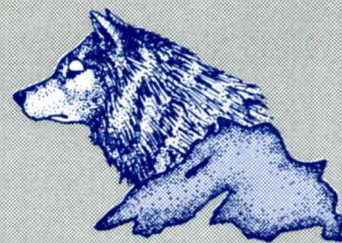


Wolf's Eye



Isle Royale Natural History Association

FALL 1998

Letter from the Superintendent

So, what did we accomplish this summer? Quite a lot. We hired practically a whole new crew of seasonal interpreters and rangers. The interpreters branched out in new directions this summer with programs on sustainability and the environment in general as well as some of the traditional Isle Royale subjects. We had programs in the evening on the Ranger III. We want to move even more toward education in the broader perspective of the important environmental issues. If you visited the park this summer, what did you think of the interpretive programs? How can we improve?

The new Windigo Visitor Center is finished and the lens and base from the Rock of Ages Lighthouse are installed (as a unit and not separated as in the old facility). We still face the challenge of furnishing the interior and acquiring exhibits. The expense for these items will probably have to be spread over several years. The building is the direct result of a public/private partnership. The National Park Foundation, the National Park Service, and the Charles Stuart Mott Foundation cooperated to fund and build the facility. Much of the construction was done by volunteers, and the facility design was done by Dr. Carol Hicks of Northern Michigan University. The new visitor center will be open this year and the old facility, which is very badly deteriorated, will eventually be torn down.

More on the next page . . .

Cultural Resources Update

We had a very busy and interesting summer this year in the cultural resources branch. At the Edison Fishery, Les and Donna Mattson completed work on the TERN, a historic wooden fishing boat. The gas boat TERN was built in Minnesota by E.J. Croft in the 1940s for the Holtes of Wright's Island. They used it for years in their commercial fishing operation and then sold it to the park in 1979 for the Edison Fishery. It was last in the water in 1985. Les has worked on it for the past 3 years; patching holes, replacing planks, and getting it seaworthy again. We were very excited to get it back in the water and running at the end of the summer. Hopefully next summer, you will see them operating the TERN in the har-

bor.

Also, at the Fishery, in one day with the help of NHA volunteers, numerous boat loads of brush, branches, debris, and trash were cleaned up from the site and hauled away. The top of the nethouse was entirely cleaned out and all the historic museum items in the nethouse and the fishhouse were inventoried. The Rock Harbor lighthouse was cleaned too, including the windows. Major accomplishments in one day's work thanks to the hard work of the volunteers.

Another group of volunteers, the Johns family, continued their efforts to restore the historic Johns Hotel on Barnum Island. The building, constructed in the early 1890's was the

More on page 3 . . .



*New
Windigo
Visitor
Center*



Letter from the Superintendent

... Continued from the last page

Volunteers from the Board of Directors and paid staff of your Natural History Association accomplished a major cleanup of the historic Edisen Fishery this summer. We are also fixing the floor in the residence and doing some other repairs to the facility to keep it safe and ensure its perpetuity.

We spent yours and other visitors' user fees on docks and trails this summer. We accomplished some major trail reroutes and bridge work as well as a lot of long deferred routine maintenance. We finished the redecking of the Caribou Island dock and completely redecked the Merritt Lane dock. We installed a lot of recycled plastic lumber for dock facings and decking. Initial reports from our crews and the boaters indicate this is a very positive program.

*Doug Barnard,
Superintendent.*

MERRITT:

New Board Member

Steve Merritt has been elected to the IRNHA Board of Directors. He defeated Greg Bluth in last month's run-off election to break a tie from last spring's vote. Merritt is a pilot for Skyway Airlines and has a long history with Isle Royale where he has spent many summers with his family at their island home in Tobin Harbor. Merritt's three year term is effective immediately.



SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES

The IRNHA Board of Directors has set the dates for the 1999 membership meetings. Changes are being made this year in an attempt to increase attendance. For the first time, there will be two meetings, rather than one. The traditional Rock Harbor meeting is scheduled for Friday evening July 16. A second meeting is being planned in the

Houghton/Calumet area to accommodate members who are unable to attend on the island. That meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening July 15.

