

Great Lakes Fishery Trust

COVER SHEET for FINAL REPORT

Report Submitted to Julie Bennett and Mark Coscarelli
Great Lakes Fishery Trust
600 West Saint Joseph Street, Suite 10
Lansing, Michigan 48933-2265

Grant Recipient Institutes for Journalism & Natural Resources (IJNR)
P.O. Box 1996
Missoula, MT 59806
Phone 406-273-4626

Reference **GLFT Project # 2010.1137**

IJNR Contact Frank Edward Allen, President and Executive Director
Email Address Frank.Allen@IJNR.org

Grant Awarded \$17,625

Amount Expended \$17,625

Initial Payment \$15,862.50 in March 2010

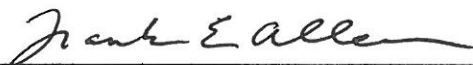
Balance Remaining \$1,762.50 (withheld pending GLFT acceptance of this final report)

Purposes of Grant To deepen and expand the knowledge of *experienced* journalists about major natural-resource challenges that confront the Great Lakes and their basin, and

To help these journalists increase public awareness and understanding about these challenges

Reporting Period March 10, 2010 through December 10, 2010
This report pertains to the Great Lakes "Refresher" Institute that IJNR conducted in August 2010.

Date of Submission December 17, 2010



IJNR Final Narrative Report for GLFT Project 2010.1137

Submitted to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust

Background and Overview

1. Briefly summarize the project description as outlined in the original proposal.

This project, a “refresher training” program, sought to expand the issues-based knowledge of *experienced* journalists (working in print, broadcast and online) about major ecological and natural resource challenges facing Lake Michigan and the four other Great Lakes. IJNR originally estimated that the resulting news stories would be read, viewed, or heard by hundreds of thousands of people and would thereby help to advance GLFT’s goal of “increasing awareness and understanding of the ecology of the Great Lakes.” This increased awareness, in turn, would help to foster better-informed decisions and greater citizen involvement.

2. Was the project completed as originally intended? If not, indicate how the final outcome(s) differed from what was anticipated. Does your experience suggest that original expectations were realistic? What factors hindered or helped progress?

Yes, the project was completed as planned. All expectations but one were realistic: Fundraising difficulties in the current economy forced IJNR to reduce the target-group size to 12 from 32. However, this reduction did not alter the content or diminish the quality of the program.

Naming the program the Beaver Islands Institute was a positive step. It helped the experts who gave presentations and the journalists alike to focus on significant natural-resource concerns—such as cormorants, fish populations, logging, wetlands, amphibians and the aquatic food web—that affect both the namesake archipelago in northern Lake Michigan and many other parts of the Great Lakes basin.

Project Outcomes

3. What activities were pursued in relationship to intended outcomes, and to what extent did you achieve the following intended outcomes listed in your proposals? (Merge intended outcomes from proposal.)

First Proposed Outcome—Journalists will become more knowledgeable about the ecological and resource challenges facing Lake Michigan and other Great Lakes.

This outcome was achieved for all 12 journalists who participated in the program. Activities included visits to recreational fishing sites, fish-spawning habitat, a wetland with rare plants, a shoreline preserve, a clear-cut forest parcel and other informative sites in the Beaver Islands archipelago, as well as extended discussions with experts on cormorants, Asian carp, fish biology, fisheries management and similar topics.

Second Proposed Outcome—The public will have more opportunities to increase their awareness about natural resource issues throughout the Great Lakes region.

This outcome is still “under way” as resulting stories continue to proliferate. Hundreds of thousands of citizens already have gained such opportunities for increased awareness through specific coverage generated by *The Associated Press*, *The Blade* in Toledo, *The Star Tribune* in Minneapolis, *Interlochen Public Radio* in Michigan, and other large news outlets.

