Exotic Insects Threaten Apostle Islands Forests

**MOST VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT APOLLOLE ISLANDS** National Lakeshore, but in this case we are making an exception. Much of the Apostle Islands are covered in a mixed coniferous/hardwood forest containing a variety of hardwood species including birch, maple, oak, aspen, and ash. Some of these trees face an immediate threat from two destructive non-native insects that are expanding their territory in our direction.

The emerald ash borer is a wood-boring beetle that is attacking North American ash trees. Adult ash borers are a bright, metallic, coppery-green color. They are about one-third of an inch long, making them difficult to spot in tree leaves. The larval, or immature, form of the pest destroys live ash trees by tunneling under the bark and eating the vascular tissue that supplies nutrients to the tree. Trees starve to death within three years after the vascular tissue is destroyed. This beetle was first identified near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. Within two years, more than 3000 square miles in southeast Michigan were infested and more than 5 million ash trees were dead or dying. The emerald ash borer has now spread to parts of Ontario, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

The gypsy moth is one of North America’s most devastating forest pests. It is known to feed on the leaves of hundreds of species of plants, but its most common hosts are oaks and aspen. The male gypsy moth is about one inch long and has brown wings with wavy markings. The female is slightly longer and has white wings with black markings. Only the males can fly. The adults mate in late July or early August and the female lays from 500 to 1000 eggs in a mass covered with velvety hairs from her body. The larvae (caterpillars) hatch in the spring. They climb to the treetops, spin a thread, and dangle from it waiting for a wind to help spread them through the forest. The caterpillars feed on leaves, shedding their skin 4 or 5 times as they grow before metamorphosing into adult form in mid summer. During gypsy moth “outbreaks,” the caterpillars defoliate trees. Several consecutive years of defoliation can kill the host trees. The gypsy moth was introduced in Massachusetts in the 1860s. Significant numbers were first found in the Apostle Islands in 2000. Monitoring traps are used to determine the location and size of gypsy moth populations in the park. Trapping results indicate that the tip of the Bayfield peninsula, Basswood and Stockton islands currently host the largest populations of gypsy moths.

North American forests have a lot to lose if emerald ash borers and gypsy moths continue to spread. The emerald ash borer has the potential to kill nearly all the ash trees in North America. Black ash is particularly common in Apostle Islands’ wetlands. Ash wood is used commercially for furniture, flooring, cabinets, tool handles, and baseball bats. Native Americans use ash wood for fish spears, snowshoe frames, sleds, cradleboards, bows, arrows, and canoees. Splints of black ash are highly preferred for basket making.

Transportation of firewood may be what brought gypsy moths to the Apostle Islands. It is the leading cause of spreading the emerald ash borer to new forests. To protect Apostle Islands’ forests from invasion by these destructive insects the National Park Service is prohibiting the transportation of firewood into the park or even between the islands (see sidebar). Please help us keep these unwelcome pests from reaching the islands and killing the trees that characterize our forests.
Paddling

Sea kayaks have become very popular for travel among the Apostle Islands. Information about kayak outfitters can be obtained by calling Apostle Islands National Lakeshore at 715-779-3397. Two free kayak launch points are located within the national lakeshore's mainland unit. Meyers Bay, located to the west of the NPS visitor center, has become one of Wisconsin's most popular kayak launch sites. Long term parking is located in the parking lot adjacent to the visitor center. Temporary parking for loading/unloading equipment is available.

Camping

Camping is available on 18 of the lakeshores' 21 islands and at one campsite on the mainland. Permits are required for all camping in the national lakeshore. The permit system allows campers to request campsites in advance. Individual campsites (for one to seven campers) can be reserved beginning one month before the start of the trip. A $15 nonrefundable administrative fee will be charged for processing the permit. Group campsites (for eight to 20 campers) can be reserved beginning one week in advance. The fee for processing group camping permits is $30.

Fishing and Hunting

Fishing opportunities include lake trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, and coho salmon. Summer fishing takes place in deep water, while lake trout being the most commonly targeted fish.合理的信息可以在我们的网站 www.nps.gov/apis/fishing.htm 上找到。

Sailing and Boating

The Apostle Islands' protected bays, public docks, pristine beaches, and natural beauty offer outstanding boating opportunities. Public docks are found on 13 of the islands in the national lakeshore. Space is reserved at some docks for National Park Service (NPS) vessels and excursion boats. The remaining space is available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Public boat launches are located in Ashland, Bayfield, Cornucopia, Little Sand Bay, Red Cliff, and Washburn. The cost is $5 at Bayfield, $5 at Little Sand Bay, $2 at Cornucopia, $5 at LaPointe, $5 at Washburn. The use of personal watercraft is not allowed within the boundaries of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

On both sides called “a small group of extremists.” A generous interpretation of the summer’s events would say a deeply caring community was debating what kind of a place it wants to be - the essence of American democracy, even if it pig a rough on the edges. A less charitable observer might charge us with additional evidence of the breakdown of American civility, where polarization has replaced social discussion.

