

BOB-LO TATLER*

Newsletter of the Bois Blanc Island Association, Founded 1891

Spring 2020

*The Tatler name (yes, only one “t”) was borrowed from a British journal published by Richard Steele in the 1700’s.

This issue is dedicated to our committed, hard working first responders. Thank you for being there for us!



Read the news, handy reference materials, and enjoy some of your fellow islanders’ reflections.

Editors: Mary Struble Deery - Content, and Carol Blundy - Printing and Distribution



This is a strange Tatler indeed, in these times of COVID 19. As you read this edition, please be aware that in addition to information such as book club titles, the annual softball slugfest between East and West, the Fly-In, and local businesses offerings, there are also serious warnings in the Township update about holding off travel to the island due to the pandemic. Stay tuned through the Bois Blanc Island Facebook page for updates in this time of flux.

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BOIS BLANC ISLAND ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Bois Blanc Island Association (BBIA) continually works to make Bois Blanc Island a better, safer, and more enjoyable place. The Association benefits include The Tatler and the biannually produced Island Directory--expect a new one this year. The Association continues to work with the East and West Ends and the Pines to help fund various needs identified by the general population. Recently the BBIA funded some of the BBI Fire Department's special needs. Additionally, the Association shared expenses of sorely needed sidewalk improvement with a Pines resident.

The BBIA also supports Thursday evening square dances and the Salvation Army Island visits. The Association sponsors a couple of meet and greets for people from all over the Island come together to become acquainted or re-acquainted. Last year one took place at the Blundy home on the West End; a second was hosted at the Hoover Building. This year we will have the same format - with one hosted by Mark and Kathy Landschulz in the Pines and another at the Hoover Building. Anyone interested in hosting in the future, please contact Carol.

Lastly, the BBIA is working to coordinate a couple of Mackinac Island trips – so far this is tentative but we will post dates if we are able to make that happen!

At the end of this newsletter, you'll find your annual dues statement. Please note that the dues run from July 1 – June 30. Anyone paying now will be “whole” for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 year. Please complete the form and submit as indicated with your annual dues. Dues continue to be set at \$20 a year – such a bargain!

We know everyone is anxious to receive this electronically, and we are committed to that. All recent prior year Tatlers are now available on the BBI Foundation website (https://www.bbicf.org/BBI_Association.php) as is an Island calendar for all to reference on this site's homepage. Many thanks to the Foundation and Sally Sperry for making this happen!

BBIA is working to get our processes updated and have all the dues and information set up electronically. (Many thanks to Jamie Nye, the BBIA Treasurer!). Next steps would be to provide the annual dues to you via email as well as accept credit card payments. Stay tuned!

If you, too, are interested in being involved or have areas that you have suggestions regarding the activity of the BBIA or content in the Tatler, please contact any of the officers or BBIA Representatives -

BBIA Officers:

Carol Blundy – President

Suzette (Cooley) Sanborn - Vice President

Kathy Landschulz - Secretary

Jamie Nye - Treasurer

Area BBIA Representatives:

Pines - Joyce Peccon, Kathy Landschulz, Jamie Nye, Robin Lees

East End - Bob Stowe, Jim Blamer, Susie Fisher Phillips

West End – Suzette (Cooley) Sanborn, Carol Blundy, Tom Wybranowski, JoAnna Duncan

For the Tatler, you can contact Mary Struble Deery (bbitatler@gmail.com). Mary has done an amazing job of getting this communication out regularly with invaluable information for all of us. Many, many thanks, Mary!!

Fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter, make dues check payable to Bois Blanc Island Association, and send to: Jamie Nye, Treasurer BBIA 6901 Clintonville Rd. Clarkston, MI 48348

BOIS BLANC TOWNSHIP

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Clerk

Brent Sharpe
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Anne Kennedy
Treasurer

Tom Wybranowski
Trustee

Louise Sullivan
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To stay up to date on the Governor of Michigan’s Executive Orders pertaining to the Covid 19 situation, go to https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705---,00.html

The township board would like island residents, property owners and visitors to consider the following:

- All non-residents travel to the island should consider delaying travel to BBI until after we get through the pandemic. If you do come to the island, please quarantine for 14 days at your property.
- Flights to the island will be limited to medical transportation, emergency personnel, and freight only.
- There are no public resources open and operating on the island. (Restaurants/Bars/Camping/Gas, etc.)
- About 50% of the current island population is “at risk” due to age or compromised health.
- We do not have medical facilities and the capability to handle an emergency here, so evacuation to a surrounding hospital would be necessary.
- There is even limited access to emergency care in the greater area.

Bois Blanc Island should not be considered a “safe haven” for those seeking to avoid the Coronavirus. On the contrary, Coronavirus cases are likely to occur on Bois Blanc Island, and the consequences to those on the Island will likely be more deadly than in mainland locations with access to medical resources and supplies. The Island is home to numerous individuals with compromised immune systems, as well as many aging and elderly residents who are at greatest risk. Please do not increase the threat—for those individuals or for yourself—by coming to Bois Blanc Island, even if you are not currently showing any symptoms of illness.

Coronavirus testing will not be available on Bois Blanc Island. At this time, the Health Clinic, operated by the Mackinac Straits Health System is not operating. The Nurse Practitioner is on furlough until further notice.

For more information regarding Coronavirus precautions, response, and travel restrictions, visit:

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Updates on COVID-19 (includes personal precautions)
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

State of Michigan Updates on COVID-19 (includes personal precautions and State of MI restrictions)
<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>

Mackinac Straits Health System: Preparing For and Preventing Spread of COVID-19

<https://www.mackinacstraitshhealth.org/how-to-prepare-for-covid-19/>

COVID-19 Statement from Fresh Air Aviation www.freshairaviation.net/so/43N3aLzdf#/main

Bois Blanc Island Fire/EMS: www.facebook.com/bbifd

Bois Blanc Township: www.boisblanctownship.org

As of March 30th, **the township offices will not be open to the public.** Should you need something that can be provided electronically, please contact the Township Treasurer, Anne Kennedy, or Township Clerk, Diane Akright by phone or e-mail. You can also contact the township through the website www.boisblanctownship.org. Should you need something that you must have physical access to the township for, (like trash bags), please call and make an appointment to pick-up your bags.

