

BOB-LO TATLER*

Newsletter of the Bois Blanc Island Association, Founded 1891

Spring 2021

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



“The Road to the Lighthouse” -- painted by Vaida Riddle, age 6

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

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



Note from the Content Editor, Mary: It has been an honor and a privilege to be the editor of the Bob-Lo Tatler for the past five years. I am delighted to announce that the very able Brandie Dunn will be taking the reins in 2022. You’ll find the simply wonderful piece she wrote about her 2020 Neowise Comet experience in this issue, along with some breathtaking photos she took.



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BOIS BLANC ISLAND ASSOCIATION NEWS

Here's to 2021 and to a period of healing from the unprecedented pandemic we've been experiencing! Hopefully, this year we'll be able to see more of one another on the Island and continue to nurture the Island Community that makes Bois Blanc Island such a special place. The Association will plan, if permitted, to have the Annual Meeting, on Saturday, August 7. This annual association meeting is used to bring together representation from various township areas to discuss their area's activities.

As a reminder - the Bois Blanc Island Association (BBIA) purpose is to work toward making Bois Blanc Island a better, safer, and more enjoyable place. The \$20 annual dues remain unchanged. By paying these, you receive the benefits of the Association including The Tatler and Island Directory. (Please let us know if you have not picked your Directory up or received it in the mail and we will get one to you – this updated Directory was published late last summer). The Association also continues to work with the East End, West End and the Pines by funding various needs identified by residents. Recently, we responded to BBI Fire Department request for funds as well as contributed to some sorely needed sidewalk repair and replacement in the Pines. Over the last few months, the BBIA initiated a successful Go Fund Me account supporting repair of the Island gazebo. Read all about it in the article later in the newsletter. Many thanks to Kathy Landschulz, the BBIA secretary, the folks from Plaunt Transportation and John and Julie Maynard who pitched in to raise the monies and/or salvaged the damaged pieces of the gazebo last fall. This year we will continue to look for suggestions regarding Island needs that are within the Association budget – so keep those ideas coming

In addition, the BBIA supports the very popular Thursday evening square dances and Salvation Army Island visit. The Association sponsors a couple of meet and greets to provide an opportunity for Islanders from all areas to get acquainted or re-acquainted. In the past, these events have been at Island homes. We are looking to bring these events back while following any governmental restrictions. Anyone interested in hosting one of these events, please contact us.

Invoices for 2021-22 were sent out electronically. If you did not receive yours, an annual dues statement/application is located at the end of this newsletter. Note: the dues run from July 1 – June 30. Anyone paying now will be “whole” for the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 year. Please complete the form and submit as indicated with your annual dues to the address on the dues statement. If you received an electronic statement, submit the form only with changes.

We are aiming, although slowly, to convert our communications so they are electronic. The past four annual Tatlers are available on the BBI Foundation website (https://www.bbicf.org/BBI_Association.php). We are emailing all the newsletters to those members who have an email on file with us – so if you have not updated your email, please do so. If you are interested in being involved or have suggestions regarding BBIA activities, contact any of the **officers**:

Carol Blundy - President

Suzette (Cooley) Sanborn - Vice President

Kathy Landschulz - Secretary

Jamie Nye - Treasurer

Area BBIA Representatives:

Pines - Joyce Pecon, 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 2022 Tatler, contact Brandie Dunn at bbiatatler@gmail.com. Many thanks to Brandie for taking this on!

Our hats are off to Mary Struble Deery for the amazing job she has done assembling the Tatler and organizing this invaluable information for all of us over the last five years. Words cannot express our gratitude, Mary!!

BOIS BLANC TOWNSHIP

The Township Board and all the Commissions, Departments and Services have been active over the last year including work related to the pandemic. During the last year, the Township Board had 12 Special Meetings and 13 General/Regular Meetings. The time and date of meetings are posted on the Township calendar. Individuals can join in live via teleconference @ 857.232.0357/conference code 155267. All of the minutes from past meetings can be found on the Bois Blanc Township website at boisblanctownship.org. Below are focus areas that the Township is currently working on:

- Bright Waters Township Park –The Park on the West End of the Island. The Grant received from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Phase 1 includes the drive into the Park from Lime Kiln Road, a parking area, and a skid pier. These are scheduled to be in place by mid-August. Phase 2 will be explored with feasibility test done on other potential inclusions, such as a more permanent dock, walkway through the wetlands, sitting areas on the walkway. At this time Phase 2 has no designated timeline.
- North Shore Road Maintenance - A match program was approved with the Mackinac County Road Commission to clear and provide maintenance on a portion of the North Shore Road from Fire Tower Road to the BBI Club. This work is underway
- Parks and Recreation – Bruce Thibodeau will be leading this group and is looking for enthusiastic participants.
- Law – The Township has recently signed a four year contract with the Mackinac County Sheriff’s office for Deputy Joe Fitzgerald to remain the Island law enforcement agent.
- Planning/Zoning – Chris Viers is now the Zoning Administrator. Until the Planning Commission finishes and passes an ordinance addressing rentals, Chris will focus on other areas. Chris’s contact information is available on the township website under the “Building” department. Planning is working on an updated five year plan for the island and continuing a focus on short term rentals.
- COVID – along with the State requirements, the Township will receive approximately \$9,000 in Federal Stimulus funding. The timing as to receipt and the parameters around how/where the money can be used have not yet been received.