Members attending the 1998 meeting in Rock Harbor supported moving the annual meeting from the first week of July to later in the month when more members are likely to be on the island. It is hoped that by moving the island meeting to the third weekend and adding the meeting on the mainland, all members who wish to participate in the 1999 annual membership meetings will be able to do so.

Look for more details on the summer membership meetings in the Spring 99 Wolf's Eye.

1999 IRNHA AID-TO-THE-PARK

IRNHA sales and profits were up for fiscal year 1998, and because of that we are pleased to announce that we have increased our cash donation to Isle Royale National Park for the coming year from \$9,000 in 1998 to \$12,000 for 1999. Aid was approved for publishing projects, exhibits, and research.

The primary park publishing project for 1999 will be the revising and reprinting of the park newspaper, The Greenstone. 20,000 copies of The Greenstone were printed in March, 1998. The paper has been a huge success and our stock is nearly depleted. Other publications to be reprinted at IRNHA expense will be the Group Camping brochure, The Scuba Diving brochure and the Artist-in-Residence brochure.

IRNHA funds will be used to help fund a new geology exhibit for the Windigo Visitor Center. Development of this exhibit is underway in partnership with the Seaman Mineralogical Museum at Michigan Tech. Another joint project which will be partially funded by IRNHA is a shipwreck and lighthouse exhibit for Windigo, which is being undertaken by the park service and the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society.

The research project which IRNHA

will fund this year is the development of a territory atlas for the common loon on Isle Royale. This project will paint a more accurate picture of breeding success for this threatened species. This, in turn, will allow park personnel to assess the degree to which paddlers and motorboats affect breeding success and take appropriate measures to enhance that success in the future.

Other IRNHA funds will be used to purchase support materials for interpretive programs and books for the park libraries.

Isle Royale Official Maps Available



Do you know an organization, library or school that would like a supply of the four color map and guide which the National Park Service puts out for Isle Royale? We find that we have many more on hand than we need and would be happy to distribute them to groups that could use them. Please send requests to IRNHA with a contact name, mailing address, and the number of brochures requested.

Cultural Resources Update . . . Continued from the first page

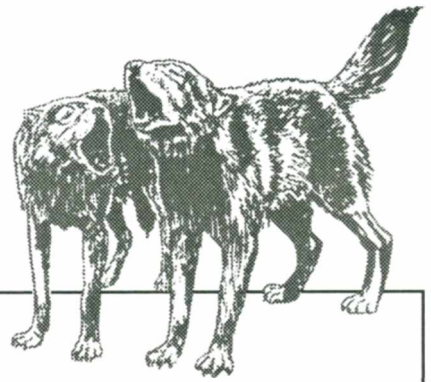
first hotel on the island. John F. Johns and his son William built the log hotel (made primarily of tamarack) and the Johns family operated it until 1902, when they turned their efforts to commercial fishing. The Johns family, under the direction of Robert Johns, has been working with the park to plan for the preservation of the structure. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. The family began repairing the roof last year and completed it this summer. They have taken on the project entirely at their own time and expense and plan to continue efforts in the future until the building is restored. Next year, they hope to begin work on the deteriorated logs. A fantastic effort by the very dedicated family to preserve the first Isle Royale hotel.

Since 1985, a 2nd order Fresnel lens from the Rock of Ages Lighthouse has been on display in the Windigo ranger station. The bi-valve bullseye lens, manufactured in France around 1907, is one of the largest ever used on the Great Lakes. When the new Windigo visitor center was completed this summer, the lens needed to be moved. With the expert guidance of Jim Woodward of the US Coast Guard and John Ochman of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the lens was taken apart, hauled up to the new visitor center, and reassembled atop its pedestal. Numerous park staff assisted in the project. Mr. Woodward has considerable experience moving lenses - he led the team that removed the lens and pedestal from the Rock of Ages lighthouse in 1985. The lens came apart like a jigsaw puzzle into 20 fragile pieces, 10 on each side. Some of the pieces were heavy and took at least 4 people to carry. The lens was completely disassembled on the first day and carried up to the new center. The hard work to reassemble the pieces on top of the pedestal took the next day and a half. With ladders, scaffolding, and much ingenuity, the team put the lens back together without even a minor mishap. Take the time to look at the lens if you are in Windigo next

summer; it's certainly impressive.

