

Wolf's Eye



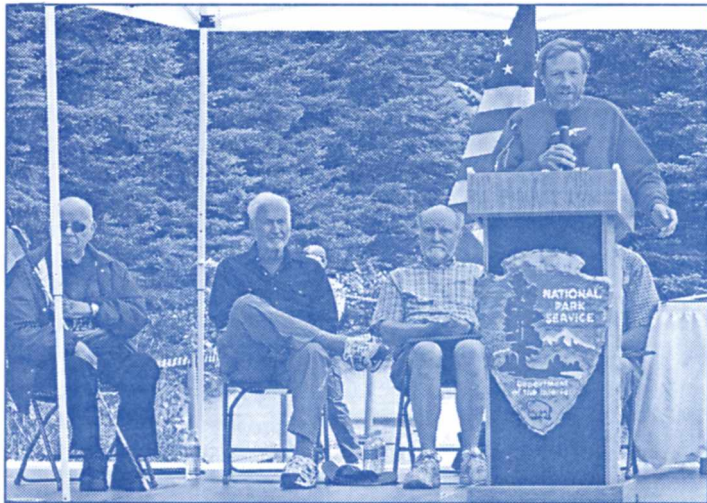
ISLE ROYALE & KEWEENAW PARKS ASSOCIATION

2008 No. 3

Fifty Years of Wolf Moose Research on Isle Royale Celebrated

The boats were full, the campgrounds and lodge packed as scientists, National Park Service personnel, politicians, teachers, journalists, artists, IRKPA members and park visitors gathered in Rock Harbor July 25, 26 and 27 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Isle Royale Wolf/Moose Study.

Research scientists Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich, who currently lead the study, along with past participants David Mech and Doug Smith were on hand throughout the weekend to discuss their research. They shared stories, reflected on their 50 years of involvement with the project, and answered questions from the public and teachers participating in a special Isle Royale Institute workshop.



Rolf Peterson speaking at the 50th Anniversary Ceremony. Left to right: Past winter study pilot Don Murray, current pilot Don Glaser, David Mech, Rolf Peterson.

Speeches and awards were the fare for an afternoon ceremony honoring those involved with the 50-year study. Representatives from the National Park Service, other government agencies, and local and state government took part in the ceremony honoring the researchers and their winter study pilots.

A highlight of the weekend was the world premiere of George Desort's film, "Fortunate Wilderness," a documentary on the wolf/moose study on Isle Royale. Other events from the busy weekend included a book and poster-signing with Rolf and Candy Peterson, Dave Mech, Doug Smith, John Vucetich, and artist Gendron Jensen sponsored by IRKPA, tours of the Bangsund cabin research center, and

musical performances by Jeremy and Trevor Peterson.

Activities continue in celebration of the Wolf/Moose Study including a showing of "Fortunate Wilderness" in Houghton on Oct. 26 and several events in Duluth Nov. 5-7. See a complete listing at: www.wolfmoose.mtu.edu.

More photographs from the weekend can be seen on the IRKPA website: www.irkpa.org.



Rolf and Candy Peterson signed lots of books and posters at the Wolf/Moose Anniversary Celebration.



Annual Membership Meeting

The annual meeting of the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association was held on Sunday, July 27, 2008 at the Rock Harbor Auditorium.

Board President Bob Guiliani welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the board members present: Ron Eckoff, Mike George, Marilyn Cooper, Nelda Liebig, Gary Pethe, and Arne Alanen. Also introduced were Executive Director Jill Burkland, and Isle Royale Chief of Interpretation Liz Valencia.

Changes to the board were noted. Marilyn Cooper and Nelda Liebig's terms are up; new board members are Mike Thomas and Jean Bjorseth. Marilyn and Nelda were thanked for their years of service and presented gifts of appreciation.

