

WOLF'S EYE



Isle Royale Natural History Association

Winter 1993

Keweenaw National Historical Park

The late October signature of President Bush to the law creating the Keweenaw National Historical Park marks the end of a five year effort to create the park. It also marks the beginning of one of the newest units of the National Park System and the first step in a park development effort which will run well into the next millennium (that is, at least the next 10 to 15 years). The new park will tell the stories of the Keweenaw peninsula's copper mining heritage.

Bill Fink, Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park has been named as the Superintendent of the newly established Keweenaw National Historical Park. Bill assumed his duties on January 10, 1993. Isle Royale will continue to assist the new park by providing support for administrative functions, such as purchasing and personnel. New staff for the new park will be added slowly, although there may be some positions funded by a year from now.

Over the next year, major efforts will concentrate on several areas. A map describing park boundaries needs to be developed by next summer. Work will begin to prepare a General Management Plan. That plan must be completed within three years. A process will be developed to get the list of nominees for the Keweenaw NHP Advisory Commission. These nominees will be selected by a number of local governments as well as by the state. The list will then be reviewed by the Secretary of the Interior, who selects the final members.

The NPS will be working with local governments and property owners to assist them in protecting the interests of the new unit. The Keweenaw NHP will be a true example of a partnership park. Federal money provided to operate the Commission and fund the preservation program must be matched by other dollars.

It will be a long process, but the day will come when visitors to the Island may wish to allow extra time to visit the new park before or after their trip. Who knows, perhaps the day will come when a significant number of the Island's visitors are those who "discovered" the Island while visiting the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Artist-in-Residence Program 1993

The third annual Artist-in-Residence program will get underway in June, 1993. This program has been a highly successful venture for Isle Royale National Park and the local community. This year a new twist has been added, the program will solicit applicants from the National Park Academy of the Arts as well as from traditional sources.

The Academy sponsors the "Arts for the Park" competition. This juried competition draws painters from around the country whose work is influenced by the National Park Service. The top 100 juried pieces go on a national travelling show. The next 100 pieces are assembled for a show in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the home of the Academy.

The park will invite those artist's who created the top 200 pieces to apply for residency. These applicants will be incorporated with our general application process. The addition of the 1992 "Arts for the Park's" competition will strengthen our selection of painters.

Isle Royale's Artist-in-Residence program is open to all professional artist and art forms. We offer writers, composers, and all visual and performing artists, a chance to be inspired by the many faces of Isle Royale National Park. Complimentary passage to the Island is supplied by the NPS on the government owned vessel Ranger III from Houghton, Michigan. While on the Island, the artist will enjoy a two or three week residence at the former Dassler family summer home. The cabin is located on the tip of Scoville Point and is two miles east of the park's major development at Rock Harbor. The rustic cabin will accommodate two and has no running water or electricity. Transportation is on foot or by a park supplied canoe.

The park has a brochure which describes the Artist-in-Residence program and how to apply. To receive this application please write to:

Artist-in-Residence Program
Isle Royale National Park
Houghton, MI 49931
or call (906) 482-0986

Isle Royale National Park would like to thank the National Park Service Academy of the Arts, and those who have contributed to making this program a great success.

Stuart Croll
Chief, Visitor Services and
Resources Protection

GIS Finds Isle Royale

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is one of the newest tools available to land/resource managers, a tool which allows land/resource managers to make more informed management decisions regarding our resources.

GIS is a computer-based system which collects, stores, analyzes, and outputs geographic data. Simplified, GIS is a computer-based mapping system with an important added ability of being able to analyze data. The unique feature about GIS is its ability to generate new information based on existing data in the system.

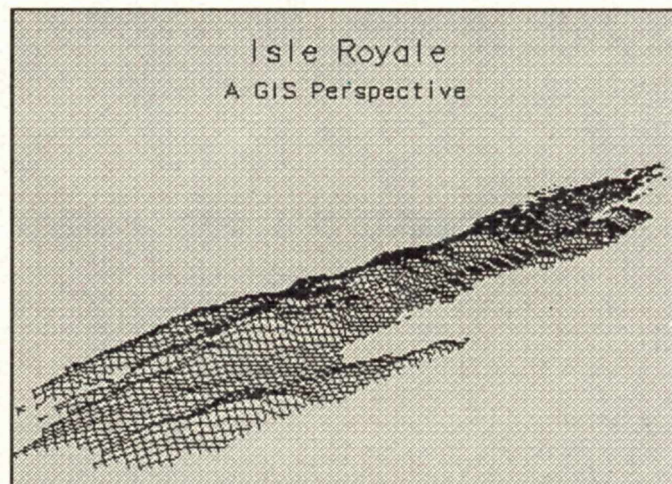
The ability to analyze maps is a function of how the data are actually stored in a GIS. All data in a GIS are stored as individual themes (or layers). Consider the basic USGS topographic map of Isle Royale. This map is a composite of many individual themes, including trail locations, hydrology, the actual land theme, elevation data (contour lines),

