

Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2003 No. 2

2003 Isle Royale Wolf/Moose Report

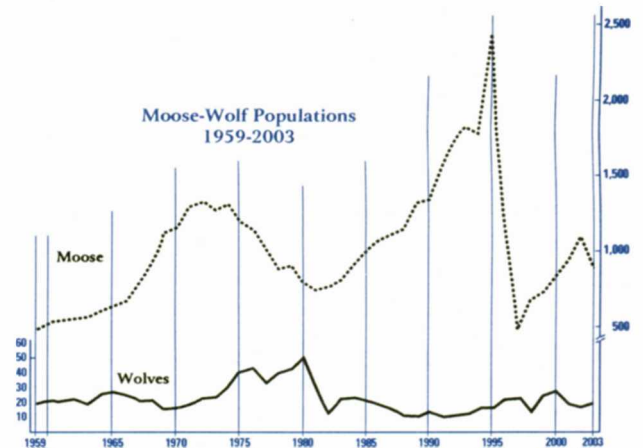
The winter 2003 wolf count shows Isle Royale's wolf population increasing slightly over 2002 numbers. 19 individuals were counted this year, compared to 17 last year. Three reproducing packs continued to occupy territories similar to those of 2002. The East Pack, which occupies the far eastern end of the island from Blake Point to just past Daisy Farm, is the smallest pack with just 3 individuals. The Chippewa Harbor Pack, made up of 7 individuals, occupies the area adjacent to the East Pack from approximately Daisy Farm west past Chippewa Harbor to about mid-island. The Middle Pack, of 6 individuals, actually occupies the entire western half of Isle Royale. There are also 3 single wolves on the island.

An estimated 7 pups born last summer have survived. Although the East Pack lost four of the pups which were counted in the winter of 2002, they did succeed in raising one pup which was born last summer. Four pups survived in the Middle Pack and at least two survived in the Chippewa Harbor Pack.

This year's wolf mortality was high at 29%. Most of the deaths were in the beleaguered East Pack and can be attributed to aggression from the Chippewa Harbor Pack.

Meanwhile the moose population on the island decreased slightly, from approximately 1,100 to 900. Calves made up about 8% of those counted, which is considerably below the 13% average. The overall decline is being attributed to the effect of an abundance of winter ticks. Moose which are infested with ticks experience considerable hair loss and are vulnerable to cold winters.

Moose density continues to be greatest at the east and west ends of Isle Royale, with far fewer moose in the middle of the island. A complete and detailed report of this year's "Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale" is available from IRNHA on our website at www.irnha.org or by phone at (800) 678-6925.



Wolf and moose fluctuations, Isle Royale National Park, 1959-2003. Moose population estimates during 1959-1993 were based on population reconstruction from recoveries of dead moose, whereas estimates from 1994-2003 based on aerial surveys. (*Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale: Annual Report 2002-2003* by R. Peterson & J. Vucetich)

Membership Meetings 2003

Thursday, July 24

- Noon IRNHA Board Meeting, Keweenaw National Park Offices
- 6:00 p.m. Membership Business Meeting, Finlandia University, Hancock
- 7:00 p.m. Program by landscape architect Arne Alanen on the impact of Finnish-Americans on the Keweenaw landscape.

Friday, July 25

- :30 p.m. Program, "Echoes of Colonial Michigan" 18th Century Music of the Great Lakes and Canada by Anne & Rob Burns, Rock Harbor Auditorium

Saturday, July 26

- 10:00 a.m.* Field Trip with Liz Valencia, NPS Branch Chief for Cultural Resources. Meet at the Rock Harbor Visitor Center. Bring a lunch.
- 7:30 p.m. Program by Artist-in-Residence photographer, Elaine Marschik, Rock Harbor Visitor Center.

Sunday, July 27

- 2:30 p.m. Member Business Meeting, Rock Harbor Auditorium
- 3:30 p.m. Program by Howard Sivertson, Isle Royale painter and author.
- 5:00 p.m.* Members' Picnic, Rock Harbor Lodge

All events are free and open to the public except for the Members' Picnic for which a fee will be charged. *Times for these events are approximate. Please check at Rock Harbor Visitor Center.

Johns Hotel Restoration Project Continues

submitted by Tom Johns

The Johns family arrived at Isle Royale in the 1860s and made a family homestead on what was then called Johns Island in Washington Harbor. They constructed what was to become the first hotel on the island. It was all built by hand, of spruce logs from Johns Island and the nearby Washington Island. The hotel had four rooms that were used by fishermen and tourists for many years, providing warmth and shelter for many people on cold wet days.

This summer, the sixth generation of Isle Royale's Johns family, including cousin Carl Swenson, will be working to restore the hotel to its original condition. They will use the same hand tools and methods that John F. and Will Johns used in the 1890s. The family began the stabilization and restoration project in 1997. The first step in the process was cleaning out the refuse left by moose who had used the hotel as their own winter accommodations in 1995 and 1996. Next step was to place tarps on the roof and secure them for winter.

