



2019 Issue 2

Wolf's Eye

Newsletter for the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association

Experience the Keweenaw!

Take part in this family-friendly weekend full of active outdoor opportunities! Keweenaw NHP will offer two FREE guided hikes:

Friday, May 24 at 5 p.m.

Hike with a Ranger while exploring Quincy's Surface Geology. Meet at the Quincy Mine Gift Shop, Hancock.



Saturday, May 25 at 2 p.m.

Come along to discover the Calumet & Hecla Story. Meet at the Agassiz Statue off Red Jacket Road, Calumet.

www.experiencethekeweenaw.com



New Neighbors on the Rock

By Susanna Ausema

It's that time of year again, when Isle Royale employees and their families pack up a summer's worth of necessities and hop aboard the *Ranger III*. This type of annual migration takes a lot of energy and planning! But it's also a time filled with the excitement of adventures to come.

My husband and I dream about and discuss our main adventure goals, whether they be solo or family trips, by foot, motorboat, canoe, or kayak. Will it be a good berry season? Will we host any visitors? Will we have any resident moose or foxes making frequent appearances near our summer home this year?



But one thing that's different about this summer is that we'll be sharing the island with at least 15 wolves! These past few summers, we've been pretty excited to see a track or a pile of wolf scat, knowing that just two wolves were inhabiting the entire island. What were the chances that we'd be in close proximity to one? Next to nonexistent.

However this summer, as the wolves that were translocated from Minnesota, Ontario, and Michipicoten Island team up and explore their new habitat, chances are a lot higher that we'll see signs of their habitation, and maybe even hear them howl.

Here's a summary of the wolf translocation results. In September and October, four wolves were brought to the island by helicopter from Grand Portage, MN. One perished of pneumonia

Continued on page 2

(continued)

within weeks, and one ended up departing the island on an ice bridge in January. The government shutdown caused a delay in the annual winter study, during which time more wolves were to be trapped and translocated. Just when it seemed that the opportunity for potential translocations would end for the season, a window of good weather, combined with funding from private donors, allowed 11 Canadian wolves to be brought over in March. Many of those wolves, including the alpha pair, came from Michipicoten Island, where they lacked a sustainable food source. The remaining wolves, some of which have a black color variation, were captured on mainland Ontario.

One of the Michipicoten females is thought to have been pregnant at the time of her capture. Also, based on information from the radio-collars, it appears that at least two more pairs may have formed. As wolves have just a two-month gestation period, there's a chance that pups will be born this spring on Isle Royale.



If you'll be spending time on the island this summer, keep your eyes and ears open for our new neighbors.

You just might get lucky!

For more information, visit:
www.nps.gov/isro/learn/news/presskit.htm



Written and illustrated by longtime Isle Royale resident Susanna Ausema, this BRAND NEW children's book follows a poetic storyline to explore some of Isle Royale's key features, including the plants and animals that have made this rugged wilderness island their home.

Admire the beautiful scenery and catch a glimpse into some of the many adventures to be had on a visit to Isle Royale! Includes pictures of common tracks, scat, and clues left behind by wildlife. Older children and adults will be able to delve deeper into their exploration of Isle Royale through the nature notes on each page.

Events at Keweenaw Nat'l Historic Park

Jacob A. Riis, Gilded Age Advocate for Social Justice

(presented by art historian and author Bonnie Yochelson)

Wednesday, June 26, 6:30 - 8:00pm, Calumet Public Library

Educator Workshop for Grades 4-12

Thursday, June 27, 8:30am - 4:00pm (Register by June 15)

Focuses on Jacob Riis and his role as a pioneering newspaper reporter and social reformer in New York City.

History on the Hill - Panel discussion with Bonnie Yochelson

Thursday, June 27, 7:00pm, Quincy Mine Hoist Building

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THANK YOU to all of our supporters!

We apologize if your name is missing from this list. Let us know if there's a discrepancy and we'll correct it in the next edition.

IN MEMORIAM

Ed Sheridan, a former IRKPA board member, passed away in January 2019, at his home in Keweenaw County. Over the years, Ed volunteered for many outreach events on behalf of IRKPA and was a generous donor. We are grateful for Ed's service and generosity in supporting our National Parks.