4. *What audience(s) were you particularly hopeful of reaching? To what extent did you reach them? Did you receive any feedback?*

In terms of the actual training, IJNR specifically hoped to reach several of the most motivated and productive alumni from its previous Great Waters Institutes. We succeeded in doing so. We also reached the broader audiences of the general public through the stories that were produced by program participants for hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of readers and listeners. As part of the feedback from evaluation surveys, IJNR received many favorable comments, including the following:

The Beavers Islands experience was another needed reminder from IJNR to get back into the field—stay out of the office and deal more and more with the people making the decisions and making a difference in the Great Lakes basin.

—Mike Scott, *The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland)

The fellowship reminded me why I chose to become a journalist 11 years ago... The past two years have been hard for reporters, especially freelancers. The Beaver Islands Institute has given me strength for the year to come—and a healthy new dose of journalistic wisdom.

—Melanie St. Hilaire, *l'Actualité* (Québec City)

5. *What relationship or opportunities were developed or strengthened through the work?*

First, the journalists strengthened their ability and skills for reporting on several issues that confront the Great Lakes, most of which are applicable to throughout the basin. Second, IJNR strengthened its relationships with participants—IJNR mentors its alumni and continues to provide alumni with information about news sources so that they can excel at their jobs. Third, IJNR developed and strengthened relationships with scientists, policymakers, resources managers and concerned residents. IJNR expects to work again with many of these people in future training programs devoted to Great Lakes issues. Further, the participating journalists have already begun contacting these experts for follow-up assistance with stories, and IJNR expects this trend to expand.

6. *Was an evaluation included as part of this project? If so, what were the key findings? (Please attach a copy of the evaluation report.)*

Yes, IJNR surveyed all the participants to gauge their reactions to the IJNR experience and to identify how IJNR might modify future Institutes. Evaluation results and personal email notes indicate that all participants felt the Beaver Islands training experience increased their knowledge about Great Lakes issues, introduced them to important story ideas about the region and provided useful professional-development opportunities. They also expressed enthusiasm for having more “short-course” and single-theme Institutes in the future. Attached is a copy of the evaluation.

7. *Whether they were intended or unintended, what do you consider the most important benefits or outcomes of this stewardship project?*

IJNR considers the infusion of new knowledge to journalists as the single most important benefit of the project. In addition, as a result of the Beaver Islands Institute, journalists have new sources they can contact for news stories about the Great Lakes. The refresher Institute also fostered extensive networking among program participants and speakers—networking that will influence coverage of Great Lakes issues for years to come.

Related Efforts

8. *Was this project a stand-alone effort or was there a broader effort beyond the part funded by the GLFT? Have other funders been involved either during the time of your GLFT grant or subsequently?*

IJNR has been training journalists about the environment of the Great Lakes since 2002; to date, IJNR has trained more than 120 journalists on Great Lakes issues, and an additional 500 other journalists on issues in other parts of North America. The Joyce Foundation has generously funded this work since its inception. IJNR hopes that the GLFT will continue to support future IJNR programs that help advance the GLFT's mission.

9. *Has there been any spin-off work or follow-on work related to this project?*

In 2011, IJNR will host its tenth consecutive, weeklong learning expedition in the Great Lakes Basin for journalists. IJNR plans to conduct a "short-course" Institute in 2011 that focuses on potential threats to Lake Michigan and the four other Great Lakes posed by invasive Asian carp.

Communication / Dissemination

10. *List publications, presentations, websites, and other forms of formal dissemination of the project deliverables, tools, or results, including those that are planned or in process.*

IJNR's methods of dissemination are expansive—news stories produced by program participants are showcased on their newsroom websites, many of them are available for hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of online readers. Here are links to four representative examples of news coverage resulting from the 2010 Beaver Islands refresher program:

Protecting 32,000 Islands of Ecological Purity

By Tom Meersman, *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis

<http://www.startribune.com/local/102745024.html?page=1&c=y>

Great Lakes Islands See Encroaching Threats to Individual Environment

By Chuck Quirnbach, *Wisconsin Public Radio*

<http://clipcast.wpr.org:8080/ramgen/wpr/news/news100907sr.rm>

Two University Labs Study Great Lakes' Island Ecosystems

By Tom Henry, *The Blade*, Toledo

<http://toledoblade.com/article/20100919/NEWS04/9180356>

Asian Carp Create Nagging Fear in Lake Erie Towns

By John Flesher, *The Associated Press*

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=12247194>

In addition to these articles that stemmed directly from the Institute, the Fellows who attended are also the journalists called on to report on issues like Asian carp, water-quality and lake levels in the Great Lakes basin. Often the importance of a Great Waters Institute is difficult to measure fully, since journalists also use the experts they meet and the information they glean during the program for other Great Lakes-related stories farther down the road. IJNR selects the best stories and runs them on its website, www.IJNR.org.

11. Please characterize your efforts to distribute and encourage use of products, processes, programs, etc. developed through this grant.

IJNR is fortunate to have a “built-in network” of the news organizations represented by the journalists who participate in its programs. For the Beaver Island Institute, those journalists, and the news organizations they serve included:

John Flesher, Environmental Writer, *Associated Press* in Traverse City, MI;
 Michael Hawthorne, Environment Reporter, *Chicago Tribune* in Chicago, IL;
 Tom Henry, Environmental Writer, *The Blade* in Toledo, OH;
 Kari Lydersen, Freelance Writer, formerly with *The Washington Post* in Chicago, IL;
 Tom Meersman, Environment Reporter, *The Star Tribune* in Minneapolis, MN;
 Noah Ovshinsky, Reporter, *WDET Detroit Public Radio* in Detroit, MI;
 Chuck Quirnbach, Environment Reporter, *Wisconsin Public Radio* in Milwaukee, WI;
 Melanie Saint-Hilaire, Freelance Writer, *L'actualité* in Québec City, QC;
 Mike Scott, Environment Reporter, *The Plain Dealer* in Cleveland, OH;
 Kristina Smith-Horn, Reporter, *Port Clinton News Herald* in Port Clinton, OH;
 Dave Spratt, Co-Founder/Editor, www.greatnorthernoutdoors.net, Ann Arbor, MI; and
 Linda Stephan, Producer/Reporter, *Interlochen Public Radio*, Interlochen, MI.

Reflections

12. Please describe any unanticipated benefits, challenges or surprises, and/or important lessons learned over the course of the project.

We were not able to venture in boats to Hat Island to visit the large cormorant colony because of high waves. However, we did not encounter any other surprises or setbacks. We learned even more than we expected about the benefits of conducting a *refresher* Institute: As the economic, scientific and political contexts of major Great Lakes stories keep changing, we observed why even the most experienced journalists who cover the issues must stay informed and “up to date.” Indeed, more than 40 other journalists in the region expressed strong interest in attending the Beaver Islands Institute but could not obtain “clearance” from their newsroom supervisors to apply because of staffing constraints. Such unmet “demand” for a specific learning opportunity underscores broader evidence that the appetite for additional specialized training on Great Lakes issues is widespread. The refresher program also stimulated networking among the journalists and their news sources. We believe these interactions will have a durable, positive impact on the practice of journalism in the Great Lakes region.

13. What recommendations (if any) would you make to other project directors working on similar efforts or to the GLFT?

IJNR thinks it critical to involve a broad and balanced spectrum of knowledgeable and credible stakeholders in civil discussions on each issue. Hearing different perspectives and examining the reasons behind them will always be essential to accurate and fair reporting.

