



PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

Volume 3 Issue 6



Fall 2021



Director's Corner

Warm Greetings to you! I would like to personally thank each of you for supporting the Beaver Island Historical Society in 2021. With your support we accomplished quite a bit over this last year. We served over 7,000 visitors in the museums and at our events. We installed six new exhibits: Women's History, William Ives Survey of the Archipelago, Natural History, a Public Art exhibit, Marold II, and new panels for the Museum Week Art Show!

The Historical Society hosted a variety of events and we hope you were able to join us for some of them either in person or virtual. A sampling of our activities included an Earth Day presentation about: Keewaydinoquay, Dendroarchaeology (a history of trees), Geocaching (a fun way to explore the outdoors). Museum Week offered programs about Beaver Island Arranmore connections, Music on the Porch, Archaeology Talk, Amik Society, Shipwrecks, Strang, a local Art Show and a week long Kids Camp (new!). Other events included a Women's History Event, Dark Sky Talk, Labor Day Art Forum and a summer lecture series: Marine Museum Mondays (Monologues with Matthew), Picnic on the Print Shop Patio and Cemetery Talks. All of our exhibits and events were made possible through the generous support received from YOU, our members, donors, grants and support from the St. James Township millage and Peaine Township match.

As we move into the pretty colors of fall foliage we also kick off our membership drive for 2022. Since COVID changed the way we all think about our days, our membership is still only about 1/2 of what it was in 2019 before the pandemic. Please consider renewing your membership and continuing to support the Historical Society. Your support ensures that we may continue our work to advance our mission of Sharing and Preserving the Unique History of Beaver Island and the Archipelago. Our membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.

Please note, a membership form is on the back page of this newsletter and on our website at, beaverislandhistory.org

Best,
Lori Taylor-Blitz
Beaver Island Historical Society
Executive Director



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 museum properties.

Board Members 2021

Angel Welke - President
Tracy Paquin - Vice President
Roberta Welke - Treasurer
Jacque LaFreniere - Secretary
Joe Calian - Trustee
Vincent Ebersoldt - Trustee
Larissa McGinnity - Trustee
Dick Mulvihill - Trustee
Sheri Timsak - Trustee
Craig Turnbull - Trustee
Alan Vicstein - Trustee
Alvin LaFreniere - Hon. Trustee
Doug Hartle - Hon. Trustee

Lori Taylor-Blitz - Exec. Director
Sharolyn Hunter - Adm. Assistant

Interns:

Elsie Burton - Print Shop
Matthew Swarthout - Marine Museum

Archivist:

Josh Benschaul

Museum Properties

Print Shop 231•448•2254
Marine Museum 231•448•2479
Protar Home Sloptown Rd
Heritage Park Donegal Bay Rd

Beaver Island Historical Society
PO Box 263
Beaver Island, MI 49782
beaverislandhistory.org

Exciting Things Happening at the Marine Museum

New Front Deck

The Beaver Island Historical Society is pleased to announce plans to build a deck at the main entrance to the Marine Museum. The Don and Kay McDonough Masini Welcome Deck will replace the existing roadside entrance ramp. This project is the result of a generous donation by Phil and Amy Burkart from California whose friendship with Don and Kay spans many years and continues today.

Kay Masini was an artist, writer and poet. Her artwork has won many awards and has also been shown in several international exhibitions. Her husband, Don, was an officer of Wheel Horse Products located in South Bend, Indiana. They moved to Minnesota after the acquisition of Wheel Horse by The Toro Company.

Kay has deep connections to Beaver Island. She is the daughter of Sadie Gallagher Peternard and R. Bruce McDonough. Her ancestors are some of the Irish immigrants who settled on Beaver Island and helped develop the island's maritime industry. Kay spent her summers on the island, raising their four children and creating art in her small studio. Love for the island continues with several family members owning homes there.

The 20 x 22 foot deck will be at the entrance to the Marine Museum. The deck will be made of composite material. Wooden posts and netting will be used on the roadside to keep with the nautical theme of the museum. Two side rails will also include wooden posts, but will use a horizontal wire system for safety. Kay Masini's artwork will be etched on metal panels placed onto the posts of the deck.



The large size of the Welcome Deck also creates new space for our public events. Our Marine Museum Mondays with Matthew were very popular this season and next year they will be on our new deck.

The Historical Society thanks Phil and Amy Burkart for their generous donation which will allow this lovely new addition to our historical property.

