

WOLF'S EYE



Isle Royale Natural History Association

Winter 1996

Mall Outlet

For the fourth year IRNHA has operated an outlet at the Copper Country Mall for the Christmas season. Although retail was down four percent nationally, the Mall store had a 22% increase over 1994.

The Houghton Visitor Center was closed during most of the Christmas season but we were not as adversely affected as other associations due to the governmental shut-down. We were lucky enough to have an off site outlet. Bruce Craig, Executive Director of the Conference of National Park Cooperating Associations (of which we are a member) estimated that associations lost approximately \$165,000 per day and the Park Service lost \$35,000 per day in "Aid to the Park" (donations made to their respective parks by cooperating association). IRNHA and Isle Royale were very lucky not to suffer these losses due to the shut-down.

On behalf of myself and the staff, we would like to thank our members and the people of the Copper Country for their continued support of our store at the Mall.

Board Considers Change in IRNHA's Mission

The mission statement being considered for adoption is as follows:

It is the mission of IRNHA to support and enhance the NPS and the Isle Royale National Park experience by producing and distributing educational materials explaining the natural and cultural history of the Island. IRNHA believes the satisfaction of an Island visit is expanded by a comprehensive understanding of the island's geography, flo-



Mary Ann Beckwith at shirt signing at Mall outlet store

ra, fauna, and the impact of both ancient and modern man.

This mission statement is in keeping with the traditional role of IRNHA. But we may have to change all that. If needed improvements are to be made, the park needs more dollars than we produce through publications. Granted it is appreciated, but with the current budget there may not be enough money. This year's budget has the same dollar amount as last year's. With inflation around 3% this means there is less to work with while there is more to be done. That's the reason we may have to change our mission statement to include "fund raising".

We make a profit (if we work hard) and we pass it along to the park. Because of the contract NPS has with the concessionaire we are severely limited in what we can sell. With the small visitation our market is very finite and will produce only so many dollars no matter how hard we work. So far we have been content with what we do under the circumstanc-

es, and even though we know more funds are needed we have chosen not to attempt to raise funds. We have never seriously tried to raise funds by solicitation, nor have we made an effort to do for (or with) the park things we thought should be done. The time has come give consideration to change, because it appears, if the membership of IRNHA doesn't do it, it may not happen. The time may have come to enter into a much more collaborative relationship with the park.

In the article which follows we have taken some first, tentative steps along these lines. The board has tested the waters (Lake Superior, of course!) and found what appears to be a reservoir of good will and willingness to help. We are not yet sure this is the way to go. We need a lot more information, and more than anything else we need the support and backing of our membership. Over the coming weeks we'll be talking with the Doug Barnard at the park as we ex-

plore the risks and benefits of working together on what for us is a unique cooperative undertaking. In the meantime can we hear from you? Tell us what you think. Pro or con? Let us know. We're listening!

Letters may be sent to IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931. You may call me at home. My phone number is 715-356-2684 and my fax is 715-356-7458. Three board members have E-Mail Internet connections that we regularly check. George Anast at geoana@newnorth.net Doug Welker at dwelker@up.net and John Dunn at janet.dunn@um.cc.umi.ch.edu. We have over 1200 members. Hearing from at least two hundred would make a good sample. The more, the better as far as sampling opinion goes. Do it!

George Anast

Chairman of the Board, IRNHA

**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.....\$15.00
Family Membership.....\$20.00
*Supporting Membership.....\$50.00
**Life Membership.....\$500.00
***Corporate Sponsor.....\$1,000.00
***Corporate Patron.....\$5,000.00

Life Memberships may be paid in two annual installments of \$250.00 each.

*Includes a gift of a royal blue canvas rolled bag.

**Includes a gift copy of *Isle Royale: A Pictorial History*.

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

Board of Directors:

George Anast, Chair, John Anderson, Alfred Angeli, Doug Welker, William Rose, John Dunn.

Staff:

Gayle Pekkala, Executive Director & Wolf's Eye Editor
Lori Honrath & Lauren Rastello, Mail Order & Membership Specialists

Gift May Allow Rock Harbor Expansion

The Roger and Mary Pukall Foundation of Woodruff, Wisconsin has offered to contribute nearly all the building material needed for a 700 square foot addition to the Rock Harbor Visitor Center. The present facility is woefully inadequate. IRNHA could benefit from an expanded sales area and the park would gain much needed space for interpretive displays and visitor services.

Initially, an addition was to be delayed until the General Management Plan was complete. However, the need was so acute the board began talking with Doug Barnard, Park Superintendent to see if, there wasn't some way the process could be accelerated. Mr. Barnard acknowledged the need but could see no possibility of the park proceeding under the current budget. He felt sure the park could participate to a modest extent if major outside funding could be obtained.

