

ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Association Newsletter – Spring 2017

Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability

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This Spring-Summer edition of our bi-annual newsletter is being distributed to all Beaver Island post office box holders, in addition to our membership, to help create a greater awareness of our organization and its activities.

What is the BIA. What does it do? (Bob Anderson, President)

What is the BIA? The BIA began in 1988 as the Beaver Island Property Owners Association. Its original Articles of Incorporation encompassed a broad list of purposes similar to our current Mission Statement, but the name of the organization gave the mistaken impression it existed to advocate only for property owners. The organization in 2003 was granted tax exempt status under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and changed its name in 2007 to The Beaver Island Association to more accurately reflect its actual purpose and expectations of its members. (A more complete background can be found on our website in the “Newsletter” link in the Fall Winter 2007 newsletter by then-president Paul Glendon).

Today the BIA has 283 members. We are about evenly split with members who are voting residents of Beaver Island and members who are property owners and pay taxes but are registered voters off-island. The association is led by a Board of Directors who serve staggered limited terms and are elected by the membership at our annual meeting. The current board members and officers are shown on the last page of the newsletter.

What does the BIA do? The short answer appears in our logo and letterhead, “Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability.” The long answer, reprinted here, is described in our **Mission Statement**:

1. Represent the combined interests of our membership on issues that affect the fundamental character and beauty of Beaver Island.
2. Work with local governments to support property owners’ views, concerns and investments by:
 - Providing a forum for discussion of island governance and property taxes
 - Representing membership concerns through township government liaison
3. Foster and support economic growth that is consistent with the preservation of Beaver Island’s natural beauty and quality of life by advocating for environmental and economic sustainability.
4. Support preservation and wise use of natural resources, plants, and wildlife of Beaver Island by:
 - Propose environmental conservation policies and / or methods
 - Collaborate with tribes, environmental organizations, schools, and government agencies

- Sponsoring environmental education programs and public lectures and presentations
- Publishing a semi-annual newsletter and a continuously updated website
- Monitoring and controlling invasive species
- Cleaning up beaches and campgrounds
- Helping with forest fire prevention

Each of the initiatives pursued by the BIA is closely aligned with an element of our mission. This past year our most visible activity was successfully advocating for the ballot proposal needed to continue Advanced Life Support level of service for the Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services. Our most familiar initiative is probably the ongoing identification and treatment of non-native phragmites and other invasive species that threaten our island environment. I encourage you to read this newsletter to see current BIA initiatives the BIA; visit our website, www.beaverislandassociation.org, to see more about current and past activities; all of our newsletters, reports, annual meetings, and board meeting minutes are transparently available to everyone on our website.

Our many successful projects can be attributed to two strengths of the BIA. First, the membership consistently elects board members with a broad background of experience, knowledge and a passion for action, who willingly volunteer their time and work together toward common goals. You can see this reinforced by the many other community organizations they are involved in. Second, we have forged partnerships with a wide array of government, tribal and non-governmental organizations at the local, regional, state, and even national, level. The BIA functions on a budget of a few thousand dollars a year from modest member dues. Many of our initiatives have benefitted from literally tens of thousands of dollars brought to the project by our partners.

Ironically, these two strengths have been the root of criticism of the BIA... pursuing something that is “new or different,” and “representing the island” in our relationship with outside organizations may be disconcerting to some. However, our board is committed to continue to advocate on behalf of our membership for issues consistent with our purpose and mission. As you read our activities in this newsletter or on our website and have any questions or concerns, please contact me or one of our board members. If you would like to add your name to the list currently supporting our organization, we would be pleased to have you join our membership.

EMS Update (Don Fix, MD)

Islanders have identified quality healthcare as one of their highest priorities. This past spring Emergency Medical Service was in jeopardy, and BIA intervened to help.

