



2021 Issue 1

Wolf's Eye

Newsletter for the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association

Encouraging News!

At the end of December, IRKPA received a substantial donation from the estate of Ruth Ann Bennett, the daughter of George and Herma Baggle. George Baggle was the first Superintendent of Isle Royale and was instrumental in acquiring land for the park. Herma, a botanist/naturalist, was the first female ranger in Yellowstone National Park. Ruth Ann had what many of us would consider to be an idyllic childhood, as her formative years were spent growing up on Isle Royale. Ruth Ann was a loyal member of IRKPA since 1988. ***This bequest will allow IRKPA to continue supporting our parks for many years to come.***

Alison Pontynen, our Retail Sales Manager, will soon retire. She has done an amazing job for us over the past five years, during which time



sales in our stores have increased significantly. Her talents as an artist and a skillful merchandiser have resulted in many exciting new products for our retail stores to sell. **We will miss her leadership, her steadfast devotion to IRKPA, and her smiling face.** Happy trails, Alison!

Keweenaw National Historical Park Updates

Keweenaw NHP has some exciting news to share! In February, 2021, the park publicly launched the Keweenaw NHP Minecraft project. Over the last nine months, the park has used historic images, topographical maps, Sandborn maps, and local archival facilities to build a replica of historic Calumet in 1915.

The project is gaining interest within the Minecraft community, as new builders work with the park each week, adding buildings and uploading YouTube videos of their builds. Park staff are adding interactive components and historical information for Minecraft participants and park visitors to gain a greater understanding of the people and activities that once occurred in Calumet.



Screenshot of Historical Downtown Calumet (NPS photo)

To learn more, visit www.facebook.com/KeweenawNHP

Another important update at Keweenaw NHP is the selection of John Arnold as the park's historical architect. John looks forward "to working with the community to preserve and rehabilitate the historical buildings of the Copper Country." Originally from Alaska, he earned his PhD in Industrial Heritage & Archeology from Michigan Tech University. John and his wife have fallen "in love with the place and the people, and the deep and rich history of the Copper Country."

The Keweenaw NHP Advisory Commission is now accepting applications for the 2021 Keweenaw Heritage Grant Program. Grant funding is used to preserve and interpret resources and stories related to the Keweenaw's nationally significant copper mining history. Grant applications, available at www.nps.gov/kewe or at park headquarters, are due on Friday, April 2, 2021. National Park Service staff is available to assist with project design and the application process.

What's Our Strategy for Success?

IRKPA's Board of Directors is continuing to develop its strategic plan. This project is being facilitated by Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Barrie. Beth works at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, where she developed, and is now the Director of, the Department of Online Education. As you may know, Beth was offered the position of Executive Director for IRKPA just before the COVID shutdown occurred and everything was put on hold. During the past year, Beth has decided to remain in her position at the University, as she feels that is the place where she can have the most impact. She will continue to volunteer with IRKPA as we proceed with our strategic plan. Thanks Beth!!



Washington Creek, Isle Royale

2020 Sweepstakes Winners

It's always a great feeling to pull the winning tickets from the bin!

Katherine Cox, of Indiana, won the 1st place prize of two nights at the Rock Harbor Lodge on Isle Royale. This will be her first visit to the island!

Jan Ferris, of Michigan, will be traveling aboard the *Isle Royale Queen IV* thanks to her 2nd prize round trip tickets. Adventures await both Katherine and Jan!

The 3rd place prize of any two of IRKPA's own publications goes to **Ranessa Cooper**, of Illinois. We hope you enjoy them, Ranessa!

The 2020 sweepstakes raised over \$1,895 to support our parks. Thanks to all of you who donated!

In Memory of Stephen Albee

Stephen Albee, of Hancock, MI, worked tirelessly toward the creation, development, and funding of Keweenaw National Historical Park, which was officially designated in 1992. He later served on the park's Advisory Commission, offering guidance and leadership. In his career as a planner, Steve worked with local businesses and governments for nearly 25 years to encourage and support economic development in the area. A man of many interests, Steve enjoyed gardening, reading, working with the Boy Scouts, cross country skiing, and supporting the local art and music scenes. Steve passed away on October 31, 2020 after a brief, courageous battle with cancer.

