



# Wolf's Eye

2017 Issue 2

Newsletter for the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association

## Night Sky Photography

For the first time, IRKPA sponsored a Night Sky Photography Workshop. Guided by the noted Marquette photographer Shawn Malone, participants learned how to photograph the aurora borealis, Milky Way, star trails, lightning, time lapse, and other dark sky scenes—all while enjoying the wonders of the island and tasty Rock Harbor Lodge food! Check out workshop participant Nathan Biller's fantastic photo of a lightning bolt!



## Scholarship Awarded!

Congratulations to Jacob Dessellier, winner of the 2017 Bob Linn Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating senior who will pursue a college degree in natural resources. Jacob was the Salutatorian of his class at Lake Linden–Hubbell High School. He'll major in Wildlife Ecology and Management at Michigan Tech. Applications for the 2018 scholarship will be online early next year.

## KNHP Ranger Wins Award

Park Ranger Lynette Webber of Keweenaw National Historical Park was the recipient of the 2016 Freeman Tilden Award, the National Park Service's most prestigious interpretive honor. She received the award based on her creation of the multi-faceted "Missing in the Copper Country" project (highlighted in accompanying photos).

Lynette said, "Copper Country towns have their own language. They speak of the American Dream for thousands of immigrants and their families. They express hardship, prosperity, change, and loss. They say different things to different people. To me they represent home, family, and a heritage to be proud of."

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The Centennial Copper Mining Company was formed in 1896 to mine the former properties of the Centennial Mining Company just north of Calumet. Controlled by the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, copper rock from the Centennial mines was processed on Portage Lake at Point Mills, where the company purchased the Arcadian Mining Company's stamp mills on the Dollar Peninsula. The Centennial Mine's double shaft, Numbers 1 & 2 (pictured) worked the Kearsarge Amygdaloid Lode; the company's five other shafts mined the Calumet Conglomerate and Osceola Amygdaloid Lodes. Today, much of the mine site is occupied by a capped landfill. Although the collar house still stands, much of the former surface plant and many of the men who worked there are #MissingintheCopperCountry.

## (Continued)

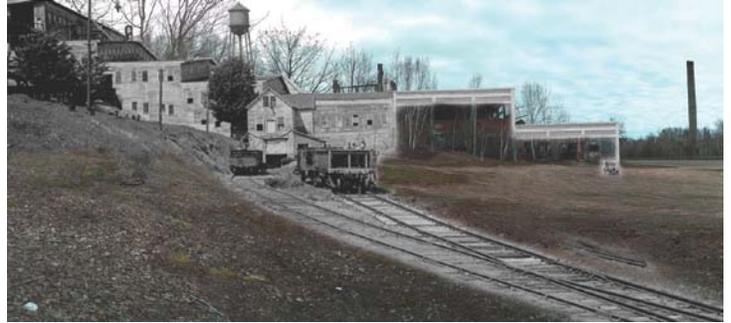
Lynette continued, “One of my favorite projects to date is a series of photos called Missing in the Copper Country. After taking new photos in the same locations as historic archival images, I overlay lost buildings, features, and people from the historic photos onto today’s streetscape. It’s become a popular theme on the KNHP Facebook site, triggering memories for locals and showing those less familiar with the area the built-up thriving metropolis of the past. It can be hard to imagine Calumet’s historic atmosphere, with its coal smoke and multiethnic spices wafting through the air and its multilingual chatter on the streets. I hope that these images and their accompanying research help people go back in time, if only for a moment. There, they may be able to meet their immigrant ancestors and walk in their footsteps. The Missing in the Copper Country series highlights not only the past, but also the loss to the historic streetscape, which has occurred since. Seeing what once stood next door helps to highlight the importance of preserving the remaining structures.”

Lynette created the Missing in the Copper Country project by studying maps and historic photographs, meeting with community members, and visiting sites to pinpoint locations and ensure accuracy. She also researched the history of each building to provide relevant context for the images. The superimposed photos were then posted on social media sites and used in temporary exhibits, walking tours, and illustrated programs.

Lynette also engaged local youth in the project. She worked with high school students to convert social media posts into an interactive format, which enabled visitors to take self-guided tours on mobile devices.



We thank Ranger Lynette Webber for her passion in interpreting the Keweenaw’s historic resources so that the public can better understand, appreciate, and strive to support their preservation.



The Quincy Mining Company’s stamp mill No. 1 is a landmark on M-26 between Mason and Tamarack City. Although large portions of the facility still stand, it can be hard to imagine what it looked like when it was in use. An image taken by University of Chicago professor Robert S. Platt in 1929 shows more of the scene. The many levels of the mill indicate the way gravity was used in moving mineral through the separation process. Although its sizable ruins still attract the attention of passers-by, this historic photo shows just how much of this stamp mill is #MissingintheCopperCountry.

