

The Journal of



# VOYAGEURS

NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

To protect and promote the natural, recreational and historic resources of Voyageurs National Park



Photo: Barb Becker

## Koochiching County Board Protects the Park's Scenic Skylines

**The wild horizons of Voyageurs National Park have been protected, thanks to action taken by local citizens, the Park Service, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and Voyageurs National Park Association (VNPA).**

In late April, the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners rejected a proposal by AT&T for a 350-foot cell tower the company was proposing to build 3.5 miles west of the Park border near Rainy Lake. The county encouraged AT&T to seek alternative locations for its cell towers that will not disrupt the beauty of the Park.

A preliminary visual assessment conducted by Voyageurs National Park showed that the proposed tower would have been visible from many lakes and campsites within the Park. Park Superintendent Mike Ward spoke at the County Board hearing on April 26, as did VNPA Board member Burgess Eberhardt. VNPA and NPCA co-signed a letter to the Board, asking that the county continue to work with AT&T to identify tower alternatives that would expand coverage in the area without marring the scenic beauty of the Park and the surrounding area. One alternative is to reduce the height of the tower below 200 feet, which would eliminate the need for bright lights and unnecessary light pollution, preserving the Park's dark night sky.

Visual impairment of natural areas by cell towers has become an important issue around Minnesota and the country in the last couple of years. Last June, the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness filed suit against AT&T over a 450-foot tower the company wanted to build near Ely, and which would be visible for miles inside the BWCAW. The suit went to trial in April and a judge's decision is expected by early summer.



Photo by ps/irm, Creative Commons.

In the official minutes of the Board meeting at which the tower was rejected, the final statement says it all: "The Board is particularly concerned that the proposed location of the tower will directly impact the pre-settlement viewscape from the Voyageurs National Park, one of the State's greatest natural assets, and one of historic significance."

**"**The Board is particularly concerned that the proposed location of the **tower will directly impact the pre-settlement viewscape** from the Voyageurs National Park, one of the State's **greatest natural assets.****"**

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# Cory MacNulty Says Goodbye, VNPA Begins Search for New Executive Director

Kurt Lysne, Board Chair

Since she joined Voyageurs National Park Association as Executive Director in 2004, Cory has focused her work on collaboration and bringing people together from often disparate views in order to best serve Voyageurs National Park.

When she announced this spring that she would be moving to Utah with her family for new adventures, you can imagine our dismay as we realized what a great leader, friend, and advocate we would miss.

"I have been honored to work for the preservation of one of the most spectacular wild places in America for nearly seven years," MacNulty says. "Part of what has made working for Voyageurs National Park Association so rewarding is meeting and getting to know the extraordinary people who care about Voyageurs National Park and who are willing to give of themselves in so many ways. It has been such a pleasure to learn about the impor-



tant contributions made behind the scenes from Park staff, VNPA Board members, gateway community leaders, and dedicated individuals."

Cory assures us she will return to Voyageurs. The Park is special to her, not only because of her work to preserve it at VNPA and earlier Master's thesis research on loons, but simply as one of the nation's remarkable wild places.

The Board of Directors has begun the search for a new Executive Director to lead the organization in the continued path of collaboration and commitment to protecting Voyageurs National

Park for future generations. We are confident in finding a candidate among Minnesota's strong profile of environmental leaders who will help the Association continue to grow in exciting new ways in support of the Park's lakes, wildlife, and visitor experience.

Cory, from all of us at VNPA, we wish you the best in your new endeavors! The National Parks have a valuable advocate in you.

## Reaching Land & Water Conservation Fund's Promise to America

Scott Haugen

**The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has helped protect some of our nation's most treasured places since 1965.**

In the past nearly five decades, Minnesota has received \$217 million from this fund to protect places like Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The LWCF is based on a simple model: use a small share of revenues from offshore oil and gas to help preserve our most precious national resources and do so without the use of taxpayer dollars.

Funding for acquisitions has drifted sharply from its promised \$900 million

fully funded level, as Congress is finding ways to divert these funds for other uses. With \$306 million in LWCF monies distributed to Federal and State agencies last year for land and conservation projects, the time has come for our government to deliver on their promises.

In May 2011, VNPA Executive Director Cory MacNulty joined the LWCF Coalition—a group comprising conservation, recreation, and sportsmen's organizations working together to advocate for full funding measures capable of making individual land acquisition projects across the country a reality.

