

# Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

2008 No. 1



## Isle Royale Beaver Survey Brings Mixed Messages

Isle Royale's ongoing beaver survey is bringing in some surprising and unexpected results!

Although results from the fall 2007 survey are not yet in, the 2006 report shows an increase of more than twice the estimated number of beaver sites on the island. Yet other indications are that the number of colonies has actually declined on the island as it has throughout the state of Michigan. Why such confusing results?

Some background on the study might help. The number of active beaver colonies on Isle Royale was first estimated by aerial survey in 1962 and continued biennially since 1974. These surveys revealed the final stage of expansion to a nearly saturated population of almost 300 sites in the early 1970s. Beaver numbers then dipped temporarily at Isle Royale when wolves peaked in 1980, followed by a steady decline due to habitat deterioration. Only 50 sites were estimated by P.C. Shelton in 2004.

Rolf Peterson, well known for his wolf/moose studies on Isle Royale, and Isle Royale Scientist Mark Romanski took over the study from Philip Shelton and Douglas Smith in 2006. They duplicated techniques employed in the past, but unlike previous years, Peterson and Romanski employed a double-count, using two aircraft, each covering all sectors of the island within a two-day period. The count took place October 15-19.

The total number of active sites recorded was 133 – the highest number recorded in the past decade. As in past surveys, most of the sites were located in the eastern portion of the island, and within drainages in the interior of the island. A much smaller number was found on shorelines of interior lakes. There were no colonies identified on the shoreline of Lake Superior.

## What's in a Name?

### Introducing "Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association"

In 1999 the Isle Royale Natural History Assoc. signed an agreement with the National Park Service to begin serving Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP) as their cooperating association as we had been serving Isle Royale (ISRO) for the previous 42 years.

This decision to work with the newly established park was made for a number of reasons:

- New members. KNHP has already brought us several new members and there is potential for many more once our organization name reflects our association with KNHP.
- Increased donations and grants. Adding a second park to our association provides opportunities for these additional resources. *Income for the two parks will be carefully allocated and members will have the opportunity to designate their gifts to support one park or another.*
- Proximity. KNHP headquarters is only 10 miles from ISRO headquarters, making it easy and efficient for IRNHA to provide services for both.
- New Sales outlets. KNHP offers IRNHA a year-round sales outlet, which will help increase sales and provide a steadier income throughout the year.
- Additional office and storage space. IRNHA has a beautiful office in KNHP's Paymaster Building on Quincy Hill. This office and a large storage space come to us rent-free and are much better facilities than are available to us at ISRO.

Today, as we celebrate 50 years of service to ISRO and 9 years of service to KNHP, it is time that our name more accurately represents who we are and what we do. After years of discussion and input from our members, the board proposes changing the name of our organization to Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association – maintaining the name Isle Royale, as many of you requested, and adding the name Keweenaw.

As we move into our second half-century, the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association will have new and expanded opportunities to better serve both our parks and you, our members.

Bob Giuliani  
President, IRNHA

The higher count was contrary to expectations because a multi-year drought has left many interior drainages with no water. The lack of water was striking and the high number of dry-sedge-covered former ponds represented a significant long-term change.

Peterson and Romanski believe that the increased number of active sites identified in 2006 resulted from high sightability resulting from a more intensive search pattern. Their flight pattern in 2006 was a circling pattern at 300 – 500 feet, in contrast to the transect flights at 800 – 1000 feet used in earlier counts.

Given the stark differences between the counts in 2006 and earlier years, the authors of the study have recommended repeating the aerial survey for subsequent years to verify results and to begin using voice recorders to record specifics for each site identified.

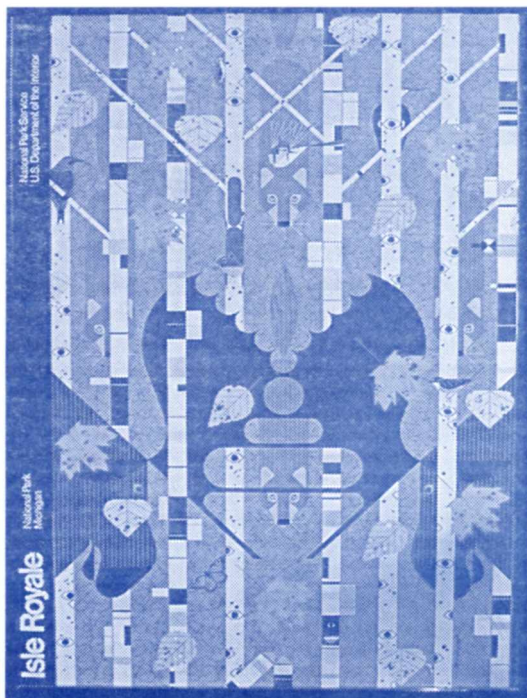
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## Ebay Auction for Publications Fund

