Around the Archipelago

American “Idols” Get Well-Deserved Attention

They have fan clubs and web sites. You can find their likenesses on posters, magnets, T-shirts, postcards, Christmas ornaments, books, yard art, and jigsaw puzzles. They are America’s lighthouses.

These elegant, silent sentinels, topped with glowing lanterns, poised above rugged and scenic coastlines are poignant images of America’s maritime frontiers. They tell us inspiring stories about the lonely, difficult, but seemingly romantic lives of the men and women who tended these lights and raised families in some of the most remote places imaginable. Amazingly, many are still working aids to navigation, with automated solar-powered lamps still flashing where older oil lamps flared a century ago.

Some fans of lighthouse history make it a lifetime quest to visit as many of these locations as possible, slowly climbing the spiral stairs to the startling blue vista of the lantern room, pacing old parlors and lawns, re-living in their mind’s eye the ordered but isolated world of the lighthouse keeper. For many of these fans, the Apostle Islands lawns, re-living in their mind’s eye the ordered but isolated world of the lighthouse keeper. For many of these fans, the Apostle Islands are a must-do destination for their lighthouse “life list.”

Yet while lighthouses grow in popularity and interest, they’re also, shall we say, maturing. At Apostle Islands, we’ll be celebrating birthdays of 155 years for our oldest light (Michigan Island, 1856) and a youthful 113 years for our youngest (Devils, 1898). That is, as an average, 134 years of Lake Superior winds, rain, snow, ice, and whatever else Gitche Gumee could throw at those buildings. For the “Keepers of the Lights,” this has meant a lifetime of careful maintenance: painting, structural repairs, re-roofing, re-glazing, utility replacement; the list is endless, and the work is complicated by limitations of staff, funds, and of course, the remote island locations. In spite of years of care by the Lighthouse Board, the Coast Guard, the National Park Service, and lighthouse friends and volunteers, the lights of the Apostles are losing ground against Mother Nature. But it’s good to have friends. With the help of lighthouse preservationists and former US Congressman Dave Obey, the National Park Service received an appropriation to undertake major preservation efforts at the light stations of Michigan, Sand, Outer, Long, and Devils islands.

This effort goes way beyond paint and shingles. Teams of architects and historians have combed each light station, documenting the history and condition of every feature from the top of the tower to the seats of the privies. Planners have developed stacks of detailed maps and alternatives, trying to address the immediate problems at each station, while suggesting those areas where a higher level of rehabilitation might be obtained. But this is just the warm-up act. In 2011, the environmental assessment on the project plans and studies has been completed and now the real work begins. Through 2012-2013, the Park Service plans to begin major repair efforts at the five lighthouse preservationists and former US Congressman Dave Obey, the National Park Service received an appropriation to undertake major preservation efforts at the light stations of Michigan, Sand, Outer, Long, and Devils islands.

Lighthouse Update

Preservation teams are rolling up their sleeves at Devils, Long, and Michigan islands in preparation for bigger work ahead in 2012. In the fall of 2010, a team of lighthouse preservation specialists completed work on the Fresnel lens and lantern room of the Devils Island light tower. They carefully cleaned and stabilized the lens prisms, as well as replacing all the lantern room glass and reparing the metal door to the gallery. Tower ventilation openings were cleared of dirt and abandoned bird nests. The results will help preserve the 100+ year old lens and the tall tower holding it high above the lake. In 2011, another work crew will head to the south end of Devil’s Island to repair the foundation of the boathouse that has served the light station for more than a century.

At Long Island, park staff will begin cutting some of the vegetation that is overcrowning on the La Fornia light tower and keeper’s quarters. This will help the structures to “breathe” better, preventing moisture build-up and damage from overcrowning root systems and heavy branches. As a bonus, visitors will be able to better view these historic features from the lake. Staff will also begin work on improving ventilation in the keeper’s quarters basement, in order to fight mold and other moisture-related problems in the building.

Lastly, Michigan Island Light Station (slated for more intensive preservation work in 2012) will see some preliminary vegetation clearing as well as engineering analysis of its dock. The vegetation clearing will help reduce moisture around the light station structures, and will begin a long-term effort to restore some of the original light station grounds and views to/from the lake. Engineering analysis at the dock aims to improve the dock’s flow-through design to prevent trapping excessive sediment loads alongside the dock, while still maintaining shoreline protection for the light station and preserving natural landscapes.

Around the Archipelago:

1) A large group of islands,
2) A sea containing a large group of islands.

