



Around the Archipelago

The official newspaper of
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore



Winter in the Apostles...Walking to the “Ice Caves”

Crystals

*Light shimmering off the ice in radiant beams.
Dark cavernous tunnels and brightly lit crevices.
Black ice like oiled flowers, like looking through glass.
Some places were like portals to another world,
But I believe it was the heart of the world.*

Isaiah C.
Bayfield Middle School

WINTER TRANSFORMS THE APOSTLE ISLANDS INTO A landscape dominated by snow and ice. Winter means putting away the sailboats, cabin cruisers and kayaks. Winter means ice fishing, camping in the snow, and a walk to the “ice caves”.

One of the park’s most spectacular winter attractions is the set of ice encrusted sea caves (“ice caves”) on Lake Superior’s mainland shoreline near Mawikwe Bay. Pillars of ice extend to cliff tops where waterfalls have hardened in place. Frozen lake water encrusts the base of the cliffs while inside the caves is a fairyland of needle-like icicles. The surface of Lake Superior near the sea caves may be covered with ice for some or all of the period from mid-January to early April. Thousands of visitors walk, ski, or snowshoe across the ice to explore the sea caves once the ice is in place.

Park staff go to great lengths to determine when ice conditions permit access to the sea caves. Conditions are regularly viewed from the shore as the ice pack develops. As the ice thickens, rangers cut holes in the ice near the sea caves to determine the quality and thickness of the ice. MODIS satellite images (<http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/subsets/?subset=USA3>) help indicate the extent of the ice pack around the islands. The lake ice must be thick enough and in place for several days before the public is notified that the sea caves are accessible.

Rangers monitor ice conditions until the spring breakup occurs. The length of the ice season varies dramatically from year to year. Some years the ice never thickens enough to permit access to the sea caves. In other years, the ice sheet may last for up to two months. When conditions allow access to the caves, park staff assumes numerous responsibilities besides monitoring ice conditions. Snow must be cleared from the access road, parking lot, walkways, and stairway. Parking signs are posted and bulletin boards are updated with current orientation and safety information. On busy weekends staff coordinates parking, explains fees, cleans restrooms, interprets sea cave geology, and responds to medical emergencies. Walking on a frozen lake may be dangerous. Orienting visitors and making sure they are appropriately equipped to venture onto the ice is the most important task during this exceptional winter event to make sure that each visit is memorable for the right reasons.



Top: Visitors in an ice covered alcove at the mainland sea caves (“ice caves”).
Middle: A visitor photographs his partner in the “keyhole” arch.
Bottom: The Bayfield Middle School’s field trip to the caves in February, 2009.

Area school groups often make field trips to the caves when conditions permit. Rangers have accompanied groups from the Bayfield Middle School on visits to the caves each of the past two years. The outings are a highlight for students and staff alike. The sense of adventure and thrill of discovery are contagious and summed up by one student who thought the experience, “felt like the first day at the zoo.”

Planning a Visit to the “Ice Caves”

The first step is to obtain information on current ice conditions at the mainland sea caves (“ice caves”) by calling the 24-hour “Apostle Islands Ice Line” at (715)779-3397 ext. 499. For general information and current weather conditions use ext. 399.

To visit the sea caves, visitors should go to Meyers Road, located about 18 miles west of Bayfield off State Highway 13. There is a daily fee for parking a vehicle at Meyers Road. A stairway at the end of the road leads to the beach. When the bay is frozen, visitors can walk, snowshoe, or ski northeast along the shoreline and across the ice to the caves (snowmobiles are not permitted near the mainland sea caves). The caves begin about one mile from Meyers Beach and extend for more than a mile along the shore.

Visitors must dress warmly to prepare for possible sub-zero temperatures and bitter wind chills. Walking on ice can be dangerous and demands caution. The ice can be very rough or slippery. Watch for new cracks or soft spots in the ice, wear sturdy boots with ice cleats, carry a ski pole or walking stick, and carry ice picks for self-rescue if you break through the ice. Watch for falling ice near the caves. Visitors with dogs must keep them on a leash less than six feet long and clean up their droppings.

What is an Archipelago?

Webster’s Dictionary defines archipelago as
1) A large group of islands, or
2) A sea containing a large group of islands.

Emergencies

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 (land line only, NOT for cell phones).

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Wisconsin's northernmost landscape juts into Lake Superior as the scenic archipelago of 22 Apostle Islands. The area's scenic, historical, biological, and recreational values were recognized in 1970 when Congress named 20 of the islands and 2,500 acres of the peninsula as a national lakeshore. In 1986, Long Island was also included. The Gaylord Nelson Wilderness, including 33,500 acres of the lakeshore, was established in 2004.

This fascinating unit of the National Park System features a combination of spectacular natural beauty and rich cultural history. The wooded islands are trimmed with sea caves, sandstone cliffs, and miles of pristine sand beaches. Native Americans, voyageurs, loggers, stone cutters, farmers, and commercial fishermen all left their marks on the islands. Six light stations were built in the Apostles to aid Great Lakes navigation.

Mailing Address

Park Superintendent
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
415 Washington Avenue
Bayfield, WI 54814

Phone

(715)779-3397

Website/Email

www.nps.gov/apis/
APIS_Webmaster@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

From the Superintendent: An Ecological Disaster in the Making

by Bob Krumenaker

Faithful readers of this column know that I like to write about the behind-the-scenes, all-but- invisible, issues of running a national park. Usually that has to do with park finances, but this year I want to discuss something which gets at the very core of why this park is here – the challenge of protecting the Apostle Islands ecosystem.

We're losing a critical battle. It remains to be seen whether or not we can yet win the war. Serious damage is occurring to one of this park's most important natural resources, ironically caused by overpopulation of other natural resources.

