

Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2002 No. 2



"Moose in Tobin Harbor" by Tykie Ganz

Isle Royale Wolf/Moose Study 2002

Information from *Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale* by Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich

Official results from the 2001-2002 winter wolf/moose study are in, and they show that the island's wolf population has declined for the second year in a row. This year's count revealed 17 individuals, compared to 19 last year and 29 two years ago. Six of these individuals make up the East Pack, four make up the Middle Pack, and 5 the Chippewa Harbor Pack. Two single wolves were also reported. Only two packs included pups this year; the East Pack had four pups and the Chippewa Harbor Pack had three, while the Middle Pack had none. Mortality was very high (47percent) for the second consecutive year, possibly related to a shortage of old moose. Four wolves live-trapped and radio-collared in May 2001 were found to be disease-free and in good physical condition.

Wolf pack territorial boundaries shifted as the Chippewa Harbor Pack took over East Pack areas, apparently killing the East Pack alpha male and at least one other wolf during inter-pack fighting. Wolf density continued to be highest at the east end of the island, where moose are usually concentrated in the winter.

The Isle Royale moose population, meanwhile, is slowing increasing. This year's count shows an estimated 1,100 individuals. Calves made up 11% of this year's census, which is slightly below average. A windstorm in December 2001 downed many trees which provided abundant food for moose this year. It is anticipated that this year's very mild winter conditions should help to reduce the chronic nutritional stress that Isle Royale moose usually face in winter.

Isle Royale's moose population hit a record high in 1995 with almost 2,500 individuals recorded, while the wolf population high, recorded in 1980, was 50 individuals.

Complete results of this year's wolf/moose count and information on other wildlife, forest vegetation, and weather conditions are available in *Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale, 2001-2002*, which can be purchased from IRNHA for \$3.95.



Letter from New Isle Royale Superintendent

Like most of you, my attraction to Isle Royale began with a visit to the Island to enjoy its remoteness, wildlife and wildness. For those of us who are captured by its unique sense of place and time, it's especially fun to get to know it and participate in the public's understanding of the Island. Via this message I'd like to thank all of you for joining IRNHA and getting to know the island in more depth. Sharing that knowledge through the award winning books, the many articles and stories the Association has produced and developed is an integral part of educating and informing visitors to Isle Royale. It's wonderful to see the energy of your board focusing on positioning the IRNHA for the future through fundraising to support your major mission.

Isle Royale is facing some significant issues as its base funding is reduced by inflation and cost increases. This results in the erosion of the number of positions we can fill on a permanent and part-time basis and the services we provide. It is an interesting anomaly that at a point where base funding is eroded, the special projects monies have increased. This means we need to devote time to maintenance and backlog projects while the interest and funding is there. Thus you will see an interesting mix in getting ahead in some areas while some areas such as interpretation or back country patrols are less than they have been in the past. Areas where we will be making progress include:

CULTURAL RESOURCES: In the cultural arena, the park will continue to monitor and survey archeological sites, cultural landscapes and historic structures. Some highlights of this year's efforts include: the continuation of a cultural

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Letter from New Isle Royale Superintendent, *continued from page 1...*

demonstration of commercial fishing at Edisen fishery, repair work on the Rock Harbor Lighthouse, stabilization of a Wright Island residence foundation, immediate stabilization of Passage Island Lighthouse and emergency stabilization of the Passage Island Pump house. Maintenance of shipwreck mooring buoys will be conducted as well as continued monitoring of submerged sites. In addition, we want to start to develop adaptive use options for Barnum Island, while retaining its cultural significance.

PLANNING: The park is involved in three major planning efforts. The Wilderness Management and Backcountry Plan (WMBP) is well underway as you are well aware. The WMBP will address the campground sharing issues during the peak season as well as set up monitoring protocols for the future. We are just beginning the planning efforts for both fisheries and water management plans. The fisheries plan will be a cooperative plan with the State being a primary player due to their regulatory jurisdiction. We hope you will stay involved in these processes.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Some other areas of emphasis will include continuation of a study of moose herbivory impacts to the fire regime, a coaster brook trout inventory project, continued air quality monitoring, continued mapping and containment of exotic plant species and continued support for an on-going GIS program.