Since 2000 Beaver Island's Advanced Life Support (ALS) Service has been staffed by qualified paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) who were island residents serving as volunteers for a modest on-call stipend. Over the past 16 years paramedic staff retired or left the island. The Emergency Services Authority (ESA) that has local government responsibility for EMS and Fire Department operations had to recruit off-island paramedics to maintain ALS status. This dramatically increased EMS costs..

Recognizing that historical funding from the townships would not support the cost of off-island paramedics, the townships, at ESA's request, transferred emergency funds to the ESA to offset costs until fall, and placed a proposal on the November 8 ballot for up to two more mills for EMS.

Regrettably, public law prohibited the ESA and township boards from using their resources to communicate about the proposal for sixty days before the election.

Seeing that lack of information could jeopardize the ballot proposal, the BIA board and the Preservation Association of Beaver Island (PABI) board co-sponsored a community forum to present EMS and ballot proposal facts and to answer voter's questions. On October 22, it was held at the Beaver Island Community Center. Paramedic Brian Meade, ER physician Don Fix and intensive care physician Brad Grassmick explained the importance of EMS and the critical difference between ALS service with

paramedics and Basic Life Support with only EMTs, BIA President Bob Anderson explained the history of changes in EMS staffing and the financial impact of continuing ALS coverage. Questions were answered regarding all aspects of EMS. The millage passed with a vote of 181 for and 44 opposed. Consequently, we currently have excellent island EMS managed by the ESA.

In order to ensure this competence going forward, as well as to provide continuity, redundancy, standardization and community outreach, the ESA decided to reach out to mainland agencies for possible partnering opportunities or outright assumption of the management of our EMS. Three highly respected agencies responded in the positive:

- Huron Valley EMS from Ann Arbor
- LIFE EMS from Grand Rapids
- North Flight EMS from Traverse City

An ESA subcommittee (Bill Kohls, Brad Grassmick, MD Brian Meade, EMT-P, and Don Fix, MD) authored and submitted a Request for Proposal to the above-noted agencies. Proposals must be submitted no later than May 31, with a decision being made no later than December 31. Additionally, Candidates were asked to participate in a public presentation with Q/A on the island no later than September 30. Final implementation is expected before the 2018 summer season.

The ESA will decide whether it is beneficial to enter into a contract with one of these agencies, but BIA will continue to work to assure quality EMS service for all of our residents and visitors regardless of its future structure.

Island Fellow Project (Pam Grassmick, Patrick McGinnity and Kevin Boyle)

A Community Site Application for an Island Fellow has been submitted by Beaver Island to Maine's Island Institute. This effort is based on two years of surveys and stakeholder meetings, as well as numerous public meetings on the island (including the Master Planning process), in which the public identified areas that needed attention or improvement. Improving communications among and between island organizations, residents, visitors, and businesses, and with mainland news and entertainment outlets came up again and again as a top priority. Fortuitously such an effort also aligns well with both the scope of an Island Fellow project and the mission of Michigan's Office of Great Lakes, which has committed to help fund the Fellowship. The Fellowship program is, however, ultimately dependent on the island community's ability to fund the remaining portion of the project costs. The proposal includes utilizing a post-Masters graduate for one year to lead implementation of a multi-platform community communication effort. With better communication between and among island residents, visitors, businesses, and organizations, the Fellow's work will benefit our island community by increasing mainland awareness of the island not only as a great place to visit but also to live. This will be accomplished by leveraging the information already being aggregated in the WVBI/

Community Center Calendar, ensuring relevant items are systematically distributed to mainland publications for their own regional calendars, and using it as a source for articles, podcasts, social media posts and video shorts about events on the island; and by providing mainland news agencies with compelling, in-depth island-living articles, thereby increasing awareness of the island and its unique assets. Digital signage as is currently placed at the Community Center will display postings for events and information of interest to improve public access to accurate and timely information. Each display will operate with the ability to present slides, full-motion video (with sound), location-specific weather, live internet feeds, public service announcements, recreational, historical, and cultural resource information, and current news or event updates. An end-of-year survey is planned for the summer of 2018 to delve into community and visitor experience with this project and identify areas to improve visitor's experiences. While the proposal provides an outline for the Fellow's first year on Beaver Island, there is still time for input from those who are interested in helping to fine tune the project plan. Anyone who was interested was invited to attend an informal meeting on March 31st at 4 p.m. at the Community to refine the Island Fellow program.