campground locations, and USGS section lines. When this information is stored in a GIS, each of these layers is stored separately and can be called upon as needed. Further, the GIS has no limit to the number of individual layers it can store, with the advantage of overlaying and analyzing the multiple thematic layers simultaneously.

Let's consider a few examples of GIS for Isle Royale. Suppose we have a map which shows wolf den locations. This map could be brought into the GIS and then used in combination with any of the other data layers. The GIS could be used to tell you exactly where these wolf dens are relative to the other data layers. The GIS could tell you the elevation and aspect of each of the wolf dens; how far away each den is from human influence (the distance away from campgrounds and trails), how close each den is to an existing water supply, and in what vegetation and soil types the dens are found. All this data (and more) could prove useful in research efforts.

Imagine that Isle Royale has to relocate a campground. Several factors must be considered when relocating: the distance the new campground will be from an existing trail, the distance to a water source, the soil and vegetation types, the slope of the new campground, and the presence of archaeology sites or rare and endangered plants. A GIS could show all the possibilities for relocation based upon the constraints set by the land/resource manager.

The land/resource manager could program the GIS according to the following constraints: the proposed campground should be no more than 500 yards from an existing trail and no more than 250 yards from an existing water supply; it must be on a stable soil type, not located in a swampy vegetation type; it should have a gentle slope and must not be any closer than 1000 yards to any archaeology sites or rare plant communities. The GIS would then access each of



the appropriate data layers and show all the possible locations that meet the outlined constraints.

The GIS at Isle Royale is only one year old, and considerable time has been spent building all of the data layers. Currently Isle Royale has 29 thematic layers, ranging from aspects of the terrain to a detailed vegetation map. The data layers are continually growing.

Isle Royale management is just starting to use the analytical functions of the GIS. The GIS assisted in one project to determine visual impacts of placing a proposed water tower in the Rock Harbor area. The study attempted to determine all of the areas within the park from which a proposed water tower would be visible.

A second project, just completed, used the GIS to enhance the Fire Management Plan. The GIS replaced older, hard-to-read maps. The new maps generated have been added to the park's computer data base and are now permanent data layers.

GIS will help to make informed and complex management decisions.

Rather than relying on a number of cumbersome, incompatibly scaled paper maps to solve complex problems, GIS enables rapid analysis of data in ways virtually impossible before. It is an exciting and useful addition for research, resource management, and general park operations.

Eric Gdula

Isle Royale

Natural History Association

87 N. Ripley St., Houghton, MI 49931

A nonprofit membership organization that assists Isle Royale National Park by publishing and selling educational materials to park visitors. Gifts, bequests, memorials and memberships are U.S. tax deductible.

Membership Categories:

Single Membership	\$10.00
Family Membership	\$15.00
*Supporting Membership	\$35.00
*Life Membership	\$250.00
**Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000.00
**Corporate Patron	\$5,000.00

(Life memberships may be paid for in two annual installments of \$125.00 each)

*Includes a gift copy of *Borealis, An Isle*

Royale Potpourri or a Canvas Tote Bag.

**Includes a premium gift of a beautifully framed photo of an Isle Royale Scene (16" x 20")

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Annual Summer Meeting

John Anderson of the Superior-Baikal Connect project will be the speaker at the annual summer meeting at Isle Royale National Park on July 25, 1993.

Superior-Baikal Connect was an international kayaking expedition across the worlds two largest freshwater lakes, Lake Baikal in Siberia on the Asian continent and Lake Superior in North America. The goal of the expedition was to raise awareness and understanding of these remarkable lakes and their people. The two-phase expedition, which began in the summer of 1991 on Lake Baikal, connected on Lake Superior this past summer.

Anderson's presentation will highlight the expedition experiments on both lakes as well as a natural history and cultural perspective of each.