Although the NPS didn’t initiate that debate, in the past four years, we’ve brought forward other challenging issues, from wilderness to snowmobiles, and more recently, user fees. We have been more candid and have shared more information than people are accustomed to from their government. We’ve held dozens of public meetings from Stockton Island to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore General Management Plan information is available at www.nps.gov/apis/gmp.htm

Madison and Milwaukee to share ideas and listen to concerns. Of each of these issues began amidst opposition and distrust, and each one ultimately turned around (though I must admit that fees have been more difficult than the other two topics combined). I’d like to believe that through that process, we’ve gained respect, if not always support and agreement. But despite the praises of the national magazine, I worry about civility and our collective ability to engage in difficult issues constructively. I’ve been called brilliant by people who agree with decisions I’ve made and names I won’t print here by those who do not. The letters I treasure most, though, are the ones that say that the writer disagrees with the park’s position on an issue but appreciates the chance to participate in an open and constructive dialogue.

I hope that the park can play a role in reminding people of some of the arts of democracy, and reinforcing the value of community. We will to listen better and provide more opportunities for people to engage in dialogue with this small branch of your government. We’ll try to do more to be both accountable and transparent in our decision. Hopelessly, openness builds understanding, understanding builds trust, and trust builds towards consensus. But we won’t always be able to satisfy everyone, as many as park finances continue to be stretched thinner each year. When we disagree, I hope we can do so in a way that is not disagreeable.

Let’s rejoice in Wallace Stegner’s celebration of the role of America’s national parks in our democratic system. National parks not only represent the best places in America; they can also be places where ideas are openly discussed with an engaged citizenry. Be part of it. Here.

This summer, we’ll be hosting a series of meetings relating to the park’s General Management Planning (GMP) for the next 15-20 years. A newsletter describing various planning options will be available in park visitor centers. We’ll be asking for your views on critical park issues, including lighthouse management, what to do when the existing private lease expires, wilderness management, non-wilderness recreational facilities, and mainland visitor centers and administrative facilities. It’s your chance to contribute to the long-term vision for this place we all love.

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Recreational User Fees Announced for 2007

On March 3, 2006, Superintendent Bob Krumenaker announced the National Park Service’s proposed recreational user fee program for 2007 at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Each year Apostle Islands National Lakeshore hosts 150,000 to 200,000 visitors who not only admire the scenery and the natural and cultural resources, but also use the 15 public docks, 64 campgrounds, 59 miles of hiking trails, 37 outbuildings, 3 visitor centers, and the 6 lighthouses that have been called, collectively, the “finest collection of historic lighthouses” in the country. It is increasingly difficult to maintain and care for these facilities. After adjusting for inflation, the park’s operating budget is 4% less in 2006 than it was in 2001. Nearly one in six work hours at the park are now accomplished by dedicated volunteers.

The park has undertaken a major effort to increase efficiencies, reduce costs, and be accountable for every dollar spent. Despite a reduction in hours worked by paid staff, personnel costs have increased from 85% to 88% of the park’s operating budget. This resulted in a $62,000 reduction in non-personnel funding between 2001 and 2004. Fewer dollars in the park’s budget translate to fewer services we can provide and less protection for the park’s scenery and resources.

Over the years Congress has established a variety of fee programs to enhance national park revenues and target these funds to help meet critical park needs. In 2004 Congress replaced previous fee directives with a new, comprehensive and more uniform fee structure, existing fees for camping, reservations will be replaced by a nightly fee. The Golden Age Passport (for U.S. citizens 62 or older) and Golden Access Passport (for U.S. citizens who are legally blind or permanently disabled) provide a 90% discount on federal recreational user fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, docking, parking, and tours.

Camping permits and interpretive program tickets may be purchased at NPS sites in Bayfield and Little Sand Bay. Self-service collection stations will be available at select mainland and island locations for purchase of parking and overnight docking permits. Parking and overnight docking will rely heavily upon self-registration. Some recreation user fees may be payable outside the park (e.g. at cooperating local marinas and businesses) to maximize visitor convenience.

In coordination with the park, the Friends of the Apostle Islands have launched a companion program this year for people to demonstrate their support for the park by purchasing a Voluntary Passport. See article on page 8 for details.

The NPS hosted three public meetings and a formal public comment period on the fee proposal during the spring of 2006. We reviewed the comments and have submitted a formal fee proposal to Washington for approval. The new fees will be implemented at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the spring of 2007. Information on fees is available at park headquarters in Bayfield as well as on line at www.nps.gov/apis/fees.htm. We appreciate your cooperation in implementing the new fees.

Planning a Visit (continued)

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<tr>
<th>Cruise Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Tour</td>
<td>3 hour nonstop cruise around Devils Island</td>
<td>10 am daily May 13-Oct. 15</td>
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<td>Stockton/Michigan Shuttle</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 hour camper shuttle to Oak Island</td>
<td>9:30 am by reservation only, July 1-Sep. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islander Lighthouse Cruise</td>
<td>2 hour nonstop cruise past Basswood &amp; Hermit Islands to Raspberry Island and back</td>
<td>2 pm daily, June 17 - Sep. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening Grand Tour</td>
<td>3 hour nonstop cruise around Devils Island</td>
<td>5:30 pm, Tue-Wed-Thur-Sat June 20-Sep. 2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5:30 pm, Fridays June 23-Aug. 25</td>
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User fees will be charged in 2007 for parking at Meyers Beach and overnight docking at public docks.