This is the first site application for an Island Fellow in the Great Lakes region, and the program will be administered through the Island Institute, which has successfully placed over a hundred Fellows in Maine island communities over the course of 17 years. Michigan's OGL views this as a pilot program to see if an Island Fellow program in the Great Lakes can be a success as it has been in Maine. OGL has committed to fund nearly half of the project with additional funding from related state agencies. \$30,000 of the \$51,000 goal has been secured. This funding will provide a \$15,000 stipend for the fellow, housing, health care, travel, and administration for one year. The remaining funding (\$21,000) needs to be in place by May 2017 for the project to go forward. Having such a

substantial financial commitment to the project from the State, while also having the Island Institute's invaluable aid in administering the fellowship, represents a remarkable opportunity for Beaver Island, one that is unlikely to occur again unless we capitalize on it and demonstrate the tangible benefits an Island Fellow can bring to a Great Lakes island community. If the program proves successful, this opportunity will likely continue to be available to Michigan's Island communities in the years to come. Contributions to fund the project are warmly welcomed. Should you wish to discuss opportunities for supporting the first ever Great Lakes Island Fellow, whether as an individual, business, or organization, please contact: Kevin Boyle, Pam Grassmick, or Patrick McGinnity.

Great Lakes Islands Coalition (Pam Grassmick)

On September 25th, sixteen year-round unbridged island communities with 50 or more inhabitants will be invited to participate in the development of unique island coalition effort. These island communities have 10+ schools, 20+ ferries, roughly 8200 year round residents with the smallest island being .4 square miles to the largest 134 square miles. There has been zero Great Lakes island conferences to address energy, broadband, education, health care, and economic challenges. The purpose behind this meeting is to begin the development of an inter-island communication network which will support healthy vibrant island communities. Seasonal and year-round Beaver Islanders saw great potential during various public meetings over the past two years showing the power of the Island Institute, Island Fellows Program, and the Maine Islands Coalition. The following vision related to outcomes of this meeting include:

- Exposure: Islanders learn new ideas and tangible approaches to addressing the diverse complexities of island living.

- Implementation: Concepts and projects to benefit an island community may be carried out on individual islands, at their own discretion.
- Cooperative Relationships: A unique opportunity for positive cross-border interactions between distant places in three U.S. States and one Canadian province.
- Awareness: Knowledge of island communities are advanced in governments, institutions, organizations, and the media.
- Influence: Great Lakes islands have an opportunity for a more amplified and consistent, if not always unified, voice to mainland decision-makers.

The Great Lakes Islands Coalition meeting will take place at Central Michigan University Biological Station and is funded through a Coastal Zone Management grant. A website is under development. For more information contact BIA Board Members: Kevin Boyle, Patrick McGinnity, or Pam Grassmick.

INTERNET UPDATE / TDS DIALOGUE (Alan Vicstein, Kevin Boyle)

Much of BIA's efforts to identify the problems and to improve Beaver Island Internet & Phone Service were captured in a letter to TDS Manager of State Government Affairs. This letter was in response to her letter of August 18, 2016 regarding Island residents' concerns about poor quality of service TDS provides to our community.

In BIA's original letter, repeated and prolonged telephone outages, 911 service outages, repeated prolonged Internet service outages and persistent poor Internet performance were identified. The problem was not on-island tech support, but TDS system capacity and unreliability. BIA identified four problems to the TDS response and highlighted relevant information regarding telephone service, Internet service, new fees with no regard to fixing inadequate service, and naïve assumptions about what is required in the next decade to maintain appropriate levels of service.

