Beaver Island stands out geographically, naturally, and culturally. Surrounded by miles of Lake Michigan waters, this remoteness has kept intact its rural character and slower pace of life, even during Michigan’s busy tourist season. For visitors new to its shores, understanding what makes it distinctive can help make your experience a meaningful one.

Its leading feature is nature, in great abundance and diversity. It is less a destination for glossy tourist attractions than for sprawling forests and quiet inland lakes; known more for offering spacious white-sand beaches and quiet hiking trails over bustling streets and late-night venues. Elsewhere, resort towns may jump out to impress you - but here, the island asks you to meet it halfway, thoughtfully and respectfully.

Because Beaver Island’s infrastructure and ecology are from an earlier time, it asks for a more gentle touch and milder speeds as one explores it. Miles of narrow, graveled country roads take you past old farmsteads and nature preserves, wind-blown sand dunes and beach cottages. The slower you travel, the more you’ll notice - and more safely. And though we don’t have large crowds here very often, the small-scale nature of our roads and pathways calls on visitors to be mindful of those just around the next corner, so that their taste of this special place can be as ease-filled as yours.

Treasures await for the birdwatcher and amateur botanist, those who love fishing and camping, as well as enthusiasts of sailboarding, boating, and biking. Charter vessels and rental craft are available for excursions to the uninhabited outer islands, whose fields and beaches are home to uncommon plants and birds embedded in sensitive environments that both beckon the curious and encourage mindful exploration. Rare flowers and fliers need their space; and the unspoiled landscapes and waterways remind you to leave nothing behind and take only warm memories with you.

The village of St. James features one of the finest natural harbors in the Great Lakes, with swimming, kayaking, and sailing easily found in the summer months. Stargazing is another treat, with the island being recognized as a Dark Sky-worthy locale, gifting the patient viewer with constellations, shooting stars, and the unexpected display of Northern Lights now and again. Our museums showcase a rich, multi-layered history stretching from ancient indigenous culture through a storied Mormon era, to Irish immigrant settlement and the fish-town heyday of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Shops, bars, restaurants and a brewpub, lodging and rental cottages and secluded retreat centers, glamping and island tours and many other services await you here, for convenience, comfort, and discovery.

Details on many of these offerings can be found in the pages of this Visitors Guide. We invite you to cross the waters, take a deep breath, unwind - and drink in the simple wonders this unique island and archipelago have to give.
Maps, Guides & Tourist Information...

Available year-round. Located in Beaver Island Community Center, just north of the ferry dock. Download our Beaver Island app for all the up to date information on events, trail maps, lodging, and more!

Phone (231) 448-2505
Email chamber@beaverisland.org
Facebook Friends of Beaver Island

WELCOME TO BEAVER ISLAND

Aanii, Boozhoo! As we welcome you to Amikwag-endaad (Beaver Island), we would first like to respectfully acknowledge the Anishinaabek People, who have been stewards of this land through countless generations. As our ancestors before us, we gather among these islands to give thanks, learn, and appreciate what this land can share. It is up to each of us to take these teachings and pass them down to our children and their children’s children, in respect for what the Great Creator has given us: mino bimaadiiwin (the Good Life).

Chii Miigwetch (Great Thanks)
Chamber of Commerce

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2019 Beaver Island Map & Guide

19” x 28” Full Map & Guide
A must for visitors! $7.00 by mail

Please send check to: BI Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 5, Beaver Island, MI 49782
For complete information visit: www.beaverisland.org

Photo Credits: Cynthia Hector Johnson, Becca Foli, and Frank Salie

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While the island has long been a star gazers destination, this spring the unique quality of its nighttime skies was officially recognized by DarkSky International with the recognition of the Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area International Dark Sky Sanctuary. It joins just 19 other locations on the planet with that designation and is the 11th Dark Sky Sanctuary in the US. Dark Sky Sanctuaries generally offer among the darkest night skies in the world. The sanctuary is the first in Michigan and is within the core area of the UNESCO Obtawaing Biosphere, an area already recognized for its important natural features.

The new designation will be celebrated on the island this year during Beaver Island Dark Sky week (August 4-12) with special viewing opportunities at island locations and presentations about enjoying and protecting the Island's dark skies. On September 20th, there will be an official dedication ceremony for the sanctuary with attendance expected by representatives of state and local government as well as the general public.

