

WOLF'S EYE



Isle Royale Natural History Association

Spring 1994

WINTER STUDY UPDATE

The 36th annual "Winter Study" program to monitor the wolf and moose populations on Isle Royale ran from Jan. 11 - March 1, 1994. The program, headed by Dr. Rolf Peterson of Michigan Technological University in cooperation with the National Park Service, is an annual effort to gain accurate population counts of the wolf and moose. The study is especially important because we get our first good look at whether any wolf pups born the previous spring survived to winter. The 1994 project was filled with noteworthy events.

Our longstanding concern that the declining wolf population would die out was tempered somewhat by the discovery of two packs with pups, an event which hadn't happened since 1987. The East and Middle Packs each produced four pups, making the pup tally of eight the highest since 1983. But this good news in turn was tempered when both adults in the Middle Pack died during the Winter Study program, leaving the nine-month old pups to fend for themselves. As the program ended March 1, the pups appeared to be in good shape, and were finding moose carcasses to scavenge for food. The long-term prognosis is probably not good, however, as the pups had never learned the hunting skills needed for survival.

Thus, as we left the Island on March 1 the wolf count stood at 15, with the population partitioned into packs of nine (East), four (Middle), and two (West).

The two wolf carcasses were sent to the National Wildlife Health

Research Center in Madison, WI for examination. Both wolves were emaciated, and it is hoped the autopsies will provide clues as to why they were in this condition.

Meanwhile, the moose population continued at very high levels. This winter's population estimate stood at 1770, +/- 370, which is similar to last year's estimate. The moose population continues at its highest levels in several decades.

Finally, two other notes of interest from the program. The severe winter of 1994 led to formation of an extensive ice bridge from the Island to mainland Canada and Minnesota. Although the wolves made their initial trek to the Island in the late 1940's across an ice bridge, it is doubtful such a rare event occurred again in 1994. We probably won't know until next year's Winter Study program.

We also observed considerable river otter activity this winter, and it appears the otter continues to stage

a remarkable comeback on the Island. Otters were observed in several locations around the Island last summer as well; their return is perhaps linked to the recovering herring population. In any case, the spirited otters are an enjoyable sight and their return to Isle Royale adds another interesting note to the story of the Island ecology.

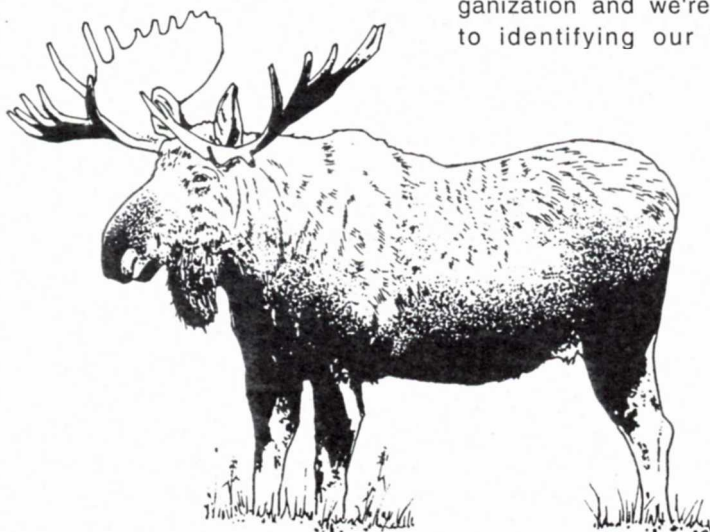
Jack Oelfke

*Natural Resource Specialist
Isle Royale National Park*

GO FORTH AND BE FRUITFUL

The wolves are following this admonition. The pack is increasing and that's exciting as can be. We will have more information about the pack as time goes on, and we'll certainly keep the membership posted.

Speaking of being fruitful, the number of our members has increased substantially as well. This is very beneficial to the health of the organization and we're looking forward to identifying our 1000th member



in the very near future, which will be a milestone for us.

The Board of Directors is working hard to promote a good and successful season. Weather permitting, it looks as though the park should do well.

We have planned the annual meeting and hope to see you there on the weekend of July 31. Remember, all members are welcome. There is no charge except for our annual chicken barbecue, and we anticipate some worthwhile events including and early morning birding and ecology walks, and a geology session. We have an interesting guest speaker who should be able to give us some thoughts about the Canadian view of the Island, and the event promises to be both instructive and entertaining.

The Board remains open for suggestions on the part of the membership. If there is something you would like to see done, something you would like to know, or just comments you would like to make, we welcome

those kinds of communications. The Board is here to serve the membership, and through their service to the membership, serve the park. We appear to be successful on all accounts and are deeply grateful to those who make it possible.

