

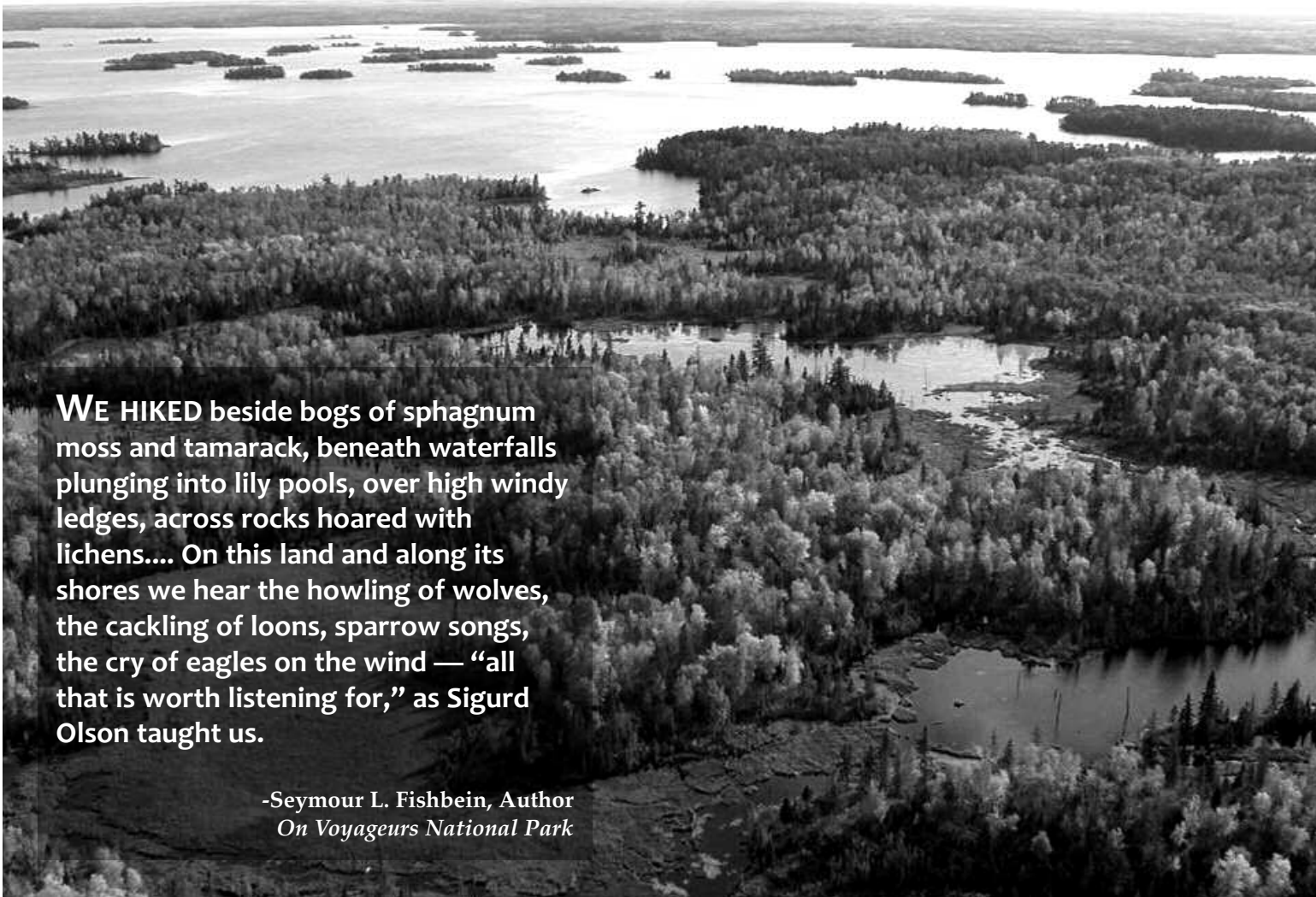


The Journal of

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

Winter 2009-2010

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



WE HIKED beside bogs of sphagnum moss and tamarack, beneath waterfalls plunging into lily pools, over high windy ledges, across rocks hoared with lichens.... On this land and along its shores we hear the howling of wolves, the cackling of loons, sparrow songs, the cry of eagles on the wind — “all that is worth listening for,” as Sigurd Olson taught us.

-Seymour L. Fishbein, Author
On Voyageurs National Park

Inside...

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- ◆ Burgess Eberhardt Shares Tips and Trips for Cross-Country Skiing in Voyageurs (page 11)

And much more!

Minnesota's National Park Legacy Premieres on Twin Cities Public Television

VNPA Partners to Produce Educational Film About Minnesota's Remarkable National Parks

By Kari Volkmann-Carlsen

This fall, the National Parks received heightened exposure in homes across the nation. *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* premiered on public television with six episodes on the rich history and natural grandeur of the 58 National Parks. Filmed by Ken Burns, and written by Dayton Duncan, this series brought attention to our National Parks on a scale that hasn't been seen for years.

Complementing *The National Parks*, Minnesota's National Park Service (NPS) units came together in a show of historic collaboration to share our region's remarkable National Park stories. The 7 NPS units and programs in the state partnered with Twin Cities Public Television to produce the film, *Minnesota's National Park Legacy*.