The DarkSky International designation comes after several years of organizing and work by members of the island's Dark Sky Task Force that was organized by the Beaver Island Chamber and the Beaver Island Association. They worked in cooperation with Peaine and St. James Townships, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Central Michigan University and others to complete the application of the Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area International Dark Sky Sanctuary filed with DarkSky International.
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Beaver Island Boat Rentals
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togetherislandboatrentals.com

Burton Car Rental
and E-Bike Rentals
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(e) burtoncarrentals@gmail.com

Duffy’s Auto
Rental & Service
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(e) duffer223@gmail.com

TO BEAVER ISLAND

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BEAVER ISLAND
231.448.2089
(e) info@freshairaviation.net

Island Airways
www.islandairways.com
(p) 800.524.6895
(e) islair@islandairways.com

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM:

To the island: Travel to and from Beaver Island is made easy for visitors. Beaver Island Boat Company has two ferry’s, the Beaver Islander and the Emerald Isle. Both ferries carry passengers and cars. Reservations for cars are needed in advance and can be made starting as early as January. Don’t wait to make a reservation if you want to bring your car as space fills quickly! A trip from Charlevoix to Beaver Island typically takes a little over two hours. Two airlines service Beaver Island and fly to and from the island every hour so you have a lot of choices for travel times. 30#’s of luggage is included in the ticket price and additional weight is charged at a nominal fee per pound. Flying to the island from Charlevoix takes approximately 15 minutes.

On the island: Beaver Island is 13 miles long and 6 miles wide. If visitors want to traverse the island, transportation on the island is needed. Whether you bring your own car, bikes, or both or if you choose to rent on the island, we strongly recommend having transportation so that the entire island can be enjoyed.

Unable to bring your car on the ferry? No problem! Beaver Island has two rental car companies and bike rentals to help you navigate the island. Reservations for rental cars are required and should be made as soon as possible.

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ON BEAVER ISLAND

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231.448.2204 summer season
(e) brothersplacebi@yahoo.com

Beaver Island Lodge
www.beaverislandlodge.com
(p) 231.448.2396
(e) beaverislandlodge@tds.net

Beaver Island Retreat
www.beaverislandretreat.com
(p) 614.571.5062 or 330.413.4434
(e) contact@beaverislandretreat.com

The Convent
www.theconvent.us
(p) 231.448.2230
(e) holycross@tds.net

Emerald Isle Inn
www.emeraldislandinn.com
(p) 231.448.2376

The Erin Motel
(p) 231.448.2240
(e) erinmotel@comcast.net

Harbor View Motel
www.harborviewbeaverisland.com
(p) 231.448.2201
(e) harborview@tds.net

Isle Haven Resort
(p) 231.448.2853 May-October
231.740.8551 November-April
(e) pikedut@yahoo.com

McCann House Bed and Breakfast
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(p) 231.420.2167

IN CHARLEVOIX

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11
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CAMPING

St. James Township Campground
- Reservation System: www.stjamestwp.org or call May 15 - October 31 at 231-448-2414
- 12 rustic sites and 6 electric sites
- Located on the north end of the Island (off Donegal Bay Rd, one mile from the Harbor area).
- For information on rates/registration information for St. James campsite. https://www.stjamestwp.org
- Water on site: Hand pump near rustic sites, Running cold water spigot near showers, Four enclosed outdoor showers with hot and cold running water, Pit Toilets (2) near rustic sites, Portable Toilets near showers (1 standard, 1 ADA)
- Electricity: Sites 13-18, Sites 17 and 18 are ADA Compliant

Bill Wagner Peaine Township Campground
- Reservation System: First come, first serve.
  - $15 per night per campsite
  - 22 rustic sites (no showers or electricity)
  - Located on the east side of the Island (seven miles south of Harbor area, via East Side Road).

NO RESERVATIONS: First-come, first-serve. Campgrounds are rarely full more than one day at a time.

QUESTIONS: Please email the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce at www.beaverisland.org.

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(e) S.Richards.REALTOR@gmail.com

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Circle M Bar & Restaurant
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(e) petroqueen2@yahoo.com

Daddy Franks
(p) 231.448.2570

Harbour Bodega
www.harbourbodega.com
(p) 231.448.2857
(e) vickyfingeroott@yahoo.com

Paradise Bay Coffee Shop and Restaurant
www.paradisebaycoffee.com
(p) 231.448.3003
(e) dale_terry_keyes@msn.com

Shamrock Restaurant & Pub
www.shamrockbarrestaurant.com
(p) 231.448.2278
(e) erichodgson@mac.com

“The Restaurant” – Beaver Island Lodge
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(e) beaverislandlodge@tds.net

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A farmer’s market is held every Thursday throughout the summer outside the shop. Coffee is roasted at the coffee shop at least one day each week during the summer.

Visit ParadiseBayCoffee.com for more information and to order coffee online.