Masini Memorials Fund New Marold II Exhibit

When Kay Masini died in 2020 her family designated the Marine Museum as the recipient of memorial donations. These funds were used to create an exhibit that tells the story of the Marold II that exploded January 1, 1937 killing five BI residents, including Kay Masini's father, R. Bruce McDonough .

Created by our summer intern, Matthew Swarhout, the exhibit includes photos and artifacts from that fateful day when the Marold II was pumping gasoline from the grounded tanker, the Boyd. Once filled with gasoline, the Marold II exploded when the engine started. We look forward to sharing this exhibit with the public in 2022. The Historical Society thanks the Masini family for their memorial donations.



KIDS CAMP 2021



Attendees at the Print Shop Museum

This year during Museum Week our interns, Elsie Burton and Matthew Swarhout, led Kid's Camp. The week filled to capacity and

kids 5-12 years of age participated in fun and enriching activities.

BIHS Board member and potter, Larissa McGinnity, taught the children to make and paint their own ceramic bowl. A wide range of pets were showcased at the ever-popular pet show. Several CMU vans full of kids and chaperones spent a 'wiggly' morning at Miller's Marsh learning about snakes, frogs and other creepy stuff.

This year a new event was added to Museum Week children's activities. Dick McEvoy took the lead and recruited volunteers who created a Fairy Walk at Heritage Park. Members of the community placed over 20 fairy scenes in the park that stayed up most of the summer providing a gleeful time for all!

The Fairy Walk is the first event we've held at our cleaned up and updated Heritage Park. New outdoor equipment and the spruced-up grounds provide the perfect location for our Fairy Families. Rest assured that the Fairy Walk will be an annual event!



Surveying the Beaver Island Archipelago: William Ives

The first Federal Land Survey of Michigan was done in southern Michigan in 1815 leading to the first survey of the Beaver Island Archipelago in 1845.

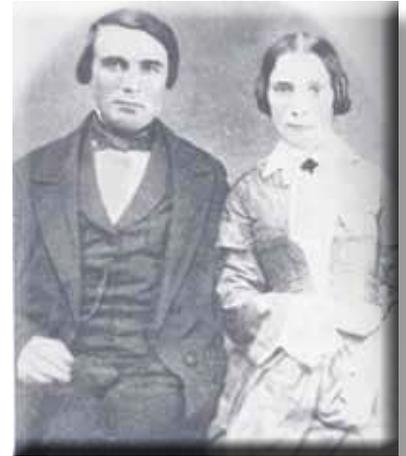
An exhibit detailing the first survey of the Archipelago will open at the Print Shop Museum in June 2022. A member of the first survey team, William Ives, is an ancestor of summer resident Allen Hunting, Jr. and his family. The Hunting family sponsored the exhibit in honor of Allen Hunting, Sr's 90th birthday.

Just imagine the hardships of walking sections of Beaver, Garden or High Island in 1845! The exhibit will include William Ives' hand-drawn map from 1849. Also on display will be a Gunter chain used to measure the sections of land. The chain often needed to be thawed out on cold winter mornings in order to stay accurate. There will also be antique maps and

samples of the compasses the surveyors used.

The surveyors moved north from the Archipelago into the Upper Peninsula where the iron ore made magnetic compasses worthless.

This led to the invention of the solar compass by William Burt, a member of Beaver Island's survey team.



William Ives and his wife, Sarah

We thank the Hunting family for bringing this 'new' Archipelago history to our attention and for their donation.



Print Shop Perspective



On August 19, 2021 the Historical Society held its Annual Meeting. At 8 pm Deputy Joe Callian drew the winning raffle ticket for the Beaver Island Treasure Chest. The lucky winner was Suzy Harmon. Treasure Chest prizes included 4 days 3 nights lodging, plane tickets, 2 catered meals, choice of free kayak, bike or paddleboard rental, lake cruise, private tours of the museums and lighthouses, and a custom made souvenir by local potter, Larissa McGinnity. Congratulations Suzy!

High Tech, Low Tech on Beaver Island

Prior to 2000, only the Federal government could use GPS. GPS was made available for public use in May of that year which allowed people to locate a point with great accuracy. For example, on Beaver Island this meant the ability for boaters to enter coordinates so they could navigate to our docks. This also led to the high-tech hobby of geocaching.

Geocaching is similar to a treasure hunt. A container with a logbook inside is placed somewhere using specific coordinates. The object is to locate the container, remove the log and sign your name. You then return the log to the container and return the container to the same spot. The hobby grew quickly and, currently, there are over 3,000,000 sites worldwide.