TRAILS: The Rock Harbor Trail between Three-mile Campground and the Rock Harbor Visitor Center will be rehabilitated with the use of a Student Conservation Association crew. Rehabilitation of the Scoville Point trail will take place with the assistance of the Sierra Club. Trail rehabilitation will be completed at the Feldtmann Trail, at Coyote Ridge and beach area, the trail to Rainbow Cove, and the trail to Windigo. An additional 6.5-miles of the Hatchet Lake Trail will be rehabilitated along with rehabilitation of the Mt. Franklin, Greenstone, Lookout Louise, and Rock Harbor trails. Most of the 165 miles of trails will receive routine annual maintenance.

DOCKS: Docks will be replaced at Wright Island and Snug Harbor. The Crystal Cove Dock will be reconstructed. Maintenance will be performed on Siskiwit and Daisy Farm docks.

CAMPGROUNDS: Malone Bay, Todd Harbor, Little Todd, and Duncan Bay Campgrounds will be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation will be done at the accessibility restroom at Rock Harbor, and the Merritt Lane campground shelter will be relocated to afford more privacy. The picnic area at Malone Bay will be relocated to a better location.

BOATS: The park has been very fortunate in obtaining a significant sum of money to rehabilitate some of the aging boats in the park's fleet. Most of the park's boats are in excess of 25 years old and some are in need of major overhauls. The four primary workboats will be rehabilitated with these monies. This will not only improve the safety and reliability of these vessels but will also attain our goals of operating engines which are less polluting, quieter and more energy efficient. Last year we were able to replace a majority of the park's outboard motors with 4 stroke engines.

UTILITIES: The Mott Island septic system will be upgraded. The sewage lift-station at Windigo will be replaced. The Rock Harbor fire pump replacement will be completed and two residences will be converted from fuel oil to electric.

This is a busy and exciting time of the year for us at the park. Our summer employees are reporting to duty and the first boat has ventured out to the island for a cursory inventory of winter damage. It appears that there is above average windfall in the developed areas with power lines down at Rock Harbor and several "leaners" at Mott. The first order of business each spring is cleaning up windfall and powering up the utility systems at the developed areas in preparation for our summer visitors. Then the work of conducting many ambitious projects during our short summer season begins.

Sincerely,
Phyllis A. Green
Superintendent

Fourth Thursday in History Series

IRNHA members who wish to learn more about the Keweenaw and Keweenaw National Historical Park are encouraged to attend programs being offered the fourth Thursday each month, at 7:00 p.m., by Keweenaw National Historical Park and the MTU Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

June 27, 2002

"Copper Milling & Reclamation Along Torch Lake," Terry Reynolds Houghton County Historical Society, Lake Linden

July 25, 2002

"Sandstone Architecture of The Lake Superior Region," Kathryn Eckert Jacobsville Community Center, Jacobsville

August 22, 2002

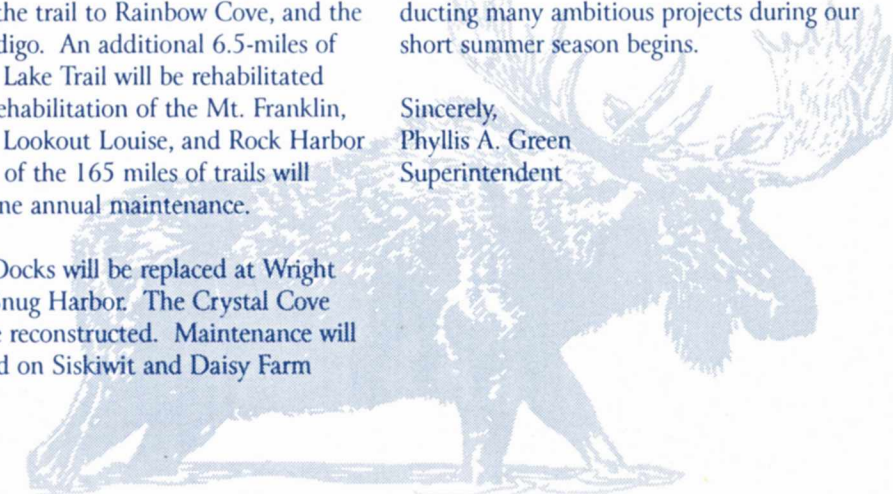
"Construction of the Portage Lake Lift Bridge," Kris Mattila Venue to be determined. Call 906-487-2505 for further information