LWCF funding is a pressing need for Voyageurs National Park. One of VNPA's ongoing priority programs is the Land Preservation Initiative, helping the Park acquire the more than 50 private properties within its boundaries from willing sellers. The Initiative's ultimate goal is to complete public ownership of the Park in order to prevent development on pristine land and restore that land for public enjoyment.

Visit [lwcfcoalition.org](http://lwcfcoalition.org) for more information and learn how you can take action to increase LWCF funding for land acquisition in Minnesota.

### VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

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# Voyageurs National Park Day on Capitol Hill Builds Partnerships

Kari Volkmann-Carlson

**In early March, Voyageurs National Park Association's Executive Director Cory MacNulty and Board Vice-Chair Ann Ladd traveled to Washington for the second annual Voyageurs National Park Day at the Capitol.**

The Association helped plan the event with community officials from St. Louis County, Koochiching County, the City of International Falls, and Destination Voyageurs National Park. Each organization had important items on the agenda mutually supported by the group as a whole. We held meetings with elected officials and the National Park Service, and hosted a well-attended reception with the delegation.

One of the opportunities high on the partners' priority list was emphasizing the importance of Voyageurs National Park to the quality of life and economy of the Park's neighboring communities.

Those economic benefits are clear when considering that the Park stimulates, through tourism and employment, an estimated 200 jobs and \$11 million in spending annually. Superintendent Michael Ward said of Voyageurs National Park, "In these small communities, the Park serves as one of the primary employers and the reason for which most private businesses exist [in the smaller gateway communities of Ash River, Kabetogama, Crane Lake, and Orr, and larger International Falls]."

"We were fortunate to meet personally with Congressman Cravaack for nearly three-quarters of an hour," MacNulty explained. "Rep. Cravaack is the new House representative for the district that serves Voyageurs National Park, and it was important for us to be able to introduce him to our work at the Association, as well as the economic benefits that the Park provides for its communities and the state of Minnesota."



Voyageurs N.P. Superintendent Ward, Congresswoman McCollum, Congressman Cravaack, and International Falls Mayor Mason at Voyageurs National Park Day in Washington.

Another of VNPA's top priorities was to advocate for full support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). VNPA's Land Preservation Initiative seeks to help Voyageurs National Park acquire the more than 50 private properties within Park boundaries from willing sellers. LWCF is essential to adding these properties in the Park's public lands to increase visitor access to the Park's lakeshores, preserve critical wildlife habitat and prevent new development inside the Park. The LWCF is funded by a percentage of revenues from offshore oil and gas development, and is the source from which National Parks receive funding for land acquisition. Historically, money intended for the LWCF has been redirected to other budget items, but the President's 2012 budget request restores full funding for LWCF.

Currently, the President's 2011 and 2012 budget requests include funding for land acquisition inside Voyageurs National Park. While Voyageurs is high on the National Park Service land acquisition list for both years, whether or not LWCF money is available for these acquisitions will be determined in Congressional federal budget discussions in the coming months. Senator Klobuchar, Senator Franken, and Congresswoman McCollum have all supported full funding for the LWCF and acquisition of the Park's top priority land acquisitions.

While the LWCF funding remains uncertain, MacNulty was happy with the event, saying, "This year was even better than last. So many members of Minnesota's delegation and their staff showed up to learn about Voyageurs National Park and the important role it plays within its gateway communities."

Many elected officials were present at the Capitol Hill reception, including Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Congressman John Kline (R-MN02), Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN03), Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN04), and Congressman Chip Cravaack (R-MN08). Representatives from the offices of Senator Al Franken (D-MN), Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN01), Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN05), Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN06), and Congressman Collin Peterson (D-MN07) also attended. In addition, Mr. Will Shafroth, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, joined in at the reception.

VNPA thanks the delegation, staff members, and agency officials who joined the discussion about Voyageurs National Park. We also want to thank our partners—the City of International Falls, St. Louis and Koochiching Counties, Destination Voyageurs National Park, and Lockridge Grindal Nauen Federal Relations Group—who helped plan this event and shared in our success.



Senator Klobuchar speaks about the Park's significance. Photos by Will E. Mitchell. <http://www.themidwestperspective.com/willphotography.html>.