3 Summer Info 5 Safety 7 Shipwrecks
By Bob Krumenaker
Park Superintendent

In 2011, we are but five years from the 100th anniversary of the creation of the National Park Service (NPS), but it’s been 139 years since Yellowstone, the world’s first national park, was established by a foresighted act of Congress. The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is much younger, only 41 years old this year. Yellowstone and Apostle Islands and 392 other authentic places comprise the National Park System.

What unites these places? It’s interesting, instructive, and I suggest, essential, to go back to the original laws, in which these cases are quite eloquent:

1872 Yellowstone National Park Act: “for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.”

1916 National Park Service Organic Act: “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

1970 Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Act: “to conserve and develop for the benefit, inspiration, education, recreational use, and enjoyment of the public.”

1978 Redwood Amendment to the Organic Act:

“Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System . . . shall be . . . to the common benefit of all the people of the United States. The . . . protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System”

Common benefit. High public value and integrity. Strong words that we take very seriously.

Clearly, Congress intended that the NPS and the parks be managed first and foremost in the public interest. It seems particularly appropriate today, considering the current debate about the proper role of government, to reflect on this. From the first days of Yellowstone to the present, there have been and will always be differences of opinion as to how the parks ought to be managed. How much development is appropriate? What kinds of uses are allowed? Is there too much, or too little, regulation? What rights do indigenous peoples retain? Are private residents allowed to live in the park? Ultimately, the answers to these questions swirl around the definition of just what is the public interest? Do the park’s actions maintain or enhance the high public value and integrity of the System? Are they for the common benefit of the people?

This year, the staff at Apostle Islands is wrapping up a six year effort to produce the park’s long-term General Management Plan (see page 6). We’ve released a draft plan for rehabilitation of Light Stations consistent with that plan and the funding direction we received from Congress in 2009-2010. Drafts have been shared with the public and other agencies and the affiliated tribes, and we’ve considered thousands of comments before producing final plans. Since 2002 we’ve held over 40 public meetings where the park’s direction and plans were up for discussion. Have we satisfied everyone? No. But I hope we’ve always been mindful of the high public value and integrity of the park and the National Park System.

There’s a lot that happens behind the scenes in this and every national park, and I want to recognize the exemplary work done by park staff that is usually hidden from view. Maintenance workers clear trails of winter windfalls before most visitors arrive. Education specialists lead the “island school” each May, providing hundreds of

Public comments are crucial for assuring that future plans for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore are “in the public interest.” More than 40 public meetings have been held since 2002 to discuss park plans.

In the Public Interest

Fair market rent. We all pay federal and state income taxes.

We’re proud of the work we do and appreciative of the salary and benefits we earn, well aware that we do so in the public interest and subject to the public’s scrutiny. The future of this and every other national park, as well as our jobs, depends on the public believing we are working in their interest. We therefore welcome your feedback on how we are doing. Everyone of us chose to work here, most because it is a calling as much as a job. It’s been said that NPS employees get paid in sunsets. We’re grateful that our compensation isn’t limited to sunsets … but we sure are glad we get those, too. Thank you for your support, and I hope you have a wonderful, and safe, visit to the Apostle Islands this year.
Planning a Visit

Open 9 am to 5 pm May 28 - 30
Open Daily 9 am to 5 pm June 18-Sep. 5
Little Sand Bay Visitor Center
Open 9 am to 5 pm May 28 - 30
Open Daily 9 am to 5 pm June 18-Sep. 5

Sailing and Boating
The Apostle Islands 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. A fee is charged for docking any time between 6 pm and 6 am. The fee is $10 for vessels up to 40 feet long or $20 for vessels over 40 feet long. Public boat launches (non-NPS) are located in Ashland, Bayfield, Cornucopia, Little Sand Bay, Red Cliff, and Washburn. The cost is $5 for launch in Bayfield, $6 for launch at Little Sand Bay. All waterfront must be decontaminated before launching in the lake. Marinas are in Ashland, Bayfield, Cornucopia, LaPointe, Rick’s Bay, Port Superior, Red Cliff, Roys Point, Schooner Bay, and Washburn.

Personal Watercraft (Jet skis)
The use of personal watercraft is not allowed within the national lakeshore’s boundaries.

Camping
Camping is available on 19 of the lakeshore’s 21 islands and at one campground on the mainland. Permits are required for all camping in the national lakeshore. Individual campsites (for one to seven campers) can be reserved beginning one month before the start of a trip. Group campsites (for eight to 20 campers) can be reserved beginning the second week in January. Camping zones have also been established on 15 islands in the national lakeshore for visitors seeking a remote backcountry experience. A nightly fee is charged for camping (see chart on page 4). See the brochure “Camping in the Apostle Islands” for more information. Pictures and descriptions of Apostle Islands campsites are available online at www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/camping.htm

Accessibility
Campsite #1 in 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 also accessible. An accessible walkway also leads to the Hokenson Brothers Fishery at Little Sand Bay. The Headquarters visitor center in Bayfield features accessible parking and restrooms. A wheelchair accessible ramp provides access to the breakout area of the restored Raspberry Island Lighthouse. The access point to the island is via a boat launch. Visitors can bring their own wheelchairs, or arrangements can be made for visitors with wheelchairs. Wheelchair-bound visitors must enter via the main dock. The steep slope on the main dock is extra wide and one of the restrooms is accessible.