No sooner had Doug made the offer to help when he received a letter from an architect, Rick Neumann of Petoskey, Michigan offering his services, pro bono, to the park. Doug told Rick of our problems with the visitor center. One thing led to another, so Rick came out to the Island for a few days, bunking at Mott while working at Rock Harbor. In short order architectural drawings arrived, compliments of Rick. The board of directors of IRNHA, aware of Rick's work, voted to explore the possibility of obtaining building materials if, the park could be of assistance with labor. To date this has been a feasibility study consisting largely of, "what ifs".

Roger Pukall had been a frequent visitor to the park over the past years, making one or more fishing trips nearly every year. When informed of what we were considering doing, Roger, who operates one of the best and largest building supply, lumber and millwork facilities in Northern Wisconsin, made the offer to supply building materials. Based on Roger's offer, Doug Barnard is exploring ways of obtaining the required labor. Board member John Dunn of Livonia, Michigan, entering into the spirit, has of-

fered to evaluate putting together a volunteer construction crew.

The board really wants to see this happen but has not yet made a final judgment. We desperately need the space and so far it seems as though assistance is literally falling out of the sky, but we will still need help and we're a long way from giving a go-ahead. All the problems aren't solved and it would be terribly unwise to proceed further unless we are absolutely sure we can complete the project. Can you help us make the decision whether to proceed or not? We will need additional labor. I think the park will donate transportation on the Ranger and maybe housing. Any contribution from the membership of cash, or "in kind" assistance will be of enormous help. If you think you would be willing donate in one way or the other, let us know. There are scads of scheduling problems, but we've got this far and are confident that with the members help and concurrence we can go the route. If you feel you want to help, or just as importantly, if you have opinions or advice call me at 715-356-2684 or John Dunn at 810-478-6141. Letters can be mailed to IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931.

George T. Anast, MD

Chairman of the Board

To Elect Three Board Members

As you will remember the by-laws have been changed increasing the board to nine members. Last year three new members were elected. With retirements those three brought our total to six. This year we must elect three more to reach our total of nine. We have a cadre of members who signified interest on our last call. We will be contacting them to see if, they wish to run again in this election. However, if you are interested and did not answer the last call, let us know. Drop me a line or call signifying your interest. Our nominations committee will present a slate to the members for election before the annual meeting. With this change of schedule new board members will have the opportunity of attending

the annual meeting and getting to know the membership and the sitting board members.

Board membership is key to our existence. Did you know we are one of the few natural history associations that are membership driven, that is the membership elects the officers and the board is not self perpetuating? It takes dedicated board members to preserve our uniqueness while making us grow. With the national budget being what it is IRNHA is more important than ever! Letters can be mailed to IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931.

George T. Anast, MD
Chairman of the Board

New Shirt



Mary Ann Beckwith, well known watercolorist and former president of the Midwest Watercolor Association donated the use of one of her pieces in the **Isle Royale Silhouettes** series for a shirt. We had both sweatshirts and T-shirts made with this design for the Christmas season.

The sweatshirts are Hanes Heavyweight 50-50 blend and are \$30.00. The sizes are S-XXL and the color is beige with the image mainly in a navy blue. The T-Shirt is a 100% Cotton Hanes Beefy-T in beige. The T-Shirts are \$20.00 for sizes S-XL and \$22.00 For XXL. Supplies are limited to remaining stock.

To order call **1-800-678-6925**. We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and

American Express.

Membership Report

Our membership drive is in full swing. Our mail box is filled daily with renewals and new membership forms. We would like to thank all our members for their continued support of our organization. If you have not renewed as of yet, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

We would like to welcome the following new **Life Members**:

Robert and Barbara McTaggart, Houghton, MI

Robert Swendrzynski, Cincinnati, OH

Charlie Zamzow, Battle Creek, MI
Tom and Karen Mertaugh, Traverse City, MI

David Blocker, Friendswood, TX
Todd and Nancy Bass, Rochester Hills, MI, a gift from Elaine Young

Jennifer Hudson, Muskegon, MI, a gift from Alice Pomrenke

Joshua Hudson, Muskegon, MI, a gift from Alice Pomrenke

We would like to thank the following members for their **donations** that help us continue our work:

Mary Ellen & Charles Finch, University City, MO, Artist-in-Residence Program

George and Velta Anast, Minocqua, WI

Dr. and Mrs. Brian Fox, Riverton, WY

Rick Bowman, Oshkosh, WI
Dave Stawicki, Lexington, KY
Keith and Mary Bader, Troy, OH
Paul Kotila, Fitzwilliam, NH
Melba Clapp, Flint, MI

Robert and Lennagene Stratton, Marquette, MI

Carol Ann Todd, Kalamazoo, MI
Mrs. Gerrie Kupper, Madison, NJ

Articles needed

Do you have an interesting story concerning a trip to Isle Royale? If you do, we'd like to hear it.