# Protecting the Namakan River and Voyageurs' Lake Sturgeon

Sarah Goodspeed

**Just nine km east of Voyageurs National Park is the location of the first in a series of proposed hydroelectric facilities—at the breathtaking High Falls, a six-meter high cascade on the Namakan River.**

Through the Coalition to Protect the Namakan, Voyageurs National Park Association is working to prevent dam construction on the Namakan River to protect the healthy, but threatened population of Lake Sturgeon that use this river for spawning and migration between Voyageurs National Park and Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario. The Lake Sturgeon found in the Namakan system comprise the largest known population of this threatened species remaining in North America. Other populations have been decimated from similar hydroelectric development across the continent.

At our annual members and friends event held in April 2011, Voyageurs National Park ecologist Steve Windels discussed the Park's Lake Sturgeon monitoring and research in the Namakan reservoir. Evidence shows that sturgeon in the park are using the Namakan River extensively for spawning as well as overwintering near High Falls. Other research shows that juvenile Lake Sturgeon are particularly acclimated to the deep water and fast current in the Namakan



Current, natural conditions of the Namakan River High Falls. The water flows over ancient bedrock, dropping six meters from Bill Lake to Little Eva Lake. Simulations taken from the project proponent's website: [www.opeg.ca](http://www.opeg.ca).

River. Development at High Falls would alter these ecological conditions that make the region so desirable for Lake Sturgeon, potentially fragmenting the population and damaging this shared international resource.

The hydroproject proponent's draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the High Falls facility was released last year to immense criticism from advocates and government agencies in the U.S. and Canada. The report did not adequately document the impacts of the proposed 6.4 MW generation facility and the associated weirs and river construction that would be required for operation.

VNPA submitted 40 pages of comments addressing a wide range of concerns for threatened species, ecological and social impacts, cumulative effects of further development and other errors in the report. It has now been well over a year



A simulation of the proposed project development. The proponent's would build a generation station and weirs, destroying High Falls to control the natural waterflow.

since those comments were submitted, and the poor quality of the draft EA has led to delays in the final EA, which may not be out until summer 2012. Although the Coalition has attempted repeatedly to communicate with the project proponents and investors, credible information has been hard to come by. From what we can piece together, there is disagreement among the proponent and investors as they respond to the greater-than-expected criticism from the draft.

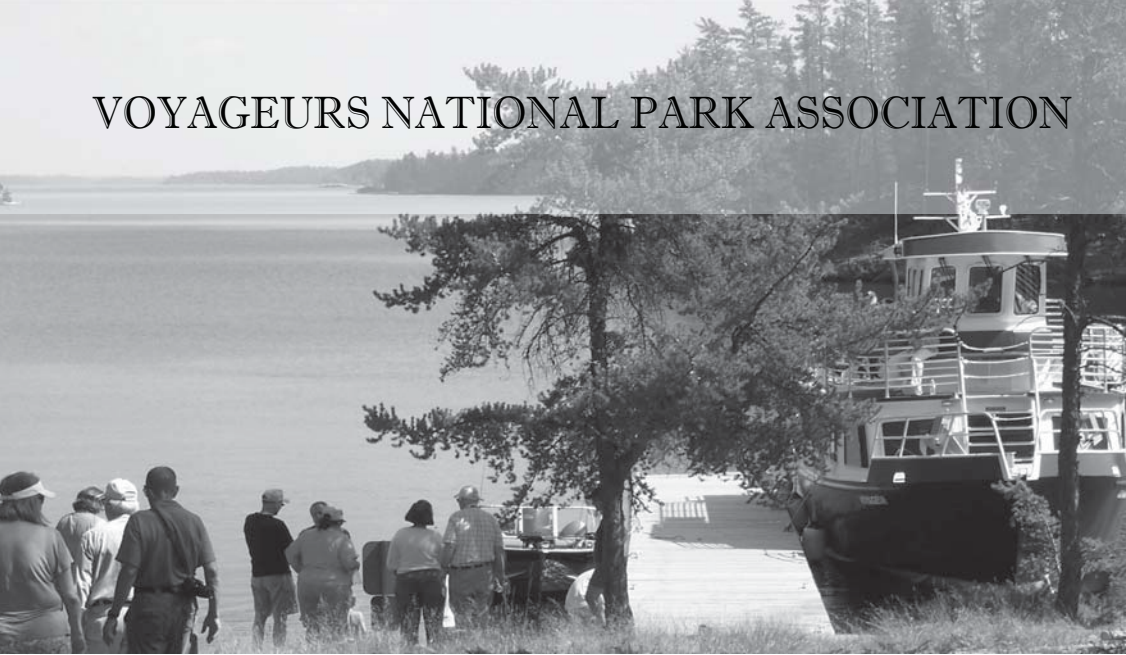
Despite this delay, the Coalition has continued to apply pressure by raising public awareness of the issue and informing elected officials and other decision-makers about project concerns. In consideration of long-term protection of the river, the Coalition is working to rejuvenate an effort to obtain Canadian Heritage River designation for the Namakan as an extension of the already designated Boundary Waters – Voyageur Waterway.