If your house was burning and you had the time to grab just one thing before leaving, what would it be? For most of us, the answer to that question is "photographs." Why?...because we cherish memories. Well, some of the islands in this park are literally snapshots - very rare ones - of the original forests that once covered vast parts of this state and the larger Great Lakes region. Not



Canada yew

only are the old trees still present on some of the islands, but the original understory is present as well. Canada yew, an evergreen shrub that deer prefer to eat above all other plants in this area, is as common on some islands today as it was hundreds of years ago. The handful of islands that historically were never home to deer - Sand, York, Raspberry, Devils, North Twin, Outer and Eagle islands - are some of the very last places where Canada yew can be found on a landscape scale. Like your oldest and most cherished photographs, these forests are irreplaceable.

We have an urgent situation on Sand and York islands. Folks, the house is on fire. Overabundant deer are destroying one of the Great Lakes' rarest ecosystems. As unpleasant as it may be to some, we need to remove deer from some islands in order to save something far more unique. The yew community is long since gone over the vast area it once covered in the United States. It is also essentially gone on Basswood, Oak, and Long islands, where deer numbers have been steady for decades.

The National Park Service, with great cooperation from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, significantly expanded public hunting opportunities after completing the legal requirements for a plan, public involvement, and environmental review. Our goal is to reduce (or keep) the deer population as close to zero as we can on the "yew islands."

While several years of public hunting certainly helped, it hasn't been effective in reducing the deer population on recently colonized islands. Since late 2007, trained park staff and volunteers have begun culling deer from these islands. In fact, after developing the appropriate safety protocols, Apostle Islands was the first national park in the nation to utilize volunteers in ungulate culling operations. Culling is a management practice utilizing sharpshooters and targets the removal of an overpopulated species. Unlike hunting, deer culling is strictly a management action – it is not sport, and we have donated 100% of the venison to nutrition programs for the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Sadly, the significant efforts of public hunters and NPS cullers to help "put out the fire" have not been enough and it continues to rage. These efforts have kept deer numbers steady on Sand and York but they've now colonized Bear Island. An estimated 50 to 100 deer remain on Sand Island alone. More than half of the Canada

yew on Sand and York Islands has been destroyed, and more is being lost every day.

It's time to take the gloves off. If we are unable to significantly reduce the deer population on the newly-colonized islands, we can anticipate a wave of deer - and ecological devastation - to sweep further east, island by island. Raspberry Island lies perilously close to the problem. With its old-growth forest and lush yew understory, Raspberry Island is one of the last remaining places anywhere where you can see the forests of this region just as the Ojibwe, voyageurs, and early settlers did.

At this point, we are exploring every feasible idea for rapid, effective, and cost-efficient removal of deer. Safety for both the public and those directly involved is a huge factor since much of the culling, until now, has taken place in the fall and winter, when Lake Superior is really "the boss." We are considering bringing in teams of highly specialized sharpshooters and various means of trapping or restraining deer. We are investigating the pros and cons of moving wolves a few miles across the water from where they are thriving on the mainland and managing them intensively to serve as biological cullers for a short while. Whatever methods are employed, they must reduce deer populations fast. Not every technique will work quickly enough, and some can't be used concurrently or for an extended period of time. We may need to close islands to public use for short periods. Some of this may be controversial.

But if we don't act soon, and act successfully, we will have failed in upholding the fundamental tenet of the US National Park System: the requirement, spelled out in the 1916 Organic Act which established the National Park Service, to conserve park resources unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

We simply cannot fail in this. I appreciate your trust and support as we ramp up for this latest challenge.

Planning a Visit

Little Sand Bay Center Hours

Open 9 am to 5 pm May 23 - 25
Open Daily 9 am to 5 pm, June 20-Sep. 7

Camping

Camping is available on 18 of the lakeshore's 21 islands and at one campsite 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 on-line at www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/camping.htm

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/launch in Bayfield, \$5/launch at Little Sand Bay. All watercraft must be decontaminated before launching in the lake (see article on page 6). Marinas are in Ashland, Bayfield, Cornucopia, LaPointe, Pike's Bay, Port Superior, Red Cliff, Roys Point, Schooner Bay, and Washburn.

Personal Watercraft (Jet skis)

The use of personal watercraft (jet skis) is not allowed within the national lakeshore's boundaries.

Headquarters Visitor Center

Open Mon- Fri 8 am to 4:30 pm, May 1-May 22
Open Daily 8 am to 4:30 pm, May 23-June 18
Open Daily 8 am to 6 pm, June 19-Sept 6
Open Daily 8 am to 4:30 pm, Sept 7-Oct 11
Open M- F 8 am to 4:30 pm, Oct 13-May, 2010

Paddling

Sea kayaks are very popular for travel among the Apostle Islands. To prevent the spread of the deadly VHS virus, all watercraft must be decontaminated before launching in the lake (see article on page 6). Two kayak launch points are located within the national lakeshore's mainland unit. Meyers Beach is a popular spot to begin a tour to the mainland sea caves. There is a day use parking fee at Meyers Beach. A kayak launch is located west of the NPS dock at Little Sand Bay. Temporary parking for loading/unloading equipment is located to the west of the NPS visitor center. The Apostle Islands Cruise Service will transport a canoe or kayak to the islands for a \$20 fee. For more information check our website at www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/kayaking.htm

Scuba Diving

A free dive permit is required to scuba dive within national lakeshore boundaries. Permits are available from Park Headquarters or Little Sand Bay visitor centers.

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 (see article on page 6). 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 December. A muzzle loader deer hunt (by permit only) is held on the islands during the month 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 law.

Collecting

Reasonable quantities of fruit, berries, and nuts can be gathered for personal use only. Collecting other natural objects such as rocks, wildflowers, and driftwood is not allowed.

Wave Sensor May Improve Kayak Safety

By Kathleen Schmitt Kline,
UW Sea Grant Institute

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has become a world-class destination for sea kayaking, but some of the most popular attractions can also be treacherous. At several spots around the archipelago, years of waves and ice carving sandstone cliffs formed sea caves, a series of delicate arches, vaulted chambers, and hidden passageways that are most easily explored by kayak.