In June 2002, the first geocache was hidden on Beaver Island near the municipal airport. Today, there are over 50 geocaches on the Island. The Historical Society has designed a Historical Driving Tour to 27 significant historical spots around the Island. This Fall, 27 signs will be placed and 15 of these are located at existing geocache sites.

Early this summer, the Historical Society hosted a Geocaching event attended by 20 people from the midwest. The daylong event began at the Print Shop Museum with a meet-and-greet and



distribution of bag lunches. Then, the group traveled together around the island searching for the sites hidden at historical locations. As is often the case, the group ran out of time before locating all the caches they wanted to find. There was a lot of positive feedback from these Island guests, many had never been to the Island before. The participants are eager to return next year to complete the Island circle of geocaching.

Geocaching is a hobby that leads to more than just finding a container and log book. On Beaver Island it introduces visitors to our awesome landscapes and our history.

The Historical Driving Tour will include a map of the historical locations. But, whether you use the high-tech Geocache app or the Driving tour map you're sure to enjoy this new way to explore the Island.



An Open Letter To Our Volunteers

To our volunteers,

We couldn't do it without you! It should be repeated—over 7500 people attended our museums and events in 2021. None of that could have happened without you! Just a short list of what you our volunteers accomplished this year. You:

- spent over 850-hours greeting visitors at our museums and Protar's house
- replaced boards in the Marine Museum ramp
- are working hours on our pending History of Beaver Island Families book
- put together exhibit cases, picnic tables and hung the new Print Shop Museum sign
- cleaned up Heritage Park and the Peter Doney house
- gave talks on Mondays and Wednesdays
- housed our visiting speakers
- helped clear brush at the Maine Museum
- attended monthly Board meetings and work on committees getting things done
- committed hours helping maintain the Beaver Head Lighthouse
- worked behind the scenes organizing our archival files

This list represents just some of the volunteer commitment you've given to benefit the Society and our Island's economy. Sadly, we decided this year, due to the pandemic, not to have a Volunteer Appreciation gathering. But, please know that, literally, we couldn't do it without you! Thank-you.

Next Year at the Historical Society

Our museums may be closed over the winter, but work continues on the Society's mission to preserve and share the unique history of Beaver island and the Archipelago.

Our Executive Director works for us full time planning exhibits, events and next year's activities. One of her prime responsibilities is searching out and applying for appropriate grant funding. In 2021, grant funds helped the Society provide many new things to the public such as the new BI app, exhibit cases and 25 signs for next year's Historical Driving Tour.

The Board of Trustees continues meeting monthly working on exciting ways to build capacity. In 2021, 7500 people visited the museums and attended our events. This winter we'll be brainstorming new ideas for engaging our community as well as purchasing new items for our gift shops.

But, our most exciting event this winter will be the refurbishing of the original Print Shop building. McDonough Construction will be installing HVAC, replacing the unsafe floor and removing some walls which are not historical in nature and painting. We look forward to welcoming you to our entire Print Shop Museum in June 2022!

If you have any ideas for gift shop items, exhibits or events please contact Lori at:

director@beaverislandhistory.org

OUR PARTNERS

The purpose of the Beaver Island Historical Society is to preserve and share the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago. We invite you to join the Historical Society, and explore our history, find out about the king, fishing, shipwrecks, island life, natural history, our Irish heritage, and much more.

Please consider becoming a member. Our members enjoy special discounts on musum merchandise, genealogy research and a one-year subscription to the BIHS newsletter.

A special thank you to our partners!



"Our activities are supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs."



PO BOX 263
 BEAVER ISLAND, MI 49782
 231•448•2254

BIHS Preserving and Sharing the Unique History of Beaver Island and the Archipelago

Admission

Your Free-Will Donations are Appreciated



beaverislandhistory.org

Contact Information

Print Shop Museum

231•448•2254 • 26275 Main St

Marine Museum

231•448•2479 • 38105 Michigan Ave

Protar Home Sloptown Rd

Heritage Park Donegal Bay Rd



MEMBERSHIP YEAR: JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31

Become a BIHS member and enjoy and preserve the Island History! Members enjoy free admission to the Print Shop and Marine Museum, special discounts on Museum Merchandise and a one-year subscription to the BIHS newsletter. (BIHS is a 501C (3) non-profit organization, and your contribution may qualify as a charitable contribution)

- Individual \$35 Senior/Student \$25 Couple \$50 Family \$100
 Sustaining \$250 Benefactor \$500 Corporate \$750 DONATION \$_____

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 Mail to: Beaver Island Historical Society, PO Box 263, Beaver Island, MI 49782