Gary Pethe gave the membership report. As of July 22, IRKPA had 938 members. The number of those not renewing was down significantly. The board did a great job contacting members who hadn't renewed yet. The Sustaining level numbers were up due to a match by Ron Eckoff. Jill Burkland gave the fundraising report. The Association received an endowment gift from the late Eileen Niva for \$40,000. Currently there is \$112,000 in the endowment. The \$50 for 50 years campaign went well.

Ron Eckoff gave the treasurer's report. The fiscal year will end

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Isle Royale's American Marten Mystery

Once common on Isle Royale, American Martens were thought to have disappeared from the island early in the 20th



American Marten,
photo by Thomas Rogers, 1993

Century. However, recent sightings make clear that Martens do exist on Isle Royale. Isle Royale National Park's Mark Romanski and Jerrold Belant, from the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, have been studying historical and recent documents to determine how and when the species might have returned to the island.

For many years it was widely accepted that the Isle Royale marten population was extirpated by 1905. Recently discovered documents, however, give evidence that there may have been at least a small population up until 1929. No signs of martens were recorded between 1929 and 1991, when researchers on the winter wolf/moose study team observed tracks of what they thought to be a marten near their Windigo Ranger Station. Researchers and park staff continued to observe tracks during winter, nearly annually over the next fifteen years. However, it wasn't until Sept. 1993 that a marten was actually sighted. Thomas Rogers, a park visitor, captured two photographs of an American Marten perched in the tree alongside the trail between Todd Harbor and Little Todd Harbor. Another sighting occurred in February 2001 on the Huginnin Trail loop. Scat specimens were collected and tested positive for martens between 2001 – 2004. Finally, in June 2006 park staff recovered a female American Marten carcass northeast of Island Mine.

Romanski and Belant, in their upcoming article in "Small Carnivore Conservation" offer three possibilities to explain the recolonization. The present population is either 1) a remnant of previous populations, 2) recently immigrated or 3) the result of a reintroduction. Romanski and Belant conclude that none of these possibilities are very likely. In order for a remnant population of martens to have gone undetected for 60 years, they would have had to exist at a very low level and avoid detection by humans. However, it is possible that the species was purposefully reported as "extinct" in the early 1900s by trappers who wished to keep the valuable source of pelts for themselves. Once the wolf moose study began on the island in 1929, it would seem likely that researchers would have seen

traces of marten at moose kill sites, but it is possible that marten tracks were mistaken for the similar tracks of mink.

A chance immigration of marten to the island obviously happened once and therefore could have happened again. The most probable method would have been over ice, although the authors cite studies showing that marten avoid travel without forest cover, making immigration across 20 km of open Lake Superior ice unlikely.

Reintroduction of American Marten to Isle Royale was discussed by the National Park Service and other governmental agencies in the 1960s but, according to the author's research, the project never took place. It is possible, however, that marten were purposefully transported to IRNP by a private individual.

Whether a remnant population persisted or recolonization occurred remains unresolved. The National Park Service and IRNP will continue to monitor the American Marten population on Isle Royale and make informed decisions to ensure population viability. This report by Romanski and Belant will inform and guide future management and research of the species within the park.

Copper Country Architects Website

Once wealthy and booming urban centers, Houghton and Calumet MI are the home of many interesting historic building. A new website, developed by Dr. Kim Hoagland and her studies in Michigan Tech's Social Science Dept. includes biographical information for all of the architects known to have worked in the Copper Country as well as images and descriptions for each of the buildings attributed to them, extant and demolished.

The website is available to the public at:

www.social.mtu.edu/CopperCountryArchitects

Loon Talk

Those of us living in or visiting the Keweenaw and Isle Royale are often lucky enough to hear loons calling on our lakes or overhead. And yet, if you are like me, you aren't always sure just what they are saying. Here is a short primer developed by Isle Royale staff:

Listen carefully for the four different calls of the loon, each with its own meaning.

Tremolo: A high-pitched "laugh". This is the call of a threatened loon. It may be directed at other loons, cormorants, people, or anything that is perceived as a threat.

