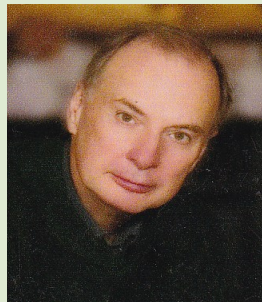


## Former IRKPA Board President Bob Guiliani Passes Away

Robert "Bob" Guiliani, a longtime IRKPA member, former board member and past board president, passed away on Saturday, April 22 at his Claire, Michigan, home with his wife Linda at his side. His passing followed a long battle with cancer. He was 77.



ing followed a long battle with cancer. He was 77.

An IRKPA Life Member, Bob joined in 1998 and was quite active serving for several years on the Board of Directors and served as president in the early 2000s.

Bob was born in the central Upper Michigan community of Norway and graduated from Norway High School. Following graduation, he

ventured downstate to earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Michigan State. He returned to the Upper Peninsula to earn a master's degree in chemistry from Northern Michigan University.

Bob and his wife Linda were married in 1980. She shared her husband's passion for Isle Royale and for IRKPA as well serving on the Board of Directors in the 2010s.

Bob taught chemistry and physics at Byron High School for ten years before he and Linda moved to the Northern Lower Michigan Community of Claire where they owned and operated a photography studio for more than 40 years.

Current IRKPA board member Marilyn Cooper said Guiliani put his photography expertise to good use

for the nonprofit organization. "Among Bob's many accomplishments were his series of photo workshops on Isle Royale and in the Keweenaw," Cooper said.

Anita Campbell, an IRKPA Life Member and former board member, had fond memories of her old friend. "Bob's quick wit and jokes are what stand out in my memory.

"Laughter and fun truly are the fondest memories we can have," she said. "I remember Bob was such a thoughtful and kind person. As IRKPA president he was such a good listener and always praising folks for the work they did."

Funeral services for Bob were held May 6 in Claire. Online condolences can be left at [www.stephenson-wyman.com](http://www.stephenson-wyman.com)

## IRKPA Meeting Returns to Island

For the first time in several years the annual meeting of the Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association will be held on Isle Royale. The membership meeting will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday July 22 in Rock Harbor.

Last year's meeting was held at the headquarters of Keweenaw National Historical Park in Calumet.



## Looking Back

## School Teacher's Diary stands the test of time.

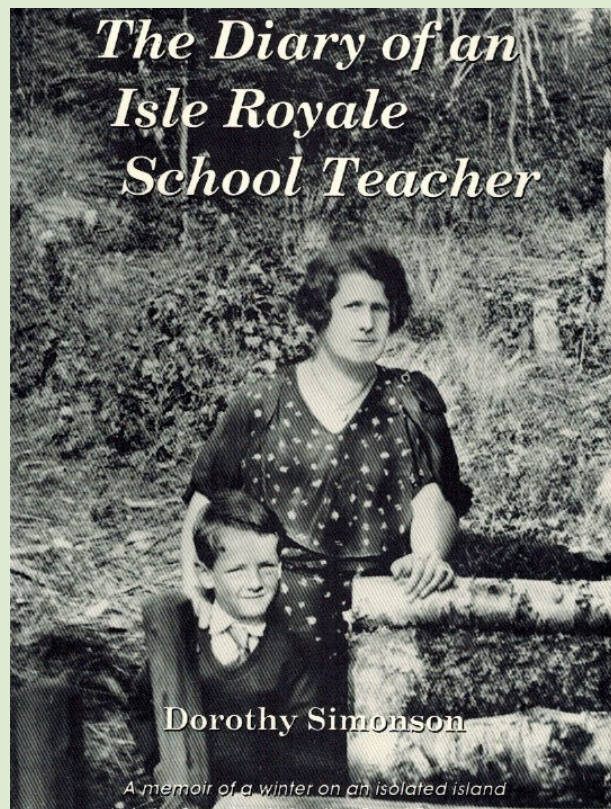
As I am writing this, the sixth printing of Dorothy Simonson's "The Diary of an Isle Royale School Teacher" rolling off the presses.

The new copies should be on the shelves of our four gift shops and available online by mid-June. "Diary" has been one of the most successful books published by IRKPA, which is obvious considering a sixth printing was warranted earlier this year.

Written during the 1932-33 school year on Isle Royale, more than seven years before the establishment of the national park there, Simonson details the swings of emotion, the rise of fall of spirits and the daily struggles against the elements, isolation and the challenges of being an educator during the Great Depression.

For this installment of Looking Back, I thought I'd share a few of the entries from Simonson's amazing journal.

