

Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2003 No. 1

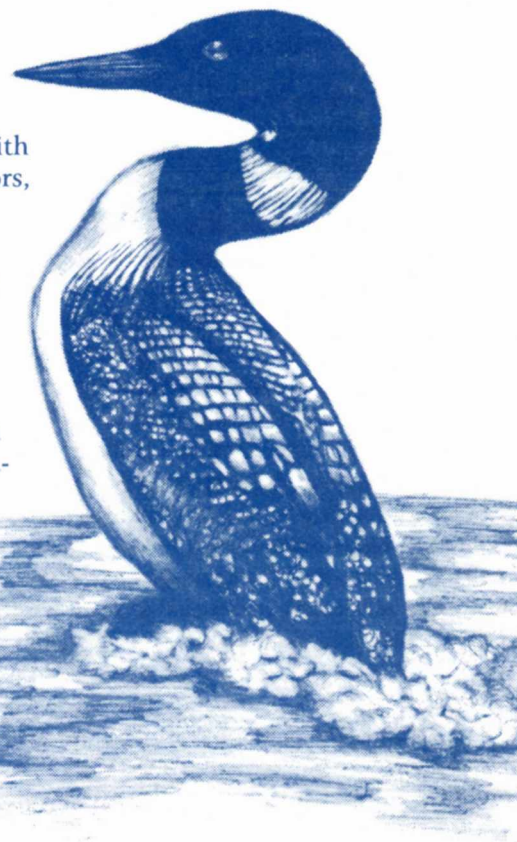
Isle Royale Loon Update

Joe Kaplan, Isle Royale Researcher

Most visitors to Isle Royale are fortunate to experience the sights (and sounds!) of one of the Island's most distinctive species, the Common Loon. With nearly 50 inland lakes and Lake Superior's numerous protected bays and harbors, Isle Royale provides a summer home for nearly 100 breeding loon pairs. Each summer as part of a long-term monitoring effort, NPS staff, volunteers, and researchers tally the number of loon chicks successfully raised in each loon territory. During this past season a total of 47 loon chicks were counted at Isle Royale, the second highest recorded since monitoring began in 1990 (the record is 51 loon chicks in 2001). Research of loons at Isle Royale during the past 12 years has provided some valuable insight into the life history of the loon and has included investigations into the contaminant burdens, population dynamics, and the effects of human recreation on the productivity of this popular wildlife species.

To understand how various factors influence loon populations, a small number of loons have been uniquely color-banded and subsequently monitored at Isle Royale. Each spring researchers check known loon territories to re-observe loons that have returned from their coastal wintering grounds. Results indicate that loons are a long-lived species and 5% of the loon population is expected to return to the Island for 35 years or more. Imagine there are approximately 10 loons at Isle Royale that have been making the return trip since 1967!

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Join Us for a Special IRNHA Members' Trip to Isle Royale July 23 - 30 2003

We invite you to join us for the first Isle Royale Natural History Association Members Trip to Isle Royale. Jointly sponsored by IRNHA and the Isle Royale Institute, this week-long educational trip will coincide with this year's annual membership meeting on the island and will offer additional programs and day-long field trips, as well as a guided bus tour of the Keweenaw National Historical Park. Field trips and tours will be led by NPS, IRI and IRNHA staff.

Housing on Isle Royale will be at the Rock Harbor Lodge; housing in Houghton will be provided at a local motel.

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Board Members Needed

IRNHA is seeking qualified IRNHA members to serve on our Board of Directors. Three positions will be filled by election this spring. If you are an IRNHA member and are interested in becoming more involved, consider running for our Board of Directors. Board members serve three year terms during which they are expected to attend two or three meetings each year in Houghton and a meeting every other year on Isle Royale. Members are also expected to serve on committees and participate in fundraising. These are volunteer positions; board members receive no compensation.

Over the next few years IRNHA will be working on a variety of fund raising activities--establishing a planned-giving program, conducting an endowment campaign, and seeking grant funding for special projects. Persons with experience in any of these fund-raising areas are especially encouraged to apply for our board.

If you are willing to run in the upcoming election, please send a short biographical sketch indicating educational background and current employment as a well as a statement indicating why you believe

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Members Trip To Isle Royale

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Tentative Agenda:

Wednesday: Arrive in Houghton.
Evening Program.

