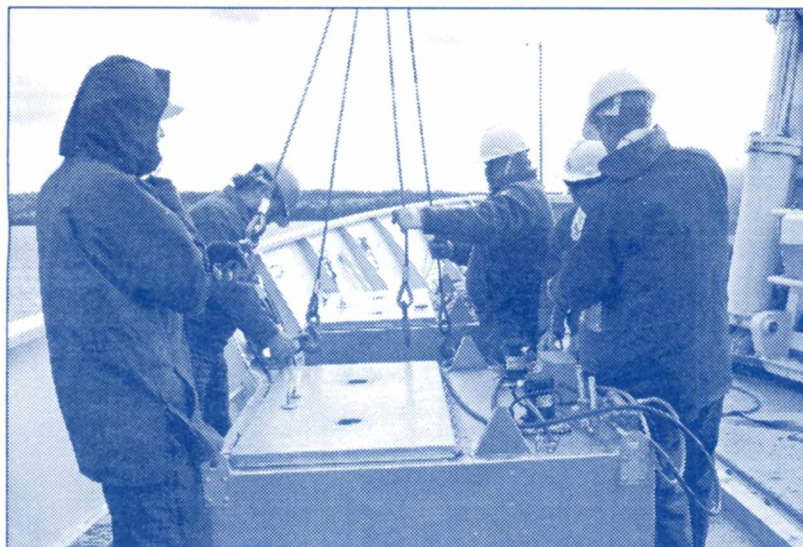


Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2004 No. 1



*NPS & USFWS
Officials position
tanks for coaster
brook trout release.*

Coaster Brook Trout Return Home

September 23 was a cool and overcast day. There was little fanfare as 52,200 coaster brook trout were silently released into Isle Royale's Siskiwit Bay.

At midnight the previous night the fish had been loaded onto trucks from the Iron River and Geonora National Fish Hatcheries and transported to Houghton. Early the next morning, they were hoisted onto the front deck of the Ranger III. Aeration and temperature were frequently monitored during the voyage. The young fingerlings endured eight to ten foot seas for five hours and then, as a handful of National Park Service staff looked on, they were released, diving into the protective waters where their parents' lives began.

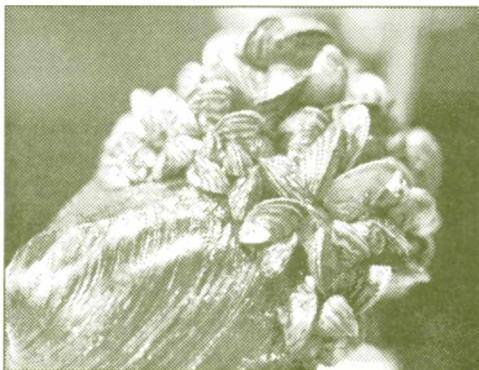
These fingerlings are the offspring of fish who were collected as eggs from island waters in 1995 and 1999. This is the fifth year in which Coaster Brook Trout have been stocked into Siskiwit Bay. Fish and Wildlife officers hope that these fingerlings will give new life to the remaining population in the bay and ensure that a viable population will remain.

Are Zebra Mussels Threatening Isle Royale's Aquatic Ecosystem?

The Isle Royale Natural History Association is helping Isle Royale park staff and researchers to determine the extent of the Zebra mussel threat to Isle Royale's inland lakes and Lake Superior waters.

Zebra mussels have the ability to out-compete native mussels, dramatically reducing the abundance of plankton populations, shifting ecosystem energetics and reducing the available food source for higher organisms. Thus, native mussels, fish

...continued on page 2



Zebra Mussels - Dreissena polymorpha

Seaplane Service Returns to Isle Royale



Royale Air Seaplane

Isle Royale visitors will once again be able to fly to the island this summer after a two-year interruption in plane service. Royale Air will fly between Houghton County Airport and the Park from May 18 through September 15. The Cessna 205 amphibious aircraft, capable of carrying five passengers in addition to the pilot, will fly on-call up to six days a week, weather permitting. Maximum baggage capacity will be 40 pounds per person. Fares for the 2004 season will be \$230 round trip or \$160 one-way, per person.

