

WOLF'S EYE



Isle Royale Natural History Association

Spring 1995

WINTER STUDY 1995

This past winter saw the completion of Isle Royale's 37th annual Winter Study monitoring program of the wolves and moose, a cooperative venture between Isle Royale National Park and Dr. Rolf Peterson at Michigan Technological University. Population surveys of both the wolf and moose were completed during the monitoring period (mid-January to Feb. 28, 1995). The results were not particularly surprising, although a few events are of particular interest.

The highest wolf count during the surveys was 16, as compared to 17 wolves from a year ago. Three wolves died since last year and two new pups were born in the East Pack (the only successful reproduction). The two "orphan" pups from the Middle Pack which were live-trapped and radio-collared in May, 1994, survived to the winter and appeared to be doing well. However, one of these wolves, a female, who had paired off with a male and appeared poised to become a breeding pair, ventured into the East Pack territory and was killed by the East Pack in early February. The East Pack alpha female proceeded to feed upon the dead wolf, an event never before witnessed on Isle Royale by Dr. Peterson. Shortly thereafter the East Pack alpha female disappeared, and is presumed dead. Thus, the current wolf count stands at 14, with the population organized into three packs and four loners.

Meanwhile the moose population continues to increase dramatically. The estimated moose count now stands at approximately 2400, up from 1800 of a year ago. This estimate is the highest count since organized surveys began in 1945.

Whereas the ongoing debate as to

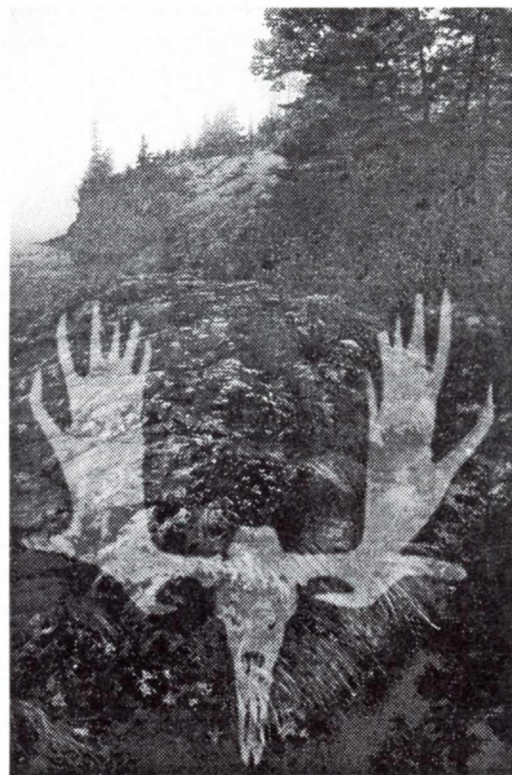
the cause of the wolf decline continues, the population has reached an important point which should help to both clarify the underlying causes of the continued poor reproduction and determine the long-term fate of the Island's wolf population. A new generation of wolves is assuming leadership in the alpha roles, and the key food source for the wolves - old moose - is increasing steadily. If within the next few years the "new generation" packs fail to produce and successfully raise larger litters of pups, the evidence for the problem being genetically based due to inbreeding problems will be substantial. Conversely, if these new breeding pairs do increase pup production, blame for the decline may fall on food shortage and/or disease.

Whatever the outcome may be for the Isle Royale wolves, the benefits of this long-term research and monitoring program can never be overstated. Much of what is known in the world about wolf ecology in a natural, non-manipulated setting has come from the Isle Royale studies. Whatever we finally conclude about the root cause of the Isle Royale wolf decline could not be done without the extensive population histories we have for the wolf and moose populations. The importance of these findings will reach well beyond the Isle Royale shorelines, for what we learn from our wolf population may directly apply to other isolated predator populations around the world, including those isolated on "islands" formed due to surrounding habitat fragmentation. In that respect, once again, Isle Royale clearly contributes to its designation as an International Biosphere Reserve.