Proposed recreational user fees include:
- $0.20 per site per night
- $0.40 per boat per night
- $5-25 for special events

- Maintaining docks
- Maintaining and enhancing campgrounds, trails and picnic areas
- Preserving historic buildings and cultural landscapes
- Restoring habitat directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation
- Enhancing interpretive displays and tours
- Enhancing availability for emergency response

Specifically, initial fee dollars will be used to begin rehabilitation of campsites at Stockton Island, repair the Oak Island access trail, stabilize the historic Devils Island dock and boathouse, and reconstruct the historic Hokenson dock at Little Sand Bay.

Under the proposed recreational fee structure, existing fees for camping

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Call 800-323-7619 for Reservations

Hiking Trails
Hikers can enjoy more than 50 miles of maintained trails at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Here are a few highlights:

**Stockton Island Julian Bay Trail**
- Start: Presque Isle Visitor Center
- Length: 0.4 mile one way
- A short walk through the forest, past a bog overlook, to the beach at Julian Bay.

**Raspberry Island Sandspit Trail**
- Start: Raspberry Island Sandpit
- Length: 0.75 mile one way
- An easy walk from the beach, through the old growth forest, to the Raspberry Island lighthouse.

**Sand Island Lighthouse Trail**
- Start: Sand Island East Bay Public Dock area
- Length: 2 miles one way
- The trail passes through an old farm field, along the beach at Justice Bay, and through a stand of old growth white pine trees in route to the lighthouse.

**Stockton Island Tombolo Trail**
- Start: Presque Isle campground
- Length: 2.8 miles one way
- Leaving the Quarry Bay trail 0.6 mile from the Presque Isle dock, this trail travels through forest and bog and then onto the beach ending at the Julian Bay trail. A lagoon outlet stream occasionally bisects the beach and may require hikers to wade across.

**Oak Island Overlook**
- Start: Oak Island Dock
- Length: 3.4 miles one way
- A gentle climb past the highest point in the Apostle Islands to an overlook 200 feet above the lake with a view of ten islands and the “Hole-in-the-Wall” sea arch.

**The Lighthouse Trail**
- Start: Meyers Beach parking area
- Length: 4.5 miles one way
- A paved road with cross driveways, through the forest, and along the cliffs of the park’s mainland unit. Several nice views of a natural bridge (not for foot travel) and the mainland sea caves are reached 2 - 2.5 miles from the trailhead. Hikers must use caution along cliff edges. The trail ends at a backcountry campsite.

**Basswood Island Loop Trail**
- Start: Cleaning up the hill from the public dock
- Length: 5.5 miles round trip
- The trail proceeds northwest across a ravine, then 1.75 miles to the McCloud-Bingham farm site. From there the trail follows an old logging road to the east shore, then turns south 2.25 miles to overlooks of the main brownstone quarry. From the quarry, the trail turns north for 1.5 miles to the dock clearing.
**Park News**

**Children’s Book Based on Apostle Islands Bears**

Park rangers have been telling campfire stories about black bears at Stockton Island for many years. Thanks to an author/artist from Bayfield, Wisconsin, the story of one of those bears has now been turned into a children’s book. “Skar’s Picnic...A Bear’s Tale” is a pop-up, lift-the-flap adventure book written and illustrated by Vicki Redenbaugh. The story is based on a large black bear with a characteristic scar on his rump that once frequented campgrounds on Stockton Island looking for food. Readers learn from Skar’s adventures why campers should store food properly and keep a clean campsite, and how they can help keep safe wildlife.

“Skar’s Picnic...A Bear’s Tale” was published by Eastern National, a not-for-profit partner of the National Park Service. The book is available for purchase at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Visitor Center in Bayfield or by calling 715-779-3397.

**Park Boats to be Powered by Biodiesel Fuel**

As part of its effort to incorporate sustainable practices in park operations, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore plans to use 20% biodiesel in its diesel powered boats starting this year. Biodiesel is the name of a clean burning alternative fuel, produced from domestic, renewable resources. Biodiesel contains no petroleum, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to create a biodiesel blend. It can be used in compression-ignition (diesel) engines with little or no modifications. Biodiesel is simple to use, biodegradable, non-toxic, and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics. Biodiesel can be made from soybean or Canola oils, animal fats, waste vegetable oils, or microalgae oils.

**Planning a Visit (continued)**

**GUIDED ACTIVITIES**

Park staff offer a variety of guided activities from June to September. Check at park visitor centers or bulletin boards for specific times, topics, and locations.

**Guided Lighthouse Tours**

Park staff may be available to conduct free guided tours of the lighthouses at Devils Island, Michigan, and Sand islands from mid-June to September. Tours will generally be available daily on request from about 9 am to 4:30 pm. Guided tours will NOT be available before 9 am or after 5 pm without prior arrangements.

