

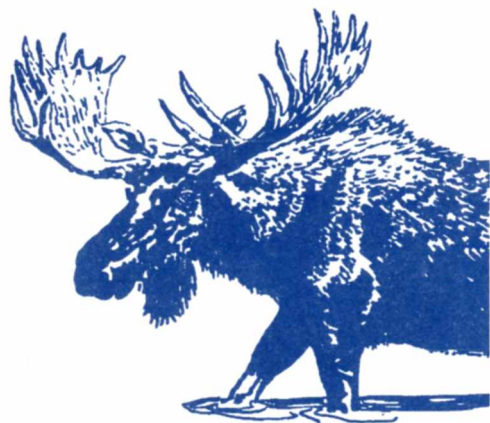
Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2006 No. 2

2005/2006 Wolf Moose Study Report



Isle Royale moose have experienced another hard year and are now at their lowest ebb in the 48 years that scientists have studied the relationship between the two species in Isle Royale's closed environment.

Researchers Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich estimated the moose population at 450 this winter, down from 540 last year. Only four years ago, they totaled an abundant 1,100.

Meanwhile, the wolf census held at 30 for the second consecutive year. However, the scientists predict that their numbers are sure to drop because there won't be enough moose to feed them all. Presently, there are about 15 moose for every wolf. The normal ratio is 40 to 50 moose per wolf.

"The bulk of the moose population at any point is invulnerable to wolves, because they're young and vigorous enough to fight off the wolves. Wolves feast mostly on calves and elderly moose, both of which are in short supply," Peterson said.

The moose drop-off results in part from the aging of a "baby boom" generation dating from the early 1990s, when wolf numbers plummeted because of a parvovirus outbreak, he said. Also, a tick infestation in recent years weakened the massive animals, making them easy prey for wolves.

According to John Vucetich, the tick problem eased a bit over the past year but remains a threat.

Another is a gradual decline of the moose's primary food supply as the island's forests evolve from primarily birch and aspen to less nutritious spruce and balsam fir. The changing forest cover has also caused a sharp drop in beaver, an alternative food source for wolves.

Peterson says that the moose's historic low doesn't mean it is in any danger of disappearing. Its decline will enable vegetation to recover from overbrowsing when the herd was thriving, and fewer will be killed as wolf numbers inevitably fall.

"One-third of the kills this winter were calves," Peterson said. "The wolves need to go down to give more calves a chance of reaching adulthood."

Complete findings of this year's wolf/moose study along with climate information and reports on other park mammals are available in the publication, *Ecological Study of Wolves on Isle Royale 2005-2006*, available on line at www.irnha.org or by phone at 800-678-6925.

Should You See a Wolf on Isle Royale...

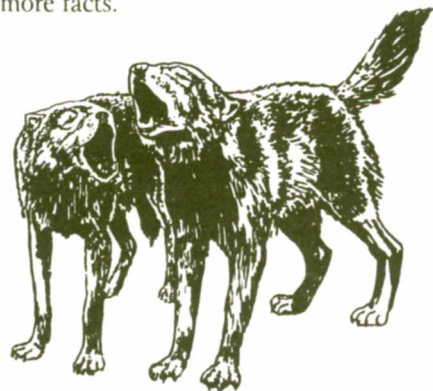
Visitor observations at Isle Royale have shown that some visitors may not be acting in their own and the wolves' best interest when their paths cross at the park. NPS is focusing some attention this summer on educating visitors about proper human behavior around wolves. Here are the most important things to remember:

Wolves are normally afraid of people and because of that they are not a threat to humans. The way to keep wolves afraid is to avoid interactions with them. The most important thing is not to provide food: properly stow your food and do not leave garbage in campsites or picnic areas.

If you meet a wolf at close range (<25'), and the wolf is not leaving or is advancing, do what you can to terminate the encounter (i.e. back away, or make noise), but do not run away. If you observe a wolf/wolves farther away (>25'), leave the area but do not run.

Report all encounters via a Wildlife Observation Card, available at any of the Visitor Centers.

