



The Journal of

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

Spring 2009

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

Reinvesting in America's National Parks: Potential Benefits for Voyageurs National Park

By Kevin McNellis

Both President Obama's 2010 Federal Budget and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will have a significant impact on the National Park Service and Voyageurs National Park. These initiatives constitute one of the largest investments in not only the Park Service, but America's public lands in general.

The stimulus dedicates \$1.9 billion to the Department of the Interior, including \$750 million for the National Park Service. These funds, intended for job creation, are allocated to three broad areas: \$146 million for operating expenses, \$15 million for historic preservation projects, and \$589 million for construction projects. Though we do not yet know which projects this money will support, nor which National Parks will benefit, Voyageurs National Park is likely to receive a portion of the funds. According to Kathleen Przybylski, Management Assistant Administrative Officer of Voyageurs National Park, the Park expects to receive funding to rehabilitate campsites and, possibly, to build the proposed bike trail to the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar will decide how these new funds will be spent over the next several months.

Whereas the stimulus money is a short-term and targeted appropriation, the President's budget provides encouraging insight into his long-range vision and goals for the National Park Service. A budget overview released on February 26th increases the National Park Service's operating budget by \$100 million, or 4.7%. Other policy initiatives indicate a fundamental change in the Department of the Interior's management philosophy; a new appropriation of \$420 million has been allocated to the Land and Water

Conservation Fund, with the goal of reaching its full funding level of \$900 million by 2014. Originally designed to reinvest royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling into land purchases to protect endangered ecosystems and public recreation, this fund historically has been plagued by enforcement loopholes and underfunding.

Increased funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund will greatly increase the chances for Voyageurs National Park Association (VNPA) to attain federal appropriations for the Land Preservation



Interpretive programs for youth visitors are one of the great educational resources made possible through government funding. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

Initiative to help the Park acquire private properties inside its boundaries from willing sellers. Our highest land acquisition priority, as well as the Park's, is to secure funding for the 3.4-acre lot on Dove Bay currently held in trust by the MN Parks and Trails Council—we have submitted an appropriation request for 2010 funding. VNPA Executive Director Cory MacNulty and board member Ann Ladd, who serves on our Land Preservation Committee, traveled to Washington in early March to speak with congressional delegates to further advocate for the funding.

Inside...

- ◆ Update: Namakan River Hydro Project and Sturgeon Research (page 2)
- ◆ View Construction of the Park's New 49-Passenger Tour Boat (page 3)
- ◆ Voyageurs National Park Association 2008 Annual Report (page 4)

And much more!

New Regulation Allows Concealed Guns in Parks

By Anna Waugh and Kevin McNellis

On January 9th, a new federal regulation went into effect allowing permitted citizens to carry concealed, loaded handguns in 388 of the nation's 391 National Parks, including Voyageurs. The Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, the Association of National Park Rangers, and the Ranger Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police issued a joint statement opposing the change because it may increase impulse killings of wildlife and compromise the safety of park visitors and employees.

Jim Hummel, Chief Ranger of Voyageurs National Park, stated: "The safety of all visitors, staff and wildlife is extremely important. Park staff will work to ensure that there are no misunderstandings that could cause unnecessary concerns to visitors or threaten park resources."

Lawsuits filed by National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees (CNPSR), and by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence are seeking an injunction against the gun rule pending a full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. The Obama Justice Department defended the rule change, stating it "does not alter the environmental status quo, and will not have any significant impacts on public health and safety." However, this does not signal that the Obama Administration will make the change permanent. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar called for a full review of the effects of the rule change within the next 90 days. Track case progression at <http://www.dcd.uscourts.gov>. The Brady case is file 108CV02243; the NPCA and NPS Retirees case is 109CV00013.

Update: Namakan River Hydro Project

By Kevin McNellis



Lake sturgeon. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In their January newsletter, the Ojibway Power and Energy Group (OPEG), announced that they are abandoning plans to build the Hay Rapids dam, but will continue with the proposed dam at High Falls, located on the Namakan River in Ontario. With its headwaters in Lac la Croix (partly in Quetico Provincial Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness) and its terminus in Namakan Lake (partly in Voyageurs National Park), the Namakan River forms a vital link between the protected ecosystems of the border lakes region. Although the project's draft Environmental Assessment is not yet released, VNPA has three main areas of concern about the project: potential effects on the local sturgeon population, true cost and benefits, and the challenges presented by international decision-making.