To reserve a copy of "The Diary of an Isle Royale School Teacher," call the IRKPA gift shop in the Isle Royale National Park visitor center at 906-483-8877. — Mark Wilcox



### September 13, 1932

N.W. wind

Bob and I left Duluth at 10:30 a.m. on the S.S. "Winyah," a fish-mail boat which runs between Isle Royale and Duluth. It was a cold, gray morning and I felt a sinking sensation in the pit of my stomach as we pulled away from the dock and waved goodbye to Mam and Gretchen (Dorothy's sister) who had driven us to Duluth the day before. But the sun came out before long and as we plowed northeast through a heavy rolling sea, our spirits rose and we prepared to enjoy our trip. We passed Two Harbors at 12:30 p.m. — then went down to lunch, which was very good, served in the kitchen in close proximity to the stove on one side and the cook's bunk on the other. The crew were silent Scandinavians, but friendly enough.

### December 4, 1932

S.E. wind, temp +10, snow

What a day! I experimented nearly all day with the shortwave set. Mr. Johnson helped me. It is OK on the receiving end but no good on transmission. I was so discouraged I simply went to pieces — but I've done all I know to make it work and that's that. Well, I'll try Houghton again tomorrow and hope for the best. Now, to do some more Christmas work and get to bed early!

### April 29, 1933

S.W. wind, temp +50

Well, this is the last entry I'll make on Isle Royale — for this time at least. Will finish up this journal tomorrow, I guess — although I may decide to keep it until we get to Chicago. We were busy today washing, ironing and finishing our packing.

I see where I'll have to send several dresses to the cleaner for our smoky stove did its work even though they were in a clothes bag. The schoolhouse looks so queer and bare, with the pictures down, curtains also, and books all stowed away. I hate to see it and am glad we are leaving. But I surely hope the youngsters have a school next year.



## 2023 Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association Members

### LIFE

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## THANK YOU to our members!

Please let us know if there's a discrepancy and we'll correct it in the online version which can be accessed at [irk-pa.org](http://irk-pa.org)

## *Outside Magazine* Highlights Scoville Point



Recently, *Outside Magazine* compiled a list of “The Best Scenic View in Every National Park.” The list was compiled by columnist and regular contributor to *Outside*, Emily Pennington. “I’ve visited every national park in America,” Pennington wrote. “And some of the most awe-inspiring experiences in each are the stunning overlooks.”

For the list, Pennington selected her favorite vistas in all 63 parks, with a keen eye for easy access and geological diversity. Of course as an avid hiker, she says she “threw in a couple of leg busting treks and arm churning paddles for those who like to earn their views with a bit of sweat.”

Pennington chose Scoville Point as the best scenic view in Isle Royale National Park. “Named some of the best 100 miles of trail in the entire national park system by *Backpacker Magazine*, the day hike to Scoville Point showcases the region’s boreal forest at its best.”

Pennington says that not only does the path run parallel to the shoreline providing near constant views of Lake Superior, it boasts striking scenery. “Hunt for moose munching among strands of balsam fir, and at the end of the trek, feast your eyes on rocky islets dotted with conifers, a trademark of Isle Royale’s archipelago.”

Pennington says while there’s more than one way to arrive at the point via the Stoll Memorial Trail and then the Scoville Point Trail, the easier (and shaded) way is to “amble adjacent to Tobin Harbor to the tip of the peninsula.”

Pennington’s work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Lonely Planet*, *Adventure Journal* and *Backpacker*. Her latest book, “*Feral: Losing Myself and Finding My Way in America’s National Parks*,” came out in February.



# The calm before the excitement

In early May between my junior and senior years in college, I spent a week or so with a group of fellow theatre majors fixing up an old theatre in a resort on Mackinac Island. It was really interesting at that time of the year as the ferries from Mackinaw City and St. Ignace carried more horses than humans and the empty streets of the resort village looked like a movie set.

I was reminded of that scene earlier this month when I spent three nights on Isle Royale. As I wrote last year in this space, after more than three decades in the Copper Country, I finally made it to Isle Royale in May of 2022. A year ago I spent a night at Windigo while this time I helped set up the gift shop at the visitor center at Rock Harbor.

While the scene at Rock Harbor was certainly busier than it was at Windigo last May, I was told that it is nothing compared to what it will be when the months of June, July and August roll around.

Standing on the dock gazing at just a handful of ships, most of them commercial/industrial, I could only imagine a jam packed marina with vessels of all shapes, sizes and home ports.

Even through the inactivity and vacant lodging and camp spaces I was able to get a glimpse of what Rock Harbor will become. Em-

ployees of the Park Service, concessioners and repair crews, regardless of their jobs, were seemingly on a single mission — to get their assigned area ready for the season.

I was told “you’ll never recognize this place when July rolls around.” And I have no doubt that’s true. From lodging, trails, campsites and more, dozens of workers are getting set for the thousands that will come.

Unlike Mackinac Island, the vibe on Isle Royale is different. Peace, solitude, the ruggedness of nature are on display. Even though the activity on Isle Royale will pick up, rest assured that even at the most hectic times and in the busiest places, you’re a five-minute walk from isolation, peace and quiet. I look forward to returning in July for our annual meeting.