We were very fortunate to receive funding for a resource ethnography of commercial fishing this year. The research team was chosen in September and plan to begin the project this fall. The study will analyze and document historic and modern commercial fishing in Isle Royale waters and identify specific ethnic and social groups who have ties to the fishing activity. Particularly important will be studying the environmental knowledge of the fishermen. Another research project is entering its second year. It is a comprehensive study of Ojibwa use of natural and cultural resources in the upper Great Lakes. The study is researching historic and contemporary uses by Ojibwa groups in the upper Great Lakes region and focusing on National Park units in northern Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. We are anxious to see the results of both studies when they are completed next year.

Liz Valencia



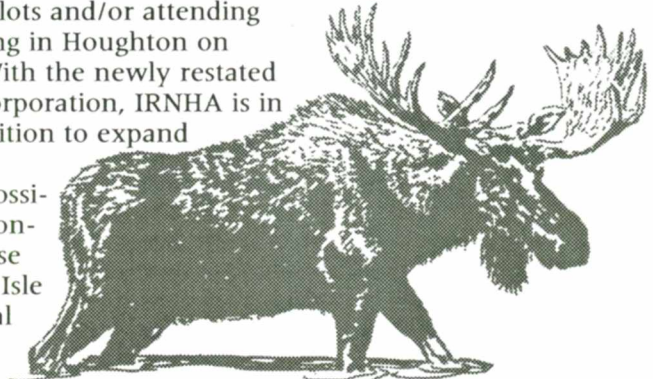
SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 1999 AND 2000

Plans have just begun for the grand opening of the Windigo Visitor Center to take place next summer. Chief of Interpretation Smitty Parratt will be spearheading that effort with help from IRNHA director, Jill Burkland. Meanwhile Park Supt. Doug Barnard is forming a committee to begin work on a very special historical nautical event to take place in Rock Harbor in the summer of 2000. We want to encourage IRNHA members to participate in these upcoming events. Look to future issues of Wolf's Eye for details as plans progress.

RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION ACCEPTED

By a vote of 232 in favor and 7 opposed, the IRNHA membership has approved the restated Articles of Incorporation as printed in the Summer 98 Wolf's Eye. These new articles clear the way for us to formally establish an agreement to serve as the cooperating association for Keweenaw National Historical Park. They also update our financial status (which has grown considerably since our original Articles were drafted), and add articles which protect our board of directors from certain liabilities.

IRNHA members made their voices heard in record numbers by mailing ballots and/or attending a public meeting in Houghton on October 16. With the newly restated Articles of Incorporation, IRNHA is in an excellent position to expand our reach and explore new possibilities as we continue to increase our support of Isle Royale National Park.



