



The Journal of VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

Summer 2008

VNPA's mission is to protect and promote the natural, recreational and historic resources of Voyageurs National Park

Park Welcomes One Superintendent and Says Goodbye to Another

By Kelly Fuller



Incoming Superintendent Michael Ward

Michael "Mike" Ward has been selected to be the next Superintendent of Voyageurs National Park. Currently Superintendent of the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis, Ward has much experience with historic restoration and a strong reputation for working well with community stakeholders. He begins work on August 17.

Ward has already begun thinking about the challenges that come with managing a National Park. He recently told Minnesota Public Radio that "there's a delicate balance between resource management and how folks are able to enjoy and utilize those resources." Ward added that one way to help keep that relationship in balance is to educate people about why resource management is important: "[Protecting]

our resources ensures that folks are going to be able to enjoy them just like we are today for many generations."

An Illinois native, Ward studied political science and architecture before embarking on a career of public service. He and his wife, Betsy, have two children.

Ward has said he is eager to establish local ties: "My family and I look forward to becoming new members of the community at International Falls and the surrounding area and I look forward to working alongside those communities towards our common goals."

Ward is taking on his new role because Kate Miller, the former Superintendent of Voyageurs National Park, retired in February 2008 to pursue personal interests, especially her avocation as a writer.

Miller is well known for her successful work to change the nature of the relationships between the Park and its surrounding communities, especially in International Falls. Before she even became Superintendent, she initiated the Park's Community Trust Survey that evaluated the relationship between Park staff and local residents. She also negotiated successfully with local political leadership to place the new Park headquarters adjacent to the proposed

Voyageurs Heritage Center in International Falls. In addition, Miller's work in community building led to beautification efforts and a new group, Destination Voyageurs National Park, which will work to bring more diversified tourism to the Park.

Although it is sad to be losing Kate Miller in her role as Superintendent, she is not gone forever. She plans to keep living in International Falls and may continue in an advisory role to help the proposed Voyageurs Heritage Center become a reality.

Since Miller's departure, Raoul Lufbery from the Park's management staff has been Acting Superintendent of the Park. Lufbery has continued Miller's outreach to local communities and kept Voyageurs going during a difficult time of skyrocketing fuel prices. He will be Acting Superintendent through August 16.



Retired Superintendent Kate Miller

Inside...

- ◆ Completing Public Ownership of Voyageurs National Park...One Parcel at a Time (page 3)
- ◆ Will Loaded Guns Be Allowed in Voyageurs National Park? (page 4)
- ◆ New Tour Boat Will Increase Park Accessibility (page 6)

And much more!

Completing Public Ownership of Voyageurs National Park... One Parcel at a Time

By Kelly Fuller

When long-time Rainy Lake resident Frank Pavek put his 3.4 acre property in Dove Bay up for sale, the staff of Voyageurs National Park faced a challenge.

This highly visible shoreline property is inside the boundaries of Voyageurs National Park, where it is seen by nearly all visitors who enter the Park through Rainy Lake. As a result, it was at the top of the Park's list of properties inside Voyageurs to acquire if they were ever put on the market.

Since the Park didn't have the funds to buy the Dove Bay parcel, Park staff turned to VNPA. We formed a partnership with the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota to purchase the property. Thanks to the collaboration between the two nonprofit groups and Frank Pavek's willingness to see his property included in the Park's public lands, the parcel will be protected from potential new private development. It is being held in trust until federal funds can be appropriated to add it to the Park.

There are 52 private properties remaining inside Voyageurs National Park, and most have been in stable ownership since the establishment of Voyageurs in 1975. But when they are sold to new owners, these inholdings pose one of the greatest threats to the future integrity of the Park.

The owners of private inholdings within the Park's boundaries retain full development rights to their properties, restricted only by county zoning regulations. Each time these parcels are sold to new private owners, the risk of property subdivision, new development on pristine land, and home improvements not in keeping with the character of a National Park increases significantly.



Dove Bay property

The issue is a reminder of the complex history of Voyageurs National Park. Much of the land that became the Park was in private ownership when Voyageurs was established.

To preserve the wonderful Voyageurs region for the benefit of all Americans, the Federal government contacted private landowners. Many families made a profound personal sacrifice and sold their land to the government for creation of a National Park. Others also sacrificed by opting to receive a smaller payment in return for the legal right to occupy the property for a set number of years or until the death of its then-current owner. However, some landowners chose to keep their properties. As a result, Voyageurs National Park is today a patchwork of private and public properties.

VNPA is committed to helping acquire the remaining private properties within the boundaries of Voyageurs National Park for inclusion in the Park's public lands by working respectfully with landowners who choose to put their inholdings up for sale.