In the summer of 1998 the family began the dangerous task of removing the roof boards on the north side of the very steep roof. In 1999 supplies were hauled out from Duluth on the Wenonah, the south side of the hotel roof was removed, and new boards and red roofing were put on to complete the roof. With a new roof in place, the hotel began to dry out.

Over the past two summers new logs were purchased to replace those that have rotted, and blueprints were drawn up to help with an accurate restoration of the original historic structure. Family members have prepared the hotel for jacking and log replacement and built a log drying and storage platform. Once the logs are delivered from the mainland, they will be skidded by hand from the south side of the island to the hotel site. A log cabin restoration expert will be on hand for the next stage of the project. The plan is to jack up the second story, support it and then replace the poor logs on the bottom story.



Robert Johns in front of the Johns Hotel, 1998.

"It is a lot of work, but a lot of fun too," according to Cindy Johns Giesen. The family is reliving and experiencing what their forefathers experienced in the late 1800s on a very distant and isolated island on lake Superior that became their home.

Robert E. Johns, a life member of IRNHA, passed away on Feb. 26, 2002. He was instrumental in getting the project started. Robert returned each and every year to the island for 86 years of his life, including his furlough during World War II. He, with the help of the late IRNP Supt. Doug Barnard, conceived and began the Johns Hotel restoration project.

The Johns family would like to thank the National Park Service, specifically the late Supt. Douglas Barnard and present Supt. Phyllis Green for their help. Thanks, too, to Liz Valencia and Tim Cochrane for their work in getting the hotel placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

For more information on the Johns hotel project, contact Tom Johns at talsapines@juno.com or 128 Chisholm St. Duluth MN 55803.

Artists on Isle Royale

Five artists have been selected for this summer's Artist-in-Residence Program on Isle Royale. Each artist will spend approximately three weeks on the island, living in the Dassler Cabin on Scoville Point. They will spend time working in their particular art form, exploring the island, and presenting weekly programs for park visitors in Rock Harbor. At the conclusion of their residency, artists will donate a piece of work to the park.

This year's artists are:

- ☞ *Allison Spain from Bozeman, Montana, who works predominantly with abstract and expressionist landscapes. She will be on the island June 13 - 28, where she plans to do a series of charcoal drawings and small oil paintings.*
- ☞ *Deborah Ford from Prescott, Arizona, who will be on the island July 1 - 16. She is a photographer with an interest in the connections between human and natural communities.*
- ☞ *Elaine Marschik, a photographer from St. Louis, Missouri. In her work she enjoys showing familiar natural subjects in unfamiliar ways. Her residency runs from July 18 - August 2.*
- ☞ *Jennifer Slack, a painter from Calumet, Michigan. During her August 5-23 residency she plans to paint some of the structures and buildings on the island and explore their relationships to their natural surroundings.*
- ☞ *Andrew Gottlieb from Seattle, Washington will be in residency from August 16 - September 13. He is a poet and fiction writer and plans to work on several new poems and a new story influenced by his surroundings on the island.*

**Isle Royale Natural History Association
2003 Board of Directors Election**

Please vote for not more than 3 candidates. Ballots must be postmarked by JULY 1.

**Gregg V. Burg
Ann Arbor, Michigan**

- * Print Estimator for book printer Thomson-Shore, Inc.
- * 13 years experience in the book printing industry
- * BS in History from Eastern Michigan U.
- * Second Lieutenant in U.S. Army

I was born and raised in close proximity to the Waterloo Recreation Area and grew up with a deep affinity for nature. Myself, my wife and our dogs still spend a considerable amount of time hiking the trails and enjoying the outdoors at Waterloo.

I feel I would be qualified in serving on the Board of the IRNHA as I am currently serving as the board secretary for the Waterloo Natural History Association (WNHA), the "Friends Group" for the Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center in the Waterloo Recreation Area. I have been a board member for the WHNA for the past 10 years. I am dedicated to the mission of the WNHA in providing Environmental education to school groups and the general public. My wife and I ventured to Isle Royale during our honeymoon in August of 2001. We were both enchanted by the island and knew we'd be going back and felt that joining the IRNHA would be a way of staying in touch with the island.

