



2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



GREAT LAKES
ISLANDS ALLIANCE

www.greatlakesislandalliance.org



Photo: Mackinac Island Town Crier

2018 Great Lakes Islands Alliance group photo.



Photo: JD Bass

During the 2018 Great Lakes Island Summit attendees met to finalize the GLIA Charter and appoint a steering committee.



Photo: Michigan Sea Grant

Matt Preisser and Kristy Beyer discussed GLIA with attendees of the Great Lakes Sea Grant annual convention in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in September 2019.

ABOUT GLIA

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) is a new voluntary, collaborative network that brings together island leaders, residents, and advocates from across the region.

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.

This report highlights the major activities and accomplishments occurring in the time period between the 2018 and 2019 Great Lakes Islands Summits. The items are organized under each of the four Goals identified in the Charter of the Great Lakes Islands Alliance.

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



Photo: Joe Shorthouse

THE MONARCH PROJECT

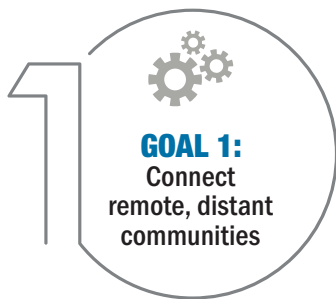
Releasing a tagged monarch as ferry departs south shore of Manitoulin Island.

The Monarch Project coordinator, Joe Shorthouse, releasing tagged monarchs at a campground near Sheguiandah on Manitoulin island.



Photo: Lisa Deschamps

2018-2019 MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



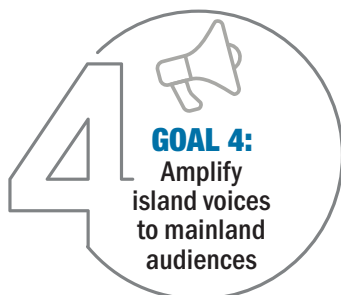
GOAL 1: Connect remote, distant communities



GOAL 2: Facilitate information access and sharing



GOAL 3: Advance opportunities for multi-island collaboration



GOAL 4: Amplify island voices to mainland audiences

Goal 1: Connect remote, distant communities

- Increased GLIA membership to 125 people from 14 island communities. Further diversified the mix of backgrounds and interests.
- Facilitated monthly conference calls to share information between communities and advance network-wide activities.
- Annual member meetings:
 - 2018 Great Lakes Islands Summit (Madeline Island, WI) – approximately 80 individuals attended the 2nd annual Summit to share solutions, listen to experts, unanimously ratify the GLIA Charter, and appoint a Steering Committee.
 - 2019 Great Lakes Islands Summit (Mackinac Island, MI) – The 3rd annual Summit will feature breakout discussions and field trips related to tourism, housing, environment, schools, media and other community development topics; over 125 attendees expected.
- Created a GLIA logo to further establish a common group identity

Goal 2: Facilitate information access and sharing, particularly through tools that offer best practices and solutions to island challenges.

- Maintained the GLIA member roster and Great Lakes Islands Community Resource Directory, which provide clear entry points into each GLIA island community.
- Continued to utilize Slack and the Island Institute's *What Works Solutions Library* as tools for collaboration.
- Established membership at the Island Institute for all participating GLIA islands, which provides greater access to the Institute's programming, media products, and its broad network connections to island communities in Maine and worldwide

Goal 3: Advance opportunities for multi-island collaboration, where appropriate.

- GLIA partners at Northland College received a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to further clarify the GLIA's role within the region and refine its program focus and organizational structure.
- Supported start-up of a number of islander-initiated projects
 - Monitoring Monarchs on the Islands of the Great Lakes
 - Faith Communities on the Islands of the Great Lakes
 - The Island Passport
 - Great Lakes Islands Educators Network
 - The One Book Project
 - Great Lakes Islands Media Network
- Spurred the creation of several island-specific committees in multiple communities.



Goal 4: Amplify island voices to mainland audiences

- Enhanced the GLIA website
- Created a tri-fold brochure
- Directly engaged non-islander audiences at local, regional, and international events, including:
 - Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative meetings (Nov 2018, Feb., May, and Sept. 2019)
 - Lake Erie Islands International Consortium meeting (June 2019)
 - 2019 Great Lakes States Coastal Management Programs Meeting (June 2019)
 - 2019 Great Lakes Regional Sea Grant Network Meeting (Sept 2019)
 - 2019 Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Symposium (Sept 2019)
 - International Joint Commission (IJC) public meeting (Sept 2019)
 - 2019 Virtual Islands Summit (Global Event, Oct 2019)
- Featured in dozens of stories by both island media and mainland media, including public radio and public television outlets, IJC's *"Great Lakes Connection"* newsletter, and stories by GLIA partner organizations to their own constituencies.





Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA)

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

2018-2019 Member Islands

Lake Erie

Kelleys Island, *Ohio, USA*
Middle Bass Island, *Ohio, USA*
Pelee Island, *Ontario, Canada*
South Bass Island (Put-In-Bay), *Ohio, USA*

Lake Michigan

Beaver Island, *Michigan, USA*
Washington Island, *Wisconsin, USA*

Lake St. Clair

Harsens Island, *Michigan, USA*

Lake Huron

Bois Blanc Island, *Michigan, USA*
Drummond Island, *Michigan, USA*
Les Cheneaux Islands, *Michigan, USA*
Mackinac Island, *Michigan, USA*
Manitoulin Island, *Ontario, Canada*
Neebish Island, *Michigan, USA*

Lake Superior

Madeline Island, *Wisconsin, USA*

2018-2019 Partner Organizations



NORTHLAND COLLEGE

2018-2019 Steering Committee

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

For more information about GLIA, including contact information, please visit:
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