On April 3, Isle Royale reaches 75 years as a national park. For all but the first 19 of those years, the M/V RANGER III has provided reliable transportation for thousands of passengers and their gear plus a wide variety of other cargo, including boats, construction materials, appliances, furniture, diesel fuel, propane tanks, dumpsters—even a float plane in distress!

Unlike her repurposed predecessors, RANGER III was designed in 1957 by R. A. Stearns, Inc., Naval Architects and Marine Engineers in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, with the mission to provide logistical support for Isle Royale National Park. Longtime Congressman John B. Bennett (R) of Watersmeet helped secure funding for the ship’s construction through Mission ‘66, a 1956-66 Congressional funding program to upgrade the infrastructure of the National Park System for the Park Service’s 50th anniversary. Christy Corporation of Sturgeon Bay was the successful bidder at $1.16 million for the construction contract. IRNP Superintendent John G. Lewis issued the order to proceed on November 29, 1957, and the keel was laid January 21, 1958.

Work to complete the ship, including painting and installation of the second engine, took place after her launch on the summer solstice. On September 27, 1958, delivery Captain Russell H. Bergh, with Congressman Bennett on board, brought the RANGER III, the

April 1958: The ship begins to take shape.

 Noon launch on the summer solstice (said to be good luck), June 21, 1958. Congressman John Bennett’s wife, Corrine, christened the ship with the traditional bottle of champagne.

continued on p. 2
largest piece of moving equipment the National Park Service owns, to Houghton for the first time. NPS Captain C. Russell Greenleaf and First Officer Woodrow Bugge, later captain himself, took command.

Just as people go for periodic medical check-ups or take their vehicles in for service, the RANGER III spends every fifth winter in dry dock for maintenance and repairs. In dry-docking #8 (1998-99) at Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay, where she was built, the ship was repainted and also received a heart transplant! Twin 850 HP Caterpillar™ computer-injected (green) engines replaced the 40-year-old twin 614 HP Kahlenberg main engines via a 10’ x 16’ port side incision still visible today below the captain’s office. One of the old engines resides at a warehouse in Copper Harbor, the other with the Door County Maritime Museum.

A bow thruster was another important addition for the 1999 season, making the ship much more maneuverable when docking. Anyone who has witnessed the ship pinwheeling in the middle of the Keweenaw Waterway has seen the bow thruster’s handiwork.

Fast-forward to dry-docking #11 in 2013-14, when 55 years of service had taken its toll. The damaged 1958 stern winch needed new parts machined by the manufacturer from the original prints. Other casualties were the 29-year-old crane turntable planetary gear and slew bearing. They were in such bad condition that Hydraulic Specialists of Milwaukee couldn’t believe the crane still worked! All the gear oil had leaked out, replaced by dirt and grit. The rebuilt crane with new motor and bearing wasn’t reunited with the ship until mid-June back at the Houghton dock.

The most extensive upgrade was replacing the 55-year-old Wheeler steering gear and its electrical and hydraulic systems from the wheel stand in the pilothouse through five watertight bulkheads and compartments to the steering gear room. A pump that failed in April 2013 could not be rebuilt, making the steering gear system replacement necessary after a season running on one spare pump. The US Coast Guard Marine Safety Center in Washington, DC, and the American Bureau of Shipping in Houston, Texas, had to approve all drawings and equipment plans prior to demolition of the old gear.

On the plus side, the new dual-redundant steering gear means that if one pump/motor combination were to fail, a flip of a switch would engage the redundant system. This safety feature was not required or available with the circa-1958 Wheeler steering gear. A new Sperry wheel-stand with auto-pilot and digital gyro-compass completed the steering system upgrade.

Not all original equipment has required replacement. The RANGER’s 1958 state-of-the-art Controllable-Pitch Propellers (CPP), continue to work reliably. They were the #6 system of hundreds made by Bird-Johnson. Of their systems still in use on the Great Lakes, only the #5 is older. The CPP hubs were resealed, and cracks in the propeller blade tips repaired. The cracks were likely a result of May 2013 icebreaking in Washington Harbor while attempting to reach the Windigo dock.

