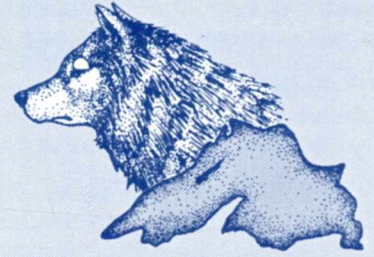


Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2007 No. 1

Uncharted Territory for Isle Royale Wolves and Moose

Isle Royale wolf/moose researchers have completed their 2007 annual survey and the numbers reported are surprisingly low. Both wolves and moose suffered considerable losses in the last year. Only 385 moose were counted this year compared to 450 last winter. Wolf numbers fell from 30 to 21 in the same period.

Unusually warm summers and an infestation of blood-sucking ticks have combined to take a heavy toll on the moose population, which was recorded at over 1000 animals in 2002. Instead of fattening themselves for winter, moose are spending much of the summer seeking shelter from the sun and trying to remove ticks by biting their hair out and rubbing against trees. Weakened by weight and blood loss, they are easy prey for ravenous wolf packs.

Meanwhile, the shortage of moose is leading to severe hunger among island wolves. Their population loss can be attributed to starvation and to interpack warfare over limited food supplies.

Chief researcher Rolf Peterson says that despite their dramatic slide, it's unlikely that the moose population will disappear. "The wolves are the ones that would be at risk, through their own actions in a way," he said. "Ten years from now, it will be pretty dismal for the wolves" because they are gobbling up moose calves before they can breed and rebuild the herd.

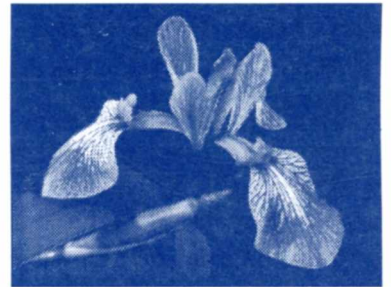
"We're definitely in uncharted territory," said John Vucetich, who teams with Peterson on the project. "It looks pretty precarious, but amazingly, these things tend to fix themselves more often than not."

Although focusing on the wolves and moose, the scientists also monitor how their population trends affect other island species. Fox, for instance, are hurting because wolves are eating every morsel of their kills, leaving less for other animals to scavenge.

"It's all so connected, and that's half of what makes it so fascinating," said Vucetich.

The full annual wolf/moose report will be available in April from IRNHA and can be ordered online at www.irnha.org or by phone 800-678-6925. Cost is \$3.95.

BOTANY FIELD TRIP



Blue Flag

Join other IRNHA members for a special Botany Workshop on Isle Royale. The group, led by botanist Janet Marr, will gather in Houghton for a preliminary meeting on Monday June 18 and travel to Rock Harbor on the Ranger III on Tuesday, June 19. The group will spend four days on the island learning native plant species, using such tools as a dichotomous key and hand lens to identify plants. Other topics will include discussion of island plant communities, ecology, and invasive species.

Workshop activities will take place primarily outdoors during daytime hours with some inside work. Optional evening sessions will also be offered to review plants learned earlier. Guided walks will include Tobin Harbor, Scoville Point, Raspberry Island, and Hidden Lake.

Janet Marr is a botanist who has been involved in many plant studies over the course of 30 years. Her three plant workshops for the Gratiot Lake Conservancy in the Keweenaw filled up quickly.

continued on page 3

IRNHA Ethnic Recipe Contest

Area children proudly carried in dishes they had prepared from old family recipes with their moms, dads, grandmas, or grandpas at the Children's Ethnic Recipe Contest Saturday, February 17, at the Calumet Public Schools cafeteria. Authentic food originating from a dozen countries — pannukakku, lefsa, povatica, shortbread, pasties, and more — were tasted by three lucky judges, and ten recipes were selected to be printed on note cards to be published this summer by the Isle Royale Natural History Association, the sponsor of the event.

The note cards will also feature a paragraph written by each child about their family history and the foods that make their family unique.