Fishing and Hunting
A Wisconsin fishing license with a Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp is required for fishermen 16 or older. Sport fishermen are drawn to the Apostle Islands region by the opportunities to catch lake trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, and coho salmon. Emergency restrictions were implemented in 2008 to prevent the spread of the deadly VHS virus. More information is available on our website at www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/fishing.htm

Hunting activity may occur in the national lakeshore from September (after Labor Day) through May 15. A muzzle loader deer hunt (by permit only) is held on the islands during the last weekend of October. Archery hunts for island deer run from mid-September to the end of September and from the beginning of November through December. For detailed information go to http://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/hunting.htm or email: apis_resource_issues@nps.gov. All hunting is conducted in compliance with federal and state laws.

Firearms
As of February 22, 2010, a federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Wisconsin, and local laws to possess firearms in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. It is the visitor’s responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are posted with signs at public entrances.

Guided Activities
Apostle Islands Cruises (an authorized National Park Service concessioner) offers a variety of nonstop sightseeing excursions and island shuttles featuring stops at several islands (see schedule). Their office is located in the Bayfield Pavilion near the city dock at the bottom of Rittenhouse Avenue in Bayfield, WI. All cruises depart from Bayfield. Reservations are recommended. For more information call 800-323-7619 or visit on-line at www.apostleisland.com

Park Fees
Apostle Islands Cruises (an authorized National Park Service concessioner) offers a variety of nonstop sightseeing excursions and island shuttles featuring stops at several islands (see schedule). Their office is located in the Bayfield Pavilion near the city dock at the bottom of Rittenhouse Avenue in Bayfield, WI. All cruises depart from Bayfield. Reservations are recommended. For more information call 800-323-7619 or visit on-line at www.apostleisland.com

Guided Lighthouse Tours
Guided tours of the restored Raspberry Island Lighthouse will be offered daily between 9 am and 4:30 pm from June 18 through late September. Tours include access to the lighthouse tower and the refurbished head lighthouse keeper’s quarters. Guided tours at Raspberry Island cost $3/person or $8/ immediate family. Park staff may be available to conduct free guided tours of the lighthouses at Devils, Michigan, and Sand islands from late June to September. Tours will generally be available daily on request from about 9 am to 4:30 p.m. Guided tours will NOT be available before 9 am or after 4:30 p.m. without prior arrangements.

Campfire Programs
Join park staff at the Apostle Island campfire circle on 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 we mention) ...bears. Programs start at twilight.

Self-Guided Tours and Walks
Brochures for self-guided tours and walks are available from brochure boxes at Little Sand Bay’s Hokenson Brothers Fishery, the Manitou Island Fish Camp, and the Julian Bay Trail on Stockton Island. The brochures can be purchased, or used for free and returned.

Apostle Islands Cruises Tour Summary - 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cruise Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates/Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Tour</td>
<td>$39.95/adult, $23.95/child</td>
<td>10 am daily May 14-Oct. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockton Shuttle Dayhiker-$41.95/ adult, $24.95/child Camper: $54.95/ adult, $32.95/child</td>
<td>4.5 hour shuttle to Stockton Island (day hike/camp)</td>
<td>8:30 am, Tue-Fri-Sat-Sun July 1-Sept. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raspberry Island Lighthouse Shuttle</td>
<td>$41.95/adult, $24.95/child</td>
<td>4 hour shuttle to Raspberry Island (additional fee for lighthouse tour)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islander Cruise</td>
<td>$30.95/adult, $17.95/child</td>
<td>2 hour nonstop cruise past Basswood, Hermit, &amp; Raspberry Islands and back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening Grand Tour-$39.95/adult, $23.95/child</td>
<td>3.25 hour nonstop cruise around Devil’s Island</td>
<td>7:30 pm, Mon-Sat July 1- Aug. 20</td>
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Island Tours/Shuttles

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Stockton Shuttle Dayhiker-$41.95/ adult, $24.95/child Camper: $54.95/ adult, $32.95/child</td>
<td>4.5 hour shuttle to Stockton Island (day hike/camp)</td>
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Call 800-323-7619 for Reservations