However, under certain conditions, the sea caves can quickly change from awe-inspiring to terrifying. As waves roll into and reflect off of the cave walls, they can intensify and capsize even experienced kayakers. Once out of their boats, paddlers face the threat of hypothermia in water temperatures that hover in the mid-40s for most of the summer and rarely exceed 60 degrees. In addition, the surrounding steep cliffs make seeking safety on shore nearly impossible.

The danger is real and sobering. Over the last five years, two people have died while kayaking near the mainland sea caves about a mile east of Meyers Beach.

“Both of them were experienced athletes, and they were not unaware of the weather forecast. They just underestimated what the impact would be on them in that location,” said Bob Krumenaker, National Park Service superintendent of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Krumenaker said that conditions at Meyers Beach, where kayakers launch their boats, may seem easily manageable, but after rounding a bend to approach the sea caves, the waves can be significantly larger. Gene Clark, a Sea Grant coastal engineer at the



Chin Wu (left), a UW-Madison civil and environmental engineer, and Gene Clark (right), a coastal engineer with the UW Sea Grant Institute, point out some of the cliffs where a transmitter could be mounted to warn kayakers about dangerous wave conditions near the popular Mawike Bay sea caves.

University of Wisconsin–Superior, said the unique topography of the caves combined with certain weather and wave conditions are often to blame for the sometimes treacherous conditions.

“It’s not just one combination of conditions that can cause a dangerous situation—it’s going to be different angles, different waves, different winds, and different wave periods,” Clark said. “We want kayakers to know the current conditions so that they can decide whether or not to paddle out to the remote location.”

With support from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, Clark teamed up with Chin Wu, a UW-Madison civil and environmental engineer from UW-Madison, to find out if there was some way to measure the waves near the sea caves in real-time and transfer that information back to kayakers, outfitters, and park staff.

One appeal of exploring the sea caves

is also the biggest challenge to the monitoring project: the area is very remote, with no electricity or phone lines. Clark and Wu are testing a system that includes a wave sensor on the lake bottom that monitors the size of the waves in the area. The sensor is linked by an underwater cable to a wireless, solar-powered modem mounted out of sight

on the cliffs. From there, data about the real-time wave conditions can be transmitted by cell phone frequency and posted to the Internet.

Clark, Wu and two graduate students tested some of the wave monitoring equipment this last winter, when a thick layer of ice allowed foot travel from Meyers Beach to the sea caves. They are also working with the City of Bayfield, Inland Sea Society, local outfitters, Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and park staff to determine the best format for presenting the real-time data from the wave sensor so that it’s most useful for kayakers.

Krumenaker stressed that the system is still in development and will be tested throughout this summer. Although it won’t be available to the public immediately, he has high hopes for the system’s eventual success. “We expect it will save some lives,” he said.

Here Comes the Sun



A White-throated sparrow sang the first song of the day on Oak Island, and Greg, the volunteer campground host, knew it was time to get up. He planned to hike the eight-mile roundtrip to campsite six today and get back to the cabin in time for a delivery of supplies. He would need coffee, and plenty of it! He was gladdened by the thought that yesterday was so bright and sunny. Thanks to the sun there would be plenty of solar electricity stored and available for his use. Greg would be able to turn on the lights and fill his coffee pot with tap water, while double checking his first aid pack. The quicker he could do this, the sooner he would be able to check on the report of a bear sighting at the campsite.

Photovoltaic, or solar, electricity has been an important energy source at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore for more than 20 years. Currently there are ten photovoltaic systems in place throughout the park. These systems provide a cost effective means of supplying clean renewable power to the ranger stations and staff quarters, like Greg’s cabin, located on the islands. With the exception of utilities on Raspberry Island, each of the photovoltaic systems in the park has been designed and built by National Park Service employees. These systems provide power for such items as water pumps, septic system mound pumps, refrigerators, fans, lighting, cell phone recharging and two-way radios.

All of the photovoltaic systems in the park are stand-alone systems - not tied into a utility company’s power grid. With this type of system, all of the power needs (such as lighting, water pumping and refrigeration) need to be produced by the photovoltaic system. Stand-alone systems require batteries to store power because solar panels only produce power when the sun is shining. The first order of business for a stand-alone system is charging up the batteries and storing the sun’s power for use at night or on cloudy days. Once the batteries are charged, any power that is used during the daylight hours is coming directly from the sun.

A stand-alone system can serve as a valuable tool for learning about the efficient use of power. A typical household on the power grid has 24,000 watts of power available to be used at any time. A typical stand-alone photovoltaic system for an island cabin has 800 to 1500 watts of power available from the solar panels while they are in full sunlight. The batteries will store from 3000 to 6000 watts to be used when the sun is not shining. High power devices that we all take for granted, like 1000-watt hair driers, are not practical since they consume so much power. Even a low power device will become a high power consumer if it’s left on for an extended period of time. Island staff must develop energy smart habits (like turning lights off when they are not needed), since there is only a finite amount of stored power. Several cloudy days may pass until there is enough sunlight to recharge the batteries.

Greg was now on his way back to the volunteer cabin, glad the campers were keeping their campsite clean, and that the bear had thus lost interest in the campsite. Now he could collect the supplies that were being dropped off, and maybe take time for a quick hot shower. He knew that he had the sun to thank for that pleasure. Greg glanced up and smiled as the sunlight hit his face.

