

Wolf's Eye



ISLE ROYALE & KEWEENAW PARKS ASSOCIATION

2009 No. 3



Zebra mussels assessment

Zebra mussels, currently found in many Great Lakes ports, have finally invaded Isle Royale National Park. Divers conducting scheduled assessments of underwater resources found what appeared to be a zebra mussel population on the west side of the island in Washington Harbor in mid-September. Additionally, a

single mussel was found at the east end of the park. Park officials are verifying that it is indeed zebra mussels, as its close relative quagga mussels would be worse. Quagga mussels, which can apparently tolerate colder and deeper water, are currently disrupting the food web in Lake Michigan and are suspected as a primary factor in waterfowl die-offs in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Containing the population and preventing the spread to inland lakes, other bays and harbors around the island, and world class cultural resources such as many of the shipwrecks around the island, will be a priority for the Park.

Isle Royale National Park is unique in the Great Lakes in that it has some of the largest remaining populations of native mussels in its inland lakes. It is too soon to determine what actions the Park will take that may affect boaters or recreationists as they assess the extent of this invasion. Except for the single mussel at the east end of the park, preliminary dives on other docks have not found zebra mussels but a complete assessment will not be finished until later this fall. The Park has been aware of the threat of invasive species in the Great Lakes and has structured fishing and boating regulations to help prevent colonization of the waters within Park boundaries, and worked on closing the pathways of aquatic nuisance species. Park Superintendent Phyllis Green stated: "We will be aggressive in trying to eradicate this population and protect our inland lakes. Quagga mussels in Lake Michigan are collapsing the food web in a 5 year time span. Our inland lakes and fisheries have been healthy and naturally evolving without invasive species since glacial times and protecting them is a priority. We are fortunate that we have excellent users who care about the Park. Recent data from researchers studying the spread of spiny water fleas show our voluntary prevention methods are working extremely well at the Park for that species. We will review what, if any, additional measures are needed to contain the mussel invasion. We are at the end of the aquatic invaders pipeline, and we need to work together to turn off the spigot if we are to protect all the waters of the Great Lakes and ensure the preservation of National Park resources."

Currently the park has removed all visible specimens and will be stepping up monitoring for next year. Populations of zebra and quagga mussels are not expected to do as well in Lake Superior because the cold water shortens their breeding season and there are marginal levels of calcium and magnesium. These minerals are essential for juvenile mussels to acquire, solidify their shells, and become adults. The marginal habitat of Duluth Harbor was infested within 2 years after the introduction of zebra mussels into the Great Lakes. This port receives about 700-900 freighters per year from the U.S. and Canada and most of these have traveled throughout the Great Lakes. The initial population remained at very low numbers for 5-6 years before population

expansion spread mussels across the harbor.

This situation could occur at Isle Royale as well unless we are aggressive in monitoring and containment. Park management will monitor temperature and water quality parameters over the next few months to assess whether conditions exist to sustain a population. The mussels that were manually removed will be analyzed to determine if the population in Washington Harbor is reproductively active. An inter-agency working group will be convened throughout the winter to determine appropriate management actions over the next few years as the park attempts to prevent the damage these non-native mussels are capable of causing.

Isle Royale is one of the last places in the Great Lakes with large populations of native mussels, both in its inland lakes and its nearshore Lake Superior waters. Introduction of dreissena species (these include zebra mussels) into Isle Royale waters not only threatens native mussels but would generate severe impacts to all levels of the aquatic food web. The effects of dreissena species infestations in the Great Lakes are well-documented. Preventing their introduction into inland lakes is critical.

ISLE ROYALE BIRDING

A recent article in Audubon Magazine listed Isle Royale as one of the 12 best national parks for bird watching! In the September issue, Kenn Kaufman says "When I started traveling as a bird-crazed teenager, I gravitated to the national parks. Besides America's most magnificent landscapes, I found birds galore; from the eiders of Acadia to the owls of Yosemite, from lordly wood storks in the Everglades to tiny Arctic warblers in Denali, I was never disappointed. And you won't be either. Here are a dozen of my personal favorite parks for birding."