First, telephone service outages were blamed on AT&T ignoring TDS responsibility as telephone provider to insure access to 911 at critical moments and to provide service for which it charges the island for day-to-day commercial and personal use in a community that relies on tourism.

Second, TDS asserts no records of trouble within BICS and no indications of "chronic or systemic" Internet service troubles. This is counter to informal and formal evidence in the original letter of concern. Despite TDS not actually solving the fundamental problems, community members report receiving an email or message stating that TDS considers the issue resolved, not reflecting reality.

BIA conducted a survey of year-round and seasonal residents. The results were unequivocal in identifying the extent of problems. Two hundred sixty-nine individuals responded to the survey. This represents a balanced cross-section of Island residents and visitors. The vast majority of respondents use Internet at their own home.

To underscore TDS's responsibility and importance to the island, 71.8 % of respondents reported TDS to be their Internet Provider and 87% reported a TDS landline.

BIA Internet Survey's primary finding refutes TDS claims that there are no issues of note on the island, and that what minor issues may occur are handled successfully. When TDS Internet users compared the Island Internet Service to their OFF-Island Internet Service, 48% rated it less than adequate. Less than 20% of TDS users rated it

as good or excellent. Island community members require significant bandwidth with more than 85% indicating they use the internet either “pretty much constantly” or “multiple times each day.” When asked to describe the speed of their off-island internet service, more than 62% indicated it was greater than 15 Mbps, with 24.3% reporting service of 50 Mbps or more.

Underscoring the dissatisfaction is the fact that two large users have dropped TDS as their service provider. Both BICS and Central Michigan University terminated service from TDS in favor of self-provisioned service. This argues against the assertion that problems are due to heavier use during high occupancy periods in summer.

Third, TDS decision to start rate-limiting service during evening hours requires customers to pay additional fees for service at the time of heaviest use and when it is most likely to perform poorly. With no guarantees that additional costs will be associated with improved and reliable service during times of heaviest use, it is irresponsible of TDS to make this demand on its customers.

Fourth, TDS recent announcement that TDS has been granted government funding to improve service to 25x3

over 95% of its service area. We hope that the 25x3 service now available on a small part of the north end of the island becomes available island-wide, but point out that 25x3 service is hardly competitive with the speed of service widely available in the larger communities with which we compete for residents and visitors (and does not meet the service expectations of our survey); and plans for these improvements to be made over the course of the next ten (10) years are naïve, as ten years from now 25x3 service will be equivalent to the telegraph.

In summary, BIA has grave concerns about the level of service TDS provides to Beaver Island and the impact it has on our local economy. Our concerns are made more serious by TDS questioning the validity of the issues raised and TDS lack of clarity about how it intends to improve service rather than raise prices for inadequate levels currently provided.

BIA has reiterated its request for a meeting on Beaver Island with TDS senior executives responsible for the service. We look forward to hearing from TDS and arranging a meeting in the near future.

The Resilient Beaver Island Master Plan (Bob Tidmore, St James Planning Commission)

After months of effort by the joint Peaine and St James Planning Commissions, Township Officials, residents, summer visitors and the consulting group Land Information Access Association (LIAA) the 2017 Master Plan was approved with minor changes by both townships and is now release for public review.

What is a Master Plan? The Michigan State University Extension states “A master plan is prepared by the municipality’s planning commission, and is a policy document outlining the community’s vision for the future. It should be the basis for, or influence the community’s future, environmental protection, economic development, zoning and other regulatory ordinances.” In other words it reflects how the citizens of the community view what they want their home to be. In Michigan, master plans serve as a legal basis for zoning, and provide policy guidance for changes to infrastructure, land use, transportation, natural resource management, and other community systems.