Attachments

14. Please attach any reports or materials developed through the grant.

- Beaver Island Institute Journey Book (the detailed day-by-day itinerary of the Institute)

Financial Report

IJNR 2010 Beaver Islands Institute (Great Lakes “Refresher” Course)
Income and Expenses: January 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010

Category	Budgeted Amounts	Actual Amounts	GLFT Portion
Income	65,000	58,625	17,625
Joyce Foundation (portion of grant)	40,000	40,000	
Great Lakes Fishery Trust (grant)	20,000	17,625	
Individual Donors (contributions)	5,000	1,000	
Expenses	64,620	62,830	17,625
Staff Compensation (3 people)	28,000	37,930	
Peter Annin	18,549 (budgeted)	23,681 (actual)	
Adam Hinterthuer	3,311 (budgeted)	8,910 (actual)	
Frank Allen	6,140 (budgeted)	5,339 (actual)	
Supplies and Materials	600	903	300
Meals (journalists, speakers, staff)	9,000	4,319	4,000
Lodging	10,000	6,858	4,000
Group Travel	4,420	4,157	4,157
Excursions	5,000		
Travel Cost for Presenters	500	2,364	1,364
Travel Stipends (Journalists)	5,000	3,909	3,509
Telephone/Internet Services	500	814	250
Postage	400	90	45
Liability Insurance	1,200	1,200	
Conference Fees		286	

Financial Note:

Excursions—High winds in the Beaver Islands archipelago prevented the group from making an excursion in small boats to Hat Island to observe the large cormorant colony and the ecological damage caused by the birds. Another on-the-water excursion to discuss aspects of the Great Lakes food web had to be canceled, also due to the rough weather.



FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

GLFT Project Number: #2010.1137
 GLFT Grant Manager: Julie Bennett

Institutes for Journalism and Natural Resources
 FOR THE PERIOD: 2/9/2010—12/31/2010

I Expense Categories	II Approved Budget Line Items	III Expenditures of GLFT Funds	IV Difference Between II & III
Salaries	\$		
Fringe Benefits	\$		
Supplies/Materials/Printing	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Other Direct Expenses	\$17,325.00	\$17,325.00	
Overhead/Indirect/Admin	\$		
Contract Services	\$		
Total	\$17,625.00	\$17,625.00	

NOTE: Written explanation should be given for deviations in actual and/or proposed expenditures from originally approved budget items

V: I hereby certify that this financial report form is prepared on (check the basis that applies) _____ a cash basis an accrual basis, and the resulting balance to be correct.

Maggie Allen, Director of Operations
 Chief Financial Officer Name and Title (please type) Margaret B. Allen Chief Financial Officer (signature) Maggie Allen Date 12/17/2010

Frank Edward Allen, President and Executive Director
 Project Director Name and Title (please type) Frank E. Allen Project Director (signature) Frank E. Allen Date 12.17.2010

Itinerary for Friday, August 27, 2010

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM—Fellows and speakers arrive at the Comfort Inn and Suites, 460 Munson Ave. (US Hwy 31), in Traverse City, MI.

6:00 PM—Fellows, staff and IJNR guests gather at the Cambria Suites Hotel, 255 Munson Ave., (a few blocks down the street) for a social hour.

7:00 PM—Dinner is served at the Cambria Suites.

8:00 PM—Fellows, IJNR staff, speakers and guests introduce themselves.

Fellows

John Flesher, Environmental Writer
Associated Press
Traverse City, MI

Michael Hawthorne, Environment Reporter
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, IL

Tom Henry, Environmental Writer
The Blade
Toledo, OH

Kari Lydersen, Freelance Writer
formerly with *The Washington Post*
Chicago, IL

Tom Meersman, Environment Reporter
The Star Tribune
Minneapolis, MN

Noah Ovshinsky, Reporter
WDET Public Radio
Detroit, MI

Chuck Quirnbach, Environment Reporter
Wisconsin Public Radio
Milwaukee, WI

Melanie Saint-Hilaire, Freelance Writer
L'actualité
Québec City, QC

Mike Scott, Environment Reporter
The Plain Dealer
Cleveland, OH

Kristina Smith-Horn, Reporter
Port Clinton News Herald
Port Clinton, OH

Dave Spratt, Editor
www.greatnorthernoutdoors.net
Ann Arbor, MI

Linda Stephan, Producer/Reporter
Interlochen Public Radio
Interlochen, MI

SPEAKERS:

Dave Ewert, director of conservation science,
Great Lakes program, The Nature Conservancy

Jeff Leggo, acting director,
St. Lawrence Islands National Park

Jeff Reutter, director,
Ohio State University Stone Laboratory

Karen Vigmostad, director,
U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Islands Project

Guests:

Ed Miller, environment program manager,
The Joyce Foundation

IJNR Staff

Adam Hinterthuer, logistics magician
IJNR, Madison, WI

Peter Annin, semi-adventurous expedition leader
IJNR, Madison, WI

Frank Allen, near-sighted visionary
IJNR, Missoula, MT

9:30 PM—Fellows and guests retire early in preparation for an early morning departure.

Overnight Comfort Inn, 460 Munson Ave.
(US HWY 31), Traverse City, MI, 49686
(231) 778-8000

Last updated, August 24, 2010

Itinerary for Saturday, August 28, 2010

5:30 AM—Despite feeling groggy, Fellows and speakers punctually load their gear into vans before climbing aboard.

6:00 AM—Vans depart promptly for Charlevoix, Michigan with a hearty box breakfast and lots of coffee on board (but no washroom).

7:00 AM—Bus arrives at Beaver Island ferry dock in downtown Charlevoix where Fellows claim their gear and transfer it to the ferry.

8:20 AM—Ferry departs for Beaver Island. Fellows and speakers are reminded that sleeping is permitted en route. (Less sleepy passengers might enjoy the short movie about Beaver Island that is shown in the front lower seating area.)

10:45 AM—Ferry arrives at Beaver Island where fellows and speakers load their gear onto vans supplied by the Central Michigan University Biological Station.

11:00 AM—After a brief ride to the station, Fellows, speakers and staff claim beds at the CMU Biological Station (journalists in the dorms, speakers in the faculty cabins) before proceeding to the dining hall.

Noon—Lunch is served for all faculty, guests and staff at the CMU Biological Station

Beaver Island's Rich Ecological History is a Case Study for Issues Throughout the Region

Beaver Island is the largest island in an archipelago that stretches for many miles across the open waters of northern Lake Michigan. With some 600 year-round residents, and perhaps 5,000 summer residents, Beaver Island has a natural resource history that is unique, but also very similar to many of the other 30,000 islands in the Great Lakes Basin. Once a controversial Mormon stronghold, the island later became known for its productive commercial fishery. Agriculture had a toehold on the island for a time, but today Beaver Island is primarily a tourist destination. Like many other islands throughout the Great Lakes region, it is struggling to protect its threatened and endangered species, while battling invasive species and trying to adapt to the demographic and development changes that have made natural resource management on the island more complicated than in years past.

1:00 PM—Two well-known native Beaver Islanders present an overview of the island's environmental history, current challenges, and future outlook.

- Erin McDonough, executive director, Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Pam Grassmick, Beaver Island Natural Resources and Eco-Tourism Commission

Six speakers provide overview discussions of environmental issues facing islands throughout the Great Lakes Basin. Each presentation is 30 minutes long, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A.

2:00 PM—Great Lakes Basin-wide Overview

- Karen Vigmostad, director, U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Islands Project

2:45 PM—Lake Superior Islands

- Phyllis Green, superintendent, Isle Royale National Park

3:30 PM—Lake Huron Islands

- Dan Kraus, manager, conservation science & planning, The Nature Conservancy of Canada

4:15 PM—Break, drinks and snacks are served.

4:30 PM—Lake Michigan Islands

- Dave Ewert, director of conservation science, Great Lakes program, The Nature Conservancy (U.S.)

5:15 PM—Lake Erie Islands

- Jeff Reutter, director, Ohio State Stone Lab

6:00 PM—Lake Ontario Islands

- Jeff Leggo, acting director, St. Lawrence Islands National Park, Parks Canada

6:45 PM—Fellows and speakers gather in the Lodge Room at the CMU Biological Station for drinks, snacks and post-presentation mingling.