When Nature Calls

Dealing with human waste in the Apostle Islands

Thousands of visitors are drawn to the Apostle Islands each year by the siren song of the lake, the cry of the loon, or the call of the wild. Though people are attracted to the islands for many different reasons, there is one call that virtually everyone answers during their visit...the call of nature.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has 62 vault toilets (a.k.a. outhouses) on 14 islands and the mainland. These facilities are conveniently located near most of the public docks and campsites in the park. They are provided solely for the containment of human waste. Never dispose of garbage in the toilets. Park staff generally replenishes the toilet paper supply at outhouses in busy locations as often as possible. The Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore are once again generously donating all of the toilet paper for use in park outhouses in 2009. Please be conscientious to fellow visitors and do not take rolls of toilet paper from the outhouses. Many vault toilets, however, are in remote locations infrequently visited by park staff. Visitors should be prepared to supply their own toilet paper.

In areas that are not equipped with toilet facilities, packing out feces is the most responsible way of dealing with human waste. Disposable travel toilets have made this much easier to do. One such disposable waste kit, called a WAG BAG®, is a biodegradable double bag system made from puncture-resistant materials. Each waste kit includes a zip close disposal/transport bag and a waste collection bag preloaded with waste treatment powder



Dozens of kayakers regularly stop for a break at “Lunch Beach” east of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore’s mainland sea caves. No outhouse facilities are provided at this remote location. Visitors to this site should be prepared to pack out human waste. Disposable travel toilets have made this task much easier. Be sure to ask park staff or outfitters about recommended procedures.

that treats up to 32 ounces of liquid and solid waste, allowing for multiple uses. It turns liquid waste to a solid for hygienic and spill-proof transport. It also controls odors and contains a decay catalyst that breaks down solid waste. WAG BAG kits are biodegradable and approved for landfill disposal.

If it is not possible to pack out the waste, proper disposal helps prevent water pollution, minimizes aesthetic impacts to other visitors, and reduces the spread of illness. In places that are regularly visited by people, it is best to bury human waste in a “cathole”. Select a site that is at least 200 feet (about seventy adult steps) from water, trails, or campsites. Dig a hole six to eight inches deep and four to six inches in diameter. A small garden trowel is a good tool for this. When done, stir in the soil with a stick, cover with two inches of topsoil, and camouflage the surface. Try to minimize the use of toilet paper by using natural substitutes like leaves, snow, or sticks.

Some remote campsites do not receive enough use to justify building a vault toilet, but are

too busy to rely solely on catholes. The National Park Service plans to experiment with a moldering privy near the campsite on Cat Island. Moldering privies provide an alternative which offers less maintenance and utilizes fewer resources than traditional pit toilets. Moldering privy users throw a handful of forest duff from a duff container on to the pile of human waste after each use. Duff is added because doing so incorporates the organisms that break down the leaves into the pile and eventually break down the pile as well. The duff also helps to aerate the pile by adding some things that are bulky and have air space between them. A layer of duff over the pile also helps to reduce odor.

“Going to the bathroom” is something we do all the time and often take for granted. Relieving yourself becomes a whole new ball game when there is no bathroom to go to. Planning ahead helps improve your experience and the experience of future visitors. Give some thought to what you should do when you have to respond to nature’s call.

Planning a Visit

Island Tours/Shuttles

The Apostle Islands Cruise Service (an authorized National Park Service concessioner) offers a variety of nonstop sight-seeing 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

Camping (per site per night)

- Individual site or camping zone: \$10
- Group site: \$20

Docking (between 6 pm and 6 am)

- Boats less than 40 feet: \$10
- Six-night docking ticket book: \$50
- Boats 40 feet or more: \$20
- Six-night docking ticket book: \$100

Parking

- Meyers Beach day use, vehicle less than 20’ (including trailer): \$3
- Meyers Beach day use, vehicle 20’ or more: \$5
- Meyers Beach annual parking pass (cost based on vehicle length): \$15-25
- Bayfield Headquarters overnight (cost based on vehicle length): \$5-8

Guided tours/interpretive programs

- Per person: \$3
- Per immediate family: \$8



Fees are now charged for camping, overnight docking at public docks, parking at Meyers Beach, and Raspberry Island lighthouse tours.

All of the fee revenue collected at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore stays in the park and is used for critical and highly visible projects to benefit the public.

Most nightly camping fees are collected at the visitor center in Bayfield. Annual parking passes for Meyers Beach and docking tickets that provide a discount for boaters wishing to pre-pay the overnight docking fee are also available at the Bayfield visitor center.

The National Park Service relies heavily on self-registration to collect fees for parking, overnight docking, and interpretive tours. Self-service collection stations are available at Meyers Beach, Little Sand Bay, Bayfield visitor center, Basswood Island, Manitou Island, Michigan Island, Oak Island, Otter Island, Raspberry Island, Rocky Island, Sand Island, South Twin Island, and Stockton Island. Fee envelopes and self-registration instructions are available at each self-service collection station.

The Golden Age Passport or Interagency Senior Pass (for U.S. citizens 62 or older) and Golden

Access Passport or Interagency Access Pass (for permanently disabled U.S. citizens) provide a 50% discount on federal recreational user fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, docking, parking and guided tours.

Detailed information on fees is available at park headquarters in Bayfield as well as on line at <http://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/recreation-user-fees.htm>.

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

Guided tours of the restored Raspberry Island lighthouse will be offered daily between 9 am and 4:30 pm from June 20 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 mid-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 Presque Isle 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. Starting times vary through the season.

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 Cruise Service Tour Summary - 2009

Cruise Name	Description	Dates/Times
Grand Tour \$39.95/adult, \$23.95/child	3.25 hour nonstop cruise around Devils Island	10 am daily May 16-Oct. 11
Stockton Shuttle Dayhiker:\$41.95/ adult, \$24.95/child Camper: \$54.95/ adult, \$32.95/child	4.5 hour shuttle to Stockton Island (day hike/camp)	8:30 am, Tue-Fri-Sat-Sun June 30-Aug. 23
Raspberry Island Lighthouse Tour \$41.95/adult, \$24.95/child	4 hour shuttle to Raspberry Island (lighthouse tour)	1:30 pm, Tue-Fri-Sat-Sun June 30-Aug. 23
Islander Lighthouse Cruise \$30.95/adult, \$17.95/child	2 hour nonstop cruise past Basswood & Hermit Islands to Raspberry Island and back	2 pm daily, July 1 - Aug. 30
Evening Grand Tour-\$39.95/adult, \$23.95/child	3.25 hour nonstop cruise around Devils Island	5:45 pm, Fri-Sat July 4 - Aug. 22

Call 800-323-7619 for Reservations

Around the Archipelago 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. The free presentations are scheduled on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore’s Bayfield visitor center.