Thursday: Tours of Keweenaw NHP/
Quincy Mine, etc.
Evening program.

Friday: Travel to island.
Evening Program.

Saturday/

Sunday: IRNHA Membership Field
Trip, Annual Membership
Meeting and Programs,
Free Time.

Monday/

Tuesday: Special field trips with
ISRO researchers.

Wednesday: Return to Houghton.

Complete cost is \$1300 per person/
double occupancy. This cost covers all
expenses for 7 days and 7 nights
including meals, lodging, field trips, and
transportation from Houghton to Isle
Royale and back. A deposit of \$100 is
due at the time of enrollment, with a first
payment of \$600 due on June 23 and the
remaining \$600 due on arrival July 23.

Registration is limited to 36 IRNHA
members. Please contact IRNHA via
phone 800-678-6925 or by e-mail
irnha@irnha.org for more information or
registration.



Interpretive Division Established at Keweenaw

By Tom Baker, Park Ranger (Interpretation)

Keweenaw National Historical Park has recently hired a Chief of Interpretation. Kathleen Harter fills this long-awaited position for Keweenaw. An Upper Peninsula native and long-time Park Service interpretive ranger and educator, Kathleen includes among her past positions one as an interpreter at Windigo on Isle Royale. The establishment of the Chief of Interpretation position formally launches the Division of Interpretation for the park.

Keweenaw National Historical Park has been engaged in developing its cultural resources and following preservation standards for stabilizing those resources. It is now ready to progress into the arena of interpreting those resources for area visitors. Its cultural resources, of course, are not only the tangible buildings and structures that are remnants of the glory days of copper, but also include the intangible resources of the Keweenaw: remembering the lives of the miners and their families; recounting the trials, tribulations, and success of the speculators and companies that developed the copper mines; celebrating the diversity of the 38 ethnic groups that emigrated to the Copper Country. The list goes on.

Interpretation is the key element in a historical park. As compared to traditional 'natural' national parks, national historical park visitors are drawn specifically for the interpretation of the park's cultural resources. We can all marvel at the architectural beauty of a historic structure, but the interpretation of that structure brings it to life, forming an emotional and intellectual connection for the visitor. We can gaze upon an industrial landscape and wonder what events occurred to affect such a dramatic change; interpretation brings those events to life, allowing us to understand the transformation and significance of that landscape.

Only through an effective program of interpretation will the park's mission to "preserve, protect, and interpret the story of copper mining on the peninsula" be accomplished. The park's Division of Interpretation will be highly visible in the years to come. They will be working closely with the seventeen Cooperating Sites to provide a highly professional level of interpretation while maintaining the character and individuality of each site. They will be working with the schools to encourage and develop curricula that will instill pride for their heritage and stewardship of the area's resources.

Plans for visitor contact stations, exhibit facilities, and other visitor services will be developed in the near future. These facilities will be developed not only for the traveling visitors, but for the enjoyment and benefit of the communities in and around the park. For more information call (906) 337-316 or e-mail KEWE_Interpretation@nps.gov.



Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation

Loon Update

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The long life span of loons and their aquatic habits also makes them vulnerable to environmental toxins. Contaminants such as mercury, a potent neurotoxin, bioaccumulate in loons and can have detrimental effects on their reproductive success. Fortunately, results from sampling efforts at Isle Royale indicate loons nesting on Lake Superior show some of the lowest mercury levels found in the species outside of Alaska. However, it has also been demonstrated that some of the Island's interior lakes may expose loons to substantially higher levels of mercury than their Lake Superior counterparts, possibly indicating that important differences exist in how mercury cycles through the aquatic food web at Isle Royale.

In addition to ongoing contaminants and loon population research, Isle Royale has served as a study site for the effects of recreation on loon nesting success. While it is widely known that Isle Royale is 99% federally designated Wilderness and the Island is almost "development" free, monitoring of breeding loons on the canoe-route interior lakes indicates that nesting success decreased as the number of canoeists and kayakers on the lakes increased. In addition, loons nesting closest to travel routes influenced by established infrastructure, such as campgrounds and portages, seem to be most vulnerable to disturbance. While this may be a sobering reminder that human enjoyment of Isle Royale waters may carry some negative consequences, strategies are currently being considered to assure a secure future for Isle Royale loons while still providing opportunities for public enjoyment.

Loon research on Isle Royale is funded in part by the IRNHA with donations from our members.

