

Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2006 No. 1

Isle Royale Visitation Steady in 2005

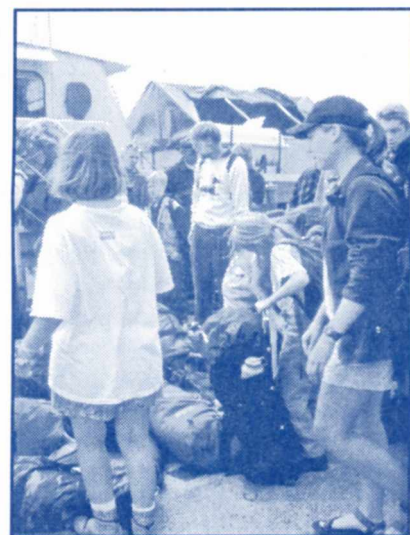
Although there have been some shifts here and there, overall visitation for Isle Royale for 2005 remained almost dead even with 2004. There were two changes worth noting, however: Day use on the island increased 43% over 2004 and visitation at the park headquarters in Houghton declined by 32%.

Visitation for 2003 was very close at 17,800. However, Isle Royale visitation for 2001 and 2002 was substantially higher at over 19,000 both years.

Visitation numbers for all national parks are available at <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/mpur/index.cfm>

Isle Royale Visitation Chart

	2005	2004	% Change
Day Use Island	2,803	1,961	43%
Overnight Use Island	12,097	11,762	3%
Total Island Visitation	14,900	13,723	9%
Mainland Visitation (Houghton VC)	2,404	3,553	-32%
Total IRNP Visitation	17,304	17,276	0%



Park visitors boarding the Isle Royale Queen at Rock Harbor

Spiny Waterflea Alert



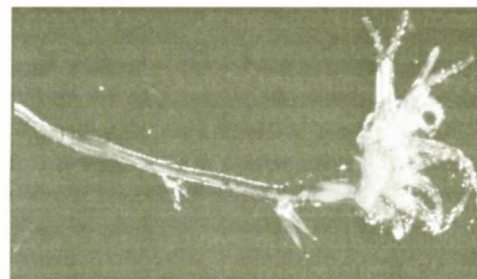
for Paddlers, Backpackers, and Anglers

IRNHA has received a grant of \$3,000 from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for funding under the Aquatic Invasive Species Information and Education Small Grants Program. The grant will be used to develop educational materials related to the spread of spiny water fleas on Isle Royale. Jean Battle, Chief of Isle Royale's Natural Resources Division, wrote the following explanation of our upcoming project:

Protecting native species is a critical part of fulfilling the National Park Service mission. Today, a major threat to the integrity of park ecosystems is the presence of invasive exotic species, non-native plants and animals introduced by humans to areas where they did not previously exist. The immensity of the problem is staggering! 2.6 million acres of NPS lands are infested by exotic plants and 234 units have invasive animals in need of management.

Several invasive plant and animal species pose new and serious threats to the Great Lakes and smaller lakes in the region. One of those, the tiny but dangerous spiny water flea, is making its presence felt on Isle Royale. The park's Lake Superior waters contain spiny water flea, but it appears that they haven't yet made their way into the park's inland lakes. In 2005, Isle Royale staff discovered that spiny water fleas could stick to the surface of a canoe or kayak AFTER it had been pulled out of the water, increasing the chances of transmittal!

This invasive invertebrate has been shown to outcompete native species for food, while apparently causing trouble for fish that try to consume it, due to its long spines. For inland lakes on an island, this kind of invader could devastate the natural aquatic communities, including the park's native mussel colonies and its freshwater sponge colonies, as well as impact inland lake angling by park visitors.



The actual size of a spiny waterflea is about 3/8".