July 6 Winter Life on Madeline Island

Steve Cotherman, director of the Madeline Island Museum, discusses some of the unique aspects of life on the largest Apostle Island.

July 13 Monitoring Bald Eagles for Environmental Contaminants

Biologist Bill Route will present data on three years of sampling nestling bald eagles to monitor trends in environmental contaminants at three national parks in the upper Midwest. Hear how levels of some contaminants have declined while others, including new contaminants of concern, have increased at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

July 20 Bats of Northern Wisconsin

Bats have been entwined with our human history and mythology, often as creatures that are misunderstood and feared. Biologist Brian Heeringa from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will explain the mythologies surrounding bats, bat diversity around the world, which bats call northern Wisconsin home, and what you can do to support bat conservation.

July 27 Gaia the American Kestrel

Steve Hoecker, director of the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, is also a falconer. Join Steve and his kestrel “Gaia” to learn the natural history of this interesting raptor.

August 3 An Overview of Early Ojibwe History in the Chequamegon Bay Area

Howard Paap, retired anthropology professor, is researching a book on this topic. He will discuss Ojibwe history from 1641 up to the Treaty of 1854 and Chief Buffalo’s death in 1855.

August 10 Developing a “Real Time Wave Observation System”

Gene Clark, coastal engineering specialist for the UW Sea Grant Institute, will describe the ongoing studies at the mainland sea caves by the NPS and the University of Wisconsin to design, test and deploy a system which would measure waves in “real-time” and transmit the data so that it may be used to alert paddlers of potentially dangerous wave conditions.

August 17 Plant Community in Peril!

Overabundant deer are destroying one of the Great Lakes’ rarest ecosystems. Park staff discuss efforts to protect the rare plant community on Sand and York islands.

August 24 ‘The National Parks: This is America’ ...a film by Ken Burns

Help celebrate the 93rd anniversary of the National Park Service with birthday cake and a screening of a new Ken Burns documentary film!

Safety is Your Responsibility

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore encompasses more than 500 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 715-373-6120 (night, Bayfield County Sheriff),
or 715-779-3950 (night, U.S. Coast Guard),
or 911 (land line only, NOT for cell)

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.

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 an adequate filter (0.4 microns pore size) before use. This precaution eliminates many organisms including Giardia, a bacteria which causes an intestinal disorder.



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.

Paddling

Canoes should not be used for travel between the islands. Calm days may make canoe use possible along the mainland or 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 Apostles 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



Bear proof food lockers are provided at most campsites in the park. Food should be locked up except during meals.

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, Sand Island, or the mainland sea caves is not permitted.

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 campsites, docks 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.

Black Bears

Stockton, Oak, Manitou, and Sand islands 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 the kitchen site after cooking. Use minimal amounts of water to clean dishes and broadcast that wastewater on the ground at least 50 yards from camp. All food, garbage, cooking materials, condiments, utensils, and toiletries (such as toothpaste or soap) must be secured from wildlife contact. Bear-proof lockers are provided at campsites on Basswood, Cat, Devils, Manitou, Michigan, Oak, Otter, Outer, Sand, Stockton, and York islands as well as the mainland campsite. Where food lockers or closed vessels are not available, hang all food and related items 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 mosquitos, 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

Campfires must be built in metal fire receptacles where provided. Beach fires must be built on bare beach sand and be no more than three feet in diameter. Dead, loose wood on the ground in forested areas or unvegetated beach areas may be collected for firewood. Firewood can NOT be brought into the park or carried between islands. Chain saws cannot be operated 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 allowed on Raspberry Island beaches, at Julian Bay and Presque Isle Bay on Stockton Island, or on beaches within 150 feet of campsites where fire receptacles are provided. Fires are not permitted in portable grills or stoves on docks or on boats tied to public docks. Open fires will be prohibited during times of high fire danger.

Pets

Pets must be kept on a leash that is six feet 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, campsite, 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 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 campsite. The visitor center and restrooms at the Little Sand Bay visitor center are 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 restroom facilities. A wooden ramp leads to the west 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.

Weather and Climate

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. 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) marine forecast and the open waters forecast. Marine weather forecasts are broadcast on

Gale Warning Flags 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.

What’s the Weather?		
	Avg. High/Low	Avg. Precip. ”
January	21/3	1.64
February	27/6	1.14
March	35/16	2.05
April	48/28	2.40
May	61/38	3.29
June	71/47	4.16
July	77/55	3.98
August	75/54	3.98
September	68/46	3.58
October	55/36	2.74
November	38/25	2.66
December	26/12	1.56
Yearly Avg.	50/31	33.18
Average temperature (degrees F) and precipitation measured on Madeline Island		

Park News

Draft General Management Plan to be Released

The last time the NPS engaged the public in the lengthy and ongoing process of developing a new General Management Plan/Wilderness Management Plan for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore was during the summer of 2006. At that time, we had identified what we thought were the major issues the plan should address, and we asked for public opinion on various approaches to address them.

General Management Plans and Wilderness Management Plans are critical park planning documents that define the general approach the NPS will follow in managing the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the newly-designated Gaylord Nelson Wilderness for the next 15-20 years. Since they are broad, sweeping plans that will define the park and wilderness area for quite some time, it is extremely important for the public to weigh in during public comment periods. In 2006, the response was excellent.

