser: <http://www.marquettetownship.org/pdf.php?file=beinganethicaltownship.pdf>

Such a discussion could be led by the BIA or a professional, and include invitations to members of St. James Township board and Supervisor to actively participate.

We are interested in comments and suggestions from our membership to guide our preparation for the July meeting, as well as ways to support the township as it works to address the financial situation and what has led to it.

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**Changing Sources of Revenue for the Beaver Island Community School.** (Peter Igoe) Revenues available to BICS (based upon the 2014-15 Budget) have increased by \$331 thousand (20%) since 2007. During this period local property taxes increased by \$200 thousand, reflecting the strong real estate market from 2007 to 2009. Federal funding increased by more than \$100 thousand in 2010 and has remained near the higher level. During the period, enrollment declined 10% to 66.

With increased revenues and declining enrollment, the average revenue per student increased from about \$23 thousand to \$30 thousand over the period.

These figures do not include the 2 mil debt service tax which generates approximately \$230 thousand annually toward repaying the borrowing which financed the major upgrade of the school about 5 years ago.

	Historical Actual Source: MUNETRIX.com							2014		
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Budget	Incr. from 2007	% Incr. vs 2007
<b>\$ in thousands</b>										
<b>Local Sources</b>	1,266	1,356	1,518	1,564	1,503	1,495	1,513	1,466	200	16%
<b>State Sources</b>	162	141	156	137	124	178	192	198	36	22%
<b>Federal Sources</b>	26	24	21	137	146	150	126	126	100	379%
<b>Incoming Transfers and Other Transactions</b>	176	161	205	202	261	193	215	220	44	25%
<b>Other Financing Sources</b>	24	-	139	-	-	-	-	-	(24)	NA
<b>Fund Modification(?)</b>	<u>26</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>36</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>(26)</u>	NA
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>1,680</u></b>	<b><u>1,719</u></b>	<b><u>2,072</u></b>	<b><u>2,076</u></b>	<b><u>2,035</u></b>	<b><u>2,017</u></b>	<b><u>2,046</u></b>	<b><u>2,010</u></b>	<b><u>331</u></b>	20%
<b>Local Sources Pct. of Total</b>	75%	79%	73%	75%	74%	74%	74%	73%		
<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>66</b>		
<b>Revenue per Student (000)</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>		

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**Property Tax Law changes.** (Peter Igoe) [Below is an edited and abbreviated reprint of an article by Jim Harger; [jharger@mlive.com](mailto:jharger@mlive.com)]. A new state law gives people in line to inherit their family cottage expanded relief from property taxes that would otherwise be "uncapped" when ownership changes.

index until the property changes hands. That's when the taxes are "uncapped" to reflect the property's current market value.

The new law, effective for 2015, broadens an existing change adopted last year; but the law imposes new limits on how the family cottage can be used as rental property.

That uncapping can become a problem for families who inherit the family cottage, as family members find they can no longer afford to keep their parents' cottage when property taxes are uncapped. Last year, the law was changed to allow the capping to remain in place for transfers to relatives "by blood or affinity to the first degree." That covered transfers to parents, step-parents, siblings, children, step-children and parents of a spouse.

The issue is an important one for families whose cottages have grown in value over the years; which could translate into soaring tax bills for the next generation. The issue goes back to Proposal A, passed by voters in 1994. Proposal A tied the increase in a property's taxable value to the consumer price

But the transfer had to be made by a living person and could not be included in a will or a trust. The new law allows the capping to remain in place for transfers that are included in a will or a trust. It also allows property to be transferred to

grandchildren. The law can also be used by parents who want to pass their primary residence to offspring who plan to live in their home.

for income, the local taxing authority could uncap the taxable value; and it's not clear how much rental activity might trigger uncapping.