National Historic Landmark

Minong Mine Copper Mining District, on Isle Royale, has been designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL). ***The designation celebrates the national significance of Indigenous and historic copper mining that occurred at the Minong Mine.***

The NHL boundary covers over 200 acres, including the Minong Mine archeological site and the McCargoe Cove occupation archeological site. The Minong Mine site includes both the Indigenous copper mining pit concentration and the historic remnants of the Minong Mining Company. The McCargoe Cove site includes both an Indigenous occupation and the remains of the historic village of Cove. Archaeological and historical evidence suggests copper mining activity by native groups started no less than 4,500 years ago. Mining continued through the 1880s. Much of our modern archeological knowledge of Indigenous native copper mining methods stems from field research undertaken at this site.

*Article excerpted from an NPS press release

Where in Keweenaw NHP?

Think you know Keweenaw NHP's 21 Heritage Sites well enough to identify this location? If so, email susanna@irkpa.org and include a personal story or memory about the place. We'll print our favorite response in the next edition of the *Wolf's Eye* AND send our winner a prize!



In Memory of Captain Don Kilpela

If you've ever traveled onboard the *Isle Royale Queen* ferry, it's likely that you met Captain Don Kilpela. He was a longtime friend of Isle Royale, and he passed away on October 15, 2020. The following excerpt is from the Daily Mining Gazette.

"Cpt. Don began his career as a 17 year old deck-hand on the passenger ferry *Isle Royale Queen II* in 1971 when his parents bought the ferry service. He became a U.S. Merchant Marine Officer and served as a captain and partner in his parents' firm until his death. He sailed on Lake Superior in all 49 seasons that the Isle Royale Ferry Service operated. Though he was a fun-loving eccentric, Cpt. Don was a skilled and courageous mariner. He safely brought tens of thousands of people to and from Isle Royale during his years of service on the greatest and most dangerous of the Great Lakes."

"Where on Isle Royale?" Winner



Barnum Island (Ron Eckoff)

Life member Ron Eckoff, of Iowa, correctly identified Barnum Island from October's contest. He said, "From May 11-19, 2019, I was participating in a Moosewatch trip on Isle Royale (my 25th). The team I was on spent 3 days on Washington Island. The first morning there I took an early morning hike up to the ridge and took the attached picture of Barnum Island."

This 4.5 acre island is located adjacent to Washington Island at the southwest end of Isle Royale. From 1890-1902, John F. Johns developed the island to operate the first rustic resort. In 1902, George Barnum purchased the island from Johns to develop it as one of the first private resort colonies. The resort continued to operate until 1939. Some of the resort buildings remain to this day.

Moosewatch expeditions are a great way for volunteers to take part in the wolf-moose research on Isle Royale. For more information, please visit www.isleroyalewolf.org.



"I Spy...Isle Royale," IRKPA's newest publication, has recently been honored with its second award. It has received the Public Lands Alliance "Publication of the Year" award and was selected as a U.P. Notable Book for 2020!



Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association

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 www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1916032

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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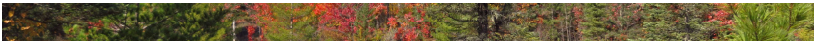
We'd like to hear from YOU!

We're continually striving to make this newsletter as beneficial and interesting as possible to our members. **If you have ideas or suggestions, please email susanna@irkpa.org.**

Would you like to see:

- ∞ More articles about Isle Royale (topic suggestions?)
- ∞ More articles about Keweenaw NHP (topic suggestions?)
- ∞ More photos of the parks?
- ∞ More stories of in-park experiences from fellow members?
- ∞ More about IRKPA-sponsored projects/results?
- ∞ Something else? (please specify!)

We appreciate your feedback!



MANY THANKS to everyone who made a donation to IRKPA in 2020. We know it wasn't an easy year for anyone, so every dollar received was much appreciated.

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