For more information and ways to get involved please visit our website, [www.voyageurs.org](http://www.voyageurs.org).

## Supporter Spotlight

### The Quetico Superior Foundation

In support of the Coalition to Protect the Namakan, the Quetico Superior Foundation awarded two grants to Voyageurs National Park Association in 2010, totaling \$7,000. Their support has been critical to the success of the Coalition, both financially and by raising awareness of the issue through coverage in their widely-acclaimed journal *Wilderness News*. The Foundation encourages and supports the protection of Minnesota's border lakes country and Ontario's Quetico Provincial Park. Visit [www.queticosuperior.org](http://www.queticosuperior.org) to learn more.



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

**T**his has been another successful year for Voyageurs National Park Association (VNPA), and we must thank our supporters, members, and partners for the extraordinary achievements we have made together for Voyageurs National Park.

Our activities in 2010 included exciting new endeavors (check out our Youth Engagement Program), progress toward long-term goals and ongoing programs (the Land Preservation Initiative and the Volunteer Rendezvous are going strong!), and advancements for one of our most urgent policy campaigns, the Coalition to Protect the Namakan. We also celebrated our 45th Anniversary as Voyageurs National Park's grassroots partner!

At the close of the year, we warmly thanked Forrest Flint for his service as Board Chair. Forrest, who stepped down after completing a two-year commitment, has been a remarkable leader for the organization, guiding our work with expertise and enthusiasm. VNPA welcomes Kurt Lysne as our chair in 2011, a longtime board member and supporter who lives part-time on Rainy Lake, just outside the Park boundaries.

**Thank You** for being a steward of the land, waters, wildlife, and visitor experience at Voyageurs National Park. As a friend of VNPA, you helped to make 2010 a banner year of achievements for protecting and promoting Voyageurs National Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cory Counard MacNulty".

Cory Counard MacNulty  
Executive Director

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

### *Coalition to Protect the Namakan*

We educated thousands of citizens and politicians about a proposal to develop a hydroelectric facility on the pristine Namakan River that would affect critical wildlife habitat. In February 2010, the Coalition—VNPA, Rainy Lake Conservancy, Quetico Foundation, and CPAWS Ottawa Valley Chapter—collaborated with scientists, experts and an environmental lawyer to create in-depth responses to the hydroproject proponent's draft Environmental Assessment (EA). Because of critical comments on the draft EA, the proponents are required to conduct additional studies and analyses, delaying the release of the final EA by over a year to date. Read more about program news on page 4.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

## Youth Engagement

National Parks are our nation's greatest outdoor classrooms. Voyageurs offers several curriculum-based educational programs for all age groups, such as conducting a pond study on the Kabetogama Peninsula, learning outdoor skills, and identifying tree species.

VNPA received \$8,000 from the Donald Weesner Foundation to provide grants to schools for bus transportation and boat tours, in order to make visiting this remote Park more accessible. This grant will help over 700 students participate in field trips at Voyageurs National Park. VNPA also provided support for the Environmental Education Interpreter, the part-time NPS staff member who leads all youth educational programs, with a grant we received from the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation. Visit the Park's online teacher resource center for more info: [www.nps.gov/voyalforteachers](http://www.nps.gov/voyalforteachers).



Photo: NPS

## Thank you to our donors (JAN. 1-DEC. 31, 2010)

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Kabetogama Lake Association  
& Tourism Bureau  
Kristy Kadash  
Jo & Larry Kallemeyn



# Financial Summary

Voyageurs National Park Association is committed to sound fiscal management and conducts an audit annually. The financial summaries below are excerpts based on our 2009 audited and 2010 unaudited financials (due to the timing of this publication). Please contact VNPA at (612) 333-5424 to request complete financial reports for the current or previous year. Legacy Fund Investment refers to our *Wallace C. Dayton Voyageurs National Park Legacy Fund* for property acquisition through the Land Preservation Initiative (see page 8).

