

WOLF'S EYE



Isle Royale Natural History Association

Summer 1994

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

The plans are set for the annual meeting at Rock Harbor for this summer. Everything starts with the Board of Directors meeting on Friday night. Other activities are as follows:

Friday July 29th

8:00 P.M. Raspberry Island/Sunset Cruise on the M.V. Sandy. Charge \$9.25. The Sandy leaves from the lodge dock and goes to Raspberry Island first and then around Blake Point for sunset over the Sleeping Giant. Sign up at the Lodge Office.

8:30 P.M. Interpretive Program at the Auditorium at Rock Harbor.

Saturday July 30th

9:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. Geologic walk with Dr. Bill Rose of MTU. Charge \$9.25. The Sandy will drop off interested parties at Daisy Farm for the one mile trek to the Ojibway Tower. Bill will explain the terrain and then take you back to the Edisen Fishery to end the tour. Sign up at the Lodge Office.

1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. At A Glance - A short ranger-led walk around Rock Harbor. Meet at the Visitor Center.

2:30 P.M. Dockside Discovery - A 15 minute discussion with a ranger about some aspect of Isle Royale's cultural or natural history.

3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. Nature Walk with Bob Janke. No charge. Bob will lead a nature tour to Lookout Louise. Boats will leave from the Tobin Harbor dock.

8:30 P.M. Artist-in-Residence, James Armstrong will give the evening program. Rock Harbor Auditorium.

Sunday July 31st

9:00 A.M. Bird walk with Park Naturalist, Terry Lindsay. Terry will lead a birding expedition in the Rock Harbor area. Walk will start at the Visitor Center.

1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. At A Glance - A short ranger-led walk around Rock Harbor. Meet at the Visitor Center.

1:30 P.M. Annual Membership Meeting at the Auditorium at Rock Harbor.

2:00 P.M. Guest speaker, Staff Archaeologist, Bill Ross of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Recreation, Ontario Provincial Government will talk on An Individual from Prehistory.

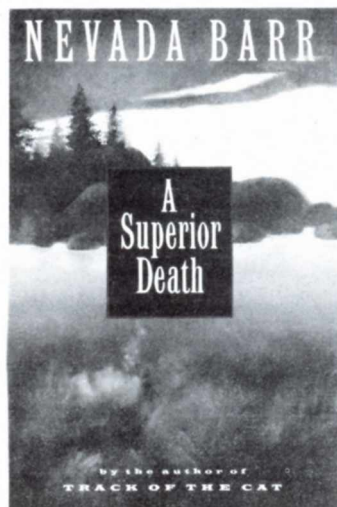
2:30 P.M. Dockside Discovery - A 15 minute discussion with a ranger about some aspect of Isle Royale's cultural or natural history.

4:00-4:30 P.M. Chicken Barbecue. Charge \$9.50. The annual outdoor barbecue will be held by the Guest House at Rock Harbor.

8:30 P.M. Interpretive Program at the Auditorium.

NEW BOOKS

Several new books are hot off the presses.

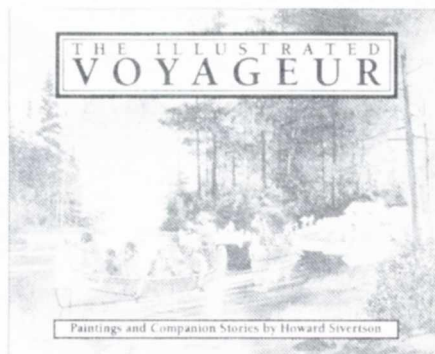


Superior Death (Putnam, \$19.95, Hardcover) is a murder mystery by former Windigo

Ranger Nevada Barr. In her second outing, Ranger Anna Pigeon has come to Isle Royale National Park. This is quite a change from Guadalupe Mountains National Park the setting for Barr's first book *Trail of the Cat*.