Yodel: A call that starts with one long note followed by repeating short notes. This call is used exclusively by male loons and signifies defense of a territory, and may be as unique to an individual as a fingerprint.

Wail: Frequently mistaken for howling wolves, this call is often heard at night all around Isle Royale. Its meaning appears to be communication between mates, indicating an interest in gathering.

Hoot: A single, short, soft hoot. This is often a communication between mates or between parents and chicks, it also occurs in social groups.

Endowment Gift

The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Assoc. recently received a donation of \$40,000 from the late Eileen J. Niva of Hancock, MI. Ms. Niva was a member of our association for many years and elected to donate a share of her estate to our endowment fund at the Keweenaw Community Foundation.

Ms. Niva's gift along with a major donation from Barbe and Jim Kackley of Mineral Point, WI and additional gifts from IRKPA members have brought our endowment fund to over \$116,000.



IRKPA Board and Staff at 208 Annual Meeting.

Left to right: Marilyn Cooper, Ron Eckoff, Bob Guilliani, Director Jill Burkland, Michael George, Arne Alanen, Mike Thomas, Gary Pethe, NPS Chief of Interpretation Liz Valencia, Nelda Liebig, and Mail Order/Inventory Specialist Lauren Rastello.

Welcome to our New Board Members

Jean Bjorseth and Michael Thomas have been elected to serve three-year terms on the IRKPA Board of Directors. Jean has a career background in fundraising and has served on our Membership and Fundraising Committee this past year. She and her husband live in Marinette, WI, with a summer home in Eagle Harbor, MI.

Michael Thomas has been employed by the Ford Motor Company for the past 27 years where he provides security to the top management of the company. Through the Earthwatch Institute he has volunteered with the Moose/Wolf project on Isle Royale for 17 years. He and his wife live in Dearborn Heights, MI.

Marilyn Cooper and Nelda Liebig have each completed two 3-year terms on the board. Marilyn will continue on as an ex-board representative on the Publications and Marketing committee.

IRKPA Board members serve on a volunteer basis with no remuneration for their travel or expenses. We are indeed lucky to have such generous and hard-working board members!

Annual Membership Meeting continued from page 1

September 30, and the bank loan continues to be paid off. Income is up this year. Ron reported that the cash flow is tight, but the overall financial picture is better.

Marilyn Cooper gave the publications report. The new book, *Island Life*, came out in December and is selling very well. A second new book, *A View From the Wolf's Eye*, by Candy Peterson is just out and selling well.

Liz Valencia gave the state of the park report for Isle Royale. One main focus for the last couple of years has been the wolf/moose 50th anniversary planning. Liz thanked IRKPA for all they do. Liz discussed fuel costs and the park's agreement with the Department of Energy. There will be an energy analysis conducted at the park in August. Planning continues on the new visitor center in Houghton. It has received congressional support. The park service centennial will be in 2016. Liz reported additional staff was hired this summer due to the centennial initiative fund cycle. A new visitor center in Rock Harbor might be able to be funded through the centennial funding cycle. Liz reported that visitation is down, and the Wenonah has not been running yet this summer.

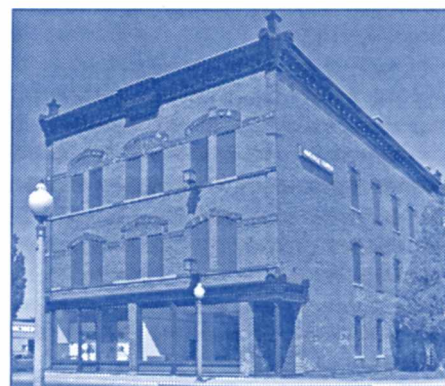
In keeping with the theme for the weekend, Ron Eckoff presented a program about his many years as an Earthwatch volunteer with the Isle Royale wolf/moose program.

Following the program, a whitefish and brats picnic was held on the waterfront.

