

Wolf's Eye



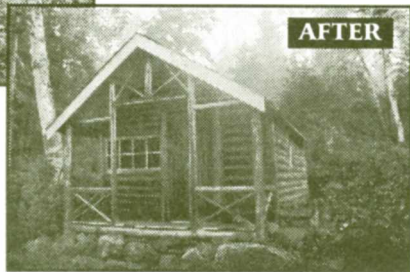
ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2005 No. 3

IRNHA Members Complete Island Restoration Project



BEFORE



AFTER

Ten hard-working IRNHA members spent a week on Isle Royale from July 25 through August 3 completing an important restoration project for the park. Their mission was to restore one of the old Johnson family cabins in Chippewa Harbor. Led by long-time IRNHA member and trip leader, John Dunn, the group consisted of Judy and Steve Albee, Hans Arlton, Tee Bergman, John and Maryann Crayton, Jan Parker, Bill Rose, and their able cook Joanne Broady. Jan has written up this reflection from the trip:

The Holger Johnson family resided in Chippewa Harbor for the first half of the twentieth century, remaining for a few years even after Isle Royale became a national park in 1940. The family built several buildings in Chippewa Harbor, including a school-house (immortalized in Dorothy Simonson's diary) and a resort with seven tourist cabins. Today only one of the tourist cabins remains. Interest has been growing in preserving the cultural heritage of Isle Royale, so our work assignment was to put a new roof on this last remaining cabin and repair the windows and the holes in the floor.

When we arrived in Chippewa Harbor, the first thing we did was walk down to the cabin to have a look. This first look was followed by a long silence and a lot of people standing around with their hands on their hips. Slowly we circled the little structure. One window was gone completely, the other two were missing nearly all their panes of glass. The roof was a mess, a patchwork of scraps of tar paper shingles, exposed boards, and one rusted, twisted sheet of tin that someone had nailed over a leaky section. There were holes in the floor inside the cabin and the porch floor was shot.

Restoring the cabin seemed like a tall order, but then again, almost anything we did would be an improvement - as long as it didn't fall down when we took off the roof!

Fortunately, that didn't happen. But as work progressed, we discovered that there was an ever-increasing list of things that needed to be replaced. For instance, the ridge poles that we were planning to nail the new roof onto were rotten. Our leader, John Dunn, had to radio the NPS to send us some logs by park boat that we could use to replace them. The logs we received had to be peeled of their bark, cut to the right length, and shaved down to the right diameter.

Our work consisted of a lot of "hurry up and wait". It seemed we were either hurrying to beat the upcoming change in the weather or else waiting for some shipment of supplies. We got a feel for just how much the Johnson family must've looked forward to the arrival of supply boats in Chippewa Harbor. But what a privilege it must've been as well, to live surrounded by so much incredible beauty.

Our work was given a greater depth of purpose when we were visited by one of Holger and Lucy Johnson's daughters, Nancy Johnson Stegman, and her niece, Patricia Ochodnicki, both of whom had lived in Chippewa Harbor as children. With Nancy's granddaughter Samantha in tow, Nancy and Patricia came to see our work and show us around the Chippewa Harbor of their memories.

On Monday, our last work day on the island, our professional carpenter Hans banged a new trapezoidal threshold into place (after seventy years of weathering, there were very few right angles left in the cabin) and our work was done. We stepped back and surveyed our handiwork with great satisfaction.

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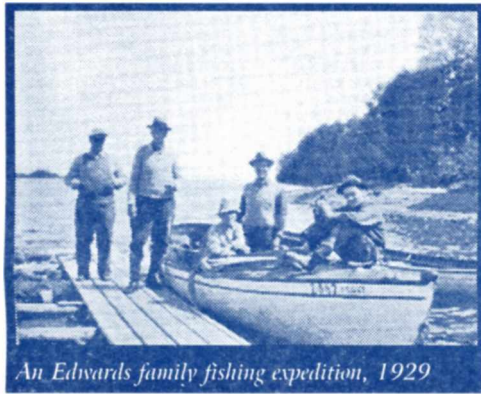


Service Trip Group (Jan is front left with her moose puppet, Rocky.)

Isle Royale Memories

IRNHA life member Edith Edwards recently sent us a copy of *My Moment in History*, a book by her father, Robert Edwards. Below are excerpts relating to his many summers spent on Isle Royale.

