



# PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

Volume 3 Issue 7



SUMMER 2022



## Director's Corner

Dear Members and Friends of the BIHS,

Can you imagine? This is the Society's 65th year! What follows are some highlights of our season ahead, but, first, we take a look back to 1957 and the small group of people who didn't want the dilapidated Print Shop building torn down. They were visionaries who saw the value in preserving the then-100-year-old building and the Mormon history it embodied—that preservation was the beginning of our Historical Society. Today, the now-165-year-old building is restored and joins the rest of our properties sharing the history of our Island and the Archipelago.

In May, 20 graduate students from EMU's Graduate School of Historic Preservation spent a week on the Island focusing on the Beaver Head Lighthouse and Keeper's House. The students and their professors will analyze how best to restore and adapt these buildings for re-use serving visitors and residents of Beaver Island. The Society's Executive Director, Lori Taylor-Blitz, is an alumna of this program and initiated the collaboration with EMU, Charlevoix County, Networks Northwest and the Historical Society.

On June 19 the Print Shop and Marine Museums opened 7-days a week 11am-5pm. Both museums are filled with new exhibits. During that same week, our noon-hour speaker series begins at each museum with Picnic on the Patio at the Print Shop and Marine Museum Mondays at the Marine Museum. Protar's House will be open as often as possible and Heritage Park will offer a shady respite with picnic tables and historical artifacts. At the end of June we'll reveal our new Women's History exhibit at the Print Shop.

In July, our Irish Speaker series continues with Authors of Irish in Michigan and our Cemetery Walks begin. Museum Week opens with our popular This Place Matters picnic at the Beaver Head Lighthouse. The theme of Museum Week in 2022 is "All Things Anishinaabeg" and several Original Peoples' activities are planned. Music on the Porch and Kid's Camp planning are also underway.

August continues the fun with a Baroque on Beaver lecture at the Print Shop and more Cemetery Walks. Our Annual Meeting is August 18 and the public is invited to attend. The Irish Speaker Series blends in with all things Irish in September. The Island's Irish Feile is September 9-11th and looks to be filled with music and Irish-themed events.

The Historical Society runs with the help of volunteers and our excellent staff. As your Executive Director, I'm pleased to have been leading the way for 6 years. We are excited that our two interns, Elsie Burton and Matthew Swarthout, will be back again this season. Our Administrative Assistant, Sharolyn Hunter, returns in June. Megan Touhy Anderson will be cataloging archives and Keven Allen will help us maintain our properties and keep our museums clean. Lastly, our Board of Directors continues to provide support and leadership that gives us hope that we'll spend another 65 years achieving our mission of "preserving and sharing the history of our Island and Archipelago".

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.*

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### Board Members 2021

Angel Welke - President  
Tracy Paquin - Vice President  
Roberta Welke - Treasurer  
Jacque LaFreniere - Secretary  
Joe Calian - Trustee  
Vincent Ebersoldt - Trustee  
Dick Mulvihill - Trustee  
Sheri Timsak - Trustee  
Craig Turnbull - Trustee  
Alan Vicstein - Trustee

Alvin LaFreniere - Hon. Trustee  
Doug Hartle - Hon. Trustee

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Lori Taylor-Blitz - Exec. Director  
Sharolyn Hunter - Adm. Assistant  
*Interns:*

Elsie Burton - Print Shop  
Matthew Swarthout - Marine Museum

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### 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](http://beaverislandhistory.org)

BIHS Newsletter designed by  
Melinda Hill & Tim Schulte

## What's New at Our Museums?



Our most exciting new exhibit is the restored original Print Shop building. Visitors will enter again from our front porch into the 170-year-old Morman print shop and they will see the original open floor plan. One wall displays the log and chink construction. A beautiful floor made from island tamarack brings it all together. This room's main attraction is the Native American exhibit.