Because of its pristine habitat and lack of commercial fishing, the Namakan River contains one of the largest lake sturgeon fisheries in North America. After a century of overfishing and habitat loss, however, sturgeon are now listed as threatened species in both Canada and the U.S. Due to their slow reproductive rates and spawning sensitivities, sturgeon are especially vulnerable to habitat modification. Ongoing research by the National Park Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is demonstrating that the intact sturgeon fishery in Kabetogama and Namakan Lakes relies on the Namakan River to spawn and migrate. We are concerned that the

High Falls dam will fragment fish populations and permanently affect the sturgeon's ability to reproduce sustainably.

According to some estimates, the dam will produce power at nearly twice the current Ontario market price. Additionally, Ontario's electrical infrastructure is consistently generating an excess of power, even during times of peak use. Given these considerations, we feel that the relatively small amount of power to be generated by the dam (6.9 megawatts), does not justify the permanent altering of the Namakan River. OPEG has advertised the dam as an opportunity for the economic development of the Lac la Croix First Nation, providing 3-6 long-term jobs. We strongly support the goal of economic independence and the First Nation's right to self-determination, but we would support alternative projects—such as wind energy—to achieve these objectives.

Since the Namakan River links Canadian and American waters, we feel it is important to have adequate representation of all international stakeholders in the decision making process. We hope to involve the International Joint Commission in the environmental and feasibility assessments to ensure representation of concerned parties on both sides of the international border. The Namakan River is unique in its ecological health, scenic beauty, and historical significance, which requires that any permanent alteration of the river be carefully and thoroughly considered.

View Construction of the Park's New 49-Passenger Tour Boat

By Anna Waugh

Armstrong Marine, Inc. in Port Angeles, Washington has already begun production on the 58-foot tour boat, regularly updating their website with photos of the progress.

"We are very excited about being able to provide this opportunity to park visitors and the community," said Voyageurs National Park Superintendent Mike Ward.

The new tour boat comes with many amenities: an upper, open air viewing deck, an enclosed wheelchair-accessible lower deck with seating, a pilot house and galley. Twin 600 hp Cummins biodiesel engines, tunnel drive, and bow thrusters will pack power with minimal emissions.

Funding for the boat came through the Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Land Program (ATPPL), secured by the collaborative efforts of Representative Jim Oberstar and many Park partners. VNPA and other elected officials advocated for the funding on behalf of the National Park Service.

The boat will be ready for its maiden voyage by June 2010, but significant progress has already been made. See a slideshow update of the boat's production at Armstrong Marine's website. Go to: <http://www.voyageurs.org/2009/02/20/voyageurs-to-get-new-tour-boat/> for login instructions.



58'-6" long VNP Tour Vessel, frame assembly taking place at Armstrong Marine, Inc. Port Angeles, Washington. Photo by Joe Beck.

Celebrating VNP Superintendent Mike Ward



Superintendent Mike Ward and VNPA Executive Director Cory MacNulty.

In February, VNPA welcomed the new Superintendent of Voyageurs National Park, Mike Ward, with a reception generously hosted by Leni and David Moore, Jr. Ward began his role in August 2008, and said at the reception that he looks forward to making the Park relevant for youth. He has plans to improve educational outreach in schools in the Park's gateway communities. VNPA board chair Forrest Flint spoke about the role VNPA played in the Park's history and the positive experiences that we can help to create for future Park visitors.

Park Reports Steady Moose Population

By Anna Waugh

A January 2009 aerial survey of Voyageurs National Park yielded 45 moose sightings, including three calves. The survey is the first step of a long-term project funded by the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey that will provide information about potential threats to moose within the Park. This is the first complete survey of the Park since 1992, when it was estimated to have 35-75 moose.

"We are pleasantly surprised with the total number of moose we observed," said Steve Windels, Terrestrial Ecologist for Voyageurs National Park. "Based on moose population declines in the region many of us were prepared for the worst. We would have liked to have seen more calf/cow pairs, but they may have been in cover during the survey. We also saw more bulls than cows, possibly for the same reason."