Minnesota is home to a treasure of National Park Service sites – all of them are “crown jewels” of unique cultural, historic and natural significance that merit national status. Together they represent a wide variety of cultures and landscapes, from the scenic waterways of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers to the historic sites steeped in Native American history at Grand Portage and Pipestone to the vast waters of Voyageurs. With the North Country trail weaving across the state there is a National Park “right outside our front door” just about everywhere you go. There is also an active branch of the NPS-led Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program that helps local communities complete conservation projects and build trails.

Minnesota's National Park Legacy shows the diversity of this region's nationally-significant sites and demonstrates that Minnesota's



Image design courtesy of the Bell Museum of Natural History

National Park units are dynamic, living, evolving places with important histories and incredible futures. Most importantly, the ongoing committed citizen stewardship of each generation is critical to the ultimate preservation of our natural heritage for the generations to come.

At a premiere event panel discussion with the Superintendents of Minnesota's National Parks, a member of the audience asked, “What are some ways that citizens can get involved in National Parks to make sure that they are still around in the future?” Many good answers were returned: Volunteer to assist a park with its needs, write your concerns about park issues to your elected officials, support a park through joining a partner organization. Voyageurs National Park Superintendent Mike Ward concluded by saying simply, “Visit your parks.” The best way to begin and continue to be a citizen steward of your National Parks is to go out and explore them. Go to www.nps.gov/state/MN for more information about the parks and programs in Minnesota.

“Visit your parks.”

Voyageurs National Park Superintendent Mike Ward

Children today are the next generation to be stewards of these special areas. Their involvement in the National Park Service is vital to its future. Thanks to the generous support received from Northeast

Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership and the Donald Weesner Foundation, VNPA and our partners will produce 5,000 DVD copies of the film for distribution to state-wide schools and libraries. Educators will be able to use this program to inform young people and community members about the natural beauty and cultural heritage that lies outside their back door. We hope that *Minnesota's National Park Legacy* will promote stewardship of our parks, and introduce people to a lifetime of active exploration and preservation of this region's most treasured resources. If you would like this film to be available at your child's school, please contact VNPA: (612) 333-5424, vnpa@voyageurs.org.

Minnesota's National Park Legacy debuted on public television on October 4th. If you missed it, you can catch it again every few months on TPT MN (check www.tpt.org/parks for show times). The half-hour program will also be available online shortly — visit www.voyageurs.org.

Many Partners Made Minnesota's National Park Legacy Possible

Voyagers National Park Association is proud to be a source of major funding and support for *Minnesota's National Park Legacy*.

Minnesota's National Park Legacy is a co-production of:

Twin Cities Public Television's Minnesota Channel
The National Park Service units and programs in Minnesota:

- Grand Portage National Monument
- Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
- North Country National Scenic Trail
- Pipestone National Monument
- Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program
- St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- Voyagers National Park

Major funding and support for film production was provided by:

- Mississippi River Fund
- St. Croix Valley Community Foundation
- Voyagers National Park Association

Additional funding for film production was provided by:

- Donald Weesner Foundation
- Friends of Casey Jones Trail Association
- Friends of the Mississippi River
- Friends of Pipestone National Monument
- Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership of the University of Minnesota
- St. Croix River Association

Funding for film distribution to Minnesota schools and libraries has been provided by:

- Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership of the University of Minnesota
- Donald Weesner Foundation

Special events were sponsored in part by:

- Backus Community Center, International Falls
- Bell Museum of Natural History of the University of Minnesota
- Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

From the Executive Director



October 2009 marked my 5th year as executive director of Voyageurs National Park Association—a time for reflection. I thought about what continues to motivate me every day in this role. Of course it is the place and the experience of being there, from my first (catching loons for research in the mid-90s in the middle of the night with northern lights streaking across the sky and a harvest moon reflecting on the water) to my most recent (flying over the Park, seeing its vast mosaic of lakes and forests for the first time from a bird's eye view). These are the moments I conjure in the midst of a hectic work day.

But what makes working for the protection of Voyageurs National Park so interesting and satisfying are the people who are drawn to the place, people willing to give of themselves in extraordinary ways. Some you will meet in the pages of this newsletter—Fred Witzig, Cat Parkhill, Chris Holbeck and Burgess Eberhardt. Others form the partnerships you will read about: to create an educational film about Minnesota's national park sites, to clean the air over Voyageurs and to protect the Park's sturgeon population from a proposed dam. Still more amazing people are working behind the scenes every day as Park staff, VNPA board members, and gateway community leaders.

These are the people who together form a vast and resilient support network for Voyageurs National Park, and VNPA is central to joining the voices from each diverse partner. Collectively, our work generates the greatest impact for the future of our Park. I look forward to weaving an even stronger network throughout 2010 as we celebrate VNPA's 45th anniversary, a milestone that attests to the extraordinary support for Minnesota's National Park over these many years.

Cory C. MacNulty

BITES Newswire

Jon Jarvis was officially announced the new National Park Service Director in late September with the final confirmation from the Senate. Jarvis, formerly Director of the NPS Pacific West region, says, "America's National Park System is a gift from past generations to this and succeeding generations. I look forward to working with Secretary Salazar, the Congress, our partners, and the extraordinary employees of the National Park Service as we prepare for the next century of stewardship and excellent visitor experiences."

Groundbreaking of the Park's New Headquarters occurred on Saturday, September 26, 2009. The site of the headquarters will be along the Rainy River riverfront and part of a larger development planned by the city of International Falls. A new amphitheater, named for Irv Andersen will also be built, as well as a pavilion for public events. Construction of the site has not yet begun.