IRNHA members will have a chance to purchase this out-of-print poster by Charles Harper during our next ebay auction to take place March 8-15. Harper, whose work was recently featured in Audubon Magazine and on CBS Sunday Morning, is well-known for his wonderful, whimsical depictions of nature including a series of posters done for National Parks including this one for Isle Royale.

Also on the auction are an original Isle Royale oil painting by artist-in-residence Judith Corning, beautiful hand-made wooden canoe and kayak paddles by IRNHA member Phil Bryant, and lots more.

This is your opportunity to make some once-in-a-life-time purchases and support IRNHA's publications program at the same time. Check our website for more details in March.



## Lake Superior Challenges Well Met

by Jack and Sally Orsborn

Water levels may have reached an all time low during August of 2007 but the all-time low for us came the night of July 11 when our 17' Lund Tyee dragged anchor and stretched lines in gale-force winds. The boat was bumped on the bottom with enough force to pop some rivets in the transom and swamp in shallow water near our dock at Captain Kidd Island.

Although some refer to the 'north side' as isolated, we beg to differ. Early the next morning, Amygdaloid Ranger Carl TerHaar with his brother and sister-in-law arrived to see how we had fared in the storm. Shortly thereafter, Steve and Tyler Johnson came offering a fish and willing hands. Ranger Peter Maggio soon pitched in. The ingenuity of all of them was invaluable in assessing the situation and devising solutions. With Carl directing the operation, bolts and silicone secured the leak. Later, kindly kayakers arrived to help all of us with the launch and, because there was no more leakage and no motor damage, we were able to get the boat to Mott Island under its own power.

Additional help in closing for the season and a warm send-off came from our spirited friends, the Andersons and their guests from Johnson Island. We had excellent transport on the Voyageur II back to Grand Portage to pick up our camper and boat trailer so that we could make the trip to Houghton. On a sunny July 21, we met the Ranger III as it docked carrying the hearty boat that had given us 14 years of good service to and from the Island.

An old African proverb says, "It takes a village to raise a child." Viewed from our perspective at the upper end of life, it involved a generous community of NPS Rangers and staff, Isle Royale families and friends including boaters and kayakers, plus the fine Voyageur II and Ranger III crews to expedite our tearful early departure from Captain Kidd. Our hearts go out and our hats go off to all of the folks who helped soften the blow we received from that destructive blow in July.

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## A New Family on Isle Royale

This year's wolf study on Isle Royale began on Jan. 16 and just six days into the study researchers have discovered a new, fourth wolf pack on the island. The pack, which has been named the Paduka Pack, was observed, during an aerial survey, in the middle of the island traveling southwest. The Paduka Pack is made up of four individuals, two of whom by their playful nature appear to be pups.

You can keep up-to-date on the new family and see photos from this year's study by checking the online journal at [www.isleroyalewolf.org](http://www.isleroyalewolf.org).

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## In Memory

IRNHA member Jim Orsborn died in Greenville, MI, on December 17, 2007 following a long illness and complications from diabetes. He was 81. He is survived by his wife, Katherine, and their three children. The Orsborns began going to Isle Royale in 1934 and had a cottage in Snug Harbor. He worked at Rock Harbor Lodge during the summers, and after graduating from Michigan Tech in 1952, he worked on Isle Royale as a Seasonal Ranger.

Jim had a long career as an exploration geologist and industrial development engineer.