A daily shuttle is scheduled to go from Bayfield to Michigan Island light (weather permitting) from June 30 to September 4 (see the cruise schedule on page 3). The Raspberry Island lighthouse will be closed until 2007 due to construction (see article on page 6). Call 715-779-3397 for information about tour availability.

**Campfire Programs**

Join park staff at the Presque Isle campfire circles at Stockton Island nightly from late June through Labor Day. The free talks last about 45 minutes and cover such topics as bears, wilderness, bears, shipwrecks, and did you mention...beans. Starting times may vary through the season.

**“Jewels on the Water” Celebrates the History, Beauty, and Stories of the Apostle Islands**

“These islands,” writes Jeff Rennicke of the Apostle, “reveal themselves slowly. No matter how you come here by sail or paddle, powerboat or on the excursion boat the Apostle cannot be taken in at all once or captured as easily as a postcard sunset. They are too much for that. There are stories among these islands, but they come slowly, one lifting fog, one wave, one island, one story at a time.” The stories of the Apostles do come slowly but they are worth the wait. A new book, the first pictorial history of the Apostles in nearly twenty years, seeks to capture the history, beauty, and magic of these islands in words and photographs.

The book, “Jewels on the Water: Lake Superior’s Apostle Islands” is a look at the human and natural history of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore – from the icy sweep of the glaciers that once carved the islands, to the island’s diverse wildlife, to the creation of the new Gaylord Nelson Wilderness. Published by the Friends of the Apostle Islands, and made possible by the generosity of Martin Hanson, the 308 page hardcover book features the writing of award-winning author Jeff Rennicke and more than 100 photographs from the lens of nationally-known photographer Layne Kennedy. “In the Apostle,” says Rennicke, “there is a story in every wave.” Lighthouses blinking in the dark, bear tracks etching a beach, the sounds of a fishing tug chugging through the morning mist and more, “Jewels on the Water: Lake Superior’s Apostle Islands”, celebrates them all in a book you will treasure almost as much as the islands themselves.

“Jewels on the Water: Lake Superior’s Apostle Islands” is available now for $35 at local shops, at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore headquarters, and through the Friends of the Apostle Islands website at www.friendsofapostleislands.org.

**Research Projects in 2006**

The National Park Service (NPS) will be working with a variety of partners to conduct studies in the Apostle Islands.

**Rare Plants**

A project to re-survey, digitally map, and photograph rare plant populations will be done this year. Comparing this year’s data with past inventories will help determine the status and trends of these species.

**Piping Plover**

Suitable habitat and food availability for the Federally Endangered piping plover will be surveyed in the islands. The park has the state’s only successful plover nest location.

**Natural & Cultural Disturbance History**

A project is in progress to identify and understand how various natural disturbances (such as windstorms, insects, and fires) and land uses (such as farming, logging, and quarrying) have collectively impacted the islands over time.

**Firewood**

This study will focus on measuring the amount of wood on the forest floor to determine whether or not the removal of wood for campfires is significantly impacting the local forest ecosystem.

**Contaminant Monitoring**

A long-term program to monitor chemical contaminant levels in eagles and herring gulls will begin this year as part of the NPS’s Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring program.

**Park News**

**Guest Lecture Series**

A grant from the Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore will fund the “Around the Archipelago” guest lecture series this summer. Three free presentations are scheduled on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore’s Bayfield visitor center.

**July 10**

Recreational Fishing in the Chequamegon Bay Area
Captain Roger Lapenter, of Angler’s All in Ashland, WI will describe the Smallmouth Bass fishery in Chequamegon Bay, and sport fishing around the Apostle Islands.

**July 17**

Nineteenth Century Painting and Photography and the National Parks
Terry Millikan of Duluth will show slides of artists’ works from major surveys of the west and discuss how this art influenced the development of the National Park Service.

**July 24**

“Don’t Have to Be a Weatherman”
Card Christenson of the National Weather Service explains that you can learn a lot about Lake Superior weather by watching the skies and observing the world around you.

**July 31**

The Lake & The Boss
Historian Bob Mackreth tells true stories of near-disasters among the Apostle Islands.

**August 7**

Wolves and Other Rare Mammals of Northern Wisconsin
Adrian Wydeven, Conservation Biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, reviews the status of these exciting creatures.

**August 14**

Spiders of the Apostles
Naturalist Matt Velter will give a powerpoint presentation on the inspiration of 8-legged inhabitants of the Apostles. Bring a live spider for identification before the program.

**August 21**

Beyond Earth Day
Gaylord Nelson’s daughter Tia Nelson discusses her father’s accomplishments, how far we’ve come since Earth Day, and how far we have to go.

**August 28**

Ojibwe History of the Apostle Islands
Damon Panek, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore’s Cultural Educator, traces the connection of the Ojibwe people to this region.

**Shoreline Stabilization continues at Outer Island**

Work will continue this year on a project to stop the bluff erosion that endangers the historic Outer Island light tower. This innovative project uses a European design to stabilize the shoreline. Layers of logs alternating with cuttings of shrubs such as willow, alder and dogwood will be built on top of the rock footing at the base of the slope. The logs help support the bank while native species of shrubs and trees imbed their roots as the wooden structures rot.