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Mr & Mrs Richard A Pickard
Greg & Mary Pilbeam
Dr & Mrs Merle O Plagge
Marshall & Dawn Plumer
S Lawrence & Christina Pohe
William H Pugh
Elinore & Harry G Quinn
Kathy & David Raeside
Daniel & Joy Anne Rambo
William Ribich
Rick Rice
Suzanne Righetti
James Robertson
Gerrie Robinson Kupper
Dan & Betty Rogalla
William S & Pearl E Roorda
Bill & Nanno Rose
Kay & Randall Ross
Elizabeth Rossini
Robert Rudd
Susan B Ruddy
Mark Rude
Ron & Debbie Sanders
Dianne & Walter Sappington
Mrs Thomas C Savage
Kent Schielke
Dorothea J Schlechte
Eugene J & Janice Schmidt
Noreen A Schoener
Robert Schulz
Mr & Mrs Kenneth D Seaton
Phil Shelton
Martin Singer
Phil Slagle
Vaughn & Terri Snook
Jeannette & Donald Stafford
Leo G Stern
Robert Stottlemeyer
Norma Lee & Doug Stuart
John G Sulewski
Kenneth J & Susan A Suppes
Robert R Swanson Jr
David J Swearingen
& Princesa Van Buren
R O & J K Sweeney
Robert G Swendrzynski
Tom & Liz Szpond
David Tattan
WM Patrick Templeton
Heather Anne Thieme
Richard L Thomas
Michael & Kimberlie Thomas
Phyllis Titmus
Mike Tremblay
Steve Trynoski
Donald Udelson
John & Joyce Van Westenburg
Jerry Van Wormer
David S Vinton
Miriam Vinton
Michael & Deborah Ward
Timothy R Warner
John C Waugh
Clifford Wetmore
Barbara Wheeler
Kevin & Stacey Whelan
Charles R White
Peter A Wimberg
John Winn
Florence Wolbrink
Jacqueline L Worden
Randy Yeates
Kathy & Joe Youngheim
Charlie Zamzow
Karl Zsilyczow

Isle Royale Natural History Association

Year in Review 2002

Publications & Products

The Isle Royale Natural History Association received the award for best general book in the NPS 2002 Interpretive Media Awards for our book *The Island Within Us: Isle Royale Artists In Residence*.

Publication projects for 2002 included *Dairies of An Isle Royale Fisherman*, a collection of the letters and journals of Norwegian immigrant Elling Seglem who fished from Isle Royale in the 1920s and 1930s. We also produced a new poster, *Lake Superior Beach Stones*, a watercolor by local artist Susan Robinson, and our first product for Keweenaw National Historical Park—a copper tenth-anniversary medallion.

We published a variety of free publications as well, including the Isle Royale National Park newspaper, The Greenstone, and a variety of site guides and brochures. We also funded a portion of the publication costs for the Keweenaw National Historic Park newspaper, The Ingot.

Aid-to-Park

In addition to providing free park publications for IRNP and KNHP visitors, IRNHA contributed funds to Isle Royale National Park in 2002 to develop a scale model for exhibits at the Windigo Visitor Center. We also continued our funding for the Isle Royale Beaver Survey conducted every other year by researcher Doug Smith, and increased funding for the Isle Royale Artists in Residence Program.

Special Programs

IRNHA began a series of special educational outreach programs for our members and the general public in 2002. The first program by loon researcher Joe Kaplan was held in Houghton, Michigan in November.

We held an annual membership meeting in Rock Harbor and conducted a membership field trip to the wolf/moose research center on Isle Royale in July. We held a second membership meeting and participated in the Keweenaw National Historical Park's Tenth Anniversary celebration in Calumet, MI in October.

Finances

Our income from donations almost doubled and our membership dues income by increased by 20% in Fiscal Year 2002. This was the first year that we generated more income through donations and dues than through sales.

As we look forward to our 50th year of operation, IRNHA has begun plans for a campaign to establish an IRNHA endowment which will ensure the future of the association.

Board Members Needed ...continued from page 1

you are qualified to hold a position on the board. Please also include your address and phone number. Nominations should be mailed no later than April 15 to IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr., Houghton, MI 49931, or submitted by e-mail to jburland@irnha.org. Ballots will be distributed to all current members in June.

Is Your Membership Current?