...Whatever route we followed a warm welcome always waited us when we arrived at "Camp Prospect" on Edwards Island. Situated on a half-acre of high ground facilities were designed for a cheerful, healthy level of "plain living and high thinking!" For shelter, a one bedroom cabin with friendly fireplace, along with a series of platform tents; for cooking, an iron wood-burning stove; for eating, a screened-in frame dining structure with a near-by supply room; for water, a semi-reliable hand pump, plus buckets and dippers repeatedly refilled from the Lake. No other plumbing. In their quiet, steady way Grandpa and Grandma Edwards presided over all this...



An Edwards family fishing expedition, 1929

quality spoon oars. I remember relishing that exercise. In the early days people rowed everywhere. But since we could not go anywhere without a boat, maintaining this ancient and more modern equipment was a crucial responsibility...

The days and weeks in Camp had a relaxed, old-clothes routine to them. The air was fragrant with pine and balsam, so invigorating we always felt a let-down after we left. At 7:30 each morning we woke up to the sounds of Grandpa starting breakfast. At that meal there was a look at the weather (no broadcast or newspaper forecasts to assist) and a decision on plans...

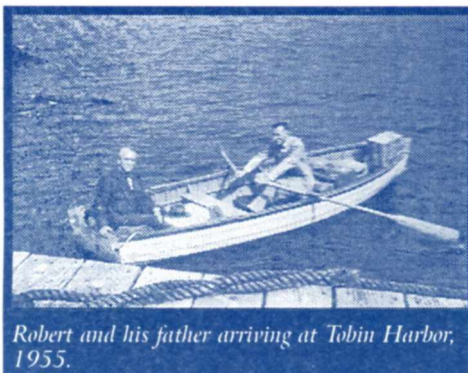
There was always more than enough to do. Our island is large enough to have its own network of trails and paths, complete with homemade ladders and bridges. It was fun to run or idly amble over these, watching for flowers and birds, for beaver in our "Slit," or for drill holes left by copper prospectors long ago. Opposite camp were inland waterways on the main Island--Porter's Slit or "Lovers Lane." Until power boats and passing planes began breaking the silence, these were among the quiet places of the earth. One could drift noiselessly, barely dipping oars, and maybe startle a mother loon nesting on her single egg at the water's edge.

Socially, we were largely sufficient unto ourselves. Nonetheless we did sporadic visiting among other cottagers, including old mid-western friends of Father's. Among them Barbara Bell was special. A gifted artist with a pleasant voice, she sang for us at twilight picnics, strumming on her guitar... We also came to know well some of the commercial fisherfolk. Among them Arthur and Inez Mattson were close to us. Theirs was a two (or three?) generation family of Island fishermen. Art was a Lake Superior "Will Stevens" knowing all there was to know about netting lake trout and content in his modest but vital calling...

Twice weekly "Boat Days" were the closest thing to general community gatherings. A miscellaneous succession of lake steamers, often operated by the Booth Fisheries in Duluth docked at several points on the Island (for us in Tobins Harbor), to take fish to the Minnesota market and service summer residents. As the professional fishermen loaded their catch in big wooden boxes, full of gleaming trout that to twenty or thirty pounds each, caught in deep water nets, we boys looked on with envy...

Almost to the end of his life in 1970, Father continued to visit the Island, and always with a feeling of wonder and delight....One evening in the 1970s a number of us were lounging around a campfire, enjoying a fish dinner, reminiscing and doing a little spontaneous singing. As I sat there I could not help thinking how our Edwards grandparents would smile at the sight of their great-grandchildren camping on ground they possessed as squatters so long ago.

One other key personality was Grandma's bachelor brother Albert J. Deane. He took care of the boats--two rowboats with low-speed Elto outboard motors ("putt-putts"), and the Peggy, a second-hand launch large enough to carry all or most of us at once. We rowed as much as we could, using



Robert and his father arriving at Tobin Harbor, 1955.

Cabin Restoration

...continued from front page

Tuesday morning was foggy and still. One by one we snuck back down to the cove for one last look at the cabin. From tourist room to ranger station to cultural memorial, its transformation was complete. Our mission in restoring this cabin was to help future visitors to Isle Royale have a glimpse into the island's cultural history as well as its natural beauty

It was an honor to be a part of it. (For more information and pictures see Jan's website: www.mandolinroad.net.)

Memorial Contributions

IRNHA has received several memorial contributions for life member Barbara Wheeler of Kalamazoo, MI. Born Barbara Merritt in 1906, Mrs. Wheeler died in August at the age of 98. She was educated at Mount Holyoke College and Cornell University and taught in secondary schools in New York and in Kalamazoo and at Western Michigan University. She was preceded in death by her husband, Grant Wheeler, and is survived by her four sons, three daughters-in-law, five grandchildren and three sisters. A memorial service was held in Kalamazoo on August 27. Internment of her ashes will be in Three Lakes, WI. The family has requested memorials to IRNHA.

