

August 2006 \$2.50

Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955

some stories in this issue:

Boyne Thunder stirs up the Harbor & raises \$100,000 for Camp Quality
Keeping Honey Bees Alive on Beaver Island; Great Days for Golf - '06 Tournaments
Through a Beaver Island Looking Glass; Drawing a Map that was 29 years in the making
Totem Pole Carving, The Pet Show, Music on the Porch ... The 26th Annual Museum Week
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Shown by appointment. **\$357,800.**

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Beaver Beacon

the Island Monthly since 1955
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The *Beaver Beacon* welcomes Island Stories, Articles, and Letters to the Editor, and would like to thank all those who call and e-mail with news and events.



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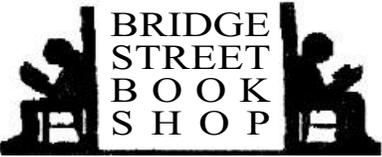
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News from the Townships

St. James Town Board

At its July meeting, the St. James Town Board took no action on a request for a Dance Permit by Stoney Acre Grill because no one was present to answer its questions. The Township approval is secondary to approval by the State Liquor Commission.

A resolution was passed to establish the Emergency Assistance manager, naming supervisor Don Vyse and clerk Jean Palmer as the officials who can call for relief. Another resolution affirmed Sarah McCafferty as the executive director of all EMS activities. Still another resolution approved the grant application and terms for flattening and seeding the recently cleared land east of the Municipal Airport. To that end a single bid was received and accepted, from R. Gillespie Enterprises for \$101,000. Of that money,

\$7,000 will go to the engineers who established the specs and \$43,000 to a subcontracted landscaper—plus \$2,000 is a contingency. (The local share is 5%—split by both townships.)

The Gull Harbor Walking Trail was reported to be overgrown and in need of work. The problem with the siting of the tennis courts was resolved by survey: they *are* completely on the right lot.

A letter from Jack Kelly suggested that Peaine Township (which had declined to take part in BITA when it was being formed) be given representation on the Transportation Authority in order to take part in “BITA’s vital role in the Island.” Supervisor Vyse commented that his Board could take no action unless it received a formal request from Peaine, and then any action would depend on BITA’s will-

Our Health Center

The BIRHC held a meeting on 7-15 in which a modicum of good news tempered the Board’s awareness that the battle to become self-sufficient is still a long way from being won. On the bright side, patient visits were up (in part due to the extended hours program), and an awareness of the increased services being offered was gradually spreading.

The financial report showed income and expenses to both be close to budgetary predictions.

The *Truck Raffle* ticket sales had begun, with Board members and other ‘Friends of the BIRHC’ volunteering for

shifts selling tickets.

The dedication of Grace Matela’s Memorial Tree will be at 1:00 p.m. on August 19th.

A recent independent evaluation of the operation of the BIRHC gave it a score of 97 (out of 100.) The organization of patient records was particularly lauded.

The July 11th meeting between the public and representatives of the Department of Human Services was a success.

Last year’s BIRHC student assistant was working part-time.

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ingness to change its articles of incorporation.

Sarah McCafferty presented her monthly report: 14 calls, 14 people who needed help—and received it from these conscientious volunteers.

Peaine Board

Peaine Township's Board passed resolutions corresponding to St. James', regarding the Emergency Services (except John Works and Colleen Martin were named managers), the EMS executive director, and the Airport Grant.

Work on the Town Hall addition was proceeding on schedule, although the Building Inspector had decided to require an additional (unisex) bathroom to serve the expanded space.

The Townships employee, Darrel Butler Jr, took down the vent ball on

top of the Whiskey Point Light, repaired it, and put it back.

A letter was circulated in which supervisor Works spoke very highly of Robert Gillespie's performance on large-scale Island building projects, such as the BIRHC and the East Side Fire Hall. It had been sent to CMU, whose construction manager was reluctant to award a contract for the new Bio Station building to a local contractor. Whether or not the letter had an influence is not known, but Gillespie was given the job.

Thanks to Joan Vyse's timely alerting the editor of *Township News* magazine, a full-page feature on Peaine Township appeared in the 'Focus on Townships' section of their July issue.

Sarah McCafferty presented her monthly report and reminded people to attend the BIRHC Open House on 8-6.

Calendar of Upcoming Island Events

Aug. 5th – **Mammals of Beaver Island**
Nature Walk 448-2254

Aug. 5th – **AmVETS Pig Roast**, 4-7, Hall

Aug. 6th – **Joint BIRHC Open House/EMS 20th Anniversary**, 11-2 (p.19)

Aug. 6th – **PABI Sunset Picnic**. 7:00 p.m.
Donegal Bay, 448-2787

Aug. 8th – **Primary Election**

Aug. 9th – **French Bay Field Trip** 8:30 a.m. Nature Walk 448-2254

Aug. 10th – **Rita Gillespie Memorial Blood Drive** noon-5:45. ID required. Call 2379, 2893, 2470, or 2296 to schedule ahead of time if possible.

Aug. 10th – **Gospel Music**, 7, Christian Church

Aug. 10th – **BIHS Annual Meeting**, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 11th-13th – **Homecoming Dance Sat-**

urday August 12 at Holy Cross Hall. Party from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. (doors open at 8:30). **Homecoming Dinner** Sunday August 13 from 4:30 to 7:30. Adults \$10, Kids \$5. See everyone at the Ball Diamond!

Aug. 24th - **Summer Fun Day** 9:00-3:00 K-6 Games, Contests, Prizes, Crafts, and More!!! 448-2067 to sign-up Pre-registration encouraged Cost: \$10.00. Bring lunch. Volunteers Teens and Adults Needed!!!

Sept. 3rd – **Fireman's Picnic**

Sept. 25th-27th – The Karmanos **Mammogram Unit**: 448-2275

Sept. 16th – **Celtic Games**

Oct. 7th - **Bite of Beaver & Boodle**



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A Great Day For Golf

by Frank Solle

A few scattered rain drops did little to dampen the enthusiasm of some 90 golfers during the annual golf tournament at the Beaver Island Golf Course that has become a large part of the traditional Fourth of July activities on the Island.

Indeed, the golfers attacked the course with a vengeance, with numerous rounds coming through under par. But none were lower than the winning four-under-par 31 carded by the happy champions.

The winning team consisted of course owner John “Lay of the Land” Works, Jr., former teaching pro Larry “Don’t Leave it Short” Roy, longtime summer resident Bob “I Golfed All Winter in Florida” Simpson, local super-chef Mike “Practice Makes Perfect” Bailey, and secret weapon Carl “The Score Saver” Evans.

Each of the winners was awarded a classy desktop digital clock donated by Eager Beaver Clean & Store.

Other awards were claimed through golf skills as nearly each hole had a prize for some sort of golfing expertise. Whether it was the longest drive, closest to the pin off the tee on the shorter holes, or closest to the pin on the second shot, all golfers had an equal chance to claim some glory.



2006 Champs - Carl Evans, Bob Simpson, John Works, Jr, Larry Roy. Mike Bailey absent.

After the tournament a variety of door prizes were awarded, all donated by local businesses, individuals, or artists.

Once again compliments were freely given and well deserved for the work Works Jr. has put in towards improving the course. The pin placements on each hole provided the most challenging round of play the course can offer, yet the new 100- and 150-yard mark-

ers placed on each side of the fairways kept the golfers aware of where they were in relation to the green.

And the greens themselves are a sight to behold, as well as to play. Green, smooth, consistent, and fast—Island golfers have nothing to complain about.

This year Mike Sowa stepped up to fill his much-missed father Jerry’s shoes to organize the tournament, along with the ever-present, behind-the-scenes help from his mother Shirley. This year Mike also was assisted by his son Jeremy, keeping another tradition intact.

Next up for local golfers is the first Jerry Sowa Memorial Golf Outing on Friday, August 4th. This will be a four-person team scramble with monetary prizes for the top three finishers. There will be a \$5.00 per person entry fee. For more information, contact Buck Ridgeway at 448-2680.



“In this heat, are we coming or going” Both. Two simple pictures of things we take for granted.

Ladies shine on shiny day

by Frank Solle

Saturday, July 22, opened as a beautiful day for a golf tournament, and the ladies who gathered at the Beaver Island Golf Course for their annual competition took advantage of the day, conducting their business under perfect conditions.

Thirty players were divided into eight teams for the scramble format, and, as has become the local tradition, opened play to a thunderous blast from course manager John Works Jr.'s civil warcannon.

When the round had come to an end it was the team of Nel Wolsford, Ann Broder, Jane Wagner, and Floss Frank who claimed this year's title with a solid round of 40.

Following play the competitors gathered for snacks provided by Whimsy, the awarding of first-place trophies for the winners, plus door prizes for each and every participant.

Two announcements accompanied the post-tournament activities. The first



06 ladies golf champs - Jane Wagner, Ann Broder, Nel Worsfold. Floss Frank missed photo.

was that longtime organizers Ruth Kelly and Taffy Raphael were stepping down from that responsibility. The second was that the tournament would be moving into the capable hands of Wolsford, Annette Dashiell, and Doris Larson.

In closing out her run as co-chair of the event, Kelly said, "It's been very enjoyable and everyone has been very

cooperative. The golf course staff has been helpful, and the course is in such great shape. This has been so much fun for everyone."

Kelly also expressed her thanks to the individuals who donated prizes along with the following Island businesses who help make this annual event such a great success: Powers' Do It Best Hardware, Livingstone Studio, Montage, Whimsy, McDonough's Market, Island Energies, Lakesports, Beaver Boat-Tique, East Wind Spa, Seven Sisters, B.I. Historical Society, B.I. Golf Course, and Charlevoix State Bank.

A Stop Sign for the Monarchs

Did you spot the first sign from the newly-formed *Neighborhood Committee for the Protection of Wildlife*? "We appointed ourselves and are not accountable to anyone" one founding

member said. The sign explains that the Monarchs, whose numbers are down, would appreciate our watchfulness when they cross the road. Long live the Monarch; long live all butterflies!



A stop sign's real purpose becomes clear... after all, only fireflies have turn signals.

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On This Date

Ten Years Ago The *Beacon* recounted Art Gallagher's tragic story of the 160' *Vernon*, which sank in October, 1887, with five Islanders on board. Four of them were Gallaghers, including Charlie Gallagher, who was on his way to Chicago to buy supplies for his father-in-law's tavern.

The Community House sponsors began some fund-raising projects: a Flea Market, a Bake Sale, and the sale of 200 signed color prints of Mary Scholl's fanciful portrait of the downtown of St. James.

The St. James Episcopal Mission received a free organ (in excellent shape) from a Lutheran church in LeRoy, which also paid to have it delivered here.

