



Fall 2005 NEWS

THE JOURNAL OF VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

A new chapter in Voyageurs National Park history Kate Miller selected as new Superintendent

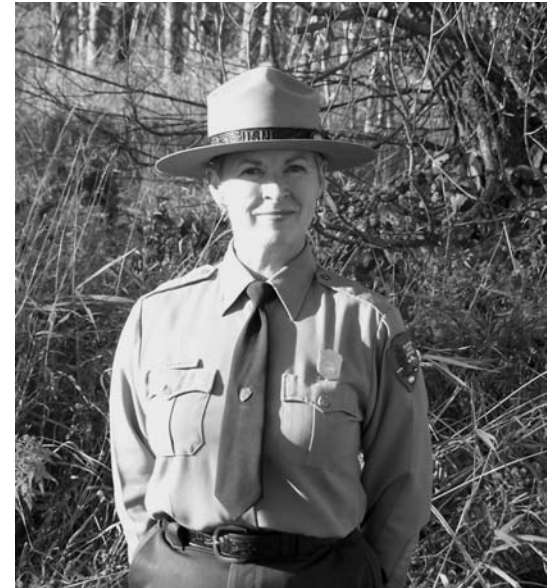
By Cory MacNulty, Executive Director

Kathleen (Kate) Miller began her tenure as the new Superintendent of Voyageurs National Park (VNP) on August 21, 2005. Miller, who was Deputy Superintendent of VNP for two and one half years under Barbara West, has been the acting Superintendent for the Park since West's departure in mid-May.

Miller says she hopes her tenure as Superintendent will be marked by stronger relationships with individuals and groups who are invested in the future of Voyageurs National Park. Miller believes that meeting the Park's mission and protecting its resources are dependent on building partnerships, especially in an era of limited resources for our national parks. While focused on working together, Miller candidly acknowledges to any Park stakeholder that they will not always agree. But, she said she is committed to finding and working in areas of common interest.

As the new Superintendent, Miller will have broad authority over most aspects of Park management and policies. After working at Voyageurs National Park for nearly three years, Miller is aware of the challenges that lie ahead and says she is "happy to have the opportunity to work with those challenges."

Top on Miller's list of priorities is to work with Park employees to rethink how positions are organized. Her goal is to build more flexibility into positions so staff can respond to changing needs in the Park and more successfully turn external relationships into assets for the Park. One request commonly heard at VNP is for more transparency in the Park's decision making and for more information about Park



Superintendent Kate Miller

programs. To achieve that, Miller and her staff will focus on making public affairs and outreach a greater priority.

Looking forward, Miller is preparing to take important steps in planning and resource protection. The 2001 General Management Plan for Voyageurs National Park requires Park managers to investigate the need for a houseboat management plan and an overnight reservation system beginning in 2005. Miller is exploring funding sources and partners for studying the social and biological implications of different management options to inform the planning process.

When asked if becoming Superintendent of Voyageurs National Park is a high point in her career, Kate Miller responds, "There have been many high points in my career but this is the capstone. This position calls on all of my experiences and I am elated to have the opportunity to pull it all together."

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Photo by Nils Rahm

*Voyageurs National
Park Association*



Celebrating 40 Years

Kate Miller

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Miller draws from a wide array of experiences both within and outside the National Park Service (NPS), making her well qualified for her new leadership responsibilities. She has provided leadership and direction to a broad spectrum of programs involving historical preservation, environmental and wilderness education, ecological research, public education, and citizen involvement.

During her time with the NPS, Miller directed the NPS history program in Alaska, worked as Historian, Assistant Chief of Resources Management and Chief of Resources Education at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and served as Superintendent at Effigy Mounds National Monument. Miller spent

time outside of the NPS as the Executive Director of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute and Vice President of Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, and as Department Head of the Minnesota Historical Society's Northern Historic Sites.

As the locations of her previous positions demonstrate, Miller, a native Minnesotan, loves northern parks. She is drawn to landscapes of water, islands and boreal forests.

VNPA wishes Kate the best as she becomes the new steward of Voyageurs National Park and the extraordinary lands and waters it encompasses.