The Resilient Beaver Island project was funded by the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program,

Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Great Lakes; NOAA and U.S. Department of Commerce. A great deal of effort went into the plan and I am sure other members of both planning commissions also want to thank all those who participated in the public meetings and on-line tools that were used to develop the plan. What’s next? A 63-day public comment period is in effect and will continue until a public hearing will be held on May 16th. The plan’s main page, where there is a link for comments, is available on-line at <https://goo.gl/zUrcwG>.

In general, the Master Plan serves the following purposes:

- Evaluates existing conditions and trends on the Island.
- States the community’s 20 year long-range vision.
- Guides response to changes that align with plan goals.
- Identifies opportunities for partnerships.
- Identifies development area and building guidelines.
- Guides public investment and future development.
- Guides allocation and spending of funds.
- Guides government decisions and the land-use policy.
- Establishes a legal basis for Zoning Ordinances.

Radio Station WVBI Update (Kevin Boyle)

WVBI beamed through the winter with a number of special productions for the holidays, four locally produced music shows and numerous locally produced information shows including daily news reports produced by students at Beaver Island Community School. The holiday productions included broadcast of the annual community Christmas concert, special Christmas episodes of The Bickersons and Father Knows Best and holiday editions of our music shows.

Coming additions to our programming include: RadioLab, a very non-traditional information show from WNYC;

Spectrum, which covers developments in science and technology; World in Progress, which explores the many facets of globalization; and a new music show called the Titus Jennings Experience, an eclectic two hours of genre-defying gloriousness. Radiolab, Spectrum and World in Progress will round out our information programming on weekend mornings from 6 to 9 and the Titus Jennings Experience will air at 9 on Friday evenings leading into the Midnight Special, another eclectic mix of music and humor produced at WFMT by island summer resident Rich Warren. We’ve also refined our Sunday morning music

programming to match the island mood with a mix of soft jazz and jazzy pop.

We are exploring still more programming as we continue to fine-tune our lineup to match the interest of our most important listener. (That would be you, dear reader.) You can help with these efforts but letting us know what you'd like to hear (and what you'd rather not). Just drop us a line at programming@wvbi.net.

Whether you are on or off the island, we hope you'll tune in to be entertained with our unique blend of music in the Cottage Mix. We'll also keep up to date on island news (including drive times to and from both airports) with our Community Calendar weekdays at 9:00 a.m., noon, 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. We're also delivering the most comprehensive view of island events in our online Community Calendar, which can be found by heading to www.wvbi.net and clicking on 'Calendar'. And here's a tip: get an easy to use view of all the big events coming up

Continuing Invasive Species Control Efforts (Pam Grassmick and Beth Leuck)

A flurry of invasive species planning for the Beaver Island Archipelago occurred last winter. The BIA was on all conference calls and at all meetings held by The Nature Conservancy and Michigan Dune Alliance to which the BIA and townships were invited. This year marks a decade for controlling invasive species. Beaver Island is fortunate to have national and state organizations working with us to find funding for permits, equipment, and professional expertise. Nurturing these relationships and demonstrating commitment is key for continued efforts. Invasive plants and animals don't respect property lines and island property owners have been an integral part of our success in controlling invasive species that threaten property values and important habitats for plants and animals.

- Last October, members of the Michigan Dune Alliance (MDA) and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa met on Beaver Island for a two-day work session to assist with controlling Japanese Knotweed and to demonstrate equipment for physical and chemical removal of other invasive species such as autumn olive. MDA will fill an invasive species lending closet at the Transfer Station in May of 2017 with various equipment made possible through a Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) grant.
- In addition, the Michigan Dune Alliance's SOGL grant will fund a shoreline survey of Beaver Island to update the status of the invasive Phragmites efforts and provide early detection for a few other shoreline invasive species being controlled along mainland coastal areas.

this summer by heading to summer.wvbi.net. It's great for planning summer visits to the island.