A bereavement workshop, led by Margaret Lasater, was offered by the newly-organized Beaver Island Hospice, which had made over 50 calls in its first 75 days of existence.

Provoked by the poisoning of Ellen and Paul Welke's one-year-old Golden Retriever, Jeff Powers submitted an article warning of the dangers pesticides present to pets.

The Chamber passed out 500 packets of information in June, orchestrated a successful Parade and Carnival over July 4th, and began selling tickets for a

Sunset Cruise on August 3rd.

The survey of the Township Cemetery was completed.

Ryan Wojan and Lindsay Russell were awarded Darrel Dinwiddie Memorial Fund scholarships.

Beaver Island afghans, depicting eight local sites, went on sale.

The passing of Dr. John Hetherington was noted.

Twenty Years Ago The Port St. James playground equipment originally installed at Donegal Bay was to be given to St. James Township for its downtown playground.

A well-attended Lawn Party was held to celebrate Jack and Bea Boyle's 50th wedding anniversary.

St. James Township agreed to pay ~\$4,000 for a computer to help the Clerk and Treasurer.

John Runberg was working on a grant request for funding for streets and sidewalks in St. James.

Geologist Dick Dietrich prodded Peaine Township to get flood insurance through the federal government.

A septic system was to be installed at the dump.

Peaine Township won its court case against the Michigan Tax Commission.

The *Chuckwagon* went up for sale.

An organized 10-mile run was staged on Beaver in July, drawing 30 enthusiastic runners. The rules encouraged runners to form 4-man teams; each runner's length of run was added to the total to make up the 10 miles. David and Lita Popke and Mike and Becky Masini were the winners, followed by Rick and Tom Speck and Randy Adolphs. Because of the excitement, plans were made to hold the run again the next year.

Stimulated by an article about Washington Island being donated a Recreation Center, editor Jacque LaFreniere began dreaming about a Community Center near town, which could contain township offices and a library, plus a theater and space for the Civic Association and the Med Center's and Fire Department's Auxiliaries.

Passings noted included Andrew Gallagher, a Chicago firefighter who was born and grew up on Beaver Island, and Sister Leonora Gallagher, the last of ten siblings, who had taught school on Garden Island before entering the Convent in 1915.

Thirty Years Ago The 1st Annual Softball Tournament was held, slow-pitch double-elimination games with three Charlevoix teams. Umpires were Jim Willis and Bill Joy, and Walt



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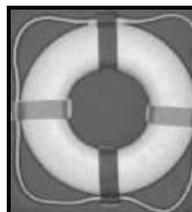
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Wojan. The Beaver Island Boys won 1st place, with Wojan Aluminum 2nd. Tim McDonough's 7 home runs earned him the MVP trophy. A BBQ chicken dinner capped off the weekend.

The following week the Island team went to Charlevoix and split two games with the Town House Bar's powerful team.

The Sam Dunleavies sent 82 relatives to Beaver Island for Homecoming. Violey McCafferty arrived from Florida for a trip on the *American Girl* to High Island, where she had taught Indians and Israelites in 1922.

Claire Cull threw a big *whitefish fry* dinner.

A 579' self-unloader pulled into Paradise Bay to deliver 8,500 tons of crushed limestone (36,000 yards), primarily for paving the Townships' Airport. Its boom towered 50' above the dock. The rock came from Port Inland, and took 6 hours to unload.

An SOS went out for extra musical instruments because music was to be on the BICS curriculum for the fall.

The Historical Society announced that it was close to obtaining title to the Protar Home. Some Indian letters from Garden Island were preserved by the Bentley Historical Library. The *Beaver Island Journal* was expected to be

released in October.

Ed Wojan began selling real estate on Beaver Island.

Forty Years Ago 350 people attended a Homecoming roast beef dinner, following a Homecoming Parade organized by Ed Wojan. At a dance, \$883 was raised for Holy Cross Church and another \$346 for a Convent Building Fund.

The DNR was planning a *no bag limit* partridge hunt on Garden and High Islands.

Smallmouth bass were running small and scarce, compared to the bounteous past years.

A wild turkey season was announced for early November, but a permit would be needed; 100 were to be issued. A rough estimate was that over 300 birds were here.

The Beaver Island Boat Company was experiencing its busiest season ever, with one trip carrying 199 passengers. Some thought was being given to acquiring another boat.

The passing of Nels Peter Jensen was noted. The son of a lighthouse keeper, he was born in St. James in 1902, and fished or sailed his entire life.

Fifty Years Ago Dr. Vail, the Island's doctor, was to leave in mid-September. A new doctor was

expected, who would preside over a new modern clinic being built by subscription.

Elmer Eckroad gave the final report on dredging the harbor. The Lyons Construction Corp did the work, but was detained for 24 hours when the Corps of Engineers found a section of the bottom opposite the ferry dock that was not deep enough. In the redigging with a derrick and a clam-shell bucket, portions of an old sunken ship and some pond-net stakes were discovered. Once sufficient depth was obtained, the dredge barge left—but had to come back for a day because of high seas.

The King Strang Hotel hired three young women for the summer who happened to be musicians; they said they would form a quartet and give a series of concerts—if they could find a piccolo player. The Island supported a good band, with Bill Vail and Tom Allen on trumpet, Ann Willis on clarinet, Dave Wilson on alto sax, Dave Wilson on drums, Karen Ryan on accordion, and Diane Washeras soloist.

An unusual portion of Island evergreens were in bad shape because of the dry fall the previous year.

The Swede's refreshment stand at the Point (later moved to the Wanty property) was being expanded.



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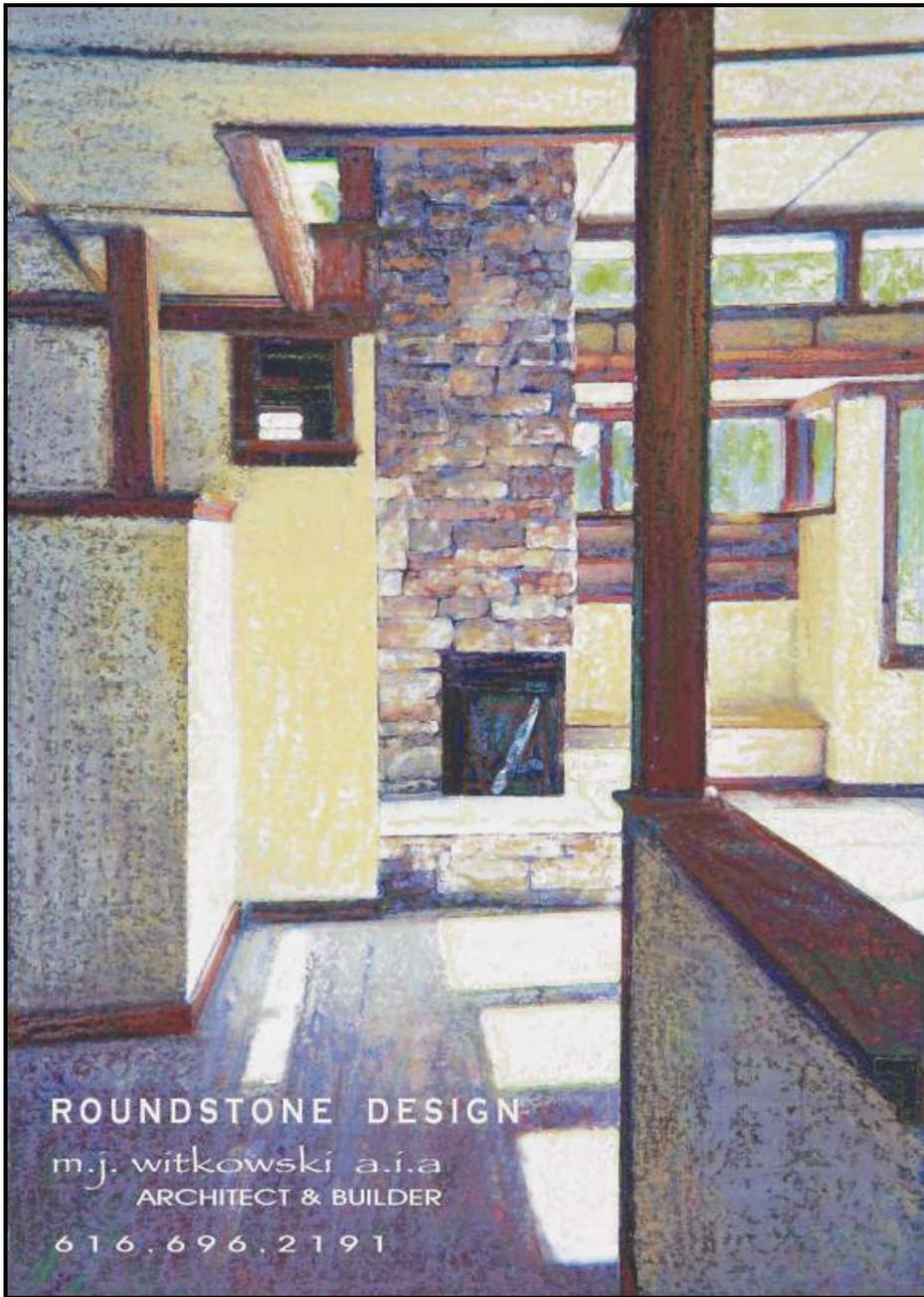
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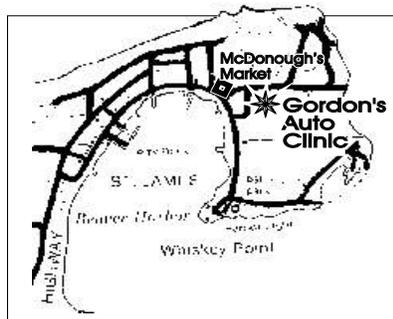
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“Look Everywhere”

by Peter Plastrik

The ranks of emergency responders are typically filled by blue-collar workers, not the business executives or professions.... The number of volunteer firefighters in the nation has declined from 897,750 in 1984 to 800,050 in 2003. — *The New York Times*

I am crawling on the floor in utter darkness, holding on to Bill McDonough's leg. Holding on for dear life. “Don't ever let go of your partner,” Tom Whitman had told me a few minutes earlier. “If you let go, you're lost.”

Bill says something I can barely hear. We are wearing air masks, along with heavy coats, pants, and gloves. We crawl forward blindly into the room, Bill in the lead. My left hand clutches the bottom of his pants leg, while my right hand sweeps across the floor, searching.

Bill stops. “Back up,” he says. I reverse course, without letting go of him. I also make sure that I can still feel between my knees the hose that Bill has been pulling into the room by the nozzle. “Don't lose the hose,” Tom had said. “It's your way back out.”