Continuing work at the Outer Island light station will close the buildings and may close the dock and grounds at the station to the public for part of the summer. The project is scheduled for completion in 2007.

**Jewels on the Water: Lake Superior's Apostle Island**

**Shoreline Stabilization work continues at the Outer Island light station.**

**Gypsy Moths**

Intensive monitoring for gypsy moths will continue on a number of islands in the park (see story on page 1). Gypsycheck, a biological control specific to gypsy moths, will be used on Basswood and Stockton islands to try to control increasing gypsy moth populations.

For further information on any of these projects, contact Branch Chief, Natural Resources Julie Van Stappen at julie_van_stappen@nps.gov.
Safety is Your Responsibility

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore encompasses more than 100 square miles of Lake Superior. After a lifetime of living and working around the lake, commercial fisherman Julian Nelson described it this way... “The lake is the boss. No matter how big you are or what kind of a boat you’ve got, the lake is still the boss. Mother Nature dictates a lot of things!” Visitors must be aware of the risks and hazards associated with the lake and island environments. Response times to areas on Lake Superior can be far greater than for similar distances on the mainland. The National Park Service will make reasonable efforts to respond in emergency situations, but the lake IS the boss. So be careful out there, because maybe we can save you, and maybe we can’t.

Emergencies
Call 715-779-3397 (day, NPS), or 715-773-6240 (night, Bayfield County Sheriff), or 715-779-3990 (night, U.S. Coast Guard), or 911 (land line only, NOT for cell phones).

Boating
The following precautions and regulations will help make a safe trip.
• Do not overload your boat.
• Use life jackets, also known as personal flotation devices (PFDs). A U.S. Coast Guard approved, wearable PFD must be provided for each person aboard any boat.
• All children under age 13 must wear PFDs while aboard recreational vessels underway except when in an enclosed cabin or below deck.
• Boat sober.
• Exhibit anchor lights from sunset to sunrise.
• Stay at least 100 feet from commercial fishing nets.
• Be wary of shoal areas and when beaching a boat. NPS and U.S. Coast Guard vessels provide towing only in emergency situations.
• Make sure your boat is equipped with: PFDs, paddles or oars, fire extinguisher, spare propeller and shear pin, compass and nautical charts, running lights, flashlight, what to wear, first-aid kit, radio, and an anchor with sufficient line.

Water
Well water is only available at Little Sand Bay, on Sand Island, and at Presque Isle on Stockton Island. Water from the lake should be boiled for two minutes or filtered through a good filter (0.4 microns post size) before use. This precaution eliminates many organisms including Giardia, a bacterium which causes an intestinal disorder.

Boating
Canoes should not be used for travel between the islands. Calm days may make canoes appear to be a practical means to explore island shorelines. Sea kayaks have become very popular for travel among the islands, but may be difficult for other boaters to see. Brightly colored kayaks clustered in a group offer greater visibility. Allow plenty of time to accomplish your intended route. Beginners should not try to cover more than ten miles in a day. Inform a friend or relative of your travel plans. Kayakers should use wet suits or dry suits when paddling in the Apostle Islands and carry a PFD for each person on board.

Paddlers should also pack such items as: a marine radio or cell phone, a first aid kit, extra paddle, sunscreen, insect repellent, compass, nautical charts, 50 feet of line, waterproof matches, dry storage containers, and provisions for at least one extra day.

Swimming
The average annual water temperature of Lake Superior is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, but on calm sunny summer days, water temperatures in the Apostle Islands’ protected shallow bays can climb into the 70s. There are no lifeguards in the national lakeshore. Swimming is done at your own risk. Swimming is not allowed within 100 feet of all harbors, public docks, and vessels secured to docks. Diving or jumping into the lake from the cliffs at Devils Island or the mainland sea caves is not permitted.

Paddling
The average annual water temperature of Lake Superior is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, but on calm sunny summer days, water temperatures in the Apostle Islands’ protected shallow bays can climb into the 70s. There are no lifeguards in the national lakeshore. Swimming is done at your own risk. Swimming is not allowed within 100 feet of all harbors, public docks, and vessels secured to docks. Diving or jumping into the lake from the cliffs at Devils Island or the mainland sea caves is not permitted.

Weather and Climate

What’s the Weather?

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Acephalous: winds of 30 to 40 knots with 6 to 12 foot seas are possible. In fall, warm lake waters intensify storms and strengthen winds, making small craft advisories (12-33 knots) and gale warnings (34-47 knots) more frequent. Many of the islands are more than five miles from shore, so boaters should check both the nearshore (within five miles of shore) marine forecast and the open waters forecast. Marine weather forecasts are broadcast on marine channels 1 - 10 and are available at ranger stations and visitor centers. NOAA’s National Weather Service forecast office in Duluth (http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh/marine.php) has both nearshore and open waters forecasts for Lake Superior as well as weather readings from the data buoy at Devils Island.