This year you may see several reminders and helpful hints to aid the park in preventing the spread of this invader into our inland lakes. IRNP, Isle Royale Natural History Association and Isle Royale Institute will be developing informational handouts and postings for portages as part of our campaign to protect our inland lakes from spiny water flea invasion. We will be focusing on paddlers, backpackers, and anglers to help prevent the spread via the following preventive techniques.

See Page 2 for a list of techniques

Prevent the Spread of the Spiny Waterflea

...continued from front page

1. Thoroughly dry all gear (including kayaks and canoes) and clothing when moving from Lake Superior waters to the park's inland lakes. Bring drying rags with you, and keep them in a sealable container after use.
2. If possible, when camping prior to entering the inland lake system, pour boiling water over smaller items that have been in Lake Superior (sandals, booties, etc.)
3. Change the filter in your water filtration system if you've used your filter in Lake Superior and now plan to use the filter in the inland waters.
4. Change fishing line after fishing in Lake Superior, and prior to fishing in the park's inland waters.
5. Don't assume you will be able to see these tiny hitchhikers! They are about 1 centimeter (1/3 inch) at their maximum size, and they are nearly transparent. However, if during your back-country stay you do see spiny water fleas in an inland lake, please report it to a visitor center or park ranger.
6. Check out our brochures, handouts, and posters for additional information. Thanks for helping to keep Isle Royale's inland waters healthy!



Keweenaw Park Smackdown

Plans are underway for Keweenaw National Historical Park's Fourth Annual History Smackdown. The competition offers teams of high school students an opportunity to showcase their knowledge of the history, geography, and geology of Keweenaw, Baraga, Ontonagon, and Houghton counties. Its format is similar to a spelling bee: teams of four players are asked "short-answer" questions about local history topics, which increase in difficulty as the rounds go higher. The event will take place at the Calumet Theater in Calumet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27th. It is part of the popular Fourth Thursday in History series sponsored by Keweenaw National Historical Park. Registration information and other details about the event are available on the park's website: www.nps.gov/kewe/

New Diatom Discovered in Lake Superior

by Wendy W. Smith, Great Lakes Research and Education Center

In this day and age when new invasive species are being identified left and right, it's refreshing to hear that new endemic species are being discovered as well! A tiny diatom, endemic only to Lake Superior and Lake Nipigon, was recently discovered. The new species of photosynthetic algae, *Hannaea superiorenensis*, was, once grouped with other diatoms found in cold, pristine rivers and streams around the world, yet it is clearly different. For one thing, *Hannaea superiorenensis* is boomerang-shaped, and is nearly twice the length of the other diatoms in its genus.



Hannaea superiorenensis - Photo courtesy of Mark Edlund, <http://lrc.smm.org/buzz>

You might expect to identify new endemic species in the far reaches of tropical rainforests, and other less explored parts of the world, but it is really quite exciting to make a new discovery of this sort right here in the Midwest.

Diatoms are microscopic algae that live as single cells or in small colonies. Their cell walls are composed of silica. The newly identified species grows amongst other microscopic organisms in a brownish slime on the submerged rocks along the Lake Superior shoreline. Recent studies have revealed that it is in good abundance all across the lake. Healthy populations of *Hannaea superiorenensis* are found on the North Shore, around Isle Royale, the Keweenaw Peninsula, and in northern and eastern Lake Superior. The diatom prefers the high energy, well-oxygenated, cold waters of Lake Superior's wave zone. "It's not rare, and it appears to be doing well," Edlund said. "But whenever you have a species that's endemic to one area, it's important because, if you lose it there, it's extinct."

Currently, scientists recognize around 25,000 diatom species. Each species responds differently to both pollution and environmental conditions, so diatoms are often used as indicators of water quality. By discovering a diatom unique to Lake Superior and Lake Nipigon, researchers may well have found a sensitive harbinger to detect ecological change in many of the Western Great Lakes.