Submitted by Diane Akright

THE WEST END PARCEL

Last August, Bois Blanc Township purchased a 3.25 acre parcel on Lake Huron at the west end of Bois Blanc Island, just to the northeast of where many Islanders have watched fireworks over the years. Last fall, the Township applied for a MDARD grant from the State of Michigan to begin the improvement of the parcel and development of a park and emergency water access point. The Township is happy to announce that the grant application was recently approved in the amount of \$100,000 for the initial project works on the land. The park will be named **Bright Waters Township Park.**



It is likely that the initial improvements will include a gravel parking area, installing a temporary skid pier and a basic boat ramp. Further improvements will likely occur thereafter.

The Township would like to thank the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as the West End Park Grant Committee comprised of Tom Wybranowski, Connie Riopelle, Jessica LaPorte, and Diane Akright. Thanks also to many others who helped provide letters of support, input and initial estimates while preparing the grant application.

THE OLD PINES DOCK

Virtually every Bois Blanc Island resident, property owner and visitor over the years is familiar with what has sometimes been called the Old Pines Dock, the Old Hotel Dock or other names (hereinafter, the “Old Pines Dock”). Unfortunately, for a number of years, the Old Pines Dock has been in disrepair, is deteriorating and parts of it are unsafe. It truly has been an “orphan” dock, as there appears to be no owner of the structure.

Given the problems associated with the Old Pines Dock, Bois Blanc Township is the only legal and practical entity with the ability to obtain title to the old structure, to either reconstruct or demolish the dock. After a formal public hearing and several meetings, it became clear to Township officials that the overwhelming majority of residents,



The teeming dock, summer of 2019

property owners and visitors to Bois Blanc Island desire to see the Old Pines Dock saved and rebuilt if possible. Therefore, the Township filed a quiet title action in the Mackinac County Circuit Court to obtain title to both the Old Pines Dock and the boat ramp as fixtures. The Court entered an order/ judgment on February 21, 2020 quieting title to those fixtures in the Township.

In the near future, the Township will investigate whether the Old Pines Dock can be rebuilt (and if so, the cost thereof), re-designed or whether it will have to be removed permanently. Prior to the Harbor Commission and the Township Board making any final decisions and taking action regarding the Old Pines Dock, the Township Board (likely in conjunc-

tion with the Bois Blanc Township Harbor Commission) will hold a public hearing. Thereafter, the Township will pursue grants to assist with the development, removal and/or reconstruction plans for the Old Pines Dock.

The Township Board knows that many citizens have been concerned about the deterioration of the Old Pines Dock and followed the Township's efforts to obtain title to the Old Pines Dock as a fixture. The Township appreciates everyone's assistance and input regarding this matter to date.

Respectfully submitted by, The Bois Blanc Township Board

BOIS BLANC ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Membership, Training, and Coverage

The lack of Fire Department personnel continues to be a major concern. While our roster consists of up to 10 members during the summer season, fewer than five are routinely available for meetings or emergency calls. At present, only three members of the BBIFD have had the opportunity to attain up-to-date Firefighter I and II training and certification, or to be properly trained and certified in emergency medical response. It has been challenging to arrange additional EMR training due to a lack of response from the training providers, but we're hoping to schedule medical response training for at least three more of our members during spring/summer 2020.

There has never been an on-call system in place to make sure we always have one or more firefighters on the Island at all times to respond in an emergency. It has only been through the conscientious efforts of our small crew to keep one another informed, and to coordinate schedules, that we've been able to provide coverage when 9-1-1 calls come in. We feel that leaves the Island, and the people here, far too vulnerable.

To address this challenge, we propose budgeting for an on-call system that would require at least one to two responders to be on the Island at all times, and ready to respond. This system would provide a reasonable hourly stipend for on-call hours, to ensure coverage, especially during holidays and peak travel times when many BBIFD members might be unavailable. It would eliminate the current call list for campfire permits, instead providing a single one-call number. If

you agree with our assessment that an on-call system would provide much-needed assurance of coverage, please write the Bois Blanc Township Board to express your support for this in the budget.



Members of the BBIFD received a full weekend of vehicle extrication training, along with some much-needed rescue and extrication equipment, in September 2019. Personnel from the Summit-Jackson Fire Department in Jackson, Michigan, provided the training. They donated nearly two full days of their own travel and instruction time to ensure our five participating crew members would be ready for future vehicle crashes, rollovers, and passenger extrications. Our Fire Department is beyond grateful for this tremendous contribution of expertise and equipment – a valuable donation that would have otherwise cost Island taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Emergency Access

Bois Blanc residents and seasonal cottagers may be unaware of the challenges and risks we face in emergency medical evacuations. While our record has been excellent, with transport times that would rival most mainland locations, that success is entirely dependent on the availability of aircraft or boats with access to Bois Blanc. During the fall, winter, and early spring—basically half of each year—there is a major risk of being unable to transport patients off-island for emergency medical help.

None of the local flight charter companies, including Great Lakes Air and Fresh Air Aviation, are equipped to provide air service for medical transport when the ferry is not running. North Flight AeroMed, headquartered in Traverse City, has sent in a helicopter that is equipped as an air ambulance with a trained medical crew; however, that is not an option if the weather prohibits flying. We appeal to the Township Board, and to all local transportation services, to pursue more reliable year-round emergency transport options for Bois Blanc Island.