These only scratch the surface of the issues the Township is addressing. There are many additional Township projects that will be addressed at future Board Meetings.

BOIS BLANC ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

The 2020-21 season brought challenges no one could have foreseen. Some were global; others hit close to home.

COVID-19 Response

As the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic began to dawn on the United States in early 2020, we at the Bois Blanc Island Fire Department were called upon to assist Bois Blanc Township in developing a local response plan that would support regional and statewide emergency planning. We participated in a series of teleconferences with Mackinac County 9-1-1/Emergency Management officials, working to understand what the pandemic might mean to our region and, specifically, to our islands in the Straits.

It soon became clear that the greatest threat to Northern Michigan wasn’t necessarily the coronavirus itself—it was the potential influx of tens of thousands of people heading north to escape it. Regional emergency officials were deeply concerned about whether local hospitals, emergency services, food supplies, and other essential resources would be overwhelmed by the sudden population explosion. Much of that concern arose from not knowing how transmissible, or how deadly, the virus would become as it spread into rural areas.

Based on guidance from local Public Health and Emergency Preparedness officials, we developed a response plan that emphasized the importance of keeping travel to a minimum. That wasn't what anyone wanted to hear. However, thanks to cooperation and understanding among Bois Blanc residents, property owners, and service providers, there were zero reports of COVID-19 cases on the Island throughout the spring and summer. Even Beaver Island officials used Bois Blanc's pandemic response as a model in their own COVID-19 planning.

Our first and only, confirmed cases during 2020 came in the fall. The BBIFD crew was able to safely transport one COVID patient off the Island, while another patient showing symptoms was able to self-transport. Our crew followed established COVID precautions and, as a result, there were no exposures.

COVID-19 is an ongoing threat. We're pleased to report that 100 percent of our crew received its COVID vaccines within the first month of 2021, thanks to the efforts of Mackinac Straits Hospital and county Emergency Management. We also assisted a team of LMAS County Health officials who traveled to Bois Blanc by plane in March to provide vaccinations to more than 50 Bois Blanc residents. We continue to observe all necessary precautions to keep our patients, and ourselves, as safe as possible.

Fire and EMS Activities

The BBIFD has responded to numerous EMS calls throughout the past year, involving both medical and trauma patients. One serious accident involved a side-by-side ATV and multiple trauma patients; fortunately, there were no fatalities and the injured were transported safely off the Island. An accident involving a fallen tree branch caused life-threatening injuries to another ATV rider, for whom bad weather was a major factor in timely evacuation off-Island. Our crew provided care to the critically-injured patient for several hours while waiting for a Coast Guard helicopter to brave high winds and poor nighttime visibility. The patient survived.

Our most dangerous and devastating fire call of the past year came in May 2020, when a massive propane explosion leveled a two-story cottage in the Pines. The explosion threw one occupant from the structure and trapped the other inside, beneath the collapsed roof and burning debris. Thanks to the rapid response of several area residents, Sheriff Deputy Joe Fitzgerald, and Fire Chief Brandon Schlund with BBIFD Engine One, the person trapped inside was able to be extricated with only seconds to spare, so both victims survived. They did sustain multiple serious injuries, and were immediately transported from the scene to be airlifted off the Island. Mutual aid was provided by the Mackinaw Island Fire Department, who sent two full crews to Bois Blanc and provided much-needed relief to our small BBIFD crew. Both Bois Blanc and Mackinac crews fought the fire for several hours, knocking down the last of the flames by nightfall. It was well after dark by the time the area was secured and cleared. Both officers and citizens were commended for their heroic lifesaving efforts that day. Details of this commendation are included in an article below, entitled "CONGRESSIONAL AWARD".



Resources and Equipment

The devastating propane explosion made it clear that we needed an additional tanker truck to keep the water flowing at fire scenes. A generous donation from Bruce and Chris McAfee helped to fund the BBIFD's recent purchase of a used 2,000-gallon tanker at auction from another volunteer fire department down in Elmira, MI. This new-to-us tanker, now known as Tanker No. 2, is used in conjunction with our existing 1,000-gallon 6x6 Tanker No. 1 to ensure that a more steady supply of water is available to firefighters on scene. A fully-involved structure fire can quickly consume more than 10,000 gallons of water, which requires each tanker to shuttle water non-stop from one of our three high-flow water wells on the Island. In some cases, drafting water from the lake is possible, but the wells can usually fill the trucks more quickly and efficiently.