George Anast
Chair, IRNHA

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM 1994

This year there were 80 applicants to the Artist-in-Residence program. The artists were judged in five categories: artistic integrity, ability to reside in a wilderness environment, a willingness to donate a finished piece of work to the park, the ability to relate to the park, and the ability to interpret the park through a presentation. Several fine artists did not address all of these areas and therefore were eliminated from consideration.

The five finalists selected for the 1994 Isle Royale Artist-in-Residence program were Diane Canfield Bywaters, James Armstrong, Gendron Jensen, Alain Briot, and Gregory McHuron.

Diane Canfield Bywaters is an associate professor of art at the University of Wisconsin--Stevens Point. A landscape painter, she prefers to work on location rather than in a studio. She will have her residency from August 30 to September 14, 1994.

James Armstrong, a PH. D. candidate in Literature at Boston University, will study the relationships between scientific, spiritual, and aesthetic ways of knowing nature through poetry and essays. He will be on the Island from July 19 to August 3, 1994.

Gendron Jensen uses black-and white pencil drawings in which bones and other "natural relics" are transformed into objects of unfamiliar stature and beauty. He plans to work on Dr. Rolf Peterson's collection of bones at the Island and hopes to bring

forth a new interpretation of the wildlife. He resides in Rancho de Taos, New Mexico and will be on Isle Royale from June 10 to June 29, 1994.

Alain Briot is a doctoral candidate in Rhetoric and Technical Communications at Michigan Technological University, Houghton Michigan. As a photographer, he uses computers to digitally enhance his post-process photographs. He is able to create visual metaphors through combinations of images. He will be on the Island from July 1 to July 16, 1994.

Greg McHuron is an oil and watercolor painter from Moose, Wyoming. He believes that an artist should live in an area which has the subjects he/she wants to paint. Isle Royale has the wilderness he wishes to capture. He will be on the Island from August 5 to August 27, 1994.

SUMMER MEETING

The IRNHA annual meeting will be at Rock Harbor on Sunday July 31st, 1994. The guest speaker on Sunday is William Ross, staff archaeologist at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, Ontario Provincial Government, Thunder Bay, Ontario. His talk is entitled, *An Individual from Prehistory*.

We will have additional programs throughout the weekend. Terry Lindsay, Park Naturalist, will lead a bird walk; Bob Janke will conduct an ecological outing; Bill Rose has planned another geologic expedition in the park; and Artist-in-Residence, James Armstrong will give an evening program. The annual outdoor barbecue will be held Sunday after the guest speaker program. The price for the barbecue is \$9.50 with a reduced price for children.

We are working hard to increase involvement in the annual events. We hope as many members as possible will come to Rock Harbor and join in our festivities. The dates are July 29th through July 31st. Hope to see you there.

ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION 800 E. Lakeshore Dr., 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:

Individual 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 the *Northern Lights* Poster or a Canvas Tote Bag.

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

Board of Directors:

George Anast, Chair, Jan Dalquist, Treasurer, Patrick Martin, Chris Gale, William Rose, Robert Linn, John Dunn

Staff:

Gayle Pekkala, Executive Director & Editor
Ellen Croll, Membership & Mail Order Manager

AT A GLANCE: THE LIFE OF A PARK NATURALIST

Time passes quickly when you take on new responsibilities, in a new park, and a new town. Believe it or not over a year has passed since Park Naturalist Terry Lindsay transferred to Isle Royale from Shenandoah NP. Terry, a native of Florida, was born and raised in Jacksonville where he graduated, appropriately enough, from Terry Park High School. He entered Clemson University and graduated with honors with a B.S. degree in Park and Recreation Administration/Recreation Resource Management.

Terry's goal(s) were then, as they are today, very focused. He knew that the National Park Service was the place he wanted to be and to contribute to in a positive manner. He began working for the NPS as a student intern at the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park within the Division of Maintenance. In 1976 he was selected to be a seasonal park technician at C&O Canal NHP, followed by a similar position at Everglades NP. These were the first steps that so many hopeful budding young interpreters take to get the chance to become "permanent." He did not have to wait long. In 1978 he showed he was willing to take the plunge and meet new challenges when he accepted the position of park technician at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

Making moves and seeking new experiences was becoming Terry's *modus operandi*. A transfer to Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and Fort Matanzas National Monument brought Terry back to northern Florida. From this platform he attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. There he received the Distinguished Graduate Award, finishing third in his class, which by the way, was the last time an all National Park Service class was held.

Now you would think that the story of the beginning would end here, that Terry would have found his niche in either maintenance, interpretation or as a protection ranger. Think again. After all that, he left the Park Service and accepted a position as an Outdoor Recreation Planner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Folkston, Georgia. Some people just can not get the message!