Fundraising

Thanks to the support of countless Island folks who stopped by, our Second Annual “HOT Wash” car wash fundraiser in July, 2019 raised nearly **\$2,200**. The HOT Wash brings our Fire Department crew together at the ferry dock to wash Island dirt off cars, trucks, and other vehicles before they get on the boat. We end the day exhausted, soaked, and deeply grateful to our community for its kindness and support.

The Island Contractors’ Second Annual Fun Day fundraiser raised more than \$1,600 for the BBIFD. At the gravel pit near Sand Bay, the ICI crew issued hardhats to each of the kids who came, and let them take part in running a bulldozer, excavator, backhoe, front loader, skid steer, and ICI’s fleet of heavy dump trucks.

Meanwhile, the grown-ups gathered around the wood processor to watch it spit out cord after cord of split firewood, a load of which was awarded to one lucky guest. Kids and families were able to be part of the action while enjoying free hot dogs and refreshments, also provided by ICI. Many thanks to Joe and Clover Schlund for donating their time, equipment, and crew to make the fundraiser a huge success for our Fire Department!



BBIFD T-shirts, sweatshirts, and reflective 9-1-1 address sign kits will be available once again during 2020. Please contact Assistant Fire Chief Dan Reynolds at (231) 676-9336 for current availability and pricing. Payment for purchases and general donations may be addressed to the Bois Blanc Island Firefighters' Association (BBIFA), P.O. Box 815, Pointe Aux Pins MI 49775.

Submitted by Dan Reynolds

BOIS BLANC ISLAND TOWNSHIP HARBOR COMMISSION

A report from your Harbor Commission:

We had a great 2019 and are looking forward to a wonderful 2020.

In 2019 many projects were completed:

- There is new signage throughout the Marina with new parking areas for vehicle and boat trailers. Please read the signs and be mindful of the new parking regulations. There will be parking violation fines. Parking information is at the marina terminal building and the township hall.
- There are new railings at the South and North piers; they will help keep people away from the pinch points between the piers and floating docks. The cost was mitigated, due to the Harbor Commissioners' and Volunteers' hard work—no contractors were needed to be hired.
- Last year many of our harbor lights were updated to new LED lights. This lowers our electric bill and provides better lighting. In addition, two new pier flood light/electrical stations were installed to illuminate the entire South pier and to provide electrical outlets for the camera system.
- Our security system was updated with new cameras and higher capacity storage. The new cameras provide a much clearer image. Check out the dock ramp failure video on the township website to see how well the new camera system works.

- For the second year the self-serve intransient payment program worked like a charm. The harbor collected 40% more in dockage fees over the previous season. This will help in the maintenance of the pier, terminal building, cause walk, rest rooms, and parking lot.
- Last summer, the Harbor Commission oversaw work on the fishing piers at Lakes Thompson and Mary. Both are now in great working condition. The Lake Mary pier was pulled to shore, to repair damaged railings. It was also repositioned to adjust to the higher lake level. The Lake Thompson pier walking ramp was raised and extended because of the higher lake level. Please note the new signage at both fishing piers and follow the instructions, especially the “no swimming” warning. There are many obstructions and shallow areas around both piers that are hazardous to swimmers.
- The unusually high water of Lake Huron has damaged our Marina shoreline, especially west of the cause walk. The new handicap picnic area is now gone! The high water/high surge literally washed the area away. We were able to save the handicap trail blocks and picnic table and will hopefully be able to reposition them somewhere else in the marina area. The Harbor Commission positioned large concrete blocks just in front of the Westside parking lot, to stop erosion under the edge of the asphalt lot and to cover a utility line that became exposed from the wave action.
- The new life jacket loaner program is a welcome and successful program. Please know if you come to the marina to launch your boat and forget to bring a life jacket, your Harbor Commission has you covered. The tool shed next to the bathrooms now houses the loaner life jackets and in high use periods the jacket rack will be outside of the shed for you to use. We only ask that you use the jackets one day at a time and that you please register in the life jacket usage book.
- Last year we warned of NO SWIMMING at the Marina. Thank you for listening. No one that we know of violated this rule. Please remember the reason for no swimming (most people, especially non-boaters, do not know about) is “Stray Voltage”, the electrical current which sometimes leaks from a docked boat. Stray voltage can travel hundreds of feet in the water to a ground and if you’re standing in the water you could be that ground. Several people have been killed from stray voltage in Michigan Marinas. Please, please, please do not swim anywhere east of the cause-walk. You CAN SWIM west of the cause-walk.



This season we have lots on our plate;

- The BBI Marina is considered a “Harbor of Refuge” and is an essential need to the waters of the United States and the State of Michigan. The stay-in-place Federal and State COVID-19 requirements will not shut down the marina because there are essential services needed for our island. The ferry and other boats are allowed into the marina for essential needs and services: for example; medical needs or evacuation; food and/or fuel delivery; Township or governmental needs; equipment or vehicle repairs; USPS, FedEx, UPS

deliveries. As soon as the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted our lives can get back to normal. ***As of the writing it has not been decided what non-essential persons can or cannot come and go to the island***.

- The main marina pier has been damaged due to the high waters. The damage occurred last December and engineers were immediately called in to assess the damage and recommend what course of action should be taken. They found, the North ramp (used by Plaunt Transportation) had failed because the sub-structure under the ramp had eroded due to high water and prop wash from the ferry. The old ramp needed to be either repaired or replaced. After much thought and research The Harbor Commission has decided to repair the sub-structure and use the old ramp, which was not damaged when the pier collapsed. Durocher Marine of Cheboygan will perform the repairs with the guidance of UP Engineers. The repairs may run into early May but will not interfere with ferry operations which will use the older South ramp. The South ramp works fine and is actually more heavily built than the North ramp. A few modifications will be needed to accommodate the Plaunt ferry. Those modifications have been ordered and should have been completed by the time you read this newsletter.
- The West End project has been approved and the first grant has been awarded. We just received a \$100,000.00 grant to start construction on a new dock and boat ramp for the West End. The grant was awarded because of the needed connection of the West end of the island to St. Ignace (our county seat), especially our county emergency services. After all three phases of the plan are completed we will end up with a small pier, boat ramp, parking area, swim area, rest rooms and Wetland Park. It will take several years to complete. The first phase (dock & ramp) will start this spring.
- The Cheboygan Property on the Cheboygan River has been purchased and our future plans include a BBI Marina from which our island citizens, businesses, and visitors can launch boats. Ramps will be installed at the new marina for the ferry service. Please understand, this project is low on our list of to dos and will require a large amount of money from grants, we will keep you updated on the Harbor Commission portion of the Township website.