After two years of carefully considering your views, strengthening and at times revising our ideas, and a lot of writing, a draft plan is rapidly nearing completion. At the time this newspaper went to print, it was still too early to know precisely when it would be released, but we’re pretty confident it will be available for public review at some point in the mid to late summer.



Public meetings will be scheduled to collect feedback on the draft plans.

As in the past, the public will have the opportunity to review what we have produced, and to provide us with critical feedback. As soon as we know when the document will be available for release, we will schedule several meetings in the local and regional area. In the past we have had meetings in Bayfield, Red Cliff, Odanah, Ashland, Duluth, and in the Twin Cities and Madison. Some of the best meetings we have had in the past have occurred right in the park – at Stockton Presque Isle on a Friday or Saturday evening. We anticipate having meetings in all of these locations once again, hopefully during the last week of July. The meeting schedule will be finalized and available soon on our website at www.nps.gov/apis/gmp.htm, along with the draft plan itself once it is available for release.

We hope you will once again take advantage of the opportunity to share your thoughts with us on these important documents. We’re hoping you will let us know what you like about them, and what you don’t like about them. While that feedback is important, we’re also interested in what your approach would be, if different from ours. In the past, thoughtful comments that articulated an alternative approach or vision for this place were not only considered, but helped shape the very plan itself. We can’t do that if you keep your opinions to yourself, so we hope you’ll be ready to engage in serious discussion this summer.

We’re looking forward to it.



Ken Burns Completes NPS Documentary Film

Filmmakers Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan have created a documentary film on the national parks and the origin of the National Park Service that provides opportunities for Americans to reflect on the significance and value of their national parks. Public television will air the six-part, twelve hour series *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea* this fall (September, 2009). On making the series, Dayton Duncan stated: “When we set out ten years ago to make a PBS documentary on the history of the national parks, we were surprised at what we discovered. We knew that our journey would bring us to some of the most spectacular landscapes on earth and some of the most iconic places in American history. We knew that we might come across magnificent species of animals – bears and buffalo, wolves and trumpeter swans – that would have vanished forever without parks as their refuge. And we knew that, like you, we would be creating unforgettable memories that we could share with our families for generations to come.”

“What surprised us were the remarkable stories of the people who made each park possible. We discovered people from every conceivable background – rich and poor; famous and unknown; soldiers and scientists; natives and newcomers; idealists, artists, and entrepreneurs – who have been part of the national park idea from the very beginning. What they had in common was a passion to save some precious portion of the land they loved so that those of us who followed might have the same chance to fall in love with that place.”

Deadly Virus Threatens Lake Superior Fish

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a deadly fish virus and while it does not pose a threat to human health, it threatens fish populations on a global scale. VHS has been detected in all the lower Great Lakes and several inland lakes in Wisconsin and Michigan. It is spreading rapidly and is known to cause large scale fish kills. It has been found in 32 species of fresh water fish, 28 of which inhabit the Lake Superior Basin. These include lake whitefish, rainbow trout, muskellunge, walleye, yellow perch, brown trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass.



VHS symptoms include bulging eyes and hemorrhaging (bleeding).

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, the three other Lake Superior National Parks, and tribal governments have joined together with state agencies to aggressively fight the spread of VHS. New state and federal rules have been put into place.

- The following state laws apply to all anglers and boaters in the Lake Superior Basin:
- You must drain all water from boats, containers, and fishing equipment when leaving any state waters, banks or shores, or entering Wisconsin over land. This does not apply to any drinking water or up to 2 gallons of water being used to hold minnows that can be legally transported.
 - You may not transport any live fish or live fish eggs away from any state waters. There is an exception for minnows obtained from a Wisconsin bait dealer. These minnows may be transported away live and used again.
 - You may not use dead fish, fish eggs, or fish parts as bait.
 - You may not possess or use minnows for bait that are obtained outside of Wisconsin. All minnows must be obtained from a certified Wisconsin dealer.



Inspect, drain and dry boats to prevent VHS spread.

- In addition to state rules, the following emergency restrictions apply within the authorized boundary of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.
- Uptake and/or discharge of ballast water are prohibited.
 - All watercraft and gear or equipment must be decontaminated prior to launch into NPS administered waters. This means all watercraft and associated gear must be dried and free of any vegetation, animals, and mud. The bilges, live wells, and other compartments must be clean, dry, and free of all organic material. Organic materials that are removed must be disposed of in an NPS provided trash can or stored in a closed container that remains on land until it can be properly disposed of outside of the national lakeshore. If boaters have complied with state rules on their most recent trip, they should not need to take additional action to comply with this park rule.
 - All water from the bilge and vessel compartments or containers of non-potable water (except those carrying VHS-free certified baits in accordance with State of Wisconsin rules) must be disposed of where it will not drain directly into Lake Superior or inland waters onshore at least 100 feet from any water source.
 - Only artificial bait may be used for fishing inland waters on any island.
 - For all other waters, any live or dead fish or fish part, including fish roe (eggs) otherwise permitted for use by the State of Wisconsin provided it was harvested from the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior within Ashland or Bayfield Counties may be used as bait.

For more information, details and frequently asked questions please visit our web sites at <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs> and <http://nps.gov/apis>.



Work Planned at Stockton Island Campground

Shoreline erosion and years of heavy use have taken a toll on some of the campsites at the Presque Isle Campground on Stockton Island. The National Park Service has received funding to alleviate some of the erosion problems, replace and/or relocate some campsite amenities, and improve access from the shoreline to some campsites. Campsite improvement work may cause some inconvenience or make some campsites temporarily unavailable. Call 715-779-3397 for more information.