New transportation act benefits Voyageurs

By Michael Banker
Communications Intern

On August 10, 2005, President Bush signed a new federal transportation act, entitled the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. The bill provides \$286.5 billion for transit and highway projects throughout the country over the next six years. One of the Act's projects directly benefits the Voyageurs National Park region.

A sum of \$540,000 was earmarked for the construction of a bike trail along the north side of highway 11 leading to the Rainy Lake Visitor Center on Black Bay, the northwestern gateway to Voyageurs National Park. The trail will be a 1.8-mile extension to the existing Rainy Lake Bike Trail, considered by some to be one of the most scenic bike trails in Minnesota.

Presently, the Rainy Lake Bike Trail is a 12-mile long trail starting in International Falls, leading through the historic village of Ranier, and ending at the edge of Rainy Lake. The addition of the new trail will make it possible to safely and easily bike, walk, or rollerblade the entire distance from International Falls to the Rainy Lake Visitor Center in Voyageurs.

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Politics shaping the future of our National Parks

By Michelle Yackel, Nonprofit Management Intern

Recent top-down initiatives bring partisan politics to the forefront in directing and shaping the future of our national parks. The most recent are proposed revisions to National Park Service (NPS) Management Policies, which provide park managers policy guidance to achieve the Service's mission.

Until now conservation has been the prevalent value of the park system but the proposed revision puts conservation and visitor enjoyment on equal footing. The revision removes a key guiding point from the NPS mission statement: "Congress... has provided that when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant." The shift in values is summed up in NPS Director Mainella's words, "To manage the parks emphasizing either conservation or enjoyment to the exclusion of the other, imperils the national park concept."

This proposed revision to NPS Management Policies is a compromise; an attempt by NPS professionals to mitigate the potential impact of a prior draft, authored by Paul Hoffman, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Interior. While NPS Management Policies are typically revised every 10-15 years, the document was last revised in 2001. Hoffman drafted the first set of changes without the knowledge of or input from Congress, the public or park superintendents. Hoffman was responding to complaints by certain special interest groups that the 2001 revisions were "anti-enjoyment." NPS employees worked with Department of Interior staff to draft the compromise policy revision released on October 18th.

Though these revisions appear to be a significant improvement over Hoffman's proposal, they must be measured against the original 2001 NPS Management Policies. The National Parks Conservation Association has said, "We are concerned that those who want to commercialize and exploit our national parks will be working hard to include potentially harmful changes to the management policies." The proposed revisions are open for public comment until February 18, 2006.

Those wary of the commercialization and exploitation of our national parks will also be troubled by a proposed rule change to *Director's Order #21: Donations and Fundraising* that will allow the Park Service to directly solicit donations from park visitors and corporations, rather than passively accepting donations. Park visitors could soon find donor envelopes included in informational materials, and find rooms in visitor centers named for corporate donors.

The proposed rule change also repeals the prohibition on seeking or accepting gifts from park concessionaires, permit-holders and other private entities with which the park does business or regulates. Jeff Ruch, Executive Director of Public Employees for Environmental

Responsibility, observed, "It is inherently troublesome for any federal agency to seek funds from businesses seeking concessions from it." The proposed rule change is open to public comment until December 1, 2005.

Finally, NPS Director Fran Mainella announced that future hires for park service managers at Government Service levels 13, 14, and 15 must be approved by the Director and receive sign-off from the office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks – the number three political appointee in the agency. Candidates must now show their ability to lead employees in achieving Secretary of the Interior Norton's 4 C's ("communication, consultation, cooperation, all in the service of conservation") and the President's Management Agenda.

Until now, civil servant hiring decisions were supposed to be non-partisan and merit-based. All mid-level managers and above are affected – park superintendents, program managers, chief rangers – over 1000 positions. The New York Times calls this "essentially a political screening," and "an effort to politicize the NPS." It also represents a complete centralization of promotion and hiring in what has traditionally been a decentralized system.

Tell the National Park Service what you think about the proposed revisions to NPS Management Policies:

Proposed revisions are open for a 120-day public review and comment period ending February 18, 2006. View the revised policies and submit comments at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/waso>.

Go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?projectId=13746&documentID=12825> to view the official comparison between the 2001 policies and the current draft.