Isle Royale and Lake Superior become the scene of a death. After further investigation, it is realized that this death was no accidental diving mishap, but a murder committed on the Kamloops, one of the ten shipwrecks that surround the rugged coast of Isle Royale. Pigeon along with Park Service staff and an FBI agent have to sort out the motive for the murder. Was the victim involved in drugs, theft of historical artifacts, or just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

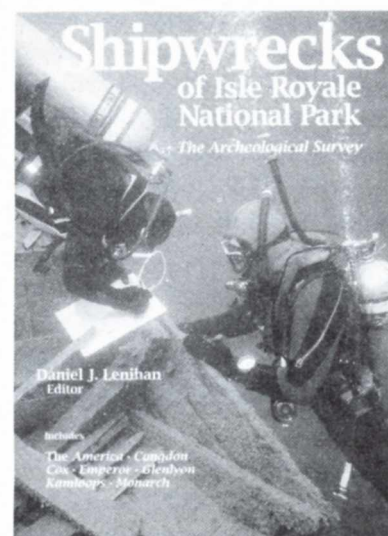
The book is enjoyable to read and gives us a non-traditional look at the internal structure of Isle Royale National Park. Through her vivid descriptions, Barr makes you feel the fog enveloping the Island and the due respect given to Lake Superior. The wildlife and wilderness come to life as only those who know Isle Royale can attest. This book is a wonderful change for those who love the Island and its culture.



The Illustrated Voyageur, (Midwest Traditions, \$20.95, Hardcover) is Howard "Buddy" Sivertson's new book. With his

paintings and wonderful knack for storytelling, Buddy makes history come alive.

Through his paintings, the reader is brought into the yearly cycle of the voyageurs, the fur traders of the Great Lakes region. From surviving the harsh winters to the long trek to the Grand Portage rendezvous, history is told in an conscientious manner. Between painting and text, you get the feel for the long trip to Grand Portage and back. The necessity, difficulty, and loneliness of this journey grabs you along with the taste of pemmican, the sustenance of the voyageurs during this time. One learns to appreciate the hardship of these adventurers of the Great Lakes area.



Shipwrecks of Isle Royale National Park: The Archeological Survey, (Lake Superior Magazine, \$34.95 Softcover) edited by Daniel Lenihan is due out in July. This is the revised SCR (Submerged Cultural Resources Unit) report on the ten shipwrecks of Isle Royale. The book includes the history of the ships and the maps of the underwater sites.

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

Another new book is *Following the Pack: The World of Wolf Research*, (Voyageur Press, \$19.95, Hardcover) by Mike Link and Kate Crowley. The book covers wolf research and the researchers. It covers Isle Royale researchers Durward Allen, David Mech and Rolf Peterson. It contains good information, although there are two errors on the Isle Royale section. One of Rolf Peterson's sons has the wrong name, and the idea of 30 inches of snow killing moose is incorrect. Thirty inches of ground cover or 300 inches of snow is more in line with reality.

The Kids' Wilderness Book (Williamson, \$12.95, Softcover) by Warner Shedd is the newest children's book we have. The book tells about the habitat of different animals, and includes indoor and outdoor activities for kids to learn more about wildlife. The book makes learning fun.

If you wish further information or wish to order any of these books, please call the IRNHA office at (800) 678-6925. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover.

EARTHWATCH VOLUNTEERS ASSIST WOLF/MOOSE RESEARCH

People have known Isle Royale in vastly different ways throughout history-- a place to find copper, a winter logging camp, a three-season commercial fishery, a summer home or resort, and, most recently, a wilderness adventure. In the past seven years, about 250 people have found a new way to experience the Island, as a short-term participant in the wolf-moose research.

Based in Cambridge, MA, Earthwatch matches volunteers with field research projects

throughout the world. Not only do people give their time, they also donate money in a substantial way to the projects in which they choose to participate. Rolf Peterson began using Earthwatch volunteers in 1989 to increase ground coverage of the Island in the summer and to help fund the summer operation of the 35-year-old research project.

It may seem surprising that anyone would even want to shoulder a 45 pound backpack and slog through swamps and climb over windfalls searching for the remains of moose, but there are people who thrive on this sort of physical challenge. Many of the volunteers are city folks who crave a week away from the telephone, traffic, and schedules. They also enjoy being with kindred souls, people who are genuinely concerned that wild places may be crowded off the planet because of human pressure, and people who want to contribute something to a project they find worthwhile.