In addition to the sites listed above, Kaufman includes Saguaro NP in Arizona, Rocky Mt. NP in Colorado, Glacier in Montana, Cuyahoga Valley in Ohio, Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina, Big Bend in Texas, Grand Teton in Wyoming and Isle Royale.

An excerpt from his comments on Isle Royale birding:

"At dawn in early summer, the spruce forests and meadows echo with the plaintive whistled songs of white-throated sparrows, the varied trills of winter wrens, and the haunting whistles of hermit and Swainson's thrushes. The chants of ovenbirds and mourning warblers complete the chorus. Along the trails through the cool conifer groves you might encounter an inquisitive band of gray jays, or a black-backed woodpecker tapping on a dead spruce. Pileated woodpeckers lurch through the trees with occasional burst of wild staccato laughter, and a hoarse croaking in the sky may reveal a pair of common ravens soaring overhead. Isle Royale has a healthy nesting population of common loons, both along its outer edges and on its interior lakes, and their mournful wailing and yodeling provides a little night music that fits perfectly with the wilderness surroundings."

Isle Royale: A Researcher's Paradise

Most IRKPA members have heard about the Isle Royale wolf/moose study that has been ongoing on the island for over fifty years. Some of you may recall that IRKPA provides funding for an ongoing beaver survey on the island, and that the island loons have been studied for several years. But few people know the range and depth of research being conducted on Isle Royale.

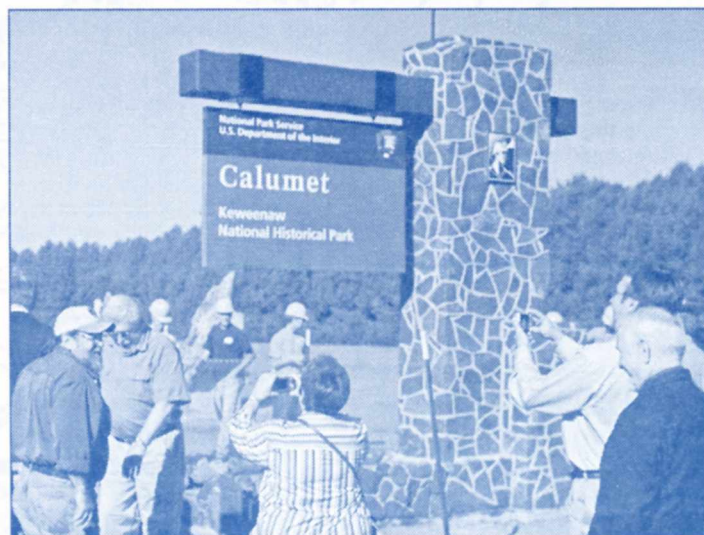
Twenty-two different NPS research permits were issued for studies on Isle Royale in 2008. They covered most every aspect of flora, fauna, air, water, and soil. Here is listing:

- An Assessment of lake trout populations in MI waters of Lake Superior, Shawn Sitar
- Biomonitoring Prospects for diatoms and paleolimnology in the Western Great Lakes National Parks, Mark Edlund
- Coaster Brook Trout Assessment at Isle Royale, Henry Quinlan
- Common Loon population monitoring, Joseph Kaplan
- Invasive status and ecological impacts of exotic zoo plankter in Great Lakes Parks, Charles Kerfoot
- Forest Inventory and Analysis, Mark Majewsky
- Ecological studies of wolves and moose on Isle Royale, Rolf Peterson
- Infusion of coaster Brook Trout Gametes from Tobin Harbor, Isle Royale National Park to Maintain Hatchery Brood Stock, Henry Quinlan
- Instrumentation of Isle Royale Ferry, Ranger III: Co2 measurement on Lake Superior, Noel Urban
- Long-distance pollen immigration into a highly isolated island population of northern red oak in Isle Royale National Park, Rodney Robichaud
- Monitoring bioaccumulative contaminants. Bill Route
- Phylogeography and Pleistocene History of the Solidago simplex species complex: Assessing Patterns of Migration, Disjunction and Endemism in North America, Jess Peirson
- Population biology of the dragonfly Aetna jounce, Josh van Bus Kirk
- Population Ecology and Microevolution of the Chorus Frog, David Smith
- Predation risk and habitat selection in culturally significant herbivores of the boreal forest, Brain McLaren
- Soil Survey of Isle Royale National Park, Lawrence Carey
- Spatial Patterns of Floristic Units of the National Vegetation Classification, Chris Lea