The BBIFD will be proposing the addition of high-flow water wells at the Township Hall/Fire Hall complex, to service the relatively large number of structures in the Pines area, as well as at the West End, in conjunction with the development of the Township's planned West End Park and dock site.



Training and Personnel

The BBIFD welcomed Island resident Jessi La Porte to its crew in the fall of 2020. We are also pleased to report that crew member Christopher Viers, who has served with us as a seasonal Island resident for the past two years, is now a full-time resident. Both Jessi and Chris have already made significant contributions to our team, and we are grateful for their much-needed enthusiasm and volunteer dedication.

Crew members Michelle Satchell, Jessi La Porte, Jim Gilligan, Robert Hayes, and Dan Reynolds successfully completed an intensive Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training course on March 20, 2021. This eight-week training program was conducted via online lectures for four hours each Monday and Friday night, in addition to multiple weekend and weekday in-person practical exercises in Cheboygan. At the end of the course, all five crew members passed written and hands-on examinations that qualified them for testing through the State of Michigan to receive their Medical First Responder licensure. Successful completion of the course also required each crew member to complete multiple FEMA courses on Incident Command, as well as other related training sessions. The BBIFD is grateful for its members' substantial commitment of personal time, study, and practice to benefit the community we serve.

Burn Permits

Below is the current information for burn permits. Our BBIFD page on Facebook always has it pinned to the top, and the Township has it on their website as well. The FB page (<https://www.Facebook.com/BBIFD>) is constantly updated.

Brandon Schlund, Fire Chief (231) 420-3028

Dan Reynolds, Assistant Chief (231) 676-9336

Rob Hayes, Assistant Chief (734) 301-8070

Russ Riker, Firefighter/EMR (231) 634-7487

Fundraising and Community Support

Although COVID-19 forced the cancellation of our usual annual fundraising events, the BBIFD crew has been humbled by the outpouring of generosity from our Bois Blanc Island community. Numerous private donations were received following the tragic explosion and fire in the Pines, and we are also grateful for the donations received in memory of our dear friend, Carolyn Albers, who passed away at her Island home in June 2020. To each and every person, family, and business that has chosen to support the Bois Blanc Island Fire Department for any reason, we offer our sincere gratitude, and want you to know we will continue our efforts to be worthy of your support in the months and years to come. We couldn't do it without you.

Submitted by Dan Reynolds

BOIS BLANC ISLAND TOWNSHIP HARBOR COMMISSION

The harbor weathered the winter well. The bubblers worked as expected, and there is no visible damage to the finger piers. The North Ramp is functioning properly. The reinforcement I-beam work should be completed by May 1, 2021. The reinforcement of the North Ramp will add significant strength, and make it capable of handling large trucks, including cement trucks, and gives us a rating of unlimited capacity. The overall water levels are down nearly a foot from this time last year, a trend we hope will continue.

The West End Project “Bright Waters” will begin this spring; with the construction of a driveway, installation of a skid pier, and fencing of the property. This is being funded by a \$100,000 grant. When the project is complete, which will take several years, a small pier, boat ramp, parking area, swim area, restrooms, and a wetland park will be available.

The Cheboygan River Property has been named “Bois Blanc River Harbor.” The Harbor Commission is planning to fund the development of this property through grants. Before that, an engineering plan, conceptual drawings, and cost estimates must be completed. This process will begin this spring.

The fishing piers on Lake Mary, and Thompson Lake weathered the winter well and are open for use.

Submitted by Chris Suchner, Chairman of the Harbor Commission

ISLAND HEALTH CLINIC

As of the printing of this newsletter, there are no plans for a Health Clinic on the island this summer.

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.

BOIS BLANC ISLAND AIRPORT

For information about the airport, contact Airport Manager, Jim Gilligan. *Right shows an air evacuation from BBI Airport.*

Cell (231) 838-0029

Home (231) 634-7030



ROAD COMMISSION

Regarding: ROAD SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

For those of you that have been granted a permit from the Mackinac County Road Commission for a sprinkler system to help with dust control, there are no required parameters. But for the sake of all islanders, please set your timers so sprinklers run for short durations. Residents need to do this so STANDING water does not accumulate on the road way or along the shoulder. If there is standing water, the sprinklers have been running too long. The road only needs to be dampened or wet, NOT saturated or flooded.

Mackinac County Road Commission will be monitoring the road conditions more closely this year. Unattended sprinkler systems are not permitted. Failure to use these guidelines may result in everyone’s permits being revoked. Thank you for your cooperation.