But thank goodness for us, Terry did see the light. In 1982 he transferred back to the NPS as a Supervisory Park Ranger at Shenandoah NP. Building on those past years of training, different disciplines, and locations, Terry became a District Naturalist, serving at one time or another in all of the park's three districts for the next ten years. Supervising, planning, and directing interpretive activities kept Terry active if not a bit weary. He developed a highly popular interpretive program - *Birds of Prey*, a program using live raptors such as the red tailed hawk, peregrine falcons, screech owl, and barred owl. He became a National Park Service trainer and conducted training for the National Park Service Interpreters throughout the Park Service. He established Shenandoah's Annual Wildflower Weekend; produced a nature trail booklet which received a National Cooperating Association award, and was nominated for the Freeman Tilden Award and the Mid-Atlantic Crystal Window Award which recognize outstanding managers in interpretation. And when spare moments allowed, the avid birdwatcher, fly fisherman, hiker, and canoeist took to the hills and streams.

Isle Royale interpretation is in excellent hands with this seemingly mellow, but obviously hyperactive, naturalist. With only a short time at Isle Royale, Terry has come to share his skills by providing better services for all visitors. Check out the Rock Harbor Visitor Center and the improved evening programs and guided walks and the new public address and audio visual systems on the Ranger III. New interpretive trail signs and a

park orientation video are scheduled to debut during the summer of 1994. Terry and his wife Tress, along with children Ryan and Megan, welcome all of you to Isle Royale.

Thanks, Terry for accepting the offer to serve as Park Naturalist at Isle Royale.

Stuart Croll

Chief, Visitor Services and Resource Protection, Isle Royale

Retired

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We were sorry to learn of the death of long time member Curtis Toms. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, Herman Frances.

Thank you to the following for their donations towards the work of Isle Royale Natural History Association:

Beth & Randy Yeates, in memory of Bert Rowe

Marjorie McPherren

Thomas & Lucille Chulski

Mogens Nielsen

Edith Edwards

Ken & Maggie Lukow

Melinda Grenier

Noreen Schoener

Dr. & Mrs. Merle Plagge

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Stawicki

John & Phyllis Titmus

John & Jean Harvey

Annette & David Duchamp

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Perkins, Jr.

New Life Members

Welcome to our newest Life members, Tom and Liz Szpond, Livonia, MI. Tom joined the Association in 1988.

Membership Drive

Our membership drive has been very successful. As we go to press, we have 993 members. The Board of Directors will present one of our new logo sweatshirts to member 1000. Look at your newsletter. If your expiration date says 12/31/93 and you quickly renew your membership--this sweatshirt could be yours. If you do not renew, this will be your last

issue of the *Wolf's Eye*. We hate to lose old friends, so please keep in touch!

PARK CELEBRATES NATIONAL PARK WEEK MAY 22-28, 1994

The National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy has designated the week of May 22 through the 28, 1994 as National Park Week. All national park sites, which total over 360, will be offering special programs and events to draw positive public attention to individual parks and the National Park Service.

Isle Royale's plans for the week are to conduct an "Open House" at Houghton park headquarters for the local community on May 23. Monday evening at 7:00 P.M., Mark Carlson a professional photographer from Michigan, will present a special slide program he prepared after a visit to the Island last summer. The presentation is entitled *Isle Royale: Vernal Vision*.

Throughout the week the public is invited to view the park's Artist-in-Residence collection on display at the

Houghton headquarters. Park Superintendent Douglas Barnard encourages all Isle Royale Natural History Association members to come take part in the celebration of support at Isle Royale or at any national park site near your home. Happy National Park Week!

For further details about National Park Week contact Park Interpretive Specialist Terry Lindsay at (906) 482-0986.

SEMINARS AT ISLE ROYALE

We have been informed of two seminars being held on Isle Royale this summer. The first are being held June 14-18, and June 21-25 by the Michigan Audubon Society. They include day trips on botany, geology, and birdwatching. For more information and costs, call Maria Schneiderman at (517) 332-2824.

A *Look at Nature* photographic workshops will be held by Tom Duchaine. These are scheduled for July 15-17, August 18-20, and September 2-4. The workshops will cover everything from lighting to

composition. The cost is \$600.00 and includes transportation, lodging and meals. For more information call or write to: Northern Exposures, 236 Quincy St., Hancock, MI 49930, telephone (906) 482-2885, fax (906) 482-6004.

MINOR BY-LAWS CHANGES

Two minor changes to the By-Laws of the Association will be enacted by the Board of Directors at its next meeting on July 29.

Because the Board changed the title of the "Business Manager" to "Executive Director" at its meeting of May 1, 1993, this change will be made to the By-Laws wherever "Business Manager" occurs.

Also, Article IV, Section 3B of the By-Laws begins: "The Board will determine, at its winter meeting in each odd-numbered year.. ." Because the Board does not necessarily meet in the winter, the wording will be changed to read: "The Board will determine, at its first meeting in each odd-numbered year.. ."

9 April 1994

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Isle Royale Natural History Association

800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, Michigan 49931-1895

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