## IRKPA Annual Meeting Highlights



Erika Vye and Bill Rose led a hike focusing on the geoh heritage of Isle Royale (photo: Lynn Bjorkman)

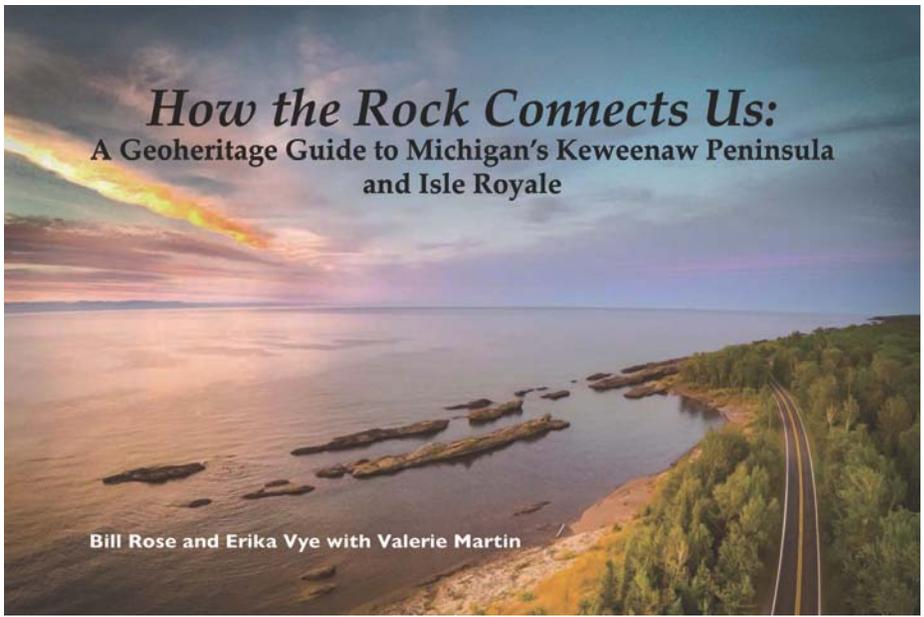
## Annual Meeting (cont)

IRKPA was pleased to host its annual membership meeting on July 28 and 29 at Rock Harbor. Board president Lynn Bjorkman welcomed IRKPA board and association members, IRKPA staff, Isle Royale administrators, and guests on board the *Ranger III* for appetizers and a social get together. Alison Pontynen, IRKPA's sales and visitor services manager, provided an update on the summer's sales, which improved through the implementation of a new point-of-sale system (see p. 4 article). Isle Royale's Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources Liz Valencia provided updates on summer activities, and Superintendent Phyllis Green provided additional highlights.

Following this event, Erika Vye (co-author of "*How the Rock Connects Us*," highlighted in this newsletter) presented a lively and informative program about the important geological features linking Isle Royale and the Keweenaw Peninsula. Her program was enthusiastically received by park visitors, who filled the auditorium.

The next day, a special afternoon excursion brought participants to both Passage and Raspberry Islands aboard *The Sandy*, operated by the Rock Harbor Lodge. The tour, which focused on geology, was led by Erika Vye and her co-author, retired Research Professor Bill Rose. IRKPA board member and biologist Steve Trynoski led a hike on Raspberry Island, introducing the group to native island plants, including interesting bog species.

Thanks to all who helped make these events so successful!



## IRKPA publishes a New Geoheritage Guide

IRKPA is pleased to present a brand-new book called "*How the Rock Connects Us: A Geoheritage Guide to Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale*," written by Bill Rose and Erika Vye of Michigan Technological University, with Valerie Martin, a longtime Isle Royale interpretive ranger. Funded in part through a grant from the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission, this comprehensive guide to the geology and history of this region is amply illustrated to provide a deeper understanding of these concepts.

**Did you know** that in the Keweenaw and on Isle Royale, far from active volcanoes, an ancient magma ocean produced the largest lava flows known on Earth? There are more than four hundred lava flows piled on top of each other.

**Did you know** that stromatolites—one of the oldest fossil types on Earth—are nestled in the fine grained sediments of the Copper Harbor Conglomerate (which is present on both Isle Royale and on the Keweenaw Peninsula)? These billion-year-old fossils are cyanobacteria colonies, gooey algae mats layered with fine-grained sediments that were once a living rock!

**Did you know** that the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale were, at one time, completely covered by a two-mile-thick ice sheet? You can actually SEE how the weight and movement of these glaciers changed the landscape.

If you enjoyed these tantalizing tidbits and you'd like to learn more about the geoheritage of Isle Royale and the Keweenaw Peninsula, look for this book at IRKPA's sales outlets and online at [www.IRKPA.org](http://www.IRKPA.org).

**Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association**

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**IRKPA** is the membership-based nonprofit partner of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park. Gifts, bequests, memorials, and membership are U.S. tax deductible.

**Membership Categories**

Individual \$25	Household \$35
Supporting \$50	Sustaining \$100
Patron \$250	Life \$1,200*

\*may be paid in four annual installments

**Board of Directors**

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**Staff**

Kristine Bradof, executive director  
 Alison Pontynen, sales & visitor services manager  
 Susanna Ausema, Rock Harbor sales manager & newsletter editor

## New technology improves sales experience

After much research and deliberation, IRKPA has transitioned to a new point-of-sales system called "Square." This advanced technology will help staff manage inventory at IRKPA's five sales locations.

Another much-needed improvement was the installation of satellite dishes to provide IRKPA's remote sales locations at Windigo and Rock Harbor with efficient internet service. Park visitors, who were pleased with the speed of their purchase transactions, immediately noted this change. Remember the days of the knuckle-buster imprinter? We've jumped light-years ahead!

Although the system has created its share of challenges integrating with our website and bookkeeping software, National Park Service and IRKPA staff in the visitor centers give it a big thumbs up.

Learn about more changes in upcoming issues of the Wolf's Eye, now with a new editor!

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