

Wolf's Eye



Isle Royale Natural History Association

WINTER 1999

Letter from the Superintendent

We anticipate a Record of Decision concerning the General Management Plan (GMP) from the Midwest Regional Director at any time now. If the preferred alternative described in the final Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan is approved, the park will begin implementing the provisions of the plan this year.

This has been a long, sometimes contentious, process. The park staff and planning team have worked extremely hard to formulate a plan that preserves this wonderful park for future generations while allowing visitor use to continue at approximate present levels and present uses.

Pressure has been enormous from all sides of the user spectrum to be sure to retain and emphasize their particular use, and sometimes to discontinue the use of others. We have had significant pressure to do everything within the park from building many more facilities to virtually closing the park to most use. If you take the time to read the enabling legislation and subsequent wilderness legislation, it becomes very clear that the Congress intended that the park would serve a variety of uses ranging from boating on the waters of Lake Superior to providing docks, trails, and facilities for campers. The plan does exactly that. What the plan DOES NOT DO, is close the park to boaters, paddlers, the elderly, the handicapped, lodge guests, the hiker,

More on the next page...

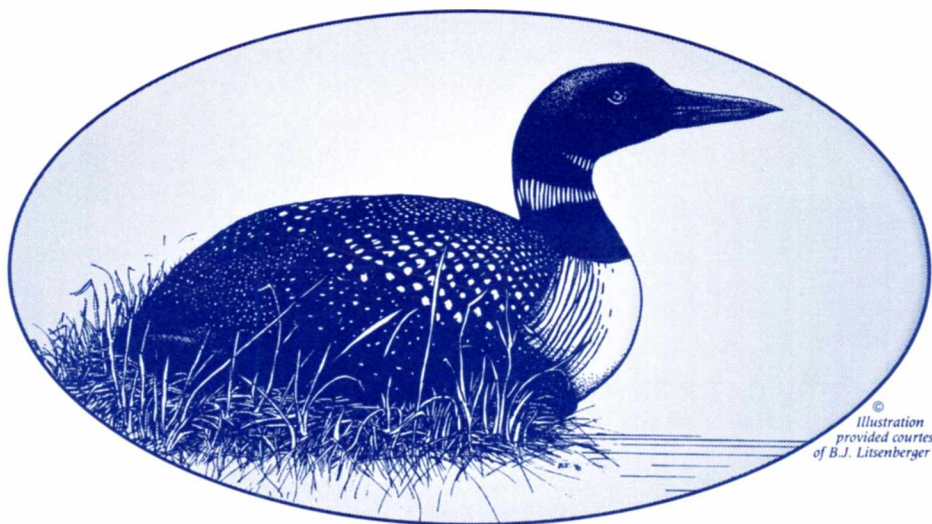


Illustration provided courtesy of B.J. Litsenberger

1998 Loon Survey Update

The annual Common Loon monitoring program at Isle Royale was completed in 1998 to maintain continuous data on the size and productivity of the island's unique loon population. This is the ninth consecutive year of the monitoring program.

1998 was a year of more intensive effort than previous years because it included participation by three groups: Meetz and Beckman's annual investigation, BioDiversity's summer-long research, and NPS personnel's on-going monitoring. In order to acquire the most complete information, many locations were resurveyed if there was suspicion of missed juveniles or nesting activity. Forty-seven of the island's interior lakes and 33 locations along the Lake Superior shoreline were surveyed between July 26 and September 3, 1998, either by boat, canoe, kayak, or walking along the shoreline. This combined effort substantially increased the accuracy of the survey, and recommendations have been made to continue this procedure in subsequent years.

Adult loons were recorded on 29 of the 47 interior lakes and 29 of the 33 Lake Superior sites. Juvenile loons

were present on 14 of the interior lakes and 13 of the Lake Superior sites.

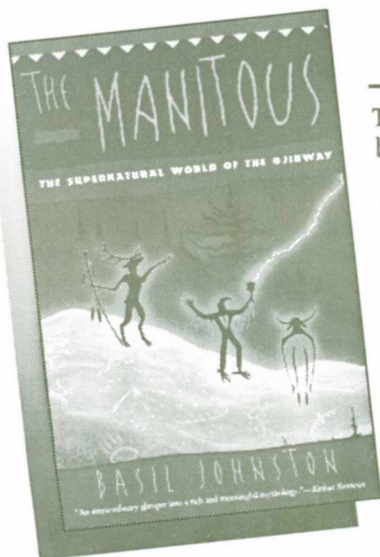
Productivity among the 52 pairs was 0.8 young/pair, higher than in the previous two years. This productivity rate is slightly above the range considered necessary for a loon population to sustain itself. The average productivity of the 9-year loon survey (0.64 young/pair) is also within the range of sustaining the population. Ten pairs successfully raised twins in 1998. The total of 52 adult pairs is above the average of 44 for Isle Royale and the total of 41 juveniles is notably above the average of 28.

Suggestions to improve nesting success of loons in high-use areas include increased educational efforts to paddlers and powerboaters about loon nesting requirements and the potential closure of known nesting areas to human use until approximately early July of each year.

