

Wolf's Eye



Isle Royale Natural History Association

Fall 1997

Superintendent's Message



As you read this, the Copper Country and Isle Royale National Park will be locked in winter. The park staff is already planning for next year.

The biggest thing we expect to accomplish this "off season" is to get the new General Management Plan in draft form and send it to everyone on the mailing list for comments. By next summer, we should have it in final, signed form. Interest in the plan has been intense with all sides of the plan having strong advocates. To this point, public comment has supported a moderate approach to the future management of the park. I encourage you to continue your strong interest in the plan and comment as you feel is appropriate. There seem to be two main points of misunderstanding about the draft preferred alternative. The first is that the lodge and amenities at Rock Harbor are to be shut down, and the second is that boaters are to somehow be systematically limited in numbers or barred from the park. The draft preferred alternative states that ONLY the LODGE (motel) units would be eliminated (the American Plan restaurant would become a grill-type operation) and that five new house-keeping duplex units would be added along with four new "RUSTIC CABINS." Further, the number of docks available to the boater would increase. Although the documents are lengthy, I urge you to carefully read them in their entirety for the correct information as they become available.

As you know, we instituted a minimal user fee this summer. We had very few complaints about it and most visitors were glad to pay the fee as they know that 80% of it was to be returned to the park. This return to the park for use in the coming year will be approximately \$170,000. We intend to utilize this funding primarily for maintenance and repair of docks and trails.

Visitation to Isle Royale was down approximately 1,000 visitors. This seems to correspond with what I have been told about a drop off of visitors to the north shore of Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula.

Our housing initiative, to which many of you contributed, has successfully financed the construction and completion of a fourplex housing unit at Windigo. This structure and the new Visitor Center are being built by volunteers and park crews to maximize effective use of the money.

The new Windigo Visitor Center is approaching the plus 90% completion stage. This funding came from the Stuart S. Mott Foundation with matching funds from the National Park Service. It will feature the Rock of Ages Lighthouse Fresnel lens and welcome visitors with a simulated lighthouse tower with the lens displayed on the original base.

Safety of the visitor and employee alike was enhanced this past year through the repair of many safety deficiencies in the electrical infrastructure at Rock Harbor.

The moose herd appears to have entered the winter in very good physical shape. If the predictions of the scientists about El Nino hold true, we should have a mild winter at the island.

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We will let you know how the wolf population is doing after the annual winter study.

Have a good holiday season and a wonderful New Year. We will be ready to welcome you back to the island in the spring.

Doug Barnard, Superintendent

Professor Durward L. Allen Remembered



Isle Royal National Park and the Natural History Association lost a true friend recently when Durward L. Allen died of a heart attack on October 17, 1997. As a professor of wildlife ecology at Purdue University, Allen initiated long-term studies of wolves and moose on Isle Royale almost 40 years ago. Even before his Isle Royale work, he was an internationally known wildlife scientist. Through his advocacy and example, several generations of wildlife conservationists realized the importance of strong science in decision-making.

Allen was born on October 11, 1910 in Uniondale, Indiana. He graduated from the University of Michigan, in 1932 and completed his Ph.D.

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at Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) in 1937, where his doctoral research focused on the vertebrate fauna of lower Michigan farmland. Allen established his reputation in wildlife research while with the Department of Natural Resources, studying the ecology of small game animals. Through this work, he became convinced of the central importance of habitat integrity in maintaining wildlife populations. His final books were on the fox squirrel and ring-necked pheasant. From Michigan he moved east to join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, eventually serving as acting director of research. In 1954 he published a landmark book on wildlife conservation, Our Wildlife Legacy, a revolutionary critique in which he exposed the futility and wrongheadedness of predator control and stocking to produce game. Allen was a prolific author, writing six books (including Wolves of Minong)

Perhaps Allen will be best remembered as the designer and, for 17 years, director of long-term studies of wolves and moose at Isle Royale. Allen began the study in 1958 after leaving federal government service and joining the faculty at Purdue University. He continued the work until his retirement in 1975.

Unquestionably, it was Isle Royale that most captured Allen's attention in his later career. Here he found the ideal outdoor laboratory to finally discover the natural role of the wolf in maintaining wildland communities. He wrote, "On this continent and in the world, Isle Royale is an almost unique repository of primitive conditions. Like a priceless antique, it will be even more valuable in times not far ahead..."