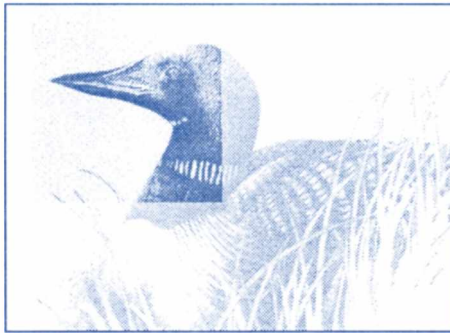
Interpretive Division staff will be including these points in their orientation talks, and Visitor Centers will carry an information sheet to give interested visitors more facts.



2005 Isle Royale Loon Survey

From a report submitted by: Alexander Egan, Biological Technician, IRNP

The Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) is a state-listed threatened species in Michigan, and the Isle Royale population represents a dense stronghold for the statewide population. Therefore, monitoring of this species, which can be sensitive to human disturbance, is important for both park management and the state as a whole. 2005 was the 16th consecutive year of the Isle Royale Common Loon monitoring program. This study is funded in part by contributions from the Isle Royale Natural History Association.



The annual survey is conducted from the last week of July to the first week of September, a time frame which provides the highest probability of observing all surviving juveniles produced on the island in a given season. Methodology for the Isle Royale survey is to consider a chick fledged at 5 weeks or older, but for unknown reasons in 2005 there were some hatches occurring in late July or early August. Consequently there was a need to assume some 4-week old chicks would survive to fledging age.

There are a total of 108 loon territories identified on Isle Royale; Lake Superior waters have 42 territories, while inland lakes have 66. In 2005 there were a total of 27 successfully fledged juveniles from both inland lake (21) and Lake Superior (6) territories. A seven-year average for inland lake territories is 27 juveniles, while Lake Superior has an average productivity of 8 juveniles.

Annual and total numbers of adults/fledged juveniles, miscellaneous adults, and productivity, 1999-2005.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Mean
Inland Lakes	95/23	81/25	102/35	116/37	103/27	119/21	114/21	104/27
Lake Superior	77/4	89/8	85/16	82/10	88/6	83/5	72/6	82/8
Misc. Adults	No count	33	26	39	43	24	31	33
Total Adults/ Juveniles	172/27	203/33	213/51	237/47	234/33	226/26	217/27	215/35
Known Territories	102	102	102	102	104	108	108	n/a
Annual Productivity	0.26	0.32	0.50	0.46	0.32	0.24	0.25	0.34

Many volunteers, researchers, and park staff assisted with either official or incidental field observations during the 2005 survey season. They included: Bill Beckman, Buzz Brown, Katy R. Goodwin, Joe Kaplan, Beth Kolb, Mike Meetz, David Newland, Mark Romanski, Michael Schuldt, Carl TerHaar, Keren Tischler, Dieter C. Weise, and Annalie Wright.

IRNHA Speakers Group

We hear word every now and then about IRNHA members who are sharing their enthusiasm for Isle Royale by giving programs at their local libraries, civic clubs, or outdoor supply stores. These Isle Royale talks and slide shows are wonderful outreach opportunities for the park and for IRNHA.

These programs are great opportunities to educate people about recent park issues and to introduce them to our association. We would love to work with you by supplying free materials such park newspapers, a variety of brochures on everything from the Artist in Residence Program to aquatic invasive species. We can even loan you a copy of one of the wonderful Isle Royale DVDs for use in your program. And of course, we would love to supply you with IRNHA catalog and membership information!

If you are planning to do a program in your community, please let us know what materials we can supply to enhance your program. Contact Jill Burkland at jburkland@irnha.org to request materials. And thanks for spreading the word!

Documentary on the 50th Anniversary of Isle Royale Wolf/Moose Research

Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) will travel to Isle Royale in June 2006 to begin production on a program dedicated to the 50th anniversary (2008) of the island's unique research. TPT plans to explore the longest-running predator-prey research in the world and the character at the center of it all, Dr. Rolf Peterson. The final product will be a half hour documentary and a series of reports on the show "Almanac" the longest-running local public affairs show in the nation. The documentary will also be made available for showing at Isle Royale and on the Ranger III. The show has been produced and hosted by the Emmy award-winning Mary Lahammer.

In order to guarantee the production costs of the documentary, TPT is attempting to raise a minimum of \$10,000 through donations. Major donors will be given on-air credits and all donors will receive a DVD of the documentary.

For more information on this Twin Cities Public Television project, contact Mary Lahammer at mlahammer@tpt.org or Tim Laske at moose80536@hotmail.com.