According to Supt. Phyllis Green, "It took some time to fulfill the required procedures in locating a new service, when the previous service decided not to renew their contract in the spring of 2002. We are pleased that John Safstrom met all the requirements to provide this vital service in the future at Isle Royale."

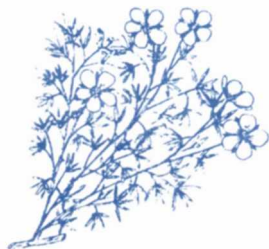
For more information or to make reservations, contact:
Royale Air Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 15184
Duluth, MN 55815
E-mail: RoyaleAirService@aol.com
Toll Free Phone: 877-FLY-ISLE (359-4753)
Toll Free Fax: 877-359-4754

Zebra Mussels...

...continued from front page

species, and predator species that rely on the aquatic food chain can be significantly impacted by a zebra mussel invasion.

Currently, the Park's Natural Resource Management staff is working with scientists from U.S. Geological Survey at the Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor to develop a threat assessment, analyzing the potential establishment of a reproducing zebra mussel population. A portion of the assessment will look at water chemistry, specifically whether conditions exist to allow a larval zebra mussel to develop a hardened shell using calcium available in the water. Water samples were collected from 13 sites across the island during the 2003 field season. These samples were analyzed for calcium levels and other minerals. Additionally, with funds provided by the Isle Royale Natural History Association, a round of 13 samples was sent to a lab for complete mineral profile tests along with heavy metals analysis. Knowledge of these environmental parameters, seasonal water temperatures, and an analysis of potential vectors will allow park staff and USGS scientists to determine threats to Isle Royale's aquatic resources from a potential zebra mussel infestation.



IRNHA Welcomes New Life Members

IRNHA's 240 life members make up a special group of people who have made a major financial commitment to support our organization. We are pleased to welcome three new IRNHA life members for 2003. They are:

- **Viola Brown**
Houghton, MI, in memory of her late husband, Bob.
- **James and Arleen Morrissey**
Chassell, MI.
- **Jim and Mare Payne**
Urbana, IL.

IRNHA Members – Service Trip July 23 - 31, 2004

IRNHA members are invited to join us July 23 - 31 for a special service trip to Isle Royale.

We have scheduled the trip to coincide with our annual membership meeting and special events in Rock Harbor on July 24 - 25.

We will travel out to the island on Friday, July 23. After spending the weekend in Rock Harbor, we will head to Daisy Farm or another group camp site, where we will begin our work project related to eradication of invasive plant species. Our tasks will include finding, pulling, and destroying as many of the unwanted plants as possible in designated areas. We will take a day off mid-week for relaxation, canoeing, or kayaking. We will return to Rock Harbor at the end of the week before heading back to Houghton on the *Ranger III* on Saturday, July 31.

This will be a camping trip, with some moderate hiking, but without heavy backpacks since all food and camping gear will be supplied and delivered to our camp site. Participants will be asked to bring only their own clothes, toiletries, and sleeping bag.

The cost for the trip will be \$500 and will include passage from Houghton on the *Ranger III*, boat travel within the park, all camping gear (including tents, sleeping pads, water filters, cooking gear, canoes and/or kayaks) meals while on the island, and a dinner in Houghton on our return. Maximum number of participants for the trip is eight, along with two leaders, so we recommend you phone or e-mail your reservations soon. (906-482-7860 or irnha@irnha.org)

IRNHA Spring Program Series Coming to a Town Near You!

In April, IRNHA staff and Isle Royale speakers will hit the road for a six-stop series of programs around the upper Midwest. We hope you will join us in a community near you! Our tentative schedule is listed below. For entries designated with an * check our website at www.irnha.org for more detailed information available soon.

*Marquette MI:

Wednesday, April 21

Loon Program by IRNP Researcher Joe Kaplan (Time / Place to be announced.)

Porter, IN:

Thursday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Isle Royale Program by Isle Royale Institute Director Mark Gleason, Indiana Dunes National Seashore Visitor Center

Madison, WI:

Friday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.

Isle Royale Program by IRI Director Mark Gleason, Arboretum Visitor Center, UW-Madison Arboretum.