September 26, 2002

"Restoration of The Organ at the First Congregational Church of Lake Linden," Dana Hull & Helmut Schick First Congregational Church of Lake Linden (owned by the Houghton County Historical Society)

October 24, 2002

"Genealogy 101," Houghton-Keweenaw County Genealogical Society Venue to be determined. Call 906-487-2505 for further information



**Isle Royale Natural History Association
2002 Board of Directors Election**

**Please vote for not more than 2 candidates. Ballots must be postmarked by
July 1**

**Don Durfee
Hancock, Michigan**

- * Office Manager/Coordinator for the Society for Industrial Archaeology
 - * Past Business Manager for IRNHA
- * 20 years experience in management, engineering, and systems analysis with Bell Labs, NCR and AT & T
 - * Graduate studies in Industrial Archaeology, BS in Business Admin., AAS in Electrical Technology.

While I could not stay on as the Association's Business Manager, due to expanding opportunities with the Society for Industrial Archaeology, I would like the opportunity to continue working with the association as a board member.

I see our association as being an important and growing partner to both the Isle Royale and Keweenaw parks to provide up-to-date resources to visitors, in the era of declining federal budgets.

During my tenure as Business Manager, I grew to appreciate more and more the unique character and special meaning that Isle Royale represents to visitors. Visitors get an opportunity to enjoy and to experience life on a remote island as well as learning something about its animals, plants, ecology and history. It is a wilderness park that we must protect from development, but still must accommodate those who wish to visit.

Our other park, the Keweenaw National Historical Park represents an important link to our industrial past. The remains for the copper mines and their processing facilities must also be protected from development, so future visitors will have an opportunity to learn, observe and appreciate its history. There is still much to do to interpret the importance of this copper legacy and of the people who came to work and live here.

I believe by past experience with non-profits and corporations as well as my knowledge and education of Copper Country history and industrial archaeology would be a benefit in the operations and planning of the association. I would like to continue my past efforts to increase the number of association members, including more members who have an interest in the copper mining history of the area. I would also like to help with efforts to increase the size and content of our newsletter. More in-depth articles about both parks would greatly help in recruiting new members and would help in retaining long standing members, perhaps at higher member levels.

(See Back for Additional Candidates)

**Mail Ballot on Reverse Side to Isle Royale Natural History Assoc. , 800 E.
Lakeshore Dr., Houghton, MI 49931 by July 1**

**Nelda Johnson Liebig
Trempealeau, WI**

* Retired Teacher

- * BS in Education, Graduate work in education and journalism
- * 28 years of leadership, leadership training and fund raising in Girl Scouts of America
- * Active in Oconto Cty Historical Society and Trempealeau Cty Wisconsin Heritage Society.
- * Hobbies: Creative writing, travel, backpacking and biking

My interests in Isle Royale began with a wolf/moose study in 1991. I was on the island for six days with a group from Ely, MN. Since then I have backpacked IR four times. In 1997 I hiked from Rock Harbor to Windigo. My love and appreciation of the island and its history grows with each visit.

If elected to the IRNHA Board of Directors, I believe I would be an asset as a motivational speaker and fund raiser. I am known as a team player and work well with committees. As a retired public school instructor and public television teacher I would have the time and finances needed to devote to serving on the IRNHA board. I understand that, if elected, I would attend two or three meetings each year in Houghton and a meeting every other year on Isle Royale.

**Michael G. Thomas
Dearborn Heights, MI**

- * Executive Operation Manager, Executive Protection for Ford Motor Co.
 - * BS in Criminal Justice/Psychology
 - * Life member of IRNHA, visitor to IRNP for past 15 years
 - * Volunteer on MTU Moose/Wolf Project for 14 years
 - * Animal Rights advocate, environmentalist, and outdoor enthusiast
- * Member of nonprofit groups that support and promote wildlife, endangered species and history
- * Hobbies: backpacking, camping, bird watching, visiting national parks

I am very interested in running for the IRNHA Board of Directors position. I believe that my life experiences and knowledge would benefit the IRNHA. I have no formal experience with fund-raising, but I do have a broad interest in the Keweenaw area and its well-being.