Submitted by MCRC

POST OFFICE AND TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

Township Office Hours

- 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 - 2021

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:

- 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
- The “10 Free Trash Bag Program” is being repeated. Contact Township Hall for details.

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 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Bois Blanc Island Foundation will be holding a fundraiser on July 17 with a rain date July 18. This is the Boblo Island “Fly In”. We’ll be serving chili and hot dogs.

You can find more information about the Foundation at www.bbicf.org

Submitted by Sarah Bloom

BBI HISTORICAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY

The Bois Blanc Island Historical Society has served the BBI community since 1986. Due to the dedication of many Islanders, the museum and library have been able to keep interest in the Island’s history alive.

Unfortunately, the historical society will be closed until a new Board of Directors is formed. In order to be operational, the Bylaws require the Board of Directors to consist of not less than five (5) nor more than nine (9) members. The Bylaws also require three (3) officers: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. For the last several years, it has had four Board members and a president and one person operating as secretary/treasurer. These same people have served for years and are no longer available to continue. The historical society is also a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization and specific regulations pertain in order to keep this designation. If there are individuals interested in reorganizing, it can again be of service to our community.

Bois Blanc Island owes a debt of gratitude to all those who have come before us to establish an organization preserving Island history.

The building will not be open for visitors. However, anyone seeking information on the history of the Island can contact, Mike White, the museum’s historian, at 231-634-7440. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have assisted the historical society over the years. It couldn’t have been done without them.

Submitted by Betty Hutchinson

STORY HOUR

A warm, heartfelt hello to all Boblo Islanders, regardless of whether your feet 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 have likely hunkered down in our homes over the course of a year, 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 2 summers back (pre-Covid), 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 ongoing variables relating to Covid-19, 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](tel: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 was 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, (text Matt at 810-625-5403 , and Jim at 231-420-226) for information about the organization. Donations are always welcome.

Submitted by Betty Hutchinson

ANNUAL EAST VS. WEST SOFTBALL MATCH

Mark your calendar for July 31, 2021. Due to COVID concerns, please bring your own mitt. In the event of rain, check Facebook for possible rescheduling.

BOIS BLANC ISLAND GOLF

Bois Blanc Island golf will begin as soon as the weather is reasonable and at least 3 or 4 people are interested in playing. We play Tuesday mornings, leaving on the first boat off the island.

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](#) that should be filled out by Sunday so that we can give Cheboygan Country Club a count of how many will be playing on Tuesday.

<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 two par 3 holes, and first/second place teams. We try to equalize the teams with handicaps. 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

July/August 2021 Wagner Room exercise classes remain on hold due to COVID restrictions. If restrictions are lifted, an updated schedule will be posted on the township kiosk.

Submitted by Martha Stowe

MAHJONGG!

As in the summer of 2019, 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 or can be referenced at www.nationalmahjonggleague.org

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

Here’s hoping you will be able to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Suzette at (231)735.1977 or scs025@gmail.com

2021 BBI BOOK CLUB TITLES

2021 BBI Book Discussion titles

Carnegie’s Maid by Marie Benedict
The Dutch House by Anne Patchett
The Great Alone by Kristen Hannah
Small Great Things by Jodi Picot
Whistling Past the Graveyard by Susan Crandell

I have copies of *Small*, *Dutch*, and *Alone*. \$5 for like-new books. All proceeds go to Historical Society. Email me at chrisomcafee@gmail.com to reserve a copy. Dates and places will be posted in May. The latest Book Club information is always available on the bbicf.org website.

Submitted by Chris McAfee

JUST BECAUSE

Just Because meets Thursdays at noon at The Island Diner. 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 gather with old ones if you aren’t.

Submitted by Chris McAfee

ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Hello Island Artists! For anyone interested in participating in the Bi-Annual Island Artist Arts and Crafts Fair below is a way to sign up! Vendors must own property on the island, or be in a family that does. Please contact me if you prefer a paper/printable sign-up. Looking forward to seeing all of your talent! The event will be held August 13th and 14th at The Hideaway (former Insel Haus).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4ba8aa2ca7fb6-bois>

Submitted by Jessi Riddle
RedRoofLodgeBBI@gmail.com
810-210-8264

BBI COAST GUARD CHAPEL

The Bois Blanc Island Coast Guard Chapel is a non-denominational Christian Church. A combination of Pastors, lay persons and streaming services from various sources are used to provide Christian, Bible based, teachings. All are welcome to worship with us.

The Chapel will be having Sunday services this 2021 year. The schedule and procedures for safely operating worship services are in the process of being determined by virtual Chapel Board meetings. Please contact the Chapel secretary after May 16th for more information. You may also go to the Bois Blanc Island Coast Guard Chapel Facebook page after May 16th for more information.