Black Bears
Islands like Stockton, Oak, and Sand host resident bears, but bears can swim to any of the Apostle Islands. Never approach a bear, even to take pictures. Keep at least 50 yards away. Never feed a bear. There are several ways to avoid a close encounter with a bear where you camp or picnic. Reduce food odors by washing dishes and cleaning your kitchen after cooking. Use minimal amounts of water to clean dishes and broadcast that wastewater on the ground at least 30 yards from camp. Do not keep food, garbage, or toiletries (such as toothpaste or soap) in your tent. Bearproof food lockers are provided at campsites on Basswood, Devils, Manitou, Oak, Sand, Stockton, and York islands. Food must be locked in the food lockers except during meals. Where food lockers are not provided, hang the food cache in a tree away from the tent and at least 12 feet from the ground and five feet from the trunk. Do not bury, scatter or try to burn food scraps. Bag garbage and pack it out. If you encounter a bear near a dock, campsite, or picnic area, use tone of voice and body posture to show you are in charge, yell and make noise until the bear leaves the area, then report the encounter to park staff.

Insects and Ticks
Biting insects can be prevalent on the islands from June to September. Wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts will provide some protection from mosquito, biting flies, and ticks. Insect repellents are helpful. The ticks that transmit Lyme Disease and Ehrlichiosis are found in the park. If you notice a rash, flu-like symptoms, or pain in the joints following a tick bite, call your physician.

...and did we mention...?

Fires
Campsites must be built in metal fire receptacles where provided. Beach fires must be built on bare beach sand and no more than three feet in diameter. Dried, loose wood on the ground in forested areas or ungrounded beach areas may be collected for firewood. To limit the spread of harmful insects, DO NOT bring firewood into the park. Chain saws cannot be operated in the national lakeshore. Before leaving a campsite, the fire must be extinguished and free of litter with no evidence of food remains that could attract wildlife. Fires are not permitted in wooded areas at least 100 feet from any trail, campsites, dock, building, picnic area, or water source. Pets are not allowed in public buildings or on scheduled Apostle Islands Cruise Service trips (except guide dogs accompanying visually or hearing impaired people).

Pets
Pets must be kept on a leash that is six feet short or shorter and never left unattended. Persons having pets within the park must dispose of all pet excrement. Excrement must be deposited in wooded areas at least 100 feet from any trail, campsites, dock, building, picnic area, or water source. Pets are not allowed in public buildings or on scheduled Apostle Islands Cruise Service trips (except guide dogs accompanying visually or hearing impaired people).

Accessibility
Campsite #1 on the Presque Isle campground on Stockton Island offers accessibility with assistance to park visitors. A ramp leads from the main dock to the visitor center, wheelchair accessible toilets and the campground. The visitor center and restrooms at the Little Sand Bay visitor center are accessible. An accessible walkway also leads to the Hekkeron Brothers Fishery at Little Sand Bay. The Headquartes visitor center in Bayfield features accessible parking and restroom facilities. A wooden ramp leads to the east entrance of the building. The Apostle Islands Cruise Service can accommodate visitors with wheelchairs. Deckhands will carry wheelchair-bound visitors onto the main deck of the “Island Princess.” The aisle on the main deck is extra wide and one of the restrooms is accessible.

Mishaps are more likely when the lake is not calm. Be sure to practice rescue techniques in a variety of situations and to monitor weather forecasts and conditions.

Boating
Sheriff), Call 715-779-3397 (day, NPS), or 911 (land line only, NOT for cell phones).

Flames... around the Archipelago...
Raspberry Island Light Closed for Rehabilitation

Years of exposure to the harsh Lake Superior environment have taken a toll on the Raspberry Island Lighthouse. To restore the “showplace of the Apostles” and ensure its sustainability, a major rehabilitation project was initiated in August 2005. The painstaking work is scheduled to continue through 2006. In order to facilitate the project and protect visitor safety, the Raspberry Island Lighthouse and dock will be closed to the public through 2006.

Lighthouse historian F. Ross Holland Jr. stated that, “Within the boundaries of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is the largest and finest single collection of lighthouses in the country.” The six light stations, the most found in any unit of the National Park System, are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Raspberry Island Light is usually the national lakeshore’s most popular lighthouse with as many as 10,000 visitors touring the site each year. The National Park Service’s rehabilitation of this popular historic site will help maintain its reputation as the “showplace of the Apostles”.

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Raspberry Island Lighthouse is closed to the public during rehabilitation of the foundation, roof, siding, windows, and interiors in 2006.

Chequamegon Point Light Gets Attention

One of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore’s lesser-known lighthouses will be receiving some badly needed repairs this year. The Chequamegon Point Light was built on the western tip of Long Island in 1896 to help mark the entrance to Chequamegon Bay. It was operated by the keeper of the La Pointe Light (also on Long Island) until the station was automated in 1964. The light deteriorated badly over the years from the combined effects of weather, shoreline erosion, and a well-intentioned but poorly executed attempt to move the structure.

In June 1987, the 42-foot high iron and wooden tower was in danger of toppling into the lake. The U. S. Coast Guard decided to relocate the historic tower about 100 feet east away from the shoreline. Cables were attached to the four corners of the catwalk surrounding the lantern room of the tower. The tower was then unbolts from its base and a helicopter lifted it into the air, only to find that the tower was heavier than expected. As the helicopter struggled to keep the tower airborne several feet off of the ground, the cast iron corners of the catwalk snapped off. Although the tower landed upright, it was not level and was not on any type of foundation. The light was removed and placed on a new cylindrical tower. For the past 19 years, the original tower has been sitting in a state of damage and disrepair.