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 new 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 new booklet is available free to Junior Rangers of all ages. It was made possible with help from Eastern National, the National Park Foundation, the SCA, and through the generous support of Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., a National Corporate Partner of the National Park Foundation. 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 2008 those funds were used to make dock repairs to address visitor safety issues and increase visitor access. Ice damage was repaired at many park docks. Boards, cleats, and support structures were replaced. The finger piers at Little Sand Bay were removed and reconfigured. This year the money will be used to restore an historic road and former trail on Sand Island. The trail will provide access to the historic Hansen Farm site on East Bay. The National Park Service plans to restore and stabilize some of the buildings at the farm. Public access to the site will be available once restoration is complete.

Stressed Out Forests

Forests of the Apostle Islands have experienced a lot of stress lately. Some of that stress, such as a couple of years of drought and irruptions of native pests like the linden looper and saddle back prominent moths, might be considered “normal”. Add to that an invasion by the exotic gypsy moth, and the stress might be too much for some trees. Gypsy moths are the most serious pest of oak and other hardwood forests in the eastern United States. Introduced in 1868 to Massachusetts, the first outbreak occurred in 1889. By 1987, the gypsy moth had established itself throughout the northeast USA, southern Quebec, and Ontario. Since 1980, the gypsy moth has defoliated over 1 million acres (4,000 km²) of forest each year. They continue to advance steadily westward – now infesting more than half of Wisconsin. Gypsy moths arrived at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore nearly ten years ago – most likely as hitchhikers on firewood carried to the islands by campers. The density of gypsy moths in the islands is much higher than the nearby mainland...and they have been found on every island! Another invader that is, unfortunately, coming our way is the emerald ash borer. This little green bug is lethal to several species of ash and has the potential to kill



top: Gypsy moth larva.
middle: Female gypsy moth and egg sac.
bottom: Adult emerald ash borer

virtually every ash tree in affected areas, similar to what Dutch elm disease did to elm trees. Because it burrows under bark, the ash borer is hard to detect. Sometimes a tree is infested for years and the ash borer is only found once the tree starts to die. First discovered near Detroit in 2002, it probably arrived on wood pallets arriving from Asia. This exotic pest has already killed tens of millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Missouri, Wisconsin, Virginia, Ontario, and Quebec. Ash borers were discovered in southeastern Wisconsin in 2008.

It's too late to prevent gypsy moths from reaching the Apostle Islands, but you can help prevent the introduction of other exotic pests like the emerald ash borer, and perhaps keep gypsy moths from spreading to other areas in the midwest (see sidebar).

Many people come to the islands in an attempt to leave stress behind. Let's all do our part to also leave behind the exotic invaders that threaten to over-stress many of the trees comprising the forests that give the islands such character.



Gypsy moth egg sac

No Hitchhikers Allowed...Don't Take Home Any Unwanted Guests!

It is very important that we all take steps to not only prevent insect pests like the emerald ash borer from getting to the Apostle Islands, but also to avoid spreading insects like gypsy moths from the Apostles to other areas.

- Do not carry firewood to the islands, between islands, or from the islands to the mainland.
- Check your boats and gear for hitchhiking insects, insect larvae, and eggs. Remove them before going to or from the islands.

Lights at Long and Sand Islands Receive Needed Attention

One of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore's lesser-known lighthouses is in the midst of a multi-year rehabilitation project. 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.



Chequamegon Point light on Long Island.

The National Park Service received funding in 2006 to begin repairing the damage to the Chequamegon Point Light and stabilize the tower at its present location. During the summer of 2006, the tower was braced, and then raised one leg at a time to pour new cement footings. The metal legs were straightened and attached to the new foundation. The cast iron flooring on the catwalk around the lantern room was repaired in 2007. The four broken cast iron sections were recast, following the original U.S.



Park staff give Sand Island lighthouse a “facelift”.



Park staff installed new glass in the Chequamegon Point light's lantern room in 2008.

Lighthouse Service drawings. A temporary crane or hoist was transported to the island to reinstall each of the four sections. New glass was installed in the lantern room in 2008. The rehabilitation is not yet complete. As funds

become available, a new gallery railing will be installed around the exterior of the lantern room, the floor for the tower workroom will be replaced, woodwork will be repaired, and the tower will get a fresh coat of paint.

National Park Service staff is also working to rehabilitate the exterior surfaces of the Sand Island Lighthouse. In the summer of 2008, the brownstone and brickwork of the lighthouse, the oil shed, and the historic privy were repointed. Rotted window sashes and cracked glazing on the lighthouse windows were removed and replaced. The exterior doors were rehabilitated and the doors, windows, and wooden trim on the lighthouse were repainted. Work is proceeding on rebuilding the lighthouse's historic window shutters. Plans include installing the new shutters at the lighthouse in 2009. Ongoing work required closing the lighthouse to visitors for part of the summer in 2008. In 2009, park staff will once again offer guided tours of the Sand Island light.