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34230 Donnell Mor’s Lane, Beaver Island, Michigan 49782

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Vicky Fingeroot will work with you to customize your menu and create the food and experience that you want.

Events to look forward to this summer:
• June 15: Refreshing signature summer cocktails with multi course dinner.
  In partnership with Long Road Distillery
• August 24: Fall into whiskey and multi course seasonal food pairing.
  In partnership with Long Road Distillery
• June 24: Cooking class with Bodega
• All events will be held at BIC Center.

For More Information:
(231) 448-2857  |  vickyfingeroot@yahoo.com
www.HarbourBodega.com  |  Harbour Bodega  |  Harbour Bodega

This year Vicky Fingeroot’s Harbour Bodega transitions into Harbour Bodega & Bodega Catering, going from a brick-and-mortar specialty food market to an exclusive catering service. Closing her Main Street venue and pouring her creative culinary skills into local and mainland catering offers a distinct advantage: with her energies freed from running a store, she’s now able to focus exclusively on her clients, through offerings ranging from a simple tin of gourmet Mac & Cheese to full-service packages featuring multi-course meals complemented with aesthetic table arrangements and printed menus. In her words, she promises the skills of a private chef “catering for your campfire or cabin”, with attention to many needs in between.

Vicky comes to her craft with a wealth of prior experience in the hospitality fields, operating an events-planning business early on, then spending years gaining expertise in cuisine at esteemed restaurants in Detroit and Traverse City, along with serving as sous chef for a private chef in Lake Leelanau. World travel has inspired her tastes, with recent forays bringing her to Tokyo to learn the nuances of sushi, soba, yakitori, and ramen; and to San Sebastian in Spain’s Basque region (with more Michelin-rated restaurants per capita than anywhere in the world) for a deep dive into classic mediterranean fare.

Using a licensed, modern kitchen for her new operations, Fingeroot will be aided by the proven talents of her ‘Bodega Buddies’, staff from the former Main Street venue. Together they’ll serve up a variety of catered entrees for the discerning customer, covering Asian, American Fusion, Southwest/Mexican, Italian focusing on homemade pastas, and fresh whitefish from regional fisheries fashioned into whitefish piccata and pâté. Special ticketed events are planned for the summer and beyond, as Bodega Catering partners with Grand Rapids’ award-winning Long Road Distillers to stage multi-food and drink dinners such as ‘Fresh and New Flavors for Spring’ and ‘Fall into Winter’, replete with local and international dishes that can be served either as appetizer or main course - all made from local sources to emphasize convenience.

The business will have a physical presence at island Farmers Markets during summer, and digitally year-round, with website links to weekly specials which can be pre-ordered. Vicky will also offer in-person and online cooking classes, including an expert-led class in foraging for forest edibles such as mushrooms and other delicacies, all of which can be used in cooking. With all these possibilities, Harbour Bodega & Bodega Catering enters a rich new chapter in local and regional culinary service.

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Beaver Island Municipal Marina
NORTH & SOUTH

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MARINAS

Beaver Island Municipal Marina
North Dock
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(e) harbormaster.stjamestwp.bi@gmail.com

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(p) 231.622.9543
(e) bigrockrental@outlook.com

Beaver Island Boat Rentals
www.beaverislandboatrentals.com
(p) 231.456.6688
Plan a Day Trip

Want to visit for just the day? Daily round trip passage is available most days in our peak season.

You should arrive at the ferry dock by 7:30 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. departure from Charlevoix.

The last boat departs at 5:20 p.m. from Beaver Island. Make sure to arrive about 30 minutes prior to boat departure. A day trip pairs with our historic island tour! May 21st and 23rd, and August 27th and 29th day trips are unavailable.

About Our Boats

- Comfortable passenger cabins with table seating and reclining chairs
- Open air decks with tables and benches
- Light vending available
- Well-mannered pets allowed on leashes in designated areas
- *Emerald Isle* equipped with stair lift
- Restrooms aboard both vessels
- Smoking is prohibited
- WIFI
Ferry Schedule 2024

Plan a Day Trip

Let us ferry you away to your island adventure! May 21st and 23rd, and prior to boat departure. A day trip pairs with Island. Make sure to arrive about 30 minutes from Beaver Charlevoix. The last boat departs at 5:20 p.m. from Beaver.

7:30 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. departure You should arrive at the ferry dock by passage is available most days in our peak season. Want to visit for just the day? Daily round trip to Beaver Island is available at 8:30 a.m. and 11:20 a.m. and then at 2:20 PM. The last return is at 7:30 PM.

Boats are equipped with stair lift, seating and reclining chairs, well-mannered pets allowed on leashes in designated areas, light vending available. WIFI and restrooms aboard both vessels.

