

# BISI REVIEW

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MAY 2006

## Bois Blanc Island Stewardship Institute

**T**he BISI Review is a monthly publication produced by the Bois Blanc Island Stewardship Institute or BISI (pronounced Busy).

The Review encourages community involvement, communication and values that serve the well being and quality of life on Bois Blanc Island. The Review is produced by Islanders for Islanders and is always accepting submissions. Please see the calendar of events for deadlines. With the help of the Island community, BISI is operational. As the acronym implies, the organization is action oriented and geared toward helping the island

help itself. Many of us have heard complaints, discussions, and casual conversations about Island issues, but what is the end result? BISI is here to put your ideas, concerns, and dreams into action. We are always ready to listen to any ideas, thoughts, etc., on how to improve and preserve the quality of life on the Island. We are always accessible to the community and ready to provide resources and volunteers. BISI helps to facilitate community involvement and local governmental support. BISI also hopes to get involved with the other Island organizations and work parallel with them, as we be-

lieve partnerships strengthen a sense of community.

Current BISI projects include the *BISI Review*, monthly roadside clean-ups, and managing garbage at campsites. As the organization grows, develops, and gains support, more projects will be undertaken, but we need your help. Community involvement is essential. BISI would like to thank the following community members for their support and involvement: Sally Sperry, Shelby Newhouse, Graham Whipple, Mike White, John Engle and all who have listened to the ideas evolve and have helped to make BISI a reality.

## That "S" Word?

After a 45 minute lecture on **sustainability**, a student asked, "What is that 's' word you are talking about? I think it is an important point that we all should be aware of." My mind raced to find the answer quickly because rarely do students show interest in anything but the door once class has ended. I tried to list off words beginning with "s" and finally realized the "s"

word was **sustainability**. Even though it was the topic of my lecture and projected on the wall, I smiled. The idea behind this word is a simple, yet valuable one, and is deserving of your consideration. The "s" word can be expressed as the ability to meet our needs today without compromising the ability of future generations to fulfill their needs. The "s" word expects a

great deal from all of us, as there are only two things that can ensure **sustainability**: the environment and the community. A specific definition of the "s" word can only be found when the community joins together to create a shared vision of where the community wants to be 30 years down the road. The future of our island is our responsibility.

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### ROADSIDE CLEANUP

**SUNDAY MAY 28, 2006**

**10:30am**

**Meet at TWP dock to receive collection bag and then pick up refuse along any BBI road!**

**Thank You BBI TWP**



## Island History

### U.S. ARMY Sawpit #1 On Bois Blanc Island

by Michael J. White

The reason for calling this "Sawpit #1" is because it is the first of at least three U.S. Army sawpits that I have investigated on Bois Blanc. Many knew of the hole for years, but didn't make a historical connection.

In Lucius Lyon's 1827 survey of the island, he notes

an old sawpit and old house. By going to the spot on his map, you will find the old sawpit. That map hangs in many peoples' homes on this island.

Evidence indicates that the pit was dug when the U.S. Regiment of Riflemen were at Mackinac. They came to Mackinac in August 1815, and left for Green Bay late in the summer of 1816.

There was a great need for planks in 1815, 1816 and 1817. Fort Holmes was being completed and improvements made to Fort Mackinac. It was stated by McNeil, the com-

mander at Mackinac, that wood obtained with great difficulty, almost totally wasted on the Island. The task of sawing boards was usually shared by the Artillery and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. The most detailed account I could find is in the McNeil Orderly Books: "17 July 1816 - Lt. Dean of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Infantry with one Sergeant, one Corporal and twenty privates from the troops of this post are detailed for command and will report to the commanding officer tomorrow at 8 a.m. with 20 days provisions."

*(continued on page 3)*

## FUN FACTS & TID BITS

-Each ton of recycled paper can save 380 gallons of oil.

-Bois Blanc Island is the fifth largest island in Michigan's waters of the Great Lakes.

-A beaver can hold its breath for 45 minutes

-Lake Superior is roughly 1,332 ft deep and holds 3.2 quadrillion gallons of water

-A woodpecker can peck up to 20 times a second

-North Americans throw away 2.5

million plastic bottles every hour

-Bois Blanc Island is considered of highest priority for further protection based on lack of protection and known or potential significant natural features.

-A dragonfly has a life span of about 24 hours

-Sustainability or sustainable development is not a destination, but is an ongoing, adaptive learning process.

-People are a vital part of the eco-

system.

-Stewardship means being a guardian of our environment and community.