The **Wolf's Eye** needs articles and

news briefs from its members and other interested parties. If you have any historic pieces on the Island we would also like to share them with our membership. We really would like input from our members. Send your articles, etc., to Gayle Pekkala, IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931. We appreciate your concern and support.

Upcoming Books

The IRNHA is in the process of publishing two revised books. **The Life of Isle Royale** has been revised and is being designed by award winning designer Christina Watkins (Isle Royale: Moods, Magic, and Mystique). A new title has not been selected yet. Napier Shelton has submitted a final copy and it is in the final review stages.

Bob Janke is finishing the final touches of **The Wildflowers of Isle Royale**. This will replace **101 Wildflowers of Isle Royale**. We still have about 75 copies of the **101 Wildflowers** left, but that will soon be depleted. We are hoping to incorporate some color photographs of the more common and unusual flowers in the new edition. If finances permit these two books will be available within the next year.

1996 Artist-in-Residence Program

Applications for the Artist-in-Residence Program will be taken until February 15, 1996. We have already received several applications and will probably end up with about 100 entrants. The judging will be held in early March and winner will be notified shortly thereafter. Artists' properties will be returned by April 15, 1996.

Artists are judged in five categories. They are: artistic integrity, ability to reside in a wilderness environment, a willingness to donate a finished piece of work to the park, and the ability to relate and interpret the park through their work.

The competition is open to professional artist in all fields whose work can be influenced by a stay at Isle Royale.

Milford and Myrtle Johnson Interview

Milford and Myrtle Johnson lived on Amygdaloid Island and fished commercially off the reefs. This is an excerpt from their interview.

They were interviewed by the Amygdaloid Ranger and taped by Ivan Tolley (Assistant Chief Ranger) on September 17, 1974. This tape is part of the Oral History Collection at Isle Royale National Park.

Subject: Trip with Dr. Oastler researching the appropriateness of making Isle Royale a national park.

Milford: It was 1934, when Dr. Oastler [came]?

Myrtle: Either '34 or '35.

Milford: Yeah, it was the guy, Dr. Oastler from New York, yeah, that took all those moose pictures, still pictures.

Ranger: What was the story about where you carried the canoe clear up to.

Milford: Yeah, we carried it into Lake Richie and we camped there about ten days. And we got a lot of moose pictures, I tell you.

We paddled up to them...we had a green shirt on, they like the color of that, you know. And then a bunch of brush in front of the canoe. And so they can't tell you coming when their heads were down, eating roots, you'd paddle like crazy. And you got so close to them you could take

the paddle and smack them on the rump. They'd jump right out of the water, and stuff like this was what he wanted, see, he had a lot of pictures, but this was his last year he come out here.

Ranger: Was he taking pictures... all the time?

Milford: Yeah. Oh yeah, that's what he wanted, you know. So from there on... We carried that old birch bark canoe into Intermediate and then into Siskiwit Lake and paddled that, the west end of Siskiwit and then started for Lake Desor. It took two and half days. No trail, in a swamp. We got in a swamp one evening and we couldn't hardly see daylight, so thick it was, a cedar swamp. Late afternoon and we had to stay, had to stay. And I had a pack of groceries on my back too. Canned stuff: beans, in those days you couldn't get dehydrated. There was a hunk of ham in there it weighted about 8 pounds, seven or eight pounds. Boy was I glad when I looked there at the bone, the bone was loose and I shook it and, you know, the bugs were crawling. And I said, "Look at this Doc." Oh, he said, "We had some of that last night, what's wrong with it tonight?" And we did, but it was dark [laughter: couldn't see the bugs, hue?] the night before. No, you couldn't see the maggots in there, so, the gosh darn thing, so I heaved it in the woods. And was I glad, it was eight pounds.

Myrtle: Specially when you are out

like that.

Milford: No yoke for that thing, two wet gunny sacks on each shoulder. And I was creeping through the woods and all I saw then, most of the time, was mosquitoes, you know. And follow him, he had a compass, he was going by. And I'll tell you we got in some awful tangles. We finally got there. And when we got there, there were hardly any moose there at all, in Desor. Three or four. And we were disappointed. Boy, was I. [laughter.]

Well he says, what are we going to do with the canoe? Well, I says, "You can be damn sure I'm not going to carry back the way we brought it here." With no yoke or nothing, I'm through.

No, he says, we can't do that, we can't do that. Well, I said, I'll carry it over the hill and into Lake Superior. And he bought that. And that's what we did. We got it over the hill. And he had a load too. He had a reflex [camera], movie camera, film tripod and all this stuff for the old man. We got in the lake up here, Lake Superior, up at Finlander Reef, just the west of Little Todd. And boy I never was so good in all my life. I wanted to go down and in that thing. There was a little south wind blowing, you know, and we paddled along the shore. All the way down to Belle Isle in that southwest. I tell you I was glad when it was over. That was the toughest trip I ever had in my life....

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Isle Royale Natural History Association

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