

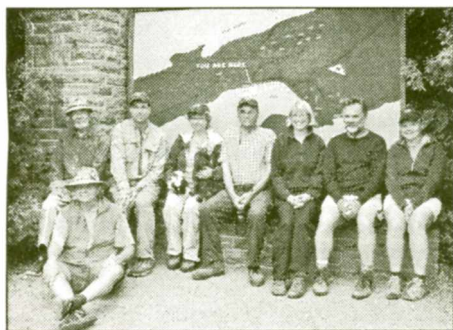
Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2006 No. 3

Another Successful IRNHA Service Project



Service trip group in front of their newly painted Rock Harbor sign.

Next time you arrive in Rock Harbor you might notice that the big wooden Isle Royale map near the visitor center looks brighter and cleaner. You can thank your fellow IRNHA members for that. Repainting the sign was one of many tasks accomplished during the fourth annual IRNHA members' service trip this past summer.

A group of ten members, with John Dunn as group leader, spent the week of July 20 - 27 at Scoville Point and in Rock Harbor working on maintenance and repair projects. Most of the week was spent cleaning and repairing the historic Dassler cabins at Scoville Point, which are used to house the park's many Artists-in-Residence.

In spite of unusually hot weather, the group accomplished a great deal at the cabins before moving on to Rock Harbor projects. They cleaned out the crawl spaces beneath both cottages, cleaned and organized the boat house, cleaned the chimney, removed ceiling tiles, built a firewood storage rack, rebuilt the outdoor bench, defined trails and drain fields around the cabins, and removed vegetation from cabin foundations.

The group's last few days were spent in Rock Harbor where they rebuilt the platform for the "hut" which is used by the Isle Royale Institute and other research groups, and refurbished the wooden Isle Royale map at the end of the dock. They also spent a half-day salvaging lumber at the Savage boat house.

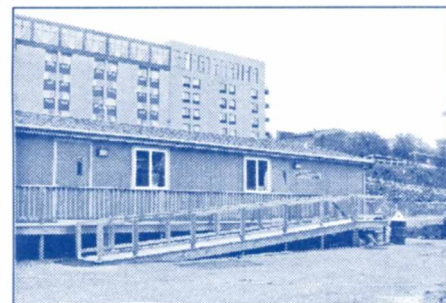
But it wasn't all work. The group had time for wonderful meals prepared by cook, Joanne Broady, time for swimming (yes, it was warm enough) kayaking, canoeing and hiking. Several members of the group stayed on in Rock Harbor over the following weekend to attend IRNHA annual meeting events.

Next year's service trip will take place July 20-28, preceding the IRNHA annual meeting. Our 2007 project will include more maintenance work, possibly on Belle Isle. Maximum number of participants is ten and the cost is \$500 per / person. If you are interested in participating, contact IRNHA Director Jill Burkland at jburkland@irnha.org.



Trip cook Joanne Broady trying out the rebuilt Dassler bench

ISLE ROYALE VISITOR CENTER DEMOLISHED



Temporary Visitor Center

Isle Royale Park Headquarters Building in Houghton is no more. The waterfront structure which has housed visitor services, IRNHA sales, and NPS staff since 1940 was razed on September 25.

The building, which was constructed by the Works Progress Administration from second-hand materials, was inadequate to house the park's staff of 80 full-time and seasonal workers. Problems with mold in the older part of the building also made it an unsafe work environment.

Most of the park staff had moved out of the building two years ago, relocating to rented space in the Upper Peninsula Power Co. building in Houghton and Keweenaw Park's Paymaster Building in Hancock.

The former building was also insufficient as a visitor center, with little room for exhibits or programs. Within the next few years the park plans to erect an environmentally friendly building with space for exhibits and an auditorium to better serve park visitors. Discussions are

continued on page 2

CENTER DEMOLISHED...

...continued from front page

underway with the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and Keweenaw National Historical Park concerning a possible cooperative facility for the three agencies.

In the meantime, the visitor center, IRNHA sales area, and NPS offices are housed in two temporary structures adjacent to the old building site.