- Study of Arctic-Great Lakes Disjuncts at Isle Royale National Park, Joan Edwards
- Summer Vegetation Survey – Moose Foraging Behavior, Rolf Peterson
- Taxonomic survey of algae from lakes and aquatic ecosystems of the Royale National Park, Christopher Donar
- U.S. Great Lakes colonial Water bird Survey: 2007-2009. Francesca Cuthbert
- Water Quality monitoring of island lakes, Joan Elias.

The Investigator's Annual Report (IAR) is the process and database the National Park Service uses to document and track research accomplishments pertaining to natural resource and social science studies. For a complete listing, see the following website:

<https://science.nature.nps.gov/research/ac/search/iars>



Park Sign Erected

Keweenaw National Historical Park unveiled the first park entrance sign in June with park movement organizers, Keweenaw Heritage Sites representatives, community supporters, and local dignitaries on hand to participate in the occasion. All in attendance, including the park's first superintendent Bill Fink and present superintendent Jim Corless, joined forces to roll up the construction fence, symbolizing the beginning of the transformative period when this unique partnership park starts to offer visitors and the Copper Country community a more traditional national park experience.

Superintendent Corless emphasized that the various elements that comprise Keweenaw NHP, including community organizations, private businesses, homeowners, local governments, the Keweenaw Heritage Sites, the Keweenaw NHP Advisory Commission, and the National Park Service are working together to provide a cohesive national park experience, and that all are part of this unique national park.

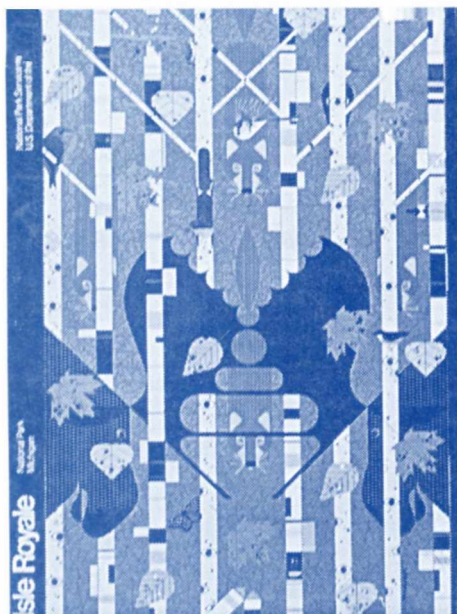
Corless recognized the efforts of Landscape Architect Steve DeLong and Stonemason Steve D'Agostino respectively for the design and crafting of the sign structure, which mirrors the construction methods of the C&H craftsmen that built the adjacent structures.

National Park Visitation Up

America's national parks are seeing more visitors in 2009 than a year earlier, according to visitation information collected by the National Park Service.

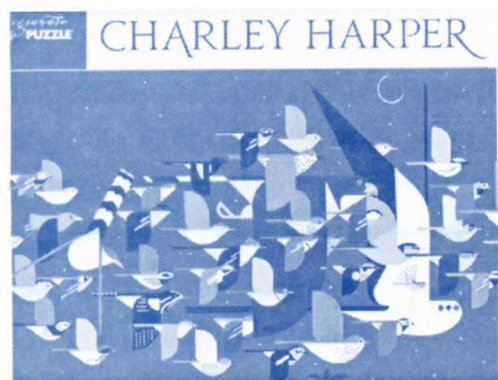
In the first half of 2009, national park units experienced 127,728,898 visits, an increase of nearly 4.5 million visits over the same period in 2008. In June alone, visitation to national parks increased by over 718,000 visits between 2008 and 2009.

Do some early holiday shopping for new books, DVD, CD, poster, puzzle, and Christmas tree ornament and help support Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association!!