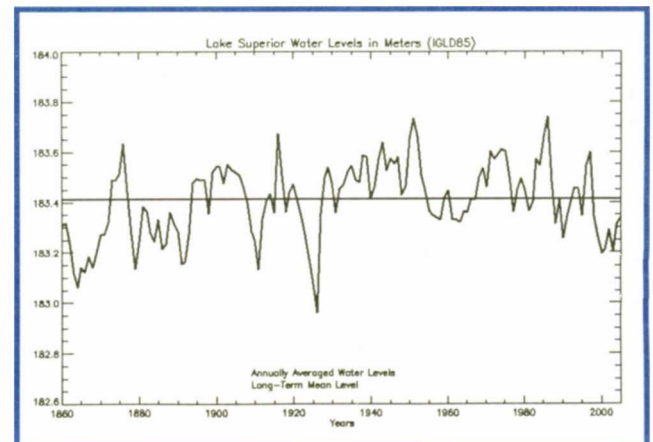
Low Water Levels and Warm Temperatures

The 2006 water level forecast for the Great Lakes is in, and it's not good.

All of the Great Lakes are two to twelve inches below the levels of a year ago. Lake Superior is expected to fall two inches in February. Lakes Michigan and Huron are expected to decline one inch in February, while Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario are all expected to remain steady over the period. Levels over the next few months on all the Great Lakes are expected to remain lower than 2005.

It has been an unusually warm winter around the upper Midwest and the Great Lakes. The Coast Guard is reporting that there is much less ice on the lakes than is usually the case at this time of the year, and the little ice that's there is thin. Perhaps even more unusual is that as of the end of January, fishing boats continued to operate on Lake Superior's south shore. The fishing season on the south shore usually comes to an end by mid-December.

See the [USACE Daily Levels web page](#) for more water level information.