IRNHA MEMBER SURVEY

Please complete form below or on-line at www.irnha.org

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.

We need your help in assessing how we can best meet our mission and your needs as members. As IRNHA approaches our 50th anniversary and as we embark on a major endowment campaign, it is time to assess our priorities as an organization. The IRNHA board of directors will meet October 29-30 to discuss priorities and set direction for the next 5-10 years. It is important that we have your input in this important discussion. Please complete the form below or on line at www.irnha.org at "Join IRNHA" page by October 25.

Using the following scale 1=Very Important, 2=Useful if there is time and money, and 3=Not Important, how would you rank the following activities and projects of IRNHA?

- _____ Producing free publications, like the park newspapers and brochures.
- _____ Producing books and other educational materials about Isle Royale.
- _____ Producing books and other educational materials about the Keweenaw.
- _____ Operating sales outlets with park-related products on Isle Royale.
- _____ Operating sales outlets with park-related products in the Houghton-Calumet area.
- _____ Providing a sales outlet and information site on the web .
- _____ Providing programs for the public in the two parks.
- _____ Providing programs for the public around the Midwest.
- _____ Providing special events for our members on Isle Royale such as group trips.
- _____ Providing special events for our members on the Keweenaw Peninsula.
- _____ Producing the Wolf's Eye newsletter for members.

(over)

- _____ Providing financial support to IRNP for park interpretation and research.
- _____ Providing financial support to KNHP for park interpretation and research.
- _____ Providing staff assistance and volunteer projects for IRNP and KNHP.
- _____ Providing support for the IRNP Artist in Residence Program.
- _____ Providing outreach for K-12 children such as programs and teaching materials.

THANK YOU!!

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Isle Royale Natural History Assoc.

800 E. Lakeshore Dr.

Houghton, MI 49931

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2005 IRNHA Annual Meeting

Rock Harbor Auditorium • Sunday, July 24, 2005

In the 2005 IRNHA Annual Member's meeting was held on Sunday, July 24th, in the Rock Harbor Auditorium. Executive Director Jill Burkland welcomed all and introduced Board members and staff. Jill reported that IRNHA has received a \$7500 grant from the Michigan Dept of History, Art, and Libraries. It will be used for preservation of the Isle Royale historic films. The films will be transferred to DVD, edited, and titled by Dave Stokes. In other fund raising news, \$11,000 has been received in donations, and the endowment is at \$10,000.

In the treasurer's report, also given by Jill, income is up and expenses are down. Income for fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 was \$154,506, while operating expenses were \$138,310. Cash aid to the parks was \$11,362, resulting in a net increase of \$4,834. The balance sheet shows total assets of \$157,333. Total aid to the park was \$23,028 (cash and in-kind contributions).

Board member Tom Wiselogle gave the board election results. Anita Campell was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Mark Gleason. Marilyn Cooper and Nelda Liebig were re-elected, and Ron Eckoff was elected to fill the seat of outgoing board member Don Durfee.

In membership news, board member Nelda Liebig reported that membership is at an all-time high at 1,036. A contest among staff of the Houghton, Rock Harbor and Windigo visitor centers, to see who can sign up the most new members, has been going very well. Nelda also talked about the members service trip that will be doing a cabin restoration in Chippewa Harbor.

Marilyn Cooper, chair of the publications committee, reported that *Isle Royale: A Photographic History* has been reprinted. Thanks to a grant from Mead Westvaco, the children's book, *Wolf Tracks and Moose Scat* by Jean Mannesto is now available, and will be distributed to local schools for use in classrooms. The new flora and fauna field guide is being written by Ted Gostomski. Donations are needed for the illustrations. The field guide will be dedicated to Bob Linn, and available in 2007.

The board has scheduled a retreat for two days in October to set IRNHA's priorities for the next ten years. A survey will be sent to members for their input.

IRNHA sales outlets were opened this summer in the Keweenaw National Historical Park administration building in Calumet, and at the Houghton County Museum in Lake Linden.

Acting Chief of Interpretation Liz Valencia reported on programs and interpretive walks in Rock Harbor and Windigo. The backcountry management plan is due out soon. Liz asked for help in identifying people and places in the historic films.