50% discount on camping, docking, parking and guided tours at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Information/Orientation

Headquarters Visitor Center
Open Mon-Fri 8 am to 4:30 pm, May 1-May 27
Open Daily 8 am to 4:30 pm, May 28-June 17
Open Daily 8 am to 5 pm, June 18-Sep. 3
Open Daily 8 am to 4:30 pm, Sept 4-Oct 9
Open M-F 8 am to 4:30 pm, Oct 11-May, 2012

Little Sand Bay Visitor Center
Open 9 am to 5 pm May 28 - 30
Open Daily 9 am to 5 pm June 18-Sep. 5
Climate Change...Spreading the Word

We’ve seen evidence that these predictions were correct. The Apostle Islands region has had warmer summers with higher wind speeds in recent years. Water and air temperatures in the Lake Superior region have increased steadily since 1980, with water temperatures rising at twice the rate of air temperatures. The lake has also experienced record low lake levels in the last five years.

Beaches, dunes, and sandy shorelines are very exposed to the elements. High temperatures and wind dry out plants. Lower lake levels may reduce the amount of water available for plants due to lower water tables. Long-term monitoring of beach grass in the park shows that plants are dying off faster than they can reproduce in areas on several islands. Dying vegetation creates bare patches that permit higher rates of erosion in popular sandscapes areas.

Butterwort (a state endangered species) and bird’s-eye primrose (a species of special concern) are found in moist areas on north facing cliffs and rock ledges. Monitoring at Devils Island shows that these plants are declining in numbers and have almost disappeared in one location where they once flourished. Low lake levels may reduce the likelihood of water reaching rock shelves to form splash pools…the most habitat needed for these plants to survive.

Monitoring for breeding songbirds during 2008 and 2009 indicated the lowest numbers of species recorded since 1995. Research outside the park has shown that songbirds are migrating earlier, traveling farther north, and laying eggs earlier. This can be problematic if food sources on nesting grounds are not at peak levels to correspond with the high-energy requirements of nesting. It also means these birds are more vulnerable to late winter storms and cold weather. This is particularly true of long distance migrants…the neo-tropical species that typically make up the majority of the park’s songbirds.

Are changes in climate responsible for these trends? The evidence is compelling, but the jury is still out. We have recognized the problems and will continue to investigate the declining beach grass, disappearing rare plants, and low numbers of songbird species to determine the causes of, and what might be done to address, these issues.

Changes in climate may be responsible for several conditions recently identified in the Apostle Islands. Dying beach grass (above left) and the decline of bird’s-eye primrose (above right) may be related to changes in temperature, precipitation, and lake levels noticed in the islands.

Mitigating Our Impacts

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has reduced the amount of waste going into local landfills by implementing a recycling program that includes not only paper, plastics and glass, but also metals, batteries, and other miscellaneous materials, which has a significant impact on our total waste production.

From October 2009 through October 2010, the following materials were recycled at the park:

- Ferrous metals: 11,850 lbs
- Aluminum: 339 lbs
- Copper/brass: 161 lbs
- Old batteries: 485 lbs
Have Fun...Be Safe...

Tips to help preserve the park, respect other visitors, and protect yourself.

...On the Water

Paddling

Canoes should not be used for travel between the islands. Calm days may make canoe use possible along the mainland or island shorelines, but weather conditions can change rapidly. Kayakers 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 wear a PFD and use wet suits or dry suits when paddling in the Apostle Islands. Paddlers should also pack such items as: a battery radio or cell phone, a first aid kit, extra paddle, sunscreen, insect repellent, compass, nautical charts, 50 feet of line, waterproof matches, a headlamp, dry storage containers, and provisions for at least one extra day.

Severe weather can occur with little or no warning. NPS and Coast Guard vessels provide towing only in emergency situations.

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, whistle or horn, first-aid kit, radio, and an anchor with sufficient line.

Swimming

The average annual water temperature of Lake Superior is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, but on calm sunny summer days, surface water temperatures in the Apostle Islands’ protected shallow bays can climb into the 70s. There are no lifeguards in the national lakeshore. Before leaving a campfire, the fire must be extinguished and free of litter with no evidence of food remains that could attract wildlife. Fires are not permitted in portable grills or stoves on docks or topside areas of boats tied to public docks. Open fires will be prohibited when fire danger is high.

Pets

Pets must be kept on a leash that is six feet or shorter, and never left unattended. Pet excrement must be immediately collected and disposed of in the nearest trash receptacle or buried in a forested area using a small hole dug in soil at least six inches deep at least 200 feet from any trail, campsite, beach, dock or water source. Pets are not allowed in public buildings or on scheduled Apostle Islands cruises trips (except assistance dogs accompanying visually or hearing impaired people).