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Daniel Cerys	Michelle Gordon	Richelle Klepinski	Judy Morey	Jacqueline Salsbury	Diana Verdugo
Jonathan Chandler	Pat Gorely	Thomas Klever	Suzanne Murphy	Barb Sanford	Julie Verdugo
Stephen D Cheaney	Patrick Gorski	Larry Kloet	Nancy Murphy	Wayne Schlotfeldt	Judith Vieths
Paul Chervenak	Andrew Gottlieb	Michael Kloss	Jacqueline S Myers	Mark Schroeder	William Vogelmann *
Alison Jean Clarke	Chris Graw	David Kluck *	James Nardelli	Janet Schultz	Edward G Voss *
Lisa Cleckner	John C Green	George Knight	Michele D Nash	Joan Schumaker	Darlene Wahl
Paul J Coleman	Steve Greene	Nancy Knop	Gail Nawrock	Chadde *	Ben Waldman
Jeff Conderman	Anna Grzyb	Jim Knowlton	Timothy Nawrocki	Pam Schweinfurth	Ben Wall
Linda Cooper	Bob Gurda *	Kathy Koenig	Dennis Nicoliasen	Norman A Scott	Rachel Walls
James Cooper *	Katie Hagemann	Chris Koeppl	Cathy Nielsen	Mary Serovy	Teri & Tyler Watson
Judith Coming	Steve Hahn & Bonnie Smith	James T Koerner	Kellie Nightlinger	Dale A Shanholtzer	Gordon Wedel
Darrell Corsi *	N T Halvorson, Jr	Ramona Koetke	Klaris Nisbet	Napier Shelton *	Anne Welles
Sandy Cota	Trent Hanna	Paul M Kotila *	Mrs Eileen J Niva	Margaret Shey	Harry Welty
Diane Coulombe	Tom Hanneman	Marlene H Kowalski *	Sandra Norris Palmore	Charles Shields	Alan M West
Randy Crowell	Mark R Hanson	Susan Kramer	John Novosad	Bob Shutes	Ann S Westberg
Philip D Curtin	Laurie Harmon	Gerd Kreij	J Corey O'Brien	Rick Shutes	Angus White
Thomas J Dahl	Joseph Harrington	Eileen Kreiner	Daniel F O'Connor, Jr	David Silkworth	James Wieszciesinski, Jr
Merlyn (Red) Dahl	James Harrington	Phyllis Kruse	Anne Okonek	Howard Sivertson	Mary Jo Wilder
Joel Dalton	Kay Hartman-Kuck	Tim Kubala	Julie Olson	Stacey Skinner	Sandy Wilhoit
David J Davidson	Joe Harvey	Colen LaFave *	Julie R Orbeck	Diane Skomars	John K Wilson
Nelson James Decker	David M Harvey *	Doug Lake, Jr	Dan Ortiz, National Geographic Maps *	Dr Harold J Slater	Mary Wilson
D Denning	Bruce Hashimoto	Ann Lamb	Joe Panci	David Sliwinski	John Wilson
Edward M Denzer	Gregg Haug	Dale M Lamb	Pamela Park-Curry	Juliana Smith	James Winslow
Gary Dewey	James Hausmann	J Larry Lane	Jan E Parker	Joanne Snyder	Lance Wise
Margaret Ann DeWit	Bruce Heida	Betsy LaNoue	Michelle Patzke	Paul Sobota	Caron & Bob Withers
Dale Doecker	Harold Heinbuck	Eric Larson	Leo Paveglio	Jessie Soder	Robert Wittig
David G Dogger	Ross C Hemphill	Dale Latulippe	Ralph Pelkey	Peter Solberg	Lois G Woll
Craig D Dogger	John Heneghan	Chris Lawler	David G Perry	Dave Soleim	Bea Wolper
Carol Dorer	David Henning	Paul Leep	Lisa Perveneckis	Eddie Soloway	Barb Woodhull *
Sue Drenkhahn	Shirley A Henry	James Lehmann	Gail Peters	Suzanne Spain	Paul Woodward
Teri Driscoll	Frank Hershberger	John Lenters	Susan Peters	Jon-Hudson Spencer	Joseph Woznicki
James C Duchamp	Lester Hintz, Sr	Thomas V Lerczak	Sheree Peterson	Randy D Spencer	Robert D Wright
Lisa M Duckart	Michael Hluchaniuk	Paul Lessner	David D Peterson, Jr	Dave Speranza	Roger Yeager
Joseph W Dunn	A Kim Hoagland *	Richard Lichte	John L Piemonte	Michael Sperry	Mark Yontz *
Terry Dussault	Eleanor Hodak	Kristi L Link	Jim Pike	Russell Stabile	John Youngerman
Gayle Dyer	William J Hodge *	Mark Lloyd	Bruce Pletka	Mike Stack	Rob Zajdel
Dan Eagles	Laura Hoey	Jennifer Longstaff	Glen R Polnow	Kathy Staerk	Frank Zimmerman
Debbra Eckhout	Kathleen Hoff	Heidi A Lukow	Nicholas Posak	Gail Staisil	
William Eckstein	Arlene Hoffer	Ken Lukow *	Nadine Predebon	Lois S Starck	
Karen Edgar	Woodrow L Holbein	Barbara Luoma	Russell Putikka	Richard Staszewski	
Richard Edward	Lyle Holcomb	Gaylord Lyon	Mildred M Pyorala	Jeremy Stearns	
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Brian C Elmer	Elizabeth Holster	John J Mack	Linda Ramsden	Patsy Stickel	
Dave Embree	Laura W Houk	Mary Mackay Gaidis	Kevin Reardon	Don Stipech *	
Sylvia Engel	William L Howe	Marcia Mackey	Anthony Reeves	Frank B Stone	
Kirsten Engel	Karen Hubbard	George E Macveigh	Michael Rehberg	Debbie Stutts	
Bill Enoch	Steve Humblet	Anna Magle	Kay Reilly	Rick Sugden	
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Tom Ferranti	Kelly Jackson	Victoria Maki	Jason Rezash	Lenore Swenson	
Janice Ferris	Dave Jaeckels	Margret (Peggy) Malone	Lois Rheume	Tom Swiergosz	
Kathleen Finlay		Lindsay Mang	Carolyn Rhode	Cliff Symanns	
Karen Fisette		William Mangold		Kathleen Taylor	