Submitted by Anne Kennedy, Coast Guard Chapel Secretary annekennedy@tds.net 231-634-7121

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

Sundays this summer, the Church of Transfiguration will be open, so congregants can worship together at 10:30 am. Everyone is invited.

We look forward to praying and worshipping together as one community! Even though we must wear masks and be socially distanced in the church, it will be an improvement over last summer. If the health department changes the rules, we will worship together on the church lawn. Our 2021 schedule for clergy is as follows:

July 4 and 11....Rev. Richard McCandless, Akron, Ohio and BBI
July 18 and 25....Rev. Brooks Graebner, Burlington, North Carolina
August 1....Bishop Rayford Ray, Marquette, Michigan
August 8, 15, 22, and 29....Rev. Phillip Chester, from London, England
September 5....Rev. Richard McCandless, Akron, Ohio and BBI

The Hoover Building will be open for community events, providing participants follow all existing health department rules regarding gatherings, wearing masks and remaining socially distanced. Please contact Joyce Peccon, 724.366.0005 for reservations to schedule an event.

Submitted by Connie Riopelle/Joe Weber

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

The August 12th Township Board meeting proved to be very special as our local heroes were recognized and honored. Guests of the meeting were Mackinac County Sheriff Scott Strait, and Undersheriff Ron Umbarger. The meeting was partially dedicated to the many brave men and women of Bois Blanc who responded to the house explosion and subsequent fire on May 22nd 2020. Mackinac County Sheriff Scott Strait presented civilian commendations to Scott Salter, Kenneth Gahn, and Shawn Nelson. Following this, he presented commendations to Fire Chief Brandon Schlund and Deputy Sheriff Joe Fitzgerald. Sheriff Strait concluded by recognizing all the brave men and women who gave of themselves and commented how seamlessly everyone worked together to save lives and property

Township Supervisor Brent Sharpe then had the honor of presenting “Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition” awards to Fire Chief Brandon Schlund and Deputy Sheriff Joe Fitzgerald, honoring their courage, selflessness, and dedication to duty. It was a crowded meeting with residents inside and outside applauding the first responders. Bois Blanc Residents are fortunate to have such dedicated first responders committed to preserving safety on our special island.

Submitted by Tom Stevenson



THE BOIS BLANC ISLAND VINEYARD

After the fall of 2018, BBI vintner Chris Suchner* said, "It's always something." 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.

In the fall of 2020, he repeated this lament -- "It's always something". Because of continued problems with licensing in Covid 2020, the vineyard could not turn that year's very successful crop into saleable wine. Foiled again!

However, they are hoping to have a similar crop by the end of this summer, and have wine available for the public in 2022. Let's all cross our fingers!

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

GAZEBO UPDATE

As many of you know by now, during a fall storm the Gazebo - one of Boblo's favorite landmarks - sadly, was crushed by the very tree that was protecting it from the high water.

The Gazebo was originally the top of the bandstand erected in the 1920's that was located by the Pines dock.

During the 1940's it was moved to its current location at the western end of the sidewalk in the Pines. The Gazebo has cultivated itself into a "destination" spot for many. With such a rich history of memories the BBI Association is committed to help restore this iconic Island

Last fall the BBIA established a fundraising effort to support the restoration. Thanks to the island community we were able to not only hit our initial goal but exceed it! And then came even more community support - this time the boots-on-the-ground variety. Curt Plaunt, Ted Spray, Grant Spray, and Shawn Nelson were able to get the tree off the Gazebo and move the roof to safer ground for the winter. Julie and John Maynard graciously took the wooden railings and stored them indoors for the winter, enabling us to use them this spring.

At the time of this writing, spring is approaching and we're hopeful to begin in earnest the Gazebo's restoration. We will keep you posted throughout the restoration process through the BBI FB pages.



Submitted by Kathy Landschulz

BOIS BLANC ISLAND SCHOOL

Message from the teacher:

It has been an absolute joy being the teacher at the little red schoolhouse! I am just so thankful every day that I was chosen for such a wonderful opportunity and have cherished every single experience I have had thus far. We started our year with 5 students, went up to 7, went back down to 4 and now we are at a steady 5 (when we can keep everyone healthy)! We had a couple student visitors early in the year, which also added some excitement! The students and I have spent many hours walking and exploring the island, as well as learning and growing together in the classroom. We've done some experiments, learned to use all of our new technology (a SMART board and Chromebooks), done some testing, had parties, celebrated our 100th day of school, and I finally completed the interior of the school, with a place for everything and everything in its place. My dog, Jorgie, has been here with us every day. I feel so lucky to live and work in an environment that has allowed him to become part of the classroom. The students love him, and he loves the students. We ring our bell, put up our flag and spend all our time, happily together, in the little red schoolhouse.....



Submitted by Sherrv Lee Corbett, Bois Blanc Island School Teacher

There were five students at the school in 2020. Below are writings of the two “upperclassmen”, and artwork from a couple of the kindergartners.