The BioDiversity group is developing an atlas of territory delineation for Common Loons on Isle Royale. This atlas, funded by IRNHA, will improve the accuracy of NPS monitoring efforts and will be useful in management actions regarding loons. ■

WINTER READING

We have some new titles in our collection that we think might be just the thing for your winter reading.



—The Manitous:

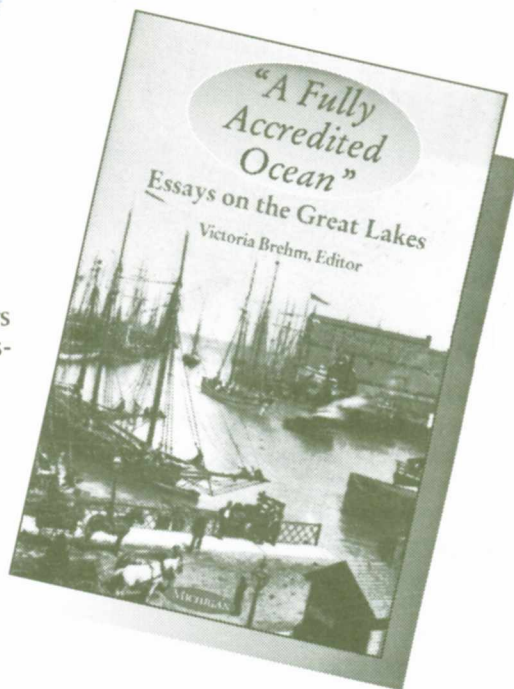
The Supernatural World of the Ojibway
by Basil Johnston.

Manitous are spirits and mysteries that infuse all living creatures, representing both the wonders and shortcomings of human nature. In this spellbinding collection of legends and spiritual teachings, the world's leading native expert assembles a rich Ojibway heritage from an ancient, never-before-recorded oral tradition. These engrossing stories provide a window into an ancient culture, and hold great meaning for modern readers. (Softcover, \$13.00)

—A Fully Accredited Ocean: Essays on the Great Lakes

by Victoria Brehm, Editor.

In this collection, Victoria Brehm has brought together scholars and writers from Canada and the United States to explore the fascinating maritime history of the Great Lakes. The essays in *A Fully Accredited Ocean* answer many questions about life, shipping, and the economy of the Great Lakes and offer insight and knowledge reflecting decades of accumulated research and study. Of special interest to IRNHA members is an essay entitled "The Boats That Were My Friends," on the fishing craft of Isle Royale by Hawk Tolson. (Hardcover, \$47.50)



Letter from the Superintendent

... Continued from the last page

the photographer, and all of the other myriad of uses this park has welcomed for generations.

I stated in all of the meetings during the last round of the GMP public meetings that all user groups need to make an effort to better recognize and accommodate the other visitors' desires for a quality experience at the park. In other words: How would I like to be treated? This is the message I give to my staff on a regular basis and it is one that we can all embrace.

Come see us!

Doug Barnard
Superintendent

HAKALA HONORED

Former Isle Royale Park Ranger Robert Hakala is the recipient of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Outstanding Senior/Retired Interpreter Award for 1998. The award was presented at NAI's annual workshop held in October in Anchorage, Alaska.

The award is presented to an NAI member and lifelong interpreter who has dedicated his or her career to interpretation. Hakala is known as the "father of interpretation" for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska. He was instrumental in the development of the first visitor center ever built on a National Forest: The Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. He also pioneered efforts to hire women interpreters and initiated the concept of audio interpretive messages for Alaska in the 1960's.

Before working with the Forest Service, Hakala worked for 13 years with the National Park Service, from 1950-55 for Isle Royale. Since retirement he divides his time between Juneau, AK and Watersmeet, MI where he serves as a volunteer for both the Forest Service and National Parks.



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1998 Report to Members

MISSION STATEMENT

The Isle Royale Natural History Association, in partnership with the National Park Service, promotes the public's understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Isle Royale National Park.

VISION STATEMENT

The Isle Royale Natural History Association...

- Provides high quality educational products and services which promote an increased understanding of Isle Royale National Park, resulting in better stewardship of this unique park and the natural world.
- Is the primary educational partner for Isle Royale National Park, maintaining excellent communication and cooperation with the National Park Service, and providing financial support for research and interpretation.
- Continually expands the scope of its outreach by increasing membership, developing a more diverse constituency, and promoting partnerships with additional communities and organizations.
- Maintains a knowledgeable, committed board which recognizes the need for informed leadership, fiscal responsibility, communication and flexibility critical to the success of a non-profit volunteer organization.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 1998 IRNHA...

