

Season in Review:

A Successful Summer Season

By Amber Kraft, Education and interpretation program manager, Keweenaw National Historical Park

Fall is here! As we enjoy the changing of the seasons (and the leaves), I'd like to take a look at this season's accomplishments. This year, Keweenaw National Historical Park welcomed visitors from around the world at the Calumet Visitor Center. Some days more than 300 people walked through our doors. From June through early September we had the pleasure to interact with more than 12,740 visitors who stopped by to see the exhibits and shop at the IRKPA/KEWE park store.

Daily ranger program offerings and pop-up experiences helped engage visitors and encourage them to investigate the natural and cultural history of the area. IRKPA staff joined NPS staff in the visitor center helping with the bookstore operations several days a week. In addition to our normal operations, we were delighted to participate in community festivals and events like National Trails Day, Forth of July with the Copper Ranger Historical Society, the Kid's Fishing



Rangers Daniel Burkhardt, left, and Karl Larson work behind the desk of the Keweenaw National Historical Park visitor Center.



Derby at Swedetown Pond, Pasty Fest, Old Victoria Craft Fair, and more!

Visitors used the 2023 Keweenaw Guide to help plan their visit and navigate their experience to the park and heritage site partners. The Keweenaw Guide is distributed to partner sites across the region and to state visitor center facilities. The design and publication of the park newspaper was supported by IRKPA.

As we enter autumn, we enjoy cooler weather, the return of school field trips, visitors hoping to catch the beauty of the leaves before they fall and a change in work and daily activities as we wrap-up the year.

Maintaining a clean and well-preserved cultural landscape is an on-going task that requires continual monitoring and upkeep. With the park's proximity to the urban environment, every day impacts can quickly accumulate and make for an unsightly landscape. In July, volunteers from IRKPA helped with park resource management in the Calumet Unit industrial core (see picture above). Volunteers worked with park staff to improve visibility and access to the industrial landscape, and to clear brush and vegetation which can lead to the damaging of historic buildings. The workday was meaningful, productive, and fun!

Where on Isle Royale? Answered



In our last issue, we challenged you to identify this location on Isle Royale. Several members correctly identified Passage Island Light House. IRKPA member Bill Howe offered this remembrance.

"After 40+ years the experience remains vivid. I was attending a three-day geology seminar on Isle Royale (my second trip) led by a professor from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. One of the days included a trip to Passage Island. We walked the island's only trail to Passage Island Lighthouse. After a lecture and an exploration of the grounds, it was time to eat lunch and prepare to head back. Being a novice birdwatcher, I thought I'd seen a cedar waxwing on our way up. I wandered to the helicopter pad where a flock of them had taken up residence. As I enjoyed their antics, I laid on my backpack and promptly fell asleep. After about a 30-minute nap, I collected my senses and hustled back for our group's departure. Not only was there no one there, the boat was nowhere to be seen. I looked over the water toward Isle Royale only to see the boat disappear around Blake Point. A feeling of despair overtook me. "What do I do now?" Suddenly I heard voices of a NOAA crew working on a weather station. We surmised the group leader somehow got the wrong head count and took off WITHOUT ME! NOAA contacted NPS who ordered a boat to pick me up. I settled in hoping the messages were delivered accurately.

All I could think about was the game "Telephone" where a story at the end was completely different from the beginning. After what seemed like an eternity, a dim red light appeared from the vicinity of Blake Point. To this day, it's a mystery to me how they got the head count wrong and left me behind on Passage Island."

IRKPA volunteers work on ISRO



Five IRKPA volunteers — Alan West, Richard Marsh, Jim Phillips, Alicia Phillips and Sandy Wilhoit — volunteered for this year's Isle Royale invasive species removal service trip. Round trip transportation to the Island was provided by the National Park Service aboard the Ranger III. After a short orientation regarding the plants, the IRKPA crew spent a day working around Rock Harbor before traveling to Windigo via the Voyageur II. They base camped in the Washington Campground and spent the balance of their time working in identified areas around Windigo.

ISRO preparing EIS

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act for a Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Isle Royale. A Wilderness Stewardship Plan is essential to preserve wilderness character through the process of establishing desired conditions and identifying future actions that are acceptable in Isle Royale's wilderness.

The purpose of the plan is to outline strategies, including the treatment of cultural resources in wilderness, while providing for the use and enjoyment of the park by current and future generations. The plan would determine preservation and use of historic structures in potential and designated wilderness.