Keweenaw Park Superintendent Announces Retirement



Superintendent Frank Fiala with IRNHA board members Gary Pethe & Dave Duchamp

After ten years at the helm of one of the nation's newest parks, Frank Fiala will retire his post as superintendent of Keweenaw National Historical Park on January 3. Fiala has spent 32 years in the National Park Service, serving most of his pre-Keweenaw years in Alaska, first at Lake Clark National Park and then at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Frank has spent his years at KNHP moving the fledgling park forward by building a strong professional staff and acquiring and restoring historic properties, including the L'aymaster Building in which IRNHA has their offices.

He was responsible for working with IRNHA to form our cooperating association relationship in 1998.

A new superintendent will be named in spring 2007.

2006 Annual Membership Meeting

The forty-ninth annual meeting of the Isle Royale Natural History Association was held in Rock Harbor on July 30.

Board President Sara Basso welcomed about 30 members to the meeting that was held in the Rock Harbor Auditorium. She reported on some recent activities including the latest ebay auction and the volunteer service trip to clean up the Dassler cabin. She introduced new Board member Gary Pethe. Bob Guiliani was also introduced as the new Board president. Looking to the future, Sara announced that IRNHA will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2007, and the wolf / moose study will celebrate 50 years in 2008.

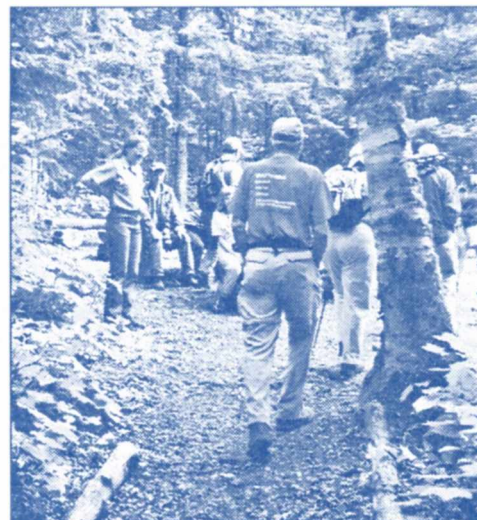
Executive Director Jill Burkland gave the treasurer's and membership reports. IRNHA ended the year in the black. Membership is down slightly from 2005 at 2014 members.

Publications Chair Marilyn Cooper reported that IRNHA's major publishing project - the nature guide - needs \$40,000 to be published. She showed the recently published spiny water flea brochure, new wolf t-shirt, Rolf Peterson's watercolor poster and note cards, the Industrial Calumet Walking Tour brochure, and the children's book, *Wolf Tracks and Moose Scat*.

Isle Royale Chief of Interpretation Liz Valencia thanked the IRNHA volunteers for their work and support. She gave updates on the new office space in Houghton. A new pavilion was constructed in Windigo in cooperation with the Isle Royale Boater's Association. Liz reported that there was discussion of closing the park early as a money-saving measure, but that it was unlikely. She also announced that the park has received a grant from the National Trust to study historic properties on the island.

A program by professional photographer and new Board President Bob Guiliani "Isle Royale Images" followed the meeting.

The afternoon was capped off by a wonderful lake trout and brats picnic on the waterfront.



Interpretive Ranger Karena Schmidt led IRNHA members on a botany walk as part of the annual meeting events.

Isle Royale Breeding Bird Survey

Isle Royale National Park established a formal breeding bird survey in 1994. The survey objectives have been 1) to determine the size and composition of the Neotropical migrant, continental migrant, and resident communities of species that are detectable by point count protocols, 2) to annually monitor these communities and make general comparisons between years, and 3) to compare the status of these communities with other regional populations.

A total of 53 species and 1418 individuals were recorded in 2005. The number of species is somewhat below the previous nine-year average of 57 for Isle Royale, while the number of individuals is somewhat above the nine-year average of 1360. Over the 10-year period the number of Neotropical migrant, continental migrant, and resident species detected annually has fluctuated. Neotropicals have been the most numerous in all years except 2002 when continental migrants were slightly higher. When observing the 10-year detection of individuals of the same categories, however, Neotropicals have declined steadily and distinctly as a percentage of the detected population, from a high of 56% in 1996 to a steady fluctuation around 46% from 1999-2005. Since 1996, 86 focal species have been recorded during the breeding bird surveys, either on point counts or as miscellaneous.