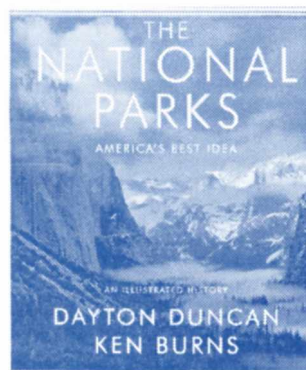
Isle Royale Poster by Charley Harper

This old favorite is back! Charles Harper is now deceased and there is renewed interest in his work. Charley Harper's wonderful painting of Isle Royale flora and fauna has been reprinted in a limited edition by the Government Printing Office. This is the large (29" x 39") format. This will be the final printing of this wonderful poster. **\$29.95**



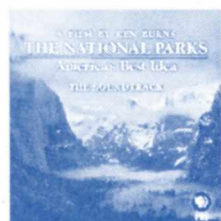
Charley Harper Bird Puzzle

Harper's "Mystery of the Missing Migrants" painting has been made into this 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle. Includes a key identifying each bird pictured. **\$17.95**



The National Parks: America's Best Idea

In this evocative and lavishly illustrated narrative, Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan delve into the history of the park idea, from the first sighting by white men in 1851 of the valley that would become Yosemite and the creation of the world's first national park at Yellowstone in 1872, through the most recent additions to a system that now encompasses nearly four hundred sites and 84 million acres. Hardcover, 403 pages, with 440 color and black-and-white illustrations, and a removable full-color map. **\$50.00**



Nearly a decade in the making, the six-part documentary series is a breathtaking journey through the nation's most spectacular landscapes and a celebration of the people - famous and unknown - who fought to save them for future generations to treasure. DVD. Color, black and white, approximately 12.5 hours. **\$99.95**

The soundtrack CD features 20 selections from a variety of artists including: Peter Ostoushko, Al Petteway, Bobby Horton, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, and may more. **\$15.95**

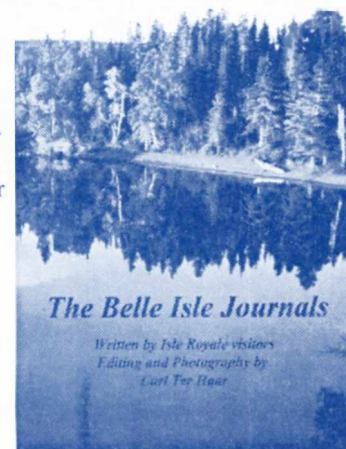
Rock of Ages Ornament

Gold-edged porcelain ornament with image of the Rock of Ages Lighthouse on the front and information on the ROA Light on the back. 4" diameter with red ribbon, comes boxed. The first of a series. **\$12.95**



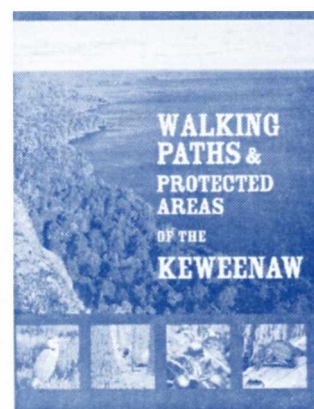
The Belle Isle Journals

In 2002, Dave Herbst, the Belle Isle volunteer campground host, put spiral bound notebooks in all the campground shelters with the following message: "Welcome to Belle Isle Campground! We hope your stay here is an enjoyable one. Please use this notebook to express your thoughts, feelings and concerns about Belle Isle and in general, your stay on Isle Royale." This book contains some of those journal entries made by Isle Royale visitors. Beautiful color photos illustrating scenic Isle Royale and its surrounding Lake Superior waters are provided by the Editor, Carl Ter Haar. 21 pages. **\$10.95**



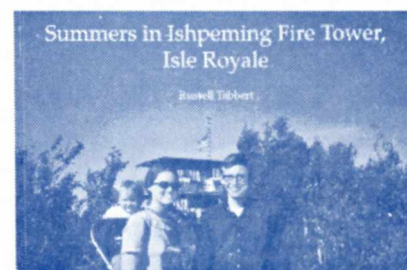
Walking Paths and Protected Lands of the Keweenaw

A lovely little guide to some of the most beautiful walkways in the Keweenaw. Directions, descriptions, and history of 22 protected areas, illustrated with maps and photos for those who wish to experience the Keweenaw from off the beaten trail. 80 pages, full color. Edited by Joan Chadde. **\$14.95**