Our historic island tour! Our schedule for 2024 includes the following:

**2024 Schedule**

**APRIL**
- S M T W T F S
- 1 2 3 4 5 6
- 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
- 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
- 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
- 28 29 30

**MAY**
- S M T W T F S
- 1 2 3
- 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
- 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
- 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

**JUNE**
- S M T W T F S
- 1 2 3
- 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
- 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
- 25 26 27 28 29 30

**JULY**
- S M T W T F S
- 1 2 3 4 5 6
- 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
- 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
- 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
- 28 29 30 31

**AUGUST**
- S M T W T F S
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
- 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
- 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
- 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
- 29 30

**SEPTEMBER**
- S M T W T F S
- 1 2 3
- 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
- 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
- 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

**OCTOBER**
- S M T W T F S
- 1 2 3 4 5
- 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
- 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
- 27 28 29 30

**NOVEMBER**
- S M T W T F S
- 1 2 3
- 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
- 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
- 25 26 27 28 29 30

**DECEMBER**
- S M T W T F S
- 1 2 3
- 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
- 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
- 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

**DEPARTING BEAVER ISLAND**
- 12:00 PM ONE TRIP 8:30 AM
- 2:30 PM ONE TRIP *May 19th additional 5:20 PM departure from Beaver Island 11:20 AM
- 11:30 AM TWO TRIPS 8:30 AM 2:20 PM
- 8:30 AM ONE TRIP 11:20 AM
- 8:30 AM ONE TRIP 5:20 PM
- 8:30 AM TWO TRIPS 11:20 AM *June 3rd Beaver Islander will depart 11:20 AM - June 6th at 8:30 AM from Beaver Island *September 3rd NO 5:20 PM departure from Beaver Island
- 8:30 AM THREE TRIPS 11:20 AM *2:20 PM 5:20 PM
- 8:30 AM FOUR TRIPS 11:20 AM *8:20 AM 11:20 AM 2:20 PM 5:20 PM

Rates, schedules and specific vessel are subject to change without notice. Please check our website for updates. All trips are weather permitting.
**Safety**

- **DO NOT HANG UP WHEN CALLING 911.** It take up to 30 seconds for an operator to answer.
- Locate all fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in the house before settling in.
- Fire bans are common on the island due to forest fire risk. Bans can be issued by either the Fire Chief, your rental or both. **Fire bans MUST be followed.** Check the daily fire indicator signs located around the island before lighting a fire in the designated location of your rental, if permitted.
- ORVs and SUVs are permitted on County Roads Only. See the island ORV map for detailed information for your riding pleasure.
- For everyone's safety, fireworks are prohibited at all times and all places on Beaver Island except as permitted per Michigan law.
- Locate all fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in the house before settling in.

**Sustainability**

- What comes to the island must leave the island! If containers are provided, please recycle to reduce the cost of waste leaving the island.
- Recycling and trash should be taken to the “Transfer and Recycling Center” located at 36770 East Side Dr.
- Please compost if a bin is available. Reducing food waste in green bags reduces island costs to remove trash.
- Respect the island’s fragile environment by staying on marked trails, refrain from removing flowering vegetation, disturbing wildlife habitats, and, to protect our dark skies, turn off unnecessary lighting when not in use.

**Specifics**

- Beaver Island uses septic tanks. Please be mindful of excessive flushing and overuse of water. Health code limits capacity to 2 people per bedroom.
- Park at your rental only in designated parking areas. Do not block the road or other driveways.
- Your pet must be leashed at all times when not on your rental property. Pick up waste.
- Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Endangered species live here.
- Excessive noise is a violation of a township ordinance. Respect your neighbors by observing quiet hours beginning at 10pm.

**IMPORTANT:** Immediately report disturbances, ORV/ATV activity on a beach or sand dune or watercraft harassing wildlife. Call 911 (for an immediate response) AND MNDR 800-292-7800 for natural resource damage.

**HELP US COLLECT DATA!! Call our CONFIDENTIAL recorded Hotline to report Short Term Rental concerns or disturbances: 231-448-3541**

Funded by Peaine Township in collaboration with St. James Township.
Beaver Island uses Single Stream Recycling

Single-stream recycling is a system in which all the recyclables, including newspaper, plastic, cans, styrofoam, glass, paper, metal, etc., are placed in a single bin or cart for recycling. Transporting recyclables costs the island $0. That’s a huge win!

What are “Green Bags?”

Green bags are prepaid garbage bags for trash only. Green Bags should be filled with trash, not recyclables or food waste. By recycling and composting instead of putting these items in Green Bags, Beaver Island can reduce the volume of trash shipped off the island, reducing enormous cost.

