

Wolf's Eye



Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association

October 2011

IRKPA Publishes Two New Books!

Two long-awaited publishing projects reached fruition this summer, one for each of our parks. Get a taste by reading the excerpts below

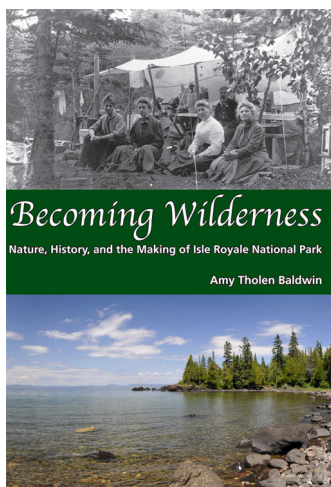
Thanks to grants from the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission and Travel Dynamics, *Exploring Michigan's Historic Copper Country* (\$7.95) now guides visitors and residents alike

on a tour of the region's copper mining from prehistory to the waning days of the 20th Century. Woven into the story by author Celeste Haapala are Keweenaw National Historical Park and its nineteen Keweenaw Heritage Site partners that offer a glimpse into the past.

Becoming Wilderness: Nature, History, and the Making of Isle Royale National Park

(\$12.95) explores the little-known back-story of Isle Royale's twenty-year journey from a largely unknown island in Lake Superior to the nation's first wilderness national park. Author Amalia Tholen Baldwin reveals the complex interplay of people, politics, and the evolving concept of wilderness behind the simple story that has been told of the park's formation.

Becoming Wilderness: Nature, History, and the Making of Isle Royale National Park



“Isle Royale was a lot different them days,” said Milford Johnson, Jr., as he gazed through the vessel *Wenonah's* windows and out over the harbor. He shifted his position so that he could look directly at me with his lively blue eyes. “I think it would have been more of a wilderness then than it is now. Much more.”

His eyes crinkled as he smiled at my surprised look. His “then” was the 1920s—a time when several hundred people lived on Isle Royale during the summer months. He was comparing it to

the present day—when Isle Royale is ninety-nine percent federally designated wilderness. In other words, he was referring to his own home as wilderness, and to the national park as...well, as civilized.

I had gone to visit Johnson on a cool July day in 2007 to discuss the transition Isle Royale began in the 1920s from a small community into a national park and federal wilderness. Basically, I had wanted to know why the island had been selected as a national park. In the 1910s, Isle Royale was undifferentiated from the hundreds of other resort and natural areas of the upper Great Lakes, but within a few decades it had joined the ranks of an

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Exploring Michigan's Historic Copper Country



The beauty of Upper Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula is breathtaking, with miles of vibrant forests bordering rocky shorelines, sandy beaches, and the blue expanse of Lake Superior. Thousands of visitors every year are drawn to the rich landscape, peaceful atmosphere, and the abundant, year-round outdoor experiences the area has to offer.

However, looking a little deeper, one can see the centuries of human struggles and successes that are entwined within the natural environment. It is a story filled with prehistoric miners, adventurers settling in a remote region, and big companies determined to make a profit.

Copper is the guiding force behind every chapter of this story, and so the area gained its nickname. The Copper Country extends from Ontonagon, Houghton, and Baraga Counties through the tip of Keweenaw County. This stretch of land was once home to the largest known deposits of pure elemental copper in the world. The metal put these counties on the map, making the Copper Country famous throughout the world.

The United States is known for being a home to immigrants, built from scratch into an industrial nation. Keweenaw National Historical Park and its network of Keweenaw Heritage Sites make it easy

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Grand Opening of Calumet Visitor Center on October 27

A 10 AM ribbon cutting on Thursday, October 27, will top off years of planning for Keweenaw National Historical Park's Calumet Visitor Center (CVC) at the historic Union Building. Senator Carl Levin, who was instrumental in the park's creation, and National Park Service Midwest Regional Director Mike Reynolds are expected to take part. The date is also the nineteenth anniversary of Keweenaw National Historical Park's authorization.

A naturalization ceremony will be held at 11 AM, followed by a pasty luncheon at noon across the street at the

Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's for \$7.00.

Tours of the CVC exhibits, the Calumet Theatre, and the Keweenaw Heritage Center will be available during the day. The latter is hosting a display of panels from The Story Line project (www.thestorylineproject.com) that accompanied the opening of the Rockland opera earlier this year in Houghton.

The Fourth Thursday in History program that evening at 7 PM on the third floor of the CVC will focus on the making of the "Risk and Resilience: Life in a Copper Mining Community"

exhibit and video.

