

UW-Madison Researcher awarded first Bob Linn Grant



A PhD candidate from the University Of Wisconsin-Madison, who is researching the impact of human activity on species distributions and interactions, has been awarded the inaugural Bob Linn Research grant.

Mauriel Rodriguez Curras was awarded a \$2,000 Bob Linn Research grant for his research on how humans impact species distributions and interactions over multiple spatial and temporal scales. Over the past three years he has collected data on the diet of red fox on Isle Royale.

"I am fascinated by the behavioral strategies that species employ to co-occur with their predators and competitors and how humans alter or mediate those interactions," Curras said.

He said the Linn grant allows him to expand his research. "The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association is providing me with an outstanding opportunity to understand how trophic subsidies from large carnivores (wolves) and humans can shape the seasonality of meso-carnivore diets."

The Bob Linn Research Grant is renewable for one additional year.

Kasey Koski Selected for Commissioned Artist Program

Keweenaw National Historical Park, Keweenaw NHP Advisory Commission, and IRKPA have selected Kasey Koski as the first artist to participate in the Park's new Commissioned Artist Program.

Art has been a part of the history of the National Parks since the 1870s. Koski's work will capture the workers and families who once crowded the Copper Country — the everyday lives of those who are gone but not forgotten. The finished pieces will be installed near the Quincy Dry House Ruins along US-41 in Hancock.

Visitors will have the opportunity to interact with Koski and her work on social media, and in person during special public programs and events.

Koski is an interdisciplinary artist, curator and educator living in Wenatchee, Washington. She currently



serves as curator for the Chelan County Museum.

However, her ties to the Keweenaw run deep. The Baraga County native studied art at Finlandia University and the Kuopio Academy of Craft and Design.

Her work has been shown throughout Washington and Northern Michigan in select shows. She has worked with the City of Wenatchee, Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort, and the Trust for Public Land. She continues to take an active interest in art opportunities at the public scale. Her portfolio is accessible at kaseykoski-art.com

Isle Royale Names 2024 Artists-in-Residence

Isle Royale National Park is proud to announce the 2024 Summer Artists-in-Residence. A total of three Artists-in-Residence and five alternates were chosen representing visual, performance and literary arts.

This year's artists are — Jennifer Manzella, Philadelphia, printmaking; Sofie van Doorn, Austin, Texas, Dance and Teagan White, Portland, Oregon, painting

The alternates chosen this year are Detroit photographer Amber Dietz; a pair of writers — Brandon Hansen from Long Lake, Wisconsin and Holly Haworth of Winterville Georgia; Connecticut saxophonist Carrie Koffman; and Nicole Simpkins, a printmaker from Minneapolis.

Isle Royale received more than 200

applications for this year's Artist-in-Residence program which, according to park personnel, is the highest number of applications ever. 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.

Six young people were chosen for the Teen Artist Exploration which provides teens with the opportunity to develop their art through experiencing wilderness. The program is open to all visual and performing artists, writers, and composers ages 13 – 18 at the time of

participation. Past teen artist Allison Clark (2021, acrylic) will return to assist with this year's exploration. Several media are represented this year including clay, oil, acrylic, pen, printmaking and colored pencil.

The teens artists selected this year are — Caroline Haung (Santa Rosa, CA), Adeline Mulder (Traverse City), Coraline Bond (Blacksburg, VA), Elsa Carter (Benzonia, MI), Jaqueline Daphnis (Silver Springs, MD), Lilian Godske (Wausau, WI) and Anna Rayhorn (Marquette).



IRKPA & Parks to Participate in Strawberry Fest

After an absence of a few years due to COVID-19 and other factors, the Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association will return to the Copper Country Strawberry Festival.

The dates of this year's festival, which will be held at Chassell's Centennial Park, are Friday and Saturday, July 12 & 13. IRKPA's booth will be located just off of the asphalt in the grassy area heading toward the dock.

IRKPA's booth will feature several items for sale from both Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park, including T-shirts, books, stickers, toys, games, maps and more. We will also have information on IRKPA with membership opportunities available. In addition



to IRKPA staff, board members and volunteers, rangers from both parks may be on hand at times to answer questions about the parks.