Back out of the burning room. We are crawling in a dark room searching for a fire victim. Before we entered, Bill touched the door with the back of his hand to see how hot it was, how close the flames might be. We went in low, because that's where the room would be least smoky and hot. “In a fire, you won't be able to see much,” Tom said. “It's not like in the movies.”

You stay glued to your partner, and you always have a partner. “You rookies,” John Works Jr. had said earlier, “if we get into a fire situation, you don't go into the room without one of the veterans as a partner.” I was one of three or four rookies standing around in the meeting room of the St. James Fire Hall with a dozen or so veteran volunteer Beaver Island firemen.

After Bill had entered the room, he crawled to the left. “Pick a direction, right or left, and stick with it,” Tom had said. “Never change direction.”

My sweeping hand had banged into a chair. I checked under the chair and then on the seat of the chair. Nothing.

"Look everywhere," Jim Stambaugh had said. "Little kids in a fire will hide under the bed, or between the mattress and the wall, anywhere they feel safe."

Bill moves forward again, avoiding the obstacle that had blocked our way. A few seconds later, I hear him. "Got it! Let's get out of here."

I have to turn around, staying on my knees on the floor. Now I am in the lead, following the hose back out of the room as quickly as possible, so we can get the victim to safety. Scrambling without losing Bill, who is holding on to my boot and dragging the body.

And then we are out.

It's a simulation, of course, a training exercise. The room is the same room we all met in a few minutes ago, now darkened and with chairs and tables set up by Tom and Jim to block our path to the "victim," a wadded-up jacket. There is no fire.

But the point has gotten across to me. This is dangerous work. You can't see. You can't hear. You can't do it alone. You can't lose contact with the hose. You have to crawl, but time is of the essence.

It's a simulation, so the adrenaline isn't pumping, the fear is not rising. But in my mind I can clearly see the little child, skinny and in thin cotton pajamas, like one of my sons years ago, under the bed and waiting.

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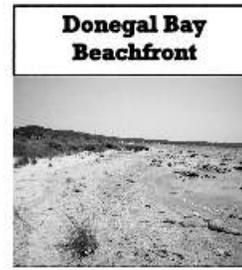
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Please Remember to Vote "Yes" for the Health Center Millage on August 8th

Like everything else on Beaver Island, the cost of providing health care is higher than it would be in a similar mainland community. The reason is obvious: When sudden illness or accidents strike after normal office hours, Beaver Island residents cannot jump in their cars and drive to the nearest urgent care facility or emergency room. In order to provide 24 hour per day, seven day per week access to local health care, the Beaver Island Rural Health Center must employ two care providers. Each care provider is on call half of the time so that a well-qualified professional is always just a phone call away to provide help when someone is in pain. Experience with previous care providers has proven that a single person on call *all* of the time quickly "burns out" and moves

off to a less stressful lifestyle. These facts of island life along with Beaver Island's relatively small population are the primary reasons it is expensive to provide residents with continuously available health care.

So far this year, with the able assistance of our volunteer partners Beaver Island EMS, 39 patients have been treated in the Health Center's two emergency treatment rooms. Of that number, 20 were transported off by North Flight or the US Coast Guard and 19 were stabilized to the point where they did not need transport or could take a regularly scheduled plane for mainland follow-up. In addition between January 1 and June 30, 2006, patients have used the Health Center about 1,330 times during regular business hours.

Despite record use of the Health Center in recent years, and its capability to deliver more services due to the new building and the donation of new equipment, fees collected from patients and insurance companies provide *only 30%* of what it costs to operate each year. **42% of our budget comes from 2 mills** that are levied on property owners in Peaine and St. James Townships. That millage is up for renewal on August 8th on the township election ballots. The loss of 42% of its operating revenue would, of course, be disastrous for the Health Center. No one likes to pay their property tax bill, but voting "yes" for the Health Center millage renewal on August 8th helps ensure that "help when you are hurting" will always be there. That peace of mind is truly ... Priceless!

Board of Education appoints New Officers

At its July 10, 2006 annual organizational meeting the Board of Education elected the following officers from among its members. Barbara Schwartzfisher was elected president after having served as treasurer for many years. Sharon Nix-Cole was re-elected

as board vice-president, a post she has held for 3 years. Nancy Tritsch was elected secretary, and Linda McDonough was elected board treasurer. Long-time president John Fiegen joins other members Brian Cole and Dawn Marsh as board trustees.

In other business, the board appointed members to the following committees: finance, building, curriculum, policy and personnel, school improvement, BIYC, and negotiations. The board also accepted with regret the resignation of science teacher Adam Chittle.



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Friday August 18th

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Keeping Honey Bees Alive on Beaver Island

by Theodore G. Bolak

Imagine a pamphlet designed to encourage visitors to Beaver Island on the first page of which you read "Beaver Island: The Winters Are Too Long and the Snow Is Too Deep." You flip to the second page and find "The Island Is Too Windy." Finally, the last page would say, "Bee-Eating Snakes." Perhaps the pamphlet would include pictures of trees frozen over, a visitor or two struggling waist deep in snow, and, of course, a large slithery snake with a honey bee hanging partially out of its mouth. Sounds like the type of getaway you're looking for, doesn't it?

Of course, for those of us who are familiar with Beaver Island, we know that there are many more positive aspects to the Island, even if we aren't cold-weather people. However, for Dr. Dyanne Tracy, a beekeeper, the encour-



agement she got regarding starting hives on Beaver Island was about as welcoming as the above-mentioned brochure. No one discouraged her because she wanted to keep bees, but because they said bees would never survive the Island's winters.

Dr. Tracy is a Professor of Education at Oakland University. She was introduced to Beaver Island by Paul and Liz Niehaus, who invited her (along with other coworkers) to work on grant-writing projects for Macomb County. Dr. Tracy first visited Beaver Island on August 12, 2004. While she was on the ferry, she could see it in the distance, and eventually looked through binoculars to see more detail. At first, she says, the Island and the ferry were in shade. But, soon the sun came out and she was able to see the brilliant emerald greens. Five min-

utes later she decided she would retire on Beaver Island.

After disembarking from the ferry, Dr. Tracy met Liz and explained her plans for retirement. Within twenty-four hours, she looked at her first piece of land. Within forty-eight she found the property she wanted to buy: on the corner of East Side Drive and the two-track lane at the Pebble Beach sign.

Dr. Tracy has been beekeeping for seven years. She is an award-winning beekeeper with a total of ten first-place ribbons for honey at the Michigan State Fair. Despite her accolades, she knew that keeping bees alive here would be tough. Many people unfamiliar with beekeeping underestimate the role of a beekeeper. A beekeeper is responsible for keeping hives suitable for bees. If the bees are not tended to, they will swarm and leave. While there are many beekeepers and hives in Michigan, there are no longer any known feral honeybees. That means that beekeepers are responsible for the care of honeybees that not only give us honey, but do important work pollinating crops for

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human consumption.

On April 29, 2005, Dr. Tracy brought two colonies of honeybees to her property. She set them up in a clearing, with the hive's entrance facing East Southeast. Facing the hive in that particular direction provides the hive with the most sunlight for warmth, starting as early in the day as possible.

In June 2005, Dr. Tracy brought an additional hive. She had only planned on taking two, but unexpectedly came into possession of an additional colony of bees. One early afternoon she got a call that there was a swarm at an entrance at Great Lakes Crossing, the shopping mall in Auburn Hills. She took her truck, bee suit, and extra hive to safely remove the swarm. Dr. Tracy explains that the act of removing a swarm is a more dramatic than dangerous. When bees are swarming, they are concerned about protecting their queen, and are usually less dangerous than most of us think.

During the months of July, August, and September, 2005, Beaver Island (and the rest of Michigan) experienced

one of the hottest and driest summers in thirty years. This climate challenges honey bees because there is little nectar for them to collect. Further, the bees have to keep the hive cool. The eggs laid by the queen need to be kept between 93 and 94 degrees Fahrenheit. Along with the pressure weather puts on bees, beekeepers don't get much honey with such conditions.

As fall approached in early September, Dr. Tracy medicated her bees for varroa mites and microscopic tracheal mites. Protecting bees against such parasites is important to the overall health of the hive. Bees are creatures of particular cleanliness. The microscopic tracheal mites will cause digestive problems, and bees will die before they will release any excrement in their hives. The medicines used are delicate and do

not affect honeyhumans consume.

During her final visit to Beaver on October 22, Dr. Tracy supplied her hives with sugar water for sustenance during the winter months. She left on October 23. Yet her departure was only momentary. In Oakland County, her mind frequently wandered to her Island bees. As she thought of her bees huddled together during the colder winter months, she recounted the discouraging words she had heard about beekeeping on Beaver Island. Perhaps they were true, she thought. Perhaps she



would return to find her hives devastated. Or, perhaps, honeybees might be able to survive, and her doubts and the doubts of others would be proven wrong. In any case, she would have to wait until March 18, 2006, to find out. *Continued on page 16, see Honey Bees.*

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Honey Bees, continued from page 15.

Once again, Dr. Tracy found herself taking residence at the Niehaus's on March 17, 2006. But despite the company of good friends, her thoughts of honeybees and her hives seeped into her consciousness. Finally, on the morning of March 18, she was able to visit her winter-worn hives again. She describes the events comparably to the

final chapters of a deeply involving novel, one in which readers have stayed the course and know they will be rewarded.

"There was a little snow, and it was a crisp 42 degrees Fahrenheit," Dr. Tracy recalls. She got on her bee suit "and removed the top cover, looking for life." The first hive she peered into was "dead, with a classic starvation pattern

the bees had the size and shape of a football, clustered together, dried and dead." When she reflects back on the moment, she realizes that she, at least, understood what had happened and why. The bees simply did not have enough food to last the winter. She says she cleaned and closed the hive, moving to the next two.

She slowly removed the top cover

Thanks, Much! – Sarah Owsinski, BIYC Director

Thanks to all the volunteers who gave of their time on July 4th to help out at the Beaver Island Youth Consortium Carnival. The smiles on the kids' faces made it clear that they were having a great time, and that is because of all of you! Thank you so much for being willing to give to the kids in this way. Your help was truly appreciated!

A special thank you to all of our Dunk Tank Celebrities as well! The tank was our most popular attraction this year. Thanks for being such great sports for the sake of the kids!

Thank you to the Holy Cross Catholic Church for once again graciously allowing us to use their lawn, power, and water supply. The people in the

dunk tank seemed especially grateful for the warm water! Thanks to the Beaver Island Fire Department for allowing us to use their tables and chairs for the day; thanks to McDonough's Market for extending a discount to the BIYC on the pop sold at the carnival; and thanks to Beaver Island Electric for providing us with outdoor electricity for the event.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Jean Gillespie, who donated her winnings back to the BIYC. Thank you so much for your kind generosity, Jean!