The beginning of the season not only gives me a chance to look forward, but also to look back on the past few months.

The highlight of the past year occurred at the end of February when I attended the annual convention of the Public Lands Alliance in Portland, Oregon. Thanks to the support of the IRKPA Board of Directors and generosity of the PLA, I was able to meet, network, speak with and learn from hundreds of professionals and volunteers united to form a community dedicated to the preservation, enrichment and

enjoyment of America’s public lands. Mark Wilcox

At the convention I realized how respected our two parks are among those dedicated to public lands. Since I returned from the PLA, I’ve regularly participated in remote workshops, meetings and forums on a variety of related topics.

Closer to home, I’ve been participating in the meetings of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission. While not a member of the commission I do contribute regular reports on IRKPA activities and how they relate to the park. Earlier this year, I was asked to act as a partner with the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA). If you would have told me that a day-long meeting discussing Japanese barberry, giant knotweed and Asian longhorn beetles would be an amazing experience, I may have doubted you. But that’s exactly what it turned out to be.

I look forward to finding out more about the partnerships IRKPA is involved with and the many wonderful people dedicated to improving life in the region.

I’d like to welcome our college intern Brooke Leupnitz back for another season. She and retail manager Sharon Kisiel have been working hard to make sure all four of our gift stores are adequately stocked. I look forward to seeing many of you in July on the island.



## IRKPA Gift Shops Ready for the Season



The season has begun and the IRKPA gift shops on Isle Royale (Windigo and Rock Harbor), the Isle Royale Visitor Center in Houghton and the Keweenaw National Historical Park in Calumet, are ready.

A great way to support OUR parks and show a little Yooper pride is by wearing a specially designed Stormy Kromer hat — made here in the U.P.

Remember, anything available at our gift stores can be purchased online at [irkpa.org](http://irkpa.org). If you are heading out to the island, remember purchases can be made with debit/credit cards only.

## Send Us Your Pictures and your videos

We're always looking for ways to improve our social media platforms. One of the best ways is to post photographs and short video clips.

In particular, we'd like to see what you have to share regarding your experiences at OUR national parks.

Email pictures and video, both past and present, taken on Isle Royale or at any of the cooperating sites of Keweenaw National Historical Park. We like ones with people in them the best. Email them to [executivedirector@irkpa.org](mailto:executivedirector@irkpa.org)

## 2023 Artists-in Residence Named

Isle Royale National Park has announced that three artists have been selected as the summer 2023 Artists-in-Residence. In addition, two young artists were chosen for the Teen Artist Exploration. A total of 11 artists in a variety of media were named alternates for the two programs.

Two Seattle-based painters and a photographer from Chicago will look to Isle Royale for artistic inspiration this summer. Roxanne Everett, whose medium is acrylic painting, and Tara Kraft, who paints oil over acrylic, join Chicago photographer Liz Weinstein as this summer's artists-in-residence.

The five alternates this summer include Amber Dietz, photographer from Detroit; Matt Kania, Duluth, MN, oil painting; saxophonist Carrie Koffman of West Hartford CT; Glenda, CA writer Bronwyn Maudlyn; and print maker Nicole Simpkins from Minneapolis.

Isle Royale received 141 applications for this summer's Artist-in-Residence Program. According to organizers, Artists in many mediums displayed professionalism, creativity, and a mix of traditional and modern art styles. The jury's selections were based on artistic integrity, creativity, ability to reside in a wilderness environment, and how an artist would relate and interpret the park through their work.

The two artists chosen for the Teen Artist Exploration are Detroit writer Penelope Griffioen and Oregon songwriter Louisiane Potvin.

Two young Upper Peninsula artists are among six alternates selected. Escanaba colored pencil artist Ashleigh Davis and Hancock artist Gabrielle Myers were chosen along with Anna Blastic (North Muskegon, MI) Grace Deneen (Villanova, PA) Apoorva Panidapu (San Jose, CA) and Riley Tennesen (Wautoma, WI).

Past artist-in-residence Libby Meyer (music composition, 1999) will return to assist with the Isle Royale Teen Artist Exploration.

Isle Royale received 87 applications for the Teen Artist Exploration. The program provides teens opportunities to develop their art through experiencing wilderness and is open to all visual and performing artists, writers and composers age 13 to 18 at the time of participation.

These programs are co-sponsored by Isle Royale National Park, IRKPA and the Copper Country Community Art Council.



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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 dues are U.S. tax deductible.

**Membership Categories**

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## Where on Isle Royale?

Do you know Isle Royale well enough to identify this location? If so, send an email to Mark Wilcox at [executivedirector@irkpa.org](mailto:executivedirector@irkpa.org) and include a personal story or memory about the place. We'll print our favorite responses in the next edition of the *Wolf's Eye*!



Steve Trynoski photo