* denotes additional donation made in 2005

Statement of Income & Expense
for Years Ended September 30:

Income	2005	2004
Sales Income	\$103,536	\$96,798
Member Dues	\$30,300	\$27,153
Donations/Grants	\$25,997	\$24,803
Programs	\$4,804	\$1,135
Interest/ Misc. Income	\$5,858	\$1,247
Shipping & Handling Income	\$3,850	\$3,370
Total Income	\$174,345	\$154,506
Expense		
Cost of Goods Sold	\$59,224	\$55,687
Operating Expense	\$94,276	\$82,623
Total Expense	\$153,500	\$138,310
 Net Annual Income	 \$20,845	 \$16,196
 Aid to the Park	 \$18,067	 \$11,362
 Net Increase/Decrease	 \$2,778	 \$4,834

2005 Aid to Park

Cash Contribution

Greenstone Newspaper	\$2,800
Ingot Newspaper	\$1,500
Free Park Brochures	\$440
Artist in Residence Program	\$273
Interpretation materials	\$976
Superintendent's account	\$445
Natural Resources	\$2,360
Historic Films	\$8,300
Author Fee	\$500
Total Cash Contribution	\$17,594

Balance Sheets for September 30th

Assets	2005	2004
Current Assets		
Endowment Fund	\$11,413	\$9,666
Cash	\$19,845	\$21,418
Receivables	\$1,891	\$1,538
Inventory	\$135,944	\$123,020
Total Current Assets	\$169,093	\$155,642
Fixed Assets (Equipment)	\$608	\$1,535
Total Assets	\$169,701	\$157,177
 Liabilities & Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$29,337	\$13,905
Grants Payable	\$8,332	\$10,221
Tax Liabilities	-\$1,342	-\$547
Bank Loan	\$4,353	\$7,353
Total Current Liabilities	\$40,680	\$30,932
Equity	\$129,021	\$126,245
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$169,701	\$157,177

2005 Aid to Park

In-Kind Contributions

Staff Assistance at Visitor Centers	\$10,253
Program Series	\$473
IRNHA Publications	\$304
Total In-Kind Contributions	\$11,030
Total 2005 Aid to the Park	\$28,624

2006 Service Opportunities

IRNHA members will have not one, not two, but three opportunities to participate in a work project in one of our national parks this summer!

For the third year, IRNHA will offer a work trip on Isle Royale. This year's project will be a general cleanup of buildings and landscape at an historic cabin on Scoville Point. Participants can expect heavy lifting and cleaning, brush clearing, and hiking and canoeing to the site. All meals and transportation to and from the island will be provided for a cost of \$500 per person. The dates are July 21 - 29. Group size is limited to eight participants. Project leader is John Dunn; cook is Joanne Broady.

Our first project is being planned for Keweenaw National Historical Park. The project will involve removal of invasive vegetation and brush clearing at several sites in the Calumet, Quincy areas. Skills needed for this group would be the ability to use hand tools (i.e. - loppers, saws, weed wrenches) and the ability to endure several days of bending and lifting under whatever conditions we have. Skill with chain saws would also be very helpful. All meals, transportation to and from work sites and camping charges at a local campground will all be provided for a cost of \$500 per person. The dates are July 9 - 14. Group size is limited to nine participants. Project leader is John Dunn. We are looking for a cook for this group. Please contact us if you are interested.

Participants for these trips will be selected by application. Applications are available on our website at www.irnha.org or by phoning us at 800-678-6925.

Finally, IRNHA members are invited to take part in a work project in Rock Harbor in connection with our annual meeting festivities July 29 - August 1. There is no charge for participation, and travel and housing arrangements are up to you. In order to decide on a project, though, we will need to know how many workers we will have, so please let us know if you plan to participate.