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Joseph A Zychowicz

**Reminder:  
Dues renewals  
were due Dec.  
31. If you  
haven't  
renewed for  
2008, please  
mail in your  
renewal form  
or renew  
online at  
[www.irnha.org](http://www.irnha.org)  
today.**

| Balance Sheets for 9/30             | 2007             | 2006             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                       |                  |                  |
| Current Assets                      |                  |                  |
| Cash and Investments                | \$8,308          | \$19,083         |
| Receivables                         | \$1,486          | \$3,077          |
| Inventory                           | \$135,785        | \$127,475        |
| Total Current Assets                | \$145,579        | \$149,635        |
| Fixed Assets (Equipment)            | \$1,037          | \$0              |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                 | <b>\$146,616</b> | <b>\$149,635</b> |
| <b>Liabilities and Equity</b>       |                  |                  |
| Accounts Payable                    | \$11,591         | \$31,971         |
| Grants Payable                      | \$3,086          | \$8,746          |
| Tax Liabilities                     | -\$511           | -\$1,103         |
| Bank Loan                           | \$31,803         | \$0              |
| Total Current Liabilities           | \$45,969         | \$39,614         |
| <b>Equity</b>                       | <b>\$100,647</b> | <b>\$110,021</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b> | <b>\$146,616</b> | <b>\$149,635</b> |
| <b>Keweenaw Comm. Foundation</b>    |                  |                  |
| Gifts to Date                       | \$44,171         | \$24,871         |
| Initial Agency Endowment            | \$1,114          | \$1,113          |

### Aid to Parks

| Cash Contribution                | 2007            | 2006            |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Greenstone Newspaper             | \$2,751         | \$3,610         |
| Ingot Newspaper                  | \$2,298         | \$2,510         |
| Free Park Brochures              | \$1,452         | \$0             |
| Artist in Residence Program      | \$2,012         | \$1,100         |
| Interpretation materials         | \$110           | \$540           |
| Superintendent's account         | \$268           | \$165           |
| Natural Resources                | \$0             | \$500           |
| Aquatic Invasive brochures/signs | \$0             | \$2,730         |
| Author/Designer Fees             | \$5,370         | \$0             |
| Other                            | \$77            | \$190           |
| <b>Total Cash Contribution</b>   | <b>\$14,338</b> | <b>\$11,345</b> |

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

| Income                       | 2007             | 2006             |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sales Income                 | \$93,276         | \$103,435        |
| Member Dues                  | \$34,030         | \$27,600         |
| Donations/Grants*            | \$13,845         | \$26,809         |
| Programs                     | \$6,086          | \$4,317          |
| Interest/ Misc. Income       | \$630            | \$354            |
| Auction                      | \$1,281          |                  |
| <b>Total Income</b>          | <b>\$149,148</b> | <b>\$162,515</b> |
| <b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>    | <b>\$53,340</b>  | <b>\$65,291</b>  |
| <b>PROFIT</b>                | <b>\$95,808</b>  | <b>\$97,224</b>  |
| <b>Expense</b>               |                  |                  |
| Operating Expense            | \$90,718         | \$93,940         |
| <b>Net Annual Income</b>     | <b>\$5,090</b>   | <b>\$3,284</b>   |
| <b>Aid to the Park</b>       | <b>\$14,206</b>  | <b>\$11,284</b>  |
| <b>Net Increase/Decrease</b> | <b>-\$9,116</b>  | <b>-\$8,000</b>  |

\* Donations do not include KC Foundation gifts

### 2007 In-Kind Aid to Parks

|                                        |                 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Staff Assistance in Visitor Centers    | \$10,010        |
| Programs                               | \$2,100         |
| Service Project                        | \$745           |
| <b>Total 2007 In-Kind Contribution</b> | <b>\$12,855</b> |
| <b>Total 2007 Aid to Parks</b>         | <b>\$27,193</b> |

## Below is a list of proposed changes to our current bylaws.

The major change proposed is the change of name for the organization. (See letter on page 1.) Other changes are suggested for clarification and simplification. Members wishing to comment on these changes are asked to send replies via email to [irnha@irnha.org](mailto:irnha@irnha.org) or by mail to IRNHA, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr, Houghton, MI 49931 by March 15.