VNPA completes recreational map series of Voyageurs National Park

By Donald Nightingale, Board Chair

VNPA has completed production of our long awaited maps of Voyageurs National Park. The Fisher Map Company of Virginia, MN is printing and distributing the maps – the most detailed and complete maps of the Park available.

To keep the scale easily readable and the size manageable, the Park is divided into three overlapping maps: a western map for west Rainy Lake and west Kabetogama Lake; a central map for east Rainy Lake, Kettle Falls and the Ash River area; and an eastern map for Crane, Sand Point and Namakan Lakes. The maps include detailed topographic information and make it easy to identify campsites and day use areas, trails, services, water hazards, buoys, park attractions, and more. The backside of each map is filled with detailed information about Park destinations and highlights, trails, and campsites.

Several people and organizations have contributed to this important project to provide visitors and users of the Park with detailed maps of the area. Board member John Roth and former Executive Director Jennifer

Hunt launched the project. Former board member John Pastor provided initial assistance through the Natural Resources Research Institute, which we contracted to provide up-to-date and accurate topographic information about the Park and surrounding areas. We then hired Minnesota cartographer, Don Pirius, who designed the maps and inserted specific Park details, such as trails, campsites, water hazards, navigation buoys and historical sites.



Members Jim Dier and Mary Lysne and Executive Director Cory MacNulty developed the content for the backsides of the maps with help from Park personnel. Mary Lysne, a professional graphic artist, is responsible for the layout and design of the information on the maps' backsides.

A big thank you goes out to all of the people who made this ambitious and fruitful project a reality, especially the many financial sponsors, including The Quetico Superior Foundation, Kate and Stuart Nielsen, Mary Lee Dayton, and many others, without whom this project would not have been possible.

When you see the maps, we hope they motivate you to visit the Park as soon as possible to explore its many spectacular lakes, trails, and historic sites. The maps can be purchased through the

VNPA office, Park visitors centers, retail stores where Fisher maps are sold, or online at www.fishermaps.com/fisher-maps/. VNPA is also offering maps as gifts to our members. You will receive one map of your choice for a contribution over \$100 and a set of three maps for a contribution over \$250.



Representatives from Voyageurs National Park (special thanks to Kathleen Przybylski and John Snyder), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources provided review and comments on drafts of the map, which were overwhelmingly positive.



Park Attractions: Ellsworth Rock Gardens

By Michael Banker, Communications Intern

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This is the first piece for a new feature in our newsletter. Each issue will highlight one of the many diverse and unique experiences that can be found at Voyageurs National Park.

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Exploring the rocky outcrops, extensive wetlands, and dense forests of the Kabetogama Peninsula in Voyageurs National Park, it comes as a surprise to many to stumble upon terraced flowerbeds and a collection of granite sculptures. That surprise is the Ellsworth Rock Gardens – one of the unique treasures tucked away in the heart of Voyageurs National Park.

From 1944 to 1965, Chicago contractor Jack Ellsworth and his wife Elsie spent their summers at this site on Lake Kabetogama. During that time, Jack slowly transformed a 60-foot granite outcrop into an enchanting sculpture garden (Jack estimated he spent about 14,000 total hours constructing the gardens). Without any formal artistic training and using only the natural features of the area as his guide, Jack built a unique monument creatively expressing his thoughts about beauty and nature.

At its peak, Ellsworth Rock Gardens had over 200 rock sculptures and 62 flowerbeds with 32 flower varieties, including 13,000 lilies. However, in 1965, Jack Ellsworth became ill and never returned to the site of his longtime passion; buildings and sculptures fell into disrepair and the wilderness began reclaiming the area.

Today the Park Service is working to preserve the Ellsworth Rock Gardens as an important cultural and historical site in Voyageurs National Park and a destination for Park visitors. Over the years, maintenance and rehabilitation projects have been undertaken in an effort to restore the gardens to the way they were under Ellsworth's care. Additionally, the Park continues to develop interpretive programs and media to help visitors understand the history and significance of the gardens.

The preservation and restoration of Ellsworth Rock Gardens is an ongoing process. This past summer, Park staff and volunteers worked on replanting flowerbeds, repairing sculptures, and conducting routine grounds maintenance. Future plans include further development of the interpretive program to include more trail markers and permanent exhibits, repairing stone walls that are in poor condition, and reconstruction of missing structures, such as the fence that crossed a nearby meadow and a standing teepee that was once a prominent feature of the gardens.