**Joan Chadde
Calumet, MI**

- * Education Program Coordinator for the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education
- * Previous positions as a natural resource education specialist with the Montana Dept. of Natural Resources, outdoor educator for National Outdoor Leadership School in Wyoming, and staff of environmental education centers in Yosemite National park and Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore
- * BS in Natural Resources, MS in Water Resources, science teaching certification from the U. of Wyoming

I have had a variety of experiences related to Isle Royale National Park that make me well qualified to serve as a board member. This past year, I worked with the park's head of interpretation, Smitty Parratt, to coordinate the development and dissemination of a brand new assembly program for area school children titled, *Isle Royale – A National Park in our Backyard*. The assembly program was presented to nearly 1,000 students in Houghton County! Our next project will be designing an Isle Royale learning trunk for teachers.
(continued on back page)

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

Last summer, I collaborated with Mark Gleason, director of the Isle Royale Institute, in soliciting funding and conducting a one-week teacher workshop on the *Ecology of the Great Lakes* aboard the EPA's research vessel, lake Guardian. We are now working together to develop a workshop that will allow teachers to experience some of the exciting research taking place on Isle Royale. In addition to these experiences, as a board member I will draw upon my 25 years of experience working in natural resource management and education for a non-profit organization, a university and state government. I have experience in grant-writing, education program development, marketing, and evaluation, and working with K-12 students, university students, and adults. Plus, I love the outdoors! I have greatly enjoyed the time that I've been able to spend on Isle Royale, and would like to help others learn about the unique features that make Isle Royale so special.

Bob Guiliani
Clare, MI

- * Co-owner with wife, Linda, of Guys & Dolls Photography portrait Studio
 - * Recipient of national, state and local photography awards
- * Past President of the Michigan Photographic Society, Professional Photographers of Michigan, Northern Michigan Professional Photographers, Clare Chamber of Commerce, and Wildlife Recover Association
- * Member of Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Institute of Photography.
 - * Editor of Jack Pine Warbler newsletter
- * Master Photographer, Photographic Craftsman, and nationally certified photographer.
 - * BA and MA in chemistry

Linda and I have backpacked Isle Royale for 15 years in a row, missing this past year because of a hiking trip to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Isle Royale and the life on this island is very special and has given us many wonderful memories. We both want to preserve this area for future generations to enjoy. I believe serving on the IRNHA Board will help serve this purpose and in a small way, be a partial payment for time we have and will spend there.

Thomas Wiselogle
Stillwater, MN

- * Career in Outdoor Specialty Retail Management, presently with Forever Resorts
- * Former management positions with REI and other national chains and small specialty shops.
- * Past Member of the Board of Directors of the Boulder Mountaineer in Boulder, CO
- * Member of the Isle Royale Natural History Association Marketing committee

I am dedicated to the protection, preservation and scientific research on Isle Royale. IRNHA is the vehicle by which this can best be accomplished. My professional outdoor background, my prior Board of Directors experience and my current committee work with IRNHA combine to enable me to become a positive contributor to the future leadership. growth and prosperity of IRNHA.

Vote for not more than 3 candidates for IRNHA Board
Please detach and mail to IRNHA 800 E. Lakeshore Dr, Houghton, MI 49931
(Ballots must be postmarked by July 1)

_____ Gary Burg
_____ Joan Chadde

_____ Bob Guiliani
_____ Tom Wiselogle

Oral History: Recollections of the Copper Country

The Keweenaw National Historical Park's oral history collection is growing, and with it a clearer understanding and appreciation of the Copper Country's colorful history. Sixty-five interviews have been recorded to date, revealing many fascinating stories, ranging from the rigors of working underground at the Quincy Mine during the 1920s, to the challenges of bootlegging in Lake Linden during Prohibition. Several interviewees have spoken of the area's competitive sports scene including playing on the little-known Red Jacket (now Calumet) cricket team.

Recently, Calumet native and retiree Bruce Norden took the time to describe life as a big band musician in Calumet and Laurium during the 1930s and 1940s: "I can't think of one place that had so many musicians," Mr. Norden recalled. "Good ones, too! Many of the musicians playing in Detroit and Chicago got their start right here, including Allan LaSage who played for Benny Goodman."

Mr. Norden himself left the dance floors of Calumet for Detroit in 1942 where he put aside his saxophone for a job at Chrysler. Before that, however, he played in both the WPA and C&H bands, entertaining people at local hotspots such as the Cozy Garden in Laurium, Gino's in Hancock, and at Houghton Traction Company's Electric Park. Pennsylvania 6-5000, Serenade in Blue, and Tangerine were perpetual crowd favorites along with 12th Street Rag and Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree.

"In those days, if you played from 9 o'clock until 1, you would get \$2.50," Mr. Norden recalled. "But on New Year's Eve, if you played someplace, well, then you got paid five dollars!" Money wasn't the motivating factor for musicians in the heyday of big band music in the Copper Country. According to Mr. Norden, "...but who cared? Music in those days was lots of fun!"

And what of the musical competition with other area bands such as the Merrymakers, and Red John and the Copper Country Pals? "There were other bands around, but they were all friendly," he said. "In a small town like this, you had to be."



SUPERIOR WATER LEVELS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has predicted that Lake Superior water levels will be down again this summer. Superior's summer lake average is approximately 602 feet. This summer's level is expected to be about 8 inches below that average, which is 2 inches below last summer's level.