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 mosquitoes, biting flies, and ticks. Insect repellent is 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.

Hazard Trees

High winds can cause even healthy trees to fall down. Beware of trees with recognizable flaws (leaning or partly uprooted, dead areas, hanging branches) near campgrounds, docks, shorelines, and picnic areas. Do not linger in areas adjacent to hazard trees, especially during high winds. Report any such trees near visitor use areas to park staff as soon as possible.

Climate & Weather

Typical summer conditions feature winds of 5 - 20 knots and waves of 1 to 4 feet. Winds of 30 to 40 knots with 6 to 12 foot seas are possible. Severe weather (high winds, rough seas, fog) can set in with little or no warning. Pay close attention to the weather and aquatic forecasts. In fall, warm lake waters intensify storms and strengthen winds, making small craft advisories (22-33 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) and the open waters forecast and the open water marine forecast. Marine weather forecasts are broadcast on marine band radio on the following channels: Ashland, WI - marine channel 8 - 162.525 MHz; Park Falls, WI - marine channel 7 - 162.500 MHz; Duluth, MN - marine channel 9 - 162.550 MHz.

Weather information is 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 lighthouse at Devils Island.

Emergency Contacts

Call 715-779-3397 (day, NPS), or 715-373-6120 (night, Bayfield County Sheriff), or 715-779-3950 (night, U.S. Coast Guard), or 911 and specify your location (Bayfield County), or marine channel 16.

What’s the Weather?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avg. High/Low</th>
<th>Avg. Precip. &quot;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>21/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>27/6</td>
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<td>35/16</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>71/47</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>77/55</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>75/54</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>88/46</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>55/36</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>38/25</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>26/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearly Avg.</td>
<td>50/31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average temperature (degrees F) and precipitation measured on Madeline Island

Around the Archipelago 5
Park News

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Completes General Management Plan

By the time you read this, the park's General Management Plan should be complete. The General Management Plan is a critical park planning document that defines the general approach that the National Park Service will follow in managing the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore for the next 15-20 years. Over the past six years, many of you have provided critical input through participating in public meetings or providing written comments. Approaches to several issues were modified in response to these comments.

In general, the park's current management direction will continue with some minor changes to increase the opportunity for more people to have an island experience. For example, opportunities would be sought to make it easier for visitors to access some of the islands, especially Basswood and Sand islands. Some additional visitor facilities are proposed for these islands, perhaps including day use areas, new trails, and campsites.

A number of projects are proposed within the General Management Plan. Projects that are planned in the near future include work on five of the light stations (see cover article) and improvements to docks at South Twin and Basswood Island. Other projects we hope to accomplish as funding allows include adding a ranger station and accessible beach ramp at Meyers Beach. In the public interest, if a life estate on Sand Island expires within the life of this plan, historically significant structures or Rocky Island will be rehabilitated. You Fee Dollars at Work!

The booklet will be redesigned with new information in front of the mainland sea caves. This system is designed to better inform visiting sea cave visitors and kayakers of potentially dangerous wave conditions. A booklet that was available free in 2010. In 2011, new toilets will also be installed and anchored to the bedrock replacing the old wood cribs. The new docks will incorporate a flow through design that includes a 40 foot walkway from the shore to the dock. This will allow coastal sediment (sand, dirt, gravel) to flow along the shore. The bin wall cribs will be filled and then have a concrete cap for a surface. Other than the walkway, this design is very similar to the docks at the Stockton Presque Isle Marina.

The docks at Basswood and South Twin islands may be closed for short periods of time while construction is in progress. Call 715-779-3397 for information about the docks' status.

Dock Improvements Scheduled for 2011

Public docks at Basswood and South Twin islands will be replaced with new structures in 2011. The new docks at Basswood and South Twin islands will generally be similar in size to the existing docks. A bin wall (adjoining closed-faced bins composed of corrugated steel members) style cribbing will be installed and anchored to the bedrock replacing the old wood cribs. The new docks will incorporate a flow through design that includes a 40 foot walkway from the shore to the dock. This will allow coastal sediment (sand, dirt, gravel) to flow along the shore. The bin wall cribs will be filled and then have a concrete cap for a surface. Other than the walkway, this design is very similar to the docks at the Stockton Presque Isle Marina.

The final version of the General Management Plan and Wilderness Management Plan will be posted on the park's website (http://www.nps.gov/apis).

A new boat dock at Otter Island has forced sections of the dock to be closed pending repairs.