Just a reminder that membership dues are renewable the first of each year. If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2003, please do so today. Park newspapers will be sent to all current members soon.

2002 Aid to Park

Cash Contribution	
Greenstone Newspaper	\$4,000
Free Park Brochures	\$2,145
Exhibits	\$2,700
Beaver Count	\$2,250
Artist in Residence Program	\$2,060
Interpretive Materials	\$300
Guest Program Presentors	\$400
Park Library	\$300
Miscellaneous	\$390
Ingot Newspaper	\$3,195
Total Cash Contribution	\$17,650
In-Kind Contributions	
Staff Assistance at Visitor Centers	\$9,215
Total Aid to the Park	\$26,865

Statement of Income and Expense for Years Ended September 30

	2002	2001
Income		
Sales Income	\$99,237	\$114,820
Member Dues	\$25,065	\$20,625
Donations/Grants	\$25,344	\$13,247
Interest/Misc. Income	\$450	\$775
Shipping & Handling Income	\$3,747	\$4,971
Total Income	\$153,843	\$154,438
Expense		
Cost of Goods Sold	\$52,855	\$54,285
Operating Expense	\$83,205	\$90,076
Total Expense	\$136,060	\$144,361
Net Annual Income	\$17,783	\$10,077
Aid to the Park	\$17,649	\$18,077
Net Increase/Decrease	\$134	(\$8,000)

Balance Sheets for 9/30

	2002	2001
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & Investments	\$37,947	\$12,828
Receivables	\$3,043	\$3,772
Inventory	\$131,740	\$140,008
Total Current Assets	\$172,730	\$156,608
Fixed Assets (Equipment)	\$1,169	\$872
Total Assets	\$173,899	\$157,480

Liabilities & Equity

Accounts Payable	\$5,197	\$1,323
Grants Payable	\$11,503	\$6,791
Tax Liabilities	\$1,788	\$2,174
Bank Loan	\$8,085	\$0
Total Current Liabilities	\$26,573	\$10,288
Equity	\$147,326	\$147,192
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$173,899	\$157,480

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

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Houghton, Michigan
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Help Save Isle Royale Historic Films

Isle Royale Natural History Association and Isle Royale National Park have in their possession a wonderful collection of historic 16 mm films. At present, they cannot be shown because they are too easily broken and because the film projectors needed to show the films are no longer readily available. We would like to preserve the films to a digital format before they are lost to us completely.

The films themselves date from the 1920s, 30s and 40s. Some of them are family films that have been donated to IRNP and IRNHA. They record family outings, fishing and hiking trips, Lake Superior passages, docking of passenger ships, and footage of wildlife. Others are films taken by the Civilian Conservation Corps and National Park Service. They include footage from a wide range of events including NPS dedications, moose airlifts, shipwreck dives, and commercial fishing activities.

The cost for saving these films to a digital format is approximately \$1800. If you can help us with this project, or if you know of a corporation or foundation who might be

willing to fund this project, please contact Jill Burkland at jburkland@irnha.org or (800) 678-6925.

Memorial Donations

IRNHA has recently received memorial contributions for the following members:

- ☞ *Marge Burns-Kahn*
of St. Clair Shores, Michigan,
- ☞ *Elsa Brenner*, wife of Paul Brenner,
of Van Wert, Ohio,
- ☞ *David Shroeder*
of Sewickley, Pennsylvania.

Biologist Devotes Life to Island Wolves

Listen to or read an interview with Isle Royale biologist Rolf Peterson on the Great Lakes Radio Consortium, March 3rd Edition:

http://glrc.org/story.php?story_id=1825

To Order IRNHA Products:

To order books, maps, posters, and other IRNHA products, check out our website:

www.irnha.org



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

Christine Manninen—President,
Sara Basso, Charles Boyle, John Dunn,
Don Durfee, Mark Gleason,
Nancy Leonard, Nelda Liebig,
Christine Manninen, Gary Pethe.

Staff

Jill Burkland, Executive Director
& Wolf's Eye Editor;
Lauren Rastello, Mail Order;
Jessica Poirier,
Accounting & Computing Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 22, 12:00 noon

IRNHA Board Meeting

Keweenaw National Historical Park Administrative Office Bldg.

Monday, April 28

Isle Royale Program by Mark Gleason
Ann Arbor

Sunday, July 27

IRNHA Summer Membership Meeting on Isle Royale