The National Park Service has received funding to repair the damage to the Chequamegon Point Light and stabilize the tower at its present location. The tower will be braced, and then raised one leg at a time to pour new cement footings. After the cement hardens, each leg will be attached to the new foundation. The cast iron flooring on the catwalk around the lantern room will then be repaired. The four broken cast iron sections will be recast, following the original U.S. Lighthouse Service drawings. A temporary crane or hoist will be used to pour new cement footings. After the cement hardens, each leg will be attached to the new foundation. The cast iron flooring on the catwalk around the lantern room will then be repaired. The four broken cast iron sections will be recast, following the original U.S. Lighthouse Service drawings. A temporary crane or hoist will be used.

Boaters will be able to view the work this summer from their vantage point on the lake. Cruises during the annual Apostle Islands Lighthouse Celebration, held in September, offer lighthouse buffs an excellent opportunity to view this little known and under-appreciated lighthouse.
Windows into the Past

“Landslides like those in the Apostle Islands without deer have become vanishingly scarce elsewhere in the upper Midwest and, indeed, throughout North America.”

Dr. Don Waller, Conservation Biologist, U.W. Madison (2006)

Imagine experiencing the forests of northeastern Wisconsin at the time of the early explorers...

At Apostle Islands National Lakeshore you can do just that. While many of the islands were logged during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, some were not. Some of the highest quality stands of old growth forest in the upper Midwest can be found within the park. Even islands that were logged have an ancient feel in some respects. What makes these forests unique is their understory, and the presence of Canada yew. Often referred to as “deer candy” or ground hemlock, Canada yew has been nearly eliminated from the mainland. Canada yew is an evergreen shrub with needles similar to a hemlock and a shape similar to juniper. On islands that did not experience an influx of deer following logging, the yew is present in stands as dense as those of the original forests. In some areas in the park, it grows to six feet high and so thick that your feet don’t touch the ground when you try to walk through it. Yew and other understory plants serve as important habitat for birds and other small animals. Recent research indicates that there are fewer birds in areas that are heavily browsed by deer — more than 50% fewer. So the forests of the Apostle Islands might not only look and feel different, at times they might even sound different.

Early accounts indicate that the number of deer in northern Wisconsin increased dramatically following the clearing of the ancient forests. This occurred on several Apostle Islands in the 1940’s and 1950’s. The most dramatic example was Rocky Island, where Canada yew, once thick and lush, was nearly wiped out in a matter of a few years. A combination of hunting, deteriorating habitat, and severe winters greatly reduced deer numbers on the islands. Even so, more than 50 years later, the Canada yew on Rocky Island remains sparse.

On a precious few islands, deer did not become established. It is on these islands that this unique plant community remains. However, in the past few years, deer have become established on Sand and York Islands, two islands that were spared the deer population explosions of the past. The rapidly increasing deer population is threatening some of these last vestiges of “a glimpse into the past”.

The park’s goal is to preserve this very unique resource. Unlike many other National Park Service sites, the legislation that created Apostle Islands National Lakeshore requires the park to allow hunting. Various management alternatives are currently being explored with state and tribal biologists in a Wildlife Management Plan for Harvestable Species that will be made available for public review. By acting now we hope to protect this important part of Apostle Islands’ forests, because most people will agree, it’s nice to see yew.

Ojibwe Treaty Rights and the Apostle Islands

The Ojibwe people have inhabited the Apostle Islands region for centuries. As European settlers and traders arrived in the 1600’s, these different cultures met, coexisted, and developed strong relationships in the Lake Superior region.

A growing nation that was starving for resources prompted a number of treaties with several tribes, including the Ojibwe. Between 1836 and 1854, several of these treaties reduced the Ojibwe population to a status as wards of the United States government. The land that makes up the Apostle Island National Lakeshore and Gordon Nelson Wilderness Area were ceded by the Ojibwe in 1842.

Settlement pressure continued to build in the region, and by the late 1840’s, a movement was initiated by corrupt government officials to remove the Ojibwe from their ancestral homelands entirely. The Ojibwe formally objected to removal by sending letters to their agents in addition to sending delegations to Washington, DC to plead their case. They were joined by a groundswell of support from the settlers and entrepreneurs of the region. The removal effort ended in failure and the Ojibwe were allowed to remain. In 1854 the Ojibwe negotiated for permanent reservations within their original homeland.

These treaties remain significant to this day. The Ojibwe people sold millions of acres of land but reserved their right to continue using these lands for traditional subsistence purposes. The federal government formally agreed to this condition in each of the treaties and courts have continually backed the Ojibwe in asserting their rights.

The relationship between the Ojibwe and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is unique because it harmoniously aligns law with culture. The Ojibwe people’s cultural identity exists within a relationship with the natural resources, which is closely mirrored by the National Park Service’s legislated mandate to preserve resources “for future generations.”