You'll find WVBI at 100.1 FM on the island and worldwide on the TuneIn radio website and apps as well as at www.wvbi.net using the player bar at the bottom of the page. Fire it up on your smart phone and connect to your car with Bluetooth.

WVBI is a non-commercial educational stations run entirely by volunteers. We have no paid staff. You can support the station by making a donation at www.wvbi.net or by selecting PABI as your preferred charity when shopping at smile.amazon.com. And if you run a business on the island or off, we hope you'll consider supporting us by becoming an underwriter. To learn how efficient and inexpensive it can be to reach our listeners by becoming a WVBI Broadcast Partner or underwriting specific programs, just write us at underwriting@wvbi.net

The survey will occur late this summer at a date to be determined by GEI Consultants, Inc. Phragmites has been identified near Cheyenne Point, Donegal Bay, and on Western Shores and will be a target for the survey.

- Invasive species work may be available to private property owners while the GEI, Inc. treatment crew is on Beaver Island. Cost sharing for treatment may be available for high priority invasive species in focal areas.
- Matt Preisser with the Office of Great Lakes is working with Michigan Natural Features Inventory to submit a USFWS Coastal Program proposal for the Beaver Island Archipelago and other Great Lakes islands for invasive species control and ecological restoration.
- High Island spit will be targeted by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa to control spotted knapweed that is spreading along the dunes and impacting an area, which has been a known Piping Plover breeding site.
- Purple triangular Emerald Ash Borer traps will again be placed in designated roadside ash trees in June and removed in August. Millions of ash trees have been killed in the US and Canada by this insect. To date, no EAB has been detected on Beaver Island. Our Archipelago remains under a firewood quarantine by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Beaver Island Boat Company and the airlines help monitor that firewood will not be transported to the island, which is the biggest threat to introduction of EAB.

Beaver Island Water Trail Update (Pam Grassmick and Mark Engelsmen)

The Beaver Island Water Trail is for non-motorized watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards to circumnavigate 50 miles of the island's shoreline. The water trail uses designated water trail sites on public held lands and provides rest stops and camping at some sites. As noted in the Master Plan, residents feel this activity is in keeping with enjoying our natural resources and has

economic potential. Conservation will include extensive education regarding best practices and additional work to ensure aquatic invasive species are not transferred to interior lakes. 4.6 million people in the Midwest are water trail participants with \$1.78 billion in related trip spending.

Islanders and staff DNR staff met with Harry Burkholder of the Land Information Access Association (LIAA) and Megan Olds with Parallel Solutions in February to move the proposed Beaver Island Waterways Trail forward. Mark Engelman and Pam Grassmick are BIA's representatives on the committee. LIAA has developed water trails across Michigan and is guiding the proposed plan. Megan met with various island organizations to better understand long-term sustainability of the water trail and island events. In May, the waterways committee will be inspecting the proposed 15 sites on state lands. The water trail plan will then go before the Natural Resources Commission for final approval. A grant awarded through Coastal Zone Management is funding the work by LIAA required by the Michigan DNR to implement a water trail. This information is being compiled to for the Michigan

Bumblebee Watch (Pam Grassmick)

The US Fish and Wildlife Service contacted Beaver Island with a request to be on the look out for a rusty-patched bumblebee, which is listed as an endangered species. It was last seen in Michigan in 2006. Where the species remains elsewhere is often in natural areas within an urban/suburban setting--essentially natural habitat islands, isolated from other natural areas. Disease is one suspect for the decline of the species, so perhaps isolation whether man-made or natural might be important. Great Lakes islands may be the last refuge to find a rusty-patched bumblebee thus the agency is asking for your observations. Below is a bumblebee watch program for those who are interested to help find rare bumble bees in Michigan. **Website -<http://www.bumblebeewatch.org>**

Beaver Island Birding Trail (Beth Leuck)