For more information or to submit comments, visit <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

The Agassiz Legacy — how it connects our two national parks

Alexander Agassiz, a well-known historical figure around Calumet, is known not only for his highly successful tenure as president of Calumet and Hecla, but also for his extraordinary civic accomplishments. His statue, next to the C&H Library, is a tribute to his vision, and reads on its base — “A Man of Science Who Developed a Great Mine and Wrought the Welfare of its People.”

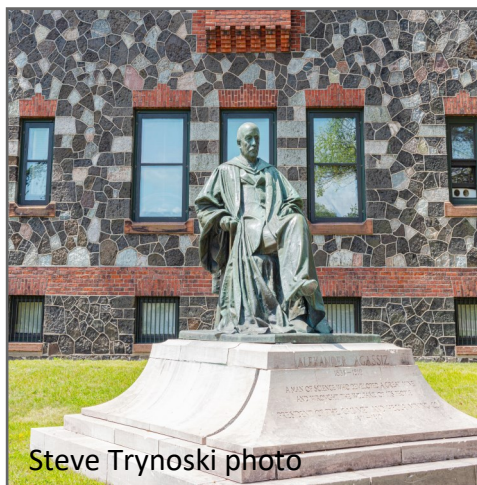
Born in Switzerland and son of noted naturalist Louis Agassiz, Alexander considered himself first and foremost a scientist, and is said to have taken the job as President of C&H in order to fund his scientific endeavors. During his tenure as president from 1871 until his death in 1910, he traveled internationally and over his lifetime made major contributions to the fields of Marine Biology and Oceanography.

Despite his overriding interests in scientific discovery, he nevertheless took his job as a mining company president very seriously. He pioneered many important advancements in mining technology and safety, and under his tenure C&H became highly successful and hugely profitable. Part of his unique vision was to use some of those profits to improve both working and living conditions for C&H workers and their families. He saw to it that C&H employees had access to quality housing, schools, hospitals, and churches. One of the more visible examples of this vision is the C&H Library. Agassiz was said to have been deeply involved in its design, construction, and operations. There is much more to his rich and complex legacy, and a more thorough summary can be found on the Keweenaw National Historical Park’s website.

The Agassiz legacy, however, runs deeper and has an interesting, if indirect, connection to Isle Royale National Park through Lake Superior.

Louis Agassiz was a noted scientist and naturalist in Europe, and later became an esteemed Harvard pro-

fessor who made important contributions to the fields of biology and geology. He is known for his work on fossil fishes, and was especially interested in glaciers and glaciation. His contributions in this area made him the founding father of the new geoscience discipline of Glaciology. During his tenure at Harvard, Agassiz became interested in the geologic effects of the last North American Ice Age, which led him to the Great Lakes and to Lake Superior. By this time, the south shore had been extensively traversed and described by fur traders and Jesuit missionaries. In 1848 he mounted a scientific expedition to Lake Superior, and decided to focus on the north shore, which had been relatively unstudied and little traveled due to a lack of secure harbors.



Steve Trynoski photo

Agassiz included the artist James Eliot Cabot on the expedition, who provided illustrations in the form of sketches as well as a travel narrative for the eventual publication of their findings. In 1850, the scientific report and travel narrative was published in a landmark work entitled “Lake Superior: It’s Physical Character, Vegetation and Animals, Compared With Those of Other and Similar Regions.” The narrative covers the journey from Sault Ste. Marie to

Fort William and back, and the second half of the book contains Agassiz’s scientific findings and essays on nearly every aspect of Lake Superior’s natural history. In addition to Cabot’s sketches, professional artists were employed to depict the fauna that Agassiz deemed important (mainly fish and insects). This volume quickly became the definitive natural history of Lake Superior, and was the basis for many subsequent investigations in specific areas of Lake Superior’s biology, geology, and ecology. The book remains important and very readable today, in no small part due to Agassiz’s remarkable powers of observation. It has been republished once again (2011) in softcover form, by Cambridge University Press, and is recommended to anyone with an interest in Lake Superior and its rich natural history.



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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
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IRKPA Board Meeting Oct. 21

Our October Board Meeting will be held on October 21st @1:00p.m. in the conference room of the Keweenaw National Historical Park headquarters. An agenda will be posted on our Website. All are invited to attend.

Let IRKPA help with holiday shopping

As you go about your holiday shopping in the next few weeks, you can help support IRKPA and OUR national parks. The store in the Keweenaw National Park visitor center is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will also be at three popular holiday arts and craft shows. Look for us at:

- Keweenaw Art Affair, Nov. 11, Houghton High School
- Home for the Holidays, Nov. 25, Rozsa Center
- Poor Artists Sale, Dec. 2, Calumet High School Gym