Jack Oelfke, Natural Resource Specialist, Isle Royale National Park

ALAIN BRIOT

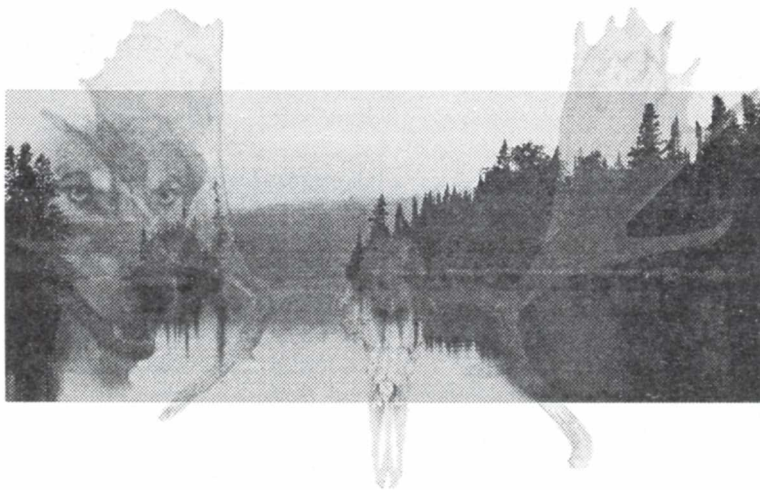
Artist-in-Residence 1994



Moose Antlers and Rock Harbor Landscape

My Artist-in-Residence stay at Isle Royale National Park in July 1994 was my first visit to this beautiful and remote national park. My two-week stay provided me with a wonderful opportunity to both explore the Island and create images which express my personal vision of Isle Royale. My wife and I stayed at the Dassler cabin on Scoville Point. During our stay I photographed the Island and its wildlife, focusing on the area around the Dassler cabin. We also hiked up to Lookout Louise and to Mount Franklin, canoed to Daisy Farm and the Edisen Fishery and visited Rolf Peterson. With Rolf's help, I was able to photograph several of the moose skulls and antlers which are part of his extensive collection.

My medium is digital photography, and since my return from Isle Royale I have been



Moose, Wolf and Tobin Harbor Landscape

creating digital images from the photographs I captured during my residency. After getting my films developed, I selected a number of negatives I wanted to work with and got them scanned or digi-

tized, and stored on Kodak photo-CD's. With this step completed, I started working on the final images, using essentially Adobe Photoshop, currently one of the leading photo-enhancing software packages. I work on a Macintosh Quadra 840av computer to which I have added a number of peripherals, including a 16" color monitor, a CD-ROM drive, a magnet-optical drive, and a dye-sublimation printer (among others).

My final images are printed on watercolor paper. The images are printed to my specifications, in full color, and at very high resolution. The use of watercolor paper as support gives them a unique, soft quality.

So far, I have released two limited-edition prints of Isle Royale. These are printed on Rives BFK 170 lb. watercolor paper, and are individually signed and numbered. The first image is entitled **Moose, Wolf and Tobin Harbor Landscape**. The landscape photograph was taken on the trail which leads to Suzy's cave along Tobin Harbor. The moose antlers are part of Rolf Peterson's collection and were photographed during my canoe trip to Daisy Farm. The wolf photograph was also taken by me, but not on Isle Royale. Given the uncooperative nature of wolves when it comes to being photographed, I decided to visit the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota, and spent several days photographing the members of their captive pack. The wolf in **Moose, Wolf and Tobin Harbor Landscape** is Lucas, the alpha male of the International Wolf Center captive

pack. It is a timber wolf similar to the wolves on Isle Royale.

The second image, **Moose Antlers and Rock Harbor Landscape**, includes a second pair of moose antlers from Rolf Peterson's collection. The landscape photograph was taken near Rock Harbor, along the trail from Scoville Point to Rock Harbor. The colors of the original photograph were altered on the computer. The resulting colors, oranges, mauves and soft greens could never be captured by film alone. The same effect was used in the photograph of Tobin Harbor, making these two prints complimentary to each other. The antlers are semi-transparent, so as to show the landscape underneath them. Black and white reproduction does not fully do justice to this image.