## BALANCE SHEET *(For fiscal year ending December 31, 2010)*

ASSETS	2010	2009
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$133,644	\$126,704
Legacy Fund Investment	\$593,082	\$500,000
Fixed Assets, Equipment	\$768	\$97
Accounts Receivable	\$56,419	\$118,391
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$783,913</b>	<b>\$745,192</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts Payable		
& Accrued Expenses	\$7,802	\$9,754
Net Assets	\$776,111	\$735,438
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$783,913</b>	<b>\$745,192</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT & REVENUE	2010	2009
Grants	\$98,995	\$136,551
Donations, Memberships	\$123,286	\$129,961
Investment Income	\$5,084	\$5,243
Miscellaneous Income	\$11,616	\$4,354
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$238,981</b>	<b>\$276,109</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services	\$174,612	\$138,505
Management & General	\$12,713	\$12,480
Fundraising	\$10,983	\$12,464
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$198,308</b>	<b>\$163,449</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$40,673</b>	<b>\$112,660</b>

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In memory of **Sharon Mary Euerle**—Clifford Wm Euerle  
In honor of **Tony and Ann Hallman**—Joseph Hallman  
In memory of **Fran Carr Hoffman**—Donald Riley  
In honor of **Martin Kellogg**—Joe and Joanne Kellogg  
In memory of **Gerold (Jerry) Mundt**—Diane Mundt  
In memory of **Helen Parkhill**—Lee & George Barthel  
In memory of **James Watson**—Ann Watson

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Ann Ladd  
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Studio EFX  
Peter Swenson

# VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

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

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## More 2010 Accomplishments and Programs

To read about all of VNPA's programs that protect and promote Voyageurs National Park, visit [www.voyageurs.org](http://www.voyageurs.org) and subscribe to email news.



Photo: Barb Becker

## CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN

Continuing a multi-year partnership with National Parks Conservation Association, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, VNPA worked to protect the scenic vistas in the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs and Isle Royale National Parks from air pollution. We worked with state and federal agencies to ensure industry compliance with existing air permits and to make progress on requirements for the taconite industry to begin pilot testing new pollution control technologies. Of significant note, the Department of Interior (DOI) certified our petition confirming that the SHERCO coal power facility in Sherburne County contributes to visibility impairment in Voyageurs and the Boundary Waters. DOI certification will help to ensure that SHERCO emissions will be meaningfully controlled by the state.

## VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK DAY AT THE CAPITOL

At the 2010 Voyageurs National Park Day at the Capitol, VNPA was joined by the mayor of International Falls, the county commissioners for St. Louis and Koochiching Counties, Voyageurs Superintendent Mike Ward, and Board members of Destination Voyageurs National Park. We collaborated on legislative priorities and projects to benefit the group as a whole. One of the four projects discussed with the delegation and their staff was the Voyageurs National Park Land Preservation Initiative. The President's fiscal year 2011 and 2012 budgets include funding for Voyageurs' land priorities, a direct result of our work in Washington and with the National Park Service.

## LAND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE

Two private parcels within Voyageurs National Park were purchased by the National Park Service (NPS) in 2010, adding 45 acres of public land. The NPS Midwest Region indicated that VNPA played a significant role in the acquisition of these properties by keeping private land at the forefront of Voyageurs National Park priorities. For our own Land Preservation Initiative, we engaged in landowner negotiations with a willing seller of 62 acres on the Kempton Channel of Rainy Lake. VNPA conducted our first environmental assessment and appraisal of this private inholding in Voyageurs National Park. We are still engaged in the process of acquiring this land. VNPA also worked with several organizations to advocate for full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million per year, the Fund that enables National Parks to acquire new land.

## VOLUNTEER RENDEZVOUS

VNPA members and friends volunteered on September 10-11 to help the Park build the new Ojibwe encampment and ethno-botanical garden at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. The two-year project, once finished, will teach about the traditional Ojibwe uses for native plants for food and medicine. We completed 70 feet of wheelchair accessible trail, leveled the foundation for the Ojibwe camp, placed the fire ring, and planted three dozen native trees and shrubs.