We hope you have a great summer with us and enjoy the water!

Submitted by Tom Lower, Vice-Chairman of the Harbor Commission.

ISLAND HEALTH CLINIC

There was no Health Clinic report submitted by the printing of this newsletter.

Phlebotomy services are available, from Clover Schlund, trained phlebotomist, for those who need blood draws while on the island. Drawn blood is shipped to the mainland and processed by McLaren Northern Michigan Health, according to the prescription you present. Anyone needing a blood draw can call Clover @ 231-634-7500.



*Maureen Mitchell, Nurse Practitioner
Currently on furlough...hopefully back sometime this summer.*

POST OFFICE AND TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

Township Office Hours (Currently by Appointment only)

- 10 am – 3 pm Monday – Thursday
- In July and August, also Saturdays 10:30 am – 1 pm

Pointe aux Pins Post Office

- May and June: 12:30 to 2:30 pm – Monday thru Saturday
- July and August: 9:30 to 11:30 am – Monday thru Saturday
- September, October and November: 12:30 to 2:30 pm - Monday thru Saturday
- December through April: 9:30 to 11:30 am – Monday thru Friday (no Saturdays)

BBI TOWNSHIP TRANSFER STATION HOURS - 2020

DECEMBER-APRIL

Sunday.....12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

MAY, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

Sunday and Monday.....9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday.....7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

JULY AND AUGUST

Sunday and Monday.....9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Saturday.....7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

CLOSED New Years Day, Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Eve

Transfer Station will be open on Memorial Day & Labor Day

TRANSFER STATION RATES:

- Each household will receive 10 free trash bags, to be picked up at the Township Hall.
- Additional Township Printed Bags: (available at the Township Hall) \$3 each or 17 Bags for \$45
- NON-Township 30 Gal Bag \$4 each
- NOTE: BAGS OVER 30 GAL SIZE CAN BE REFUSED

Small Household Appliances, Microwave Ovens, TV’s, etc.	\$4.00
EACH Piece of Household Furniture or Bed Mattress	\$8.00
Carpeting or Large Household Appliances	\$8.00
ALL Couches	\$20.00
Refrigerator	\$30.00

Littering Laws Shall Be Strictly Enforced

BBI AIRPORT

The Bois Blanc Island Airport went through big changes in the past year. There is a new Snow Removal Equipment Building (see pictures below), the hangers which previously housed that equipment have been removed, and we plan to purchase a large snow blower.

Last fall, the long awaited Snow Removal Equipment Building was finally completed. This building is insulated to shield equipment from the elements. Machinery starts far more reliably and with less wear and tear to the power train than when a colder outdoor start is required.

To meet federal regulations, the two older hangers where the equipment was previously stored have been demolished. These buildings met State of Michigan regulations, but were too close to the runway to comply on the federal level. A long-term parking zone will replace these buildings, freeing up parking spaces closer to the terminal building for people traveling more frequently. Hopefully, everyone will find this more accommodating. It will be a boon for travelers, especially in the winter months when the lot is more active and potentially icy.

The next step in our Airport Improvement Plan is the purchase of a large snow blower mounted on an even larger tractor. This type of machine is used at all other airports in the region. Using the snow blower versus the conventional plow truck will create a cleaner and safer runway surface. Additionally, it will throw the snow up and over the runway lighting, keeping it still visible.

These changes and purchases have all been possible through federal and state grants. Over the years the Township has built a good relationship with the FAA and the MI Dept. of Aeronautics, which has facilitated the paving of the runway as well as countless other improvements. The goal is to maintain those relationships in order to continue improvements to the airport at little cost to the local taxpayer. Bois Blanc Township has only been responsible for 5% of the total cost for these projects. The airport is our lifeline in the winter and during an emergency. These improvements have made it possible for both rotary and fixed wing life support aircraft to service the island.

BBI airport is once again looking forward to hosting the **Community Foundation's fly-in fundraiser**. The theme for this year will be Chili & Dogs, and rumor is there will be lots of fun to be had! Be sure to mark your calendar for the weekend of August 1. We are hoping for a clear day with many beautiful planes visiting our wonderful island! The airport will be hosting the inaugural Bois Blanc Concours D'elegance car show in conjunction with the fly in, so be sure to tune up your island classic beforehand! Dash Plaques will be awarded to the best vehicle in each category.

Feel free to contact me with any questions. The two most common are: Are there landing fees? Is there camping anywhere near the airport? "No" and "Yes". There are no landing fees at the BBI Airport, and we have a free campsite available on the grounds with an outhouse and water pump. Please encourage any pilots you know to stop in and say "Hi". Tell them it's a lot of fun to #FlyBBI

Submitted by Jim Gilligan
Airport Manager
Cell (231) 838-0029
Home (231) 634-7030



BBI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Although there are handy calendars at the end of this newsletter (thank you Sally Sperry!) you can also find them at www.bbicf.org -- click on *calendar*. From there you can get information regarding an event by further clicking on the specific date/item. Plus, any updates will be reflected in the online version.

The Bois Blanc Island Foundation will be holding a fundraiser on August 1 rain date August 2. This will be the Boblo Island “fly in”. We’ll be serving chili and hot dogs. We will also have arts/craft booths!