*Minneapolis/ St. Paul, MN:

Saturday, April 24, Loon Program by IRNP Researchers Bill Beckman and Mike Meetz (Time and Place to be announced.)

*Duluth, MN:

Sunday, April 25, 4:00 p.m.,

Wolf/Moose Program by IRNP Researcher John Vucetich (Place to be announced.)

*Ashland, WI:

Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.

Wolf/Moose Program by IRNP Researcher John Vucetich, at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

If you live in one of these or a nearby community, I hope you will join us for the program and stay to chat over refreshments. Admission is free but donations will be accepted.

Island Volunteers Needed

If you're knowledgeable about Isle Royale and can operate a cash register, we may have a great opportunity for you!!

We are looking for a few IRNHA members who are willing and able to work as volunteers in the Rock Harbor and Windigo Visitor Centers this summer. We specifically need people May 14 - June 15 and August 13 - Sept. 25. Duties in the visitor centers include selling books and maps, answering basic visitor questions, and issuing camping permits. Work hours are somewhat flexible, but will cover approximately 30 hours a week.

Although these are unpaid positions, we can offer free housing and transportation from Houghton or Grand Portage. You can sign up for one week or two.

If you are interested, call Jill Burkland at 800-678-6925.

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Fredrick & Betty Biati
 Martin Biati
 Tom & Cindy Holden
 Mrs Hamilton Houchin
 Bruce & Katherine Weber
 Joanne & Cliff Hannula

* denotes additional donation made in 2003

Isle Royale Natural History Association

Year in Review 2003

Membership Programs & Events:

In 2003, IRNHA:

- expanded its outreach efforts by conducting a series of free public programs by Isle Royale researchers and NPS staff during the winter of 2003 in Duluth, Minneapolis, Farmington, and Houghton.
- met with members around the upper midwest in roundtable discussions to get feedback on IRNHA and make plans for increasing participation and gaining new members.
- held annual membership meetings in Hancock and Rock Harbor and special membership events in Rock Harbor.

Publications and Products:

In 2003, IRNHA:

- began work on a comprehensive field guide for Isle Royale to be published in 2005.
- continued work on a new Isle Royale children's book, *Wolf Tracks and Moose Scat: A Visit to Isle Royale*.
- conducted research for a cultural site guide for Isle Royale.
- produced a new Isle Royale T-shirt and tote bag.
- produced 3 postcards for Isle Royale.
- made preliminary plans for a photographic history book for Keweenaw NHP.
- began production of 4 postcards for Keweenaw NHP.
- produced a publications procedures manual.
- worked with Keweenaw NHP staff to draft a publications plan and Scope of Sales statement.
- worked with NPS staff to produce newspapers for both Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks.

Fundraising:

In 2003, IRNHA:

- raised \$17,000 in donations, including \$3600 for the IRNHA Endowment Fund.
- raised almost \$1000 from past Isle Royale Artists-in-Residence to be used for renovation of the artists' island home, the Dassler Cabin.
- received two grants to support publication of *Wolf Tracks and Moose Scat* and an accompanying curriculum and web site—a \$10,500 grant from Mead Westvaco Co. and a \$300 grant from the UP Sustainable Wildlife Fund.
- received \$900 worth of web development software from Macromedia.

Marketing:

In 2003, IRNHA:

- worked with a Michigan Tech intern to design 3 new IRNHA promotional pieces for mailing and general distribution at businesses and tourist sites.
- conducted a promotional campaign for our new book, *Diaries of an Isle Royale Fisherman*.
- re-designed our website.

Operations:

In 2003, IRNHA:

- elected 3 new board members.
- revised the IRNHA mission and vision statements.
- Attended Association of Partners for Public Lands convention in Albuquerque, NM.

Revised IRNHA Mission & Vision Statements

The IRNHA Board of Directors approved the following revised Mission and Vision Statements at its Fall 2003 meeting.

Mission Statement

The Isle Royale Natural History Association, in partnership with the National Park Service, promotes the public's understanding and appreciation of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park through education and research.