Finally, thanks to all who came out to support the BIYC at this event. We hope you enjoyed spending time with your friends and family at this year's Fourth of July Carnival.

They're Our Roads

The roads in Charlevoix County are like the arteries of the heart. When the arteries to the heart are blocked and in bad shape, the heart ceases to operate and the body dies.

The primary roads are in bad shape in the county. If we cannot get our visitors to and from their destination within the county, all of the county will die. Also important to note: when the roads get repaired, the repairs on the vehicles of county residents will be reduced.

So remember: all these roads are our roads, and maintaining them is important to our economy, even if you don't personally use them. So vote *yes* for the County Road Millage on Aug. 8!

–John Haggard

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of the second hive and removed the jar of sugar water. Bees were moving! The hive had survived the winter – but just barely. The honeybees only had a teaspoon of sugar water left. The third hive followed the second, with live honey bees, and a minimal amount of sugar water.

Excited, Dr. Tracy went directly to McDonough's for sugar to replenish the

hives' sugar water supply, and generously gave them enough sugar water to last until she would be back in mid-April. As for celebration, she says proudly, "I celebrated with friends at *The Shamrock*."

This summer, the bees are continuing to do well, and Dr. Tracy plans to extract honey late this summer. She encourages Beaver Islanders to try the

honey. Look for the Beaver Island Apiaries truck. Additionally, you can visit the Beaver Island Apiaries' website (www.beaverislandapiaries.com), or contact Dr. Tracy by email at dtracy@beaverislandapiaries.com. Should you taste the honey, you'll surely think it is as sweet as Beaver Island – but, beware of the bee-eating snakes.

One Hundred Years Ago

by Joyce Bartels

Charlevoix *Sentinel* August 16, 1906. **Local News:** "James Donlevy, of St. James, was in town Friday on business."

"The steamer *Beaver* will run an excursion to Northport next Sunday, August 19th, on the occasion of the big Indian camp meeting."

Beaver Island News: "Resorters are flocking to the Island this summer as never before."

"Two new families are resorting in tents on Ruth avenue. They are Dr. Hinkley and Prof. Benjamin, with their families, all of Keokuk, Iowa."

"Dr. C. E. Ruth has put in a fireplace in his cottage this summer which

is a thing of rustic beauty. It is made entirely of picked stones from the lake shore about here. The doctor values it at \$2000."

The Rev. Dr. Worrel of Kentucky, and his son, who is also a D. D. of Kansas City, are spending the summer on the Island and incidentally accomplishing a great deal of good by a series of services each Sabbath morning and evening at the Chapel. Both are preachers of national reputation, and the Island people who have attended these services have been greatly helped in the life spiritual."

Charlevoix *Sentinel* August 23, 1906. **Local News:** "Supervisor W. J.

Notes from F. Protar's diary with the help of Antje Price

Gallagher, of St. James, left here Saturday for Lansing, to attend the meeting of the State board of equalization."

"There has been a 'shake-up' in the Franciscan Order whereby Rev. Father Ewald, assistant to Father Paschel Foerster, of St. James, and in charge of the Charlevoix mission, is transferred to an Oregon parish. Fr. Ewald was very popular with his people, both on the Island and here. Rev. Father Cyrius, superior of the order at Petosky, has been transferred to Joliet, Illinois. Both priests left last Sunday on the *Missouri* for their new fields of labor." (Note: August 3/4, 25/26-good rain, grand rain, thunderstorms. – F. Protar)

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Summer Softball wraps up... Ready for Homecoming!

Above: Tuesday night-Junior League. Not pictured: Coaches Rick Speck & Susan Valente.

I would like say Thank You to all the coaches for both Monday night and Tuesday night games: Kerry Smith, Bob Marsh, Susan Valente, Tamm y LaFreniere, Rick Speck, Ron Wojan, and Tim McDonough. I would be lost without their help.

And Thanks to Tim McDonough and Rick Speck for attempting to help us get a women's team going; we averaged about 5 gals per Monday night, and they stuck with us to practice.

Tuesdays with the Big kids, Tim was the all-around pitcher for both

teams (Thank You).

We started the season out strong with 12 kids on Little League, 16 kids on the Junior League and 18 kids and adults on the Big League. I would like to thank all those who committed to these nights for playing ball. -Diane McDonough



Baroque on Beaver

July 30th 2006 – Once again, glorious music for summer: it would've been great anywhere, but here, it was *priceless*





A Happy 26th

Thanks to much generous support and hard work by a bevy of volunteers, the Beaver Island Historical Society celebrated its 49th year with a successful Museum Week, its 26th.

In keeping with its new policy of not charging admission for either Museum, most of the events this year

were also free.

Fate seemed against the BIHS when the historic week began with a deluge, forcing those gathered to watch Skip Duhamel carve a Totem Pole to scurry for cover. But the weather turned wonderful for Music on the Porch, which Doris Larson orches-

trated with consummate skill (plus the help of Mike Scripps, Mike Hurkmans, and Barry Pischner.) The evening sped along, with performer after performer trying to surpass the previous act. Most of the record crowd stayed to the very end—the music was that good.

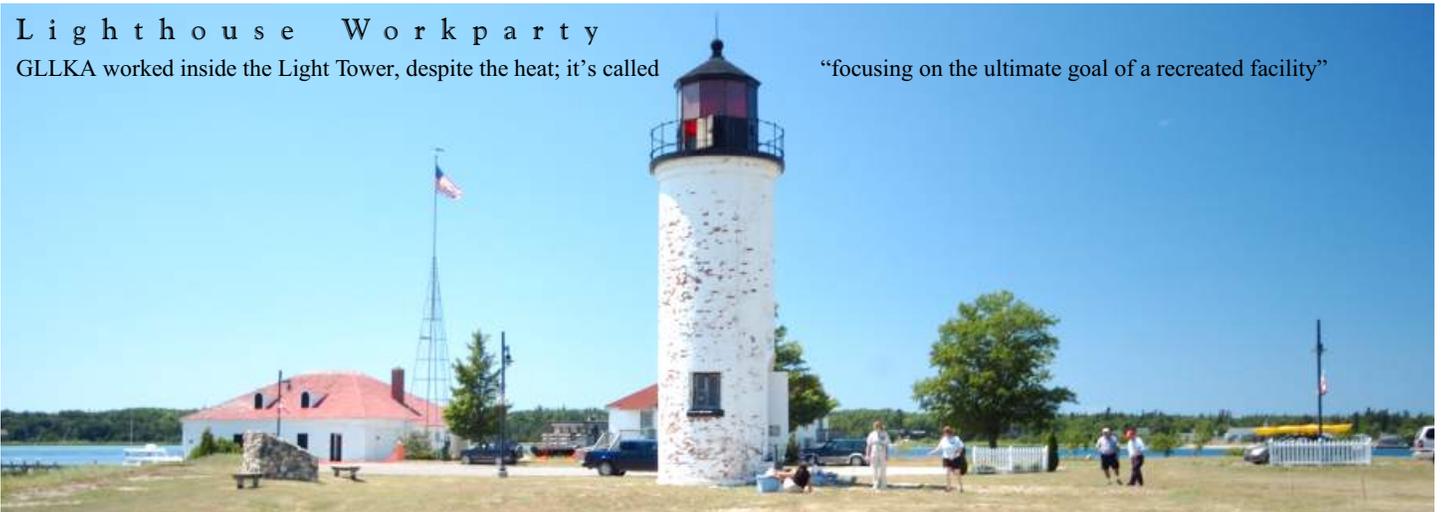
Continued on page 20, See Museum Week.



Lighthouse Workparty

GLLKA worked inside the Light Tower, despite the heat; it's called

“focusing on the ultimate goal of a recreated facility”



Museum Week, continued from page 19.

The Pet Show provided some surprises. The three special Nature Walks were much enjoyed. Antje Price's talk on Protar and Ray Kiogima's presentation about the Odawa Language had their fans. The evening at the Whiskey Point Light was well-attended, and Mike Weede's discussion of diving on our shipwrecks was a big hit.

Yet no event was as well-received as Jim Gillingham's *Amazing Amphibians and Reptiles*. Word has been spreading that this is something not to be missed, and this year the Parish Hall

filled to the point of overflowing – literally: every chair was occupied, and dozens had to sit on the floor.

Laura Pratt's *Ray Denny Memorial Art Show* benefitted from the serene ambiance of the Christian Church, where it was held for the second straight year. Having artists on site, and having Ted Nicholas perform on the final day, also helped, but the most important factor was the growing fame of Beaver Island's talented artists.

The most important goal was providing entertaining and educational diversions for the week, and this was achieved—thanks to major donations

from Carol Aram, John Boucher, John Crouse, Rich Gillespie, Bill McDonough, and Ed Wojan, and gifts from Island Airways, the Paradise Bay Coffee Shop, Ron Wojan, Johnny B, the Charlevoix Agency, the Charlevoix State Bank, the Brothers Place, Burris Masonry, the Convent, Jim Wojan, Jeff Powers, Gordon's Auto, Montage, TDS, Island Energies, the Beaver Boat-Tique, and the Winchester Funeral Home. Planning has already begun for Next Year.

Beaver Island Hospice and Helping Hands—News

We recently had an annual meeting and educational review. We continue to have a strong organization of dedicated volunteers, of which the Island can be very proud.

Since we share a loan closet with the Medical Center, and we have had a great demand for orthopedic aids this past year, we now have a depleted supply of certain items. If you or anyone you know have equipment you are currently not using in your home, perhaps you would like to share it with us for re-loan. For pickup please call Joyce at 2387 or Lois at 2475.

Our only means of continued service to the community is through donations. To make a contribution please mail to Beaver Island Hospice at 31520 East Side Drive – Beaver Island, MI. 49782.

Thank you for your past and future kindness.

–Joyce Runberg, BIHHH Coordinator

Yearbooks are Here

The Beaver Island Community School's self-produced 2006 yearbooks are hot off the press and are available at *Shipwreck Shirts*.

Klaus Mueller 1928–2006

Klaus Petro Mueller, 78, of Goshen, died on July 9, 2006, after a brief illness. He was born February 21, 1928, in Doebeln, Germany, to Max and Johanna (Petro) Mueller. On October 26, 1951, in Kiel, Germany, he married Christa A. Krueger, who survives.

Mr. Mueller came to Goshen in 1957 from Germany. He fell in love with Beaver Island. After 23 years he retired as business manager of KMC Control in 2001. He served on the Elkhart Symphony Board and the Elkhart County Park Board. He was named New Paris Man of the Year.