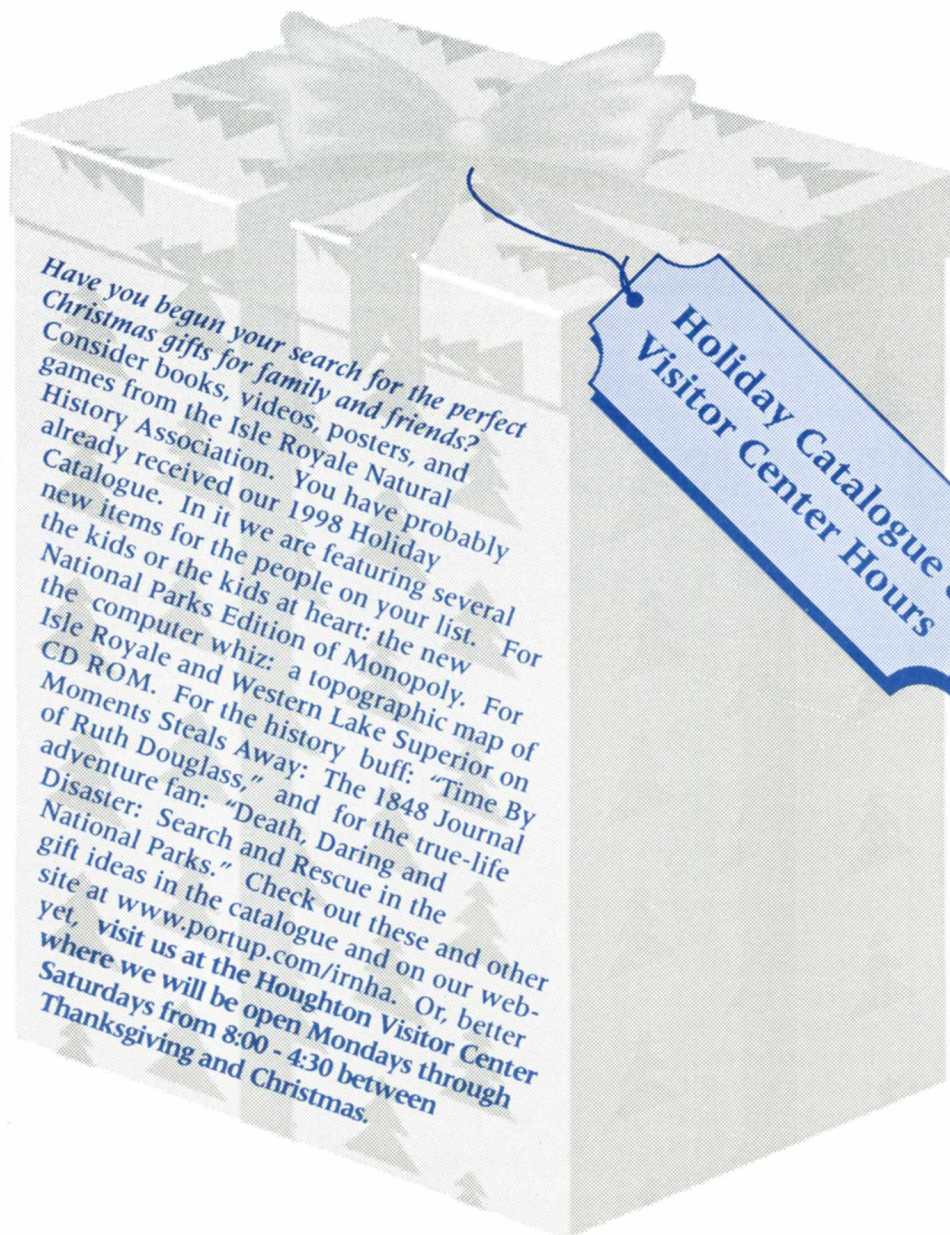
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Have you begun your search for the perfect Christmas gifts for family and friends? Consider books, videos, posters, and games from the Isle Royale Natural History Association. You have probably already received our 1998 Holiday Catalogue. In it we are featuring several new items for the people on your list. For the kids or the kids at heart: the new National Parks Edition of Monopoly. For the computer whiz: a topographic map of Isle Royale and Western Lake Superior on CD ROM. For the history buff: "Time By Moments Steals Away: The 1848 Journal of Ruth Douglass," and for the true-life adventure fan: "Death, Daring and Disaster: Search and Rescue in the National Parks." Check out these and other gift ideas in the catalogue and on our website at www.portup.com/irnha. Or, better yet, visit us at the Houghton Visitor Center where we will be open Mondays through Saturdays from 8:00 - 4:30 between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Holiday Catalogue &
Visitor Center Hours**



Isle Royale Natural History Association

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e-mail: irnha@portup.com
website: www.portup.com/irnha

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 5 annual installments.

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