Because moose often remain under dense conifer cover in late winter, moose can be difficult to see during aerial surveys, Windels estimates conservatively that 80 moose live within the Park.

Voyageurs National Park is concerned about its moose population due to recent declines in moose populations in other parts of Minnesota. These declines may be attributed to chronic stress related to warmer summer and winter temperatures, and the lethal effects of parasites, such as brainworm and liver flukes, which are transmitted by white-tailed deer.

Park staff will start the next step of the project in 2010 and utilize GPS radio collars to track moose movement and habitat use.



Bull moose in Voyageurs National Park. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Chair

A true natural gem, Voyageurs National Park runs 55 miles along Minnesota's northern border, has 34 lakes, and over 1,000 islands. It is a special place that has created opportunities for all Americans to experience natural beauty and the outdoors.

Voyageurs National Park Association (VNPA) has been committed to ensuring future generations can enjoy the Park in all its natural wonder since 1965. Though the challenges change over the years, our mission to protect and promote the Park has remained the same, and will endure for years to come.

From our progress with the Land Preservation Initiative, the collaborative relationships we continue to build, and the overwhelming positive outcome of new volunteers at the Volunteer Rendezvous, 2008 was a year of successes for VNPA.

It is exciting to see that VNPA, with its limited staffing, can have such a great impact. We have our members and volunteers to thank, for our work could not be done without your generous support and dedication. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Forrest Flint
Board Chair

Meeting Challenges and Creating Opportunities for Voyageurs: Highlights From Our Work in 2008



Fall 2008 Rendezvous volunteers with an NPS staff member working at a Namakan Lake site.

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION'S MISSION is to protect and promote the natural, recreational, and historic resources of Voyageurs National Park. We envision an ecologically and historically significant Park where people can enjoy scenic, educational, scientific, and recreational treasures in a natural setting and in balance with the natural resources and uses of the Park, leaving it unimpaired for future generations.

Now in our 44th year as the Park's grassroots, citizen support and advocacy group, VNPA can look back on a number of accomplishments. 2008 was a fruitful year, and the successes we enjoyed are a beacon to the bright opportunities for the future of Voyageurs National Park. We are pleased to share these highlights from our work in the past year.

Completing Public Ownership of Voyageurs National Park

One of the truly remarkable experiences of visiting a National Park is immersing oneself in the expanse of undeveloped, wild nature. Many private properties, however, remain within the boundaries of Voyageurs National Park, many on highly-visible shoreline lots. Regulated only by county zoning laws, these parcels can be subdivided and developed, a risk that increases each time they change hands to new private owners.

The Land Preservation Initiative, a program created by VNPA, addresses this challenge by working to realize the Park's founders' vision of complete public ownership of Voyageurs National Park. The Initiative will aid the Park in acquiring private properties within its boundaries from willing sellers. An integral part of the program is the Wallace C. Dayton Voyageurs National Park Legacy Fund, which we established in 2008 with a generous gift from the WM Foundation.

This past year, we made great progress on laying strong program foundations. Working with the Park, we started to

compile information about the remaining 52 private parcels to identify priorities for future land acquisition. We also began educating key congressional staff about the critical need for federal appropriations to realize success of the Initiative.

Protecting the Park from the Effects of Severe Underfunding

Voyageurs National Park consistently operates under severe budget restraints, limiting staff capabilities for conservation, maintenance, and visitor resource management. To aid the Park, VNPA organizes volunteers to perform underfunded tasks, provides direct support for Park projects, and advocates for crucial federal funding.

Volunteer Rendezvous: VNPA organized two successful Volunteer Rendezvous events, weekend trips for volunteers to help Voyageurs National Park meet its conservation and maintenance needs. Together, the events attracted 58 volunteers who monitored 45 miles of the Park's trails (75% of the trail system) for downed trees and overgrown brush, planted 350 native trees, and removed 700 pounds of non-native plants. Two groups of young people participated in the fall Rendezvous: students from the University of Minnesota-Crookston Wildlife Society and a group of Boy Scouts from North Dakota who monitored trails.