Through the generosity of the WM Foundation and the Dayton family, we have started a revolving fund to help acquire these private inholdings. The Wallace C. Dayton Voyageurs National Park Legacy Fund honors Wallace Dayton, a prominent Minnesota conservationist and supporter of Voyageurs National Park. The Hyatt family has also chosen to aid this project by designating the Legacy Fund as a recipient for charitable contributions in memory of Henry Hyatt, who deeply loved the Voyageurs region.

Completing public ownership of land within the boundaries of Voyageurs National Park will take many years. It is unlikely that we will raise enough private funds to buy all of the private inholdings as they become available. We will seek federal appropriations so that more parcels can be purchased. Properties acquired through the Legacy Fund will be held in trust for the public until Congress appropriates the necessary funding, so they can be included in the Park's public lands.

Volunteer Rendezvous Still Going Strong

By Kelly Fuller

Thank you to everyone who helped make the spring '08 and fall '07 Volunteer Trail Rendezvous successful!

During the fall 2007 Rendezvous, 23 volunteers and one Park employee cleared four miles of trail inside Voyageurs National Park and hiked 12 miles to monitor the state of the trails.

For the first time, the Trail Rendezvous took place on both the mainland and the Kabetogama peninsula. Volunteers enjoyed the extra adventure of a ride to the peninsula on a National Park Service barge. The 10th grade students Chris Hemstad brought from Indus High School discovered on the return trip that the water bottles provided by the Park made excellent impromptu squirt guns. The students' high spirits and unstoppable energy made them first-class trail clearers.

In spring 2008, 12 Rendezvous volunteers and three Park staff braved rainy weather to monitor the condition of the Park's trails. They hiked 75% of the Park's trails while keeping careful records of blown-down trees requiring chainsaws and trail bridges needing serious repair. They also removed more than 250 trees and saplings from the paths.

The fall 2008 Volunteer Rendezvous will be a change of pace. Volunteers will help restore the Park's natural



Clearing away fallen branches

condition by planting native trees to restore former cabin sites. This Rendezvous will offer the chance to learn more about border lakes ecology. It will also be a good opportunity to enjoy Voyageurs with your kids or grandkids since it will not require extensive hiking or the ability to work with brush-cutting tools.

If you'd like to come to the fall 2008 Volunteer Rendezvous or for more information, please contact VNPA at (612) 333-5424 or vnpa@voyageurs.org.

VNPA would also like to thank the Quetico-Superior Foundation and the Beim Foundation for grant funding in support of the 2007 and 2008 Volunteer Rendezvous, as well as Arrowhead Lodge and Moosehorn Resort in Kabetogama, for providing discounted lodging.



Spring 2008 Volunteer Trail Rendezvous group

Park Begins Cormorant Study

This June, Voyageurs National Park began studying the double-crested cormorant colony in Lake Kabetogama and its role in the Park's ecosystems. The study will

- determine population size and other demographic characteristics;
- describe foraging behavior of adult birds;
- estimate diet composition of adults and chicks; and
- determine prevalence of diseases such as West Nile Virus, Newcastle Disease, and Avian Influenza in local cormorant populations.

Researchers will visit the colony periodically to outfit cormorants with radio transmitters and color bands and to collect samples. Three other colonies in the Ontario portions of Rainy Lake may also be studied.

Cormorants are native to Minnesota and have been in the Voyageurs National Park area since at least 1500 A.D. The colony on Kabetogama peaked at 330 breeding pairs in 2005 and currently contains between 100-150 pairs. By comparison, Lake of the Woods harbors more than 5,000 breeding pairs.

Double-crested cormorants are a protected species under National Park Service policies. Park staff have told VNPA that they do not consider the Park's cormorant population to be out of balance.

"Cormorants are really a hot topic right now," said Steve Windels, a Park ecologist. "This study will allow us and other agencies to make management decisions based on the best scientific evidence available."

Will Loaded Guns Be Allowed in Voyageurs National Park?

By Kari Volkmann-Carlsen

Should National Parks allow their visitors to carry loaded guns? And if so, under what circumstances? These questions have sparked a new controversy in America's National Parks.

In late 2007, 47 Senators, including Minnesota's Norm Coleman, sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne calling for a review of the regulation that has determined gun policy in National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges for over 25 years. The senators asserted that the prohibition on carrying loaded guns in National Parks infringes on the rights of law-abiding gun owners who wish to transport or carry their firearms on Park property.

The current National Park regulation says that guns can, in fact, be on National Park property *if* they are unloaded and stowed away in a manner that will prevent their ready use. This is a uniform rule in all National Parks.