Nancy (Johnson) Stegman, age 81, passed away in January 2019. Nancy grew up on Isle Royale with her parents, Holger and Lucy Johnson, who operated a fishing operation and resort at Chippewa Harbor. Nancy remained passionate about Isle Royale, and kept the Johnson family heritage alive on the island. She was a longtime member of IRKPA.

2018 Annual Report

The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association had another successful year, in terms of the Aid-to-Parks monetary donations given to Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park, as well as community outreach efforts. Aid-to-Parks giving increased from \$15,290 in 2017 to over \$21,630 in 2018. This money helped finance the IRNP Teen Artist Exploration, printing of both park newspapers and the Rock Harbor area guide, supplies for KNHP’s “My Neighborhood, My Heritage” youth photography program, Jr. Ranger stamps, and costs associated with outreach activities.

Gross sales increased to a likely all-time high of \$173,087. Our sales manager, Alison Pontynen, has continued to do an excellent job introducing new products, eye-catching designs, and working with local artisans to provide an ever-increasing selection of Isle Royale and Keweenaw products to our visitors. Proceeds from these sales benefit the parks! Among the new items are a custom replacement for the out-of-print USGS Isle Royale waterproof map, new t-shirt designs, and new KNHP posters from a local designer.

Another one of IRKPA’s goals is to provide in-kind service to our parks. Last year this included volunteerism at a woody invasive plant management project around one of Keweenaw NHP’s ruins, an invasive species removal event at Isle Royale, and assistance during the Copper TRACES school field trips. IRKPA staff also helped edit the park newspapers.

IRKPA took part in various community events, as well. IRKPA staff, board members, and volunteers respresented IRKPA and sold a variety of sales items at the Poor Artists Event in Calumet, MI, the Quiet Water Symposium in East Lansing, MI, and

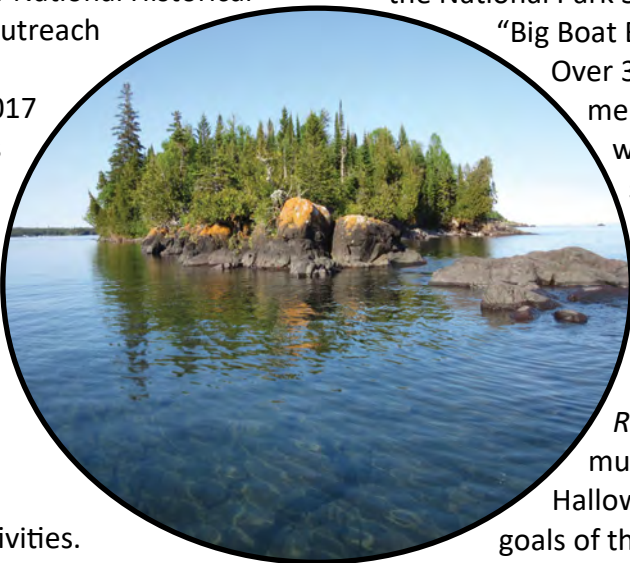
the Canoecopia paddle sport expo in Madison, WI. IRKPA staff collaborated with the Houghton Police Department, the Portage Lake District Library, and the National Park Service to offer the 1st annual “Big Boat Boo!” event on the *Ranger III*.

Over 300 costumed community members attended the event, which included an educational scavenger hunt onboard the boat, snacks, treats, and even a glimpse of a very friendly T-Rex! Folks commented, “I’ve lived here all my life and never had a chance to board the *Ranger III* before,” and “I had so much fun. I can’t wait until next Halloween so I can come back.” The goals of this event were to encourage local community members to become familiar with the sales area at the Houghton visitor center, to spread the word about IRKPA and encourage new memberships, and to provide an opportunity for safe, family-oriented FUN!

IRKPA offered three workshops in 2018, each reaching maximum capacity. Local Botanist Janet Marr guided two of those workshops, for a total of 26 people. One focused on the botany of the Keweenaw Peninsula, and the other on the plants of Isle Royale. Marquette photographer Shawn Malone led IRKPA’s second annual Night Sky Photography workshop at Rock Harbor in September for 12 participants.