Friday morning will feature a Historians Symposium on the third floor of the CVC from 10:30 am to noon. The public is welcome.

The Calumet Visitor Center is open to the public with free admission beginning October 27 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



Becoming Wilderness, from p. 1

elite set of places widely considered to be the most spectacular landscapes in the United States. What had qualified the island to join the park system and how had the park movement progressed? I was asking Johnson because he had been there: on the island, in the park, at its very beginning. What did he remember from his boyhood?

Johnson can tell exciting tales of chasing moose, catching fish, and chauffeuring tourists, but he cannot remember having heard any of the pre-park discussions. He and the other island residents I spoke with were too young at the time to have been party to the park planning. The decisions that would shape the rest of their lives were ones made by the adults, generally in places far from their homes....

Today the island landscape has changed, its historic complexity largely hidden behind forested trails. Outside of Rock Harbor, along the hiking trails and shorelines, camp shelters are the only signs of human-made structures. The once intricate mix of people and place that Milford Johnson experienced—a mix that was celebrated in the park's early beginnings—is increasingly difficult to find. As life-lease holders pass away and summer cottages collapse back into the trees, the Park Service is allowing an overtly natural landscape to replace them. In some cases, the lessees' descendants have been granted special-use permits, allowing them to continue using their families' historic cabins and outbuildings. This practice has facilitated a fragile link with the island's past that could, at any moment, be cut. The historic structures on Isle Royale are testament to the people who were once instrumental in imagining the landscape that we see today.

Exploring Michigan's Historic Copper Country, from p. 1

and enjoyable for today's visitors to learn the stories of the people who came and went from the Copper Country, of the fortunes won and lost, and of the many towns and mine sites that developed out of this frontier. The history of the Copper Country is the history of a nation and its people....

Like the simple Stoll story, the Park Service's move toward labeling Isle Royale simply as "wilderness" and overlooking what that word once meant on the island has the potential to obscure a fascinating and complex history of people interacting with and protecting their environment. While there is a vast swathe of water between Isle Royale and the mainland, nothing separates the island from the decisions we make in our daily lives. The air and water that surround the island and the rain that falls on it carry our decisions with them. We are, indeed, a part of the island's nature.

As the original testing ground for the Park Service's foray into wilderness recreation, Isle Royale has long set the standard for a wilderness experience. It is the perfect place for the Park Service and island visitors to demonstrate that people are still a vital part of a wilderness, members of the community of life the national park protects. The story of Isle Royale National Park is a complex one; it is a story that involves large social and political movements, geographic challenges, and action by people who love the island. It is a story that is not over. The questions asked and decisions made in the history of the park are questions and decisions that are still contemplated today. What exactly is a wilderness? How should it look? Who belongs there? The ways in which these questions are answered determines how future visitors will view Isle Royale's past. Wilderness on Isle Royale is a living, changing landscape. It is the people who love it that give it breath, shape its contours, and decide which story will be told in the years to come.

You can't see with one glance the thousands of years of history that shaped a huge industry on the Keweenaw Peninsula. With a closer look, though, you can find the story within the landscape, architecture, heritage centers, mine tours, and small-town museums. It truly is a compelling story of human struggle and success, of romance, adventure, and perseverance.

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 Young, Carol
 Zarembo, Pete
 Zerbey, Benjamin
 Zychowicz, Joseph

* additional donation
 ** died in 2010

Please let us know if we missed anyone.

IRKPA Financial Report

Income and Expense, Years Ended September 30

	2008	2009	2010
Income			
Sales & Shipping	\$118,392	\$97,779	\$98,527
Member Dues	\$37,317	\$27,777	\$28,360
Donations/Grants*	\$20,366	\$21,609	\$16,614
Programs	\$10,173	\$11,382	\$9,887
Interest/Discounts/Misc.	\$46	\$0	\$36
Auction & Special Events	\$943	\$115	\$1,343
Total Income	\$187,237	\$158,664	\$154,767
Cost of Goods Sold	\$65,335	\$52,287	\$49,176
PROFIT	\$121,902	\$106,377	\$105,591
Expense			
Operating Expense	\$84,408	\$83,430	\$87,927
Net Annual Income	\$37,494	\$22,947	\$17,664
Aid to Parks	\$16,759	\$20,447	\$14,757
Net Increase/Decrease	\$20,735	\$2,500	\$2,907

*Donations do not include gifts to endowment fund at Keweenaw Community Foundation (see below)