Isle Royale Natural History Association

2006 Board of Directors Election

Vote for not more than 2 candidates for IRNHA Board

(Ballots must be postmarked by July 15, 2006)

Bob Guiliani, Clare MI

Bob Guiliani and his wife, Linda, own a portrait studio in Clare, Michigan. Their free time is spent outdoors photographing and enjoying nature. They have visited the island 17 times to enjoy and absorb its beauty. Bob has served on the IRNHA Board for the past 3 years. "The island is a very special place and by being involved we can help keep it that way."

Bob is past president of: Michigan Photographic Society, Professional Photographers of Michigan, Northern Michigan Professional Photographers, Clare Chamber of Commerce and Wildlife Recover Association. He is editor for Michigan Audubon Society's *Jack Pine Warbler* newsletter, master photographer, photographic craftsman and has a BA and MA in chemistry.

Gary Pethe, Mishawaka, IN

I became a member of IRNHA in 1991 during my first visit to Isle Royale on a two-week trail maintenance volunteer trip with the Sierra Club. In 1997, I was elected to the board of directors and later served a year as president-elect and the two subsequent years as president. Utilizing my professional background as a writer and marketing communications consultant, I helped redesign and develop the current Wolf's Eye IRNHA newsletter and was a member of the steering committee that created and developed the Greenstone annual publication for Isle Royale National Park. I have continuously served on IRNHA's publications/marketing and fundraising/membership committees, and have served as a volunteer worker in IRNHA's Windigo book store. I am excited about the prospect of rejoining the board to contribute my expertise, my resources and my time to furthering the work of the Association. I am currently employed as vice president of operations for a South Bend, Indiana video and electronic media production firm.

Vote for not more than 2 candidates for IRNHA Board

Please detach and mail to IRNHA 800 E. Lakeshore Dr, Houghton, MI 49931

(Ballots must be postmarked by July 15)

_____ Bob Guiliani

_____ Gary Pethe

2006 Isle Royale Natural History Association Member Meetings on Isle Royale



Friday, July 28

8:00 p.m. Program by Isle Royale Loon Researchers Mike Meetz and Bill Beckman, Rock Harbor Auditorium.

Saturday, July 29

10:00a.m. - noon. Ranger-led botany walk.

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Members' Service Project, painting RH Auditorium.

8:00 p.m. "Isle Royale Images" program by photographer Bob Guiliani. Rock Harbor Auditorium.

Sunday, July 30

10:00 a.m. IRNHA Board Meeting. Rock Harbor Auditorium.

**2:00 -3:00 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting. Rock Harbor Auditorium.

3:30 -4:45 p.m. Membership Program (To be announced). Rock Harbor Auditorium.

**5:00 p.m. Whitefish and brats picnic on the Rock Harbor Waterfront.
\$12 for adults, \$6 children.

** These events for IRNHA members only.

(Times and events subject to change. Please check www.irnha.org or Visitor Center Bulletin Board for Updated Information.)

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James A Brunson	Kathy & Paul Fredrickson	Sharon Kauth	Wayne Marvin	Jane Rohlick	Phillip Thompson
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* 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

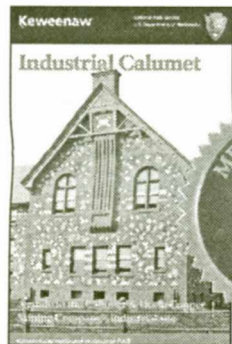
IRNHA Fundraising Event

July 22nd, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
Einerlei Shop, Chassell, MI

Some along on A Fern Foray with y Leonard, amateur ferner. Go on a field trip, learn to name the ferns that you find and begin to assemble your own fern journal. Be prepared for wet trails and pesky bugs! The Einerlei will donate 10% of the day's sales to the Isle Royale Natural History Association for the publication of a nature guide for the island. Please call 906-523-4612 or email shop@einerlei.com to pre-register.

Einerlei

KNHP Booklet Wins Award



IRNHA has been awarded the prize for the best entry in the Maps and Guides category of the 2006 Association of Partners for Public Lands Media and Partnership Awards. Our entry was "Industrial Calumet," a guide to the Calumet & Hecla Copper Mining Company's industrial site.