Submitted by Sarah Bloom

BBI HISTORICAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY

The museum and library are open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., July through Labor Day.

July 18th: Ice Cream Social and Book Sale



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEEDED

The museum is in need of a coordinator for volunteers. The coordinator is in charge of creating and maintaining the schedule of volunteers during the hours of operation. Without a coordinator, the museum will not open.

REMEMBER to tour the Island marked trails. Maps showing the numbered posts and mileage may be purchased at the museum.

Thanks to the volunteers for the many hours given to the museum during 2019. Here are some of those hearty souls at a well-earned thank you luncheon at Hawk’s Landing.

Submitted by Betty Hutchinson

STORY HOUR

A warm, heartfelt hello to all Boblo Islanders, regardless of whether your feet currently walk the limestone roads, rocky shorelines, leafy forest floor or the familiar cement township dock, I extend a wish to see you all, in some manner of connection...SOON. As we all are most likely hunkered down in our homes somewhere, I know that the winds of Spring will sweep our minds northward, and to hopes of spending some restorative days on that unique island we all love dearly.

With that in mind, I thought I’d share some information about our Story Hour program. For many summers, we have offered opportunities for our island youth to gather on Wednesday mornings in July and August, for some good books, crafts, and snacks. I’d like to thank our one volunteer from last summer, Chris McAfee’s sister Kathryn, who entertained the kids with her wonderful storytelling skills and afterward, with Chris’ help, provided youngsters with a creative Boblo birch bark art project! We had a big audience and everyone had fun showing off their artistic talents. Unfortunately, due

to the lack of volunteers and with unknown variables relating to the current Covid-19 crisis, things will be a little different this coming Summer. I am going to suggest to anyone visiting the island during the months of July and August, to check out the Bois Blanc Island Facebook pages to find out if and when Story Hour will be offered. I may present once in July and once in August, and other events will be scheduled when readers are available. If you'd like to volunteer to read a few books and provide a small craft (which is optional, but the kids love it!), please contact JoAnna Duncan via text or call: 586.536.0619.

Until that time, as you do your best to stay healthy, be sure to eat your veggies, go for walks, read good books, breathe in fresh air, wash your hands, close your eyes and picture better days ahead on that magnificent Island that we all know and love.

Submitted by JoAnna Munro-Duncan

BOIS BLANC ISLAND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

The Bois Blanc Island Wildlife Club is a registered 501© 3, non-profit, group that promotes the care and conservation of Island wildlife. The Wildlife dinner, held annually the Sunday prior to Labor Day, supports the efforts to protect and enhance habitat for Island wildlife.

The 3rd Annual Wildlife Dinner was held on Sunday, September 1st. Winners of the raffle were: Jake Kruszynski, 1st prize; Dan Seeley, 2nd prize; Jeri Fernelius, 3rd prize. The dinner raised \$9,440.00 for the association.

This winter, feed is being distributed to various places on the Island for the deer. The winter of 2020 has not been a hard one.

Contact Matt Northrup or Jim Hutchinson, for information about the organization. Donations are always welcome.

Submitted by Betty Hutchinson

ANNUAL EAST VS. WEST SOFTBALL MATCH

Mark your calendar for a REMATCH: July 25, 2020

The 2019 West vs. East End Softball Game ended badly (for the West Enders, anyway). After 5 innings the score was 26-1. The slaughter rule kicked in for two more innings. Final score 29-5. (Ouch!) However, everyone enjoyed a splendid day of sunshine, camaraderie, good sportsmanship, and yummy grub.

There was a group of unfamiliar young men watching the game. Turned out they were fellows who make an annual camping trip to the North Shore. A couple years ago, when at the tavern they got wind of the annual softball game. They haven't missed a match since. They even ended up buying an Association membership.

Right: The Softball Tournament 2019 Champions

Below: Here is a young'un who didn't find the game all that exciting. Yawn! (Photo used with permission of mom.)

Below Right: Campers who joined the Association!



BOIS BLANC ISLAND GOLF

Bois Blanc Island golf will begin as soon as weather allows and at least 3 or 4 people are interested in playing. Tuesday mornings in May, early June, and September, the day begins on the 9:30 boat; in July and August, the 8:00 boat.

Cheboygan Golf and Country Club treats us as members. We pay only \$25 for 18 holes of golf including the golf cart!

Last year we implemented an [online sign-up form](https://form.jotform.com/91782883522163) to be filled out by Sunday so that we can provide Cheboygan Country Club with a count of the number of players. <https://form.jotform.com/91782883522163>

Every week each player places a \$3 bet. Games typically differ from week to week, but winners include closest to the pin on the two par 3 holes, as well as the first and second place teams. We try to equalize the teams using handicaps. Following the game, golfers often meet at Mulligan's for a beer and to rehash our great and not-so-great shots.

The golf trips are fun social outings that bring people from all parts of the island together. Come join us!

Submitted by John Maynard

EXERCISE CLASSES

Exercise classes will be held Monday -Thursday in the Wagner Room during July & August. Classes will start at 9 am and include yoga, strength training and/or cardio dance.

Submitted by Martha Stowe

MAHJONGG!

Like last year, MahJongg players will play this “stimulating” tile game in July and August! We will meet on Wednesdays (please note day of the week change!) in the Wagner room from 1-4 “ish”.

No “formal” teaching sessions will be provided this year, so please join with us to play if you have basic knowledge. If you don’t know how to play, and want to join us, learn before this summer on your own. There is a wonderful pamphlet entitled Mahjongg Made Easy is available from the:

National MahJongg League, Inc.
450 Seventh Ave
New York, NY 10123
(212)246.3052
www.nationalmahjonggleague.org

A donation from the Bois Blanc Island Association (BBIA) enabled us to purchase two game sets and eight 2020 Official Standard Hands and Rules cards (these are updated yearly!)