How do I compost if there’s no receptacle?

There are no laws requiring composting. If you do not have the means to keep food out of your green bags, educate your host or island contact of the importance.

Where can I buy Green Bags?

Small and Large green bags can be purchased at the Gas Station, Grocery Store, Hardware Store, and Transfer Station.

Where can I recycle?

The transfer and recycling station is conveniently located close to town at 36770 East Side Dr.

- May thru October - 8am to 5pm
- CLOSED: Sunday and Holidays
- November thru April – 10am to 5pm
- CLOSED: Sunday and Holidays

For detailed information on recycling, please visit recyclingraccoons.org

Some information and all racoon pictures taken from recyclingraccoons.org

Funded by Peaine Township
Beaver Island ORV Map

ORV use on Beaver Island is limited to these marked county roads.

<map of Beaver Island showing ORV-use roads in green>
What’s the word on ORVs & ATVs?

Below you’ll find the answers to the most commonly asked ORV / ATV questions.

You are responsible for following all MI laws related to ORVs and ATVs.

Can we drive on County Roads?
You must follow posted signs and all safety regulations. 25mph

Can we drive on the beach or dunes?
You will be subject to a fine and potential loss of privileges

Can we drive in downtown St. James?
You must follow posted signs and all safety regulations. 25mph

Can we drive our ATV at night?
Without headlights, taillights, & brake lights, you will be subject to a fine

Are helmets required?
You are required to follow all safety regulations

Can we drive on the trails?
You will be subject to a fine and potential loss of privileges

Can we drive on DNR dedicated natural lands?
This is strictly prohibited

Is there an age limit to driving on the roads?
Anyone under 16 requires an ORV safety certificate & a parent/guardian

Please respect and protect Beaver Island!
HUNTING & FISHING

Beaver Island is truly an outdoor sportsman’s dream. Imagine a remote and rustic fishing and hunting lodge with fun for the whole family.

Five-pound-plus smallmouth bass are commonly reeled in. One of the inland lakes is an undiscovered largemouth paradise. The flats-style fishing for ‘golden bones’ is world-class.

Beaver Island is a QDM whitetail deer destination. While hunting for ducks, turkeys, upland game birds, and snowshoe hare is seasonally outstanding.

Please purchase hunting and fishing licenses before you arrive. Licenses are not available for sale on the Island.

Beaver Island Wildlife Club
(p) 231.448.2220

CHARTER SERVICES & BOAT RENTALS

Beaver Island Boat Rentals
www.beaverislandboatrentals.com
(p) 231.459.6688

Indigo Guide Service
www.indigoguideservice.com
(p) 231.898.4320
(e) indigoguidekevin@gmail.com

Kelly Day Charters
www.kellydaycharters.com
(p) 517.974.0414
(e) kellydaycharters@gmail.com

Paradise Bay Boat Charter and Dive Shop
www.paradisebaydiveshop.com
(p) 231.448.3195 | 231.632.1063
(e) salty_dog_50@yahoo.com
Beaver Island Birding

The Beaver Island Birding Trail was designed to give birders the resources to explore year-round. Over 200 species of birds are documented on the island’s birding list. The BIBT includes examples of each of the Island’s diverse habitats along more than 100 miles of roads and over 12,000 acres of public lands. Birding during spring migration (mid-to late-May) is excellent. During the breeding season, Common Loon pairs can be observed easily without disturbing the birds. Many songbird species nest here, including a host of warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, tanagers and others. Fall birding is equally productive. During the winter it is not uncommon to view Snowy Owls, Pine Grosbeaks, and Rough-legged Hawks who venture south. (BIBT QR Code or visit on BIBT Facebook).
Explore the Beaver Island Museums! The Beaver Island Historical Society welcomes you to visit our museums: the Print Shop, Marine Museum and the Protar Home. In our museums you will learn about the First Peoples, A Mormon King, commercial fishing history, various shipwrecks within the Beaver Archipelago, Island life, natural history, Irish heritage and much more.

Our Staff looks forward to chatting with you and sharing Beaver Islands unique history. We offer various resources and services to our visitors. These include genealogical research, archive services, a series of historical journals and other books for purchase.

The Print Shop Museum was built in 1850 by the followers of the self-proclaimed Mormon King James Jesse Strang. The structure was a Print Shop and home of Northern Michigan’s first newspaper. Today the Museum is also the home base for our administrative staff and once again the Northern Islander Newspaper and the Beaver Beacon Magazine.

Our signature events are Museum Week (3rd week of July), Kids Camp (4th week of July) and the Beaver Island Film Festival in September.

