

Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2004 No. 2

Grant Will Help Protect Isle Royale Waters

The Isle Royale Natural History Association has received a grant from the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund, with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In order to protect this unique aquatic environment, IRNHA is working to alert park visitors to dangers and enlist their help in stopping the spread of the following species:



Zebra Mussels are one of the greatest threats to IR waters. They have already been found in many Lake Superior harbors. If allowed to establish a community at IR, zebra mussels could, in just two years, cover nearly every living and non-living habitable surface on an inland lake floor



Spiny Water Fleas have recently been found in Lake Superior waters at IR, but they have not yet been found in the island's inland lakes. They have been shown to disrupt zooplankton communities, which are the food source for many fish species, and cause harm to fish that try to eat them, due to their large spines.



Ruffe pose a serious threat by competing with native fish for food and habitat. They have been found in Lake Superior waters since 1986.



Round Gobies can rapidly displace native fish by eating their eggs and young and taking over optimal habitat. The round goby is present in many areas of the Great Lakes.



Quagga Mussels are a second species of zebra mussels presently found in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. They appear to prefer deeper waters than zebra mussels and may spread even more rapidly.



Three Spine Sticklebacks compete heavily with native fish, such as native brook stickleback, minnows, and shiners, and provide a lower quality diet for predator species such as walleye and lake trout.

IRNHA will use the \$2500 grant to produce and distribute a brochure "Stop the Spread and Spread the Word," outlining steps that Isle Royale visitors can take to help protect Isle Royale waters from dangerous invasive species. The brochure will be distributed with NPS mailings and at visitor centers, concessions operations, boat and travel shows, and sporting goods stores.

As you know, the waters on and around Isle Royale are some of the most pristine in the world. But did you know that:

- Isle Royale waters are one of the last areas in Lake Superior free of zebra mussels?
- Isle Royale is one of the few places left with a healthy native mussel population?
- Isle Royale is one of only two locations where naturally producing coaster brook trout populations are found?
- Isle Royale's lake trout population is one of the Park treasures?

The grant will help IRNHA to educate the public about the special nature of Isle Royale's aquatic environment and to enlist the help of boaters, canoeists, kayakers, anglers, and divers in stopping the spread of nuisance species to the island.

Motor Boaters Can Help By:

- Draining live well, bait well, and bilge on land
- Removing any motor water, lake water, and unwanted bait from your boat
- Removing weeds, algae, and any other live plant or animal materials from your boat and motor
- Washing all equipment with warm water and a high-pressure sprayer or drying your boat for 5 days before launching for Isle Royale

Canoeists and Kayakers Can Help By:

- Removing weeds, algae, and any other plant or animal materials from your boat

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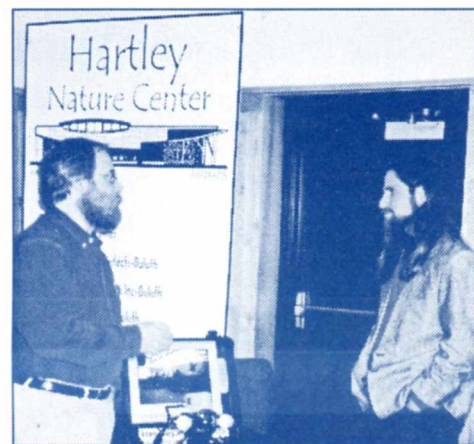
Is Global Warming Affecting Wolf-Moose Balance?

Wolf numbers are up and moose numbers are down this summer at Isle Royale and researchers suspect that a global warming trend may be behind the shift.

This year's annual Winter Study on the island reports a moose population of 750, down from 900 last year and 1,100 in 2002. In the meantime, the number of wolves has seesawed upward over the past decade and is now up to 29, as many as the park has seen since 1980 and 11 more than last year.

What's bad for moose has been good for the wolves, and moose have been hit

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Off-site IRNHA Programs

IRNHA board member Mark Gleason talks with Isle Royale wolf/moose researcher John Vucetich at our recent program at Duluth's Hartely Nature Center. John was the speaker at our programs in Duluth and Ashland, and Mark was our speaker in Marquette, Madison, and Indiana Dunes. IRNHA members Bill Beckman and Mike Meetz presented a program on loons in Minneapolis. It was great to meet our IRNHA members and to reach out to others who are just being introduced to Isle Royale.