“Winter On An Island”

The island is really fun and it is really pretty. During the winter all the lakes freeze but the big lake has a lot harder time freezing. If it does freeze, you can snowmobile across and get what you need. You can also go on one of the lakes and ice fish. It's really fun! Every year on the island we normally get a lot of snow but this year we did not get much until February. During winter we usually get one night of freezing rain and then the entire island gets a very slippery sheet of ice.

“Blake’s Winter”

During the winter I have to fill the wood rack every day, because we burn wood for heat in the winter. It's pretty boring but I am stronger now and I can get a lot more logs and get done sooner. I make a snowman every year and it's SO fun! I love to make snow forts but it is hard to do. When Dad plows the driveway, he makes a big hill that I can sled down. When the road is icy you go sooo far! I love to have snowball fights but I have a little brother and he cries when I hit him so I do not have snowball fights, (except at school!).

Submitted by Blake Schlund

“Reflections From Andi”

It has been fun on an island in Michigan in winter.

Here on the island you either home school or go to the only school on the island. It feels weird when I am the only girl in the school except for my teacher.

If you're lucky it might snow enough that you can build an igloo. But there should always be enough snow to do: snowball fights, sledding and building a snowman.

To survive winter we had to stock up on groceries. My dad had to cut a ton of wood. But whatever you do, don't eat all your food right away or forget to get your wood in the Summer.

Submitted by Andi Beugly, age 9



Alexander Beugly 6 years old



Ryler Schlund 5 years old

BBI ICE SKATING RINK!

It finally happened... an Ice Rink on BBI!!

Thank you to the Pines School Board for not giving up on this project, & for maintenance staff who provided the labor involved in the assembly of the kit.

Also thank you for volunteered support from Northwoods Timber Products for clearing the property, BBIFD for filling the rink, & former School Board members Kathy Cox Brown & Jessi LaPorte who envisioned this rink and initiated it over 13 months ago!

What a great opportunity for our school & our community! With 11 kids on the island this winter how wonderful that this finally happened!



And, by the way, who says the adults don't have fun on the island in the dead of winter?



PEOPLE WE LOST IN 2019

Marilyn Munson
Sharon Luce
Rhea Sullivan
Shelby Newhouse
Loren Gibbons
Paul Breningstall Sr
Mary Elsea
Carolyn Albers
Connie Twigg
Lee Durham

Note: This list is primarily comprised of those whose families contacted the island sexton for information about the cemetery, therefore may be incomplete.



Carolyn June Albers, 82, passed away Monday June 29, 2020 at her home on the Island. Her and her late husband, Gerald were known by many on Bois Blanc Island as is her daughter, Sheila (Henry) Hyde, her son, Robert Albers, and her granddaughter, Ashlee Godbold-Hyde. She was on the Island when she passed sitting in her favorite spot in the beach room watching the deer and hummingbirds.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, donations can be made to:

Bois Blanc Island Community Foundation
Link: <https://www.bbicf.org/donate.php>

or Bois Blanc Island Volunteer Fire Department Assoc
Mail to: BBIFA, PO Box 815, Pointe aux Pins, MI 49775

The Bright Side of the Dark Side

Uncle Paul was the most ardent and dedicated student of astronomy I have ever known. He and Aunt Judy would plan vacations around where the best viewing of the next solar eclipse or other noteworthy celestial event might occur, especially if it meant traveling to the farthest reaches of the globe. When our family finally laid down roots on BBI in 2014, I can recall how excited Uncle Paul and Aunt Judy were. The first thing they wanted to make sure was that we had a decent telescope. I am certain now, this was because they knew something I only recently have come to truly wrap my brain around and appreciate. Compared to the urban/suburban areas many island visitors hail from, Bois Blanc Island has very low light pollution interference which helps set the stage for some glorious and truly breath-taking night sky viewing and astrophotography opportunities.



In science geek terms, our family's northeasterly view from the island is a Class Two on the Bortle Scale! The Bortle Scale is a nine-level numeric scale that measures the sky's brightness. A dark sky means seeing many more wonder-filled details in the cosmos. Class Nine on the scale would be the type of sky inner city dwellers' experience, where light pollution is so bad, it is nearly impossible to see much more than the moon or a bright planet or star. Many of the Dark Sky Preserves on earth fall between Class One and Class Five on the Bortle Scale. Our Class Two 'truly dark skies' are something to be thankful for, treasured, and worth protecting.

Until the summer of 2020, I had been half-heartedly dabbling in and trying to unlock the mysteries of night sky photography, with humbling results. However, a camera upgrade and the exciting prospect of observing Comet NEOWISE in the later part of July during our visit, had me feeling hopeful to improve upon previous results. I reached out to long time islander and photographer extraordinaire, Sally Sperry, for some helpful insights. Her generous and timely advice and encouragement finally gave me the boost I needed to begin capturing some keeper night sky photographs. Thank you, Sally!!!