Lori Taylor-Blitz : Executive Director

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

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

Print Shop Exhibits

The Print Shop Museum has detailed exhibits about the Mormon Colony of Strangites, Native American inhabitants, early settlers, Island musicians, and the beloved Island healer Fedor Protar.

An Irish History Exhibit is on permanent display at the Museum commemorating the early Irish Patriarchs and Matriarchs. The exhibit hosts a collection of sketches by Beaver Island Historian Helen Collar. Ms. Collar met with family descendants in the early 1970s sketching portraits from shared photos, documenting the Beaver Island Irish Ancestry.

Join us every Wednesday during the summer months for a Picnic on the Patio. A brief 30-minute lunchtime chat about various Island topics.
Feodor Protar

Feodor Protar was known on Beaver Island as the unofficial doctor and medicine man. Protar was born in Tartu, Estonia in 1837. For many years, he led a career as an actor in Europe, though in 1874, he emigrated to the United States. After establishing himself as a newspaper editor in Illinois, Protar later found himself seeking a simpler life where he then moved to Beaver Island in 1893. Inspired by Leo Tolstoy, Protar took it upon himself to live a more secluded and self-sustaining lifestyle. Though the influence of locals and his neighbors, Protar found himself treating patients and practicing medicine while unlicensed. At the time, Protar was the only medical ‘professional’ on the island and this seemed to influence true established medical professionals to support his practice. Protar died as one of the most well respected men on Beaver Island and his memorial still stands today just down the road from his home which is regularly opened to the public for viewing during the summer months.

Within the Print Shop Museum, there is an exhibit featuring Feodor Protar. The exhibit displays several artifacts including medical supplies and personal belongings from his home on Beaver Island.

Beaver Head Lighthouse

As one of the oldest light stations on Lake Michigan, the Beaver Head Lighthouse beamed brightly to aid Mariners passing by Beaver Island. Rebuilt in 1858, community families operated this lighthouse. From Harrison “Tip” Miller, a Mormon Keeper, to Dominick Gallagher, the longest-serving keeper.

The addition of a fog signal in November 1890 prompted an addition to the lightkeeper’s home so additional families could help tend the light station. The Beaver Head Lighthouse was decommissioned in 1962. The Charlevoix Lighthouse School operated a camp in the buildings and surrounding sites from 1975-2016.

Today the Beaver Head Lighthouse Tower is open for self-guided tours from May –October.
### 2024 ONGOING HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 17-August 12</td>
<td>Marine Museum Mondays: A lunch-hour chat. Pack a lunch and join us for a variety of Maritime presentations</td>
<td>Marine Museum-Masini Welcome Deck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 19-August 14</td>
<td>Picnic on the patio: A lunch-hour chat. Pack a lunch and join us for a variety of Beaver Island History presentations</td>
<td>Print Shop Patio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June-September</td>
<td>Protar Tours: Wednesdays and Saturdays 1-3 pm</td>
<td>Protar Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-November</td>
<td>Beaver Head Lighthouse Tours- Tower Open</td>
<td>Beaver Head Lighthouse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2024 SPECIAL EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Northern Islander 1st Anniversary Celebration 7pm</td>
<td>Print Shop Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Docent Appreciation Luncheon 12 pm</td>
<td>Print Shop Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Museums Open House</td>
<td>Print Shop &amp; Marine Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>BIHS Road Rally Time TBD</td>
<td>Ends at Beaver Head Lighthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Volunteer Fair 1-4 pm</td>
<td>Print Shop Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>78’S For The People 7 pm</td>
<td>Print Shop Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>Baroque Lecture 7 pm</td>
<td>Print Shop Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>BIHS Donor Appreciation Event 7 pm</td>
<td>Print Shop Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18</td>
<td>Beaver Head Lighthouse Picnic/Tours</td>
<td>Beaver Head Lighthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Beaver Head Lighthouse Reveal-Time TBD</td>
<td>Beaver Head Lighthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 14</td>
<td>Holiday Social 7pm</td>
<td>Print Shop Museum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2024 Museum Week - July 15-18