Donations and Grants	2018 \$28,058	2017 \$26,844
Membership dues	2018 \$20,705	2017 \$21,574
Net Program (Workshops) Income	\$12,071	
Sweepstakes	2018 \$1,754	2017 \$1,370
1st prize was two round trip tickets on the <i>Isle Royale Queen IV</i> and a two-night stay at Rock Harbor Lodge.		

IRKPA continues to thrive as the nonprofit partner of Isle Royale NP and Keweenaw NHP, thanks to our members and special donors. **Thank you!**



TRACES and Trunks at Keweenaw NHP

By Katie Keller

This year marks the fourth annual Copper TRACES program at Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP). In just four years, the program has grown tremendously. It established itself not only with area educators and students, but also with volunteers, partner organizations, and local businesses—all of whom truly make the program possible. Copper TRACES is a highly anticipated event at the park's Calumet Unit, with many educators stating that this is the most exciting field trip and event of the school year. This popularity and interest in the program means there is also room for growth.



Fourth graders plan their ideal community with the Keweenaw Land Trust at Copper TRACES. NPS Photo.

Area educators expressed interest in expanding Copper TRACES into their classroom experience beyond the one-day field trip. Keweenaw NHP staff crafted a funding proposal to create and fabricate traveling trunks that will bridge the ranger classroom visit students experience in the fall and the Copper TRACES event in May. These trunks will have a variety of activities and items that relate to the topics identified in the Copper TRACES acronym (Technology, Research, Art and music, Community, Environment, and Service), allowing students to dive deeper into education standards-based content in their classroom.

A team of five area educators from Calumet to Crystal Falls helped develop a traveling trunk prototype that they field tested in their classrooms during the 2018-2019 school year. Based on student and educator feedback, the activities will be adjusted and finalized for the final stage of the traveling trunk development. Graciously, the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) has been a crucial partner throughout this project. IRKPA's assistance has allowed KNHP staff to take the time needed to develop the traveling trunks in a holistic manner.

In Fall 2019, the trunks will be available to "check out" to all area fourth grade educators and equivalents. The traveling trunks are helping us achieve our vision of Copper TRACES being an integral part of every fourth grader's educational experience in the western Upper Peninsula.

You're Invited!

Our annual meeting will take place on Isle Royale the weekend of July 26. We'll have a meet and greet meal on Friday (must make advance reservations), followed by the board meeting at the Rock Harbor auditorium. Our guest speaker, Chief of Natural Resources Mark Romanski, will give a presentation about the wolf translocation project. On Saturday, July 27, there's the possibility of a field trip. On Sunday, join us for the service project (below)!

Service Project on IR

July 28-31, 2019

Limited to 10 participants

Join us! Our focus will be invasive species eradication near Daisy Farm and Rock Harbor. IRKPA membership is required (starting at \$25/year). *Must be able to bend and stoop repeatedly and hike up to 4 miles.*

Includes **free** Ranger III transportation, a shared group camping spot, daily entrance fees, tools, and instruction. Participants must provide their own food and camping gear.

Interested? Please contact Sandy Wilhoit, IRKPA membership and fundraising co-chair, at (269) 462-3982 or upnorthigo@aol.com.

Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association

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IRKPA is the membership-based nonprofit partner of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park. Gifts, bequests, memorials, and membership are U.S. tax deductible.

Membership Categories

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

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 Alison Pontynen, sales & visitor services manager
 Susanna Ausema, membership outreach manager and *Wolf's Eye* editor
 Pam Heide, sales assistant



Isle Royale has announced the 2019 Teen Artist Exploration selections. Abigail Bolli (Whitehall, MI) and Adelaide Lyons (Ann Arbor) will explore their art through wilderness at Isle Royale. They'll be accompanied by their families and an artistic mentor. Abigail will create poetry, and Adelaide will focus on drawing and painting.

Kellan Heikkila, a 2018 participant, said, "The Isle Royale Teen Artist Exploration program has provided me with a unique opportunity to discover both the freedom and challenges of art in a natural setting."

IRKPA is a co-sponsor for this program. **THANK YOU to our members and donors who help provide this excellent experience for these young artists!**



Once you've finished reading this, please share your copy of the *Wolf's Eye* with a fellow outdoor enthusiast! You can help us inspire others to be stewards and supporters of our parks!

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