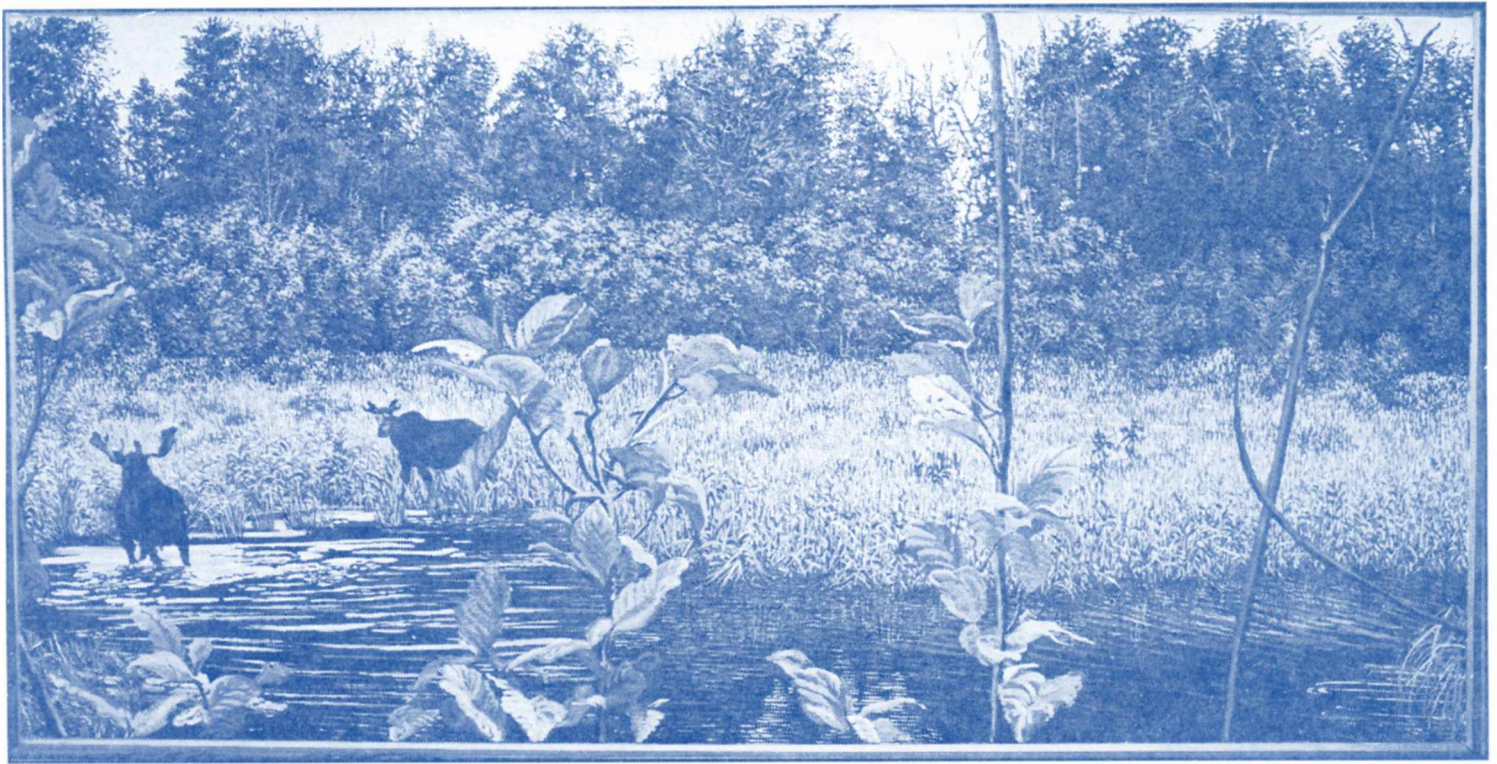


Summers in Ishpeming Fire Tower, Isle Royale

Russell Tabbert's memoir of summers 1965 - 1967 spent as a fire lookout at Isle Royale National Park. Tabbert and his wife, both graduate students, were joined in their tiny lookout home the third summer by their daughter in their tiny fire tower home. 64 pages, color photos. (Mr. Tabbert has generously donated 50 copies of this book to assist in our fund-raising efforts.) **\$12.95**



Order the above items on our website at www.irkpa.org or order by phone at 800-678-6925



Raffle to Benefit Education and Research at Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks

Two-time Isle Royale Artist in Residence Judith Corning has donated her oil painting “Moose Near Minong Mine” to the association to assist in our fund-raising efforts. This 46.5” x 22” painting captures in intricate detail two moose browsing the swampy area near Minong Mine — a sight familiar to many Isle Royale hikers and paddlers. It is framed in a simple hand-made light wood frame. It is valued at \$2,000.