In response to the Senators' letter, Secretary Kempthorne has proposed a new regulation. For the first time, loaded guns would be allowed in National Parks under some circumstances. The new regulation would mandate that National Park gun policy revert to the regulations of the host state, no longer operating under a unified federal policy. In other words, National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges would accept the same rules as state parks, allowing concealed carrying of firearms by permit holders in those states that sanction it. In Minnesota, permit holders would be able to take their loaded, concealed handguns into Voyageurs National Park, though the general public, those citizens without concealed carry permits, would still be prohibited from carrying firearms.

Several groups oppose the legislation, including seven former National Park Directors, the Coalition of NPS Retirees, and the Association of National Park Rangers, among others. They are concerned that if this new

regulation is adopted, there are some possible negative effects on our National Parks, areas that are statistically some of the safest places to be. For example, ensuring visitor safety in Voyageurs National Park could require more law enforcement rangers, which would be difficult for the Park to pay for during this time of ongoing staff shortages, caused by chronic budget shortfalls. Proposed changes in gun regulations might also make it more difficult for Park rangers to enforce laws that protect Park wildlife from poaching.

Because the possible effects of the proposed regulation and their severity, if any, are uncertain, Voyageurs National Park Association believes that the Department of the Interior should proceed cautiously. In an interview with Minnesota Public Radio, Cory MacNulty, VNPA's Executive Director, suggested that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared before a decision is made to change a regulation that has been, thus far, working well. It is essential to evaluate the long-term effects to human and wildlife health before making a change that could have lasting impacts. Public hearings would accompany a full EIS, providing an opportunity for Americans to discuss the issue with the Department of the Interior in person.

It is not yet known whether the Department of the Interior will prepare a full EIS and conduct public hearings. However, you can make your view known now by mailing written comments on the proposed rule change. Comment online at www.regulations.gov/ (search for E8-09606), or send your comments, postmarked by August 8, 2008, to:

Public Comments Processing
Attn: 1024-AD70
Division of Policy and Directives Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 Fairfax Drive, Suite 222
Arlington, VA 22203

New Law Enforcement Legislation for Voyageurs National Park

In February 2008, Representative David Dill introduced a bill to the Minnesota House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources that would have prohibited state employees from enforcing federal laws in the navigable waters of Voyageurs National Park. Since state employees do not currently have authority to enforce federal laws in the Park, the new legislation would not have changed existing practice of enforcing National Park Service regulations. Because the proposed legislation was so broad, however, it could have had unintended negative consequences for law enforcement in the Park during some emergency situations. To prevent overly broad legislation from being passed, Cory MacNulty, VNPA's Executive Director, testified at the Minnesota statehouse and worked with legislators and other conservation groups to improve the bill.

The final law passed by the state legislature requires the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to work with Voyageurs National Park and other stakeholders to document how federal and state officials are currently working together to enforce both federal and state laws in the navigable waters of Voyageurs National Park. VNPA will continue to follow this legislation as it is put into action, to ensure an end result that protects Park visitors and the Park's natural resources.

Regional Haze Plan Seeks to Clear the Air in Voyageurs

By Chris Holbeck, Environmental Planning and Partnerships Specialist, VNP

Air pollution can ruin a scenic vista by limiting the ability of the human eye to perceive distant objects. This occurs when light is scattered or absorbed by microscopic particles in the atmosphere. This causes the air to appear hazy even when there is little moisture in the air. These particles originate from natural and human-caused sources.

The Clean Air Act sets a federal goal of "the prevention of any future and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility in mandatory class I Federal areas which implementation results from manmade air pollution." (Class I Federal areas are National Parks and Wilderness Areas.)

In 1999, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Regional Haze Rule, directing each state to develop a plan to achieve this goal by 2064.

The Rule requires each state to develop a plan for Class I areas within the state and to consider impacts on Class I areas of each neighbor state. The plan, called a State Implementation Plan (SIP), is submitted to the EPA for approval. The plan needs to show reasonable progress toward the goal of natural visibility in 2064, and to demonstrate by 2018 that progress is being made.

Minnesota has two Class I areas, Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Together with Isle Royale National Park and Seney National Wildlife Refuge (Wilderness), they make up the four Northern Class I Areas in the Upper Midwest. Park staff and VNP representatives have worked closely over the past two years with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and other interested parties to develop a plan



Poor vs. good air quality: Kabetogama State Forest Vista, Voyageurs National Park

that, in the end should contribute to clear skies over Voyageurs.

Editor's Note: In May 2008, VNP joined with three other environmental groups to send a letter recommending improvements to Minnesota's draft SIP. You can read the letter and other information about regional haze at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/regionalhaze.html>. It is not yet known how Minnesota's plan will be affected by a recent court decision invalidating the Clean Air Interstate Rule.