Visitors to the Ellsworth Rock Gardens today can follow a path through the area that allows them to see some of the original flowers planted by Ellsworth and many of the remaining stone sculptures (about 80 of the 200+ sculptures are still in original condition or have been fully restored; others will be restored in the future). The Park asks that people be careful not to walk through the garden beds or on the stone walls and that everyone respect Mr. Ellsworth's creation by not moving any rocks or altering any of the stone structures.

Visitor access to the Ellsworth Rock Gardens is by boat in the summer or over ice in the winter. The Park Service also offers a tour boat service to the gardens during the summer months. The gardens are located on the Kabetogama Peninsula across from the northeast edge of Cutover Island and west of Clyde Creek. A self-guided tour brochure explaining many of the gardens' features can be obtained from the Park Service, and some signage providing orientation and interpretive information exists on site at the gardens. For additional information, please contact VNPA or Voyageurs National Park.

Research in the Park: Water Quality Monitoring

By Michael Banker, Communications Intern

An unprecedented water-quality monitoring project begun during the summer of 2004 in Voyageurs National Park completed its baseline data collection phase on the Park's four large lakes in August 2005. The cooperative effort, which included staff and volunteers from nearly 20 different agencies and organizations, involved creating "snapshots" of water conditions in the Park by taking water samples from multiple locations representing the geographic extent of Park lakes in relatively short periods of time. The data collected is providing a base of comparison between water samples taken in the Park at other times and from different locations.

The goal of this project is to analyze the quality and productivity of Park waters for the purpose of maintaining or improving Park water conditions into the future. The recently completed baseline data collection phase of the project involved intense sessions collecting water samples at set locations over a two-day period on four different occasions. Last summer, work was focused on collecting water samples from Rainy Lake. These efforts involved taking



August 2005 Water Quality Monitoring Team

Photo by Mary Lysne

samples from 41 sites on both the U.S. and Canadian sides of Rainy Lake: early in the Summer season during a time of low lake productivity (June 25-26, 2004) and later in the season during a time of high productivity (July 23-24, 2004). This summer's volunteers collected samples from 37 sites throughout the Namakan Reservoir; again, early in the season (June 24-24) and later in the season (August 12-13).

Researchers measured the water for characteristics such as temperature, total phosphorus content, total dissolved solids, phytoplankton abundance, and the level of dissolved

oxygen. Differences in water conditions can have widespread environmental and ecological impacts affecting things such as fish and bird populations. In the future, the data from this study should help the Park detect any potential or existing water problems early on, before they get out of control.

Voyageurs National Park and the North Star Chapter of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers are jointly managing this study, the next phase of which is still being developed. Other partner organizations providing assistance include the U.S. Geological Survey, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Rainy Lake Conservancy, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Voyageurs National Park Association.

Chris Holbeck, Chief of Resource Management at Voyageurs, estimates that so far the total value of the time, services, and money being provided by all of the different organizations involved in this project exceeds \$100,000. The project is providing information that the Park never would have had the ability to collect on its own. VNPA thanks all those responsible for this immense contribution to Voyageurs National Park.



Ryan Maki, Park Aquatic Ecologist, and volunteers collect water samples on Kabetogama Lake.

Photo by Mary Lysne

Wilderness Society recognizes Martin Kellogg as an Environmental Hero

During the two water sampling events this summer, VNPA contributed in many ways. For both events, VNPA Board Member Kurt Lysne provided his boat with himself as captain to drive volunteers around as they collected water samples. VNPA also hosted cookouts for all of the Park staff and volunteers involved in the project. During the June event, VNPA put on a fish fry at the Ellsworth Rock Gardens with over 30 people attending. During the August event, VNPA held a barbeque, roasting two Turduckens (a chicken stuffed in a duck stuffed in a turkey), at Whispering Pines near the Ash River Visitor Center; nearly 50 people attended, including new Park Superintendent Kate Miller and members of the Friends of Voyageurs National Park. Both events provided excellent opportunities for VNPA to get better acquainted with many of the people we have been or will be working with in the coming months and years as we continue to carry out the VNPA mission.