Vision Statement

IRNHA seeks to:

- Provide high quality educational products and programs to enhance the understanding, appreciation and protection of the parks and their natural and cultural resources.
- Provide increased financial support to the parks for research and interpretation
- Expand the scope of its outreach by increasing membership, developing a more diverse constituency, and promoting partnerships with additional communities and organizations.

2003 Aid to Park

Cash Contribution

Book Design-Fisherman Diaries	\$3,800
Greenstone Newspaper	\$3,125
Ingot Newspaper	\$2,970
Digital Cameras	
for Interpretation	\$2,890
Free Park Brochures	\$1,330
Artist in Residence Program	\$1,060
Volunteer Support	\$1,320
Guest Program Presentors	\$500
School Outreach	\$220
Reserve Funds for Research	\$2,930
Total Cash Contribution	\$20,145

In-Kind Contributions

Staff Assistance at	
Visitor Centers	\$9,662
Total Aid to the Park	\$29,807

Statement of Income and Expense for Years Ended September 30:

Income	2003	2002
Sales Income	\$95,908	\$99,237
Member Dues	\$25,320	\$25,065
Donations/Grants	\$17,268	\$25,344
Interest/ Misc. Income	\$500	\$450
Shipping &		
Handling Income	\$3,711	\$3,747
Total Income	\$142,707	\$153,843
Expense		
Cost of Goods Sold	\$52,378	\$52,855
Operating Expense	\$94,879	\$83,205
Total Expense	\$147,257	\$136,060
Net Annual Income	-\$4550	\$17,783
Aid to the Park	\$20,145	\$17,649
Net Increase/Decrease	-\$24,695	\$134

Balance Sheets for 9/30

Assets	2003	2002
Current Assets		
Cash and Investments	\$25,192	\$37,874
Receivables	\$1,526	\$3,048
Inventory	\$130,894	\$131,788
Total Current Assets	\$157,612	\$172,710
Fixed Assets		
(Equipment)	\$2,568	\$1,169
Total Assets	\$160,180	\$173,879

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	\$10,102	\$5,284
Grants Payable	\$13,190	\$11,503
Tax Liabilities	\$332	\$1,787
Bank Loan	\$14,739	\$8,119
Total Current Liabilities	\$38,363	\$26,693
Equity	\$121,817	\$147,186
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$160,180	\$173,879

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

Smitty Parratt, Branch Chief of Interpretation at Isle Royale for the past seven years, will be moving on to a new position as Chief of Interpretation for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in Copper Center, in Southeast Alaska.

Smitty has been the association coordinator and our primary liaison with the Park Service. He is the co-author of the IRNHA publication, *Place Names of Isle Royale*, and has worked with IRNHA director, Jill Burkland, to develop the first Isle Royale Newspaper, "The Greenstone". He assumes his new duties in late February.

Rick Barrett, who recently served as Isle Royale's Chief of Maintenance has moved on to take that same position with Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland.

Upcoming Events

IRNHA Board of Directors Meeting,
 Saturday, March 20, Noon - 5:00 p.m.
 Keweenaw National Park Offices.

Program Series

Wednesday, April 21 - Monday April 26
 Program Series. (See article on Page 2)

Members Service Trip to IRNP

Friday, July 24 - Saturday, July 31
 IRNHA (See article on page 2)

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, July 25
 Rock Harbor (Details on Annual Meeting events available by June 1 on our website www.irnha.org and in the next issue of "Wolf's Eye".)

IN MEMORY

W. Stephen Candell has informed us of the death of his wife, Nancy A. Candell, who loved Isle Royale and was a Life Member of IRNHA.

Viola Brown has become a Life Member of IRNHA in memory of her late husband, Bob Brown, whose deep love of the natural world made him a regular visitor to Isle Royale.



See our website, www.irnha.org for 30-50% off selected books and 2004 calendars.

To order call 800-678-6925, order from our website www.irnha.org, or send your check made out to IRNHA to 800 E. Lakeshore Dr, Houghton, MI 49931



Isle Royale Natural History Association

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 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	\$25
Household	\$30
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, Joan Chadde, Don Durfee,
 Mark Gleason, Bob Guiliani
 Nelda Liebig, Tom Wiselogle

Staff

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