Here’s hoping you will be able to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Suzette at (231)735.1977 or sccs025@gmail.com

2020 BBI BOOK CLUB TITLES

Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

Public education was one of the many things her religious fanatic father was dubious of, believing it a means for the government to brainwash its gullible citizens, and her mother wasn’t diligent on the homeschooling front. The author eventually earned her PHD. This is her story. Tara Westover is living proof that some people are flat-out, boots-always-laced-up indomitable. Her new book, *Educated*, is a heartbreaking, heartwarming, best-in-years memoir about striding beyond the limitations of birth and environment into a better life.

The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II by Denise Kiernan

The title pretty much tells the story. It’s about the woman of Oak Ridge, Tenn. who labored on the top secret development of the atomic bomb. From janitors to engineers, the author has based the book on interviews with the actual women, focusing on 10 of them.

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt

It won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and is a new movie starring Nicole Kidman. The novel is a coming-of-age tale told in the first person. The protagonist, 13-year-old Theodore Decker, survives a terrorist bombing at an art museum where his mother dies. While staggering through the debris, he takes with him a small Dutch Golden Age painting called *The Goldfinch*. It becomes a singular source of hope for him as he descends into a world of crime.

***The Water Dancers* by Terry Gamble**

The Water Dancers is the story of Rachel Winnapee, a poverty-stricken, sixteen-year-old Native American orphan who goes to work at the opulent March family summer home on the shores of Lake Michigan in the post-World War II summer of 1945. A young woman with no delusions about her place in this world of privilege, surrounded by a wealth she never imagined, she strives to remain invisible, until she is assigned the task of caring for the family's tragically scarred, emotionally shattered young scion, Woody March.

***Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens**

For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home.

Dates and locations will be announced in May. Email me at chrisomcafee@gmail.com for further info. I have copies of some of the books and will have them on the Island starting in May. Email me to reserve a copy. Hardbacks are \$5.00. All money collected goes to the Historical Society.

The latest lists are always available on the bbicf.org website.

Volunteers are needed for Discussion Leaders.

Submitted by Chris McAfee

JUST BECAUSE

Just Because meets Thursdays at noon at Hawk's. It is just a gathering of Island women with no rules, no leaders, and no agenda other than having a place and time for friends to get together. It's a great way to make friends if you are new to the Island and to see old ones if you aren't.

Submitted by Chris McAfee

BBI COAST GUARD CHAPEL

The Bois Blanc Island Coast Guard Chapel is a non-denominational Christian Church

Sunday Worship Services

June, July, August, and September – 10:30 a.m.

Fun and Fellowship for all! Fun Night

July and August, Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers are always needed to “Meet & Greet” and Host. Please contact me to volunteer!

Come for games and snacks. Bring a snack to share and a special game to play or just come and enjoy the fellowship and fun!

The Coast Guard Chapel co-sponsors the Thursday evening square dance in the Pines.

Special Dates to Save:

August 9, 2020 - The Church of the Transfiguration and the Bois Blanc Coast Guard Chapel will have a combined service at the Church of the Transfiguration with refreshments following.

The Chapel's fund raiser this year will be a quilt raffle. The quilt (see photo below) was made by our two Island "Quilt Meisters", Betty Hutchinson and Martha Stowe. Stay tuned for details!

For more information or to make arrangements for private use of the Coast Guard Chapel, contact contact Anne Kennedy at 231-634-7121 or email her at annekennedy@tds.net.



CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

There was no report submitted by the printing of this newsletter.

BBI Mail and Other Deliveries

Bois Blanc Island no longer uses the HCR (Highway Contract Route) designation. Make sure to use just the preface "HC-1" followed by the box number:

i.e. Jane Doe HC-1 Box 123 Bois Blanc Island, MI 49775

However, the carrier has assured residents that even if the old preface is used, mail will be delivered.

The box number following the HC-1 designation is not the same as a Post Office Box. Packages/letters with only a P.O. Box designation will be delivered to your box at the Post Office. Any mail sent to an HC-1 Box 123 address will be delivered to your roadside box. Anyone without a P.O. Box or roadside box can receive mail at the post office if it is addressed to the individual in this manner:

Jane Doe
General Delivery
Pointe Aux Pins, MI, 49775

In order for the package/letter to be held for that person, the Post Office needs to be given notice: 231-634-7211. Individuals with this situation need to physically go to the P.O. to pick up mail. If the post office doesn't receive direct verbal instructions, the package/letter will most likely be returned to the sender.

DELIVERY OF PACKAGES:

FedEx, UPS and other delivery systems can be delivered to the **HC-1 + Box #** address. If you use your HC-1 address, do not have mail sent to you in care of Plaunt Transportation.

On the other hand, if you only have a Post Office Box address, do add a note to send it "In care of Plaunt Transportation, 412 Water Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721". This will assure delivery in the event suppliers will not deliver to a P.O. Box.

Do not use your actual street address – the one on your BBI tax bill. If you want to put the physical address in ADDITION to your HC-1 address, feel free to do so. i.e. Jane Doe, HC-1, Box 123, 1888 Huron Drive Pointe aux Pins, MI 49775

Typically you will get notice of delivery of packages through email from the delivery service. These packages are delivered on the boat carrying mail, usually late morning. Please note that Plaunt offers many trips a day during July and August, so if you call the office, you can make other arrangements for the delivery of your packages to the dock.

If you know you have something important being delivered, contact Plaunt to coordinate a delivery on any boat. They will not usually alert recipients of packages being delivered, unless they are clearly marked “Perishable”.

The ferry crew will not leave any prescription drugs at the dock. They must be personally picked up, so be sure you know which boat your prescription will be on.

FREIGHT:

When shipping unaccompanied items (i.e. grocery boxes, prescriptions, etc) by ferry to/from the island, Plaunt Transportation charges \$5 per box or bag.

If accompanied by a passenger, groceries, luggage and small packages will not incur additional charges. however, larger items such as lumber, flats of flowers, 100 pound bags of corn feed, and bicycles (not on a car rack) are considered “freight” and will require extra payment.