Also included in the original building is an exhibit on loan from the Clarke Historical Library in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Two Centuries of Michigan Newspapers 1809-2009 showcases the history of political polemics, cheap rags and essential information that have been Michigan newspapers for 200 years. At the beginning of the 20th century, 750 weekly newspapers were printed in Michigan. We think it's fitting that this display is in an historic building that began its life as a newspaper print shop.

The Print Shop gallery includes a land survey exhibit including a hand-drawn map by the

first surveyor of the Archipelago, William Ives. Information about the always intriguing High Island history is on display along with a new Women of Beaver Island exhibit.

We are thrilled that the Marine Museum houses a wooden boat handmade by the island's Bill Freese. An article elsewhere in the newsletter provides more details.

Even if you've been in our museums before, we encourage you to stop in again. We work hard to keep it new and exciting!



*A volunteer who guides visitors at a museum is called a docent.*

### Historical Driving Tour Is Ready For Your Drive

A few years ago the Society created a Historical Walking Tour by placing 17 signs around town identifying significant historic sites. The 3-mile loop proved to be a popular walk and we are happy to announce that our Historic Driving Tour is ready for your drive. Twenty-two signs were placed around the island late last Fall and a brochure guide is now complete.

The Driving Tour can be done all at once or in bits and pieces. It includes signs full of history at the usual stops like Iron Ore Bay and Miller's Marsh, but also some less familiar stops like the Townships' Airport and Port St James Association in Donegal Bay. You will be surprised at the 'new' history you didn't know! Brochures are available at both museums and on our website. [beaverislandhistory.org](http://beaverislandhistory.org)



### I Want to Visit the BHS Museums but They Are Closed

As most of us know, Beaver Island is not only a popular vacation spot in the summer, but during the 'shoulder season' as well. The Historical Society would love to open the museums for a longer time period each year, but many of our docents are snowbirds who aren't available during the shoulder season. To help accommodate all the off-season requests to see our museums, we are trying something new—private museum tours off-season or in the evening.

Tours may be scheduled for times when the museums are closed. Or, you and your friends may want a customized tour in the evening during our busy season. For \$10 per person per museum a docent or one of our paid staff will give you a private museum visit.

Our goal is to work around your time frame and arrange a tour within 24 hours, if not sooner.

We are eager to share our museums with the public and are excited to offer this new opportunity. To find out more or to schedule a private tour go to our website and search 'tours'. You can schedule and pay for your tour on-line. Someone will contact you ASAP to confirm. Call the office with questions or if you don't have on-line access, 231-448-2254 M-F 9am-5pm.

*35 docents staff the Print Shop, the Marine Museum and Protar's home.  
Five new docents are helping us this year!*

## Take A Look At Our History From Your Easy Chair

The Beaver Island Historical Society's website is full of information you can peruse without leaving home. Accessing the website is easy and, once there, you can take a deep dive into anything that interests you. Brochures for our Walking and Driving Tours are there. You can take virtual tours of Protar's Home, both museums and Heritage Park.

You can also look for your personal history on our website. To aid in your genealogical search you can access Mary Beth Greene Nelson's map of Holy Cross Cemetery complete with ancestral history. Some videos of the popular cemetery walks are there, too.

Using the search box in the upper right of the main page will quickly take you down a rabbit hole of BI history! The next time you're on-line at home with a cup of coffee take a look, we're sure you'll enjoy it. [beaverislandhistory.org](http://beaverislandhistory.org)



**Get Lucky**

**Buy a ticket for the Beaver Island Pot of Gold Cash Raffle!**

**\$50 per ticket for a chance to win 14 prizes!**

**1st Place: \$10,000**  
**2nd & 3rd Place: \$2,000**  
**4th Place: \$1,000**  
**5th through 14th Place: \$100**

Drawing Sep. 11, 2022, 2 PM at Whiskey Point Brewing  
Need not be present to win

All proceeds go to the Beaver Island Historical Society and the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce. Visit or contact BICC (231 448 2505) or BIHS (231 448 2254) for more information or to buy your tickets!