Voyageurs National Park received 6 new vehicles through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by switching out clunkers from the early 1980s. The new 2010 Chevrolet HHRs are flexible-fuel vehicles operated on E85, and will greatly improve fuel efficiency for Park operations.

In January 2010, Voyageurs will begin to collar moose to track sightings and mortality of the population in a collaborative project with the University of Minnesota Duluth. The GPS collars will allow biologists to monitor moose locations daily via Argos satellites, and use the information to develop interpretive media. The public is encouraged to participate: visit www.nrri.umn.edu/moose to report a moose sighting.

New bear-proof food lockers are coming to Voyageurs National Park in summer 2010. All overnight campsites currently have at least one food locker, but campers have found that more storage is needed. The Park will install 40 new food lockers at both new and existing campsites for expanded storage and visitor safety.

Mark Seeley and Don Breneman are co-authoring a new book, *Voyageurs Skies: Weather in the Wilderness of Minnesota's National Parks*, to be published by the Afton Historical Press and currently scheduled to be distributed in fall 2010.

Voyageurs National Park works to improve 15-20 visitor destinations with picnic facilities, interpretive exhibits, and historic preservation. Some of the sites include the Oveson Fish Camp, Little American Island, and the I.W. Stevens Pine Cove Resort. Among the sites to be rehabilitated in Summer 2010 is the Ingersoll Lodge on Sand Point Lake's main channel.

New Park Tour Boat Sails Maiden Voyage



The Voyageur tour boat will begin regular tours in Summer 2010.

On September 26, 2009, Voyageurs National Park unveiled its new 49-passenger tour boat during a dedication ceremony at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. After the dedication ceremony, excited visitors boarded the ship, christened the *Voyageur*, for free tours guided by Park staff.

"The tour boat is incredibly valuable in terms of those people who come to see the sites, and we sometimes turn them away because they haven't brought a boat," said Mike Ward, Superintendent of Voyageurs National Park.

Voyageurs National Park was lacking a tour boat of this capacity, and now can accommodate classrooms of school children for educational tours of the Park. Families and small groups who don't have a personal boat will now have the opportunity to explore the miles of inland trails as well as the surrounding bodies of water.

"They can come up, take a tour of the Park, spend the day at Kettle Falls or another destination and spend the night in town — and that's good for the community," Ward said.

Construction of the 58-foot tour boat began in 2008. A collaborative effort from Congressman Jim Oberstar, Park partners, VNPA and other elected officials secured the funding for the boat through the Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Land Program.

Voyageurs National Park Association was a sponsor of the tour boat dedication events. Executive Director Cory MacNulty is happy to see the final product, several years in the making. "Here, the only roadways are on the water, so the traditional tour bus is not an option. The *Voyageur* is the perfect way for visitors to experience the unique grandeur of Voyageurs National Park."

Advocating for Clean, Clear Air in Voyageurs

By Greg Seitz

As mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is developing a plan to eliminate human-caused contributions to haze in Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

For over three years, VNPA has been working closely with the MPCA, as well as Voyageurs National Park and Superior National Forest and our partner organizations Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and National Parks Conservation Association, to develop and implement the best plan possible to improve air quality in the Park.

There are serious concerns that the regional haze plan MPCA is on the verge of submitting to EPA for approval does not require enough pollution reductions from power plants and taconite facilities. MPCA acknowledges that it won't even meet

its own reduction goals for 2018, much less further milestones to put the state on a reduction glide path for decades to come. Though the Clean Air Act requires MPCA to eliminate human-caused haze over Voyageurs National Park by 2064, by their own estimates they won't reach this goal until 2177.

In September of this year, VNPA joined its partners in petitioning the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to urge the MPCA to require stronger pollution controls on Xcel Energy's Sherco power plant in Becker, Minnesota. The plant is the biggest emitter in the state of the pollutants that contribute to visibility impairment in Voyageurs and the BWCAW.

The Interior Department's assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks agreed with our petition and, in October, certified that Xcel Energy's Sherco power plant in Becker is a significant contributor to haze over

Voyageurs, contributing to visibility impairment 165 days over a 3-year period. The certification letter asks EPA to ensure that Xcel uses the best available technology to further cut haze-causing emissions.

Then, at the MPCA Citizen Board's October meeting, the board declined to approve the state implementation plan for cutting haze, which blocked the plan from being forward on to EPA.

At the meeting, Mike Ward, superintendent of Voyageurs National Park, and Jim Sanders, supervisor of the Superior National Forest, which contains the BWCAW, testified on the need for more pollution reductions and a better plan to achieve that goal. Ward also asked for more accurate emission tracking methods at taconite facilities "to ensure that reductions are real and not just "paper" reductions."

The MPCA Citizen's Board is expected to take up the plan again at its December 15 meeting.

Partners in Air Protection: Chris Holbeck, Don Shepherd

By Kari Volkmann-Carlsen

It takes an extraordinary amount of effort to effectively protect our natural resources, especially for an intangible resource like clean air. Voyageurs National Park Association has been lucky to work with some very dedicated and experienced individuals, two of which we'd like to thank now: Chris Holbeck and Don Shepherd.