The booklet is our first publication for Keweenaw National Historical Park. It was written by KNHP staff Dan Johnson and Gary Kaunonen and designed by Dan Johnson.

Keweenaw National Historical Park Site to Host "Key Ingredients" Exhibit

Calumet has been selected as one of six sites in Michigan to host the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit "Key Ingredients...America by Food." The exhibit, which will be on display at the Keweenaw Heritage Center from July 13 - August 26, 2007, "explains the little-known, the everyday, and the obvious through an entertaining and informative overview of our country's diverse regional cooking and eating traditions." In addition, the Michigan Humanities Council will sponsor a partner exhibit "Michigan Foodways" a state version of Key Ingredients. Organizations throughout Michigan's Copper Country, including IRNHA will participate with a wide variety of food-related programs, events, and displays to be held throughout the six weeks.

As our contribution to the project, IRNHA plans produce a collection of ethnic recipe cards and notecards to be sold at events and in local businesses. We will be enlisting the help of local students to submit family recipes which will be tested by a panel of judges. The winners will have their recipes published in the collection.



Memorials

☞ **Nadine Janke**, life member and past president of IRNHA, passed way on March 16 in Houghton. Nadine and her husband Bob spent 45 summers together on Isle Royale where Bob conducted botanical research. Together they wrote and illustrated one of our most popular books, *The Wildflowers of Isle Royale*, now in its second edition. Nadine also served as recording secretary for the IRNHA board for many years. She is survived by Bob, four children, seven grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Past IRNHA board president Paul Hinzmann has begun a memorial fund in Nadine's honor to be used for the next printing of *The Wildflowers of Isle Royale*. Contributions to the fund can be sent to IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr. Houghton, MI 49931.

☞ **Wayne Booth**
We have also received a contribution in memory of Wayne Booth. Mr Booth hiked the length of Isle Royale in 1969 and returned time after time to enjoy both solitude and the joy of camping with family and friends.

IRNHA Ebay Auction Information and Updates

IRNHA has joined the Ebay era! We conducted two auctions this year, a holiday sale in December and a second auction in April. Sales items included out-of-print publications, artwork, antiques maps, posters, and island trips. The auctions brought in \$1600 in much-needed income for IRNHA.

Special thanks go to IRNHA members and friends who donated items for the sale: Patty Urbanski, Bob Guilliani, Christine Manninen, Gendron Jensen, Kevin McAuliffe, Royale Air Service, and Grand Portage-Isle Royale Transportation Line, Inc.

We will conduct another Ebay auction in November 2006. If you have items or services that you are willing to donate (donations are tax-deductible), please contact Jill Burkland at jburkland@irnha.org.

ebay

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Houghton, Michigan
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NEW for Summer 2006!

Lake Superior: The Ultimate Guide to the Region

Bishop • \$16.95

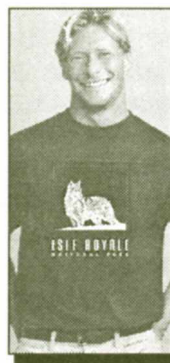
A new guide book for the Lake Superior shoreline of Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, and Wisconsin. Includes listings for dining, lodging, attractions, and excursions along with introductions to towns and cities and accompanying maps. Produced by *Lake Superior* magazine. 310 pages.



Isle Royale Wolf T-Shirt

\$16.95

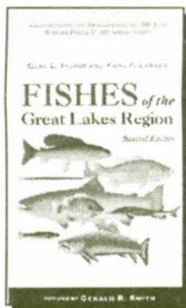
Black 100% cotton short sleeve shirt with wolf art and "Isle Royale National Park" printed either on the front or back. Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL.



Fishes of the Great Lakes Region

Hubbs and Lagler • \$24.95

Revised Edition 2004. Illustrations and descriptions of 200 fish species found in the Great Lakes. Organized by fish family, this is the classic book on Great Lakes fishes. This book also documents a half century of changes in fish population in the region. Maps, color illustrations. 198 pages.



Celebrating Wolves Notecards

Rolf Peterson • \$6.95



Original watercolors by Isle Royale wolf researcher Rolf Peterson, each colorful set includes 5 notecards of the same image and are blank inside. Choose Celebrating the Wolves of Isle Royale National Park, above left, or Middle Pack, Siskiwit Bay, Isle Royale National Park, above right.



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.

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