License no. R63496

A green pot overflowing with gold coins, with confetti falling around it. The pot is on the left side of the advertisement.

*Protar's home will be open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1-3pm beginning June 22.  
Protar will be there!*

“ALL THINGS

# ANISHINAABEG!

## MUSEUM WEEK 2022

17 JULY	<p><b>“This Place Matters”</b> Potluck Picnic with speakers and music. Beaver Head Lighthouse   12:00 – 3:00 PM</p>
18 JULY	<p><b>Music on the Porch</b> With Island Legends &amp; Island Newbies Mormon Print Shop Museum   7:00 PM</p>
19 JULY	<p><b>“Anishinaabeg Strong Women”</b> With storytellers, Jim &amp; Mary Couling, music by Linda Hammond and Gennie Morgan, a Chippewa wisdom keeper. Mormon Print Shop Museum   7:00 PM</p> <p><b>CMU Open House</b> CMU Campus   11:00 – 4:00 PM</p>
20 JULY	<p><b>Amik Circle Society Open House &amp; Annual Meeting</b> Mound Site   12:00 PM</p> <p><b>Museum Week Art Show</b> Gregg Fellowship Center   11:00 – 4:00 PM</p> <p><b>Beaver Island Chiefs</b> Presentation by Frank Ettawagheshek and Shelby Harris Mormon Print Shop Museum   7:00 PM</p>
21 JULY	<p><b>Museum Week Art Show</b> Gregg Fellowship Center   11:00 – 4:00 PM</p> <p><b>“Cultural Discoveries Beneath the Straits of Michigan”</b> Presentation by Terri Wilkerson &amp; Fred Harrington Mormon Print Shop Museum   7:00 PM</p>
22 JULY	<p><b>Museum Week Art Show</b> Gregg Fellowship Center   11:00 – 4:00 PM</p> <p><b>“Basket Making Workshop” *</b> with Wasson Dillard Mormon Print Shop Museum   Time: TBD</p> <p><b>“Pine Quill Basket”</b> Presentation with Yvonne Keshik Mormon Print Shop Museum   7:00 PM</p>
23 JULY	<p><b>“Basket Making Workshop” *</b> Day Two with Wasson Dillard Mormon Print Shop Museum   Time: TBD</p> <p><b>“Drum and Dance”</b> Whiskey Point Lighthouse   2:00 PM</p>

Visit us at [www.beaverislandhistory.org](http://www.beaverislandhistory.org) for more event information

\*This is a 2-day program and registration is required



# KIDS' CAMP

## **Monday 7.18**

Wildart & Storytelling with Author, Lori E. Taylor

## **Tuesday 7.19**

Fairy Garden Creations & Hike

## **Wednesday 7.20**

Build a Birdhouse for Young Artists at the Art Show

## **Thursday 7.21**

CMU Field Trip to Miller Marsh

## **Friday 7.22**

Pet Show at Gillespie Park

## **Saturday 7.23**

Dragon Fly Hike with Conservationist Darrell Lawson

**Kids' Camp is from 9:00 - 1:00 PM.**

Camp registration at \$60 /child.  
(Limited to 15 children ages 5-12 and must pre-register).

Please contact the Beaver Island Historical Society for more details.

**231.448.2254**

### Bill Freese – The Island’s One-Of-A-Kind Boat Builder



The Historical Society is excited to announce that we now have a Bill Freese wooden boat on display at the Marine Museum. The dinghy is made of Beaver Island cherry and has his signature under the seat. But, who was Bill Freese?

Bill Freese came to Beaver Island with a dream. He wanted to open a boat building shop making hand-made canoes and dinghies. Bill was a Korean vet who earned a Purple Heart and he wanted to share his skill with other veterans. In 1985, he opened the St. James Boat Shop in the building that is now Whiskey Point Brewing. For almost 30 years he built wooden boats of various kinds, all the while sharing his skill with anyone interested.