Judges said all the dishes were very tasty, but the following were the best: Finnish Visku Velja (fruit soup), Finnish Pannukkaku, Spanish Tortilla de Patata, Croatian Poteca, Danish Rolls, Finnish Juusto (squeaky cheese), Croatian Easter Sausage, Italian Fratura Dusa, Grandpa's Finnish Flat Bread, and Finnish Velja.

Displays of vintage aprons and historic photos of families cooking and eating decorated the room. While judging was going on, children were treated to cooking demonstrations, where they were able to try their hand at making Italian Breadsticks, Finnish Piirakka, and Taffy Apple Dessert Pizza. Chef Hal Behrendt entertained the kids with his demonstration of fancy vegetable and fruit garnishes and animals carved from butter. After the prizes were awarded — gift certificates to local restaurants for winners and gift bags for all contestants — everyone flocked to the tables to feast on the ethnic foods.

The contest was held in conjunction with the upcoming traveling Smithsonian Exhibit “Key Ingredients – America By Food” which is sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council and will be hosted this summer at the Keweenaw Heritage Center in Calumet July 13-Aug. 26. IRNHA board member Anita Campbell coordinated the event.

Look for notecards available this spring on the IRNHA website, www.irnha.org.



Children line up to sample the treats at IRNHA's recent ethnic recipe contest.

Your Isle Royale Stories: We Want Them!

Anyone who has ever been to the island has one or more stories to tell about their visit. It doesn't matter how young the person, or how long ago the visit, we all leave with fond memories that we will carry forever. We want to hear your stories and put them into a collection about Isle Royale. It's a special place and everyone's story is special, so please share them with us. Your story might be a few lines or it might be many paragraphs; it doesn't matter. We would like to hear them and begin a collection of stories about Isle Royale.

If we decide to use your story, we will contact you regarding editing and/or excerpting.

You can email or send your stories by regular mail: irnha@irnha.org, IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr. Houghton, MI 49931

Thanks,
Bob Giuliani, IRNHA Board President

Visitor Numbers

	2006	2005	% Change
Day Use Island	2,767	2,895	-4.4
Overnight Use Island	11,817	12,099	-2.3
Non-Rec Use Island	110	103	6.8
TOTAL ISLAND VISITATION	14,694	15,097	-2.7
Mainland Visitation (Houghton)	2,486	2,404	3.4
DAY USE			
Isle Royale Queen	983	581	69.2
Wenohah	1,757	2,209	-20.5
Sea Plane	11	12	-8.3
Private Boat	16	93	-82.8
TOTAL ISLAND DAY USE	2767	2895	-4.4
OVERNIGHT ARRIVALS			
Isle Royale Queen	4,491	4,590	-2.2
Wenohah	1,104	1,151	-4.1
Sea Plane	698	709	-1.6
Private Boat	2,710	2,667	1.6
Ranger III	1,285	1,255	2.4
Voyageur II	1,195	1,412	-15.4
Lessee/Guests	334	315	6
TOTAL OVERNIGHT ARRIVALS	11,817	12,099	-2.3

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* denotes additional donation made in 2006

Renew Today for 2007

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2007, please do so today. You can renew online at www.irnha.org or by phone at 800-678-6925.

To guarantee you will receive the next Wolf's Eye and continue to receive park updates via email we must hear from you before May 1.

**Statement of Income and Expense
for Years Ended September 30:**

Income	2006	2005
Sales Income	\$99,644	\$103,536
Member Dues	\$27,600	\$30,300
Donations/Grants*	\$26,804	\$25,997
Programs	\$4,317	\$4,804
Interest/ Misc. Income	\$354	\$5,858
Shipping & Handling Income	\$3,839	\$3,850
Total Income	\$162,558	\$174,345
Expense		
Cost of Goods Sold	\$65,290	\$59,224
Operating Expense	\$93,940	\$94,276
Total Expense	\$159,230	\$153,500
Net Annual Income	\$3,328	\$20,845
Aid to the Park	\$11,331	\$18,067
Net Increase/Decrease	-\$8,003	\$2,778

* 2006 does not include donations of \$14,900 to the Keweenaw Community Foundation