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A Community Pulls Together – News from BIPOA

Over 50 people attended the Property Owners Association's annual meeting on July 24th. Many of them were interested in the progress of the video about the Island's ecological balance, and were delighted to witness Sally Fogg present a \$3,000 check from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation for the video and its companion brochure and website—and learn that BITA had agreed to show it on the ferry monitors. Yet the gathering was most concerned with the unfolding of a plan to battle *phragmites*, the invasive reed that's popping up on more and more Island beaches—including on some of our inland lakes.

With help from individuals and other organizations, BIPOA mailed a letter to the 734 shoreline property owners, alerting them to the problem and sketching in steps that might be

taken.

The letter recommended that owners learn about the plant so they can identify it; when it is found. Neighbors should be notified, and alliances formed to be able to take effective action. The plant frequently reaches 7 to 10' tall here; despite its 20'-long runners, it can be pulled out, but only with great difficulty. It might be possible to hire strong young people, but care must be taken not to let it spread after it's pulled out: it should be bagged for transport to a burn area and then, after notifying the Fire Chief, burned.

Failing that, it can be cut off (at the right moment) and a poison, such as Round-up, injected into the stalk for transfer to the root.

Instigated by BIPOA, new neighborhood groups are being formed to

pool information and resources to fight this insidious plant. The mechanism for forming these groups should remain in place, so that as other threats arise, a viable comprehensive response may become easier. In fact a second possible problem was mentioned: the increase of algae around the shore, the reduction of which could possibly involve steps such as the redesign of Island septic systems.

Other matters were also addressed, such as the recently completed Master Plan, the nuisance ordinance, the new wetlands study, and the transit bus. But it was the unity that came from pulling together in the face of the *phragmites* attack that created such a feeling of camaraderie and a sense that this organization, BIPOA, is a vital necessity for enjoying life on Beaver Island.

Helen Pike to celebrate her 90th!

Family and friends of Helen Pike are invited to a celebration of her 90th birthday on Saturday, September 16th, from 7 to 11 p.m. at Jerry LaFreniere's party barn. Please join us for food, liba-

tions, and fun! No gifts please – your presence and good wishes are all that's required! Helen's children want everyone to know that the "no gift" policy will be strictly enforced. Violators will

be forced to (a) organize an Island-wide raffle of the gift items and/or (b) construct a new room on Helen's house to hold the items. One exception: funny cards are welcome!

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T h u n d e r



o n P a r a d i s e



After standing in the unusually hot sun for a half hour on July 15th, Islanders gathered

Priceless

A funny thing happened on the way to the priceless Beaver Island Fourth of July Parade. During that pop-up squall on Saturday, the 1st, Jan and her girlfriend Jeanie ducked into the Shamrock to get out of the weather. When they left, somehow Jan's

on the point began to hear the exhilarating rumble of the speedboats on the horizon

money holder with all her vacation money fell out of her purse.

Major bummer. Even on Beaver Island I didn't figure that the over-\$500 would find its way home. Everyone who knew simply said, "Call the Sheriff's office to get your

slightly before noon. Then they were spotted, bursting out of the froth on the horizon and

money back; it will be turned in." Glen's able assistant at the Municipal Marina even looked up the number for me, brought it down to the boat, and then bugged me until I made the call. So I left the name of our boat, the *Janice Lynn II* at the Muni Marina, and



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demonstrating a new and improved definition of speed and power. Suddenly they were

entering the Harbor and throttling down to pick their card. Some pilots were confident

enough to jump over for a brief swim! The best part? Earning \$100,000 for Camp Q!

described Jan's money clip, hung up, and figured I'd never hear anything more.

Come Monday morning, here's the dapper Deputy walking down the dock to reunite Jan with her money!

When Glen saw me Monday and I said

the money was back, he replied, "Steve, did you forget you were on Beaver Island? That's how things are done here." He was right; I forgot to remember the magic of this place, and why I need to keep coming here to recharge my batteries. So I would like to

add my own *Priceless* to the Parade motif: having my downstate cynicism kicked somewhere north of the U. P. and east of Nova Scotia by an anonymous Good Samaritan, a reminder of just how special Beaver can be. Priceless. – Stephen Smith



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Launching with a Strat-O-Vette!

by Mike Lozon

A one-person device that takes the hassle out of launching and retrieving heavy jet skis has been invented by a Holland resident whose family has generational ties to Beaver Island. Ryan Fogg, an avid jet skier, grew tired of having to enlist the help of others to launch and load his personal watercraft at Lake Michigan. But rather than wait for someone else to come up with a solution to eliminate the back-breaking chore, the enterprising Fogg created the Strat-O-Vette.



"I was frustrated at not being able to use my jet ski as often as I wanted because no one was there to help me launch," said Fogg, the son of Mike and Patti Fogg. "I also noticed the wear and tear the machine underwent each time no one was around and I had to beach it by running up as far as I could onshore."

Fogg's invention is a gas-powered, four-wheel drive device that uses two metal arches and a winch to lift and

lower machines weighing up to 1,500 pounds. Two levers control the movement of the device, which can be steered to effortlessly deliver a personal watercraft to a storage spot on the beach or to the water's edge for another round of wave jumping.

"The Strat-O-Vette is ideal for locations where docking and lift systems are not an option," Fogg said. "Now, after a fun day on the water, a jet

skier can retrieve a heavy personal watercraft, and store it away from the water's edge in preparation for the next ride — all with the flick of a switch to the "on" mode and the pull start of a five-horsepower engine."

Fogg, 28, comes by his entrepreneurial skills naturally. His late grandfather, Clyde, founded the Fogg Co. in Holland, a successful manufacturer of filling equipment for beverage, food, pharmaceutical, and consumer-product companies around the world.

Ryan and other members of his family still own summer homes on the Island.

Closing Party On Hold

The CMU Biological Station Closing Party will not be held this year due to major construction on site. We hope to resume this tradition in 2007, and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

*From Everyone at the
Beaver Island Rural Health Center:*

**Congratulations
to Beaver Island EMS
on its 20th Anniversary!**

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have you standing guard!*

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Letters:

To everyone involved with the publishing of the new Beaver Island Map,

I wanted to thank all involved with this huge project. The map turned out absolutely perfect. The detail is remarkable. I know it was thousands of hours and many drafts to prepare. Ed really is a historian.

Art and I have been coming up regularly since we saw a small ad by Roy Elsworth in the Chicago Tribune ("Island Land for sale") in 1978. The Island is different-but very much the same. I'm sure everyone reading this knows what I mean.

This new map is really great!

Again, Thank You Ed, a huge Thank You! -Debbie McCaskey

The new map is available from Island merchants and the Chamber at www.beaverisland.org/map or (231) 448-2505 — "Two maps is a must, one for the wall and one for the truck," said Chamber Director Steve West.

Madonna caught on a Harley

Photograph courtesy of Mary Rose Birch



Madonna McCafferty was going to skydive in the arms of Luther Kurtz, but the weather turned bad. Then she was going to enter the *Boyne Thunder Poker Run* but the ace one of the judges found in her shoe got her disqualified. So when the chance came to jump on the back of a Harley being driven by a handsome young man....

Anybody know where they're casting the remake of *Easy Rider*?

Join Us on August 6th

The Beaver Island Community is invited to the 20th Anniversary Party of Beaver Island EMS, which will be held Sunday **August 6th** from 11-2 at the Beaver Island Rural Health Center Open House. EMS and Health Center members will be on hand. Refreshments and Blood Pressure checks will be offered.

- Sarah McCafferty, B. I. EMS Director

Thanks!

To Our Family and Friends: Thanks for making our 50th Anniversary such a memorable occasion. Good weather, a great family, and many friends - we had it all.

- Joy and Russ

AmVets Roast

The AMVETS Pig roast will be held August 5th at the Hall. Roast pork, beans, and other culinary delights will be served from 5:00 to 7:00. Adults \$10.00, children less than 12 \$5.00.

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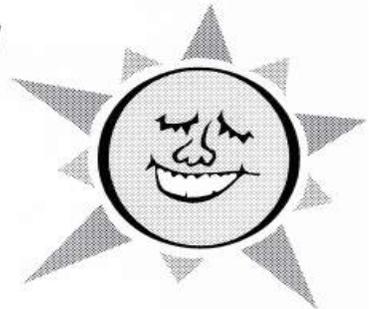
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Charlevoix County Transit will be accepting proposals for transportation services on Beaver Island, St. James and Peaine Townships until Friday, August 18, 2006. Service will begin October 1, 2006 and run through September 30, 2007. Prospective bidders may call the Transit office at 231-582-6900 (ext. 208), Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to receive a bid packet. Charlevoix County transit is an equal opportunity employer.

Clyde Fogg Memorial Boat Parade



On July 4th Mission Control received a frantic message from the International Space Station; *there seems to be a monstrous sea serpent in*

one of the Great Lakes, in a beautiful little harbor indenting a large island; its sinuous form is snaking and looping, as if it intends to devour its own tail.

“Relax,” the cosmonauts were told. “It’s only this year’s Clyde Fogg Memorial Boat Parade on Beaver Island.”

It’s easy to understand the mistake;



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they didn't know about this tradition, which once flourished, then fell dormant, and then was revived. Once again it featured a stunning display of the

Island's nicest boats lighting up the harbor. Mike and Gail Weede of *Paradise Bay Dive Shop* stole the show with an electrified choreographed array of

friends to show off the newly painted green *Resolute* – in style. The crowd all around the harbor loved it. The mighty *Cisco's* fireworks were a close second.



P r o f e s s i o n a l O r g a n i z a t i o n a n d I n t e r i o r D e s i g n



from this



to this



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Beaver Island Recreation Resource Project

Ecological Evaluation of Publically Accessible Wetlands of Interest on Beaver Island, Michigan

Beth E. Leuck*

Edwin E. Leuck*

Central Michigan University Biological Station

June 2006

*Permanent address:

Department of Biology
Centenary College of Louisiana
Shreveport, LA 71104

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to assess the ecological characteristics of selected publically accessible wetlands on Beaver Island in Lake Michigan. The study constitutes Phase Two of the two-part Beaver Island Recreation Resource Project directed by Dr. John R. Kelly. We have chosen areas of the island associated with inland lakes that are accessible for recreation via automobile, walking, or boating. Although there are additional wetlands of interest on Beaver Island, we did not include them in this study because their location is entirely on private land. Lake Michigan shoreline public lands are described in Phase One of this project.

Wetlands are defined as regions where the water table is at or near ground level. There are four types of wetlands found on Beaver Island. *Swamps* are wetlands dominated by trees. *Marshes* are wetlands dominated by grasses, sedges, and other herbaceous vegetation. *Bogs* are characterized by acid soils and sphagnum moss, which serves as a substrate for other plants that are often uniquely adapted to live in cool, acid water. Bogs depend on precipitation for moisture and usually have no inlet or outlet. *Fens* are similar to bogs, but they contain mineral soils and are dominated by sedges rather than sphagnum moss. They depend on seepage through the soil to stay moist.