Bill didn't advertise, but his business grew by word of mouth because he was such a skilled craftsman. He became a cultural touchstone on Beaver Island. People came to the Island to see and buy his boats and his shop was also a local gathering place. Bill said, "Winter is for working. Summers are for talking."

It took 300 hours to make a canoe or dinghy using Beaver Island cherry and cedar with a protective graphite bottom coating. Since there was waiting time involved between steps, Bill needed something else to make during downtime. So, he started making buckets. Watertight wooden buckets. Hundreds and hundreds of them. He created them with thin splines of cherry wood, stain and four coats of varnish.

In 2005, Dan Burton became an apprentice with Bill and worked part time with him and, in 2009, Dan and his wife, Carol, became Bill's business partners. During this time, Bill bought a bigger building near his shop dreaming of expansion. Bill died in 2012 still building boats. Dan and Carol continued the business eventually achieving Bill's expansion dream when they opened St. James Boat Shop at its current location around the corner from Whiskey Point Brewery.

The Society is proud to house one of Bill's beautiful boats and we thank Jan Gerson for her donation.



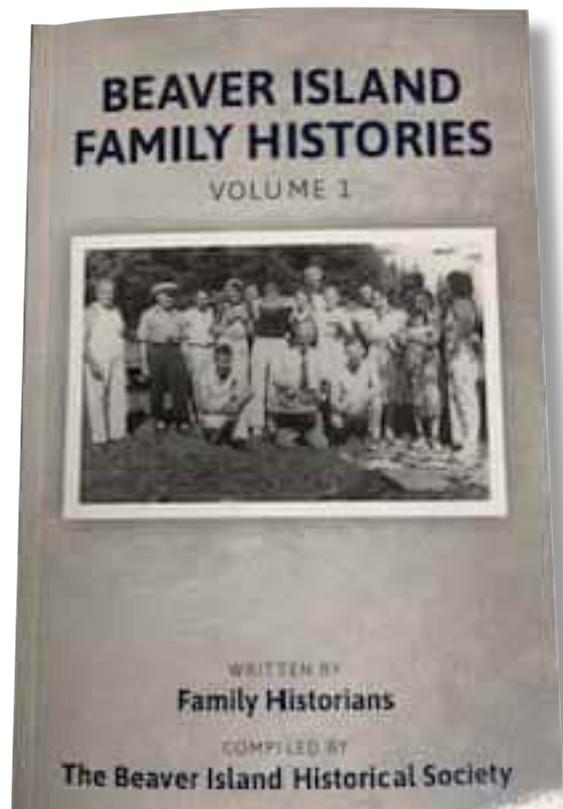
*The Print Shop and Marine Museums will be open seven days a week beginning June 19th.  
Hours of operation 11am-5pm. Open house at both museums is June 18, 11am-2pm.*

## Come See the New Gift Shop!

Now that the museum is complete, we have expanded our gift shop and it is full of new merchandise as well as our island classics. What follows is a short list of volunteer and staff favorites. The gift shop offers new books, both fiction and non-fiction, related to Beaver Island history. This winter a few of us enjoyed reading the novel *Angeline's Bluff* by Nancy Greene Vietor. The story takes place on Beaver Island and is full of love, death and betrayal. Several volunteers already have their copy of *Beaver Island Family Histories Volume 1* and are ready to encourage visitors to buy it.

Children's items are in demand by vacationing parents and we have new books including log books kids can use to document their identification of rock and birds. One of our volunteers has her eye on the new toys for sale that her grandchildren can use to play in the water and the sand.

The favorite gift shop item of one of our board members is the Amik Society's colored topographical map of Beaver Island. Ready for framing on sturdy paper stock, the map is a vivid look at all the high and low places on the island.



## OUR PARTNERS

The mission 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 museum 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 \$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Join and/or Donate online at [beaverislandhistory.org](http://beaverislandhistory.org)  
or

CK# \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to: BIHS  
Mail to: Beaver Island Historical Society, PO Box 263, Beaver Island, MI 49782