Like other vital ship components, captains change over time, too. Of the RANGER III’s first five National Park Service captains, only Woody Bugge logged more than 10 years (1966-78). Captain No. 6, Bill Hanrahan, who provided the information for this article, has guided the ship the longest. His tenure reaches 21 years this March 27, which happens to be his birthday. How many people get a 165-foot boat on their birthday? RANGER III, Isle Royale’s workhorse ship, got her start in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service. Now she is on a steady course to celebrate next year’s Centennial—and her 58th year of reliable service. That’s pretty special.
2014 Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association Members (as of September 30)

LIFE
Aho, Robert & Lynn
Ala, Shirlev*
Albano, David
Albrecht-Irwin, Sheila
Anast, George & Velta*
Anderson, John & Mary
Anderson, Richard & Diane
Angeli, Alfred & Beth
Angeli, Lyda
Angeli, Samuel
Antony, Roger*
Armstrong, Charles*
Backus, Jim
Bain, Nancy
Baril, James & Marjorie
Bass, Todd & Melinda
Basso, Sara & Ronald
Beavers, Toxie
Beery, Robert & Phyllis
Beilfuss, Susanne*
Blocker, David
Blocker, Mary
Bombrys, Arthur & Sue Ann
Boyle, Chuck
Brown, Mr & Mrs Edward Hill
Brown, Viola
Bryan, Jane*
Campbell, Anita & Paul*
Candell, Stephen
Carbott, John*
Carr, Larry & Sally*
Carigg, Sandra
Caskey, Ellen
Caskey, Jill
Clapp, Melba*
Clover, John & Sue
Conn, Dave
Cooper, Marilyn
Cooper, Pamela
Coverdill, Jean & Craig*
Croll, Stuart & Ellen*
Cyprus, Paul
Dalquist, Janet Anuta*
Dassler, Mr. & Mrs. Skip
Dawson, Deanna*
Delong, Ken*
Desmond, Leslie & Phillip Stoffregen
Dienephorst, Robert & Johanna
Drenkhahn, Sue* Dubrul, Nancy
Ducey, Mike & Connie
Duchamp, David & Annette*
Dunn, Janet*
Dunn, John*
Dyke, Pam*
Eckoff, Ronald & Barbara*
Finch, Mary Ellen
Fink, William & Barry Elizabeth*
Fiorek, Hill & Marilyn*
Foster, Cathy & Gary
Fowler, Sherilyn
Fox, Brian & Cheryl*
Franckez, Janet
Friedeberg, Martina
Gabriel, Paul*
Gale, Chris & Peg*
Gale, Donald & Amba
Gale, Steve
Gale, Thomas & Kendra
George, James, MD
& Rebecca Morgan, MD
Gilbert, David & Barbara
Gleason, Mark
Greenwood, Fred*
Guiliani, Linda & Bob*
Hakala, Jean
Halcomb, Edward & Debra
Hall, Tom*
Hallberg, Tina Marie
Hamar, John & Joan
Hansen, Kurt
Harlander, John & Heidi*
Harris, Douglas & Jan*
Hemphill, Ross
Hendrickson, Jerry & Connie
Hollowood-McCoy, Karen
& John McCoy
Howery, T. C.
Hudson, Jennifer Lynn
Hudson, Joshua James
Huntington, Sue
Imm, Nancy
Jackanicz, Donald
Jarvi, Charles & Patricia
Kackley, James & Barbara*
Katz, Sandra
Kilpela, Don & Betty
King, Thomas & Debra
Kivel, Glen
Kokko, Janet
Kotila, Paul
Krumenaker, Robert
& Susan Edwards
Kupper, Gerrie*
Lake, Doug & Mary*
Lakomy, Dennis
& Darlene Frederick*
Lambert, Bill
Larson, Alvilda* LaVanway, Paul, Sr. and Kathy*
Lawton, John & Karla
Lepinske, Mark
Litsenberger, Tom & Bj
Lohmann, Robert & Maria
Ludemann, Bill & Carol*
Lund, Harry & Eloise
Madden, Mike & Barb
Majerowicz, Eugene
Manninen, Christine
Martin, Elaine
McEnroe, Robert*
McTaggart, Robert & Barbara
McVeety, Bruce & Renie
Mendoza, A J & Mary
Merritt, Grant & Marilyn*
Mertaugh, Tom & Karen
Mertens, James
Miller, Gail & Doug*
Miller, Jerry
Milts-Miller, Steve
Miner, Ed & Dee Stickley-Miner
Mitchell, Marilyn
Mitchell, Ronald
Moehl, Richard & Margaret*
Monroe, Bruce
& Cynthia Giacobone
Moore, Todd
Moore, Tom
Moran, Chauncy
Morrissey, James & Arleen*
Mosteller, Richard
Musselman, Patricia Lee*
Myers, Martha
Nelson, James & Laura
Nelson, Stephan
Nemetz, Kyle
Ness, Patrick
Noordij, Pat & Dave Jones
Norton, Marc
Orsborn, John & Sally
Otto, Muriel
Parker, Janet*
Payne, Jim & Mare
Peck, John & Linda
Peterson, Rolf & Carolyn*
Petho, Joan & Gary
Pickard, Richard & Diann*
Pilbeam, Greg & Mary
Plage, Merle & Barbara
Plumer, Marshall & Dawn
Pohe, Lawrence & Christina
Pugh, William
Pusakulich, Bob & Kay
Quail, John & Betsy
Quinn, Elinor & Harry
Raeside, Kathy & David
Rambo, Daniel
Regan, Bill & Karen
Ribich, William*
Rice, Rick
Righetti, Suzanne*
Robertson, James & Bonnie
Rogalla, Dan & Betty*
Romero-Severson, Jeanne
Roorda, William
Rose, Bill & Nanno*
Rossini, Elizabeth*
Rudd, Robert*
Rusdy, Susan*
Rude, Mark
Sailor, Jennifer Branch
Sanders, Ron & Debbie*
Sappington, Diane & Walter
Savage, Mrs. Thomas
Schielke, Kent*
Schoener, Noreen*
Schroeder, Barbara
Schroeder, Cathy*
Schulz, Robert*
Seaton, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth
Shelton, Philip*
Singer, Martin
Snook, Vaughn & Terri
Speranza, Dave*
Sporer, Larry & Mindy
Staiff, Jeannette & Donald
Stem, Leo
Stewart, Robby & Andie*
Stottlemeyer, Robert
Stuart, Norma Lee & Doug*
Sulewski, John
Suppes, Kenneth & Susan
Swanson, Robert, Jr.
Swearingen, David & Princesa VanBuren
Sweeney, Kris*
Swendzynski, Robert*
Szpon, Tom & Liz*
Tattan, David
Templeton, Wm. Patrick
Thieme, Heather Anne
Thomas, Michael & Kimberlie
Thomas, Richard
Thomas, Virginia*
Titmus, Phyllis
Trynoski, Steve*
Turopaara, Sharon*
Udelson, Donald
Van Westenburg, John & Joyce
Van Wormer, Jerry*
Vinton, David & Miriam
Ward, Michael & Deborah
Warner, Timothy
Waugh, John*
Wetmore, Clifford
Whelan, Kevin & Stacey
White, Charles
Wilson, Kathryn
Wimberg, Peter
Winn, John
Worden, Jacqueline
Yeates, Randy & Beth
Youngheim, Kathy & Joe
Zamzow, Charlie & Sue*