Namakan River Hydroelectric Project

By Paul A. Anderson, P.E., Rainy Lake Conservancy

As part of an Ontario Government program to increase small-scale hydroelectric power, a 10 MW run-of-the-river facility has been proposed by the Lac La Croix First Nation for the Namakan River at High Falls and Hay Rapids. This historic and beautiful river is located between Voyageurs National Park and Quetico Provincial Park. The Namakan River is an important part of the Rainy Lake/Rainy River watershed and it accounts for 30 to 40% of the flow into Rainy Lake.

The project is currently in the feasibility phase. Economic and environmental impact studies are underway by Chant Construction on behalf of Ojibway Power and Energy Group (OPEG), the corporation set up



Looking up at High Falls, Namakan River

to design and operate the facility. OPEG will present its Environmental Assessment (EA) at a public meeting in Fort Frances in the summer or fall of 2008. This will be followed by a review period of 60 days. If the necessary social, economic and cultural conditions of the EA are met, the dams will likely be given the green light to proceed. If there are serious outstanding issues, there could be

more extensive assessments by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Representatives of the Rainy Lake Conservancy (RLC), a nonprofit Canadian organization, are encouraging more public scrutiny of the project and more public discussion of economic development alternatives for the Lac La Croix First Nation. Dale Callaghan, a RLC past president, referenced conservationist Ernest Oberholtzer's long battle in the 1920s and 1930s to save the border region from further hydropower development. "Ernest Oberholtzer would be appalled that someone wants to put two or three dams on the Namakan River" said Callaghan.

More information is available from the web sites of OPEG (<http://opeg.ca>) and the Ontario MNR (<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca>).

News from the Heart of the Continent Partnership

The mission of the Heart of the Continent Partnership is to sustain and celebrate the health, beauty, diversity and productivity of the natural and cultural resources of the Border Lakes Region through collaboration to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Still undergoing formation, the Heart of the Continent Partnership (HOCP) is a cross-border collaborative effort to bring together as many voices as possible to share ideas and learn about different perspectives affecting the border lakes region. The geographic core of HOCP includes Voyageurs National Park, Superior National Forest and its Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Quetico Provincial Park, smaller parks and protected lands, tourism bureaus, and nonprofit organizations.

VNPA is a key participant in HOCP, and Cory MacNulty, VNPA's Executive Director, is the chair of the HOCP steering committee. MacNulty recently explained where the group is going. "The original and ongoing goal has always been to make the

initiative as inclusive and collaborative as possible," she said. "This is not a group that will advocate any policies. HOCP is fundamentally a forum, a place to meet and share ideas. That forum will get stronger as the range of voices gets wider."

Bret Hesla, HOCP's new coordinator, sees parallels between the new partnership and recent efforts to find common ground in the International Falls region. A collaboration of Voyageurs National Park, political leaders in International Falls and Koochiching County, tourism groups and VNPA has made great progress, resulting in both positive relationships and groups working together on a common project, Destination Voyageurs National Park.

"This is a perfect example of the type of positive work that the Heart of the Continent Partnership seeks to expand on and recreate in other communities and public lands on both sides of the border," said Hesla, whose background includes stints as



Sunset at Voyageurs National Park

a science teacher, newspaper editor, and disability rights organizer.

Other HOCP plans include the upcoming release of a new cross-border map and region-wide celebration events in 2009, the centennial year of both Superior National Forest and Quetico Provincial Park.

Bret Hesla will be working out of VNPA's office, so if you'd like to contact him for more information, please call (612) 333-1858 or email hocp@heartofthecontinent.org.

New Tour Boat Will Increase Park Accessibility

By Kari Volkmann-Carlsen

After six years of cooperative efforts by Voyageurs National Park partners, local government, and Park management, plans to build a new tour boat to cruise the expansive waterways of Voyageurs National Park are finally coming to fruition. The new tour boat will be able to seat up to 49 passengers, and its maiden voyage will be in 2010.

For the first time in years, there will be enough space for class-sized school groups to discover the grandeur of Voyageurs. The tour boat may also be used as a shuttle to bring visitors and their canoes and kayaks

to distant areas of the Park or to accommodate special community events. Whether it rains or shines, visitors will be able to view Park wildlife and breathtaking scenery from the open-air upper deck or from the window-enclosed lower deck.

Stretching 50 feet in length, the boat itself won't be small, but its ecological footprint will be. Park staff were particularly conscientious about designing a boat that could maximize capacity while minimizing environmentally harmful emissions. It will operate on advanced biodiesel engine technology to be more fuel

efficient, helping Voyageurs protect its natural resources while promoting interest in the Park.

The new boat is made possible by \$1.4 million in funding received through the Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Land Program (ATPPL). Representative Jim Oberstar worked with many Park partners to secure funding for the boat, and VNPA advocated with other elected officials and the National Park Service in support of this essential visitor service.