## Explanation of Proposed Bylaws Changes

Title – Name change  
Article I – Name change  
Article II – Name change  
Article III – Simplify wording (no substantive change)  
Article IV, Section 1, (f) – Clarification of when terms begin  
Article IV, Section 1, (g) – Establishes two year term, for president (this has been the practice, but was not in the Bylaws)  
Article IV, Section 1 (i) – Establishes two year term for treasurer  
Article IV, Section 1 (j) and (k) – Deleted as unnecessary  
Article IV, Section 2 – Allows special meeting to be held by electronic means  
Adds reference to Association Coordinator appointed by the Superintendent of the Keweenaw National Historical Park  
Article IV, Section 3 – Unnecessary wording deleted  
Article IV, Section 4 – Makes minor changes in requirement regarding financial reports  
Article IV, Section 5 – Changes appointment process and list of standing committees  
Article V – Minor change in regard to financial report at annual meeting  
Article VII – Minor change in change in Bylaws notification  
Article IX – Name change

### The Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks ~~Natural History~~ Association Bylaws

#### Article I – Name

The name of this organization is “The Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks ~~Natural History~~ Association.”

#### Article II – Authority and Purpose

~~Section 1.~~ The Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks ~~Natural History~~ Association (hereafter “the Association”) shall operate under the authority of Public Law 633, approved by the Congress of the United States, August 7, 1946 (60 Stat. 885, Sec. 67) which permits use of the “...services of field employees in cooperation with such non-profit scientific and historical societies engaged in educational work in the various parks and monuments as the Secretary of the Interior may designate.”

#### Article III – Membership

##### ~~Section 1. Classes of Membership.~~

There shall be seven classes of membership: annual single, annual household, annual supporting, annual sustaining, corporate sponsor, corporate patron, and life. The Board of Directors (hereafter “the Board”) may grant honorary life memberships. The Board shall also set appropriate dues amounts for each of these classes of membership from time to time as required.

~~Membership categories and voting privileges shall be according to the following. All memberships are allowed one vote.~~

##### ~~Annual Memberships:~~

~~Single, Household, Supporting, and Sustaining are all allowed one vote each.~~

##### ~~Life Memberships:~~

~~Corporate Sponsor, Corporate Patron, and Life are all allowed one vote each.~~

#### Article IV – Organization and Administration

##### ~~Section 1. Number, Election and Term of Office.~~

(f) Directors and selected Officers shall assume their office, duties, and responsibilities on August 1st of the year elections/full term appointments occur. ~~Directors appointed to fill an un-expired term shall assume their duties and responsibilities upon appointment.~~

(g) A President of the Board shall be selected by, and from among, the Directors ~~whenever that position becomes vacant. The President serves at the pleasure of the Board. The President shall serve a term of two years. The President may be elected to a second two year term.~~

(i) A Treasurer of the Association shall be selected by, and from among, the Directors ~~by a majority vote of the Board prior to the expiration of the term being served by the current Treasurer whenever that position becomes vacant. The Treasurer serves at the pleasure of the Board. The Treasurer shall serve a term of two years.~~

(j) Each officer shall hold office until a successor is elected/appointed and ~~qualified, or until death, resignation, or removal.~~

(k) ~~The Executive Director of the Association, at the pleasure of the Board, serves as an ex-official member of the Board.~~

~~Section 2. Meetings of the Board.~~ There shall be at least two meetings of the Board each year – one during the winter and one during the summer – at places and times to be determined by a majority of the Board. A majority of Board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or upon request of four Board members. ~~Special meetings may be held by e-mail, telephone conference call or other electronic means. ....The Board shall formulate all of the operational policies of the Association and shall direct its activities through the~~

Association Coordinator (appointed by the Superintendents of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park), a hired Executive Director and the Board

~~Section 3. The President of the Board.~~ The President of the Board shall be responsible for calling and conducting all Board meetings, conducting the Annual Membership Meeting(s), and general overseeing of Association activities ~~throughout the year of his or her tenure as President.~~

##### ~~Section 4. The Treasurer of the Association.~~

The Treasurer shall report to the Board:

1. In a timely fashion, any serious financial situation that he or she believes might exist. 2. In a timely fashion, the general financial condition of the Association. 3. and ~~submit~~ ~~Cosign~~ with the Executive Director a ~~semiannual~~ Financial Report, which shall be given to each Board Member at ~~each least one day prior to~~ a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

~~Section 5. Committees of the Board.~~ The ~~Board~~ President may, at ~~his~~ ~~his~~ or her discretion, appoint members of the Board to serve as Committee Chairs, for the following standing committees:

Standing Committees:

1. ~~Publications and Marketing~~

2. Finance

3. ~~Fundraising and Membership and Public Relations~~

4. ~~Publications~~

5. ~~Personnel and Elections~~

6. ~~Strategic Planning.~~

The President of the Board may also appoint, at his or her discretion, such ad hoc committees as seem reasonable to address specific tasks/problems, such as a committee to plan and execute the Annual Membership Meeting.