Nearly 150 Minnesota and Wisconsin conservationists joined the Wilderness Society Board of Governance in Ely, MN on September 16, 2005 to recognize five Environmental Heroes who were instrumental in protecting Minnesota's wilderness lake country. Martin Kellogg, VNPA board member and founding member of the organization, was recognized along with Janet Green, Bill Hansen, Steve Piragis, and Paul Schurke.



Rebecca Rom, Chair of the Wilderness Society Board of Governance and stalwart wilderness advocate, began the award presentation with the following words, "The environmental community thrives on partnership, courage, tenacity, and love of the land. These five Environmental Heroes are the embodiment of those characteristics and of the spirit of wilderness preservation. Their purpose was clear: They let nothing stand in their way – and they enjoyed their trip."

"I am especially delighted to introduce our first hero, Martin Kellogg, who has been an inspirational leader in the ongoing effort to protect Voyageurs National Park for nearly 40 years. President and chief executive officer of the company, UFE, Inc., and a former marine corps captain, Martin became involved in environmental work in 1963 when he was invited to chair a committee on tourism and outdoor recreation for the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. He successfully convinced the business community to take a stand for protecting the natural environment."

"Martin is a founding member of the Voyageurs National Park Association and served consecutive terms on the Citizens Committee on Voyageurs National Park, established and funded by the Minnesota State Legislature...As Martin has often remarked, "Indeed the battle to protect wilderness, natural areas and our environment never ceases." He will never cease being a positive and compelling voice for conservation and for the magnificent natural treasure in our backyard, Voyageurs National Park."

Each Environmental Hero award is accompanied by \$1,000, which the recipient may contribute to the charity of his or her choice. Martin contributed half of the financial award to the Voyageurs National Park Association and half to the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota.

Voyageurs National Park Association thanks Martin for his extraordinary leadership in protecting Voyageurs National Park for the past 40 years.



Board Members Kurt Lysne, Don Nightingale and Lee Barthel serve Turducken dinner to water quality monitoring volunteers and partners.

The moose and the forest

By John Pastor, Professor and Senior Research Associate at University of Minnesota, Duluth

Every year residents and visitors of Minnesota's northwoods hope for a sighting of one of approximately 8,000 moose in the region. They try to find their moose by the tried and true methods of good woodcraft, looking for tracks, scats, and a characteristic type of browsing on deciduous saplings and shrubs. Few may realize that the moose themselves have altered the character of the forest they are hiking through.

To find a moose, or for that matter any animal, it is best to know something about the type of food and shelter the animal requires, and then go to those places that supply these necessities.

Ecologists call the assemblage of physical and biological features required by an animal its habitat, and the rules the animal uses to find its habitat are known as habitat selection, or specifically in the case of finding food, foraging behavior. A related, but different concept is the animal's niche, which is the sum total of all the animal's interactions with its environment, including how the animal alters its habitat during the course of going about the business of living. Moose, as it turns out, are one of the best examples of an animal with specific habitat requirements and one that also changes its habitat.

Moose require deciduous shrubs and saplings for food; aquatic plants for certain micro-nutrients such as sodium; water for drinking, cooling and to escape flies, mosquitoes and ticks during the summer; and dense conifer groves for shelter from summer heat, winter snow and cold, and predators such as wolves and man. Of the variety of deciduous

plants available in the northwoods, moose prefer willows, aspen, and hazel the best, with mountain ash and mountain maple runners up. Alder and spruce are almost never eaten. Balsam fir is sometimes eaten, but usually only if no other shrubs are available.

While these elements of a moose's habitat can be found almost anywhere in its home range of about 500-1,000 acres, they are found in greatest abundance around beaver



ponds. Beaver fell large aspen around their ponds for their own food supply. This causes the aspen roots to sprout many thousands of sucker stems within reach of moose, as well as decreasing shade and thereby increasing the growth of other shrubs that moose can eat, such as hazel and red osier. The ponds also provide cooling water and aquatic plants in summer. Moose often seek shelter in the conifers growing in the swampy edges of the pond.

Moose are voracious eaters. A full grown bull weighs as much as 1,500 pounds, and eats 30 pounds dry

weight of food each day. Researchers in the Soviet Union have found that moose consume at least 8 percent of the weight of their preferred plants each year in some forests.