Advocating for Increased Funding for Voyageurs: We were an active participant in the Centennial Network, a coalition of groups working to increase funding for National Parks. We have positive results to report: beginning in 2008, the Park received three years of increased funding, allowing the Park to hire more seasonal employees and plant native vegetation to restore disturbed sites.

Tour Boat Funding: VNPA helped the Park acquire funding for a new 49-passenger tour boat by advocating to federal officials and writing letters of support. The boat will begin operation in 2010 and will give the Park new capacity to educate school groups.

Protecting the Park's Natural and Cultural Resources

Many days of the year, the Park's breathtaking scenic views are hindered by haze settling over the landscape. In 2008, VNPA focused on improving the Park's air quality as one of many projects to protect the Park's natural resources. We also helped to ensure that Park management retained essential law enforcement capabilities.

Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP): VNPA worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and other organizations to ensure that the proposed Regional Haze SIP was designed to reduce particulate haze in Voyageurs National Park and nearby regions.

U.S. Steel Minntac Retroactive Permit: The Minntac taconite facility, the single greatest source of air pollution to any national park in the system, was operating without a permit for 20 years after making facility modifications that increased nitrogen oxide emissions by 10,000 tons per year. VNPA built a coalition of conservation organizations that worked together with MPCA and the federal land managers to make certain that the permit approved in December 2008 results in emissions reductions.

Law Enforcement in Voyageurs National Park: VNPA alerted state legislators and other conservation groups to the potential problems of a proposed new bill that could have undermined law enforcement in Voyageurs. We testified at committee hearings, educated elected officials, and successfully mobilized our partners to get a better law passed. We continue to monitor its implementation.

Protecting and Promoting the Park through Collaborative Relationship Building

VNPA leverages our resources and increases our positive long-term impact by building and mobilizing a support network for the Park. In 2008, we built strong partnerships to foster our mission.



Student volunteer at the Fall 2008 Rendezvous finishes a protective cage to prevent deer from browsing young white pines.

Heart of the Continent Partnership (HOCP): VNPA received funding from the Quetico-Superior Foundation to hire a part-time coordinator for HOCP, a cross-border nonpolicy collaboration of nearly 30 organizations working to sustain the natural and cultural resources of the border lakes region. The HOCP coordinator worked from the VNPA office, under Executive Director Cory MacNulty's direct supervision in her role as Chair of the HOCP steering committee.

Destination Voyageurs National Park (DVNP): Together with the Park, the state tourism agency, and gateway community leaders, VNPA helped lay the foundations for DVNP, a new nonprofit that promotes the Park across the nation. Cory MacNulty is serving as the first board chair.

Promoting the Park: VNPA now partners with the Minnesota Zoo to provide information about Voyageurs National Park to the Zoo's more than one million annual visitors. We met with leaders from Explore Minnesota, the state tourism agency, to improve the state's promotion of the Park, and collaborated with them on a new online video promoting Voyageurs National Park. We also made presentations in the Twin Cities and launched a Facebook page to engage diverse groups in Voyageurs National Park and VNPA.

THANK YOU for your financial support of Voyageurs National Park Association! You make it possible to accomplish all we do in support of our mission to protect and promote the natural, recreational, and historic resources of Voyageurs National Park. *Thank you for your thoughtful contributions—you are making a difference!*

Please contact Kari Volkmann-Carlson, Advancement Director, at vnpa@voyageurs.org or (612) 333-5424 to discuss other opportunities to support VNPA, including charitable IRA contributions, bequests, equipment donations, workplace giving, or gifts in memoriam. Together, we can ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the wild nature of Voyageurs National Park.

We try to be as complete and accurate as possible, but if you were inadvertently left off of this list, please accept our sincere apologies and let us know.