My employment involves the protection of top Company executives while traveling outside of their office and home. I travel extensively in North America and internationally to perform my duties and this has given me insight on different cultures around the world. I am also involved with our Company Historian who has very strong ties and involvement with the Keweenaw area.

Vote for not more than 2 candidates for IRNHA Board
Please detach and mail to IRNHA 800 E. Lakeshore Dr, Houghton, MI
49931

(Ballots must be postmarked by July 1)

_____ Don Durfee

_____ Nelda John Liebig

_____ Michael Thomas

KEWEENAW AMONG "TOP 12 PROJECTS TO RESTORE AMERICA'S PARKS"

The Keweenaw Natl. Historical Park will receive \$2.5 million from the Dept. of the Interior for the rehabilitation of the Union Building in downtown Calumet. The building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was purchased by the park in 2000. Funds will be used to stabilize the three-story 1888 building and to install energy-efficient mechanical systems.

The Union Building project is one of 12 maintenance and natural resource protection projects nationwide which have been designated top priorities by the Dept. of the Interior. The top priority list also includes, among others, restorations of New York City's Federal Hall National Memorial which received extensive damage in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Everglades National Park wastewater treatment system improvements, and a new sewer system for Yellowstone Park's Old Faithful geyser basin.

According to Interior Secretary Gale Norton, the need for National Park maintenance projects is so great that the usual "Top 10" list and has been changed to the "Top 12" list this year. NPS Director Fran Mainella agreed, saying that the Federal Govt. is "...working aggressively to fix the nation's parks, so American families can better enjoy the nation's greatest natural, cultural and historic treasures."

Memorial

A memorial contribution has been made to IRNHA in memory of Francis Swartz by Chuck and Betsy Boyle. Francis served on IRNHA's Board of Directors in the 1970s.



Croll Endowment Established

An endowment fund has been created in memory of Scott Croll through the Student Conservation Association. Scott, son of Stuart Croll (past Isle Royale Chief Ranger) and Ellen Croll (who served as IRNHA Membership and Mail order clerk for many years), was killed in an airplane crash in Alaska in 2000.

Scott, who was a park ranger at the time of his death spent many of his formative years in the national park system on Isle Royale and as an SCA crew member and intern in several other national parks.

For information on the Scott Croll Endowment Fund, you can contact the Student Conservation Association at 603-543-1828 or www.sca-inc.org

IRNHA Board Changes

Steve Merritt has resigned from the IRNHA Board of Directors due to increased professional and family responsibilities. Sara Basso has been appointed by the board to serve the remainder of Steve's term. Sara, who lives in Okemos, Michigan, is presently the Director of Policy for the Michigan Office of Racing Commissioner. She has prior work experience in private law practice, and as a business owner and manager. Sara has served for two years as a member of the IRNHA Fundraising Committee and is a long time Isle Royale visitor.

Steve served on the IRNHA Board for four years and was a member of the IRNHA Membership Committee. He helped plan many of the events associated with our Annual Membership meetings.

We thank Steve for his service and welcome Sara as our newest board member.

Please note, that we need your vote for two new board members. Bios and a ballot are enclosed in this issue.

Copies of Foot Trails and Water Routes needed

Do you have any copies of the second edition of Isle Royale National Park; Foot Trails and Water Routes that you don't need this summer? If so, we would love to have them. The third edition of the book was due out this month, but has been delayed until fall, the publisher is out of stock, and we have only a handful of copies left in our inventory. As you know, this book is an extremely useful guide for people planning their first trip to the island and we would like to be able to provide copies for those folks. The book is also a big source of income for IRNHA. Without any copies to sell, we stand to lose \$2000-\$3000 in sales over the summer. Our offer to members is this: Send us any copy of Foot Trails and Water Routes that is in usable condition, and we will send you a new copy of the third edition when they come out in the fall. Simply mail your copy to us at IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr. Houghton MI 49931 and include your name and address. We appreciate any help you can give us restocking our shelves.

SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The IRNHA annual summer membership meeting will be held in Rock Harbor on Sunday, July 28. A weekend of special events is planned. We invite you to join us, meet other IRNHA members, learn more about Isle Royale, and share your suggestions for IRNHA's future.

Friday, July 26

8:30 p.m. - "Michigan in Song" by folk musician Wanda Degan

Saturday, July 27

9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Field Trip to Rolf and Candy Peterson's wolf/moose research center

2:00 p.m. - Board Meeting, Mott Island

8:30 p.m. - Program by Artist in Residence, Rock Harbor Auditorium

Sunday, July 29

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting, Rock Harbor Auditorium

-Business Meeting

-Endowment Campaign Announcement

-Program by Photographer Dan Urbanski

4:30 p.m. - Picnic at Rock Harbor Lodge.

Our mainland membership meeting will be rescheduled for the last week of October to coincide with the Keweenaw Natl. Historical Park 10th anniversary celebration. Look for specifics on that meeting in our next Wolf's Eye.

Isle Royale Natural History Association
800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1895

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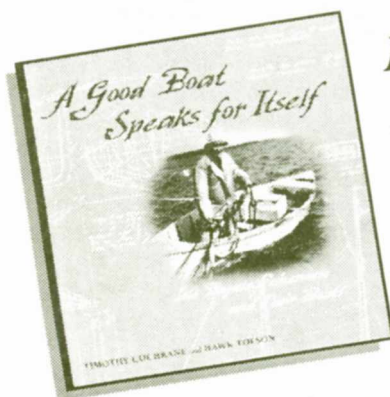
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New Books of Interest

A Good Boat Speaks for Itself: Isle Royale Fishermen and Their Boats by Timothy Cochrane and Hawk Tolson.

This book will be a must-read for everyone interested in Isle Royale history. Cochrane, who is presently superintendent of Grand Portage Natl. Monument, served for several years as Isle Royale's Branch Chief for Cultural Resources. In this book he traces the history of Isle Royale fishermen through the unique boats that were so essential to their way of life.

A Good Boat Speaks for Itself combines the personal stories of the Isle Royale fishing community with detailed descriptions and diagrams of their individually designed boats. Lots of historical photos. 240pp. \$19.95

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich

Set in the Apostle Islands in 1847 this novel is filled with fascinating details of traditional Ojibwa life. The story follows a community, and especially one young Ojibwa girl, through several years of joys and hardships as they struggle to maintain their traditional ways in a changing world. Ages 9-12. Hardcover. 244 pp. \$17.99

America's National Parks: The Spectacular Forces that Shaped our Treasured Lands

This new book celebrates fifty-six national parks throughout the U.S. including Isle Royale National Park. Grouping the parks according to the particular physical and geological forces that created them, it features spectacular full-color photographs and topographical maps that highlight important landmarks and travel routes throughout each park. A must-have for anyone who relishes America's natural wonders and wants to learn more about the powerful forces that created them. Hardcover. 400pp. \$50.00

Available now from IRNHA, 800-678-6925, www.irnha.org

SEAPLANE SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER

For the first time in 37 years, there will be no seaplane service to Isle Royale this summer. The Isle Royale Seaplane Service, Inc., which has provided services to the island under a concessions contract with the National Park Service, has decided not to renew their contract for 2002. Company owner Clarence Grognet has said that increasing operational costs have led to the company's decision. One of the fastest rising costs for small plane operators is insurance coverage which has increased dramatically since the events of September 11. Although the park has attempted to find another operator to provide air service for this summer, they have not been successful. Park personnel say they are optimistic that seaplane service will be resumed in 2003.



Isle Royale Natural History Association

800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931

Tel: 906-482-7860 or 800-678-6925

e-mail: irnha@irnha.org

website: www.irnha.org

IRNHA is a non-profit membership organization that assists Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park by publishing and selling educational materials to park visitors.

Gifts, bequests, memorials and memberships are U.S. tax deductible.

Membership Categories

Individual	\$20
Household	\$25
Supporting	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Patron	\$250
Benefactor	\$500
Life Membership . . .	\$1,000*

*Life memberships may be paid in 5 annual installments.

Board of Directors

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Manninen, Gary Pethe, Charles Zamzow.

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