Snowfall throughout the Lake Superior basin was unusually low again this past winter, resulting in less water supply to the lake. However, heavy ice cover helped out a bit by slowing the rate of evaporation this spring. The lake is still 14 - 16 inches above record lows recorded in 1926, but without at least average seasonal rain in the coming months, Superior will remain well below historical averages.

Lakes Michigan and Huron are also unusually low, now at 23 inches below normal and 9 inches below this time last year.

New Service for Minnesota Boaters

The Gunflint Ranger District of the Superior National Forest, in Grand Marais, Minnesota will be providing a new service for Isle Royale boaters this summer. Boaters will be able to pay their user fees and obtain camping permits for Isle Royale at the Gunflint Ranger Station, which will be open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. through September 30. The station is located at 2020 West Highway 61 in Grand Marais.

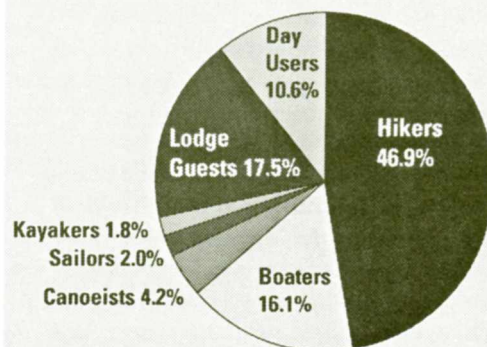


Isle Royale Visitation '02

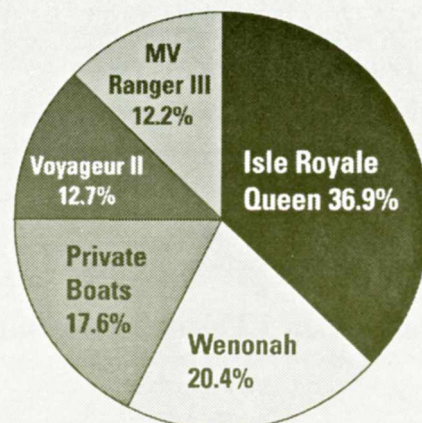
Visitation at America's National Parks dropped almost 20% in 2002, partly attributable to a large decrease in foreign visitors. The country's large Western parks were especially hard hit due to fallout from September 11, struggling economies in such countries as Japan, and rampant wildfires in the West.

Isle Royale, however, was largely unaffected by these factors; visitation was up about 2% from 2001. Total visitation to Isle Royale National Park in 2002 was 19,604, which includes visitors at the Houghton Visitor Center. Actual Island visitation was 15,613.

Island recreational visitors, by type, for 2002 included:



Analysis of transportation use shows the following breakdown by method of travel to the Island:



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

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Houghton, Michigan
Permit No. 45 Wolf's Eye

New Products from IRNHA for Summer 2003!

Lake Effect: Along Superior's Shores by Erika Alin

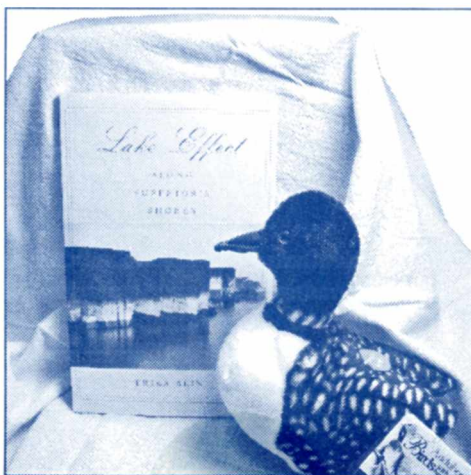
Writer Erika Alin explores both the natural and human landscapes of Lake Superior, meditating on the rich geological, historical, and cultural events that have shaped the region. She begins her journey around Superior at the mouth of the St. Louis River near Duluth and continues along the shores of the lake to Temperance River State Park, Grand Marais's Artist's Point, and Lake Superior Provincial Park. Following the Michigan and Wisconsin coasts, Alin visits the Keweenaw Peninsula, the Porcupine Mountains, and Chequamegon Bay, before concluding at the south shore's Brule River. Her essays are deeply personal reflections revealing her profound sensitivity to the natural world. 184 pages.  \$16.95

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Over 50 color images of wolves, wolf pups, and other wild baby animals plus wallpaper and wolf facts. Audio options of wolves, wolf pups, or music. CD Rom for Mac or Windows 95 & above.  \$14.99



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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

Tuesday, July 1, 2003

Board Election Ballots Postmark Deadline

Thursday, July 24 and Sunday July 27, 2003

Annual Membership Meetings

Hancock and Rock Harbor

Saturday, October 18, 2003

Tentative Date for Fall Board of Directors' Meeting