Though NEOWISE was one of the brightest comets to appear in decades, to the naked eye it appeared more like an unimpressive smudge in the sky that not everyone could easily see. At the peak of its visibility in July, I spent five dedicated evenings making donations to the Mosquito Blood Bank, experimenting and playing around with different camera settings. It was a fun journey of creative discovery, and the first time I found myself trying to ‘paint with light’, using a flashlight to illuminate the beautiful cedar lined shoreline in the rocky foreground. Some of the best captures resulted from my efforts on July 20th when a new moon cycle began. A new moon meant even less light interference in my astrophotography efforts.

While 2020 may have brought us all to our knees in so many ways, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for time spent on Bois Blanc Island. Any opportunity that has you looking up, tuning out the noise of life, tapping into a sense of awe and wonder while appreciating the splendor of galaxies, is time worthy and well spent. It was a true pleasure cultivating my amateur photography hobby in 2020 as a healthy way of coping with some of the disappointments it dealt. It has been said, “Creativity is the first vaccine against Covid-19. It’s a mental vaccine.” My prayer for the reader is that you are well vaccinated!

Sadly, early last year we were heartbroken to lose Uncle Paul and Aunt Judy within days of each other. I will always treasure the memory of their last time visiting the island as we celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The evening before the event, had us all looking up to the sky together, marveling as the International Space Station made its way over Great Lake Huron. I think my aunt and uncle would take great joy in knowing our family is doing our very best to carry on in their rich tradition of star gazing, appreciating the view more and more with each passing year we are blessed to visit the closest place to Heaven on earth.



Brandie won first place for her photograph in the 34th Annual Nature Photo Contest at Volo Bog State Park in the Black & White Landscape category

Submitted by Brandie Dunn

Future BBI Artists

The children of other residents produced island-inspired artwork for The Tatler as well:



“Our House” by Raine Riddle, age 8 ½



“Red Roof Lodge” by Vaida Riddle, age 6

The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

A Protected Friend



The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake is both shy and small. It is venomous and can be found on Bois Blanc Island. It is important to know that it is an endangered species and is protected by the federal government in hopes of saving it from extinction.

I know, why protect a poisonous snake, for that matter, why protect any snake? In our culture we tend to dislike and fear snakes. However, in many cultures of the world the snake is honored and deemed to be sacred. After all, the snake protects the crops by eating shrews, mice, moles, rats, and other small animals that damage crops.

So what? The rattlesnake can harm/kill people! Yes, but bees, insects, dogs, cats, spiders, raccoons, cars, people can harm/kill us too. Why are we so afraid of the snake? It may be our upbringing and/or religion. I do not know, but the snake gets an unfair reputation. The Eastern Massasauga should not be killed when it presents no harm, simply because of one's fear.

It is okay to be afraid of snakes and it is prudent to fear them... but it is how we control our fear that is important.

Why Protect Them?

- The Massasauga is both predator and prey. It eats rodents, snakes, and very small animals. And, IT is food for heron, hawks, eagles, owls, and other snakes.
- They are an important part of the ecosystem of the wetlands.
- Their venom is used to produce important health products including anti-coagulants for heart patients.

How Dangerous Are They? (If bitten, do seek medical attention)

- The truth is they are very shy and secretive, and do not attack unless cornered.
- Although their bite is painful and may be life threatening, Michigan and Ontario, Canada combined average 1 to 2 bites per year.
- The Massasauga releases an exceedingly small amount of venom when it bites.

How to Avoid the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake?

- Walk in wetlands or other known habitats wearing long pants and boots.
- LISTEN. Use your ears. Their rattle will alert you of their presence.
- The Massasauga live under rocks and logs. Don't step in these areas and be careful lifting up rocks. Walk around the area, or tread very carefully.

- If you see a Massasauga in the road, please don't run over it. Drive around it and let it go without disturbing it.

Give the Massasauga its space. Turn around and walk away. They will not come after you. Please, don't harm them.

Submitted by Sally Sperry

Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service, November 1999 Issue

A Young Hunter

Thirteen year old Katie Issel got her first deer ever, an 11 point buck, on the island November 2020. Captain Curt Plaunt, noted that it was the largest deer taken off the island at that point in 2020.



THE HIDEAWAY BED AND BREAKFAST AT BOIS BLANC ISLAND

On December 5th Tammie Murphy and Adam Bronkema purchased the Insel Haus Bed and Breakfast.

Tammie and Adam are not strangers to the island. They first visited 3 years ago on a vacation hosted by Scott and Wendy Kruszynski. Their island getaway marked the beginning of island life, as they purchased a waterfront lot on E Huron Dr, prior to returning to their home in Fremont, Michigan.