Sponsored by the Chassell Lions Club, the Copper Country Strawberry festival is a family friendly event that includes a Saturday morning parade, music, a queen competition, children's games, food, a fish boil and of course the famous strawberry short cake. IRKPA is

among dozens of vendor booths offering a variety of crafts, food, clothing and much more.

For a complete schedule, visit coppercountrystrawberryfestival.com

2024 Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association Members

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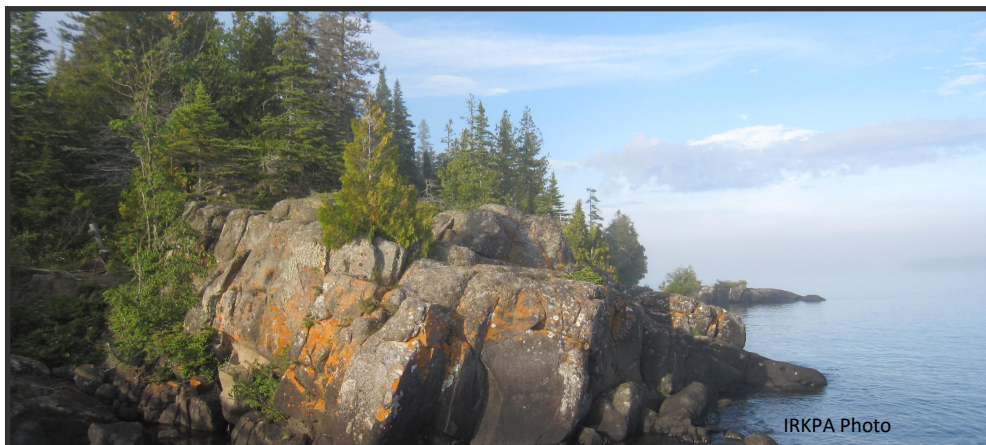
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THANK YOU to our members!

Please let us know if there's a discrepancy and we'll correct it in the next edition and our online edition which can be accessed at irkpa.org. If you are a former member, we'd love to have you back! Contact Mark Wilcox at 906-482-7860.

Isle Royale named a "beautiful car-free place"



Isle Royale National Park was one of two Upper Peninsula locations named as a car-free place to visit. Lifeinism, which bills itself as "your ultimate online lifestyle guide," published a list of "10 Car-free Places to Visit this Summer."

The website says those looking for a quiet stress-free vacation experience should consider leaving the car behind and explore one of America's many car-free islands. Of the ten islands listed, two of them are right here in the UP — Isle Royale and Mackinac Island.

According to Lifeinism "Isle Royale, located in the far north of Michigan, is a car-free island national park that offers over 160 miles of hiking trails for you to explore in the wilderness of Lake Superior. As you step off the ferry dock or arrive by seaplane, you can choose to pitch a tent or book a room at Rock Harbor Lodge."

The article also highlights fishing charters, canoe and kayak rental and a plethora of swimming opportunities.

"The park is home to a variety of wildlife, including wolf, moose, beaver, otters, and more, making it a popular destination for nature enthusiasts. The article encourages those interested to visit the park's website — www.nps.gov/isro

"Whether you're an experienced hiker or a beginner, Isle Royale is a must-visit destination for anyone who loves the great outdoors."

Regarding Mackinac Island, the website writes, "Mackinac Island is a perfect destination for an old-fashioned family vacation. The island has been car-free for over 120 years, making it an excellent place to explore on foot, bike, or horse-drawn carriage tours. During summer, visitors can enjoy swimming, hiking, and sampling the island's famous fudge flavors."

The article can be seen at lifeinism.com

Looking back

Forests and Trees of Isle Royale National Park

Editors Note: As we announce the recipient of a Bob Linn Research Grant (page 1), we thought it would be fitting to reprint an excerpt from the 1962 booklet "Forest and Trees of Isle Royale National Park," written by the late Bob Linn, the Chief Park Naturalist.

The environment of a plant (or of most anything else) is a complex of many, many things. For example, temperature and its variations and ranges; moisture: its abundance and seasonal variations, and its availability to the plant in question. Soil; its composition, depth, moisture holding ability; topographic situation: steepness, levelness, isolation at various times of the year, length of day versus length of night at various times of the year; latitude and its manifestations in temperature, winds, seasonal variations, etc. Altitude and its manifestations in temperature, winds, atmospheric density and composition; gravity; fire; other plants; animals. It's complex!