The fourth annual Beaver Island Birding Trail festival, Warblers on the Water, will be held on May 26-28, 2017 (Memorial Day weekend). There will be four field trips Saturday morning and one Saturday evening, three field trips on Sunday morning, including a botany trip, and one late Sunday afternoon. All field trips will be led by expert birders or botanists, and transportation will be provided to participants. There will be a charge to register for the field trips because the festival is no longer able to use CMU Biological Station vans due to a CMU policy change. The cost of attending field trips on both Saturday and Sunday is \$35.00, and one day cost is \$25.00. Each participant who registers for the field trips will receive a free "Warblers on the Water" T-shirt designed especially for the festival by Trevor Grabill. Scheduled presentations at the Community Center are free and open to the public on Friday night, Saturday afternoon, and two on Sunday afternoon.

Beaver Island Community School (Jim Jones with excerpts from www.petoskeynews.com)

In an email to the BIA, Judy Gallagher, our BICS school principal wrote: "Due to our refinancing BICS' bond at a significantly lower interest rate... [t]his reduction in the cost of borrowing goes directly to BICS taxpayers. I'm kind of proud of it..." Ms. Gallagher worked with Public Financial

- Department of Natural Resources Land Use Order:
- 1) A legal description of the site where activities will occur, whether it be a stopover site or a campsite.
 - 2) Proposed physical amenities planned for each specific site (i.e., what's going on there, is it a simple indicator sign for a stopover site, informational kiosk, or a tent platform, fire ring, and outhouse for a campsite, etc.).
 - 3) State Historical Preservation Office clearance for those activities at each specific site (Are there any concerns to be addressed, and if so, how they will be addressed?).
 - 4) Threatened and Endangered clearance for those activities at each specific site (Are there any concerns to be addressed, and if so, how they will be addressed?).
 - 5) Some indication of how the Land Use Order will be carried out (e.g., through a Memorandum Of Agreement with one of the townships or another organization).

The Beaver Island Archipelago is known by state and federal agencies for its high quality natural areas hosting threatened and endangered species. These islands support an unusual number of plants and animals under state and/or federal protection for their size. Piping Plover, Hines emerald dragonfly, Michigan monkey-flower, Dwarf Lake iris, Pitcher's thistle, Houghton's goldenrod, Lake Huron tansy, various orchids and grasses are enjoyed by many residents, biologists, and visitors.

There is one record already on the bumblebee watch site for Beaver Island for a Tri-colored bumble bee. It would be great to have more eyes looking for bumble bees and sending photos into the web site. Perhaps, your observation will add another unique species to the island's list?

Details about the field trips, presentations, and social events can be found at the BIBT web site, <http://www.beaverislandbirdingtrail.org/warblers.html>. Because field trips tend to fill quickly, please register soon at, <http://www.beaverislandbirdingtrail.org/wowregistration.html>. The cost of the field trips, demonstrations, and presentations is underwritten by many island businesses and organizations. The Festival is indebted to these sponsors: The Beaver Beacon, Beaver Island Boat Company, Beaver Island Association, Beaver Island Golf Course, Beaver Island Preservation Association, WVBI, Beaver Island Community Center, Beaver Island Studio and Gallery, Beaver Island Wildlife Club, BirdGoober, Dalwhinnie, Holy Cross Church, Island Airways, Little Traverse Conservancy, and McDonough's Market.

Even if you haven't birded before, please consider participating in this Memorial Day weekend activity to experience interesting birding, informative talks, and good comradery.

Management, Inc in Ann Arbor to refinance the BICS bond debt to save \$439,394 over the next 15 years by reducing interest cost of securities from 4.17% to 2.06%.

Bryan Foli was recently hired to teach chemistry and physics for BICS (at both regular and Advanced Placement level). He is set to receive special training in an advanced placement course in computer science principles, thanks to regional and state agencies.

Trevor Packer Sr., VP of Advanced Placement Instruction at the College Board said: "We designed AP CSP to increase career readiness among students from small, rural schools where connectivity is currently limited to large, urban schools that serve low-income students."