7:45 PM—Vans depart for Stoney Acre Restaurant

9:30 PM—Vans return to CMU Biological station. Overnight at CMU Biological Station

Itinerary for Sunday, August 29, 2010

7:00 AM—IJNR's Adam Hinterthuer and Peter Annin depart by van for Beaver Island Marina with half of the fellows and speakers who board the "early" boats for Hat Island. This group will grab breakfast at the Marina. All passengers must bring extra layers, sunscreen, cameras, refillable water bottles, snacks and a bag lunch for the day. Water shoes are required for this trip, as we may need to get our feet wet when we disembark for Hat Island. (At this writing, water temperatures are in the 70s, so waders should not be necessary.) All boats will approach Hat Island from deep water on the east side, unless wave heights require an alternate plan.

7:00 AM—The rest of the group gathers for breakfast at the CMU Biological Station with box lunches packed for a possibly wet ride (and all the gear mentioned above).

7:45 AM—The rest of the group departs the CMU Biological Station for the Beaver Island Marina.

8:30 AM—All other boats depart for Hat Island.

10:00 AM—Vessels arrive at Hat Island and everyone disembarks via dingy to set foot on the island. Under the guidance of some of our guest speakers, journalists, staff and guests briefly tour Hat Island's colonial nesting grounds before gathering for a discussion on the shore. (There is no shade on Hat Island, so people need to come prepared for full sun.)

The Great Lakes Cormorant Challenge: A Controversy That Won't Go Away

Many fishermen believe that burgeoning cormorant populations in the Great Lakes are having a negative impact on the regional fishery. However, some ornithologists and animal rights activists argue that cormorants are mere scapegoats for broader problems in the ecosystem. Hat Island, in the extreme northeast section of the Beaver Island Archipelago—was once used for munitions training. In recent years it has been a very popular nesting site for double-crested cormorants. In 2007, officials began shooting cormorants on the open waters surrounding Hat Island. This year, control efforts were ramped up. Officials began shooting birds on Hat Island as well as oiling eggs on the nest, which prevents them from hatching. Last year there were 5,480 pairs of cormorants on Hat Island. The population figures for 2010 have not yet been released.

- Mark Vaniman, manager, Seney National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
- Greg McClellan, dep. manager, Seney NWR
- Nancy Seefelt, assistant professor, CMU
- Pete Butchko, state dir., USDA Wildlife Serv.
- Russ Mason, chief, Wildlife Division, Michigan DNRE
- Jeff Powers, Beaver Island Wildlife Club
- Pam Grassmick, Beaver Island Natural Resources and Eco-tourism Commission

2:00 PM—All boats depart for Beaver Island, but guest speakers ride with Mike Weede.

3:30 PM—Journalists arrive at Beaver Island and proceed to CMU boathouse for discussion.

4:00 PM—Guest speakers arrive at marina in Mike Weede's boat and are transported to the historic Life Saving Station fashionably late.

4:30 PM—According to local residents, Beaver Island once had a renowned small mouth bass fishery, which then declined markedly. There are many theories as to why this happened, and cormorants are often blamed. Tracy Galarowicz has been studying small mouth bass around the islands for years, and her research suggests complex population dynamics are at play. Surprisingly to many, her research now shows healthy populations of small mouths in the area.

- Tracy Galarowicz, associate professor of biology, Central Michigan University

6:00 PM—Fellows and speakers depart for dinner at the Shamrock restaurant.

7:30 PM—Asian carp have captured many headlines in the Great Lakes region recently. The flurry of attention was primarily due to environmental DNA research produced by a team of scientists from the University of Notre Dame and The Nature Conservancy. The team was led by Professor David Lodge, who joins us on Beaver Island for a briefing and update on where things stand with Asian carp research.