The chart below show species regularity on Isle Royale and annual numbers during 5-minute point counts. Within code name box, r=resident, c=continental migrant, n=Neotropical migrant

NAME	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alder Flycatcher, n	21	11	11	11	13	14	23	17	9	19
American Crow, c	47	25	16	45	46	39	21	37	23	22
American Goldfinch, c	3				3				1	
American Redstart, n	47	20	42	41	30	27	24	21	16	23
American Robin, c	28	26	29	44	46	46	52	35	33	31
Black&White warbler, n	9	20	12	20	13	9	10	10	9	12
Black-billed cuckoo, n		3			3	7				
Bay-breasted warbler, n		1	1		1	1	1	1		
Black-capped chickadee, r	18	9	20	38	44	37	54	59	29	27
Belted Kingfisher, c			2					1	1	1
Blue-headed vireo, c	1		4	1	1	1	4	1		
Blackburnian Warbler, n	6	12	15	8	6	5	12	13	9	15
Blue Jay, r	37	11	26	43	53	31	55	45	36	32
Brown Creeper, r	1	3	17	23	23	25	39	20	24	32
Black-throated Blue Warbler, n	5	11	8	15	3	5	12	6	8	5
Black-throated Green Warbler, n	77	38	58	75	101	71	58	69	39	53
Canada Warbler, n	6	6	7	4	4	4	3	4	4	3
Cedar Waxwing, c	20	46	2	17	5	17	24	28	24	33
Chipping Sparrow, c	22	21	19	21	15	9	17	9	4	5
Chimney Swift, n			1	2		3	2	4	2	
Cape May Warbler, n	13	14	11	4				3		
Common Grackle, c	20	4	3	10	4	6	2	10	4	3
Common Raven, r	24	22	10	28	14	16	9	17	13	12
Common Yellowthroat, c	4	2	4	4	5	4	12	6	4	6
Chestnut-sided Warbler, n	79	65	31	55	46	41	50	45	31	51
Downy Woodpecker, r	11	6	20	17	30	8	6	8	7	11
Eastern Wood-Pewee, n			2	1		1				1
Evening Grosbeak, r	5	14	5	5		4			2	

Great Crested Flycatcher, n		2	1							
Gcolder-crowned Kinglet, c		8	14	11	20	19	27	13	13	30
Gray Jay, r	4	1	2	5	2		6	9		4
Hairy Woodpecker, r	7	4	3	8	9	13	16	22	9	8
Hermit Thrush, c	21	39	45	81	76	63	61	72	62	73
Indigo Bunting, n	2	3	1	3				1	1	4
Least Flycatcher, n	10	6	10	3	2			3	1	3
Magnolia Warbler, n	38	50	41	54	47	67	61	73	55	34
Mourning Warbler, n	22	15	16	14	10	14	13	26	9	16
Myrtle Warbler, c	28	28	17	32	33	22	26	28	22	30
Northern Cardinal, n	145	85	61	147	102	132	136	111	90	146
Northern Parula, n		4	1	4	5				1	1
Northern Waterthrush, n	3	2	2	1		2	8	4	3	8
Orange-crowned Warbler, n	1	2		1		1	1	1		
Ovenbird, n	155	135	94	155	149	151	149	148	101	130
Philadelphia Vireo, n							1		1	
Pine Siskin, r		11	1	10		8		1		5
Pine Warbler, c			2		1				2	
Pileated Woodpecker, r	2	1	8	11	9	16	13	14	10	11
Purple Finch, c		2		1	3		1		1	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, n	3	3	4	2	3	1				
Red-breasted Nuthatch, r	28	26	41	31	32	26	28	45	26	44
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, c	1	1		6		1	3			2
Red-eyed Vireo, n	125	111	63	101	84	97	91	94	78	95
Red-winged Blackbird, c	3			1	1		4		1	2
Dark-eyed Junco, c	1					1				
Scarlet Tanager, n	1	1	2		1			1	3	2
Sedge Wren, c							2	1		
Song Sparrow, c	4	6	4	9	11	11	10	13	10	16
Swamp Sparrow, c	9	10	4	10	7	8	13	10	9	11
Swainson's Thrush, n	17	19	11	12	9	9	9	9	12	14
Tennessee Warbler, n	6	6			1					
Veery, n	3	6	16	17	15	10	8	6	6	9
White-breasted Nuthatch, r	3			1	1			2	1	
Wilson's Snipe, c	8	6	10	9	9	9	11	16	7	18
Winter Wren, c	72	108	64	138	108	138	145	96	92	162
White-throated Sparrow, c	159	151	85	158	149	144	144	139	107	116
White-winged Crossbill, r	25		1	2						
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, n	5	12	13	12	7	19	23	15	12	15
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, c	2	1	3	8	2	3	2	1	2	1
Palm Warbler, c			1		1				1	
Northern Flicker, c	12	5	7	18	16	5	8	7	9	8