2008 Donor Members and Foundation Contributors

Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation	Martin & Esther Kellogg
Athwin Foundation	Ann Ladd
Gary Carlson	Kurt & Mary Lysne
Mary Lee Dayton	Leni & David Moore
Jim Dier & Fran Bartley	Nash Foundation
Paul Egeland	Katherine D. & Stuart A. Nielsen
Forrest & Lisa Flint	Quetico-Superior Foundation
Dallas Fogg	Nicholas Swenson
Doug & Peggy Franchot	Peter & Kathleen Swenson
Helen Hocker	Whitney Foundation
Ken & Judy Kadash	Nancy Hamill Winter

2008 Annual Member Contributors

Alfred & Dorothee Aepli	Stephen E. Brown
Elwood Anderson	Don & Kathy Bruce
Gerald Anderson	William Bruse
Raymond Anderson	Caryl & Cynthia Buchwald
Donald & Alice Appel	Scott Byrne
Don & Meg Arnosti	Joel Cable
Fern Arpi	Joe Cade
Douglas & Katie Bade	Elwood F. & Florence A. Caldwell
Jean & George Bakassoulas	Melissa & Uri Camarena-Michel
Robert Baker	Bill & Sharon Clapp
Robert Ball & Kathryn Mitchell-Ball	Joseph Conrad
Robert B. Ballou	Patricia Cosgrove
Lee & George Barthel	Carlton J. Counard
John Bauer	Sheila K. Cunningham
Robert Benjamin	Allan & Rosemary Davisson
Henry & Anne Bent	Edward Dayton
Gregory & Judy Bernhardt	Steve C. DeLapp
Roger & Linda Boettcher	Michael & Carol Donahue
Dave & Barb Braithwaite	Rick Duncan
Lloyd & Lois Brandt	Robert Dunn
Erwin Brinkmann	Burgess & Norma Eberhardt
Deb Brown	Earl & Margaret Eberhardt
Richard & Vera Brown	Ecotrust

Robert G. Ellis
Ralph & Sue Engebrit
Ken & Carol Engelhart
M. Eugene Engle
Richard Erickson
Jack & Amy Fistler
Richard & Carol Flint
Rick & Katie Fournier
Stephanie & Jim Fox
Michael Frome
Kelly Fuller
Lisa Gardner-Springer
Mary & Roger Geddes
Joe & Lisa Gerber
Helen Gilles
Dick & Nancy Gongoll
Peter L. Gove
John L. Grant
Janet & John Green
Mark & Rebekah Gregor
Frank D. Griffin
Thomas & Edna Groves
Howard & Elizabeth Guthmann
Victor & Susan Hallberg
Joseph Hallman
Roger J. Harmon
James Hart
Ellen & Phil Hart
Lucy Hartwell
Thomas Hautman & Georgia
Schlegle
Frances B. Heinselman
David Henning
John & Julie Henriksson
Robert & Mary Hilke
John Holmquist
Bill Howard
The Huskins Family
Kristin Ireland
Paul Jacobson
James & Mary Neff
William & Sara Jenkins
Jan & Dale Johnson
Pat & Paul Johnson
Theodore A Johnson
Howard Josephs

Kabetogama Lake Association &
Tourism Bureau
Bill & Jennifer Kellogg
Joe & Joanne Kellogg
Charles & Jean Kelly
Ray & Mary Kent
Don & Pat Kline
Kajsa Knopp
Allen Kreemer
Dan & Kate Kuehn
Tom E. Kunze
Arnie Kurmis
Paul & Susan Labovitz
Greg Lais
Jim & Penny Langland
Alan & Terri Laudenbach
Don Lee
Tom Lehman
Doug & Mary Logeland
Peggy Lynch
Kristefor & Erin Lysne
Kurt & Mary Lysne
Cory & Dan MacNulty
Ruth Makinen
Richard Manka & Karen
Ringsred
Clyde & Shirley Markon
James A. Martineau
Jim & Sally Martineau
John & Marlyn Mauritz
Jean McCurdy
Maridee McEvoy
Kurt Menning
Kate Miller
Robert & Marveen Minish
Paul O. Monson
Diane & Gerald Mundt
National Parks Conservation
Association
Joe Newberg
Anne Newhart
Don & Gerda Nightingale
Dennis Olander
Norma Olson
Roger Palmquist
John Pastor

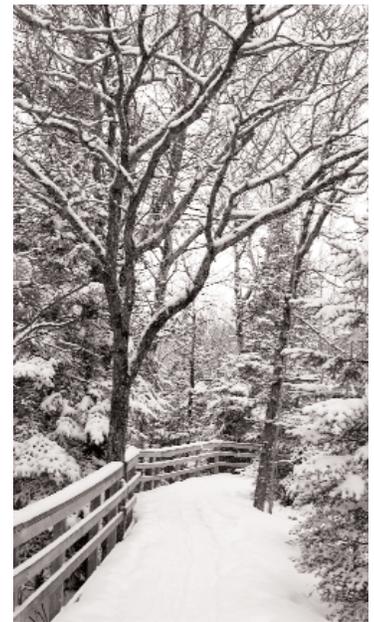


Skate skiing on Black Bay; Winter 2008. Photo by Burgess Eberhardt.