- Professor David Lodge, director, University of Notre Dame Center for Aquatic Conservation

9:00 PM—Discussion ends.

Overnight at CMU Biological Station

Itinerary for Monday, August 30, 2010

7:15 AM— Fellows and speakers grab breakfast at the CMU cafeteria.

8:00 AM—CMU vans depart for a controversial clear cut on Camp 3 Road.

8:30 AM—Vans arrive at clear cut where Fellows and speakers gather for a discussion about the natural resource future of the Beaver Islands.

Managing Island Resources While Contending With Development & Changing Demographics

Like many vacation destinations in the Great Lakes region, Beaver Island has seen an influx of new residents and property owners in recent decades. Many of these residents are urban dwellers who have purchased retirement homes or seasonal vacation property. A number of these new arrivals have brought different natural resource values to Beaver Island than those held by many of the native residents. This has created challenges for island residents, and natural resource managers as they try to forge a sense of consensus around their management plans. A recent clear-cut on Camp 3 road on Beaver Island has helped to bring these issues to a head for many native residents, and newer arrivals. These tensions are not unique to Beaver Island. They are reflected in vacation communities throughout the Great Lakes region.

- Erin McDonough, executive director, Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Russ Mason, chief, Wildlife Division, Michigan DNRE
- Gavin West, president, Beaver Island Conservation Club
- Jeff Powers, president, Beaver Island Wildlife Club
- Dave Ewert, director of conservation science, Great Lakes program, The Nature Conservancy
- Paul Glendon, president, Beaver Island Association

11:30 AM—Vans depart for Little Traverse Bay Conservancy Preserve on Sand Bay for discussion about island gigantism as well as endangered and exotic species in relation to island ecosystems.

Noon—Fellows gather for a lunch discussion along the sandy shores of Lake Michigan.

Island Biogeography in Action: Beaver Island as an Example

Islands are different. Scientists from Charles Darwin onward have emphasized that plants and animals can develop differently on islands than they often do on the mainland. Because of their remote location, islands are often home to threatened and endangered species. Exotic species pose a threat, but in some cases the remoteness of islands can provide an edge to avoiding and sometimes even controlling exotic invasive species. Evolutionary quirks like island gigantism fascinate the public and scientists alike. Beaver Island serves as a classic test case for many of these trends. Sand Bay—home to endangered species such as the Michigan Monkey Flower—is an ideal setting for an outdoor discussion about distinctive island ecosystems and biogeography.

- Professor Jim Gillingham, emeritus director, CMU Biological Station
- Phyllis Higman, Michigan Natural History Survey
- Pam Grassmick, Beaver Island Natural Resources and Eco-tourism Commission

2:30 PM—Discussion wraps up and the group makes its way back to the CMU Biological Station.

3:00 PM—Fellows and speakers pack up and prepare to depart.

4:00 PM—Fellows and speakers depart for ferry dock in CMU vans.

5:20 PM—Ferry departs for Charlevoix.

7:45 PM—Ferry arrives in Charlevoix. After loading their gear into vans, the Fellows walk across the street to Whitney's Oyster Bar for dinner.

8:15 PM—Dinner is served.

10:00 PM—Dinner wraps up and Fellows board vans for Traverse City.

11:00 PM—Vans arrive at Cambria Suites Hotel in Traverse City and bleary-eyed Fellows and speakers turn in for the night (or not).

Overnight: Cambria Suites Hotel, 255 Munson Avenue, Traverse City (866) 442-9846

2010 Beaver Island Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources
Evaluation Summary:

**5 of 12 participants responded. Scores are on 4-point scale.*

PART ONE:

Overall Grades By Day:

August 28th : Average: (3.6) Total: (B,A,A,B,A)

August 29th : Average: (3.8) Total: (A,B,A,A,A)

August 30th : Average: (3.8) Total: (A,A,A,B,A)

OVERALL INSTITUTE GRADE:

Average: 4.0 (A,A,A,A,A)

PART TWO:

Top three responses for each question are provided

1. What did you like best?

Study issues out in the field (5 votes)

Spend time with my professional peers (4 votes)

No workplace distractions (4 votes)

2. What did you like least?

Waking up early every morning (1 vote)

Too much food (1 vote)

Other (1 vote)

It was too short! Another day would've made the trip perfect!