A Loon's Eye View

By Greg Seitz

I was sitting in my kayak a little ways back from the group, taking photos, as our guide Chris Hemstad delivered a brief seminar on quartzite, using a massive slab of rock that sloped down into the water as his teaching prop. Watching the scene, I thought to myself: *this is exactly what I would expect in a National Park.*

We had spent the afternoon paddling along the north side of Dryweed Island. We were now in God's Pocket, between Dryweed and Drywood Islands. It was quiet and peaceful. The August sun was shining brightly and nothing seemed more important than the ancient geologic forces that had created the outcropping in front of us.

It was the first VNPA/Boreal Explorations Kayak Trip, and we couldn't have asked for much more. Chris started the day off with easy-going kayak instruction to several rookies in the group, led us safely across an open-water crossing, demonstrated the delights of paddling along lichen-covered cliffs, and then to a skinny little island for lunch.

We dined on a delicious spread of deli sandwiches and homemade pickles, and, as we ate, Chris explained how the rock we were on was 400 million years younger than the 3 billion year old rock on the other side of the channel.

It wasn't long after the quartzite seminar that we reached our campsite on the south side of Dryweed. Tents went up and we quickly got into the lake for a refreshing swim as the sun descended toward the horizon. Chris whipped up a delicious supper of fajitas, with chips and salsa and guacamole, and homemade brandied pears and peaches for dessert.

In the morning we woke to Chris



Photo by Gregg Rutter

preparing coffee and enormous blueberry pancakes. Later, we paddled through intimate channels along the Kabetogama Peninsula, watching geese and other waterfowl, and visited some other points of interest. We were out of the way of any boat traffic there and felt like we had the Park to ourselves.

As I paddled myself along one particularly dramatic shoreline of cedars and pines perched on a tall rock cliff, I felt like I was in some idealized version of Minnesota. Perhaps a postcard or an old Hamm's beer commercial. But I was in a very real place that we are all fortunate was saved from development and abuse by visionary conservationists 40 years ago. And it is experiencing

this grandeur that makes it so frustrating for me when every few months we are reminded that the most-recognized symbol of Minnesota today is not rock or pine or sky-blue waters, but the Mall of America.

And I realized that's where VNPA and its members can come in. By supporting VNPA, you support those who understand the value of Minnesota's National Park and want to see it succeed and be preserved for future generations.

Lunch was on Little American Island, which served as one more good place to talk about rocks, and then it was just a short paddle back to the landing, where we unpacked the kayaks and loaded them back up. So soon was the trip over, but already we were talking about next year. Thanks again to Chris for a simply wonderful time, and to the VNPA staff for organizing the trip!

* * *

Boreal Explorations EcoAdventures, based in International Falls, specializes in eco-tours in Voyageurs National Park. You can learn more and schedule your own adventure at <http://www.borealexplorations.com>.



Photo by Chris Hemstad

2008 Annual Meeting Report

By Kelly Fuller

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, VNPA members bid farewell to Park Superintendent Kate Miller and three directors who are leaving the VNPA board. At the same time, members elected three new directors to the board.

One of the highlights of the event was Kate Miller's presentation about the beauty and fragility of Voyageurs National Park. After Miller's talk, VNPA presented her with a beautiful framed photo of the Park, taken by Ray Klass, the Park's 2006 Artist-in-Residence. A talkative parrot nearby made certain no one forgot we were at the Minnesota Zoo.

Members also had the opportunity to express thanks for the service of VNPA's departing directors: Kevin Johnston, Jo Kallemeyn, and Don Nightingale.

Kevin Johnston helped VNPA by volunteering his professional graphics talents to redesign VNPA's website. As a member of the VNPA Board of Directors and the President of Friends of Voyageurs National Park, Jo Kallemeyn was the liaison between the two organizations.

Don Nightingale volunteered his time to VNPA for many of the last 25 years. His unpaid service as Interim Executive Director in 2004 kept VNPA going during a challenging transition



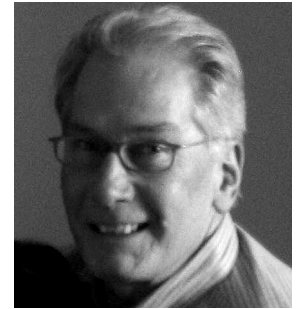
Kate Miller receives a Ray Klass photograph from Cory MacNulty at the VNPA annual board meeting



Jim Dier



Ryan Johnson



Ken Kadash

and helped restore the organization to good financial health.

The three incoming directors are all returning to the VNPA board for another round of service. Jim Dier is Director of Equity Quantitative Research at Thrivent Asset Management in Minneapolis. Ryan Johnson works as an attorney in Fredrikson & Byron's Health Law and Corporate Group practices. Ken Kadash is a Finance and Accounting Consultant who helps public and private companies in the Twin Cities with accounting, planning, implementation, and process improvement projects.