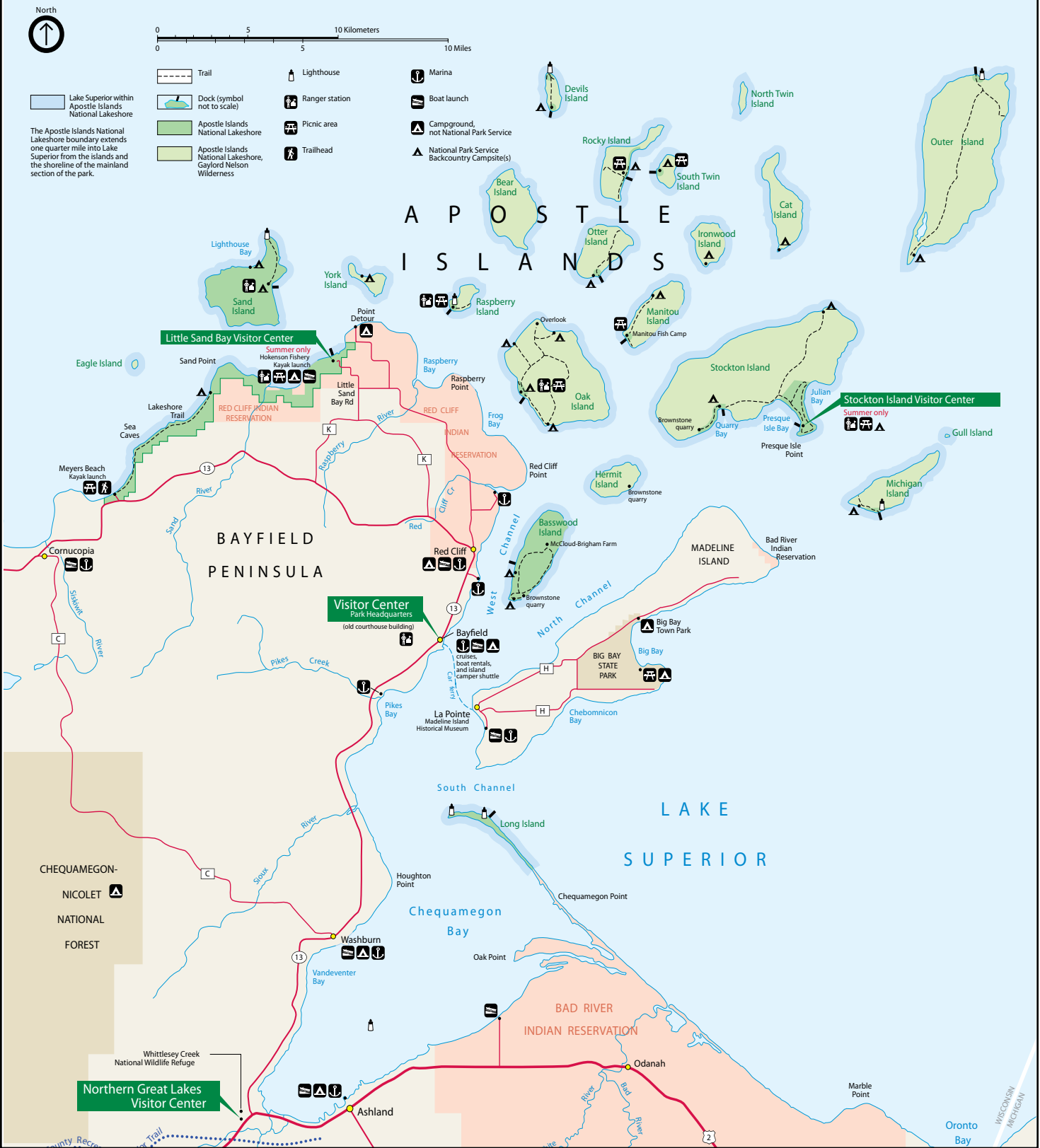
Funds Pledged for Rehabilitation of Apostle Islands' Lighthouses

In 2009 Apostle Islands National Lakeshore received a targeted Congressional authorization of \$5 million to restore light stations within the park. These funds will enable the National Park Service to start tackling the staggering amount of maintenance needed to preserve and protect the Apostle Islands' light stations. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is home to more lighthouses than any other National Park Service unit. A “light station” includes a lighthouse and the various dwellings and structures associated with it. Light stations are found on Devils, Long, Michigan, Outer, Raspberry, and Sand islands. Each of these light stations is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and are, collectively, referred to as the “largest and finest collection of historic lighthouses in the country” by some historians. At the time of this publication, plans were still being formulated to determine which lighthouses and light stations would benefit from this money. A multi-year process will be required to assure adequate planning, historic accuracy, removal of safety hazards, and completion of on-site work. This money will help mitigate years of deterioration that threatens the longevity of these national treasures.



Rotten window sashes and cracked window glazing were repaired at Sand Island light in 2008.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore



A visitor photographs the Devils Island light tower from the Apostle Islands Cruise Service boat.



Long Island provides important habitat for many species of birds like these gulls.



Two new Junior Rangers earn their badges.



Presque Isle campground on Stockton Island.

National Lakeshore fortunate to have “Friends” like these

Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore



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

The Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore was established to promote an appreciation for and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage and the natural environment of the Apostle Islands. The Friends are in their sixth year of providing funds for special projects within Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Since 2004, the Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has raised over \$95,000 to support park projects. This year, the Friends’ projects include:

- 1) Publication of the park newspaper.
- 2) Funding the “Around the Archipelago” guest lecture series.
- 3) Providing funds to purchase a bear-proof food storage box and two benches. The benches will be installed at the Presque Isle dock on Stockton Island.

We are always looking for more Friends to help ensure that these projects will be completed this year. We invite all visitors and fans of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to consider joining this organization. Your tax deductible contribution to the Friends goes to projects within the national lakeshore not funded in the National Park Service budget.

As a Friend of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore you will receive periodic newsletters and e-mail blasts about current issues and topics related to the park. You will also be advised of areas where we will need your support for new projects and we will seek your ideas and suggestions for how the Friends support the national lakeshore.

We hope you enjoy your stay among the Apostle Islands and experience a true sense of relaxation as you explore the beauty of these islands. Please consider joining us to help preserve this outstanding natural environment for generations to come. For more information, please visit our web site at www.friendsoftheapostleislands.org



Proper storage of food, cooking materials, utensils, toiletries, and other scented items in bear-proof boxes (above), like those donated by NPLSF and the “Friends”, can help prevent close encounters with bears (below).



National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation

The National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation (NPLSF) is a 501 (c) 3 organization with a mission to support the five national parks on Lake Superior through fund raising and advocacy. NPLSF supports the kinds of projects that are not federally funded.

Last year, the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation purchased bear-proof food storage boxes for campsites at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. This year the foundation has funded acquisition of a solar refrigerator for one of the ranger/volunteer quarters located on the islands.

The National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation is excited about collaborating on this project for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.