If You See It, Report It

Report all dock damage to 715-779-3397. Park staff will assess dock conditions and estimate the cost of repairs. Dock damage includes loss of dock pilings, boards, and rails. If possible, park staff will reconstruct the dock as soon as the weather allows. Care should be taken when walking on docks that are damaged or have missing or loose boards. Docks with missing or loose boards can capsize boats, leaving little opportunity for kayakers to respond to this type of emergency.

Low Water, Ice Damage Affect Park Docks

Early season surveys of park docks have shown that low lake levels and winter ice damage may impact boaters planning to use some of the docks this year. As of the beginning of May, Lake Superior is 14 inches below its long-term average beginning-of-May level and is four inches lower than the level recorded at the beginning-of-May last year. This means that water levels may be shallow at park docks. Measurements made at the ends of several docks in early May showed the following depths:

- Basswood Island - 3'
- Michigan Island - 5' 6"
- Otter Island - 2' 8"
- Outer Island - 5'
- Raspberry Island - 5' 6"
- Rocky Island - 6'
- Sand Island East Bay - 2' 2"
- Stockton Island Presque Isle - 5'

Winter ice damaged several cribs supporting the Otter Island dock. Portions of that dock will be closed until repairs can be completed. Call 715-779-3397 for up to date information about dock conditions.

New “Sweet Smelling Toilets” Planned for Island Sites

Four islands are scheduled to receive new accessible vault toilets by the end of 2011. The new design features a wider door with a translucent panel for easier access and a brighter interior. The new “sweet smelling toilets” also promise enhanced ventilation for user comfort. New toilets were installed near the dock and adjacent to the campsite at the south end of Basswood Island in the fall of 2010. In 2011, new toilets will also be installed near the docks on Rocky and Sand islands and at the Raspberry Island light station.

Become a Junior Ranger!

The Apostle Islands have stories to tell. Young visitors can now begin to read these stories and write their own tales of Apostle Islands adventure by using the park’s Junior Ranger Activity Guide. The booklet is full of intriguing activities designed to promote a greater understanding of the unique cultural and natural resources of the Apostle Islands.

The booklet will be redesigned with new activities this year. It is still available free to Junior Rangers of all ages. Junior Rangers should also check out the National Park Service’s online Junior Ranger program at www.nps.gov/webrangers.

Your Fee Dollars at Work!

You might be wondering what the park is doing with the money it has collected from camping, docking, guided tours, and parking. In 2010 those funds were used to dredge the harbor at Little Sand Bay and to begin rehabilitation of the historic fish tug “Twilite” at Little Sand Bay’s Hokenson Fishery. Fee money also helped pay the salary for park staff providing guided tours of the Raspberry Island Lighthouse and working at the information desk at park headquarters in Bayfield. 2011 fee dollars will continue to fund these staff members and the “Twilite” rehabilitation. Fee money will also be used to plan and design a series of wayside exhibits to help interpret the stories of Sand Island, and to fund trail repairs on Michigan, Otter, Outer, Raspberry, Rocky, and South Twin islands.

Real-Time Wave Observation System Goes On-line in 2011

The sea caves at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore are spectacular natural rock formations that are best viewed from the water. Thousands of paddlers come to Meyers Beach each year to visit the mainland sea caves near Mawikwe Bay. Wave conditions near the sea caves are dynamic and complex, making this a potentially dangerous trip. Kayakers are well warned to avoid the cave area during rough seas. What may appear to be comfortable paddling conditions at Meyers Beach, however, may be significantly different near the sea caves. Due to the combination of wave focusing processes and shifting wind directions, freak waves can form suddenly and then disappear in several seconds. Unexpected freak waves can capsize boats or kayaks, leaving little opportunity for kayakers to respond to this type of emergency.

With support from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the Friends of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, scientists from Wisconsin Sea Grant and UW-Madison designed and tested a real-time wave observation system (RTWOS) in the summers of 2009 and 2010. The RTWOS measures real-time wave data and water temperature and then transmits the data using wireless cellular technology to a host computer at UW-Madison, 350 miles away from the remote sea cave site.

The web hosting software and website update the wave, wind and water temperature in real-time as well as post a visual photo display of the waves every thirty (30) minutes and posts the results to the Internet. The web site is then easily accessible and readable for persons using mobile internet devices like BlackBerry, iPhone, and PDA.

The project web site http://wavesatseacaves.cwe.wisc.edu is anticipated to be online in June 2011 through Labor Day and will provide real-time wave and water information in front of the mainland sea caves. This system is designed to better inform visiting sea cave visitors and kayakers of potentially dangerous wave conditions.