Lake Geneserath Bog

Location: On the north shore of the North Arm of Lake Geneserath, west of the public boat launch.

Accessibility: By boat (recommended) or walking.

Coordinates (approximate): East end: 45°36'13"N, 85°31'37"W
West end: 45°36'13"N, 85°31'54"W

This narrow bog along the north shore of Lake Geneserath consists primarily of sedges, a non-native grass (*Phragmites australis*), and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*). It grades into tamarack (*Larix laricina*) and paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and then into the northern hardwood forest ecotype that typically surrounds Lake Geneserath. Although the bog is accessible via land, it is more visible from the lake. The floating sphagnum mat extends into the lake making the characteristics of this bog easy to observe.



Lake Geneserath Bog



Floating sphagnum mat with royal ferns

Miller's Marsh

Location: West Side Drive

Accessibility: By vehicle and walking.

Coordinates (approximate): East end: 45°36'43"N, 85°35'19"W
 West end: 45°36'48"N, 85°35'38"W

This wetland is owned and maintained by Central Michigan University. It consists of a main marsh area and a minor, less-accessible leather-leaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) bog. There is a guided nature trail that encircles the main marsh. The water area of Miller's Marsh contains pond-lilies (*Nuphar variegata*) and is surrounded by a combination of sedges, grasses, and hardwoods.

Miller's Marsh is one of the most publically accessible inland wetlands on Beaver Island due to its proximity to West Side Drive and because of the loop trail that follows the water.



Entrance to Miller's Marsh off West Side Drive



Main marsh area showing pond-lilies and hardwoods along the shore

Greene's Lake Bog

Location: Accessible portion is along the shore of Greene's Lake west of the public boat launch.

Accessibility: By walking.

Coordinates (approximate): East end: 45°38'11"N, 85°35'06"W
 West end: 45°38'09"N, 85°35'22"W

Greene's Lake is a shallow lake characterized by a large bog at the southeast end, which is difficult to access. However, there is a narrow strip of marsh vegetation and an interesting island/peninsula located west of the public boat launch, both which are easily visited via a walking trail. The vegetation along the shoreline of Greene's Lake consists of a shrub layer of Michigan holly (*Ilex verticellata*). The island, which becomes a peninsula when water levels are low, is covered with low-bush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) and black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*) as well as white pine (*Pinus strobus*). The strip of wetland that connects the island with the shore of Greene's Lake is comprised mainly of leather-leaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), manna grass (*Glyceria borealis*), sedges (*Carex spp.*), and rushes (*Juncus spp.*). There are pond-lilies (*Nuphar variegatum*) in the shallow portions of the lake, and some of the largest northern red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) and red maples (*Acer rubrum*) on the island are located along the shore.



Island to the west of the public boat launch on Greene's Lake with pond-lilies in the foreground



Canopy of large oaks and maples along shoreline trail with view of island/peninsula

Continued on page 30.



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Fox Lake Bog

Location: Along the northeast corner of Fox Lake.

Accessibility: By boat (recommended) or walking.

Coordinates (approximate): East end: 45°38'53"N, 85°33'04"W
West end: 45°39'04"N, 85°33'49"W

The Fox Lake Bog is a large bog that extends southeast from the east side of Fox Lake. It is composed primarily of leather-leaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) and sphagnum moss, although it contains other plants generally restricted to bog habitats, such as pitcher plants (*Sarracenia purpurea*), cotton grass (*Eriophorum spp.*), and sundews (*Drosera spp.*). The most visible part of the bog is east of the public boat launch and can be accessed via boat, although a small portion is privately owned. The largest publically owned part of the bog is accessed via Middle Perron's Trail, although the road is only seasonally maintained and is not always passable. Approximately one mile from where Middle Perron's Trail turns off from the intersection of Old Fox Lake Road and Hannigan's Road, the bog is visible through the trees to the west. At this point the bog consists of many acres of sphagnum moss hummocks covered primarily with leather-leaf and white pine (*Pinus strobus*).



Approach to Fox Lake Bog from Fox Lake



Bog showing sphagnum moss, cotton grass, and leather-leaf

Barney's Lake Fen

Location: Along the southeast end of Barney's Lake, southeast of the public boat launch.

Accessibility: By walking.

Coordinates (approximate): East end: 45°42'31"N, 85°33'09"W
West end: 45°42'34"N, 85°33'22"W

This is the only fen on Beaver Island. It is accessible by walking southeast along either the shore of Barney's Lake or along Barney's Lake Road from the public boat launch. It is separated from the road by a small stand of cedars. The fen is dominated by sedges (*Carex spp.*, *Schoenoplectus spp.*) and rushes (*Juncus spp.*). Sundews (*Drosera spp.*) are common along the edge, and white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) and tamarack (*Larix laricina*) comprise the back of the fen that grades into a hardwood forest.



Barney's Lake Fen with Barney's Lake in the background



Looking south from the fen toward the tamaracks and cedars at the back of the fen

Font Lake (Tract A)

Location: Southeast end of Font Lake behind Peaine Township Hall.

Accessibility: By walking.

Coordinates (approximate): East end: 45°43'45"N, 85°31'48"W
West end: 45°43'50"N, 85°31'55"W

This small wetland has a well-developed trail and boardwalk that lead from a parking area behind Peaine Township Hall out into a marsh. The trail begins in a cedar swamp and ends in a sedge marsh. Plants that are easily observed along the trail include white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), and Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*). The boardwalk ends in an observation deck where sweet gale (*Myrica gale*) and tamarack (*Larix laricina*) can be seen. Unfortunately the marsh has been invaded by the non-native grass, *Phragmites australis*.

Along with Miller's Marsh, this is one of the most publically accessible inland wetlands on Beaver Island. The well-built boardwalk would be enhanced by the addition of interpretive brochures or signage along the boardwalk.



Boardwalk through a cedar swamp at the southeast edge of Font Lake



Observation deck overlooking a marsh at the edge of Font Lake

Font Lake (Tract B)

Location: In Font Lake south of the public boat launch.

Accessibility: By boat.

Coordinates (approximate): East end: 45°44'33"N, 85°32'14"W
West end: 45°44'32"N, 85°33'03"W

The northern end of Font Lake is characterized by several unique floating wetland islands. These vary in number depending on the water levels of the lake. The islands are composed of bulrushes (*Schoenoplectus spp.*), cattails (*Typha sp.*), and sweet gale (*Myrica gale*). The islands are held together by the roots of the bulrushes and cattails. Another island located at the southwest corner of the lake is more anchored and harbors a typical bog flora of sphagnum moss, sweet gale, pitcher plants (*Sarracenia purpurea*), tamarack (*Larix laricina*), and black spruce (*Picea mariana*). It is recommended that these islands be enjoyed from a boat; they are unstable and may not support the weight of humans walking on them.



Two small floating islands at the north end of Font Lake



Large anchored island in southwest Font Lake with typical bog vegetation

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The Bottle Gentian

By Vicky Rockwell

It's truly amazing what one can see just a few short steps from the road's edge on Beaver Island. As late summer is upon us and August begins, the tenacious spirit of the wildflowers endure. It is now that we see some of the most striking assortments when we take a moment to watch where we step and look a little more closely.

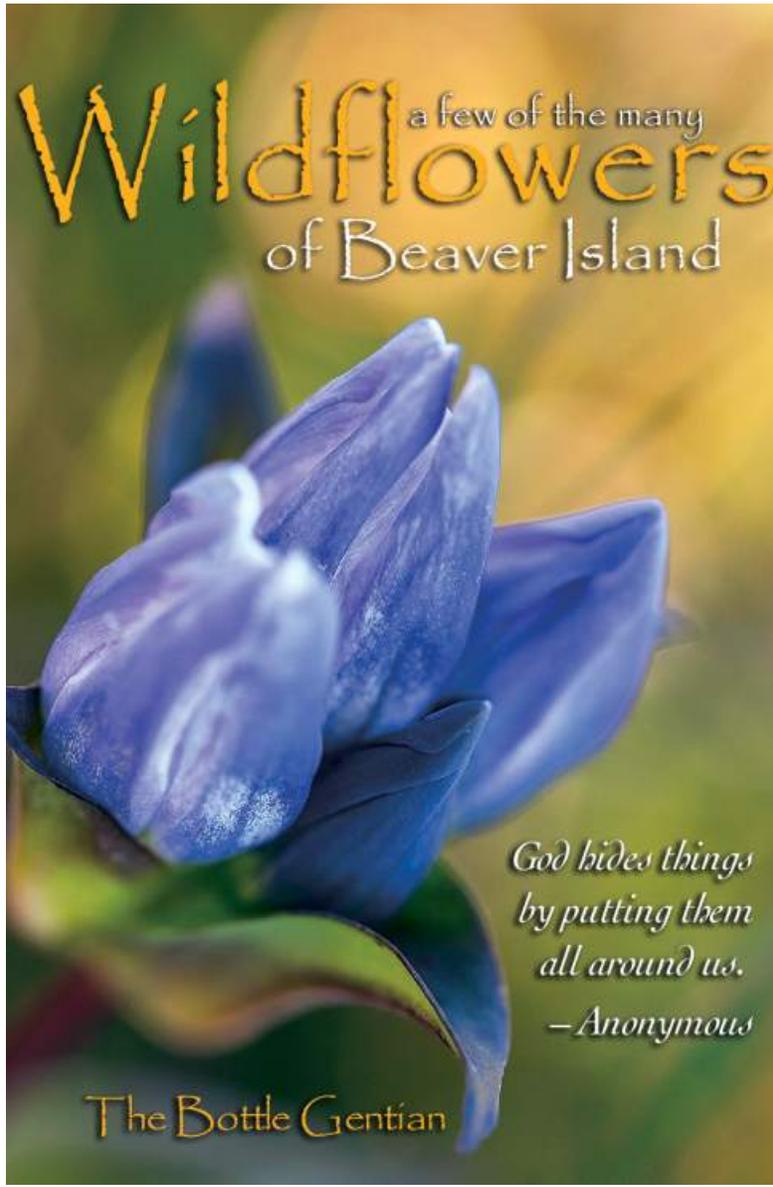
In our continued effort of discovery, my husband and I often rise before the sun, fill the thermos with java and begin a slow-paced trek pass the meadows, through the woods, and along the lakes in search of the perfect wildflower specimens to photograph. It was on such a journey that we came upon one of my personal all-time favorite wildflowers at Barney's Lake.