This past July they learned the Insel Haus may be for sale. They toured the B&B, made an offer, and the deal was done. In the fall, one of the proprietors, Mr. Shelby Newhouse, passed away. Tammie assured Christa that she would keep the house a Bed and Breakfast and continue the legacy she and Shelby had built there over the years. Originally, the new owners intended to leave the name as it was, but without Shelby and Christa, it just wasn't the same.

On December 17th 2020 the **Hideaway at Bois Blanc Island** was established. The name presented itself, as the island became the family's hideaway. One of the new owners, Tammie, is a native of Michigan. She is also a Registered Nurse, now in her 15th year of that career. Tammie and Adam may own the business but the entire family is involved in the daily operations:

Tiffany Fairbanks and her husband Nicholas
 Andy Murphy and his partner Adelene
 Nathan and Michael Murphy

Uncle Roger and Aunt Lisa Phillips are the hosts and Innkeepers



In addition to accommodations for 1 to 21, they will offer a great breakfast and the use of kayaks, bicycles. Much more will be added throughout the year. The Hideaway will be affordable yet uniquely different from other Bed and Breakfasts. Everyone is welcome; they will strive to make visitors feel like family.

The Hideaway is excited to be involved in and support local events -
The 2021 Bishop Baraga Catholic School St Patrick's Day Virtual Auction
Andy's July 4th local fishing tournament
Island Artist Arts and Craft Fair in August

The Hideaway web site will be up soon, check often for updates on added amenities, room updates and upcoming events and specials. Stop in for a tour, Meet Uncle Roger and Aunt Lisa. The Hideaway's goal is to make memories with new friends, old friends, singles, couples and families big or small.

ISLAND DINER

720 W. Huron Drive, Bois Blanc Island, MI 49775
231-634-7375

Monday through Saturday 8am - 8pm
Sunday 8am - 6pm

For summer/fall hours and specials check on their Facebook Page: Island Diner

ISLAND TAVERN



Monday – Sunday 11 a.m – 11 p.m.*

Specials:

Monday - Wings

Tuesday - Tacos

Thursday - Ladies' Shuffleboard

Friday – Fried Fish

Islandtavern@outlook.com

Like and Follow our Facebook page!

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

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

Closing Time may vary based on manager's discretion

GROCERY DELIVERY

Once again Family Fare Cheboygan will be in partnership with Plaunt Transportation for the Summer and Fall. Please remember that deliveries are always weather permitting.

May- June

Mondays & Thursdays

Departure from Cheboygan will be 12:30 pm

ORDERS DUE IN BY 9 am on SUNDAY for MONDAY delivery

ORDERS DUE IN BY 9am WEDNESDAY for THURSDAY delivery

July-August

Mondays & Thursdays

Departure from Cheboygan 9:30am

ORDERS DUE IN BY 9am SUNDAY for MONDAY delivery

ORDERS DUE IN BY 9am WEDNESDAY for THURSDAY delivery

The orders need to be emailed to both sd.1504@spartannash.com and ad.1504@spartannash.com (Please send orders to BOTH emails—one serves as a backup)

- Please put your name and the fact that it is a BBI order in the subject line.
- The orders need to be in categories or by departments so it is easier to shop.
- There is a \$10 delivery fee added to the orders by Family Fare
- Plaunt Transportation adds \$5.00 per box.
- Payment needs to be included in the email if possible. Credit card information: Card number, Expiration date, Zip code of card. In lieu of that, we will take payment over the phone. It is very important we can reach you for payment as we cannot do accounts on file.

We ask that all orders be submitted in a timely manner. Know that we are always trying our best to serve our family & friends on Bois Blanc Island

Michele Fannin, Store Director
Family Fare, Cheboygan
231-627-7161

PLAUNT TRANSPORTATION CO.

231-627-2354
Toll Free 888-PLAUNTS
Fax 231-627-6793

RATES: PASSENGERS - \$19.00 ADULT ROUND TRIP
\$13.00 CHILD ROUND TRIP
AUTOMOBILE \$68.00 ROUND TRIP

DOCK LOCATION: 412 WATER STREET

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
JANUARY-APRIL	Any Trips Made During This time Will be Strictly Weather Permitting							
Leaving From:	Cheboygan Island 8:00 am 9:30 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Cheboygan Island 8:00 am 9:30 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Cheboygan Island 8:00 am 9:30 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Cheboygan Island 8:00 am 9:30 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Cheboygan Island 8:00 am 9:30 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Cheboygan Island 8:00 am 9:30 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Cheboygan Island 8:00 am 9:30 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Cheboygan Island 9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm
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DECEMBER	Any Trips Made This Month Will Be Strictly Weather Permitting							

Subject To Change • All trips are weather permitting

2021-22 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