Chris Holbeck was formerly employed at Voyageurs National Park as their Environmental Planning and Compliance Specialist. In the summer of 2009, he accepted a job at the National Park Service Midwest Region headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska, where he now serves as the Regional Chief of Resource Management, taking in his care 56 National Parks in 13 states. While at Voyageurs, Chris

facilitated communication among agencies and Park partners to improve the Regional Haze plan. Chris continues to help with Minnesota's plan to reduce air pollution, even from a few states away. Voyageurs National Park Association warmly congratulates Chris on his accomplishments and new position, and would like to express our sincere thanks to a friend of Voyageurs National Park.

While Chris was working at Voyageurs, he took the opportunity to award **Don Shepherd** with the prestigious Special Thanks for Achieving Results (STAR) award for his diligence in protecting clean air at Voyageurs National Park, awarded in July 2009. Don is an environmental engineer for the National Park Service

Air Resources Division in Colorado and has been working on air quality issues for many years. Holbeck remarked, "Don's ability to work with partners in the state, interest groups like Voyageurs National Park Association, and Midwest Regional Office staff, on this highly technical undertaking has brought professionalism to this very complex process.... Through engaging the external threat of air pollution, Don has helped the Park meet the mission of preserving resources for future generations."

We couldn't do our work without these two and countless other dedicated individuals who have committed to protecting the resources of Voyageurs National Park. Thank you to all of our partners for clean air!

Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Dam Soon Out

By Chelsea Reynolds

Hydropower has long been considered a “green” energy source, but when one looks into all of the negative environmental effects of constructing and operating a dam, it is clear that for many projects, the costs outweigh the benefits. As many of you know, development of a hydroelectric facility at High Falls on the Namakan River in Ontario, Canada has been proposed by the Ojibway Power and Energy Group (OPEG), a partnership between Chant Construction and the Lac La Croix First Nation community. The project is currently going through an environmental assessment and reports were due to be released in mid-November, though they were not publicly available at the time of newsletter printing.

Voyageurs National Park Association opposes dam construction on the Namakan River, which provides 80% of the water flowing into Voyageurs National Park’s Namakan Lake and is critical spawning and migration habitat for the Park’s lake sturgeon population. Together with the following organizations, VNPA sent letters to political and agency leaders this past spring raising concerns about the project: Quetico Foundation,

Rainy Lake Conservancy, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, E.C. Oberholtzer Foundation, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, Minnesota Waters, and R. Newell Searle, author of *Saving Quetico-Superior: A Land Set Apart*.

While theoretically the 6.4 megawatt dam would generate enough energy to power 5,000 homes for a year, this does not take into account the fact that the dam is located in a part of Ontario with excess electricity production capability. This means that there is more energy produced than can be used at a given time. Constructing a hydro facility at this location does not appear to be a wise investment at this time for the citizens of Ontario.

The Lake Sturgeon is the largest and most long-lived fish in Ontario dating back over 200 million years. Sturgeon were heavily exploited in the 1800s and most populations have not yet recovered; in Ontario and Minnesota, sturgeon is listed as a threatened species and a species of special concern, respectively. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has a zero-tolerance policy for both recreational and commercial sturgeon



High Falls, Image by Rainy Lake Conservancy

fishing for 2008 and 2009. Aside from habitat alteration, the benthos population (organisms living near the lakeshore floor), on which the sturgeon feed, could be adversely affected by a change in water quality and turbidity. Dam construction in a critical habitat for Lake Sturgeon could be disastrous for its continued recovery.

After the draft Environmental Assessment is released, there will be a 60 day public comment period including a round of open houses where interested parties can share their opinions with OPEG. Voyageurs National Park Association will be a strong voice for the protection of this vital area and we appreciate your continued support and interest. Stay informed of any changes by visiting our website, www.voyageurs.org, where you can sign up for our e-newsletter.

Sturgeon Research Suggests Healthy Populations ... For Now

By Mike McGrath

Voyageurs National Park biologists reached their third year in an ongoing research project monitoring the lake sturgeon population in the Namakan Reservoir.

Steve Windels, terrestrial ecologist with Voyageurs National Park, reported that this year 99 sturgeon were caught and released, 52 in 2008, and 45 in 2007. Their research indicates a relatively healthy sturgeon population in the Namakan Reservoir at this time, according to Windels. This supports similar findings from complementary research being conducted by the

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Canada’s Namakan River, a primary spawning and migration route for the Park’s sturgeon.

“The Namakan River is undammed and free flowing, there is no issue of pollutants or contaminants, and it wasn’t fished as heavily [as other rivers]. Those three things combined make the Namakan River an ideal place for sturgeon,” said Windels.

The sturgeon population has not always thrived the way it does today. In the 1800s, they were sought after as an important food source, and

suffered wide-ranging habitat loss throughout the last century. Unable to counteract the threats due to a slow reproductive cycle, sturgeon in North America plummeted.

Today, sturgeon could face a new threat. Ojibway Power and Energy Group (OPEG) plans to construct a hydroelectric dam on the Namakan River. We are concerned that the dam will endanger the sturgeon population because of the species’ vulnerability to habitat change. Please read the above article for more about the issue and our efforts to protect this important habitat.