Moose prefer deciduous plants because of the peculiar nature of their digestion. Moose, like cows, are ruminants; that is, their digestion is accomplished not so much by acids they make in their stomach but by bacteria living in their digestive tract. These bacteria have a hard time digesting conifer needles but find aspen leaves and bark easy to digest.

This selective foraging by moose on young aspen and other shrubs, their general avoidance of most conifers, and their huge appetites is the key to their effect on forests. In the late 1940s, Laurits Krefting of the University of Minnesota built four moose exclosures on Isle Royale to study how moose browsing might change the forest. The exclosures are fences twelve feet high and approximately 150 feet to a side and protect the forest inside from moose. After several years, Krefting noticed profound changes in the forest inside the exclosures compared with what was happening outside. Once protected from moose, aspen, birch, and mountain ash inside the exclosures began to grow rapidly. Outside the exclosures, heavy moose browsing caused them to maintain a shrubby, stunted form, and eventually die; the only tree growing above browse height is spruce, which the moose still refuse to touch. Pamela McInnes, a former graduate student with Yosef Cohen and me in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife on the St. Paul campus, found that the weight of

Photo courtesy of Voyageurs National Park

shrubs, flowers, and ferns, and even the number of species of these plants is generally greater outside the exclosures because there are fewer trees tall enough to shade them out.

Pamela also found that there is less leaf litter returned to the soil outside the exclosures compared with inside, and that the leaf litter is often dominated by spruce needles. This is the key to the second major effect of moose on forests, namely a general decline in soil fertility in heavily browsed areas. Like the bacteria in the moose's digestive tract, bacteria in the soil also decompose leaf litter, releasing nutrients required for plant growth. As spruce needles are not easily digested by the bacteria in a moose's stomach, so are they not easily decomposed by the bacteria in the soil. In fact, moose are walking compost heaps, competing with soil bacteria for the best food. Needless to say, the moose wins. Over the last forty years, this increased abundance of unbrowsed spruce over browsed hardwoods has caused a significant decline in soil fertility, as much as 50 percent in some areas. For some unexplained reason, moose droppings don't counteract this decline in soil fertility, as you might expect from manure. The reason may be that moose pellets are essentially pressed sawdust, with most of the nutrition removed from them during digestion.

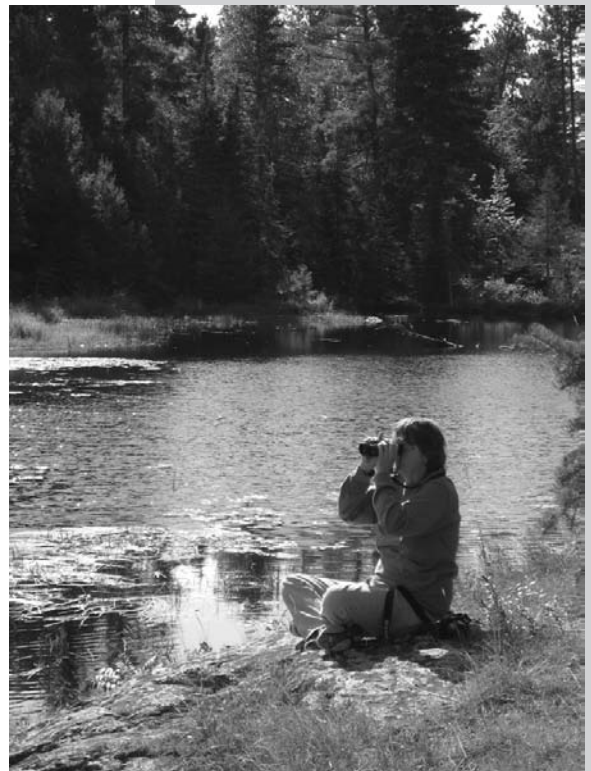
Research provides answers, but it also has the simultaneously exciting and frustrating ability to raise new questions and paradoxes. The more we study moose and their relations with their habitat, the more questions we raise. For example, if moose continually eat only hardwoods and allow spruce to take over, what happens then? Something of the sort seems to have occurred on Isle Royale during the 1930s, when a

huge herd of over 3,000 moose collapsed to several hundred, presumably because of overbrowsing (there were no wolves on the island then). A repeat collapse of the moose population seemed to have reoccurred from 1995-1997. It appears then that moose and plant populations may cycle back and forth, with abundant food allowing an increase of the moose herd, followed by overbrowsing, starvation of the moose, and recovery of the plants. But how can the plants recover if soil fertility declines during periods of heavy moose browsing? Do moose migrate away from areas of heavy browsing, allowing the plants and soil fertility time to recover? Somewhere there are answers to these questions because moose and the boreal forest have co-existed for over 6000 years without either going extinct.