Durward Allen's passing leaves IRNHA, the NPS and scientists like myself with the challenge to maintain his high standards of science, education, and natural resource management.

Rolf O. Peterson

IRNHA Aid-To-The-Park 1997



Each year about 8,500 visitors stop by the Park Visitor Center in Houghton on their way to Isle Royale, or to get information in planning an upcoming trip to the island. Another 7,400 potential visitors request and are mailed a packet of information on the island. Every year dozens of school children contact park staff looking for answers to their questions about Isle Royale. Each of these people comes away with at least a couple of free informational brochures. Another 10,000 Isle Royale brochures are distributed to the public through Chamber of Commerce offices, State Parks, Department of Transportation Visitor Centers, and similar public places.

There are a dozen different free brochures available to the public. The "Getting There" brochure describes transportation options, the new fee brochure explains the park's daily fee program, the camping-boating-hiking brochure gives all the crucial advice on those aspects of a park visit. There are specific brochures on diving, canoeing/kayaking, drinking water, and a variety of other topics. No doubt you have picked up some of these brochures over the years. But did you know the cost of publishing these materials is part of IRNHA's annual aid-to-the-park contribution? During the 1997 fiscal year IRNHA printed over 55,000 park brochures at a cost of \$4000.

Printing park publications is IRNHA's largest single contribution to the Park, but it is not all we do for the park. This year the Park made a special request to IRNHA to fund the printing of 2,700 boat rider pass decals associated with the new fee program. The cost for that project was over \$2,000. Research support is another priority, and this year included over \$1000 in support of beaver and insect research. Education support went to

the Groundwater Education Center Michigan Tech for a special series of programs for school children in the area, and to the Timber Wolf Alliance for a wolf poster and information sheet distributed free to schools and individuals throughout the upper midwest.

In addition to financial contributions, IRNHA makes several in-kind contributions to the park. This past year we contributed \$500 in gift certificates for park volunteers and over \$500 in books for the park library and other park uses. Our staff also participates in the work of the park by assisting visitors on the island, at the Houghton visitor center, and over the phone. This year IRNHA staff spent over 600 hours assisting park visitors. We also support the Artist-In-Residence Program on the island with many staff hours mailing and processing applications.

As the primary educational partner for Isle Royale National Park, it is the job to educate the public about the island, support research on the island, and promote partnerships with additional organizations. We believe that all the projects we funded this year support those goals.

**Saturdays -
In-The-Park**
(HEADQUARTERS,
THAT IS)



IRNHA and the Park Service have been holding special holiday events at the Houghton Visitor Center Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Afternoon Meet-the-Author programs are being held on the Ranger III, with book-signing sessions preceding in the Visitor Center. Authors involved are Bob and Nadine Janke, author and illustrator of The Wildflowers of Isle Royale; Larry Lankton, author of Beyond the Boundaries and Cradle to Grave; and Rolf Peterson author of

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the The Wolves of Isle Royale: A Broken Balance. The park is also offering tours of the Ranger III each Saturday morning. All events are free and open to the public.

Our Latest Publication Now Available



It's been a long time in the making, but our newest publication Superior Wilderness: Isle Royale National Park hit the shelves this month. Written by Napier Shelton, *Superior Wilderness* is an extensive revision of his earlier work, The Life of Isle Royale. Nape describes his book this way:

"This book is a natural history of Isle Royale for the layman although I hope it will interest scientists as well. It emphasizes the ecology of the island and surrounding waters—that is, the relationships among their plants, animals, and physical environments. The human history has been viewed largely from the standpoint of its impact on the land and water. The book has been written in a way that I hope will benefit arm-chair travelers as well as those fortunate persons who actually visit the island."

Designed by Christina Watkins, who also designed our Moods, Magic, and Mystique, the 176-page book is full of wonderful color photographs from the collections of the National Park Service, John and Ann Mahan, and other private photographers. Printed in paperback, the book is designed to be read at home and taken along in your backpack the next time you travel to Isle Royale.

To order your copy of Superior Wilderness: Isle Royale National Park call us at 800-678-6925.