Six In the Mix: Working with Private Landowners toward Conserving Public Lands

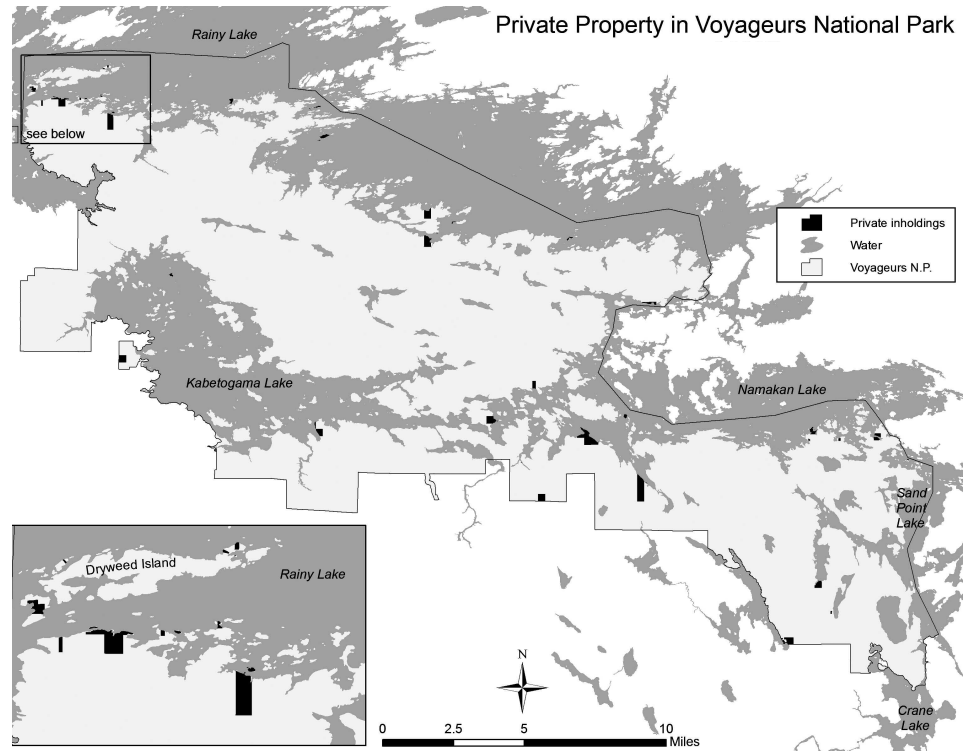
By Kari Volkmann-Carlson

We received a call one day this past August. Someone was interested in working together with Voyageurs National Park Association to sell their land to Voyageurs National Park in the future so that it could be preserved at the high standards set by the National Park Service. The call was the first of many, in response to a letter sent out by Park Superintendent Mike Ward, a joint venture with the Association to notify private landowners of our new Land Preservation Initiative.

Last year, we were just beginning to launch this program, which aims to complete public ownership of Voyageurs National Park by helping the Park acquire private inholdings within its boundaries from willing sellers. We have built a strong foundation for a sustainable, long-term acquisition program, and that phone call—and the others that followed—meant that the letter had sent a clear message.

There are currently six available properties that we are working toward preserving as public Park land, together with the landowners and Park staff. One of those properties is the 3.4-acre parcel that we helped to protect in 2007 in a partnership with the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota (PTC). Though this property remains in safe hands with PTC, the Park cannot restore the acreage to its wild, natural state until it is owned by the National Park Service. Our primary goal is to secure federal appropriations so that this shoreline tract can be added to the Park's public lands.

The appropriations process is an arduous one, but we are making significant progress to secure this property with fiscal year 2011 appropriations. Already, Senator Klobuchar and Congressman Oberstar have expressed their support and commitment to help acquire funding for the remaining



The Land Preservation Initiative in a nutshell...

The purpose: When the Park was established in 1975, there were many private properties that remained within the legislated boundaries of the Park, 52 of which are still privately-owned today. Private land poses several challenges for Park staff, such as potential for construction and development, hunting and logging, and other activities that do not support the purpose for which the Park was established. Our ultimate goal is to see all 52 private properties restored to native vegetation, protected for wildlife habitat, and opened to the public for outdoor exploration and enjoyment.

Our role: Voyageurs National Park Association works with interested landowners to explore possibilities to protect the important environmental values of the land, and to provide information about a range of options for transferring property to the Park that is win-win for everyone. We also manage the Wallace C. Dayton Voyageurs National Park Legacy Fund for land acquisition, which assists the Park financially in purchasing properties. The Legacy Fund is designed to be a revolving fund to purchase at-risk lands, which will be held in our trust until federal appropriations are available to add the land to the Park and replenish the Fund for future acquisitions.

private properties in Voyageurs National Park put on the market by willing sellers. They each submitted our request for fiscal year 2010 funding, though the request did not make it to the final round this year.

With five other willing sellers, we are hurrying to identify priorities with the Park, appraise lands, and work with landowners. We are poised to

purchase private properties or options to properties with the Legacy Fund, which was established in 2008 with a generous donation from the WM Foundation. Each acre we protect allows the Park to further reach its mission to preserve the resources of this environmentally significant area of northeastern Minnesota.

Spotlight on Foundations

Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership (NMSDP)

The Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships of the University of Minnesota work to sustain Minnesota's natural resource-based communities and industries by addressing community-identified agriculture, natural resources, and tourism issues in partnership with the University. The Northeast division (NMSDP), serving northeastern Minnesota, generously supported Voyageurs National Park Association to produce the Twin Cities Public Television film, *Minnesota's National Park Legacy* (page 2), and subsequent distribution of 5,000 DVD copies to schools and libraries around the state. The extraordinary leadership of the NMSDP in supporting this film has dramatically improved the available educational materials about Minnesota's National Parks and their neighboring communities.