If what you’re transporting is deemed large, like a 4-bike rack on a car, or lumber extending well beyond a truck bed, expect an extra charge. If you don’t want a surprise bill, check with Plaunt Transportation before loading any larger items.

THE BOIS BLANC ISLAND VINEYARD

“It’s always something,” says BBI vintner Chris Suchner*. After birds decimated the vineyard’s ripened grapes in the fall of 2018, the owners secured enough netting to protect their 2019 harvest. It worked. They DID end up with a crop of grapes, but then ran into another problem: licensing.

The process of licensing ended up being quite involved, so their crop became fertilizer for this coming summer. They know the drill now though, so should be able to take care of all the licensing necessary this summer. They are hoping we can all enjoy BBI Vineyard wine during the summer of 2021. Stay tuned!

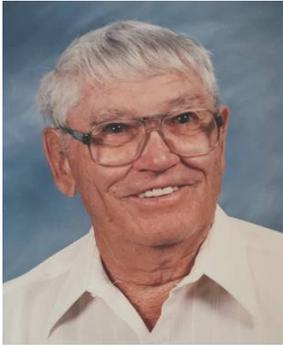
As told to Mary Struble Deery by Chris Suchner *Along with partners Linda Suchner, Steve and Michelle Burt and Jason and Kristin Brookhouse

PEOPLE WE LOST IN 2019

Loren Jahn – 2/21
Richard Manning – 3/6
Jane Jahn – 3/18
Ruth Plaunt – 3/19
Allen "Dale" Hoffman – 3/25
Web Shaker – 4/13
Ben Chambers – 5/18

Gregg Velez – 5/27
Jane Fiebelkorn
Sue Moore – 7/19
Ethelen Paul – 7/13
Debra Harris/Hall – 8/29
Bill Graves – 9/17
Gregg Dickerson 9/30

Raymond Plaunt Maritime Memorial Scholarship



Raymond Plaunt (Pa) would've turned 100 years old this June! To celebrate this special man, Plaunt Transportation and the entire Plaunt family are doing a special fundraiser. We would be grateful for any tax deductible contributions.

The Raymond Plaunt Maritime Memorial Scholarship was established shortly after his passing, in 2016. This scholarship is granted to individuals who have chosen a career in the maritime field and wish to acquire a two or four year degree. Since the establishment of this scholarship, we have been blessed to award six scholarships totaling \$14,000 and are excited to be able to continue Ray's maritime legacy through this gift.

The easiest ways to donate to Ray's Maritime Memorial Scholarship are as follows:

Online <https://www.cfnem.org/sacf/funds/give.html?fund=886>

Or by phone (877) 354-6881

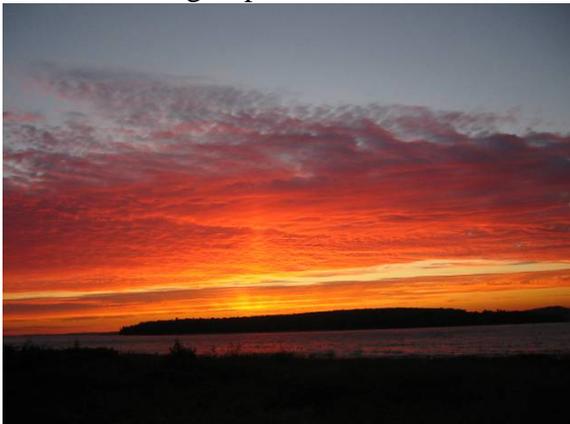
Or mail a check to Community Foundation, PO Box 495, Alpena, MI 49707

Checks should be made payable to COMMUNITY FOUNDATION and indicate "Raymond Plaunt Maritime Memorial Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. On behalf of the entire Plaunt family, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your continued support of Ray's memory.

SUBMISSIONS

Mixed Metaphors -- About an Island

I am on an island in northern Michigan and at the end of the day sit in silence listening to the view with my eyes. From my bench, a log on the beach, I gaze over the waters where two of the largest Great Lakes converge. On a map, Lake Michigan is to the left and Lake Huron to the right, like prayerful hands. My view is the body of water between the Michigan mitten and its northern peninsula—vast waters where the celebrant's fingertips touch.



As the day wraps up, the huge sky turns pale blue, and white clouds begin to glow a rosy pink. As time passes, the crescendo is a view of clouds beginning to radiate gold tones. I feel my heart flutter with delight. My soul claps energetically in honor of this scene, which is like a tapestry in an opulent temple. Spanish conquistadors would drool at this bounty. I listen to the waves roll in and splash in two-four rhythm.

The sky begins a fade to black, like the end of a silent movie. But even in darkness, the show goes on. In the distance, I see the Mackinac Bridge. It is this bridge, comprised of five man-made miles of engineering wonder that the sun has slipped behind. Suspended over the now still, black water, The Mighty Mac looks like a toy draped with holiday lights. White and red

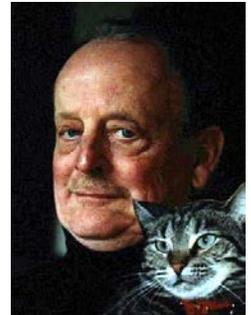
brilliance sparkle and shimmer in the water's reflection. Elizabeth Taylor would have snatched up this necklace to bowl over the paparazzi at an awards show.

I wrap my sweater ever tighter as the chill sneaks in. It's time to retire to the cozy cabin on the knoll. Heading up the path, I tilt my head back to soak in the black velvet above, embellished with a spray of diamonds from horizon to horizon. The glowing Milky Way feels like a blanket of protection. As constellation warriors Perseus and Orion clash, I see the Perseid meteors blaze across the heavens.