Textbooks often teach that boreal forests are simple systems because they have about one tenth the number of species that many other plant communities have. However, it now appears that the relationship of moose and the boreal forest is not a simple one, but a complex, slow ballet as beautiful as the choreography of a Martha Graham or George Balanchine.

Editor's Note:

Voyageurs National Park is at the southern edge of the moose's range in North America. It is estimated that Voyageurs National Park is host to somewhere between 40 and 60 moose that seem to be distributed fairly evenly throughout the Park. Moose are generally reclusive animals and so it is difficult to observe them in the wild. Estimates are mostly based on aerial surveys conducted in 1997 and 1998, and observations of evidence of moose presence, such as tracks, scat, and the characteristic style of moose foraging described above.



Mary Lysne looks for wildlife at Black Bay Beaver Pond.

Friends of Voyageurs National Park sponsor "Get the Lead Out" program in the Park

By Jo Kallemeyn, Friends of Voyageurs National Park

Lead has long been known as a poisonous substance. Adverse effects in humans who ingest lead are well documented, prompting the removal of the metal from paint and other materials. This past summer, the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA) coordinated a statewide campaign to "Get the Lead Out" of fishing tackle in an effort to protect loons and other waterfowl from the poisonous effects of eating lead sinkers or fish that had ingested lead tackle. On July 9 and 10 at the VNP Rainy Lake, Kabetogama Lake and Ash River Visitor Center boat ramps, Friends of Voyageurs National Park sponsored a "Get the Lead Out" event in cooperation with the MOEA statewide program. In exchange for their lead tackle, anglers were offered a variety of non-lead alternative tackle as well as informational literature. Over 40 pounds of lead tackle was collected over the weekend. The 14 volunteers who helped make this event a success included members of Friends of VNP and VNPA, as well as seasonal, volunteer, and permanent VNP staff and their families. While supplies last, this project continues at all VNP Visitor Centers. Already over 75 pounds of lead has been collected at the visitor centers since the project began in June.

This is one of several 10th Anniversary events planned by Friends of Voyageurs National Park this past summer. In June, the group sponsored an evening talk by eagle researchers who have been collecting eaglet blood samples over several years in VNP to test for contaminants. The Friends of VNP have contributed over \$4,000 to help defray the costs of analysis of the eaglet plasma over the past few years. The Friends of VNP were also instrumental in funding the August 27-28 VNP Fall Rendezvous.



Photo courtesy of Friends of Voyageurs National Park

John Lassiter, a VNP VIP (Volunteers In Parks) from Houston, Texas, helps an angler exchange his lead tackle for non-toxic tackle at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center.

Volunteers in Parks - VIP

You can help the National Park Service care for your parks by joining the 70,000 people yearly who volunteer their time and talents to help safeguard the National Park Service heritage. As a VIP - Volunteer in Parks - you work side by side with the National Park Service staff as a truly Very Important Person. You can show people how to enjoy their parks in ways that allow future generations to have similar experiences, and you will learn about a park by contributing to its successful operation. VIP's work in parks from Maine to Hawaii, from Alaska to Florida, in big cities and small towns, and even in remote wilderness. There are 360 national parks to choose from, where you can put yourself at the heart of a park experience.

To become a VIP, complete a Volunteer In the Parks application and mail it to the park(s) where you would like to volunteer. The VIP coordinator at that park(s) will review your application and contact you. You can obtain more VIP information and an electronic application form at <http://www.nps.gov/volunteer>. Voyageurs National Park VIP Coordinator is Terri Tucker at VNP Headquarters, 3131 Highway 53, International Falls, MN 56649. Terri can be reached by phone at 218-283-9821.