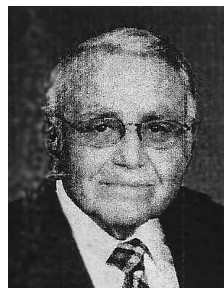
Norcross Wildlife Foundation (NWF)

The NWF is the philanthropic branch of the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, established by Arthur D. Norcross in 1939 and based in Massachusetts. The Foundation supports many basic needs of nonprofit wildlife and conservation organizations, including office equipment, educational materials and other necessary functions that are often the most challenging, but fundamental, items for which to procure funding. They provided support for Voyageurs National Park Association to produce and print educational membership brochures, allowing us improve and increase outreach to new constituents to support Minnesota's National Park.

Remembering Fred Witzig

A Friend to Voyageurs, a Champion for the Environment

Dr. Frederick T. Witzig, known by Fred, passed away on August 14, 2009 at the age of 84. Fred was a friend to Voyageurs National Park, and a former board member of Voyageurs National Park Association.



Fred was head of the geography department at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), and as a strong-willed environmentalist, he helped to develop UMD's environmental conservation course in the late 1960s. However, it is his work to preserve the history of Voyageurs National Park that has made a lasting impact on our understanding of and appreciation for one of Minnesota's—and the nation's—greatest natural treasures. His book, *Voyageurs National Park: The Battle to Create Minnesota's National Park*, was published in 2004 by the University of Minnesota Press, with a foreword by Governor Elmer L. Andersen.

Andersen writes, "Fred Witzig was in at the beginning. He must have kept

careful notes because he has rendered a splendid service in recording things as they happened, in the way they happened, and with the cast of characters who caused them to happen.... Fred Witzig has done a wonderful job of capturing the story behind that accomplishment [of establishing of Voyageurs National Park.]"

All of us here at Voyageurs National Park Association are sincerely grateful to have known Fred, a man who was committed to Voyageurs National Park and its incredible legacy for future generations. Fred was one of the people who made this legacy possible, and his dedication to it in the formative early years—and throughout his life—is a truly unforgettable gift.

Fred Witzig, a Duluthian, is survived by his wife, Lois, and his children: Eric, Michael, Karen, and Kurt, and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, and friends. His family has generously designated a memorial fund in his name with Voyageurs National Park Association. Donations to this fund will be used to continue our work to protect and promote Voyageurs National Park.

Memorials in Honor of Loved Ones

Voyageurs National Park Association sincerely appreciates your thoughtful contributions.

In Memory of Mary Geddes
Roger Geddes

In Memory of Bill Haen
Kate Thompson-Jewell

In Memory of Fred Witzig
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Andrews
Stephen & Deborah Benefiel
Ann Berry
Barbara Berry
Don & Jean Eng
Margaret Fox
Mary Graves
Jerry & Jacqueline Hauter

Shirley Hauter
Eric & Amy Kaiser
Joe, Chuck, Beu, & Carol LaFleur
Lori & Ryan Marsh & family
Marie Mihelick
Marie Nicholle
Douglas Petty
Mr. & Mrs. Emery Prisk
Barbara Remly
W. Kyle & Alice M. Spitzer
Prof. A.W. Tamminen
Larry & Corkey Waite
Harold & Dorothy Witzig
Michael Witzig

1223

The number of hours volunteers have donated through the Volunteer Rendezvous since 2006.

750

The number of native trees planted at the 2009 Volunteer Rendezvous, including red pine, white pine, spruce, balsam fir, maple, birch and oak varieties.

12

The number of species of wildflower and tree seeds collected by students from the University of Minnesota Crookston Wildlife Society:



Image courtesy: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)
[Shown above]

Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)

Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Showy mountain-ash (*Sorbus decora*)

Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Hawthorn (*Crataegus sp.*)

Burr Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

Northern pin oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*)

Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

Pale corydalis (*Corydalis sempervirens*)

Sweet fern (*Comptonia pergrina*)

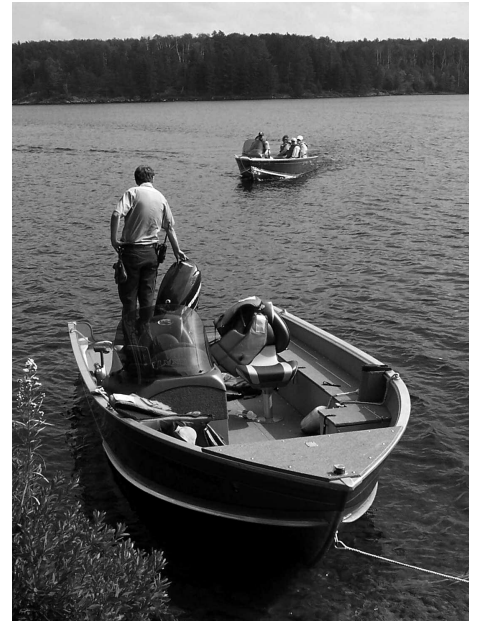
Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)

Volunteers Restore Shoreline Habitat, Plant 1,000 Trees and Wildflowers

By Kari Volkmann-Carlson

Volunteers met at Voyageurs National Park over the weekend of September 11-13, 2009 for the annual Volunteer Rendezvous, organized and hosted by Voyageurs National Park Association. Nineteen volunteers came together to restore shoreline sites in the Park where trees had been cleared years ago for structures that were recently removed. The shoreline provides a particularly important habitat for wildlife, linking aquatic and terrestrial resources. To restore these areas, volunteers planted more than 750 native trees and 250 wildflowers, totaling 1,000 plants at five different sites. In addition to planting trees and flowers, volunteer students from the University of Minnesota Crookston Wildlife Society hiked the mainland collecting native wildflower seeds for propagation, which will be planted in the Park next year.

