

Why an Islands Alliance?

While present-day island communities are uniquely distinct from one another in character, traditions, and geography, they share a number of complex, inter-related challenges, including: access to public services and quality education, supporting a diversified economy, managing natural, cultural, and historical resources across public and private boundaries, and changing demographics (size, age, seasonality, ownership, economic status, etc.).

These challenges are hurdles, not immovable barriers. In fact, some island communities have already independently developed their own **"island solutions to island challenges."** There is great value in islanders learning from other islanders about best practices that work, as well as those that don't. GLIA provides a structure for those conversations and tools to be shared.

2nd Annual Island Summit
Madeline Island, WI ~ October 2018



GLIA's annual Island Summit brings together island leaders, residents, and advocates from across the Great Lakes region to discuss a number of topics relevant to island living.

In 2018, we discussed sustainable energy, water levels, affordable housing, and economic development.

GLIA's Partner
Organizations include:

NORTHLAND COLLEGE



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



2017 Islands Summit
on Beaver Island



GREAT LAKES
ISLANDS ALLIANCE



Open to ALL Great Lakes Islands

2018-2019 Steering Committee

Michael Childers - Chairman, Madeline Island, WI
Bob Anderson, Beaver Island, MI
Kristy Beyer, Drummond Island, MI
Joe Shorthouse, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
Michael Gora, Middle Bass Island, OH



GREAT LAKES
ISLANDS ALLIANCE

For more information about GLIA, contact:
Matt Preisser, EGLE, GLIA Coordinator
(517) 256-5276 | preisserm@michigan.gov

www.GreatLakesIslandsAlliance.org

Updated: August 2019

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance:

- Connects remote island communities
- Provides networking opportunities
- Facilitates information access/sharing
- Assists in leveraging resources for islands
- Open to all Great Lakes islands and stakeholders

www.greatlakesislandsalliance.org

About GLIA

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) is a new voluntary, collaborative network. In this arrangement, a diverse team of island leaders, residents, and advocates from across the region offer their time, energy and complementary skills to meet shared objectives.

The mission of the GLIA is to encourage relationship building, foster information exchange, and leverage resources to address shared challenges and embrace opportunities to benefit islands.

To learn more about GLIA, visit www.greatlakesislandsalliance.org



1st Annual Islands Summit
Beaver Island, MI ~ October 2017

Explore our online Resources

WHAT WORKS SOLUTIONS LIBRARY

The What Works Solutions Library, created and supported by our partners at the Island Institute, offers case studies and practical information about how residents of rural island communities have successfully addressed challenges. The solutions library from the Island Institute offers lessons and advice that can inspire and inform projects and initiatives of all scales.

GREAT LAKES ISLANDS COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

This comprehensive list of resources was created to help improve communications between island communities. The directory includes contacts for local governments, environment and natural resources, socio-economic organizations, education, health, transportation, infrastructure, and more.

ISLAND SHOWCASE

Learn about each of our the member islands on the Island Showcase page of the GLIA website.



GREAT LAKES
ISLANDS ALLIANCE

Member Islands
August 2019



Lake Superior

1 - Madeline Island, Wisconsin, USA

Lake Michigan

2 - Washington Island, Wisconsin, USA
3 - Beaver Island, Michigan, USA

Lake Huron

4 - Mackinac Island, Michigan, USA
5 - Bois Blanc Island, Michigan, USA
6 - Les Cheneaux Islands, Michigan, USA
7 - Neebish Island, Michigan, USA
8 - Drummond Island, Michigan, USA
9 - Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Canada

Lake St. Clair

10 - Harsens Island, Michigan, USA

Lake Erie

11 - Middle Bass Island, Ohio, USA
12 - South Bass Island (Put-In-Bay), Ohio, USA
13 - Pelee Island, Ontario, Canada
14 - Kelleys Island, Ohio, USA

GLIA members come from these year-round island communities. There are many more communities in the Great Lakes and all are welcome to join.

ISLANDS SUMMIT

The Island Summit is an annual conference held in the fall that provides GLIA members a chance to meet face-to-face, share ideas, and learn from experts on a wide variety of topics.

INNOVATIVE ISLAND PROJECT CONCEPTS (Coming Soon)

GLIA is an incubator for innovative ideas that address the challenges and create opportunities for connection. The following projects are currently being developed with more to come: Monitoring Monarch, One Book, and The Island Passport.