## Learn More ... Take a Hike

Dan Cook



Paddle a 26-foot North Canoe and experience a glimpse of life as an 18th-century voyageur fur-trader: A free North Canoe Voyage occurs on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the summer.

Set out on Rainy Lake's new *Voyageur* tour boat or Kabetogama Lake's *Otter* to exciting historic destinations such as the Kettle Falls Hotel, the beautiful Ellsworth Rock Gardens, and the gold mines of Little American Island. For the wildlife viewer, take a Discovery Cruise on Rainy Lake and stop by bald eagle nesting sites. Different boat tours run throughout the week, ranging in cost from \$15-\$50. Many programs include a stop at a visitor destination for a short hike or picnic lunch.

**With a National Park Service naturalist! Get a unique perspective of Voyageurs and have fun learning about the natural wonders of the Park on a guided tour.**

Starting June 12th, a variety of interesting boat tours, hikes, and paddle trips are available from either the Rainy Lake Visitor Center or the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center nearly every day of the week.

Detailed information about all tours is available at [www.nps.gov/voya](http://www.nps.gov/voya). The Park highly recommends reserving your space ahead of time for the tour of your choice. Tour boat reservations can be made online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the National Call Center at (877) 444-6777. North Canoe reservations can be made through the respective visitor center.

## Bike Trail to Connect Park & Community

Raoul Lufbery

The State of Minnesota and the National Park Service have signed an agreement to complete the third phase of a bike trail from the town of International Falls to Voyageurs' Rainy Lake Visitor Center. This trail will be used by state and national visitors as well as local residents who walk, run, and cycle.

As a partnership, Koochiching County has already built 9 miles of bike trail outside Park boundaries. The county and state are providing \$1.2 million to Voyageurs National Park in order to build the last 1.8 miles to the Rainy Lake Visitor Center on Park lands. When completed, this bike trail system will also connect the new Park headquarters complex to the Rainy Lake Visitor Center and three neighboring communities along the scenic Rainy Lake and Rainy River for visitors to enjoy with greater safety.

## Park moves into new headquarters



In April, Voyageurs National Park officially moved their headquarters into a brand-new LEED-certified building on the Rainy River. With 38,500 sq. ft. of space for administrative staff, vehicle and equipment maintenance, and archival storage, the new facilities offer better resources for Park staff to do their job protecting the Park and serving visitors.

Construction on the new complex started last year, but the project has been a three year partnership in planning between the City of International Falls, the National Park Service, and the General Services Administration. The complex is funded by \$11.38 million in bonds approved by the International Falls Economic Development Authority. The Park is leasing the complex from the City of International Falls.

A public ceremony will occur July 2, 2011, as part of a dedication of the riverfront complex to former Congressman Oberstar.



Photos by the National Park Service.

# Preserving Biodiversity and Native Plant Traditions

Volunteers Needed to Complete the Ojibwe Ethnobotanical Garden

**Volunteer Rendezvous: September 9 – 10, 2011**

**Have you thought about volunteering for Voyageurs National Park? Each year, VNPA helps the Park achieve conservation and maintenance needs through the Volunteer Rendezvous, a two-day civic engagement event that YOU are invited to attend.**

Volunteers come together to donate a combined total of about 300 hours of labor in just one weekend — now that's impact!

This year, the Volunteer Rendezvous is scheduled for September 9-10, 2011, and will take up where last year's project ended: completing a new visitor resource at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center, an Ojibwe encampment and native plant garden.



Last year, Voyageurs National Park Association (VNPA) organized 20 volunteers to restore biodiversity to a lake-side location near Voyageurs National Park's Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Previously overrun by an invasive species (Reed Canary Grass), this site became the location of the new Ojibwe native plant garden. The purpose of this garden is two-fold: (1) to preserve biodiversity, both by preventing the growth of invasive reed canary grass and by replanting and nourishing native plant species; and (2) to educate park visitors about traditional Ojibwe uses for these plants for food, medicine, and other purposes.

The site will include a wagon (traditional Ojibwe one-family home), fire pit, seating area, a wheelchair-accessible trail system, plants native to the Voyageurs ecosystem, and interpretive signage.

The primary volunteer activities at the 2011 Rendezvous will include planting trees, shrubs and wildflowers in the garden, and helping to complete the construction of the wagon.