Gerda and Don Nightingale

Memorials in Honor of Loved Ones

Voyageurs National Park Association sincerely appreciates your thoughtful contributions.

In Memory of Bryant Dunshee

Carol Balthazor
Harlan Copeland
Marna Dahlgren
Marilyn Dunshee
Dorothy Fant
Diane Fruci
Esther Gredvig-Wolf and
Theodore Gredvig
Sandra K. Hanson
Wendy and Kenneth Hanson

Dorothy Jaeger
Betty Jordahl
Ramona Mogg
Emily Page and Oliver Steinberg
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight D. Peterson
Marlene Semling
Jo Ann Snyder
Julie and Michael Stahl
Elizabeth White
Martha Reed Willett
Jane and Robert Winter

In Memory of Henry Hyatt

Dara Altshuler and Robert Kaplan
Rolf Anderson
Donna Bolte
Linda Breckenridge
Billy and Gail Gillman
Deborah Ho-Beckstrom
Ralph and Janet Johnson

William and Elaine Johnson
Keilman, Austgen, and Sinal, P.C.
LaSalle Bank
Herbert and Jeanne Mayer
Michael Meisel
Marion Stumo
Trillium Properties
David and Deborah Verlo

Farewell to Gregg Rutter

By Cheryl Lesser

Gregg Rutter, who served as Membership and Development Director at VNPA from July 2006 to July 2007, has left the organization to pursue his next career as a teacher. In the year that Gregg worked for VNPA, he placed a renewed emphasis on fundraising and other development objectives. His work was invaluable in helping VNPA grow and achieve its objectives while remaining financially stable.

VNPA's staff, board and volunteers all wish to thank Gregg for his work in advancing the organization and wish him well!

Welcome Kari Volkmann-Carlsen



Beginning as the Communications Intern earlier in March, Kari Volkmann-Carlsen has recently shifted into a four-month position as Advancement Associate for VNPA. During Cory MacNulty's maternity leave, Kari will be a valuable addition as part-time staff. She graduated in May from the University of Minnesota with a degree in English and a minor in Learning Abroad for her studies in Norway. She divides her time between VNPA and the *Utne Reader*, where she is the Library Intern.

"I'm thrilled to be working for VNPA. There's nothing more satisfying than doing what you believe in," she said.

Welcome Kelly Fuller

Voyageurs National Park Association is pleased to announce that Kelly Fuller joined the organization in the newly created position of Advancement Director in August 2007. A passionate advocate for the environment, Fuller brings energy and experience to the organization.

Born and raised in southern California, Fuller developed a strong connection to the environment as a child while hiking and camping in the desert with her family.

As Advancement Director for VNPA, Fuller will focus on membership, donations and communications. "One of my main goals is to increase our capacity to raise funding so we can do even more to protect, support and promote the Park," states Fuller.

Fundraising projects on the horizon include purchase of private inholdings in the Park that are owned by willing sellers and service programs such as the Volunteer Rendezvous.

In addition to managing the annual membership and the end-of-year donation campaigns, Fuller plans to launch an email communication vehicle to keep members up-to-date



Kelly Fuller

on Park and VNPA events. "I want our members to have the information they need to enjoy Voyageurs National Park and be good citizen stewards of it," says Fuller.

"I am really excited to get out and meet as many members as possible and hear their stories and their connection to the Park," says Fuller. "Our members have talent and ability to get great things done. Since day one, this has been an organization that is about its members."

During Cory MacNulty's maternity leave, Fuller will be VNPA's Acting Executive Director.

Easy New Way to Stay Connected to Voyageurs National Park

We are launching a new electronic VNPA update in 2008! Designed to keep you current on issues and activities in and around Voyageurs National Park, the "VNPA E-News" will be delivered to your email address on a monthly basis.

This is our first foray into the world of electronic communications with our members and people interested in the Park. We intend to be respectful of your time, and will not share your email address with others.

The "VNPA E-News" will furnish information that is timely and of interest and complement the publication of our print newsletter. We think you'll look forward to receiving it.

If you'd like to receive the VNPA E-News, please send an email with the subject heading "VNPA E-News" to vnpa@voyageurs.org. Include your name and postal-mail address, and we will add you to the list.

Bringing VNPA to Work

You've probably heard of United Way, a charitable federation that connects the public with good causes through payroll giving. But did you know that there is a United Way for the environment?

The Minnesota Environmental Fund (MEF) is a federation of 21 organizations that

- protect Minnesota's air, water, land, food
- advocate environmental justice
- promote a safe, clean and healthy environment throughout Minnesota

Since 1991, MEF has raised \$7 million to protect, conserve, and restore Minnesota's pristine beauty through the work of its member organizations.