Balance Sheets on 9/30

	2008	2009	2010
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & Investments	\$4,767	\$11,690	\$21,479
Receivables	\$2,592	\$1,283	\$219
Inventory	\$151,162	\$139,129	\$134,475
Total Current Assets	\$158,521	\$152,102	\$156,173
Fixed Assets (Equipment)	\$577	\$117	\$167
Total Assets	\$159,098	\$152,219	\$156,340
Liabilities & Equity			
Accounts Payable	\$13,544	\$16,087	\$360
Grant Deferred Income	\$2,000	\$0	\$8,685
Credit Line/Credit Card	\$23,270	\$13,847	\$16,775
Payroll/Sales Tax Liability			\$2,104
Total Current Liabilities	\$38,814	\$29,934	\$29,870
Equity	\$113,865	\$122,285	\$126,470
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$152,679	\$152,219	\$156,340

Keweenaw Community Foundation

Endowment Fund	2008	2009	2010
9/30 Balance	\$112,748	\$128,812	\$139,237
Basis	\$115,189	\$126,752	\$131,323
Grant to Operating Funds	\$0	\$0	\$3,625

Aid to Parks	2008	2009	2010
Cash Contribution			
Greenstone Newspaper	\$2,540	\$4,730	\$5,907
ISRO Kids Newspaper	\$951	\$0	\$0
Keweenaw Guide Newspaper	\$1,971	\$2,839	\$2,871
Park Brochures	\$1,379	\$0	\$0
Artist-in-Residence Program	\$210	\$404	\$709
Interpretive Materials	\$100	\$0	\$0
Superintendents Accounts	\$344	\$74	\$375
Natural Resources	\$3,114	\$10,900	\$1,395
Author/Designer Fees	\$6,150	\$1,500	\$3,500
Total Cash Contribution	\$16,759	\$20,447	\$14,757

FY 2009-10 Report to the National Park Service

The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) hired a replacement for the executive director who retired after 12 years in the position. A month of training, followed by volunteer help from the retired director over the next six months, aided the transition. The new director continued efforts to pay off debt and reduce operating costs, while automating recurring bill payments where possible for greater efficiency.

IRKPA provided \$8,011 in Aid-to-Park support for ISRO and \$3,246 for KEWE, plus \$3,500 to the author and designer of *Exploring Michigan's Historic Copper Country*, to be published in May 2011. IRKPA received a \$4,500 grant for publication costs. Aid-to-Park support included flight time for the Isle Royale beaver survey, 17,000 copies of *The Greenstone* and 25,000 copies of *The Keweenaw Guide* park newspapers for free distribution, and books donated to libraries for the High School Local History Smackdown. In addition, NPS staff received a 40% discount (or IRKPA's wholesale cost) on interpretive resources for training and reference. IRKPA paid \$709 of expenses for the Artist-in-Residence Program, which supported four artists and 14 volunteers who donated nearly 850 hours of labor toward maintenance and restoration of historic structures.

Six-day botany and photography workshops on Isle Royale, taught by professionals who are also IRKPA members, attracted 15 participants, including one for a second time. The workshops provided interpretive materials and group and individual hands-on instruction, including field trips and feedback sessions.

The annual member meeting on Isle Royale featured evening programs open to the public, one by the board president on his experiences as a longtime wolf-moose research volunteer and the other by the superintendent of Grand Portage National Monument on his recent book, *Minong—The Good Place: Ojibwe on Isle Royale*, in conjunction with a book signing.

To raise local awareness of IRKPA's support of our national parks, a board member created display boards with eye-catching images from both parks and staffed booths at ten events in four counties during the summer. The executive director used the displays at five "Fourth Thursday in History" programs to provide information, sell interpretive products, and host book signings. IRKPA also awarded a Bob Linn Scholarship to a deserving high school senior attending college to study wildlife ecology.

IRKPA Hosts 2011 Annual Meeting Events in the Keweenaw

On July 23-24, the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association celebrated another successful year with three special annual meeting community events and a members-only preview tour of Keweenaw National Historical Park's Calumet Visitor Center. Thanks to our members and community members who participated! Special thanks go to our event sponsors: the 5th & Elm Coffee House, Book Concern Printers, College Avenue Vision Clinic, Cranking Graphics, and Michigan Technological University's industrial archaeology program.

More than 100 people saw Jack Deo's program of historical images of Lake Superior, Isle Royale, and the Keweenaw at the Calumet Theatre, whose staff ably handled ticket sales and technical details for us. Cranking Graphics and Book Concern Printers teamed up to produce the attractive "Through the 3D Looking Glass" posters. We appreciate Jack's tailoring his image selection and opening montage to our audience and acknowledge the Michigan Tech Archives for piloting a similar 3D program last year.