I open the screen door and enter the great room with its cushy orange couch and warm wood stove. The tapestry-of-a-view over the lake, the sparkling celestial observatory, and my cozy womb-of-a-cabin are just three of the many symphonies that fill my soul on Bois Blanc Island.

Mary Struble Deery

Thank you Bunker Clark (pictured) who started the BOB-LO TATLER. He was an intellect who loved oddities of history, especially literature.



The Caulkins Family – Six Generations on BBI



The Caulkins family has a long history on BBI. It started in the late 1890's when they first visited the Island and then, in 1911, purchased a summer home here. They have had SIX generations represented on the Island over the years and currently still have a large presence.

The original family member was Horace James Caulkins who purchased a house in the Pines located diagonally across from the Pines Hotel site (picture below) from a Doctor Fielding Thatcher. The doctor used the large waterfront home as a retreat site for those with hay fever and summer allergies. It was lost to fire in 1965.

An interesting fact about Horace is that he developed the Revelation kiln and teamed up with artist Mary Chase Perry Stratton to create Pewabic Pottery in 1903. Pewabic Pottery still has a museum and showroom, and some level of production today in a 1907 Tudor Revival building in Detroit. This location was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991. There are still many locations in Detroit and many other cities/locations that display beautiful Pewabic Pottery (picture below from the Detroit Public Library).





The Caulkins Family Tree is extensive over the last six generations and is represented on BBI today by many great and great, great grandchildren. The various Caulkins' families have spent many summers on BBI with other long standing Pines property owners. This includes families of those who still are in the Pines - Babler, Landschultz, Urbany, Kidder, Hoover, McAfee, Shannon, Courier, Wallace, Sperry, Baldwin and Blome. Steve Johnson, Barb Lamb, and Mick Caulkins, all deceased, were grandchildren of Horace and either had houses on the Island or summered here. Great grandchildren who are

residents or visit the Island today are Julie Maynard, Rex Lamb, Sally Johnson Baker, Wendy (Lamb) Caulkins (deceased), Lee (Caulkins) Keller and Henry (Hank) Lewis Caulkins III. There are also many great, great grandchildren (too many to name and get it correct!) who either own homes or frequent the Island yet today.

Submitted by Julie Maynard and Carol Blundy

Save Our Butterflies

Butterflies gather to “puddle,” or absorb minerals and salts from the soil. Chances are, you know of your own Butterfly Road. Gravel or sand roads in the northwoods are prime spots to check for puddling butterflies. Source: Postcrescent.com August 2015

Did you notice all the butterflies on the road at the west end the airport last summer? Apparently, they are “puddling”. The result of this behavior is that many end up getting squished. Every time I rode my bike along that stretch, I saw all different varieties, with disabling gravel embedded in their thoraxes. In 2018 a monarch sighting was a rare thing. But in 2019 they made a big comeback! Hopefully they’ll be on BBI in big numbers in 2020. This summer, if you see these beauties gliding over the road at the west end of the air strip, please slow down.

Submitted by Mary Struble Deery



Hawks Landing 2020

Larry & Missy Phillips, Owners since 2005
720 W. Huron Drive, Bois Blanc Island, MI 49775
231-634-7375

For hours and specials check on their Facebook Page: Hawks Landing

If you don't have access to Facebook, feel free to call them directly for information.

Island Tavern

When the stay is lifted, the Tavern hours will be: Monday - Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Specials:

Monday - \$5 Burgers

Tuesday - Taco Tuesday

Wednesday - Wing Wednesday

Thursday - Pizza and don't forget about Ladies' Shuffleboard

Friday - Hand Breaded Cod

Sampler Sundays

Islandtavern@outlook.com

Like and Follow our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/Islandtavern>

[\(231\) 634-7100](tel:2316347100)

Plaunt Transportation Update

The Plaunt Transportation crew is ready to begin another season providing reliable service to Bois Blanc Island. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the current dock conditions, we find ourselves in an ever changing

situation with regards to the boat schedule, what and who we can transport and current best practices. Our website is currently under construction, so for the most up to date information please check our Facebook page or call the office at (231)627-2354. Please know that we are taking extra precautions to ensure your safety, as well as the safety of our crew.



Ahoy Captains! Pictured from left Travis Cronk, Ryan McLaren, Curt Plaunt and Jason Plaunt

Island Business Highlight

Island Good Yurts and Island Style Mercantile Gallery - Shop. Studio. Stay.

Local artist Jessi La Porte first opened Island Style Mercantile Gallery in 2018 intending to offer local artists a collective location to display their unique art; the art collective developed a following and has grown into much more than a gallery/studio space. It now serves as a place for island folks and visitors alike to gather, share ideas and stories, hosting several different Boblo artists whose work is complimented by textiles and art from other island artists from Puerto Rico and India.

In addition to being a gathering place for artists and like-minded people, Island Good Yurts offers the unique opportunity to stay in an off-grid yurt and hosts guests from all over the world. Pottery and art classes for all ages will be offered through-out the summer, please follow us on Facebook for current information or classes. The island yurt experience is a place where you can relax, unplug and enjoy all that the island has to offer. Stop by @ 397 E. Huron Drive - call or text: 787.447.8877 - fb [islandgoodboisblancisland](#) instagram [dr.j.k.la](#)



2020-21 Bois Blanc Island Association Application

Please complete the following information – it will appear in the next updated BBIA directory

BBIA Members receive a free copy of the directory and the BBI Tatler newsletter

Please Print:

Name (last name first, first name, and spouse's name)

Island Address _____ Island Phone _____

Island Location (circle one): West End, East End, Pines, North Shore, Other _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone numbers (names and numbers) _____

Email address _____

Volunteer Interests _____

Hobbies & Talents _____

Committee you would like to serve on _____

Year you first came to Boblo _____

Ideas/Problems for the Association to consider _____

Return to: Jamie Nye, Treasurer BBIA

6901 Clintonville Rd.

Clarkston, Michigan 48348

Include a \$20 check to BBI Association