Nestled among the moisture-loving flora, we discovered the vivid purple of a Bottle or Closed Gentian (pronounced "gen shun.") The Bottle Gentian is aptly named due to the unique shape and nature of its flowers which are bottle shaped and never open. It

is an herbaceous (green stemmed plants that die back in winter) perennial (a plant which lives more than 2 years.)

The Bottle Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*) was named at the beginning of the nineteenth century after Henry C. Andrews, an English painter who specialized in flowers.

Noticing that the Bottle Gentian buds never open, John Burroughs, the noted naturalist and author, said, "a bud and yet a blossom... it is the nun among our wildflowers, a form closely veiled and cloaked." He initially thought this flower self-pollinated until he discovered that only through the considerable strength of larger bees and bumblebees



is the Bottle Gentian pollinated.

Once inside the flower, the bee's pollen-covered wings brush against the downward-facing stigma (the female part of the flower), pollinating the flower. In search of nectar, it continues down the bottle, collecting pollen from the stamens (the male part of the flower). The amazing part of this quest is that when the bee, covered with pollen from this flower, turns around to exit the flower, it pushes the stigma up preventing self-pollination. A truly ingenious design, wouldn't you say?!

Nature's remarkable ability to communicate among species is evident in the Bottle Gentian. Once a bud has been

pollinated, the tip turns from white to purple. This serves as a sign to other bees that the nectar has been removed and they need not waste their time and effort.

The seeds of the Gentian are so tiny, it would take 9 million to make one pound, and once a seed begins to germinate, it takes 2-7 years for the plant to flower.

One of the richest flowers in nectar content, the Gentian nectar is so sweet (40% sugar) that it was used to make Moxie, America's first mass-marketed soft drink.

The Bottle Gentian is protected in the state of Michigan, and I've been vague in revealing my favorite location until now. (I figure if you're interested enough to read this far, you'll most likely be thoughtful about my flower!)

Follow these directions and you may just find this jewel of the Island:

Get up early and take some coffee. Go to the parking area at Barney's Lake and stroll over to the

rustic bench. Sit down, breath the clean air and enjoy the freshness of the morning. Then, slowly stand and walk about 2 paces toward the water and turn to your left. See the tiny little almost path? Walk a couple paces and look down and right. There it is! A wonderful specimen of vivid purple, dew-kissed and gleaming in the morning sun!

Don't despair if you can't find it, as in just a few short weeks its closely-related cousin, the Fringed Gentian, will begin to fill the shores with its azure blue splashes.

Just remember to look for that which is hidden all around us and, in all things, take the time to watch your step.



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Drawing the Map –

On a snow-covered day in March, it began simply enough – a meeting with Ed Wojan to discuss a project we and a good many others had been casually thinking about for several years—the creation of a new Beaver Island map. A

map project always had allure, and was something I could never say no to, largely due to the map that always hung in our living room throughout my childhood. Still, a map project was daunting because of the huge investment of time needed for a financial return many years down the road. But after just a few minutes discussing the project with Ed, a vision we both had of what should be done became an action plan, and with a handshake *the Second Wojan-Cashman Map of Beaver Island* was born. I would do the drawing, and the computer work, and Ed would provide the in-depth knowledge from 30 years in Real Estate. He would also finance the project. Wasting no time, a contract was signed. A three-page list arrived the next day with the first of 29 years worth of changes Ed had jotted down. And we were underway!

As we collected and arranged giga-



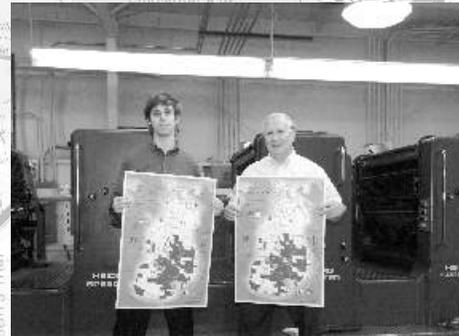
bytes of data from current aerial photography and satellite imagery, USGS and county GIS data, and corrections noted over the last three decades, I began to think the map might simply come together systematically, although I cautioned myself not to get my hopes up. At first I worried that this map might not even be necessary, with *google earth* showing the cars parked in back yards of mainland city homes. But a quick drive under the canopies of the west side roads (which vanish from the aerial as they curve in and out of tree-cover, while the power cut sometimes shines through) soon showed otherwise.

Islanders accustomed to swerving around the Beaconmobile as we stand on the side of the road to shoot a deer, duck, or flower instead found us in March stopped

in the middle of intersections waiting for the gps to normalize. But once we were sure which way was up, and then decided how to best utilize and coordinate the mass of available data, we were once again off and running.

April was spent drawing and drawing ... and drawing. Each set of data provided an amazing glimpse—the aerials resolving buildings in open spaces, the satellite imagery showing clearings and swamps with more clarity. The county data allowed us to correlate survey information, but each was only a partial look, and the Island is known for having many secrets that required old-fashioned footsteps to discover. While I've walked the Island every year of my life, frequently discovering one path when

searching for another has been a pleasant diversion. Now as Ed checked the 2006 condition of all the things I thought to be true on the ground it became humbling how the image in my mind's eye of each place actually fit



within the guidelines (not to mention the idiosyncracies built in over time, everywhere—how “un-digital” for the section grid itself to not be comprised of perfectly equal segments!) The original 1977 Wojan-Cashman map had been created by hand-cutting layer upon layer of acetate film to reconcile the hours of ground work, done on snowmobile and motorcycle, with the aerials existing at that time. No imaging device was available on the Island that could even scale the photos, so cutting was done by eye and calculation. Even in 2006, there was still no magic button (as one might expect from watching TV), so we worked back and forth, with Ed spending countless hours mapping roads and trails in a jeep and me drawing and drawing, mainly with the old trusty wacom pen and tablet, through April, May, and June.

What fascinated me was to see how the many waves of development had left traces that can still be found; instead of being over-built, nature is so verdant here that these ‘artifacts’ have become part of the landscape, a few becoming well-used connectors, some being rerouted with new



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loops, and others remaining as fragments of the not-so-distant past. Some LP roads that we expected to have vanished were still clear as day, while other trails we were sure would connect had 3" trees growing in them or were covered by a new beaver pond these months after the photography had been taken.

And this is one aspect that really gives life to the map in my mind—while it's primarily a “road map,” all the roads have history. Some names on the map date from long ago, long the defining features when someone takes a trip around the Island, while others are part of what has occurred between 1977 and today, and it will be interesting to see how use adds to the vernacular as our time is layered on the previous. Many contemporaries have now made their mark—on the map.

As June slipped by and sleep was a thing we merely dreamed of while waiting for the latest draft to print, Ed brought two young men that work for him onboard, Andy Stone and Jake



Risinger, to help run the remaining roads and trails in the final week of the project—verifying in the jeep was the only fail-proof method to get the data right. In one case, on State Land along Hannigan's, Ed traveled along the south branch of what seemed like a nice clear loop from the aerial, and Jake and Andy walked the north branch, expecting to quickly connect. However, while the two communicated with radios, they walked and walked and never came close enough to hear Ed on the other side. The next day when it was light enough to explore, they discovered how a huge beaver pond had formed in the former connection. This was just one of dozens of trails that took an unexpected turn due to nature having a mind of its own.

As we continued to add detail after detail, the drawing grew to 54 separate layers. Having everything vectorized allowed us to do simple things—such as adding the Port St. James road names, which had been too difficult due to the tight space back in 1977. But being able to zoom infinitely and go over the map, area by area, iteration by iteration, also made it a longer process, with two dozen printed drafts and

600 versions of the file saved. The tolerances were tighter, but the expectations were higher as well this time.

With July upon us, a line was drawn in the sand and 7-7 was selected as the final day of drawing — also, symbolically, the 30th anniversary of Ed Wojan Realty.

The closest press large enough for the job was at Mitchell Graphics in Petoskey, so with a tight schedule to prepare the file, and after one 3-day “overnight” Fedex proof, we flew over to watch the map run and make sure the stock and printing was just what we envisioned. As we



were waiting for the plates to be mounted, we learned that in a month a new two-million-dollar press will vastly increase and automate their current production of 7,000 - 15,000 per hour on their “old”

press, and this Heidelberg will likely be sent to China for a whole new life. But the 20-year-old Heidelberg Speedmaster (still technology that was 9 years in the future when the first map was run!) proved to be the perfect blend of

old and new—the prepress and plates were all done digitally, and a new spectrometer/densometer allowed the pressman to keep the colors perfectly within the desired tolerance. But groups of sliders per color allowed him to adjust the ink levels to fine tune the cyan, which laid a little differently than we had expected on the real stock. So with the right man on the job, after a few thousand prints during the makeready and a few hundred test prints to manually fine-tune the ink levels, it had come to perfection.

Well there you have it—a fittingly long winding tale about the project that in the end brought everything together onto one sheet — but I suppose that is the whole idea of making a map.

I don't think either one of us have any regrets about how we spent this winter, spring and summer. —Jeff Cashman

Donegal Bay Sunset

Beaver Island, Michigan

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Through a Beaver Island Looking Glass

by Penny Morse

My introduction to Beaver Island was a flight from Charlevoix in a friend's small plane and landing in a cow pasture. No paved runways in those days, and as we bumped our way toward the simple block terminal building, we saw a herd of enormous black snowshoe rabbits frolicking and munching greens near the terminal. Never had I seen such large rabbits, and of such deep black color. The moment felt rather *Alice in Wonderland*-ish, as if I had fallen through a mirror and on the other side was Beaver Island.

The snowshoe rabbits have been replaced by flocks of turkeys near the now-paved runways, but there is still a timelessness, a magic to be found on this tiny hump of land in the middle of mighty Lake Michigan.

Is there anywhere else in America where you can experience such uncomplicated living? Where purses can be left unattended, vehicles left unlocked, or where you can hitch a ride with a stranger and not be mugged? And the best part is how the Island teens and chil-

dren ride bikes everywhere, leaving them randomly on the ground while they run off to explore or swim? No one ever steals the waiting steeds. How these children's hearts and spirits must soar with freedom. Unfortunately, they won't appreciate what they have until they're much older.

The quality of life may remind you of the 1960s when we still had some clean beaches and could usually trust strangers. To once again drink cold, unfluoridated well water and to breathe air washed clean by wind and rain seems miraculous in 2006. Equally amazing is to be awakened every morning by the unmistakable voices of loons calling up the sun, to watch a conscientious hen turkey majestically shepherd her 15 chicks across the road in front of you, and to be stared down by a doe with her twin fawns shyly waiting. I mean, the deer don't even run. Their attitude seems to be, "What are you looking at? I'm eating my lunch here; mind your own business."