Committees must consist of at least one Board member, and Board members may serve on more than one committee.

#### Article V – Membership Meetings

~~.....The Executive Director and/or Treasurer of the Association shall present a financial report, ~~designed by each.~~ An announcement of the results of the annual election, as prescribed in Article IV, Section 1, shall be made by the Board President. A quorum of the membership is not required to hold the Annual Membership Meeting. Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, all meetings shall be conducted according to Rules of Order by Henry M. Robert.~~

#### Article VII – Changes to Bylaws

Power to change these Bylaws and/or to adopt additional Articles and Sections to these Bylaws is hereby delegated to the Board, provided that: (1) sufficient notification of such impending action has been given to the membership so that members of the Association might have the opportunity to comment to the Board prior to adoption of such change(s)/amendment(s); and thence, (2) sufficient notification of such impending action has been sent to each Board member ~~by mail~~, indicating any comments/suggestions that might have been made by the membership as a result of (1) above. Changes to Bylaws requires approval by at least six (6) members of the Board, either in attendance or by written proxy. The President shall be responsible for arranging these procedures.

#### Article IX – Non-Discrimination

The Association, does not discriminate with regard to terms or conditions of membership because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual preference, national origin, age, or physical or mental handicap. The Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks ~~Natural History~~ Association is an equal opportunity employer.

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

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Houghton, Michigan  
Permit No. 45 Wolf's Eye

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Feb 28, 7:00 p.m.**  
"So Cold a Sky: Upper Michigan Weather Stories" a program by well-known meteorologist and author Carl Bohnack, at Hancock Middle School in Hancock, MI. Presented by KNHP's Fourth Thursday series.

**March 8-15**  
IRNHA ebay auction. (See article page 2)

**June 16 - 21**  
Second annual Botany Workshop on Isle Royale, led by Janet Marr. Travel to Isle Royale, instruction, camping, and meals included. Limited to 12 participants. For information, contact Jill Burkland--906-482-7860.

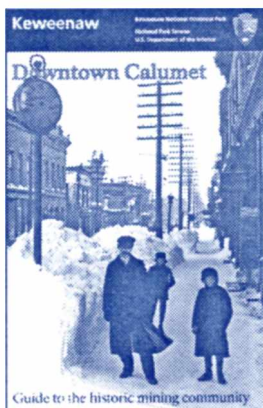
**July 11 - 19**  
IRNHA members service trip on Isle Royale. This year's project will be campground maintenance at Siskiwit Bay Campground. Limited to 10 participants. For information, contact Jill Burkland-- 906-482-7860.

**July 25-27**  
IRNHA annual membership meeting and 50th Anniversary of Wolf/Moose Study events in Rock Harbor.

## Downtown Calumet

IRNHA's latest publication is a walking tour guide for the historic downtown district of Calumet, MI, the center of the Keweenaw Natl. Historical Park. This 20-page, full-color publication includes a foldout map as well as photographs and descriptions of 26 historic sites and buildings.

This book is a companion piece to our earlier publication *Industrial Calumet*, which is a walking tour guide to the Calumet & Hecla Copper Mining Company's industrial site. *Downtown Calumet* is available now on our website [www.irnha.org](http://www.irnha.org).



## 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](mailto:irnha@irnha.org)  
website: [www.irnha.org](http://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

Life Membership \$1,000\*

\*Life memberships may be paid in 5 annual installments.

### Board of Directors

Bob Guiliani-President,  
Arnold Alanen, Brian Bergson  
Anita Campbell, Marilyn Cooper,  
Ron Eckoff, Michael George  
Nelda Liebig, Gary Pethe

### Staff

Jill Burkland,  
Executive Director & Wolf's Eye Editor  
Lauren Rastello, Mail Order