People of all ages and skills are invited to attend — no experience is necessary. National Park Service staff provide training and tools, and help with the work. The Rendezvous provides a great opportunity to get involved at Voyageurs National Park and meet the biologists and maintenance staff who keep the Park looking its best.

The Volunteer Rendezvous isn't all work and no play! The Park Service will provide canoes to paddle in your free time and lead a guided night hike on Friday evening. VNPA will host a Saturday celebration dinner for all volunteers and partners. Enjoy the Park, meet new people, and become an environmental steward for Voyageurs — Volunteer!

More information is available on our website: [www.voyageurs.org](http://www.voyageurs.org). Ask to be added to our mailing list to receive a registration brochure: email [vnpa@voyageurs.org](mailto:vnpa@voyageurs.org) or call us at (612) 333-5424.

## Smart Givers Approved

Voyageurs National Park Association has achieved the Meets Standards seal of the Charities Review Council. The Council reviews charitable organizations in Minnesota and evaluates them based on principles and practices of excellence in nonprofit accountability.



VNPA is proud to meet the high standards of the Charities Review Council and believes that being informed helps donors become more engaged in understanding the impact of their dollars, volunteer work, and citizen advocacy. Together, we can better protect the natural, recreational, and historic resources of Voyageurs National Park for each new generation of Park visitors. Read our review at [www.smartgivers.org](http://www.smartgivers.org).

# Minnesota's Breeding Bird Atlas Seeks Volunteer Observers

Cori Stanek

**MNBBA—Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas—is an acronym to add to your conservation vocabulary, and a budding project to track in Minnesota and Voyageurs National Park.**

Breeding Bird Atlases (BBAs) are comprehensive data collections that map the occurrence and distribution of breeding bird species within a designated area. Essentially, a BBA outlines what kind of birds are breeding in particular areas, where breeding behavior is observed, and how many breeding individuals are located within those boundaries. Researchers use data to project and map trends in population and breeding patterns across wider geographic areas to monitor future changes in the population, and develop conservation plans.

Currently, 43 states have completed BBAs. Minnesota is one of seven states that have yet to publish such a document, but not for much longer. Fleets of volunteers working under the leadership of a coalition of conservation and ornithological organizations across Minnesota, as a part of the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas (MNBBA) Project, have already begun work on a BBA for the state.

The MNBBA Project started in 2009 and in just one season collected more than 23,000 observations, with 188 confirmed breeding species recorded to date.

The MNBBA Project has designated 2,352 priority survey “blocks” across the state, twelve of which lie within Voyageurs National Park, that will be



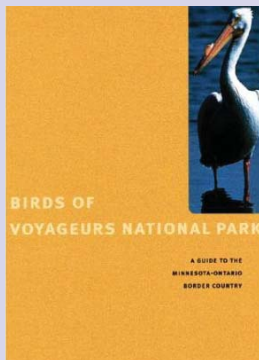
Wallace C. Dayton. Red Crossbill.

visited during the next four years of the five-year project.

As a citizen-science study, the MNBBA Project encourages volunteering at all levels. Volunteers have the opportunity to “own a block” and become a coordinator of data collection for that area during the main breeding season (June-July).

MNBBA asks volunteers to donate a minimum of 20 hours of observation over the course of the season. For those who are planning a summer trip to Voyageurs or the surrounding area and would like to get involved with the MNBBA Project, coordinators suggest registering as a group with other interested volunteers to share the 20 hour study minimum. A map and contact list of block owners that will be collecting volunteer observations throughout the 2011 season are available on the MNBBA Project website: [www.mnbba.org](http://www.mnbba.org).

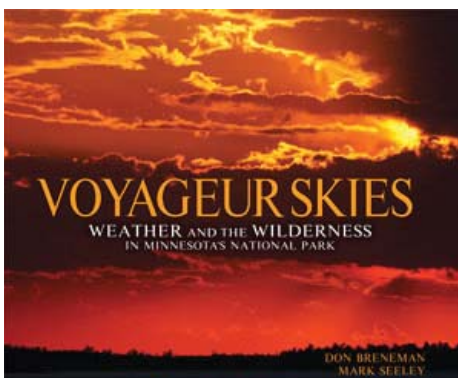
## A Guide to Birding in Voyageurs



**Birds of Voyageurs National Park: A Guide to the Minnesota-Ontario Border Country**  
Voyageurs National Park Association

This book describes one hundred of the most frequently seen birds, from the familiar common loon to unusual species such as the black-backed three-toed woodpecker and the mourning warbler. Each entry includes a full-color photograph, a detailed description, behavioral information, and tips on locating the birds within the Park's boundaries.