Excerpted from a report by Alexander Egan, Biological Technician, Isle Royale National Park

Upcoming Events

IRNHA ebay Auction
November 11 - 18, 2006

IRNHA Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, Feb. 24, 2007
12:00 noon
Paymaster Building, Hancock

Isle Royale Botany Workshop
Mid - June 2007
Check www.irha.org for details
Rock Harbor

IRNHA Isle Royale Service Trip
Friday, July 20 - Saturday, July 28, 2007
Isle Royale

IRNHA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, July 26, 2007
Paymaster Building, Hancock

IRNHA Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday and Sunday, July 28, 29
Rock Harbor

ISRO dwells
Inside the soul
And carries
With strength
Our heart's desires.

-By Elizabeth Burnett,
participant in the 2005
Marian High School
Isle Royale Service Trip

In Memorium

✍ **Rev. Robert Edwards**

Word has reached us of the death of Rev. Robert Edwards of Hartford, Connecticut. Edwards spent many summers on the island named for his grandparents, Edwards Island, at Isle Royale. Edwards was retired minister of Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford. He was also an author and historian. Selections from his biography, *My Moment in History*, were included in the Wolf's Eye #3, 2005.

Rev. Edwards was 90 years old. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Sarah Edwards, his children, grandchild, brother and sister, and several nieces and nephews. Members of the Edwards family continue to spend summers at their family home on Edwards Island.

THANKS, THANKS, THANKS!

Our request for help in meeting this year's financial goals was met with a wonderful response from you, our members. 350 of you made donations from \$10 to \$2000, bringing in a total of \$17,860. This was enough to enable us to close out our fiscal year \$5000 in the black.

We continue to accept donations daily, so if you haven't made your contribution yet, it's not too late.

Thanks, again, and we promise not to make this same plea next year!

EBay Auction Donations Welcome

Cleaning your storage room? Downsizing? Sorting through inheritances? If you have Isle Royale or Keweenaw-related books, posters, patches, pins, or maps that you no longer want, we would be happy to take them off your hands! We had good success last year selling out-of-print publications, posters, and prints on two ebay auctions. We plan to do two more auctions this year and would love to have your tax-deductible donations.

If you have something to donate, contact IRNHA Director Jill Burkland at jburkland@irnha.org or 800-678-7860.

Thanks!

P.S. Our next auction is Nov. 11-18-06.



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NEW for Holiday Giving!

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Outdoor recreation interactive mapping software for 25 national parks, including Isle Royale. Now for Macs and PC.

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Ranger III Print

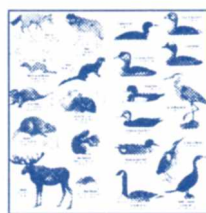
by John Belliveau • \$49.00

12" x 24" full color, printed on glossy photo stock, rolled in plastic and sold in a heavy tube.



Isle Royale National Park Pocket Guide
 from Mountaineers Books • \$5.95

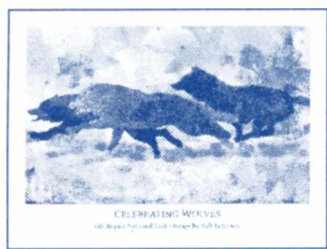
A handy, full-color pocket guide depicting mammals and birds of Isle Royale. Color image, common name and size of each species. Mammal listings also include scientific name and footprint.



Celebrating Wolves Poster

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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	\$35
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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