A full-color image can be seen on our website at www.irkpa.org

Corning grew up in Wisconsin and earned a B.S. at the U. of Wisconsin, Madison. She later studied art at California College of Arts and Crafts where she acquired a B.F.A. and an M.F.A. Her work has been included in The Christian Science Monitor and Art in California magazine and exhibited internationally, but she says that her favorite honor has been her residencies at Isle Royale.

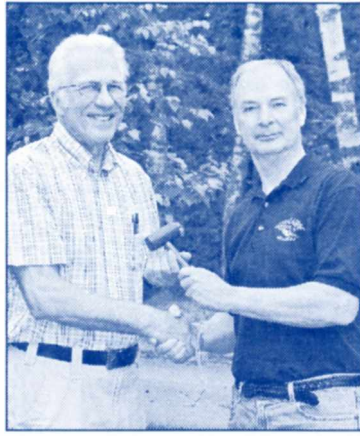
Only 500 tickets will be sold!!

Tickets are available now by phone (800-678-6925)
or at the Houghton Visitor Center. Cost is \$10 each or three for \$25.
The drawing will be held in Houghton on 12/15/09—just in time to make a
wonderful Christmas present for you or someone on your gift list.

(MI License # R0209)

Board Changes

We welcome our newest board members, Sandy Wilhoit and Ed Sheridan. Sandy, who was elected in July, is known to many of us from her many years of service on the IRKPA Membership and Fundraising Committee. She is from Edwardsburg, Michigan where she has her own tour company.



Ed is a retired history teacher and school superintendent from Winter, WI. He and his wife spend part of every year at their second home on the Keweenaw Peninsula. He has been appointed by the board to fill a position left open by Brian Bergson, who has resigned his position in order to help care for his ailing mother. We also say goodbye and thanks to long-time board member and past president Gary Pethe who has completed his second term on the board and has recently moved to Southport, NC.

Our new board president is Ron Eckoff (shown above accepting the gavel from current president Bob Guiliani.) Ron has been on the IRKPA board since 2005 and has served as treasurer for the past two years. He is a retired Public Health Dept. doctor from Cumming, Iowa.

Executive Director, Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association

After 13 years at the helm of the Association, Director Jill Burkland will be retiring in April 2010. The IRKPA Board of Directors will begin the search for a new director soon. A description of the position is given below. For more information contact Anita Campbell or Jill Burkland.

The position of Executive Director of the cooperating association for Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park is multifaceted, involving a great deal of responsibility and independence. The Executive Director oversees all the work of the association, supervises the staff, works with the National Park Service for the two parks, and reports to the Board of Directors.

Areas of responsibility include: overseeing all aspects of production of educational products (books, pamphlets, cards, t-shirts); writing the member newsletter, listserve notices to members, and articles for the park newspapers; selecting products for sale and overseeing retail sales in park visitor centers and online; writing grant proposals; planning and executing fundraising and membership campaigns; and compiling budgets.

The ideal candidate for this position should be self-motivated, good at multi-tasking, and able to work with a variety of people and agencies. Bachelor's degree required.

Experience with non-profit organizations, grant writing, and fundraising is very desirable. The position is full-time, 12 months a year, with two weeks vacation. Salary range would be \$30,000-\$36,000 and is negotiable dependent upon qualifications.

2009 Annual Meeting

The fifty-second annual meeting of the Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association, (aka Isle Royale Natural History Association) was held on Saturday, July 25, 2009 at Keweenaw National Historical Park Headquarters in Calumet, MI.

Bob Guiliani, President, introduced board members and NPS staff in attendance and announced the results of this summer's board election. Sandra Wilhoit from Edwardsburg, MI was elected by a vote of the membership. Outgoing board member Gary Pethe was recognized for his many years of service.