Beaver Island is a wildlife paradise

where close encounters and natural events happen frequently. I watched a cormorant dive under and seconds later emerge with an eel. As dreaded as the proliferation of cormorants has become, perhaps they're helping to eliminate the equally dreaded lamprey eel. Now if we could just find a predator for the cormorants, to keep a balance. Do you think we could teach our wily coyotes to swim?

Another of Mother Nature's regular showings is the panorama of stars and planets (and, now, our satellites) on any cloudless night. Without interference from artificial lights, this awesome spectacle is of such clarity and magnificence it will bring you to your knees. The milky way and falling stars are still yours to wish upon.

The simplicity of using airline, ferry, and rental vehicles to come and go and to get around the Island always leaves me astounded. *Island Airways* keeps an easily-remembered schedule between Beaver Island and Charlevoix. Just go to the airport and you'll find

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small planes leaving approximately either on the hour or on the half an hour during business hours. Reservations are recommended but not required. One fee either way. I think the major airlines are lobbying for a law against such common sense, lest it spread.

So you've managed to get to the Island by some happy and easy conveyance. You've breathed in the unfouled air, drank water like it was fine wine, so now it's time to perk up your body with whitefish. One Island restaurant offers seven different ways to enjoy this freshwater favorite. A local business operates a fish-smoking cooker right off the eastern harbor shore, and the crisply browned critters (which were caught earlier that day) are so delicious you may have to wait in line for your daily ration. Imagine how this gift of our waters heals and energizes your cells.

While you're waiting in that line, make sure to absorb the Island music made up of ferry boat horns, gull cries, church bells, wind ruffling leaves and waves, and children laughing. Surely

this medley was composed in heaven.

The same timelessness and simplicity is evident in the Island's three churches, housed in humble buildings and well-attended—though Beaver Island claims only 550 permanent residents. Much has been written about the Catholic priests who were among the first white men to visit the Island, searching for heathens. Well documented also is the decade of Mormon influence which ended with the killing of the Mormon King, James Jesse Strang. One hundred and fifty years later, there seems to be a mellow tolerance evident in the way Islanders and visitors support the various church-sponsored events, no matter their personal worship preference, and gladly accept increasingly diverse visitors.

Here you have the freedom to relax from the normal stateside vigilance and stress, which surely leads to a deeper awareness of joyous living. "Stay in the moment," we hear the self-help gurus say. That single-mindedness is hard to achieve on the mainland as we try to

chase such busy schedules, but seems to be a natural state of mind on the Island.

My seventy-five-year young father fly casting from the shores of Barney's Lake gave me the most memorable example of this moment-by-moment awareness and what gifts may come from achieving it. Dad never cared if he ever caught anything, and rarely did. He was just very content doing something he loved. In that moist, still air near sundown, I patiently watched his graceful swing of forearm. As the fishing line arced up and out over the water, a sunbeam caught the wet line, turning it golden. This gilded light then ran along his line, down the rod, and finally bathed my father in its glow. It was a mystic moment to behold, and I felt so privileged to bear witness.

Come and visit Beaver Island some week or weekend. Refresh your body and soul, spend money, give thanks, leave only footprints behind, and then go home, with your memories. Let us keep one priceless place in America healthy, clean, unspoiled, and timeless.



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Fashions, songs, and more

by Frank Solle

While it wasn't quite a chorus line or the Rockettes kicking out a Can-Can, the local models at the 23rd Annual Fashion Show at Holy Cross Hall on July 13 showed a Can-Do attitude as they not only mod-

ensembles with a song before being graciously assisted down the steps of the stage by PABI board member and professional gentleman Bob Tidmore, who was there to help each model.

The show opened with a fine dis-

or hats.

From there the mood shifted to more elegant ensembles better suited for after-beach activities, such as an afternoon on the town, any town, or a casual social gathering.



eled the latest fashions from the Beaver Boat-Tique, they belted out a number of numbers as well.

Led by Island artist, storyteller, and entertainer supreme Doris Larson, this year's group combined for a most enthralling performance. Larson introduced each of her first few fashion

play of light and breezy summer wear emphasizing a practical comfort yet displaying an understated sophistication. The apparent "in" apparel this year are the capri-style slacks which were featured numerous times. Each outfit was enhanced by well-coordinated accessories such as earrings, necklaces, scarfs,

The next move, into more formal evening wear, was introduced via a lyrical takeoff of a Broadway standard by Island favorite Stephen Sondheim, "I Feel Pretty" from *West Side Story*. Each model sang a verse as they took their position on the stage before gracefully gliding around the appreciative crowd once

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again. This line of outfits ran the gamut from a tasteful yet elegant pants suit to a wilder orange-green-black floral print dress.

The final twist of this year's production was introduced as "Fabulous Fall"

were Fashion Show veteran Jayne Bailey and newcomers Sheri Schrottenboer, Barbara Lane, and Sandy Robinson.

This year the event was hosted by the Preservation Association of Beaver Island. Board member Don Tritsch gave

refreshments were offered throughout the show while the centerpiece candles by Bullfrog Candles of Charlevoix were raffled off as door prizes, as was a main raffle prize of a \$100 gift certificate to the Boat-Tique.



by the ever-capable emcee, Lisa Gillespie. These autumnal fashions included sweaters, light jackets, and rain gear, all the way to a heavier, full length jacket bravely worn in the summer heat by Norwegian native Tova Kopperud.

Joining Kopperud and Larson in rounding out this year's modeling crew

a short update on progress at the Community Center, informing the guests that the building's facade, which used to grace the front of the old LaFreniere Store (and, before that, the McCann Store), has been painted and will begin to be put in place in the next few weeks.

A variety of hors d' oeuvres and

Once again Donna and Louise King of the Beaver Boat-Tique made this annual show a profitable, fashionable success with their wonderful and varied line of clothing. Thanks to them, visitors only have to leave behind the *bad* things in the city; the *good* things are here as well as there.



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Classified - For Rent - Continued on page 42.



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FOR SALE: CHARMING PORT ST. JAMES HOME



27827 WHITE CEDAR TRAIL

Charming 1,132 sq. ft. home on two Port St. James wooded lots. It has two bedrooms—
one upstairs plus an upstairs hot tub & exercise room. Full bath downstairs, 1/2 bath
upstairs. Every room has a combination ceiling-fan light fixture. Baseboard electric heat
throughout the house which is well insulated, but there is also a propane heater
downstairs. Kitchen with snack bar open to dining area. Close to Font Lake and the
North Shore Park and about half-way between St. James and Donegal bay. **\$139,500.**

Ed Wojan Realty:
Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711
Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711



BEACHFRONT HOME FOR RENT:

3 bedrooms and loft – total 5 beds, hot tub, gorgeous views, solitude, wood stove, May-Sept. \$1050
Off-season \$795.
Call Perry at (313) 530-9776
or e-mail pगतliff@hotmail.com



BEAUTIFUL SECLUDED NEW CHALET: Near Donegal Bay's beach. 3BR, 2Bath. MBR has garden tub. W/DR TV/VCR Grill. Upon availability, bikes & auto for your use. Sleeps 6-8. No Pets. \$790/week. Off season rates available April thru June 15 & Sept 15 thru Oct. Evenings (708) 389-0621



ISLAND AERIE: Overlooking harbor next to Nature Preserve, easy walk/bike to town, 3 bathrooms, 4 BR w/ 2 king and 10 twin beds, large 1st floor decks, 2nd floor wet bar and deck, 3rd floor game room, all modern amenities and appliances, great for multiple families and groups. \$1600/week, reduced off-season and extended-stay rates. Call John and Jan (989) 866-2159

THE FISHERMAN'S HOUSE - Great 'In-Town' location. 4 BR/2 Bath; W/D; Beautifully appointed. For availability, call Bill or Tammy (231) 448-2499 or (231) 448-2733.

LOG CABIN ON SAND BAY - pets allowed. 2 BR, 1 bath: \$500. Call (734) 449-0804 or email delzey@earthlink.net

ADS: \$1/line or \$15 w. photo and www.beaver-island.com (231) 448-2476 beacon@beaverbeacon.com

DONEGAL BAY - 3 BR 2 bath Home; sleeps 6; many amenities. \$880 a week. Reduced rates for off-season. Phone (313) 885-7393, after 4:00 p.m.

PRIME N. END LOCATION - 120' on water - Three bedroom, 2 bath, garage. Furnished. 26315 Pine St. \$324,900. Lease option. (586) 206-1099.

BEAVER ISLAND HARBOR LOT FOR SALE - Protected Harbor site: 60' Lake frontage by 250' deep. North of the Toy Museum. Call (231) 448-2391.

WESTERN SHORES - Juniper Point Lot #6 - 451' frontage/3 acres on Lake Michigan. Overlooking High Island. Winding Driveway thru Red and White Cedars. \$285,000 FSBO 3% co-broke (269) 598-8042.

HARBOR-AREA 2-STORY HOUSE FOR SALE - 2,688 ft² plus 2 car attached garage & full basement. 3 large bedrooms—master with private bath and walk-in closet, cathedral ceiling. 2 ½ baths. 2 decks. Approx. 1-acre corner lot. Peekaboo view of the Harbor. Potential for a bed and breakfast business. Asking: \$245,000. Owner is licensed agent. Call Jackie at (231) 448-2342.

FOR SALE, BEAUTIFUL LARGE BUILDABLE LOT - on the main part of Lake Geneserath. Call Julie @ (616) 566-3311 for details

TWO LOTS IN THE PORT ST. JAMES near Font Lake. Perked, wooded, buildable. #708 & 709; electric and phone right there. \$14,000 each. Call Peggy at (269) 671-5557.

40 ACRES ON SLOPTOWN ROAD - Call Bud at (231) 448-2397.

10.1 ACRES OF HARDWOODS - with 700 feet of frontage on West Side Drive one mile north of Fox Lake. For Sale by Owner. High ground with private road and fully cleared building site. \$45,000. Call Bubba at (989) 821-5344.



FABULOUS NEW HOME FOR SALE

Located between Lake Michigan and the Harbor. Two bedrooms plus huge loft, one full bath, living room, w/2-story ceiling, kitchen, utility room, large front & side decks, truly "Turn-Key" with appliances, furniture, bedding, down to dishes and silverware! Easy walking distance to everything in town.

Offered at \$235,000.⁰⁰

CALL ERIK PETERSON, OWNER
(269) 857-6084 or (616) 240-8980



FOR SALE – HARBOR-AREA HOUSE:

Four bedroom, 1 ½ bath house on two lots with garage. Wonderful location near town and the harbor. Asking price is \$225,000.

Call Ed Wojan Realty:
Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711
Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711



Not-quite wild flowers, but beautiful nonetheless, and growing into nature, all around the Island.



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