2006 Aid to Park

Cash Contribution

Greenstone Newspaper	\$3,610
Ingot Newspaper	\$2,510
Artist in Residence Program	\$1,100
Interpretation materials	\$540
Superintendent's account	\$165
Natural Resources	\$500
Aquatic Invasive brochures/Signs	\$2,730
Prizes & Refreshments	\$190
Total Cash Contribution	\$11,345

Balance Sheets for September 30th

Assets	2006	2005
Current Assets		
Cash	\$19,054	\$20,067
Receivables	\$3,085	\$1,891
Inventory	\$127,475	\$135,944
Total Current Assets	\$149,614	\$157,902
Fixed Assets (Equipment)	\$0	\$608
Total Assets	\$149,614	\$158,510
Liabilities and Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$31,739	\$29,337
Grants Payable	\$8,746-	\$8,332
Tax Liabilities	-\$1,103	-\$1,342
Bank Loan	\$0	\$4,353
Total Current Liabilities	\$110,232	\$40,680
Equity		\$117,830
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$149,614	\$158,510
Keweenaw Community Foundation	\$25,985	\$11,413

2006 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 2006 Aid to the Park **\$22,375**



2007 Isle Royale Natural History Association 50th Anniversary Member Meetings on Isle Royale

Come help us celebrate the 50th anniversary of IRNHA at this summer's annual membership weekend in Rock Harbor!

Friday, July 27

8:00 p.m. Friends of Fashion
Isle Royale Historic Fashion Show,
Rock Harbor Auditorium.

Saturday, July 28

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Ranger-led botany walk.

2:00 p.m. Tobin Harbor Canoe Trip
and Historic Home Tour.

8:00 p.m. "Wildflowers: Folklore and History" program
by photographer Bob Giuliani,
Rock Harbor Auditorium.

Sunday, July 29

10:00 a.m. Open Yoga Session for all experience levels, Rock Harbor Auditorium.

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

3:30 - 4:45 p.m. Membership Program: "An IRNHA Retrospective,"
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.)



Friends of Fashion will present an historic Isle Royale fashion show as part of our 50th anniversary celebration in Rock Harbor.

FIELD TRIP..

... continued from front page

She is the co-author of our upcoming Isle Royale Nature Guide.

This workshop is open to IRNHA members with beginning/intermediate knowledge of plant identification and an interest in learning how to identify Isle Royale plants. Participants should be able to hike up to 7 miles with a daypack.

Participants may camp at a Rock Harbor group site, or stay in the Rock Harbor Lodge or Housekeeping units at their own expense.

Total cost for the trip is \$500 per person for transportation, camping, and instruction. Trip limit is 12 participants.

Call for Board Members

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 member development and Keweenaw National Historical Park projects. Persons with experience in fund-raising 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 30 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.

Isle Royale Natural History Association
800 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1895
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Recommended Reading for Young and Old



Death's Door: The Truth Behind Michigan's Largest Mass Murder

by Steve Lehto • \$19.95

On Christmas Eve 1913, more than six dozen miners' family members were crushed to death as they scrambled to flee the second floor of the Italian Hall in Calumet, MI. Someone had cried "fire" at the top of the stairs. There was no fire, and speculation has been that the call may have been a calculated action to designed to cause chaos. Steve Lehto wades through conflicting news reports and other documentation to set the record straight.

Jordyn Backpacks Isle Royale National Park

by Nelda Liebig • \$11.95

A true-life story of a girl's backpacking trip with her grandmother on Isle Royale. A good story with lots of practical advice and many color pictures. 40 pages.



Gentle Hikes of Upper Michigan

by Tornabene, Vogelsang, & Morgan • \$14.95

Gentle Hikes shows you where to go for the best northern Michigan hikes under 3 miles. Indispensable for those with small children, seniors, or families with a range of physical abilities. Details for nearly 60 trails.

Order online at www.irnha.org or by phone 800-678-6925.

Shipping charges for purchases...

up to \$10.00, add \$3.00
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Order now from:

IRNHA
800 E. Lakeshore Drive
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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 \$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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