The new exemption has a stricter test for commercial use after transfer, and may prevent owners from using their cottages as vacation rentals. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation owners rent the cottage

**The rules are still ambiguous, so consult competent legal or tax counsel.**

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**BIA Finances Audit.** (Bob Anderson) Last summer the BIA Board agreed, at the request of the Treasurer, to pursue an audit of our finances. Although we are a relatively small organization with total assets under \$13,000, an audit had not been conducted for several years and we felt it important to assure both the Board and our members that our finances were properly documented. BIA member Christy Albin graciously agreed to perform the audit, and her comments follow.

being utilized allows for clear reconciliation of bank-issued statements to general ledger, checkbook, and to the columnar record which details receipts and cash disbursements. Expenditures are well documented and verified via receipts or invoices. End of fiscal year financial statements balance and all accurately reflect expenses and income of BIA. The record-keeping is commendable; no irregularities of any type were noted.

We want to publicly thank Christy for volunteering her time and experience for the Association.

*If requested, my credentials for such audit include responsibility for accounting, record-keeping and tax work for several corporations over the past 30 years, as well as keeping and reviewing the books for our BI Chamber of Commerce for three years during my terms as Treasurer and President.*

To Bob Anderson from Christy Albin, Please find below, briefly stated, observations and findings upon the recent completion of my audit of the BIA books from 7/1/11 through 9/30/14. Overall, the books and corresponding records are very thorough, orderly and accurate. The system

**Respectfully submitted, Christy Albin November 19, 2014**

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**BIA Annual Meeting, Monday, July 20, 2015 at the Beaver Island Community Center)**

- Election of Directors for the next year
- Financial Report
- Presentation of the results of the January 2015 Archipelago Planning Meeting
- Summary of the Beaver Island Birding Trail Project
- St. James Township financial & governance solutions
- Solicitation of ideas from the BIA membership for future BIA initiatives.
- Refreshments in the lobby afterwards

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**Beaver Island Association—Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability**

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

**\*\*\*\*\*Yes, please renew our Beaver island Association membership for 2015-2016 \*\*\*\*\***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address