Anderson was co-leader of the expedition together with Alexander Tsvakhsiten from Russia. Over the last years John has spent countless hours on Lake Superior, experiencing it as a boat pilot in the early 1970's on Isle

Royale, as a sailor competing in many off shore races including the trans-Superior, and for the last 10 years, as a sea-kayaker.

His interest in Lake Superior and its preservation has led to the chair of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institutes Advisory Board at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, and to a directorship on the Board of the Lake Superior Center. The center was co-sponsor of Superior-Baikal Connect with the Adventure Club of Moscow. John also serves as vice-chair of the Center's International Relations Committee which facilitates current and future connections with other large freshwater lakes of the world.

Board Elections- Join The Board

Board vacancies occur in odd numbered years and are staggered so that there will not be a complete turnover of

Board members during any given election year. This year there will be three vacancies that will occur as the initial two year terms of present members expire. These members are eligible for a second and final four year term and all have indicated a willingness to run again.

Any member of the Association may also run for one of these three positions. Ballots will be included in the next Wolf's Eye along with a short biography of each member who has indicated an interest in entering their name for a board position. New board members will be announced at the summer meeting. To enter, send a letter indicating your interest and include your biography for publication.

We have four meetings each year, three in Houghton and the annual meeting on Isle Royale on the last Sunday in July. We can help with mileage if you live outside of Houghton. This is a non-profit member run organization that needs interested board members to provide their expertise. Please consider entering your name for a current opening or in the future.

Membership News

Membership renewal reminders have been sent out for 1993. Recycled paper and envelopes were used. Your contributions help us with our mission to support Isle Royale National Park through our publishing projects.

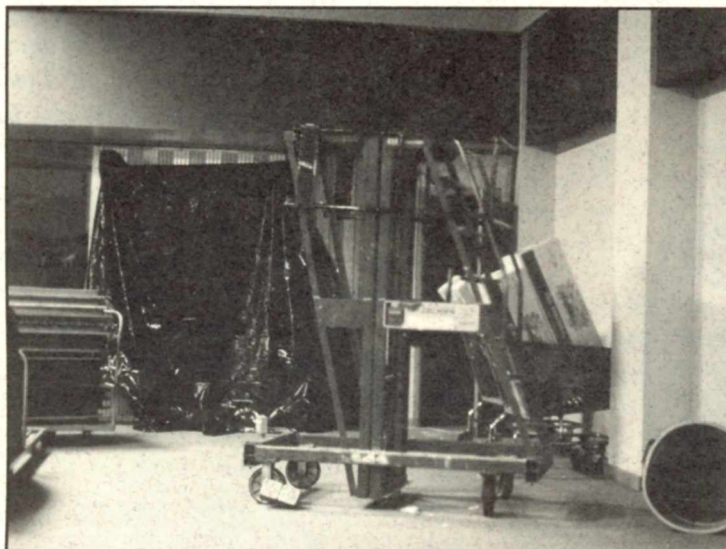
Welcome New Life Members

Dr. & Mrs. Brian W. Fox, Racine, WI
Joanne & Cliff Hannula, Laurium, MI
Kay & Randall Ross, Hancock, MI
Douglas & Jan Harris, Albion, MI

Our Thanks to

Maggie Lukow, Racine, WI
Dr. & Mrs. Francis C. Tucker,
Freeport IL

for donations to IRNHA



Mall Outlet

In the beginning there was a storage room, and three days later, as if by magic, we had the Isle Royale Natural History Association Gift Shop. The magic was the hard work Joanne Hannula, J  el Ringer, Chris Gale, and I put into making a store. We didn't think we could fill half the store, but ended up using three quarters of the space.

The response to the store has been favorable. People have commented that they're so happy to see us in the Mall. Sales have reflected this attitude and we

passed our budgeted sales by December 16th.

Public awareness of the IRNHA and our mission is being relayed to the people of this area. Many have said that they will continue to patronize us at the Park Service Headquarters, now that they know what we have available.

The Park Service has been very cooperative in helping the store succeed. Murph, the wolf, has been on display, along with a beaver and a fox. These have been great drawing cards for the store. The exposure for the park and the

association has been wonderful. I wish to thank the Board of Directors, Isle Royale National Park, our employees, and our members for the support they have given to this project.

Gayle Pekkala

Correction

We deeply regret that Hawk Tolson's name was misspelled in the last issue.

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Isle Royale Natural History Association
87 North Ripley Street
Houghton, Michigan 49931

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