**Events @ 7 pm/ Art Show 11-4**

**Monday**  
Music on the Porch  
Print Shop Museum

**Tuesday**  
The Stapletons: Inland Seas Show featuring Musical Sea Shanty’s  
CMU Open House  
Print Shop Museum

**Wednesday**  
Women’s History Day 1  
Art Show  
Print Shop Museum

**Thursday**  
Women’s History Day 2  
Art Show  
Print Shop Museum

**Friday**  
Art Show  
Gregg Fellowship Hall

### 2024 Kids Camp - July 22-26 10-3 pm

**Monday**  
Beaver Tales  
Morning meet at school

**Tuesday**  
Archaeology with Paleo Joe  
Morning meet at school

**Wednesday**  
Natural History  
Morning meet at school

**Thursday**  
Power Book Bags  
Morning meet at school

**Friday**  
Community Day  
Morning meet at school

### 2024 Beaver Island Film Festival

**September 20 & 21 @ 7 PM**

**Friday**  
Short Films - TBD  
Print Shop Museum

**Saturday**  
Feature Film: Louder Than Love: The Grand Ballroom Story  
Print Shop Museum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 24-26</td>
<td>Warblers on the Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21-22</td>
<td>Sustainability Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Parade &amp; Fireworks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Glen McDonough Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15-20</td>
<td>Museum Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18-20</td>
<td>Beaver Island Music Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27-Aug 3</td>
<td>Baroque on Beaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 9-11</td>
<td>Homecoming Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 6-8</td>
<td>Irish Feile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 11-13</td>
<td>Harvest on the Harbor - Fall Celebration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on events visit [www.biccenter.org](http://www.biccenter.org) and click on the “Community Calendar.”
ENTERTAINMENT
Throughout each year a variety of events are enjoyed by Islanders and visitors alike.

Many locals of Irish descent take charge of regular celebrations, starting with a full schedule of St. Patrick’s Day fun. Harvest on the Harbor also includes a craft show and fun run, helping to cap our spectacular fall color season.

The Community Center, across from the ferry dock in the “heart of downtown,” is home to a variety of events ranging from current films, comedy shows, musical productions, concerts, live theater, and more.

Three music festivals share the Island’s long summer days and cool comfortable evenings, while numerous talented local artists and craft persons call Beaver Island their home.

**Beaver Island Community Center**
www.biccenter.org  
(p) 231.448.2022  
(e) info@biccenter.org

**B. I. Cultural Arts Association**
www.baroqueonbeaver.org  
(p) 269.217.5901  
(e) info@baroqueonbeaver.org

**Beaver Island Music Festival**
www.bimf.net  
(p) 231.330.6645  
(e) bimfburton@yahoo.com

**Holy Cross Catholic Hall**
www.beaverisland.org/holy-cross-hall  
(p) 231.448.2206  
(e) holycross@tds.net

**Patrons of the Arts in Rural Communities**
www.bimf.net  
(p) 231.838.2883  
(e) beaverislandmusicfest@gmail.com
BY MARLAINA COLE

Growing up, I considered myself a part-time islander; my school years were spent on the mainland, and my summers on Beaver Island. With college now behind me, this past year was the first I’d been able to spend entirely on the Island. Aside from work and spending time with family and friends, I’ve found a number of various hobbies to keep me happy in my year-round home. Here are a few of my favorites that are suitable for both Islanders and visitors alike:

FUN IN THE FOREST

• **Disc Golf:** Grab your discs for an afternoon of friendly competition. This 9-hole course is integrated into the woods surrounding Hideaway Trail, the location of Beaver Island’s annual Music Festival.

• **Hammocking:** Find one of many secluded spots on the island to set up your hammock for a relaxing day out in nature. My favorite spots are the top of Mt. Pisgah on Donegal Bay Road and in the trees surrounding St. James Campground.

• **Geocaching:** Explore the Island, find clues, and solve mysteries to find the many hidden geocaches in the area. I recommend downloading the Geocaching app for easy navigation.

• **Foraging:** Beaver Island is home to many edible plants and fungi. Visit the Island in May for morel hunting, July and August for raspberry and blackberry picking, and September for apple harvesting. Enjoy your edible delights as-is or use them to make tasty creations!

WHAT’S ON AT THE WATER

• **Beach Volleyball:** With courts located both at the Public Beach in town and at Donegal Bay, you can enjoy a quick pick-up game during your beach day. Volleyballs are usually available near the net, you can buy/bring your own, or feel free to jump in a game that may already be going on.

• **Rock Hunting:** While Petoskey stones are rare to find on the shores of Beaver Island, there are other unique stones worth searching for, particularly ones that glow. Grab a blacklight to search for and observe the fluorescent phenomenon. Beaches where you may likely stumble across these hidden gems are Iron Ore Bay, Gull Harbor, and down below the southern Lighthouse. Keep an eye out for the many shades of beach glass as well.

• **Water Sports:** If you want to get out and enjoy Lake Michigan, there are many businesses on the island that rent out paddle boards and kayaks—and even Jet Skis—for the day. Take them out on St. James Harbor or explore one of our seven inland lakes. If you have time, try to find the car bodies on the cusps of the harbor where you can view the frames of old cars purposely sunk to create artificial fishing habitats. If you want an even closer look, you can charter Mike Weed to bring you out for some snorkeling and scuba diving excursions. Don’t forget the fishing is great, too.