Isle Royale Place Names Request And Quiz



We continue our request for information on Island place names and thank those of you who responded to our inquiries in the August issue. Your responses will help us with our next publishing project, a book on Isle Royale place names being compiled now by Smitty Parratt from the Park Service and Doug Welker from IRNHA.

Do you know the origin for these names?

- The "Washington" in Washington Creek, Washington Harbor, Washington Island
 - Suzy's Cave
 - Ollies Rocks (or Ollies Dogs Rocks)
-

Do you know the names for these islands?

- The island between Belle Isle and Horner Island
- The island 1/4 miles Southeast of Ryan Island in Siskiwit Lake

If you have the answer to any of these questions, please share your knowledge by writing us at 800 E. Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931, or sending e-mail to irnha@portup.com.

NOW FOR THIS ISSUE'S QUIZ:

1. Fryett (or Fryette's) Island and Coventry's Island were former names of islands in
 - a. Belle Harbor
 - b. Malone Bay
 - c. Rock Harbor
 - d. Tobin Harbor
2. The Greenstone Ridge is named for the famous Isle Royale greenstones which are washed off the ridge and carried down to Lake Superior beaches.

True or False?

For answers see back page.

Donald Thurber New Honorary Life Member



We are pleased to announce that Donald Thurber has been named the newest honorary life member of IRNHA. Many of you may know Don through his work spearheading the housing initiative on Isle Royale. Thurber, who is founder and historian of the National Park Foundation was the speaker at this summer's IRNHA annual meeting on the island.

Call For Board Members



If you would like to become more involved with the Isle Royale Natural History Association, consider becoming a board member! Each year we have openings for new members on our Board of Directors. If you are interested in running for a position, please send a short biographical sketch indicating educational background and current employment, and a statement indicating why you believe you (or the person you are nominating) are qualified to hold a position on the Board. Please also include your address and phone number. Board members are expected to attend Board meetings held three times a year in Houghton, Michigan and once a year on Isle Royale. Members are also expected to serve on Board committees.

The election will be held in May, 1998. Nominations must be received no later than March 1.

Send nominations to:
IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr.,
Houghton, MI 49931.

The wildflower art adorning Wolf's Eye headlines is by Nadine Janke, from The Wildflowers of Isle Royale by Robert Janke.



1998 Membership Campaign



A reminder that all IRNHA memberships are due for renewal the first of the year. You may have already received, or you will soon be receiving, a letter from Board President John Dunn asking you for your renewal. We hope that you will respond with your continued support of our work.

Our membership increased from 1307 in 1996 to 1370 in 1997, and we hope to continue the upward trend in the year to come. A healthy membership is vital to IRNHA as we continue our publications program and attempt to increase our aid to the park.

Is There An Accountant In The House?



In our August issue of Wolf's Eye we put out a call for a volunteer willing to audit the IRNHA financial books. So far, we haven't had any replies. If you have the time and talent, we would love to hear from

you. (Although an audit is not required for an association of our size, we think it is prudent to do a basic audit at the end of each fiscal year.) Please call Jill Burkland at 1-800-678-6925 to volunteer.

Thanks From Jan Anderson



We, the family of Donald Anderson, would like to thank everyone who sent condolences and monetary gifts or flowers in memory of Don. We never know how many people's lives we touch until something sad happens. By the mail and phone calls we received, it is evident that Don touched many.

To all who helped us through our sad time, we want to say thank you. We shall never forget.

Sincerely, Jan and Family

Save That Date!



IRNHA's annual meeting date has been set. We will meet on Sunday, July 12 on Isle Royale. Look for details in the winter and spring Wolf's Eyes.

Isle Royale Natural History Association

800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931
Tel: 906-482-7860 or 800-678-6925
e-mail: irnha@portup.com

IRNHA is a non-profit 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	\$15
Household	\$25
Supporting	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Life Membership	\$500*
Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000
Corporate Patron	\$5,000

**Life memberships may be paid in annual installments.*

Board of Directors

John Dunn, President, Charles Boyle, David Duchamp, Nancy Leonard, Bob Linn, Gary Pethe, Bill Rose, Doug Welker, Charles Zamzow.

Staff

Jill Burkland, Executive Director & Wolf's Eye Editor; Lori Honrath and Lauren Rastello, Mail Order and Membership Specialists.