Invasive Species Grant

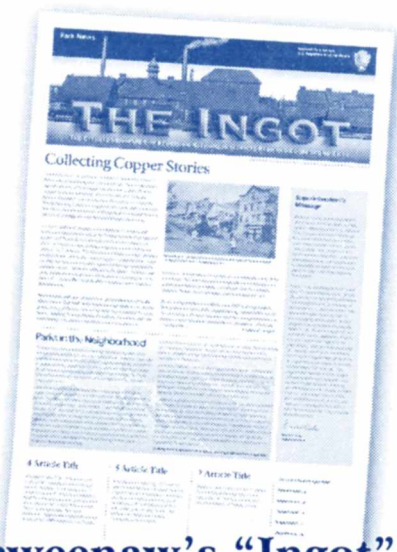
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- Washing boat and paddles in warm chlorinated tap water
- Drying your canoe or kayak and paddles for at least 24 hours before departure
- Cleaning your watercraft again when moving it from Lake Superior waters to inland lakes.

Anglers Can Help By:

- Cleaning fishing gear carefully before taking it to the island. Make sure that your fishing line is free of any debris (especially water fleas).
- Cleaning your gear again before fishing in an inland lake if you have used it to fish in Lake Superior waters on Isle Royale
- Carrying two separate spools of line and changing lines before moving from Lake Superior to inland lakes

To request free copies of the "Stop the Spread and Spread the Word" contact Jill Burkland at 906-482-7860, 800-678-6925, or jburland@irnha.org.



Keweenaw's "Ingot" Gets a New Look

The Keweenaw National Park newspaper has doubled in size, added lots of park information, and taken on a whole new look. The 2004 Ingot, published with a donation from IRNHA, includes articles on oral histories, park archives, and Calumet's Main Street project, as well as information on the park's 17 cooperating sites and their interpretive programs, general visitor information, and a listing of relevant products and publications.

If you would like a complimentary copy of the Ingot, please send an e-mail to irnha@irnha.org or phone us at 800-678-6925.

Is Global Warming Affecting Wolf-Moose Balance?

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hard by warmer temperatures that began in 1998 with El Nino and never let up, according to Professor Rolf Peterson who has led the study of Isle Royale's wolves and moose for 34 years.

"What we think is happening is that wolves are cashing in on moose vulnerability that's been induced by a warmer climate," Peterson said.

The moose population has been stressed by higher temperatures, particularly the drought of 1998 and the warm fall of 2001. "Moose can't feed in the summertime if it's too hot," Peterson said. "They have a big fur coat on, and they can't sweat. They just sit in the shade or in the water." When moose don't eat enough in summer, they can become weak, sickly and easy prey for wolves during the winter.

And heat precipitates another blight for the big herbivores: ticks. "Warm weather in spring and fall leads to ticks the following winter, and ticks can kill moose," Peterson said. A single moose can be host to tens of thousands at a time. Rather than browse, the moose scratch themselves against trees or bite their hair out trying to remove the parasites. Weight and blood loss often prove such a handicap that the moose don't survive.

As the moose population struggles against the heat and ticks, the wolves have thrived, largely because it's been easier for them to bring down their biggest prey. "The wolves are killing about twice as many moose as they did last year," Peterson says, which allows them to maintain their peak population.

As to what has been causing the warmer temperatures, Peterson cites climate models presented in the journal *Science* that suggest that greenhouse gases may be the culprit. While researchers do not have proof that increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other gases are warming the Earth's atmosphere, the best computer models of climate can only account for such higher temperatures if greenhouse gases are included.

Copies of the complete 2003/2004 Wolf/Moose study are available through IRNHA. Orders can be placed at www.irnha.org or 800-678-6925. The price is \$3.95.

New Name for IRNHA?

After over 40 years serving as the official cooperating site for Isle Royale National Park (IRNP), IRNHA expanded its reach in 2000 by forming an agreement to work with Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP). This agreement has been mutually beneficial to IRNHA, KNHP, and IRNP. Through our agreement with KNHP, we gain a new and extended constituency and new opportunities for publications, outreach and sales outlets. We also have positioned IRNHA to be part of future cooperative ventures between Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks.