• **Bonfires:** At the end of the day, warm up by sitting around a campfire while you roast marshmallows and stargaze in a place known for its dark skies and northern lights. The St. James Campground, Wagner Campground, and Lake Genesareth all have public fire pits for use.

INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

• **Trivia Night:** If you are looking for a brain-teasing activity, find your way to the BI Community Center to partake in bi-weekly ‘Trivia Night’ where you can test your knowledge, enjoy some drinks and snacks, and maybe even win some great prizes.

• **Cards & Games:** Bring a deck of cards to one of the many eateries on the Island to play some games while you sample the local fare. In the off-season, the brewery hosts ‘Euchre Night’ on Thursdays, fun for beginners and experts alike. In the Shamrock, enjoy Pool or Shuffleboard. The BI Community Center provides a “hangout” upstairs with a variety of games, puzzles, pool table, and magnificent view of the harbor.

• **Open Mic Night:** Every other Tuesday, the Harbour Bodega sponsors Open Mic Night at the BI Community Center. Come listen to the local talent, or if you’re brave enough, perform yourself!

• **Museum Tours:** Both the Old Mormon Print Shop and Marine museums provide a historical perspective of the Island and its cultural origins. We also have a Toy Museum filled with old wonders to look at, new toys to peruse through, and beautiful arts & crafts for sale.

AROUND THE ISLAND

• **Bike Boodle:** Decorate your bike with lights and get ready to listen to some fun music as you participate in an 8-mile bike ride around Donegal Bay and Barney’s Lake. You can rent bicycles or E-bikes through Burton Rentals, Lakesports, and BI Boat Rentals. Meet up in town near the bronze circular sculpture and stay afterwards for a nice fire and hangout with other bikers.

• **Mt. Pisgah:** A favorite spot for sunsets and stargazing, visit the three-tier 730’ sand dune to get one of the best views of Lake Michigan and some of the surrounding archipelago islands during sunset hours. Whenever there are meteor showers on the radar, or even just a clear night, I find myself coming here to lay down and look up at the stars. The Milky Way is always a treat!

• **Trails:** While there are a plethora of trails to discover on the Island, there are a couple that I frequent with the first being Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve Trail. Located just a bit past Island Airways, this trail takes you first through some fields, then marshlands, and leads you to the beach of Little Sand Bay. Another favorite is Kuebler Trail, which starts at Protar’s Tomb, takes you near Barney’s Lake Nature Preserve, and leaves you at the end of Donegal Bay.

• **Golfing:** Lazy days in the summer are more often than not filled with golf! At the Beaver Island Golf Course you can partake in a 9-hole course surrounded by trees and foliage (a real obstacle for a novice like me). While it takes almost half the day for us to finish only 9 holes, there is something really relaxing about cracking a cold one and riding around in the golf carts with all your friends.

What sets Beaver Island apart from other islands is the quiet, relaxed pace, the beautiful nature and pristine waters, the friendly waves as you pass by, and the opportunity to create both your own schedule and your own fun. Stepping on the shores of Beaver Island is like stepping back in time, and Island time is the best time. It’s been said that you are a stranger here but once, and after you get the sand in your shoes, you’ll always come back. The only hurry is in the getting here, so get going and come see us!
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Your home plays a central role in your everyday life, as you enjoy time with your children, friends, or family; or simply relaxing and enjoying a beautiful day. Improving or building these spaces can mean partnering with an expert that understands your vision and can turn it into reality. Our team focuses on exceeding your expectations and turning your dreams into reality through honest communication and professional expertise.

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Preston Herren—Vice President

Maura Turner—Construction Officer
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(e) haggardsinc@hotmail.com

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(e) petroqueen2@yahoo.com

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(p) 231.499.0136
(e) kmcontractorsllc@gmail.com

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www.mcdonoughconstructioninc.com
(p) 231.448.3038 | 231.675.5444
(e) kmcd67@gmail.com

Olson Construction
www.olsonconstructionllc.org
(p) 231.675.8180
(e) olsonconstructionbi@gmail.com

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www.charlevoixstatebank.com
(p) Charlevoix Branch: 231.448.2190
(p) Boyne City Branch: 231.582.1146
(e) jmonteith@csbchx.com

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www.jefftraudt.com
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(e) jeff@jefftraudt.com

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www.nmibenefits.com
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(e) tim@northernmichiganbenefits.com
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Emergencies: 911

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(e) cmubs@cmich.edu

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WEDDINGS | CHURCHES

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Holy Cross Catholic Church & Hall
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