Picture Yourself Here!

IRNHA Seeking Board Members



2005 IRNHA board members.

Front row
left to right:
Bob Guilian, Sara Basso, Ron Eckoff, Marilyn Cooper, Christine Manninen, Tom Wiselogle,

Back row:
Jill Burkland (Executive Director), Anita Campbell, Nelda Liebig, Joan Chadde.

IRNHA is seeking members to serve on our Board of Directors. If you are an IRNHA member and are interested in becoming more involved, consider running for our board. Board members serve three-year terms during which they are expected to attend three meetings each year, serve on committees, participate in fundraising, and support IRNHA financially as they are able. These are volunteer positions; board members receive no compensation.

A major focus of the board over the next three years will be our campaign to establish an IRNHA endowment. Other areas of focus will be the increasing interaction with Keweenaw National Historical Park, and the publication of an Isle Royale field guide. Persons with experience in fund-raising and individuals with knowledge and interest in Keweenaw National Park are especially encouraged to apply.

To run in the upcoming election, please send a short biographical sketch indicating educational background and current employment as well as a statement indicating why you believe you are qualified to hold a position on the board. Please 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 jburkland@irnha.org.

Ballots will be distributed to all current members in June.

2006 IRNHA Meetings on Isle Royale

Friday, July 28, 2006

8:00 p.m.

Program

Rock Harbor Auditorium

Saturday, July 29, 2006

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Field Trip

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Service Project

Sunday, July 30, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Board Meeting

Rock Harbor Auditorium

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting

Rock Harbor Auditorium

3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Membership Program

5:00 p.m.

Whitefish and Brats Picnic

\$12.00 for Adults, \$6.00 for Children

Check www.irnha.org or Visitor Center Bulletin Board for Updated Information.



Isle Royale Natural History Association
800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1895
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Stopping by Woods on a Buggy Morning

A Tribute to Frost and ISRO*

(The following take-off on Robert Frost's poem, "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening" was written by one of the leaders of a high school student volunteer service trip to Isle Royale last summer.)

Whose woods these are I think I know.
Her home is on Mott Island, though;
She will not mind me standing here
To watch the insects come and go.

My hiking friends must think it queer
To stop without an outhouse near
Between the woods and inland lake
The wettest morning of the year.

They give their backpack straps some tugs
While swatting at the swarming bugs.
One grabs her Muskol from her pack,
Then kills a "skeeter" with a whack.

The woods are lovely, dark and damp,
But I have campgrounds to revamp,
And miles to go before I camp,
And miles to go before I camp.

Janet Dunn, July 2005
*Isle Royale National Park

Overseas Printing?

The text for our Isle Royale field guide is nearly complete and we have located many of the photos or drawings we need to illustrate the texts. Members have donated approximately \$5000 toward the project, but that is only a fraction of what it will cost to print the book.

This brings us to a question that we would like you, our members, to help us answer.

Printing costs in the U.S. are very high, having risen steeply over the last few years. As a response to these cost increases some cooperating associations at parks around the U.S. are printing their books overseas. They report that, even with additional shipping costs, they are able to publish books at significant lower costs. But overseas printing remains somewhat controversial for agencies like ours which are associated with the national park system.

If printing overseas would allow IRNHA to publish our field guide sooner and less expensively, would you object? We welcome your opinions by e-mail -- irnha@irnha.org - or drop us a note at 800 E. Lakeshore Dr Houghton, MI 49931.



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	\$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

Sara Basso-President, Christine Manninen,
Marilyn Cooper, Don Durfee,
Bob Guiliani, Nelda Liebig, Tom Wiselogle

Staff

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

IRNHA Second Auction

April 22-28, 2006

Find great deals on rare items and support IRNHA!

- Rare and Autographed Books
- Isle Royale Artwork
- Much More!