Jill Burkland, Executive Director reported that IRKPA membership stood at 850, which was down 90 members from summer 2008. Forty-eight people had become new members between Oct. 2008 and July 2009, and total dues for the year to date were \$27,000.

She also reported that the Association's endowment fund with the Keweenaw Community Foundation was up to \$103,000 and that \$10,760 had been raised in donations for the year to date, including \$1000 in donations for the Bob Linn Scholarship Fund.

Ron Eckoff, Treasurer, summarized the state of the finances as of the end of fiscal year 2008. IRKPA ended the year with a profit of \$20,735. Aid to Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks for 2008 was \$16,759. Total assets were \$159,098 and liabilities were \$37,807.

Michael George, Chair of the Publications and Marketing committee reported on excellent sales of IRKPA's latest publications, *Island Life* and *View from the Wolf's Eye*, which were largely responsible for the 2008 profits. It was hoped that the next publication *Exploring Michigan's Historic Copper Country*, would be out by the time of the meeting, but funding problems have delayed that publication until summer 2010.

Jim Corless, Superintendent of Keweenaw National Historical Park, summarized some of the highlights of the year at his park and Betsy Rossini, Asst. Superintendent at Isle Royale, gave the report for that park.



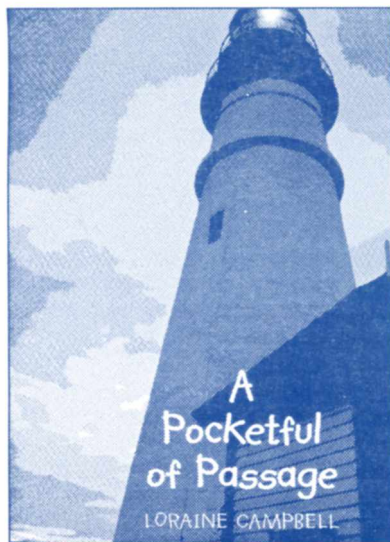
IRKPA members and park staff enjoyed a tasty picnic at Calumet Waterworks Park after the meeting. Shown above: Betsy Rossini, Mike and Karen George, and Judy Albee.

IN MEMORY

IRKPA has learned of the passing of Lynette (Lynne) Smith, wife of Tom Smith. Tom was a seasonal interpreter at Isle Royale for several years and was a founding member of the Isle Royale Natural History Association. Lynne and Tom shared many wonderful vacations together on Isle Royale. Mike George, IRKPA board member and friend of the Smiths, said of Lynne, "She had a deep and passionate love for Isle Royale and the natural world and whenever I had the opportunity to be with her and Tom the conversation would always lead to when each of us was going back to the "Island".

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Isle Royale Book Chosen to Represent Michigan

A book about Isle Royale's Passage Island lighthouse, *Pocketful of Passage*, was selected by the Michigan Center for the Book (a division of the state library) to represent the State of Michigan at the 2009 National Book Festival in Washington D.C. This annual event celebrates literacy. The festival was initiated nine years ago by First Lady Laura Bush and is sponsored by the Library of Congress. This year's event was hosted by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama on the National Mall on September 26th. *Pocketful of Passage* author Loraine Campbell attended the event.

Every year each state library selects one book that depicts some aspect of their state and that is written by an author from their state to be featured at the festival.

Pocketful of Passage was chosen by the selection committee

because they felt strongly that lighthouses are an important part of Michigan's culture, history and landscape. The story is based on the true memories of Annie Bowen Hoge, whose father served as an assistant keeper at Passage Island Light on Lake Superior during the late 1930s and early 1940s. While "*Pocketful*" is listed as a book for youth, adults enjoy its universal appeal.

Pocketful of Passage is for sale in park visitor centers and on the web at www.irkpa.org

Online Wolf's Eye:

Two hundred Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association members will be receiving this issue of Wolf's Eye online. Their copy will be a duplicate of this print copy, complete with photographs. In so doing, they will save both paper and IRKPA printing and mailing costs. If you would like to receive your next issue online, just send us a note at jburkland@irkpa.org or phone us at 800-678-6925.



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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.

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