In 1837, during treaty negotiations at Fort Snelling, an Ojibwe named Flat Mouth spoke to commissioners:

“My father. Your children are willing to let you have their lands, but they wish to reserve the privilege of making sugar from the trees, and getting them living from the Lakes and Rivers, as they have done heretofore, and of remaining in this Country.

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Lake Superior Ojibwe tribes are working closely and respectfully on a government-to-government basis to craft an agreement that will honor the treaty rights that were so carefully reserved by the Ojibwe people. Given the laws that govern the NPS, and the remarkably compatible philosophy of the Ojibwe, you can rest assured that this agreement will faithfully respect the need to preserve this remarkable region for the benefit and inspiration of ALL people.

Rocky Island Historic District

Apostle Islands visitors may have noticed the cluster of cabins and docks on Rocky Island and wondered about their story. The structures may be simple but their meanings are so significant that the National Park Service is taking the necessary steps to list these properties on the National Register of Historic Places, as the Rocky Island Historic District.

The Rocky Island Historic District encompasses a complex of dwellings and other structures situated along the eastern shoreline of Rocky Island, within the Apostle Islands archipelago. These properties are now owned by the National Park Service, but all either are, or have until recently been, occupied by the families and descendants of Norwegian-American commercial fishermen who established the small island community in the early 1930’s.

A national register nomination is being developed in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 recognizing the accomplishments of the people who have made significant contributions to the country’s history and heritage. The nomination process is occurring with substantial involvement of the Rocky Island families. Placement on the National Register will officially recognize the Rocky Island district’s importance in American history.

Like many of the Apostle Islands, Rocky Island was used as a base where commercial fishing could be conducted farther out in the lake. This activity began on Rocky as early as 1888, and then continued as a dominant use until about 1960. In the late 1940s and 1950s, the dominant use of Rocky Island began to shift from the commercial fishery that had supported these immigrant families, to the tourism/recreation emphasis that characterizes the region today. The general collapse of the Lake Superior fishery due to over-fishing and the advent of the parasitic sea lamprey meant that commercial fishing was no longer a viable livelihood for a significant population. As commercial fishing declined in importance, Rocky Island residents followed a common regional pattern, shifting focus to summer recreation. Some operated trolling excursions for sports fishermen, while one family opened a small-scale resort and restaurant, which operated until 1974.

This shift mirrors in microcosm a larger transformation of the northern Wisconsin economy from a resource extraction base to a tourism and recreation base. With the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in 1970, followed closely by Federal acquisition of the Rocky Island properties, further development of the island was halted. The island residents, retaining use-and-occupancy agreements, maintained conditions essentially unchanged from those existing in the last years of the commercial fishing era. Rocky Island has a deep rooted history and through the nomination process, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore will continue to preserve the structures and tell the stories of the families that lived on the island.
Voluntary Passport Generates Funds to Support Park

By Ruth Goetz, Chairman of the “Friends” Board of Directors

The Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore are announcing a new initiative intended to provide a simple way to help the public express support for the park. Starting in 2006, park supporters will be able to purchase a Voluntary Apostle Islands Passport for a donation of $30 or more to the “Friends”.

The Friends was established to promote an appreciation for and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage and the natural environment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. In just three years of existence, the Friends has committed to the park almost $30,000 in grants, which have been, or will soon be, used to:

- Maintain historic structures
- Conduct historical research
- Put a ranger at Meyers Beach to provide safety information to park visitors
- Re-establish the summer lecture series
- Print the park newspaper
- Install interpretive signs on the mainland and several islands
- Sponsor the wilderness celebration at the Big Top last year
- Support voluntourism and volunteer projects in the park

In addition, last fall the Friends published Jewels on the Water, the first-ever book of its kind celebrating these majestic islands and our home-town national park.

The Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore now has well over 200 members. The love for the park is evident in this community. The Friends hope to tap that energy to help support the park. The Voluntary Apostle Islands Passport was created to provide people with a simple way to demonstrate their support. The passports will take the form of an attractive sticker which will vary in color and design each year. Stickers will have the year prominently displayed, to encourage people to buy a passport every year. A complementary Friends membership comes with each passport, and Friends members get a complementary passport.

Boaters are encouraged to display their passports on the stern of their boats, in the upper right corner. Others are encouraged to put them on the right rear bumper of their cars or trucks. The Friends believe these will become collectors’ items, and park visitors will want to show them to demonstrate that they are part of the solution to the park’s funding challenges.

Purchases of the voluntary passports should be tax-deductible, and the Friends will work with the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce and others to make them widely available in the community and to park users through cooperating local businesses. Except for a very small handling fee for the merchants who sell them, 100% of the monies collected for the passports will go into an account that will be dedicated to high priority projects for maintenance, visitor services, and protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural resources of the Apostle Islands. All monies raised through the program in 2006 will be dedicated to the furnishing and exhibits at the historic Raspberry Island Light Station. The lighthouse is currently being rehabilitated by the National Park Service and will re-open in its 1890-era glory in 2007.

The Friends of the Apostle Islands are proud to be a partner with the National Park Service and encourage your support to make the Voluntary Apostle Islands Passport program a big hit.