



# Isle Royale

## NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

### A REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

There comes a time each year (for most of us, all too often at the Christmas-New Year period) that publishers of periodicals, and secretaries of societies and associations reach out with a barrage of paper to their subscribers and membership pleading for annual dues money. It is my firmest wish that this could be dispensed with, but evidently no such fortune is with us and so this is my plea for annual dues payment to the Isle Royale Natural History Association. Before getting down to the strictly financial business at hand, however, it is my thought that you would like to hear about the latest thinging concerning the publications program with which most of you are directly concerned.

The Wolf's Eye publications began in January, 1957, as a newsletter to Park employees and others interested in Isle Royale National Park. The initial attempt was to publish this newsletter once each month -- which we did for one year. The equipment at hand was the Park's mimeograph machine and a privately owned 5"x8" letterpress. The covers were produced on the letterpress and the inside by mimeograph. The first break from strictly gossip-type of news was made during the first year when we published a special report on Isle Royale fishing by Stanley Sivertson and a special report called "The Life of Lone Tree" by yours truly. In 1958 we acquired an offset lithographic press for which we paid \$67.70 per month (for goodness knows how long) until the price of \$975.00 was met. We knew nothing about how to use this thing, but eventually by trial and error and several volumes on the subject it has gotten around to doing a fair job.

The only trouble is that it began to take a considerable amount of time to prepare offset plates and do the printing -- with the oft result that printing was done in a hurry leading to a poor product. Our thinking evolved, finally, to this: 1) printed material should be done as well as possible, taking the time to do it properly and 2) the subject material printed should be of lasting value -- otherwise don't take up valuable time bothering ourselves and others with it.

Subsequently, we've reduced the number of issues of Wolf's Eye to four per year to comply with this thinking. The last 3 issues (Volume 4, Numbers 1, 2, 3), we believe, have shown our desire to improve the quality and judging from the number of you who have written us complimentary phrases concerning them we believe that we're on the right track. Another reason why we think we are on the right track is that these issues appeal to visitors at the Park and we can sell more copies! Mundane, but practical.

The single-interest type of issue does, however, bring about other problems which are also important and should be solved: 1) Until last winter there remained no newsletter for employees at the Park. This, however, was solved by the initiation of "Northern Lights", a strictly Park employee newsletter; and 2) There is a need, not currently filled, to communicate among members of the Association -- the old "Isle Royalty" column of the "old" Wolf's Eye is needed again, at least once a year. To take care of this major lack, there is a special provision in this newsletter to allow each of YOU to send us news of YOU and others of the Isle Royalty about whom you may have news. It seems appropriate to have this type of Association Newsletter in the spring when no one has heard from one another for the long winter months and when everyone is getting fired-up to return to "The Island". So -- give us news of yourself on the enclosed form and we'll do our best to print or mimeograph or something a newsletter for spring.

Backing up a moment to Wolf's Eye: So many publications other than Wolf's Eye have been creeping up (for example, the Guide to the Stoll Trail and the annual Bulletin) that somewhere along the line we found ourselves calling the machinery and the organization involved in publications by the name "Wolf's Eye Press". This is not (or has not been) a formal title, but apparently it is destined to become one. A list of the pieces of equipment used by the Wolf's Eye Press may be enlightening and will serve to explain some of the costs involved:

1. 5"x8" letterpress (still in use for small jobs)
2. 10"x16" offset lithographic press (the workhorse of the outfit)
3. 8"x10" process camera (first attempt at making a camera -- needs retirement)
4. 24"x24" process camera (2nd homemade camera -- permanently installed at Davidson Island)
5. 24"x24" process camera (under construction for use at Houghton)
6. copy board with copy lights

7. plate exposure frame
8. ultra violet lamps
9. IBM typesetter (produces the type you're reading here)
10. binding machine (an elaborated stapler)
11. a roomful of type, chemicals, plates, paper, ink, scotch tape, etc., etc., etc.

Numbers 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are purchased items, the others are homemade. Numbers 1, 3, 9, and 10 are personally owned, the others belong to the association.

The costs to the Association for equipment have not been exceedingly great -- say, roughly, \$1500.00. If all the equipment listed above were purchased new, a modest estimate would be \$6,885.00. The cost of paper and other supplies isn't becoming any less these days. A stack of paper which is the bare minimum for 1961 Wolf's Eye issues was ordered and received this last fall at a cost of \$120.00. Therefore, it becomes obvious that we're approaching big business -- at least, to my small way of thinking.

Our publications for the coming year are, surprisingly, fairly well lined-up. The manuscripts are actually in hand for all but one of the following, listed here because I think you'll be interested:

1. A Guide to Rock Harbor (this is the December 1960 issue -- Vol. 4, No. 4 -- which won't be ready until February 1961)
2. Wilderness Trails (for Vol. 5, No. 1 -- which is due in March 1961 -- a description of all trails within the Park)
3. Checklist of Flora (for Vol. 5, No. 2 -- due in June 1961 -- a companion piece to the Vertebrate issue, Vol. 4, No. 3 -- a list of all higher plants growing on Isle Royale)
4. Shipwrecks of Isle Royale and Vicinity (for Vol. 5, No. 3 -- due in August 1961 -- a description and photos of shipwrecks along the shores of Isle Royale. Still being written)

In addition to these are the following special publications which, because of their size and scope, will be sold outside of the regular Wolf's Eye series.

1. The Wildflowers of Isle Royale National Park (includes over 100 wildflowers -- all illustrated)
2. The Orchids of Isle Royale National Park (text, keys, photos and drawings of all orchid species on Isle Royale)
3. Trees and Forests of Isle Royale National Park (text, keys and drawings of all trees, shrubs and forest types occurring on Isle Royale)

Because each booklet in the Wolf's Eye series has become more specialized and larger, Wolf's Eye will sell for 50¢ per copy. The special publication series will sell for \$1.00 per copy.

There are several items which we publish for which no amount is charged (give-away-items):

1. Bulletin of Services and Accommodations. This is mailed with Park literature in answer to all requests for information. 10,000 copies are planned for 1961
2. Your Voyage series. In 1960 these were produced only for the Ranger III -- describing the trip to the Park. Planned for 1961 are similar leaflets for the Isle Royale Queen II, the Voyageur and the Hiawatha. About 2000 copies each will be produced.
3. What you can do at Windigo. Published in 1958 and given only to those visitors arriving in the Windigo area.

Activities other than the publications program include the following:

1. Sales of appropriate books and maps at the Park
2. Yet to materialize -- sales of color transparencies at the Park

Well, I've rambled along here long enough. Mostly the report is meant to inform you of our current and hopeful activities. Also, of course, it is meant to spur everyone on to send in their \$2.00 annual dues. Naturally some of you have paid-up for 1961 and you folks can overlook this angle of the report.

Those of you who feel inclined to become Life Donors with donations of \$50.00 or more are certainly welcome -- this type of money will be used to further the activities of the Association. Should enough such moneys be forthcoming, our first step would be to have colored slide duplicates for sale this coming season. If not, this activity will have to be postponed until 1962.

Thank you very much for listening. And may I, on behalf of the Isle Royale Natural History Association, wish you a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Linn  
Executive Secretary

*written and mailed in December 1960.*