Voyageurs National Park Association is an MEF member. MEF provides a significant portion of the funding that allows us to protect and promote Minnesota's National Park. The more funds MEF is able to raise overall, the more is available to support VNPA's work.

But many employers don't know that they can offer their employees a chance to donate to Minnesota's environment where they work.

That's where you can help. If you'd like to see MEF as a payroll-giving choice in your workplace, please contact Kelly Fuller at VNPA: (612) 333-5424 or kfuller@voyageurs.org. We'll take it from there.



Meet a VNPA Member: Dallas Fogg

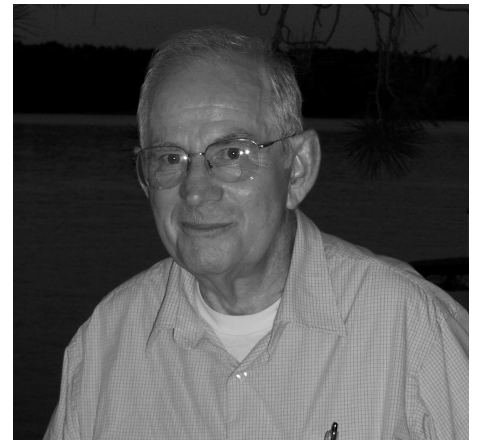
By Kelly Fuller

Take a trip to Voyageurs National Park with long-time Park supporter Dallas Fogg, and you are likely to hear the conversations of long-distance truckers, emergency personnel, and gossiping neighbors. Since Dallas is an amateur radio operator, no drive from the Twin Cities to the Park is complete without his under-the-dash radio keeping tabs along the route. The radio is a great symbol for Dallas. While he doesn't talk much himself, he knows exactly what is going on, and stands ready to lend a helping hand at a moment's notice.

Ask Dallas what attracted him to VNPA, and he'll tell you about his first trip to the Park with the organization. He found a group of people who first and foremost loved the Park. The group hiked and picked blueberries. Dallas says, "We weren't worried about picking up gum wrappers. We were more interested in flowers and what we were seeing." Appreciation for the Park's beauty inspired passion to support it.

Dallas says he "went on a couple VNPA trips in the Park and then was tapped to be on the Board." He has been on the Board and Executive Committee for most of his time in VNPA. As to why he jumped in so deep right away, Dallas says, "I wanted to know what this group does, and one of the ways you find that out is to go to the Executive Committee meetings."

Lee Barthel, a long-time VNPA member, points out Dallas gave a \$5,000 donation for cabin removal that turned into much, much more. After Dallas's contribution was given to the National Park Service, Barbara West, who was then Superintendent of the Park, used the example of Dallas's donation to convince Congress to give the Park hundreds of thousands of dollars. This is an



Dallas Fogg

important lesson for anyone who thinks one person can't make a difference.

Dallas remembers going with Martin Kellogg, one of the founders of Voyageurs National Park Association, to hearings in northern Minnesota about the first management plan for the Park. This was at a time when the relationship between the Park and local residents was often strained and at times confrontational. Dallas remembers being "two people against a roomful," and though he went to all the hearings, he didn't speak. He was there to provide moral support for the people who did speak. He also provided the same support to a sister park unit, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, when its plan hearings took place.

Despite all he has done for VNPA and the Park over the last decade and a half, Dallas had never spent an entire week in Voyageurs until last August. When asked if he enjoyed his trip, he quietly said that he had caught a Northern Pike and seen pelicans, eagles, cormorants, and "all different kinds of ducks." Then he really answered the question. He smiled.

This article is one in a series of profiles of VNPA members. Know a VNPA member the newsletter should profile? Contact Kelly Fuller at kfuller@voyageurs.org or (612) 333-5424.

Members Reaffirm the VNPA Mission

By Tom Lehman, Membership Committee Chair

**“A pristine water wilderness”
“An undiscovered jewel”
“A national treasure”**

These are just some of the terms that members use to describe Voyageurs National Park, according to an online member survey completed in September, 2007. These respondents say they are members of VNPA because it is an organization dedicated to the “protection of the Park” and one that supports “stewardship consistent with the principles of the Park’s founding.”

Protecting the natural environment of Voyageurs National Park is a high priority for VNPA members. Overwhelmingly, they say that any development to increase the accessibility of the Park should be considered only where, at most, it would have only minimal impact on the natural environment of the Park. Only 10% are willing to consider trading off a more than minimal impact to support such development.

Members don’t just talk about the

natural environment, they are actively engaged in recreational activities at the Park and elsewhere. Almost nine out of ten have visited the Park at least once, and nearly three-quarters have visited the Park in the past year. More than 80% have traveled within Minnesota and outside the state for recreation.