We accomplished a lot in just two days, but we definitely afforded some time to enjoy what the Park has to offer — staff naturalists took volunteers to see some of the key historic sites around the Park, such as the Ellsworth Rock Gardens, the Kettle Falls Hotel, and the Hoist Bay logging camp. On Saturday evening VNPA hosted our customary Celebration Dinner to recognize the volunteers, followed by a campfire.



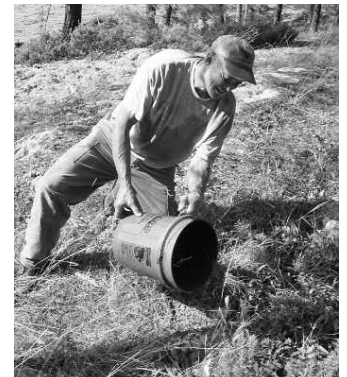
Volunteers arriving at the worksites by boat.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making VNPA's 2009 Volunteer Rendezvous an enormous success: Nash Foundation, Voyageurs National Park, Kabetogama Tourism Bureau, Arrowhead Lodge, Northern Lights Resort, Friends of Voyageurs National Park, and the hard-working volunteers.

Wilderness News interviewed VNPA for an online feature on the Volunteer Rendezvous, from its beginnings in trail maintenance to its future in sustainable native plant restoration. Read the interview at www.queticosuperior.org/blog — search "VNPA."



Left: Volunteers on tour to the Ellsworth Rock Gardens, Sunday afternoon.



Right: A volunteer waters a newly planted tree sapling.

We Welcome Our Newest Members!

2009 New and Returning Supporters

Dorothy & Harold Baker
Trish Bergmann
Kate & Mike Bolles
Pieter Braam
Dennice Briol & Robert Parkhill
David Campbell
Julia Carlis
Stephen Challis & Gila Isaacs
Barbara Coffin & Daniel Engstrom
Andrew Dahl
Ella Marie Dammann
Gary Eagen
Scott Eberhardt
Curt Firman
Thomas Fraser & Mary Strand
Carter & Florence Hedeem
Tim Heinle
Richard Hook & Laurie Desiderato
Chic Horn
Elizabeth Hyatt
Jan Jenson
Wendy Jerome
Brian & Sally Johnson
Jerry & Gloria Lager
Tom & Karen LeJeune
Shawn Mason
Janice & Peter Mattina
Katherine Merriam
Mary & Jerry Miller
Eduardo Montes & Patrick Galvin
Beth Parkhill
Cat Parkhill
Steve & Patti Peterson
Thatcher Peterson
Jason Samuels
Jeff & Lea Scherer
Rose G. & Wallace A. Simpson
Sam & Cyndy Stenson
Tom Stoa
Harry & Ginny Sweatt
Marianne Thielen
Barbara & Hank Thomas
Kari Volkmann-Carlsen & Martin Carlsen
James A. Watson
Peter H. Watson
Sam & Steph White

Thank you!

Still Time for a Retreat to the Park for World Cup Winner Cat Parkhill

By Kari Volkmann-Carlsen

Cat Parkhill, gold-winner of the 2008 Women's Under-20 World Cup in soccer, is a new member of Voyageurs National Park Association. VNPA's Kari Volkmann-Carlsen caught up with Cat to talk soccer, the great outdoors, and academic aspirations.

VNPA: How did you first become a member of VNPA?

CP: My great aunt Lee Barthel gave me a gift membership just this past year. I've been involved with Voyageurs National Park Association before that though, helping out with bulk mailing, stuffing envelopes, and other office needs. I also recently volunteered to staff the Association's booth at the Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo, where I met a lot of people who were enthusiastic about the Park. Chris Holbeck [former Park Environmental Planning Specialist] was really informative, and shared good places to paddle and camp. It was there that I met Jan and Dale Johnson, who invited me up to visit the Park. They have a cabin in the area, and get to spend a lot of time up there.

VNPA: Was that the first time you visited Voyageurs? How was your trip?

CP: Yeah, this summer was my first time up there. It was quite an experience. Voyageurs ... there's something special about it. The rocks are really unusual, and you get out there on open water and see these large cliff faces. The atmosphere is very calm and laid back. It's just a very nice getaway. I had a great time.

VNPA: You're involved in a lot of other activities. Can you tell us a little bit about them?



Cat Parkhill in Voyageurs National Park

CP: I'm a student at the Carlson School of Business at the University of Minnesota, pursuing a double major in entrepreneurial management and finance. Right now, I'm a sophomore, but it'll take me five years to complete my degree since I've signed up to play the World Cup. I'm a goalkeeper for the University of Minnesota's soccer team, and I'm on the Under 20 U.S. Women's national team. We played for the World Cup in Chile last year, and took home the gold.

I also play on the Under 20 U.S. Women's Rugby team, and we won 2nd place last year at the national tournament in England.

VNPA: Well, hopefully we'll be able to get you back up to the Park between all your games!

CP: Oh, I definitely want to visit again, and make a yearly trip to Voyageurs National Park. Once you experience something like that, you just want to go back. You develop a personal relationship with a place.