3. Rate the pace and rigor of the Institute

The right amount of content (4 votes)

The right amount of free time (4 votes)

The right amount of food (4 votes)

4. Comments on pace and rigor:

The long series of speeches on the first day was a bit rough. I wondered if it was necessary to hear people from all the different Great Lakes. - MSH

5. How will the Beaver Island Inst. affect the way you approach your work?

It definitely cemented and bolstered my fascination with the great lakes and their varied and interlinked issues and ecosystems. The content was a bit more place-specific than other IJNR trips I've done so it was more difficult to translate into stories or to use for background information for future stories that don't directly involve the islands...but nonetheless it was a very useful, rewarding and inspiring trip. - KL

Yes. I found very enlightening the Great Waters Institute of 2005, and this one was another great opportunity to reflect on my work. But most importantly, it reminded me why I chose to become a journalist 11 years ago. Sometimes I forget... The past two years have been hard for reporters, especially freelancers. The Beaver Islands Institute has given me strength for the year to come. And a healthy dose of journalistic wisdom, I hope! ;o)- MSH

Another needed reminder to get back into the field – stay out of the office and deal more and more with the people making the decisions and making a difference in the GL basin.- MS

The Institute brought me up to date on key issues that I cover, and made me think of news stories to pursue. That's of great help, as my career continues. – CQ

6. How did the Beaver Islands Institute measure up?

It exceeded my expectations (1 vote)

It met my expectations (4 votes)

I know what you guys can do, so I came with very high expectations. I wasn't disappointed. I've had many learning experiences in my career – institutes, courses, internships. I can honestly say: IJNR is the best. By far. - MSH

7. Was the mix of presenters balanced?

I thought the balance was great, as usual with IJNR trips, and I appreciated the “regular people” or people with self-interested, somewhat uninformed or heavily biased viewpoints being included since those people all play important roles in how these issues play out socially, politically and ecologically -KL

Yes, I think it was fair. – MSH

Yes. As usual. - MS

Yes, except for clearcut. Hard to believe everyone was in such unison.- TH

8. Thoughts about amount of time devoted to each topic

It was a nice mix, it would have been nice to have time outside or in the field on the first day but I understand that's just how it worked out with people's availability. I did appreciate getting all the background right at the start and then seeing some of the specific issues in the field... - KL

It seemed okay to me. Of course, I found that some topics were more relevant than others for me and my readers. I loved to hear about Asian carps and about how different people coexist on an island. My only regret is that we couldn't get to Hat Island; I feel that a part of the cormorant story escaped my understanding. It was nice to discuss it, though.- MSH

9. Please assign letter-grade to the IJNR staff

Straight A's for all!

As usual, they were awesome.-KL

Thank you so much for your hard work, your kindness and your sense of humor! It's great fun to travel with you.- MSH

I'd buy any one of them a beer – CQ

10. As a learning experience how does the Beaver Islands Institute rank?

The best (2 votes)

Among the best (3 votes)

11. Overall how would you rate the journalism content?

Excellent (3 votes)

Very Good (2 votes)

Comments: By most standards it would be excellent; compared to other ijnr trips it was just slightly less useful since it was very narrowly focused on the islands without a lot of larger relevance to energy, policy, etc issues – but I know that was part of the plan and I thought it was a perfect “refresher” and reminder of why I love doing this kind of work. - KL

It shows that you have reflected on your craft and that you are happy to share your thoughts about it.- MSH

12. Would you consider attending a 3 to 4 day reunion program?

Yes, absolutely - (5 votes)