Hiking is the single most commonly mentioned recreational activity (75%), but more than half of these members also cite swimming in a lake or river, powered boating, canoeing, and fishing as an activity they’ve engaged in the past year. Not far behind are camping, skiing, and kayaking. These data suggest that most members engage in several of these activities on a regular basis.

Beyond their support for VNPA, these members are also active in their support of similar organizations, including Friends of Voyageurs National Park. Others include Minnesota Public Radio, Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, and Sierra Club.

These findings reinforce the importance of building relationships between VNPA and other organizations.

One challenge for VNPA is to expand its membership to reach more young people and families. Based on these respondents, VNPA members are generally older and affluent, with more than half over the age of 55 and 40% with household incomes of \$100,000 or greater. Only one in five are in households with children living at home.

In the survey, many members expressed interest in participating in more Association activities and events, especially those within the Park itself such as the spring and fall Volunteer Rendezvous events. VNPA will work hard to make it easier for members to get involved.

These survey results will help VNPA improve its outreach to current and potential new members. Thank you to all the members who took time to complete the 2007 member survey.

Membership Form

Yes! Count me in as a Voyageurs National Park Association annual member!

Basic Member Levels:

Senior / Student \$24 / year Individual \$36 / year Family \$5 / month or \$60 / year

Donor Member Levels:

Loon \$10/mo or \$120/yr Moose \$25/mo or \$300/yr Bear \$50/mo or \$600/yr Wolf \$100/mo or \$1,200/yr

I would like to make an additional year-end contribution in the amount of \$_____.

I would like to support VNPA at the Leadership Level of \$2,500 or more. Please contact me.

Name(s) _____ E-mail Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home (____) _____-_____ Work (____) _____-_____ Cell (____) _____-_____

Please charge my Visa Mastercard # _____-_____-_____-_____ Security code _____ Exp. ____/____

I would like to be billed monthly quarterly annually for my membership.

My check is enclosed, made payable to “VNPA” My company will match my gift

Thank you! Your contribution is tax deductible. Please send to: VNPA, 126 N. Third St., Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Voyageurs National Park Association

Protecting and promoting the natural, recreational and historic resources of Voyageurs National Park

126 N. Third Street, Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: (612) 333-5424
Fax: (612) 339-4731
E-mail: vnpa@voyageurs.org
Web site: www.voyageurs.org

Staff:

Cory MacNulty
Executive Director

Kelly Fuller
Advancement Director

Kari Volkmann-Carlsen
Advancement Associate

Board of Directors:

Kimberly Byrd
Jim Dier
Burgess Eberhardt
Forrest Flint
Dallas Fogg
Douglas Franchot
Jim Hudson
Ryan Johnson
Ken Kadash
Tom Lehman
Kurt Lysne
Leni Darrow Moore
John Roth
Greg Seitz
Peter Swenson

Honorary Board of Directors:

Lee Barthel
Michael Frome
Martin Kellogg

Voyageurs National Park
Liason to the Board:
Kathleen Przybylski

Summer 2008 Calendar of Events:

June 15–August 16 Guided Pontoon Boat and Canoe Tours Voyageurs National Park

Cruise the lakes of the Park with knowledgeable guides, viewing historic sites and breathtaking scenery. Tours leave from the Park's three visitor centers. See the complete schedule at <http://www.nps.gov/voya/parknews/newspaper.htm> or contact the Rainy Lake Visitor Center at (888) 381-2873.

June 16–August 13 Shuttle to Locator Lake Trailhead Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center

Explore more of Voyageurs with the new shuttle service to the Locator Lake Trailhead on the Kabetogama Peninsula every Monday and Wednesday. Once on the peninsula, canoes are available if reserved (call the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center at (218) 875-2111), and the trail is a beautiful two-mile hike to the interior lakes. For shuttle reservations call (888) 381-2873.

June 20–August 15 Friday Night Special Speaker Series Woodenfrog State Forest Refectory, Kabetogama, MN

Learn about the Park through a variety of special presentations offered every Friday evening, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Contact the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center for more information: (218) 875-2111.

September 12–14 Voyageurs National Park Fall Volunteer Rendezvous Ash River Visitor Center, Voyageurs National Park

Head up to the Park this fall to lend a hand by planting native trees at shoreline sites that need restoration. Volunteers will be taken by boat to the worksites with National Park staff. The volunteer weekend is not all work and no play! Explore the Park during free time and join us for a celebration dinner to recognize the group's accomplishments. For more information contact VNPA at (612) 333-5424 or vnpa@voyageurs.org.

Did you know? More event details and useful information for planning your visit to Voyageurs are available in the Park newspaper, *Rendezvous*. See it online at <http://www.nps.gov/voya/parknews/newspaper.htm>.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No.
1386

VNPA is a proud member of the