\$16.95. Paperback, 128 pages, 2001. Distributed by the University of Minnesota Press. Purchase online at [www.upress.umn.edu](http://www.upress.umn.edu).



## New Voyageurs Photography Book

**Voyageur Skies: Weather and the Wilderness in Minnesota's National Park**  
Don Breneman, Mark Seeley

The breathtaking beauty of Voyageurs National Park can now be enjoyed through a new book soon to be released by the Afton Press. **Voyageur Skies** highlights some of the amazing sights at the Park with over 80 full-color photographs by Don Breneman, complemented by University of Minnesota meteorologist Mark Seeley's commentary on how climate change and weather patterns affect the Park's landscape. The book will have readers yearning for the outdoors, and is expected to facilitate a wider discussion on water preservation and environmental stewardship. **Voyageur Skies** is scheduled for a June 2011 release date. The Afton Press is accepting pre-orders: [www.aftonpress.com](http://www.aftonpress.com).

\$32.00. Hardcover, 136 pages, 2011.

## Let's Move Outside at Voyageurs

First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move* campaign was extended to the National



Parks Junior Ranger Program. Aimed at getting young people outside for exercise, *Let's Move*

*Outside* at Voyageurs encourages kids to hike a trail, swim or canoe the lakes, and enjoy winter skiing and snowshoeing.

## VNPA to expand recycling program

In Summer 2010, the Park tested a recycling program at the Ash River Visitor Center and saved 18 cubic yards of recyclables from being thrown into the landfill! VNPA received a grant of \$10,000 from Unilever to help the Park expand upon this success at the two other visitor centers.

## Field trip travel assistance available

With a grant of \$8,000 from the Donald Weesner Foundation, VNPA is assisting teachers through travel grants to bring students to Voyageurs National Park for educational field trips. Contact VNPA for application and program information: (612) 333-5424, vnpa@voyageurs.org.

## Postage stamp features Voyageurs



Shown above, this new 80-cent international rate stamp features a stunning photograph of Voyageurs National Park by Richard Olsenius. The stamp is part of the Scenic American Landscapes series. *Image ©United States Postal Service. All rights reserved.*

## Stay in the loop!



[www.facebook.com/VoyageursNPA](http://www.facebook.com/VoyageursNPA)



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# My Summer as a Park Ranger in Voyageurs

## A Texan Reflects on Her Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Experience

Mary Eaton

It's 7:00 a.m., the sun is rising, and the sky is clear blue this August morning at Voyageurs National Park. I have three days left in my little cabin on Lake Kabetogama before I return home to share my adventures with my family and friends, and my 6th-grade social studies classes in Redwater, Texas.

I was the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher for summer 2010 at Voyageurs National Park, and it was an experience of a lifetime for me. I have learned so much about the Park and the treasures to be found here. As a park ranger, I assisted visitors at the Ash River and Kabetogama Visitor Centers, and led tours to the Ellsworth Rock Gardens. I developed lesson plans about the voyageurs and the fur trade, the transportation corridor to the St. Lawrence River, the Ojibwa people, to name a few.

Viewing wildlife at Voyageurs is a daily pleasure that I will miss. Deer abound everywhere. Beaver, otters, wolves, mink, black bear and the elusive moose live here. This is also a birdwatcher's paradise. The eerie cry

of the loon, the distinguished chatter of the eagle, and the call of the white-throated sparrow that woke me every morning have all been new experiences for me. Seeing white pelicans, cormorants, ducks, varieties of gulls, bald eagles and of course the loon is an everyday sighting when you venture out on a boat.

The highlight of my summer, although there were many, was having the opportunity to be on hand when researchers conducted the bald eagle banding. My students will love the pictures and stories I have to share of our national bird.

In April, during National Park Week, I will visit local Redwater schools to share my adventures as the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher. I want the students to develop a knowledge of our National Parks, the rangers that work there, and the opportunities for them to be Junior Rangers. I want them to have a desire to visit these unique places that are protected for all people to enjoy. If I can ignite the spark, maybe they too will someday watch the sun rising over Lake Kabetogama!