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

**Write:** The Beaver Island Association, P.O. Box 390, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

**Email:** beaverislandassociation@gmail.com

## THE BEAVER ISLAND ASSOCIATION 2014-2015 ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Maureen Abele	Sean Bradley	Pam Grassmick	Lars Larson	Eric Naranjo	Sherry Schrotenboer
Keith Albin	Keith Brothers	Emory Griffin	Doris Larson	Sanomalynn Naranjo	Thomas Sell
Christy Albin	Janet Brothers	Marjorie Hammond	James Latta	Robert Neff	Patricia Sell
Bruce Allen	Marg Charbeneau	Nackerman, Harborfront LLC	Caroline Latta	Julie Neff	Bob Simpson
Bob Anderson	Mike Charbeneau	Jim Haveman	Greg Lawson	Harriet Nelson	Sandy Simpson
Alana Anderson	Carolyn Charbeneau	Sarah Haveman	Mary Jane Lawson	Florence Neuman	Nancy Smith
Paul Armstrong	Garret Cole	Tom Herbert	Ed Leuck	Paul Niehaus	John Starr
Nancy Armstrong	Charles Creaser	Kirstin Roberts	Beth Leuck	Larry Nygard	Leigh Starr
Dave Avery	Carol Creaser	Henry Hill	Little Traverse Conservancy	Scott Osborne	Evan Steger
Sue Avery	Annette Dashiel	David Howell	David Lucas	Margaret Osborne	Suzu Steger
Elwood Baker	Frank D'Andraia	Sandy Howell	Barbara Lucas	Ann Partridge	Hans Stein
Phyllis Baker	Dana D'Andraia	Carolyn Hricko	Claude A. Lucchesi	Fred Payne	Davi Stein
Jodi Plummer	Auleen Duffy	Gary Huard	Beth Lucchesi	Thersa Payne	Steven Steinglass
Tim Barrett	Gerald Duffy	Carol Huard	Greg Lucchesi	Pete Peterson	Dianne Steinglass
The Banghart Family	Kailonnie Dunsmore	Mike Igoe	Linda Lucchesi	Sheila Peterson	James R. Stout Sr.
Joyce Bartels	Mark Englesman	Peter Igoe	Jim Luteyn	Matt Peterson	Kenneth Jay Taylor
Jack Bauman	Harris Fawell	Ruth Igoe	Dan Lynch	Suzi Steward	Don Taylor
Cathy Bauman	Ruth Fawell	Jonathan Igoe	Rosemary Lynch	Jeff Powers	Judy Taylor
Royce Beers	John Fiore	Kathleen Igoe	Marty Maehr	Pete Plastrik	Diana Taylor
Margie Beers	Barbara Fiore	Bruce Jacobson	Jane Maehr	Martha Ratliff	Tom Thieme
Raymond C Becker	Jack Gallagher	Lenor Jacobson	John Martin	Tony Eliassen	Nita Thieme
Narin Bhatia	Judy Gallagher	Ronald Jakubus	Art McCaskey	Marilyn Reed	Bob Tidmore
Nishta Bhatia	Jim Gavelek	Helen Jakubus	Debie McCaskey	Joe Reed	Kathy Tidmore
Vince Bielman	Taffy Raphael	Jim Jones	Ken McDonald	Richard Ries	Alan Vicstein
Audrey Bielman	John Gerrish	Judith Jones	Deb McDonald	Kathy Richards	Bev Vicstein
Jim Birdsall	Sandra Gerrish	Michael Kamrin	Bill McDonough	Cindy Ricksgers	Verle Viita
Sandy Birdsall	Jan Gerson	Katie See Kamrin	Tammy McDonough	Kris Ries	Trish Viita
Eric Blalock	Jim Gillingham	Cheryl Kane	Larry McDonough	Molly Resnick	Robert Warski
Kathryn Blalock	Mary Gillingham	Martin Kane	Kay McDonough	Randy Roberts	Laurel Warski
Glen Borre	Ken Gitersonke	Herb Kayne	Sandra Michelson	Carol Roberts	Jack Wayne
Betsy Borre	Pat Gitersonke	Phyllis Kayne	Joe Moore	Pat Rowley	Barbara Wayne
Kevin Boyle	Paul Glendon	Jack Kelly	Phyllis Moore	John Rowley	Ed Welter
Judy Boyle	Ann Glendon	Ruth Kelly	Charles Morris	John Runberg	Willy Welter
Frederick J. Boyles	Tim Gonyeau	Andy Kohls	Sandra Morris	Joyce Runberg	Karen Whitecraft
Barbara Boyles	Kathie Gonyeau	Donna Kieselbach	Pam Moxham	Larry Seiford	Ronald Wierenga
Janee Boyles-Visel	Jeanne Graham	Jacque LaFreniere	Rick Nank	Bev Seiford	Elisabeth Wierenga
Michelle Bradley	Brad Grassmick	Mark LaFreniere	Janet Nank	Craig Schrotenboer	Annalda Worsfold

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Peter Igoe, President [randpigoe@comcast.net](mailto:randpigoe@comcast.net)  
 Bob Anderson, Treasurer, [juniperdues@aol.com](mailto:juniperdues@aol.com)  
 Pam Grassmick, [pgrassmick@gmail.com](mailto:pgrassmick@gmail.com)  
 Mark Engelsman [bihappypaddle@gmail.com](mailto:bihappypaddle@gmail.com)  
 Andy Kohls [angela.kohls@tds.net](mailto:angela.kohls@tds.net)  
 Keith Brothers [keithbrothers01@gmail.com](mailto:keithbrothers01@gmail.com)  
 Jim Jones [jimijones@aol.com](mailto:jimijones@aol.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP TOTAL - 222**

Beth Leuck [bleuck@centenary.edu](mailto:bleuck@centenary.edu)  
 Ken McDonald, Vice President, [ki.mcdonald@comcast.net](mailto:ki.mcdonald@comcast.net)  
 Taffy Raphael, Secretary [teraphael@gmail.com](mailto:teraphael@gmail.com)  
 Craig Schrotenboer [beaverisland2@gmail.com](mailto:beaverisland2@gmail.com)  
 Bob Tidmore, [B\\_Tidmore@hotmail.com](mailto:B_Tidmore@hotmail.com)