Thanks to your generous support, the following are some highlights from Voyageurs National Park Association's 2005 accomplishments:

- ✓ Assisted in the Park's water quality monitoring partnership (see page 6)
- ✓ Completed production of our Park recreational map series (see page 4)
- ✓ Contributed over \$10,000 to Voyageurs National Park to enhance their visitor programs and education materials including:

- Matching funds for updating the Park's Junior Ranger program
- Sponsored the Birder's Rendezvous event, which attracted 77 people
- Printing of the Rendezvous newspaper
- Hiring an experienced trail crew member

- ✓ With help from trail maintenance funding from VNPA, the Park opened 21 miles of hiking trails in spring, cleared 2/3 of the 26 mile Kab/Ash trail, and performed emergency trail clearing after a severe windstorm in late June.
- ✓ Built a coalition of organizations that worked to keep the Superintendent hiring process non-partisan and merit-based
- ✓ Met with leaders from the Park's gateway communities to identify common interests and ways we might work together in the future.
- ✓ Met with key politicians to discuss the future of Voyageurs National Park

Thank you! Please consider making a special year-end contribution so we can continue working with the Park and our partners to build on the progress we made in 2005.

To make a contribution, cut out or copy the 2005 year-end contribution form below, fill in your information and mail it with your check to VNPA, 126 N. Third St., Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55401. To make a gift using your credit card, visit our website at www.voyageurs.org.

Another way to help VNPA is to give the gift of your time or donated items.

Here is our Wish List ~

Volunteer services needed

- ◆ Graphic designer for newsletter layout
- ◆ Writers for newsletter articles
- ◆ Database expert to convert our membership database to a new program

Items needed

- ◆ Paper Cutter
- ◆ LCD Projector
- ◆ Cordless telephone
- ◆ CD burner
- ◆ Digital Camera
- ◆ Spotting Scope
- ◆ Binoculars
- ◆ Sea kayak
- ◆ Tabletop display board
- ◆ Brochure / Newsletter display holders



VOYAGEURS NATIONAL

2005 Year-End Contribution

PARK ASSOCIATION

- Yes, I would like to give a year-end gift to the Voyageurs National Park Association

Please find enclosed, my check for:

- \$25 \$100 \$500
 \$50 other amount \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zipcode _____

Phone, fax _____

email (to reduce our use of paper) _____

Thank you! Your contribution is tax deductible.

Please send to: Voyageurs National Park Association, 126 N. Third St., Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Voyageurs National Park Association

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

126 N. Third Street, Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: 612-333-5424
Fax: 612-339-4731
Email: vnpa@voyageurs.org
Website: www.voyageurs.org

Staff:

Cory MacNulty,
Executive Director
Kimberly Follett,
Nonprofit Management Intern
Sujeetha Kanagalingam,
Science and Policy Intern
Angela Martin
Communications Intern
Michelle Yackel
Nonprofit Management Intern

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Save the following dates:

- January 26, 2006** VNPA's 40th Anniversary Celebration
5:30 to 8:30 pm at the St. Paul Town and Country Club
- February 25, 2006** VNPA's Annual Member Meeting
9:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
Refuge Visitor Center
- Jan 8-Mar 26, 2006** Voyageurs National Park Winter Rendezvous
Call the Park at 218-283-9821 to find out more about their
series of one-day winter events held weekends between
January and March

Voyageurs National Park - A winter destination

Do you think of Voyageurs National Park as a summer destination for boating, fishing and hiking? Think again. Voyageurs National Park has over 35 miles of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails and endless miles of backcountry to explore. Winter is the season for quiet travel through the forests, discovering wildlife tracks in the snow and ending your journey curled up by a fire in one of the many resorts catering to winter tourists.

To plan your winter excursion to Voyageurs National Park, find more information at the following locations or contact VNPA at 612-333-5424 or vnpa@voyageurs.org.

Voyageurs National Park: www.nps.gov/voya; 218-283-9821

Ash River Trail: www.ashriver.com; 800-950-2061

Crane Lake Visitor and Tourism Bureau: www.visitcranelake.com; 800-362-7405

International Falls, Ranier, Rainy Lake, Rainy River Convention and Visitors Bureau:
www.rainylake.org; 800-325-5766

Kabetogama Lake Association: www.kabetogama.com; 800-524-9085



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Park Association
126 N. Third St., Suite 400
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