Let's fit some of these factors into the Isle Royale situation. First of all, latitude: 48° north, an area of short cool summers and long, cold winters. The angle of the sun's rays at this altitude at mid summer is 65° on level surfaces and during winter these decrease to 18°. Some of the north-facing slopes on the ridges of Isle Royale never see the direct rays of the sun.

Some of the south-facing slopes are exposed to very intense, direct sun rays during the summer months. Mid summer days are much longer than days at the equator and mid winters are much shorter.

Topography is rugged in a small way. Innumerable ridges run from end to end of the long, narrow island. Drainage into the valleys between the ridges is rapid and drainage from the valleys to Lake Superior is poor and sometimes non-existent.

Soil ranges from a well developed mixture of organic and inorganic particles in the mature climax maple forest of southwestern Isle Royale to thin, organic layers of the spruce-fir forest of northeastern Isle Royale to rock ridge crests containing no soil at all.

The general result of these general factors is two rather different climatic types. One type is comparatively hot and dry at the island's interior. The other climate type is comparatively cool and moist at the island's periphery.



Mark Wilcox Photo

There is space still available for July's service trip to Isle Royale

Our service trip to Isle Royale National Park is scheduled for July 19-24. We will travel to Rock Harbor with complimentary transportation aboard Ranger III.

Volunteers will be based on Mott Island and will work the Rock Harbor corridor.

Each person is responsible for their own camping gear and food. The trip is limited to six — a trip leader and five participants. Volunteers are not eligible to participate two years in a row and must be IRKPA members. Participants will each receive a long-sleeved volunteer T-shirt.

For more information, or to register, call Sandy at 269-462-3982, or upnorthigo@aol.com

New Arrivals: KNHP Apparel



In the past few months IRKPA retail manager Sharon Kisiel worked with Keweenaw National Historical Park staff to develop new merchandise focused on the park. We're happy to offer new KNHP t-shirts. Currently in two colors (shown) the high quality cotton tees feature the striking "miner logo" which is easily recognizable. The shirts come in sizes S - XXL. Pick them up at the KNHP visitor center on 5th street in Calumet or online at irkpa.org/shop

Upcoming IRKPA Events

IRKPA members should mark their calendars for several upcoming events:

- ◆ IRKPA will host a service day on Thursday, July 25 at Keweenaw National Historical Park. The day-long event will consist of the removal of invasive plant species near park buildings and cooperating sites.
- ◆ The IRKPA Board of Directors meeting takes place at 1 p.m. Friday, July 26 at the Keweenaw National Historical Park headquarters.
- ◆ Our annual membership meeting will take place at 1 pm. Saturday, July 27 at the Keweenaw National Historical Park Headquarters in Calumet. The meeting will include a presentation by KNHP staff.

Wolf Population Stabilizes

Story courtesy of Michigan Technological University

Though unseasonably warm weather forced researchers to end fieldwork early, excellent visibility and settled conditions aided them in completing the 65th annual Isle Royale Winter Study. Estimates indicated 30 wolves and 840 moose, with the majority of both populations concentrated on the eastern end of Isle Royale National Park.



The longest running predator-prey study in world, MTU's Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Project began in 1958, missing only 2021 due to COVID-19.

Key takeaways of the study, released in April of this year, include evidence of at least three wolf litters and four territorial packs. There was a significant drop in adult moose mortality rates attributed to starvation while death rates due to predation were up.

Rather than their usual seven weeks of fieldwork, researchers were only able to work from Jan. 19-31, just under two weeks. Above freezing temperatures caused deteriorating lake ice conditions that made landing the ski plane used for the moose and wolf count impossible.

Michigan Tech Research Professor Rolf Peterson said researchers were able to get quality work done in a short period of time.

"Despite the very short survey period and lack of ice and snow, we were able to complete one of the best moose surveys I've seen in the past century."

You can read the full article at mtu.edu/news



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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

Individual \$25	Household \$35	Supporting \$50
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Where in KNHP?

Keweenaw National Historical Park is made up of more than 20 Heritage Sites. This photo was taken at one of them. Do you know which one? If so, send an email to 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