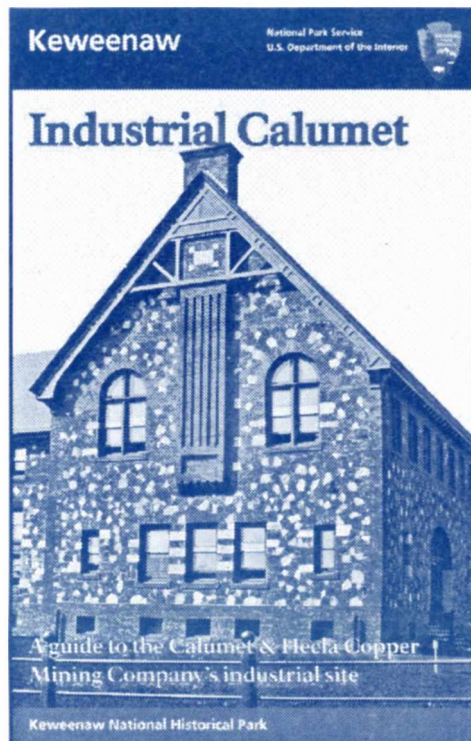
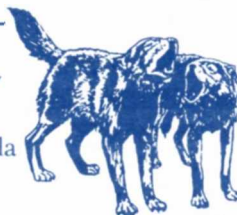
A showing of part of the historic films was given at the end of the meeting, and a picnic on the waterfront wrapped up the day's activities.

MICHIGAN WOLF COUNT

In a 2005 count, biologists have reported wolves in every county of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and for the first time in almost 100 years, wolves have been cited in the northern lower peninsula as well. Minimum population estimates for Michigan are:

1989	2 wolves	1998	140-150 wolves in 20+ packs
1991	17 wolves	1999	174 wolves in 30+ packs
1992	21 wolves	2000	216 wolves in 30+ packs
1993	30 wolves	2001	249 wolves in 30-50 packs
1994	57 wolves in 8 packs	2002	278 wolves in 60 packs
1995	80 wolves in 12 packs	2003	321 wolves in 68 packs
1996	116 wolves in 16 packs	2004	360 wolves in 77+ packs
1997	112 wolves in 20+ packs	2005	405 wolves in 86+ packs

From Timber Wolf Alliance publication "Wolves of Michigan"



New IRNHA Publication for Keweenaw

The industrial area of Calumet & Hecla Mining Company in Keweenaw National Historical Park's Calumet District is a location that often intrigues visitors with its mine rock buildings, but in the past has not readily invited visitors to explore the historic landscape.

The new Industrial Calumet brochure will guide visitors through the former Calumet & Hecla Copper Mining Company operations allowing visitors the chance to further understand the rise and fall of this once great industry on the Keweenaw Peninsula. It replaces a hand-drawn map of how to access the area and compliments the current waysides located throughout the former industrial area.

A second self-guided brochure is in the early stages of development for Downtown Calumet which will focus on the town's role as an ethnic, cultural and commercial center during the heyday of the copper mining boom on the Keweenaw Peninsula.

This publication, funded by the Isle Royale Natural History Association, is available on-line at www.irnha.org or by phone 800-678-6925.

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

PAID

Houghton, Michigan
Permit No. 45 Wolf's Eye

Pins, Patches and MORE!

If you didn't have a chance to purchase one of these new Isle Royale mementos in one of our visitor centers this summer, you can still order them on-line at www.irnha.org, or by phone at 800-678-6925.

Choose from three different Isle Royale pins-- the wolf, moose, and loon -- or collect them all. For hikers, the wolf design is also available as a hiking stick medallion. And our patch is easy to iron or sew on your favorite Isle Royale cap or shirt.

Great stocking stuffer ideas!



10% discount for all members.
6% sales tax for MI residents.

Shipping charges:

For purchases...
up to \$10, add \$3
between \$10 - \$15, add \$4
between \$15 - \$30, add \$5
between \$30 - \$50, add \$6
between \$50 - \$75, add \$7
over \$75, add \$8

Upcoming Events

Fourth Thursday Program "Local Tombstones and Cemeteries"

Thursday, October 27, 2005
7:00 p.m.

Houghton County Historical Society
Heritage Center (formerly First
Congregational Church)
Lake Linden, Michigan

IRNHA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 29, 2005
1:00 p.m.

Ford Forestry Center, Alberta, MI

IRNHA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006
12:00 Noon

Paymaster Building, Hancock, MI

IRNHA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, July 29, 2006
Rock Harbor, Isle Royale

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, July 30, 2006
Rock Harbor, Isle Royale

Order now from:

IRNHA
800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931

Make checks payable to "IRNHA,"
or call (800) 678-6925, or order at:

www.irnha.org



Isle Royale Natural History Association

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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.

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