- Published Superior Wilderness: Isle Royale National Park, a complete natural history of the island by Napier Shelton.
- Published the first Isle Royale National Park newspaper, The Greenstone. This 12-page, full color newspaper offers visitors and potential visitors all the information they need to plan a trip to Isle Royale in a single publication.
- Signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Keweenaw National Historical Park. Under the terms of this agreement IRNHA will serve as a cooperating association for this new national park in the same way we have served Isle Royale National Park for over 40 years.
- Completed the research and writing of our upcoming book, The

continued on page 4

Balance Sheets for September 30, 1998 and 1997

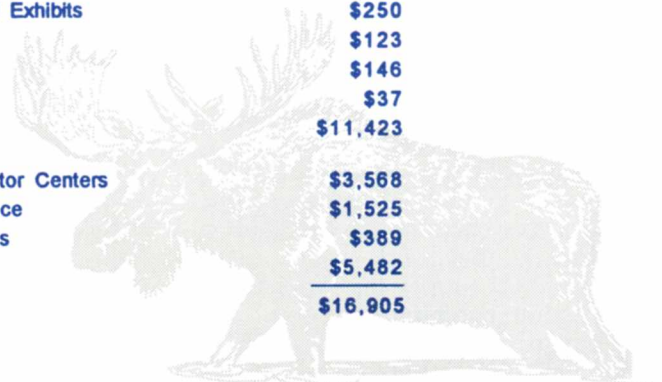
	1998	1997
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Investments	\$70,478	\$69,142
Receivables	\$2,803	\$1,729
Inventory	\$114,105	\$98,277
Total Current Assets	\$187,386	\$169,148
Fixed Assets (Equipment)	\$6,151	\$8,519
Total Assets	\$193,537	\$177,667
Liabilities and Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$5,094	\$1,000
Payroll Liabilities	\$361	\$0
Sales Tax Payable	\$42	\$0
Total Current Liabilities	\$5,497	\$1,000
Equity	\$188,040	\$176,667
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$193,537	\$177,667

Statement of Income and Expense for Years Ended September 30:

	1998	1997
Income		
Sales Income	\$131,958	\$114,694
Member Dues	\$20,867	\$17,676
Donations/Grants	\$11,442	\$7,738
Other Income	\$2,290	\$4,754
Total Income	\$166,557	\$144,862
Expense		
Cost of Goods Sold	\$65,036	\$57,729
Operating Expense	\$85,349	\$83,790
Total Expense	\$150,385	\$141,519
Net Annual Income	\$16,172	\$3,343
Aid to Isle Royale Natl. Park	\$11,423	\$9,847
Net Increase/Decrease	\$4,749	(\$6,504)

Aid to Isle Royale National Park 1998

Cash Contribution	
Greenstone Newspaper	\$5,617
Designer Fee for Superior Wilderness	\$2,600
Herbarium Exhibit for Windigo VC	\$1,252
Junior Ranger Workbook	\$676
Boating Brochure	\$366
Artist in Residence Program	\$356
Malone and Amygdaloid Exhibits	\$250
Interpretive Materials	\$123
Miscellaneous	\$146
Book Donations	\$37
	\$11,423
In-Kind Contributions	
Staff Assistance at Visitor Centers	\$3,568
Administrative Assistance	\$1,525
Book and Map Donations	\$389
	\$5,482
Total Aid to the Park	\$16,905



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Houghton, MI 49931-1895

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CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

It is once again time to put out the call for new IRNHA board members. Any current IRNHA member may nominate him/herself or another IRNHA member who has agreed to serve. We will be conducting elections in May and ask that anyone interested in running for the board this year send the following to us by March 15:

- a short biographical sketch indicating educational background and current employment,
- a statement explaining why you believe you (or the person you are nominating) are qualified to hold a position on the board,
- your name, address, and phone number.

Board members are expected to attend board meetings held four times a year in Houghton, Michigan. Members are also expected to actively serve on board committees.

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

1998 Report to Members *continued from page 3*

Place Names of Isle Royale. The book, written by IRNHA Board member Doug Welker and IRNP Chief of Interpretation, Smitty Parratt, is due out in March, 1999.

- Raised funds and began work on our biggest publication project to date, a coffee table book which will include full color photographs of much of the art produced for the Isle Royale Artist-in-Residence program. The book, scheduled for publication in 2000, will also include essays by the artists on how their experiences on the island have influenced their work.

- Raised the money for a layman's herbarium exhibit for the new Windigo Visitor Center. The herbarium will offer visitors an easy plant-identification guide for the island.
- Worked with IRNP Chief of

Interpretation and interns from Michigan Technological University to produce and publish the Junior Ranger workbook, which enabled the park to begin a Junior Ranger Program for Isle Royale this past summer.

- Increased our overall product sales by 15% and our wholesale sales by 89%.
- Began marketing our publications through national book distributors' catalogues and on-line services.
- Developed and implemented an IRNHA website with sales catalogue, membership information and on-line ordering capabilities. Our address is www.portup.com/irnha.
- Completed a ten-year strategic plan and revised the IRNHA Articles of Incorporation.



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

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.*

Board of Directors

Gary Pethe, President, Charles Boyle, David Duchamp, John Dunn, Nancy Leonard, Christine Manninen, Steve Merritt, Doug Welker, Charles Zamzov.

Staff

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