Judy Gallagher, said this provides an additional learning opportunity for staff and students. "We're delighted he volunteered to pursue teaching the AP computer science course here and pleased he was selected for the special summer training for it," Gallagher said.

John "Wil" Cwikiel of Harbor Springs was unanimously approved to a three-year contract as BICS new K-12 superintendent-principal, beginning July 1. As a school

leader, Cwikiel sees public schools as an essential component of healthy communities.

Cwikiel is the middle school principal in Harbor Springs, where he served for the past decade. Earlier, he worked for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, serving as the water resource program director, and later for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Cwikiel earned his BA in English and science, his MS in environmental policy, and his Educational Specialist degree from the University of Michigan and an MS in educational leadership from Grand Valley State University. He enjoys family time with wife, Gail, and two grown daughters. Cwikiel is an avid outdoorsman, who loves to kayak, ski, fish and hunt. His interests and talents will help him to provide leadership for our rural island school.

Current Interim Superintendent-Principal Judith Gallagher is leaving the position June 30 to once again retire.

THE BEAVER ISLAND ASSOCIATION 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP

Maureen Abele	Harris & Ruth Fawell	Clyde & Nadra Johnson	Janet Nank	Thomas & Patricia Sell
Keith & Christy Albin	John & Barbara Fiore	Jim & Judith Jones	Eric & Sanomalynn Naranjo	Bob and Sandy Simpson
Bruce Allen	Don & Barbara Fix	Audrey Van Dyke & Howard	Robert & Julie Neff	Nancy Smith
Bob & Alana Anderson	Jim & Lynne Flanagan	Kadison	Harriet Nelson	Joanna Reinking & Gilbert Starks
Paul & Nancy Armstrong	Jon & Sally Fogg	Katie See & Michael Kamrin	Florence Neumann	John & Leigh Starr
Dave & Sue Avery	Bill & Janice Freeman	Herb & Phylliss Kayne	Paul Niehaus	Andy & Cecile Stebbins
Nathan & Jessica Ayers	Jack & Judy Gallagher	Jack & Ruth Kelly	Seamus Norgaard	Evan & Suzy Steger
Elwood & Phyliss Baker	Pam Moxham & Garrett Cole	Dale & Terry Keyes	Larry Nygard	Hans & Davi Stein
Steven Banghart Banghart	Taffy Raphael & Jim Gavelek	Donna Kieselbach	Scott & Margaret Osborne	Steven & Dianne Steinglass
Family Property	John & Sandra Gerrish	Andy Kohls	Ann Partridge	Matt & Suzi Peterson Steward
Jodi Plumert & Tim Barrett	Jan Gerson	Jacque & Mark LaFreniere	Therese & Fred Payne	Jeff & Sara Stone
Jack & Cathy Bauman	Jim & Mary Gillingham	Lars & Doris Larson	Frank Galati/ Peter Amster	James R. Stout Sr.
Raymond & Priscilla Becker	Ken & Pat Gitersonke	James & Caroline Latta	Pete & Sheila Peterson	Don & Diana Taylor
Royce & Margie Beers	Paul & Ann Glendon	Greg & Mary Jane Lawson	Carey Johnson & Nancy	Kenneth Jay & Judy Taylor
Narin & Nishta Bhatia	Timothy & Kathie Gonyeau	Ed & Beth Leuck	Peterson	Tom & Nita Thieme
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TOTAL 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP – 283

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The Beaver Island Association
Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability
P.O Box 390
Beaver Island, Michigan 49782

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

Beaver Island Association

Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability

Please pay your dues 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 or rejoin us by sending a check for \$25 to Kevin Boyle, Treasurer, The Beaver Island Association, PO Box 390, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

*******Yes, please renew our Beaver island Association membership for 2016-2017 *******

Name(s)

Mailing Address

email address