Michigan Tech professors Tim Scarlett and Susan Martin generously donated their time and expertise to make the Cliff Mine archaeological site guided tour via the Red Jacket Trolley a memorable event for the for 32 participants.

Thanks, also, to author Amalia Baldwin who came up from Wisconsin to present IRKPA's latest book, *Becoming Wilderness: Nature, History, and the Making of Isle Royale National Park*, at a book signing.

Finally, thanks to Public Radio 90's Northern Notes calendar of events and day sponsorships, *The Daily Mining Gazette* and other local media for publicity.

Plan to join us next July for IRKPA's annual meeting at Rock Harbor, where the program will focus on the Cultural Resources Management Plan for Isle Royale National Park.

2011 Board Election Results

IRKPA members elected both incumbent Susan Martin, who had been appointed to the board earlier this year to fill the expiring term of Jean Bjorseth, and first-time board member Linda Guiliani to three-year positions. Susan received 78 votes, while Linda received 77. There were no votes against either candidate. We are happy to report that Anita Campbell, who leaves the board after seven years, remains an active member of the publications and personnel committees. President Ron Eckoff and treasurer Mike Thomas were re-appointed for another year.

Linda Guiliani has served on the membership/fundraising committee for a number of years and has co-lead IRKPA's Isle Royale photography workshops with her husband Bob, a past president of IRKPA, for the last three years. The Guilianis have owned Guys and Dolls Photography/Reflections of Nature Art Gallery in Clare, MI, for 31 years and have visited Isle Royale and the Keweenaw for nearly as long to photograph, camp, and enjoy the natural beauty.

Susan Martin has taught archaeology and anthropology at Michigan Technological University for 30+ years, with research focused on the archaeology of native copper and management of heritage sites on Isle Royale and in the Keweenaw. Susan has been active on the publications committee and the subcommittee planning IRKPA's involvement in the grand opening events for Keweenaw National Historical Park's Calumet Visitor Center.



2011 IRKPA annual meeting events: Poster for 3D Looking Glass program (top), guided tour of Cliff Mine archaeological site (below)



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Win a Trip to Isle Royale in the IRKPA Raffle!

First prize in IRKPA's latest raffle (Lic. # R13395) is a round trip for two via the *Isle Royale Queen IV* from Copper Harbor, MI, and a two-night stay at Rock Harbor Lodge in 2012 during the off-peak season. Second prize is a round trip for two on the NPS *Ranger III* from Houghton to Rock Harbor during 2012. Third prize is a copy of two IRKPA books, *The Island Within Us* and *Island Life*.

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Buy them at the Isle Royale Visitor Center in Houghton or the Calumet Visitor Center. Contact us about buying them from board members. Federal law prohibits selling raffle tickets through the U.S. Mail or via the internet. The drawing will be held at 10 AM on February 25, 2012, at the Quincy Mine Office on US 41 just north of Hancock. Proceeds will support IRKPA's interpretive publications and park projects.

We hope to hold future summer raffles for trips to Isle Royale from Minnesota or via float plane and for stays and activities in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Got Auction Items?

IRKPA is planning an eBay auction as a fundraiser. If you have items that you would like to donate, please let us know.

Renew Early and Often!

The mailing label above shows when your membership expires. If it is 2010 or 2011, please renew for 2012! Renewing now saves IRKPA time and money, and earns you a 2011 tax deduction.

Coming Right Up!

Current members will receive one more *Wolf's Eye* in November that will include holiday gift items and updates on park and IRKPA news and events. For 2012, the *Wolf's Eye* and other mailings will be back to their regular, more timely, schedule. Keep in touch weekly or monthly by visiting www.facebook.com/IRKPA

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www.facebook.com/IRKPA

IRKPA is a nonprofit membership organization that assists Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park by publishing and selling educational materials for park visitors. Gifts, bequests, memorials, and memberships are U.S. tax deductible.

Membership Categories

Individual \$25	Household \$35
Supporting \$50	Sustaining \$100
Patron \$250	Life \$1,200*

*may be paid in four annual installments

Board of Directors

Ron Eckoff (President), Arne Alanen, Mike George, Linda Guiliani, Bob Marr, Susan Martin, Ed Sheridan, Mike Thomas, and Sandy Wilhoit

Staff

Kristine Bradof, executive director and *Wolf's Eye* editor
Lauren Rastello, mail order and visitor service