However, we have found that our name limits our outreach efforts for KNHP. Isle Royale Natural History Association is a name that no longer fully encompasses our mission. In fact, the term "Natural History Association" has not fully represented all the cultural history work we have done for Isle Royale for many years. And the term "Isle Royale" no longer fully describes our geographic area of operation.

The IRNHA Board of Directors has recommended that we find a name that will better describe our expanded mission and perhaps leave room for further expansion in the years to come if should wish to form alliances with other state or national parks in the region.

We are asking you, our members, for your suggestions for a new name for IRNHA. Please send suggestions to us by September 1, 2004—through e-mail at irnha@irnha.org or post at 800 E. Lakeshore Dr, Houghton, MI 49931. We will post suggested names on www.irnha.org as they come in and present a full list of your suggestions in a future Wolf's Eye.



The Rock Harbor Visitor Center ready for summer 2004

IRNHA has two new employees on the island this summer. Marjory Johnston will be the primary IRNHA employee in the Rock Harbor Visitor Center. She is a librarian at Finlandia University and a long-time member of IRNHA. Austin Baldwin, a graduate student at the University of Texas, is in charge of NHA operations in Windigo this summer.

New Keweenaw Park Information Desk

Visitors to the Keweenaw Peninsula this summer will have a new service to help them explore Keweenaw National Historical Park. Keweenaw Park Rangers will operate a visitor information desk at the Quincy Mine Hoist on US 41 north of Hancock. They will be on hand seven days a week between June 14 and September 6 to provide information about Keweenaw National Historical Park and to direct visitors to the Park's seventeen Cooperating Sites. Visitors stopping at the Information Desk can also view videos and exhibits on KNHP. Books, gifts, and souvenirs are available in the Quincy Mine Hoist Gift Shop, where IRNHA will also have a sales outlet.

News Notes from Isle Royale

New and Not-So-New Faces

Larry Kangas, known to many of you as the West District Ranger in Windigo, has been promoted to the post of Chief Park Ranger for Isle Royale. A 23-year veteran of the NPS, Larry worked at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Everglades NP, Rocky Mountain NP, and Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area before coming to Isle Royale 14 years ago. Larry succeeds Pete Armington who transferred in June, 2003, to Chief Ranger position at Alaska's Denali National Park. Larry and his wife Sue, who has worked for IRNHA in Windigo for many years, and their children have moved from their Windigo home to Mott Island.

Steve Martin has been hired to replace Larry as West District Ranger and Marshall Plummer has begun work as the new East District Ranger, replacing Bill Munsey. Both Steve and Marshall have worked as seasonal rangers on Isle Royale in the past.

Keith Butler joins the Isle Royale staff as Chief of Maintenance. He comes to us from Ozark National Scenic Riverways. He has 32 years in park operations and management with NPS. He replaces Rick Barratt.

Projects scheduled for this summer on Isle Royale include replacement of Tobin Harbor docks, implementation of the new gas barge, rehabilitation of some of the NPS fleet, and the purchase of some new energy-efficient boats.

Planning efforts underway include the Wilderness Management Plan, the Fish Management Plan and Water Resources Management Plan as well as an Historic Study of the park's cultural sites.

2004 Mini-Schedule • Summer Member Meetings on Isle Royale

IRNHA's summer membership meeting and events on Isle Royale will be held the weekend of July 23 - 25. We hope you will join us for a weekend of special programs, meetings, and social events. It's a great opportunity to learn more about Isle Royale and to meet other IRNHA members. Please check at the Rock Harbor Visitor Center for the final schedule.

Following is a tentative list of event times and places:

Friday, July 23 • 8:00 p.m. • Rock Harbor Auditorium
Program by Isle Royale Artist in Residence painter Yeshe Helander.

Saturday, July 24 • 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. • Meet at Tobin Harbor Dock
Tour of Tobin Harbor Historic Homes. Members Only event. Co-sponsored with the Isle Royale Family & Friends Assoc. Reserve your place—800-678-6925 or irnha@irnha.org. Bring a lunch.

Saturday, July 24 • 4:00 p.m. • Rock Harbor Auditorium
"Improving Your Nature Photography" - IRNHA Board Member and professional photographer Bob Guiliani.