The size of these two images is 12" x 18". The price of each print is \$95.00 plus shipping and 6% sales tax for Michigan residents. Order may be placed by calling 1-800-678-6925 or sending in the order form provided. These works will be on display at the Copper Country Gallery Exhibition in Houghton, Michigan, on May 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Alain Briot

MEMBERS NEEDED FOR THE BOARD

The by-laws of the Isle Royale Natural History Association limit the term office of Board members to six years. This is a second call for those of you interested in serving the IRNHA, the park, and promoting long term growth and success. There will be openings for four new Board members this coming year.

The Board meets four times per year, three times in Houghton, and once a year at Rock Harbor for the Annual Meeting of the Association. Minimal mileage is paid for Board members living outside the Houghton area. There are no financial obligations connected with service on the Board and your expenses connected with meetings are tax deductible as contributions to the IRNHA. Only qualified voting members may become directors of the Association.

If you wish to run for the Board sub-

ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION 800 E. Lakeshore Dr., Houghton, MI 49931 Telephone: (906) 482-7860

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 in two annual installments of \$125.00 each.

*Includes a gift copy of *The Elfin World of Mosses and Liverworts*, or a royal blue canvas rolled bag.

**Includes a gift of a beautifully framed photo of Isle Royale (16"X20").

Board of Directors:

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

Staff:

Gayle Pekkala, Executive Director & Wolf's Eye Editor
Ellen Croll, Membership & Mail Order Manager

George T. Anast, MD, Chairman

Total purchase
Less 10% for Members
Subtotal
MI Residents add 6% Sales Tax
Shipping (see Chart)
Added Charge for Priority Mail
Membership Fee
Total Enclosed

**Volunteers at the Copper Country
Mall Community Awareness Day
IRNHA Booth:**

Becky Brown, Paul Hinzmann, Jan
Anderson, Bob Nobles, & Brian
McLaren

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers ready and willing to help us with data entry, bulk mailings, and manning membership-sales booths at fairs/festivals.

Interested? Call Ellen at 482-7860

**ARTISTS-IN-
RESIDENCE 1995**

There were 120 applicants for the Artist-in-Residence program this year. The three chosen are Gerald Korte, Lorraine Slabbaert-Norrard, and Melanie Parke.

Gerald Korte is a signature member of the Midwest Watercolor Society and a past president of that organization. His works are in private and public collections in more than 40 states and nine countries.

Lorraine Slabbaert-Norrard is a video artist. She will be working with Albert Hunter an Ojibwe poet. They plan on doing visualized poetry to explore the timeless power of the Island.

Malanie Parke is a oil painter who

wishes to achieve an intimacy with the land. Through landscapes she hopes to interpret visually how the land affects us internally.

**EXPLORING ISLE
ROYALE WINS AWARD**

The new park video *Exploring Isle Royale-An Island Wilderness* has won the 1995 Best Outdoor Travel Adventure award from the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association in their Outdoor Travel Film Contest. The video was produced by the National Park Service at Harpers Ferry. Our congratulations for a job well done. The video sells for \$17.95

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the IRNHA will be held on Sunday July 30th, at Rock Harbor. The weekend plans are in progress.

On Saturday July 29th, interpreters from Project Lakewell will be at Rock Harbor. They will be doing programs and demonstrations on the French voyageurs. They will be in costume with authentic reproductions of a voyageur canoe and bateaux.

Mary Ann Beckwith, current presi-

dent of the Midwest Watercolor Society and juror of the Artist-in-Residence program will be giving a demonstration on Sunday.

Our meeting will begin around 2:00 P.M. followed by the chicken barbecue behind the Lodge. A detailed schedule will be in the summer issue of the *Wolf's Eye*.

NEW SHIRTS

Ranger III

\$30.00



Heavyweight Fruit of the Loom 90/10 cotton/polyester sweat shirt with full-color art of the Ranger III. Color- Cream. Sizes S-XL. Add **\$2.00** for XXL. Hanes Beefy-T T-shirts **\$16.00**. Sizes S-XL. Add **\$1.00** for XXL.

WOLF'S EYE

Isle Royale Natural History Association

800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, Michigan 49931-1895

Address Correction Requested



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Houghton, Michigan

Permit No. 45