Floating Boardwalks Installed at Julian Bay

Beach, dune, pine savannah and wetland all come together at Julian Bay on Stockton Island to form one of the most diverse and ecologically significant areas within the park. Many visitors are attracted by the singing sands on the beach, but also want to explore the dunes. While the beaches offer recreationists a durable surface to walk on, the sandy dunes are a fragile environment. Over the years, many informal trails have formed through the dunes and the pine savannah. To limit impacts on this sensitive area, approximately 600 feet of boardwalk was installed in the pine savannah in 2010 by park staff with the help of a Minnesota Conservation Corps crew. The floating boardwalk will allow visitors to experience this special area, while protecting fragile dune plants from trampling. This boardwalk is the first phase of restoring the vegetation at Julian Bay. This summer, thousands of native plants will be planted to replace trampled vegetation and stabilize the dunes. Funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Coastal Program made this project possible.

A new privy was installed near the campgroup on Basswood Island in fall 2010.

Ice damage to the dock at Otter Island has forced sections of the dock to be closed pending repairs.

A new wayside exhibit on Sand Island will tell the story of two vehicles that were used by island residents.

Kayakers paddle near float marking the sensor for a real-time wave observation system at Mawikwe Bay. The project Web site http://wavesatseacaves.cwe.wisc.edu is anticipated to be online in June 2011 through Labor Day and will provide real-time wave and water information in front of the mainland sea caves. This system is designed to better inform visiting sea cave visitors and kayakers of potentially dangerous wave conditions.

Around the Archipelago
A chance find on the Internet: a mention of his great-great-grandfather, George Lloyd, led him to this lonely, windswept place. Accompanied by his son, the man carried a wreath to pay respects to someone he never met. Lloyd, a Civil War veteran, survived the Battle of Gettysburg only to disappear in a blinding northeast snowstorm on Lake Superior in 1886. He was captain of the schooner Lucerne, lost with all hands off Long Island, Wisconsin. His body was never recovered.

A dive to the wreck reveals that the bow contains the ship’s windlass and capstan, scene of the crew’s last battle to set anchors and prevent Lucerne being driven ashore.

To learn more about Apostle Islands shipwrecks, visit:
- [http://www.wisconsinskiphipwrecks.org/explore_lakesuperior.cfm](http://www.wisconsinskiphipwrecks.org/explore_lakesuperior.cfm)
- [http://www.maritimetrails.org/discover.cfm](http://www.maritimetrails.org/discover.cfm)

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is a Lake Superior archipelago of great natural beauty: an almost Southwestern color palette of red sandstone cliffs and dunes set against the dark greens and blues of forested islands and bays. But it is also a place of great maritime traditions, with lighthouses, commercial fishing stations, and the remains of historic shipwrecks scattered throughout the islands. The shipwrecks of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore are managed as a partnership between the State of Wisconsin and the National Park Service. Shipwrecks occur both within and just outside the park; park visitors and commercial dive charters enjoy visiting these sites, and the stories of the shipwrecks are often closely tied to the stories of the park’s historic light stations. In strange twists of fate, nearly every Apostle light station has its own shipwreck story.

The park’s first shipwreck preservation project began with the discovery of the shipwreck Noqueshay off Stockton Island. In 1984 Toni Carroll of the NPS Submerged Cultural Resources Unit (now the NPS Submerged Resource Center) led a team of volunteer divers in the excavation and documentation of the wreck. The Noqueshay project raised awareness of shipwreck management issues at the Lakeshore and throughout the Great Lakes region.

To document a state underwater archaeology program in 1986, located at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS). Partnering with East Carolina University’s Program in Maritime History and Underwater Research and the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, a shipwreck survey of the Apostle Islands was initiated in 1990. Mapping and photographic documentation of major wreck sites was accomplished, along with the development of technical reports, waterproof visitor guides, and an award-winning website, Wisconsin’s Great Lakes Shipwrecks.

It’s 6:54 in the evening of November 20, 2009 and a solitary bobcat is padding through the woods at West Bay on Sand Island. A tiny noise occurs, one that the cat doesn’t even register, one that the camera does not even register, and he continues on his way, unaware that had he turned a hair, he would have been taken without any disturbance whatsoever.

A diver inspects the windlass and capstan on the Lucerne shipwreck near Long Island. (Photo courtesy of Tamara Thomson)

The Wisconsin Maritime Trails marker at Little Sand Bay describes the Zevane shipwreck near Sand Island.

One researcher is using these cameras to estimate deer populations on Sand and York Islands. Overabundant deer are devastating the Canada yew on those islands. Canada yew is a shrub species that is regionally rare, but one that is characterized by its island character. It’s slow-growing species is a favorite food for deer. Photographs of deer taken by the cameras are used to distinguish between individual bucks. These so-called “mark-recapture” methods rely on repeated photographs of bucks that can be individually identified. The number of bucks is then used in mathematical formulas to estimate entire island populations, including numbers of does and fawns.

