



NEWSLETTER FALL 2017

2018 Membership Drive

Happy Autumn to you. As the leaves fall, it is the time for the Society to kick off our Annual Membership Drive.

Memberships are vital to the Beaver Island Historical Society for two reasons:

1. Money is used to provide annual operating support including programming such as special events, museum week and music on the porch, as well as the Directors salary, utilities, new exhibits, newsletters, and property maintenance.
2. Beaver Island Historical Society members and volunteers are vital components in helping us achieve our mission and vision statements. (see column)

Our Members and Volunteers enjoy and take pride in sharing our unique history with the thousands of annual visitors to our Island. Tourism is the number one industry on Beaver Island and vital in sustaining our growth and economy.

We ask you to join us by becoming or renewing a Historical Society membership. **A membership form is found on the back page of this newsletter and on our website <http://www.beaverislandhistory.org/>**

Thank you for your consideration.

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Society is to preserve and share the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

Vision Statement:

The Society will share the unique historical stories of the Archipelago through the renovated and expanded museums.

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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The Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit is a multimedia interactive exhibit that will appeal to persons of all ages. The display also has a companion exhibit to reflect Michigan water issues. Visit the exhibit June 23– August 5, 2018.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

By Sue Oole, Docent Coordinator

A big thank you to all who volunteered their time this past summer. Our volunteers are crucial to our success in fulfilling the BIHS motto of “Keeping Island History Alive”. We are already looking forward to 2018 when we will not only need to staff our museums, but will need volunteers for the Smithsonian exhibit, the Protar House, and many other jobs that help keep our facilities in good working order. Next summer we will open our doors on Memorial Day, which is earlier than in the past, and hope to add more docents to our schedule to ease the burden of those who have already volunteered. If you are interested in being a part of our volunteer crew, please call me at (269) 377-9201 and let me know what skills you are willing to share and we will find a way to use those skills to strengthen our mission. We look forward to another great summer of historical adventures in 2018.

SMITHSONIAN WATERWAYS EXHIBIT COMING TO BEAVER ISLAND

Beaver Island has been selected to be the first hosting site in Michigan to receive the Smithsonian’s traveling Water/Ways exhibit in 2018. The Smithsonian’s Water/Ways exhibition dives into water, an essential component of life on our planet, environmentally, culturally, and historically. The availability of water affected settlement and migration patterns. Water plays a practical role in American society and most certainly here on Beaver Island. In societies across the globe, water serves as a source of peace and contemplation. Many faiths revere water as a sacred symbol. Authors and artists are inspired by the complex character of water – a substance that is seemingly soft and graceful that is yet a powerful and nearly unstoppable force.

Next Summer, the exhibit will be staged at the St. James Township Hall, June 23 through August 5th. The Historical Society will offer special programming and events to interpret and package an awesome Beaver Island experience including a special banner by our students.

“This project is funded in part by Michigan Humanities Council (MHC), an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.” MHC will hosts the Smithsonian exhibit while in Michigan and has designated the six site locations. The Office of Great Lakes along with other sponsors will collaborate and create a companion exhibit about Michigan Waters.

DIRECTORS CORNER by Lori Taylor-Blitz

Greetings. As many of you know, this was my first year as your Director. I am happy to report I made it through the season with only a few bruises. I am excited for next summer to share new exhibit content and programming with our members and the thousands of island visitors we meet over the summer. In addition to the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, I have a few other morsels to share! The Charlevoix Historical Society will share a boat builder exhibit and we will have another traveling display called "Wooden Boats Afloat." Both exhibits will be at the Marine Museum.

While at a SeaGrant Conference, I had an opportunity to view artifacts recovered from the Vernon shipwreck. On October 29, 1887, the greatest number of Beaver Islanders were lost on the steamboat. Seven souls were lost in Lake Michigan that day: Rose Gallagher, Mary Gallagher, Catherine Gallagher, Charles Gallagher, Bridget Green, Hannah Malloy and Louis Gebeau. The Vernon sank 12 miles east of Two Rivers, Wisconsin. Currently the recovered artifacts are on display at the Leland Historical Society and I am working to have the pieces travel to Beaver Island next summer.



Wooden Boats Afloat Banners on at Fishtown
Photo Credit: Lori Taylor-Blitz



Left: Vernon Shipwreck Artifacts on display at Leland Historical Society. Photo Credit: Lori Taylor-Blitz

Words from our Island Fellow, Stef Burchill

The Historical Society has had an adventurous wrap up of the fall season with the Island Summit at the close of September, the Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Trail conference, and the arrival of the Island Fellow at the beginning of September. The Island Summit event was a great success for the community. Twelve islands of the Great Lakes came together in unison to discuss their community similarities, struggles, and strong-points on topics everywhere from higher education, historical preservation, and emergency health services--just to name a few. The Summit was the brain child of a few dedicated BIA members who saw the value in the work that the Island Institute of Maine has been performing for the past thirty years. Karen Burns and Kate Tagai of the Island Institute facilitated the event alongside the new Island Coalition's partners the Office of the Great Lakes, and Northland College. There is something truly special about bringing so many islanders under the same roof.

One small part of the presentation the Institute gave to the forming Great Lakes Island Coalition was the Island Fellows Project. There are currently nine fellowships, eight on the coast and in rural Maine areas, and one here on Beaver Island. Stefanie Burchill is the Communications Fellow located at the Community Center. Her focus is to work with the community calendar and digital signage system through WVBI. Stef's background in writing and digital media will be used throughout the year to create content for local organizations and non-profits, including the Historical Society. Stef and Lori had the pleasure of attending the SeaGrant Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Trail conference this past month. Fishtown Preservation Society hosted several Michigan historical societies, Michigan and Wisconsin Sea Grant representatives, among others who ventured to Fishtown to hear the stories of how the community resurged through its fishery and tourism industry. Next years' conference is rumored to be hosted here on Beaver Island.

**New Board Members
2017-2020**

Patrick Cull

I am a 2009 graduate of Beaver Island Community School, and a 2013 graduate of Central Michigan University with a B.S. in History. I currently work at the Golf Course as head greenskeeper, and as Deputy Supervisor of St. James Township. I am happy to be working with the Historical Society to keep Island history alive. I am particularly interested in the pre-Mormon, as well as the more modern 20th-century history of the island.

Dick McEvoy

I am retired. I worked pharmaceutical sales for ten years and as a Respiratory therapist for twenty years. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Education and Associates degree in Respiratory Therapy.

I joined the Historical Society to be active in preserving the history and maintaining Beaver Islands historical landscape and structures. My Passion: Save Our Signals (S.O.S.)

Maeve Greene

Currently, I am the Preschool-First grade teacher at Beaver Island Community School. I also teach first through fifth grade science and physical education. I have backgrounds in both education and business. My most recent position, before moving back to Beaver Island, was on the media team at Meijer Corporate.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Social Studies, from Northern Michigan University and I am currently pursuing my Master's Degree.

Special Thank you to the _____ Girls for operating a Lemonade Stand during Museum Week and donating the proceeds to the Society





MEMBERSHIP YEAR: JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31

We would like to help the Beaver Island Historical Society in its mission of Keeping Island History alive by becoming members or renewing at the indicated level:

Student/Senior \$25.00 ____	Individual \$35.00 ____
Couple \$50.00 ____	Family \$100 ____
Sustaining \$250.00 ____	Benefactor \$500 ____
	Corporate \$750.00 ____

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Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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