Of course, Earthwatch trips are quite variable. The first three expeditions are in May and early June, before the vegetation has covered the animal bones. Volunteers on these trips typically find more than a dozen moose skeletons, and packs are heavy at the end of seven days. Weather is never predictable on the Island, and some groups get completely soaked. Black flies and mosquitoes are worse in late June and early July, and for this reason trips are not scheduled again until August, when the night skies are brilliant and the blueberries delicious.

Volunteers recruited by Earthwatch come to Isle Royale from all over the world. In seven days of intense living, in which hardships and joyful excitement are shared, these disparate folks

become a team. Most volunteers find the work harder than expected, and one woman suggested that there be the option of paying twice the price and staying at the research cabin for a week. There was one volunteer, however, who found the expedition so easy that, after hiking ten miles at the end of the trip, he chose to trot from Daisy Farm to Rock Harbor and back to buy a postcard, a distance of 16 miles.

The price for participating (\$745) might seem high, but the Isle Royale project is the least expensive of all the Earthwatch programs. Half of the fee stays in Massachusetts in order to advertise, screen applicants and produce briefings for the volunteers. The remainder of the fee buys food, equipment and salaries for the team leaders. If you are interested in joining an Earthwatch expedition in 1995, please write to Earthwatch, P.O. Box 403, Watertown, MA, 02272, or speak with the Petersons.

Candy Peterson

LOOKING AHEAD

Isle Royale National Park is no longer isolated and protected in far off Lake Superior. Pollutants, both air borne and in water currents have a significant impact. Exotics such as Ruffe and Bythotrepe (spiny water flea) are now present in Isle Royale waters. Jet contrails are sometimes sufficient to form clouds. With a north wind the smell of Canadian pulp mills is clearly evident. Wilderness enthusiasts complain of noise from boaters and aircraft. We have had to place restrictions on open containers of alcohol at Siskiwit Bay and McCargo Cove. All of these things are symptomatic of change and the fact that civil-

ization is not left at your departure point. It is very present at Isle Royale.

To meet these changes the park must plan ahead. To define the future of the park, we must look both forward and to the past. Our enabling legislation and subsequent legislated wilderness designation makes it quite clear that the land area of the park is intended for preservation in a natural state. This is recognized while at the same time user groups are asking for more facilities. Boaters would like more dock space. Campers would like more campgrounds and shelters. The park service, meanwhile, must pump all of the drinking water, generate all of the electricity, dispose of all of the sewage and solid waste (garbage), and maintain the facilities. This is all occurring in a time of fiscal restraint mixed with increased recognition of the necessity to preserve the resource intact.

Planning has become a critical function. We have recognized that our overall guiding document, the

Master Plan (1963) is inadequate and out-of-date. To meet this need, we have been successful in gaining a high priority, No. 8 service, for funding and development of a General Management Plan (GMP). This effort will hopefully be funded in Fiscal Year 1995, and if not then, certainly in FY 1996. This will be a multi-year extensive planning effort, with public input, to define our direction for the next decade at least. We have put the Rock Harbor Development Concept Plan "on hold" until the GMP is completed.

Another major planning effort that we are about to embark upon is a contract, currently being negotiated, to conduct a solid waste study to determine what to do with solid waste generated on the Island. For years we have incinerated this waste. The study will examine all alternatives for disposal including incineration, composting, recycling, baling, and transport to a landfill, etc.

Along with these planning ef-

orts, the staff is taking a very hard look at energy and water use. We are examining ways to slow down on our continual increase in resource use. Alternatives being examined are retrofitting, insulation, solar power adaptation, realistic numbers of families and employees that can be housed on the Island, etc.

In conjunction with the Michigan DNR we are closely examining the need for better population baseline surveys of the aquatic resource. We are also questioning the appropriateness of the current fishing regulations which are primarily consumptive. Should we be moving toward a trophy or recreational fishery?

These are only some of the questions we are currently facing. Your careful and thoughtful consideration of these issues and your input into the decision process will be critical to preserving Isle Royale National Park as the jewel of Lake Superior.

Douglas Barnard
Superintendent, Isle Royale NP

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Isle Royale Natural History Association

800 E. Lakeshore Drive
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