Lorraine & Howard Pierce
 Walter & Harriet Pratt
 Kevin Proescholdt
 Kathleen Przybylski
 Lynne E. Quenemoen
 Quetico Foundation
 Kevin & Ann Quiring
 Linda M. Ramsden
 Jean Reichow
 Betti & Bruce N. Reuther
 Bill Richner
 Roger & Barbara Ritzman
 Henry Roberts
 Brynhild Rowberg
 Helen Rudie
 Gregg Rutter
 Thomas & Eve Rutter
 Allen Gooch & Mary Dow Ryerse
 Judy Saeger
 John Sandbo & Jean Thomson
 Jay & Bobbie Sandgren
 Kristin & James Sankovitz
 Betsy & Sumner Schmiesing
 Lawrence & Mary Schwanke

Peter Seed
 Greg & Katie Seitz
 Irene Serr
 Chuck B. Sethness
 John & Jennifer Shank
 Anne Sherve-Ose
 Beth Shipway
 Dale & Lori Siegfried
 Dr. Janice Ann Smith
 Charles K. & Susanne M. Smith
 Susan Stearns
 William & Carol Steele
 Tyrone L. Steen
 Seth & Carol Stein
 Ann & Allen Stolee
 George Stoops
 Kenneth Storm, Jr.
 Mark & Joan Strobel
 Ralph & Grace K Sulerud
 Jan Sundby & Betty Wells
 Tim & Carolyn Sundquist
 Gregory & Jeanette Swenson
 Ted & Swanny Voneida
 Phil & Vivian Tideman

Robert Treuer
 Mary J. Tull
 Joyce Vincent
 Mark Voorhees & Judith Kammer
 Tom & Jo Ann Vouk
 Bob & Betty Watson
 Malcolm Watson
 Lawrence & Joyce Weiner
 James & Lori Wellman
 Whitney Foundation
 Gerald & Jane E. Wichmann
 Frank & Frances Wilkinson
 Richard C. Wilson
 Fred & Eleanor Winston
 Fred Witzig
 Laura Wolf & Bruce Hendrickson
 Teresa Workman
 Elizabeth Wright
 Ken & Sharon Wyberg
 Jim & Kathy Wyman
 Mary & Steve York
 Charles Zalk
 Charles Zwisler



Winter on the Oberholzer Trail.
 Photo by Mary Lysne.

Memorials in Honor of Loved Ones

Voyagers National Park Association sincerely appreciates your thoughtful contributions.

In Memory of Bryant Dunshee
 Michael Bowen
 Tom Eggum & Mari Oyanagi Eggum
 Lynnette & Richard Hanson
 Bruce & Pat Perrizo
 Bill & Marilyn Stock

In Memory of Henry Hyatt
 Emily Harris

In Memory of Helen Parkhill
 Lee & George Barthel

In Memory of Stephen McAlpin Ruff
 Richard & Carol Bergenstal
 Gary & Sally Bluem
 Craig & Amy Crosby
 Carl & Peggy Frank
 Karyl Frye
 Dr. Jo-Ida C. Hansen

Marjorie L. Harlow
 Chad & Molly Hegwood
 Michael & Doris Hickey
 E. Paul & Katherine T. Imle
 Ernest & Portia Imle
 Judy Lobdell
 Hisako & Richard Madsen
 Darleen B. Malkames
 Mark & Terry McFarland
 Thomas & Roxanne Nepper
 Kevin Nickels
 Paul & Lynn Redlinger
 Carolyn Ruff
 Zach Rustad
 Merritt & Carol Sakata
 Ken & Sharon Schultz
 Ann Sonnesyn & Brian Love
 Everett & Jane Strand
 Sue B. Szafranski
 Harold, Jr. & Pamela Ulvestad
 Ted, Mary & Molly Victor
 Kathryn Wangenstein

WE HAVE MADE A CHANGE TO OUR BYLAWS: The VNPA Board of Directors voted at the December 2008 meeting for the Board to nominate and elect new Board members. This alteration provides the opportunity for VNPA to hold our annual member meeting at anytime of the year, since it is no longer contingent upon Board member elections. Please be alert to member meeting information to be sent out soon.