There were several sites baited with anise and fish oils to attract bears. Bears often visited sites repeatedly, as was evident by the 5,600 hair samples that were taken from Barbwire deer population at Sand Island. Photographs of deer with Barbwire, which were retrieved and sent to a lab for DNA analysis. Bears frequently visited sites consistently, and even visited sites equipped with cameras on Sand Island.

Commercial fishing stations, and the remains of historic shipwrecks scattered throughout the islands.

The State of Wisconsin followed NPS pioneering work with the creation of a state underwater archaeology program in 1986, located at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS). Partnering with East Carolina University’s Program in Maritime History and Underwater Research and the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, a shipwreck survey of the Apostle Islands was initiated in 1990. Mapping and photographic documentation of major wreck sites was accomplished, along with the development of technical reports, waterproof visitor guides, and an award-winning website, Wisconsin’s Great Lakes Shipwrecks. It was through this website that the family of Capt. George Lloyd learned of the recent research on the shipwreck Lucerne, and were invited to visit the shipwreck site first-hand. New partners were added, with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program supporting a WHS effort to create a state-wide program of maritime trails. This program pairs the shipwrecks of the Apostle Islands with maritime resources such as museums, lighthouses, boat tours, and waterfront trails into a linked series of maritime heritage tourism experiences for hikers, divers, kayakers and sightseers. WIS has also partnered with another non-profit group, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society, to document several intact deepwater wrecks and add them to the National Register of Historic Places. Clearly, partnership is a theme here. The National Park Service has found that through a relatively small investment in local leadership and training, a surprising array of organizations and individuals were able to get behind the idea of Great Lakes shipwreck preservation, and in a little over twenty years time, achieve an amazing amount of progress.

A Wisconsin Maritime Trails marker at Little Sand Bay describes the Zevane shipwreck near Sand Island.

Wildlife Cameras Reveal Hidden Secrets

It’s 6:54 in the evening of November 20, 2009 and a solitary bobcat is padding through the woods at West Bay on Sand Island. A tiny noise occurs, one that the cat doesn’t even register, and he continues on his way, unaware that had he turned a hair, he would have been taken without any disturbance whatsoever. The cameras show if individual bears or groups are coming to the baits. Bears, frequently with cubs, visited all sites equipped with cameras on Sand and at one site on York, mostly in the evening or at night. Hibernation often starts in November in Wisconsin, but some island bears were still active until November 23rd, when all cameras were removed.

The cameras are also revealing some of the other species that make their homes on the islands. On Michigan Island, a rabbit showed up in several photos. On September 14, 2009, a lone wolf was photographed at the Hansen Farm on Sand Island, providing the first ever pictures of this species in the park. Birds trigger the cameras, too, and many photos revealed ravens, crows, and blue jays. All were taken without any disturbance whatsoever.
I am pleased to report the Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore had another good year in 2010. As part of our on-going support of the park, two years ago the Friends committed to raise $52,000 for the restoration of the historic Raspberry Island Boathouse by 2013. As of the end of 2010 we had reached over 50% of our goal, with $27,000 in the bank. With the promise of a good fund raising effort this year, the Friends should be able to realize our goal by 2013. Last year also saw several administrative changes with the Friends including the appointment of a new president, election of two new directors, and a renewed effort to improve our website and communication programs.

We are off to a good start in 2011 as well, with strong membership numbers, and merchandise sales which are off to a fast start. Current plans for 2011 include the completion of the Hadland cabin maintenance project on Rocky Island. Last year the Friends funded and volunteered to re-roof the cabin. This year volunteers will finish the project by painting the building. The Friends have also selected 10 additional projects for 2011 including funding for printing this newspaper and purchasing bear-proof food boxes. The development of the real-time wave monitoring equipment will be completed later this spring followed by installation of the equipment at the mainland sea caves near Meyers Beach.

As we look toward the future of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, the Friends will continue to play an important role in several areas. From on-going fund raising efforts to key project initiatives, our efforts will continue to play a critical role in the maintenance and support of the park, especially in these tight budgetary conditions. Please remember, there are several ways you can help the Friends:

- Become an annual member of the Friends
- Consider a donation to the Martin Hansen Endowment Fund
- Visit our web site to purchase merchandise and select artwork.

For more information on the Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, or on ways you can support the Friends, pick up our brochure at park headquarters or visit us online at www.friendsofthepostleislands.org. Remember - every donation is tax deductible.

To all of my fellow Friends, I hope you enjoy your stay among the Apostle Islands and experience a true sense of relaxation as you explore the beauty of this wonderful place!