Rehabilitation of Keweenaw's Union Building

For over 80 years, more than twenty fraternal groups like the Free and Accepted Masons or the Independent Order of Odd Fellows held regular meetings in Calumet's Union Building. These groups provide a picture of the village's social landscape, including the different ethnicities, religious denominations, and social classes that made up the community. By the time Calumet & Hecla closed its doors in 1969, the downturn in area mining had forced many residents to leave for opportunities elsewhere. Many fraternal lodges consolidated, while others closed altogether. In 1978, an area resident purchased the Union Building, using it for both a residence and business. Lack of routine maintenance over the years caused deterioration.

In 1999, the National Park Service purchased the Union Building with the long-range goal of making it a visitor facility. Keweenaw National Historical Park completed the first phase of the building's rehabilitation by stabilizing and restoring its exterior in 2005. This year,



The Union Building in downtown Calumet today.

the park received funding to begin planning the interior rehabilitation. Deciding how to restore the various rooms and determining the best locations for rest rooms, an interior stairway and an elevator for accessibility is part of the planning process. Kirk Associates, LLC in association with Smith Group, the architectural firm working on the project, held a Value Analysis Study of various alternatives proposed for the architectural component of the interior rehabilitation. The report from this meeting is currently being finalized. In addition to the planning efforts, a separate project to restore the steam heating system in the building is underway.

Concepts for exhibits and a visitor orientation area are also being developed. Krister Olmon, Inc. was selected as the exhibit planning and design contractor from the National Park Service Indefinite Quantities Contract. An exhibit design charette was held with staff from the park, Harpers Ferry Design Center, Midwest Region and Krister Olmon, Inc. to discuss park stories and themes and potential materials for information and displays. In late October, a Value Analysis of proposed alternatives for exhibit treatment will be held. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m. at KNHP Headquarters to allow for comment by interested parties.

With additional funding, the actual work on the interior can begin. If all goes well, this historic building will open its doors to the public in 2011 or 2012. Visitors will then have a place to reflect on the connection between mining companies, communities and people, as well as the role of Keweenaw copper mining in our heritage.

For more information on the Union Building project visit:

www.nps.gov/kewe/parkmgmt/union-buildingplanning.htm.

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Summer 09 Isle Royale Workshops

IRKPA will be offering our members two workshops on Isle Royale this coming summer.

Janet Marr will lead another of her very popular botany workshops on the island from June 15 – 20. Janet is a botanist with many years of research on Isle Royale. She is the co-author of our recent book, *Island Life*. Cost for the workshop, with instruction, transportation, and all meals provided is \$600. Participation is limited to 12 people and registration is open immediately.

Our second and new workshop is an island photography workshop offered by professional photographer and IRKPA president Bob Guiliani. Bob and his wife Linda are owners of Guys & Dolls Photography in Clare, MI. Bob's special area of interest is nature photography. Examples of his work can be seen on his website, www.guphoto.com.

This workshop will be held from June 19 – 24. Instruction and transportation are provided for \$500. Participation is limited and registration is open immediately. Members wishing to attend both workshops can do so for a reduced fee of \$1,050.

Design a Logo for IRKPA

The Isle Royale Natural History Association has changed its name to the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association, and we need a new logo. The change reflects the changed mission of the association, which now serves as the cooperating association for both Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historic Park.

We would like to engage our members in helping us with this change, so we are inviting you to submit a design for a new logo. The logo must be appropriate for use on publications (books, pamphlets, newsletters), in advertisements, and on stationery. It must be able to be reproduced in two colors, although it can include a version in more than two colors.

**Designs should be submitted digitally
by November 15 to Jill Burkland
jburkland@irnha.org.**

The winning logo will be chosen by the IRKPA board and announced in November. The prize is \$100.

The winning design will be the property of IRKPA and may be modified for use.

Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks 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

IRKPA 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
Jean Bjorseth, Anita Campbell,
Ron Eckoff, Michael George,
Gary Pethe, Michael Thomas

Staff

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