Meet Two New VNPA Board Members

By Anna Waugh

Harry Sweatt, a long time park enthusiast, comes to the VNPA board as a 'peace-maker' and relationship-builder.

"What I saw as a major problem when the Park was created was the split between the citizens of International Falls and the Park." He is supportive of continued conversations between the Park, VNPA, and the Park's gateway communities during his time on the board. He will serve on the policy committee. Sweatt, now retired, was the vice-president of Honeywell, and was at the company for 35 years. He and his wife Ginny live half the year in Orono, MN, and half the year on Red Pine Island on Rainy Lake. His most fond memory of the Park was seeing a pack of wolves while canoeing. "That got you into the spirit of things," he said.

Ann Ladd is returning for a third term of service on the VNPA Board of Directors. She has been a long time VNPA member and advocate for Voyageurs National Park, and served a term as Board President. She will participate in the land preservation committee. Ladd is a practicing attorney with Fredrikson & Byron and serves on the firm's board of directors. A strong environmental leader, Ladd is engaged in the Minnesota Environmental Fund and helped her law firm become a leader in sustainability. We are happy to welcome her back, and excited to see what she will bring to the table for VNPA over the next few years.

VNPA would also like to recognize retiring Board members Ryan Johnson and Jim Hudson, and thank them for their dedicated service.



Harry Sweatt



Ann Ladd

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

Kari Volkmann-Carlsen
Advancement Director

Interns:

Kevin McNellis, *Policy*
Anna Waugh, *Communications*

Board of Directors:

Kimberly Byrd
Jim Dier
Burgess Eberhardt
Forrest Flint, *Chair*
Dallas Fogg, *Secretary*
Douglas Franchot
Ken Kadash
Ann Ladd
Tom Lehman
Kurt Lysne, *Vice-Chair*
Leni Moore, *Treasurer*
John Roth
Greg Seitz
Harry Sweatt
Peter Swenson

Honorary Board of Directors:

Lee Barthel
Michael Frome
Martin Kellogg

Voyageurs National Park
Liason to the Board:
Kathleen Przybylski

Spring 2009 Calendar of Events:

April 4

Birch Bark Weaving

Rainy Lake Visitor Center

Meet retired Silviculturist John Zasada as he weaves birch bark into many different items from 9 am to 3:30 pm. John will guide you through the steps of weaving your own birch bark creation, as well as talk about how to properly debark a tree. Class size is limited. Registration is required along with a \$30.00 instructor fee. Call (218) 286-5258 to register.

April 24-26

Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo

Midwest Mountaineering-Minneapolis, MN

Join Voyageurs National Park Association and over 70 other exhibitors at the Spring expo hosted by Midwest Mountaineering. Great deals on gear, the Radical Reels Film Tour, and a presentation by VNPA guarantees plenty to see and do. VNPA will also present a special preview of Ken Burn's new National Parks documentary, to debut on public television this fall. Midwest Mountaineering is located at 309 Cedar Ave South, in Minneapolis. See www.outdooradventureexpo.com.



April 25

National Park Week Open House

Voyageurs National Park

Come celebrate National Park Week on Saturday, April 25 from 11:30 am to 2 pm. A host of activities are scheduled for the day and prizes will be awarded to the winners of the Annual Youth Art Contest. The award ceremony starts at noon. Come support the youth in the community and don't miss the fun!

May 8-9

Minnesota Fishing Opener

Voyageurs National Park is open for fishing again, which means it's time to head north for the season. Try your luck catching Walleye, Northern Pike, Bluegill, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, and Black Crappie—all in abundant supply.

Did you know? The Park has useful information for planning your visit to Voyageurs in the Park newspaper, *Rendezvous*. Find it online at www.nps.gov/voya. Visit www.voyageurs.org for more events, Park news, and VNPA updates.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

VNPA is a proud member of the