-Encompassing just 1% of the land area in the 288,000 square mile Great Lakes Basin, islands provide habitat for 10% of the endangered, threatened or, rare species that live in the basin.

-The largest inland island system on earth is found in the Great Lakes, with over 30,000 islands.

## BISI Kids



Hummingbird Feeder Materials Needed:

☺ Clear plastic container, sugar, water, beet juice, string, tree branch

Hummingbirds are the smallest of all birds. They can fly up to fifty miles per hour, they can fly backwards, or hover in mid-air. Their wings beat so quickly, you can't see them move. Humming birds hover rather than land when they feed, so their feeders are unlike other bird feeders.

1. To start this BISI Kids project

you need a small clear plastic container (remember reduce, reuse, recycle).

You can then make the container a bit more fancy and a little easier for the hummingbirds to use by cutting 3 even scallops in the top edge of the tub. This allows the hummingbirds to hover in the valleys and get closer to the food.

2. Cut your string into 3 even pieces. Punch holes in the center top part of the scallops and put one end of string into the hole and tie a knot to secure it. Do this with all three pieces of

string into each of the three holes.

3. Gather the other end of the strings together and tie them together into a knot

4. Dissolve 1 part sugar to 3 parts hot water. Add some beet juice because hummingbirds are attracted to red coloring.

5. Fill the container half full of the mixture.

6. Using the string, hang the feeder from a tree branch. This will help to keep ants from getting into the food.

## *In Your Own Words*

Welcome to BISI! In Bois Blanc terms we are also newcomers. Christa bought our Bois Blanc Island home in 1980. But, now as permanent residents who love the island we share your agenda and support your efforts to maintain existing rural and Island characteristics while protecting the environment. There will be resistance from both ends of the social spectrum and in-between. From those who wish to introduce amenities of the city, those who resist change in any form, those who seek economic development irrespective of the cost to the environment and way of life and

***“Never be intimidated by the prospect of change, It is how change is managed that’s important.”***

those for whom negativity itself is sufficient and justifies resistance to any change in the landscape. Don't be discouraged. Never be intimidated by the prospect of change. It is how change is managed that's important. The stated goals of your BISI organization auger well for its existence and success. Should you ever entertain a competition to list cherished images of Bois Blanc Island consider this one. The sight of the seesaw with a cement block tied at one end in the schoolyard of our red one room schoolhouse. Evidence of a one to one student-teacher ratio.

- *Shelby Newhouse*

## *Island History (continued from page 2)*

A list followed in the orderly book showing that one sergeant, one corporal, eight sawyers, six carpenters, and 10 axe men were detailed. So it appears that the planks sawed were being shaped for use prior to being hauled to Mackinac.

From the 1827 survey notes and a later map made from that survey by the state, the first named road on Bois Blanc was called Lumber Road. It ran, and still does, from the pit to the base of Sand Bay near Pointe aux Pier. Pointe aux Pier is

French for Stony Point and for some reason is now called Zela Point. The lumber was hauled to the beach and on to Mackinac over the ice or by boat. Also, firewood was hauled from near the west end of the present day airport to Stony Point and there are at least two military sites in that area. From Benjamin K. Pierce's Orderly Book: "Feb 10, 1819 - the acting Qrt. Master --- will hire or employ fifteen or twenty (teams?) to go to Point aux Par on the Island of Bois Blanc to transport plank to the garrison for

the purpose of building boats etc."

There is no sign that the pit was used past 1820 and may account for it being called old by 1827.

*Research and investigation  
by Michael J. White*

*Written summer 2004*

# BISI

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***“We must be the change  
we wish to see in the  
world”***

*-Gandhi*

## Ready to get BISI?

How would you like to get involved?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write article for BISI Review | <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Township Board Meeting      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Cleanup              | <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Planning Commission Meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Start new BISI project        | <input type="checkbox"/> Create Partnership with BISI       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fun Day                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fun Facts or BISI Kids             |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if you would like to receive the BISI Review by mail or email.  
Suggested donation \$10.00 for yearly subscription (more if you can less if you can't).

Comments:

# JUNE 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 World Environ- ment Day Township Board Meeting	6 Fire Dept. Meeting	7 Clean Air Day. Leave the car at home. Clinic Open (9am-2:30)	8 World's Oceans Day	9	10
11	12	13	14 Clinic Open (9am-2:30)	15	16	17
18 Father's Day	19 Articles Due for Next Review	20	21 First Day of Summer! Clinic Open (9am-2:30)	22	23	24 Roadside and Beach Cleanup
25	26	27	28 Clinic Open (9am-2:30)	29	30	