

# BIG ARM ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2007

Question? Ideas? call Alison 849-6628, Jan 5636, Kristin 5326, P.O. Box 11, BA or [www.BigArmAssociation.org](http://www.BigArmAssociation.org)

*SPRING IS IN THE AIR.....the Yellow Cups are in bloom! SPRING BIRDS ARE RETURNING.....and we are looking forward to WELCOMING BACK our neighbors from warmer climes!*

## COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

**SATURDAY APRIL 28 5:00 PM POTLUCK  
6:00 PM TRIBAL FISH & WILDLIFE PRESENTATION  
BEAR & WILDLIFE SAFETY**

**SATURDAY MAY 19 5:00 PM POTLUCK  
6:00 JIM ROGERS FROM THE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
PRESENTATION ON LOCAL BIRDS**

**APRIL 21 & 22 HWY 93 GARBAGE PICK UP DAYS  
PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP, THANKS!**

A special thank you to Ron Roberts who gave a very entertaining Bear talk at the last potluck He is also the person who has organized the above presentations which will be very exciting.

A special thank you to Deb Weidrich our neighbor and friend who will be giving an interesting talk on nutrition and your health after today's potluck. If anyone has interesting ideas for future presentations or special events please let us know.

Treasurer's Report: the fund balance as of 3/23/07 is \$8,307.37. Bills were presented totaling \$311.51 which included floor mops, sealers, wax, cove adhesive, plumbing items, stationery supplies etc. \$120 for 6 months utilities to the Polson Rural Fire District. The 501(c)3 tax filing is still in process, a big thank you to Frank Jones who has been working very hard on our behalf. All the necessary paperwork has been filed and we are just waiting on the IRS; when approved this will be retroactive to Jan 2006.

Fund Raisers: We will have to start holding some fund raisers for general running expenses as most of the remaining fund balance will be spent on the outside of the building. Does anyone have any great ideas for some unusual fund raisers that would be fun for everyone including the helpers?

Landscape Committee: This committee has had 2 meetings led by Tim Beebe. We have plotted the handicap ramp and parking for the west side of the building; plantings, rocks and raised beds either side of the entrance way; a large graveled parking area on the south and east side, natural grasses with fire ring and picnic benches on the south west side; also memorial trees will be planted. We thank Tim, Ron & Marilyn Roberts, Karen Maurer with her master gardener friends, Ray & Sharon Geiser, Ross Hoyt, Jeff & Alison Meslin for participating in the planning, donating time, and offering physical help or materials or both. Please Call, we could sure use more help!

Red Cross Classes: Max Miller has asked if we would like to hold classes in First Aid; Adult CPR; Adult CPR & First Aid

SANDPIPER GALLERY IN POLSON  
IS FEATURING BIG ARM ARTIST KAREN MAURER....  
this gallery has an amazing selection of very talented local artists.  
Show runs through April 21, 883-5956

Combined; Infant/Child CPR Combined. These classes range from 4 to 8 hours and cost between \$30 to \$45 with all proceeds going to the Red Cross. Please let us know if you are interested and we will organize the class/classes.

Telephone Tree: We hope our telephone tree is working well so that everyone in Big Arm is receiving a personal reminder for our monthly events. Please let us know when new neighbors move into the area or when friends move away. We could use 2 more people to help make calls, thanks.

Historic School House: We are still trying to make progress with our historic school. The committee attended the March 12 School Board meeting as we were told they would be selecting a committee who would deliberate the future of the school but no committee was selected. Ross Hoyt tried to enter into the record our request to participate in the committee and to read the Commissioners letter of support but the Chairperson stopped him. We have just delivered another letter to the Board requesting a 15 minute presentation at their next meeting on April 2 at 7:00pm. We could really use some more support from residents in the form of letters written to the Board, to the newspapers, to our Committee and also attending Board meeting and/or joining our committee. Please forward copies of all letters to us just incase they get buried elsewhere, thanks. The following is an excerpt from the letter of support signed by all three of the County Commissioners:-

"It also seems to us a moral and community responsibility, while not legal, for the school district to help preserve history and use it as a tool for the school's benefit as well as the Big Arm community. If in fact the school district chooses not to fulfill that roll, the Lake County Commission will work with the school district and the Harmony Club on possible options to preserve and use this historical building and site."

The option to "swap" land is still on the table but at present the School Board, via the press, has only suggested that we move the school off its historic site. We do not fully understand why the Board does not want to discuss this with either our committee or the Commissioners. We are still waiting to hear from the company who has appraised the "swap" land. If anybody would like to donate their legal expertise that would be great.

Little Touch of History from Gladys Bibee Price

"Except for the busy harvest or branding season, there were frequent "doins" at the community hall in Big Arm. Everyone went, taking all the children. In winter, sleighs and horses came from every direction, each filled with sweet wild hay and warm blankets." ..... "Gramp would get there first to help the town people at Big Arm open the musty hall, start the fire, sweep and wax the floor and tie the coffee in a clean muslin sack ready for brewing."

What a wonderful treasure it is for us to have people sharing their precious memories of Big Arm. If you know someone who has memories of our community please record them or call us for help in recording. It is what makes our community "timeless" thanks. ....ENJOY THE SPRING!