Saturday, July 24 • 8:00 p.m. • Rock Harbor Auditorium.
Isle Royale Commercial Fishing Program by IRNHA member Lou Mattson.

Sunday, July 25 • 9:00 a.m. • Rock Harbor Auditorium.
IRNHA Board Meeting

Sunday, July 25 • 2:00 -3:30 • Rock Harbor Auditorium
Annual Membership Meeting.

Sunday, July 25 • 3:30 -4:45 • Rock Harbor Auditorium
Isle Royale Wolf/Moose Program by IRNHA member Rolf Peterson

Sunday, July 25 • 5:00 • Rock Harbor Waterfront
Picnic on the Rock Harbor Waterfront. Members Only event.

Monday, July 26 - Saturday, July 31
Isle Royale Member's Service Trip

Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Do you know someone who loves Isle Royale but isn't an IRNHA member? Do you have a friend or family member that you would like to introduce to Isle Royale? Do you have a colleague or relative that would be interested in learning more about Keweenaw National Historical Park?

IRNHA is introducing our new Member-Get-A-Member Campaign, which will enable you, our present members, to help us expand our membership base by enlisting new IRNHA members. You can not only help IRNHA, but you can get

some nice perks for you and your friends and family.

Each new member that you sign up will receive one of our new Isle Royale Moose Canvas Tote Bags, as well as all the regular benefits of membership:

- A subscription to the Wolf's Eye
- Isle Royale & Keweenaw Newspapers
- 10% discount on all purchases
- Invitations to special members events and programs
- The opportunity to participate in the IRNHA members' e-mail updates.

Present members--you--will get a \$5 gift certificate for each new member you enlist. You can use those gift certificates at any IRNHA outlet (including on-line) OR you can redeem 2 gift certificates for your own canvas tote bag.

You can sign up new IRNHA members by photocopying the form on the back page and passing it out to friends and family or encouraging them to become a member on-line at www.irnha.org

Start now!! New memberships will run through December 2005!

Isle Royale Natural History Association
800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1895
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Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage

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Houghton, Michigan
Permit No. 45 Wolf's Eye

Tailgate Trivia-National Parks • \$6.99

Your family will have a blast answering questions about our national parks and the animals that live in them. Its 2.5"x6" size makes it the perfect game to take camping or play while riding in the car. Ages 5+. Questions in 3 levels of difficulty about over 60 national parks & monuments, including Isle Royale, with bonus questions to challenge adults. 5 topics of questions on each of the 60 cards.

Isle Royale Impressions DVD • \$15.95

Video of Isle Royale's shoreline, lakes, ridges, woods, showing visitors enjoying hiking, boating, fishing, camping, canoeing and kayaking in the island wilderness. There are many wildlife scenes of loons, moose, beaver, eagles and otter set to classical music. 20 minutes.

(Not compatible with Sony® DVD/VHS Combo players!)

IN MEMORY

IRNHA has learned of the death of Florence Wolbrink in Honolulu, Hawaii, in May. She was a life member of IRNHA and a cottage-owner in Tobin Harbor.

Isle Royale Lapel Pins • \$4.50

Wolf and loon designs in high quality brass lapel pins. Text reads "Isle Royale National Park."



Women's Great Lakes Reader • \$19.95

A wonderful collection of memoir, poetry, and essays by women dating back to the 1800s, including diaries from Isle Royale and the Copper Country.

Keweenaw National Historical Park

Postcards • 4 for \$1.00

Four historic photos of Calumet and Quincy with interpretive texts.

Isle Royale Natural History Association

800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931

Tel: 906-482-7860 or 800-678-6925
irnha@irnha.org • 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. U.S. tax deductible.

Board of Directors

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JOIN US • JOIN US • JOIN US • JOIN US • JOIN US • JOIN US

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Name of IRNHA Member who enlisted you: _____

Dues and Donations are tax-deductible; membership entitles you to receive the quarterly newsletter, the park newspapers, and a 10% discount on all purchases.

Mail this form or a copy of this form to:
Isle Royale Natural History Association
800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Please check one.

- ☐ Life \$1000
(Payable in 5 installments)
- ☐ Benefactor \$500 annually
- ☐ Patron \$250 annually
- ☐ Sustaining \$100 annually
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