Cross Country Skiing and Skate Skiing in Voyageurs

By Burgess Eberhardt, Board Director and International Falls resident

Voyageurs National Park is my neighbor, summer and winter. In the summer, the Park is accessible only by water and is stunningly beautiful. By December all that water freezes over and snow covers everything. And then it's another beautiful place, white and quiet, and accessible by snowmobile, snowshoe, and by my favorite, cross country skis. Although there are four cross-country ski trails in the park, I use the Black Bay classic trail and the Tilson Creek connector several times a week once they are groomed and open. When conditions are right, I also ski on frozen Rainy Lake, a different experience altogether.

During the early days of winter before there is much snow on the ground, the real joy for me is in skate skiing on an inch or less of snow on smooth ice. Skate skiing is a lot like rollerblading or ice skating – you push off one leg, using both poles at once, and glide as far as you can on the other ski. The entire lake is open to the skater—small inlets, creeks, and other areas unavailable by boat are easily accessible. With smooth ice, crusty snow, and the wind at your back, you can achieve speed only dreamed about on hilly trails. Often on windy days we will arrange for a pick up or leave a car at our destination and skate downwind for miles.

After a couple of weeks of lake skating and the snow accumulates, we turn to skiing on groomed trails in



Choices ahead. Open water deters the skate skier. Image by Burgess Eberhardt.

the park. The Black Bay classic trail is well-groomed by the Park Service and consists of about 6 miles of wonderful single track skiing. There are just enough good hills to make it challenging for experienced skiers and plenty of less hilly trail for beginners. It's accessible only across the ice, either by skis or by car once the ice road at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center is open. The Tilson Creek trail is tracked for classic skiing and groomed for skating as well and is thus wider than the Black Bay trail. The Tilson trail is a series of expanding loops with a total of about 10 miles of groomed trail of easy- to medium-difficulty.

Ski gear is available at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center for \$5 a day (free for kids), made possible by the Friends of Voyageurs National Park. Call ahead for availability: (218) 286-5258 or (888) 381-2873. VNPA posts all Park Service winter trail condition reports on our website: www.voyageurs.org.

Letters

8-16-09

Hello Cory,

I wanted to say THANK YOU! My husband, our two sons (20 & 17) and I just returned from camping 6 nights at Woodenfrog Campground. Over the past week we went kayaking, took the national park boat tours to Kettle Falls and Ellsworth Rock Gardens, saw 3 visitor centers, fished, read, star-watched ...it was great! We have toured the National Parks out west and east but although we have lived in Minnesota 20 years and went to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Tom fished at a Rainy Lake resort every fall, our whole family had not been to Voyageurs. The wide horizons, clean water, eagles, islands, and pines will bring us back. The folks at Arrowhead Lodge were very accommodating. Thanks again for the kayak certificate — we paddled 8 hours!

Sincerely,
Linda Stenstrom-Smith

P.S. Can we win again?

Linda was one of three winners at Voyageurs National Park Association's 2009 drawing held at our booth at the Spring Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo. She won 2 certificates for all-day sea kayak rentals donated by Arrowhead Lodge.

Get Monthly Updates in your Email

Earlier this year, we launched the VNPA email newsletter, keeping hundreds of members and interested citizens up-to-date on issues and events at Voyageurs National Park. Subscribers receive monthly news delivered directly to their inbox, including special articles available only online. Sign up to receive the free online newsletter by visiting www.voyageurs.org.

Voyageurs National Park Association

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

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Winter 2010 Calendar of Events:

Winter programs at Voyageurs National Park (January to April 2010)

Rainy Lake Visitor Center

Several educational and naturalist events will be offered during the winter at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center (RLVC). For specific program descriptions and dates see: www.nps.gov/voya/events. Winter programs are made possible by the Friends of Voyageurs National Park. Remember, snowshoes (free) and cross country ski equipment (\$5/day) are available for rent at the RLVC. Call ahead to reserve your gear for winter exploration: (218) 286-5258.

Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Run and Ice Box Days (January 13 to January 16, 2010)

International Falls, MN

Run a 5k or 10k race at the 30th annual Freeze yer Gizzard Blizzard Run on Saturday, or trek through Voyageurs National Park for the Nightlight Snowshoe Hike on Friday evening. Other events during the 4-day celebration include a snow creature contest, dart tournament, Texas Hold 'Em tournament, many concerts, and lots of fun. Visit www.internationalfallsmn.us for additional activities and details.

National Park Week Open House (April 24, 2010)

Rainy Lake Visitor Center

Each year, the President proclaims National Park Week as a week to celebrate and enjoy your National Parks. Celebrate this year in Voyageurs with a weekend full of family-oriented activities, including a ceremony to announce the winners of the annual youth art contest. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Voyageurs National Park. Visit www.nps.gov/voya to learn more.

2010 Governor's Fishing Opener on Lake Kabetogama (May 14-15, 2010)

Kabetogama, MN, Voyageurs National Park

Lake Kabetogama was selected to host Minnesota's 62nd annual Governor's Fishing Opener! Join in to enjoy good fishing, great company, and traditional Minnesotan hospitality in the resort community of Kabetogama. Enter the raffle (\$5) hosted by the Kabetogama Tourism Bureau for a chance to win a Crestliner fishing boat, a houseboat trip with Ebel's Houseboats, or a Muggli's totem pole. Call or email Kari Volkmann-Carlsen at VNPA for more information: (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>.



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