PATRON
Albee, Steve & Judy
Feleppa, Virginia
Herbster, Dave & Meredith Morgan
Lennart, Evelyn
Makens, Georgia & Hugh
Perkins, Marianne*
Reising, Judy
Rutkowski, Darcy & Bob*
Sheridan, Liz* & Ed*

SUSTAINING
Allen, Heidi
Allgood, Joan & Dwight, Jr.
Belanger, Scott & Lisa
Bjorkman, Lynn & Arnold Alalen
Bradof, James and Carol*
Bradof, Kristine
Bremigan, Ralph
Broady, Joanne*
Bryan, Larry*
Campbell, Robert
Chappel, Jerome
Chorkawy, Steven*
Christensen, Jeff*
Clifford, Mary & Loren
Coleman, Ed & Diane*
Compton, Jerry & Jackie
Conway, Mary Lynn & Randy
Cornell, Larry & Jennifer
Dahlberg, Steve & Chris*
Dawson, Robert
DeLap, John & Tracy Hosterman*
Dziadzio, Susan & Chuck
Fischer, David & Kathryn
Foerster, Vic
George, Karen & Michael*
Green, Phyllis, Jay & Family*
Halvorson, N. T., Jr.

*FY14 donation, ^Deceased
In Memoriam

**Mogens (MO) Nielsen**, 87, an IRNHA/IRKPA member for more than 30 years, died February 25, 2014, in Kawkawlin, MI. Born in Denmark, MO served in the US Army Air Force in World War II and studied forest management at Wayne State and Michigan State Universities. He worked for the US Forest Service and Michigan Department of Conservation (later Natural Resources) as a forester before leading the DNR Submerged Great Lakes Programs. His lifelong interest in nature and the outdoors led to his book, *Michigan Butterflies and Skippers*, published by Michigan State University Press. Surviving are daughters Karen Nielsen and Sandra (Rick) Casey, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, brother Bendt (Lois), nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**Elizabeth (Liz) Riley Sheridan**, 68, a board member of the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation and wife of former IRKPA board member Ed Sheridan, died unexpectedly February 14, 2014 at her Keweenaw County home on the Lake Superior shore. Born and raised near Louisville, KY, Liz earned a degree in history from Eastern Kentucky University and a master’s in education at Nova University in Florida. Her 20 years of teaching in Florida included being named the state’s social studies teacher of the year. After moving to Winter, WI, she became director of student support services at Mount Scenario College, a middle school principal, and school district superintendent. In retirement, she supervised student teachers and volunteered for Keweenaw National Historical Park. She is survived by her husband Edward, daughter Allison, brothers Thomas (Vera), John (Cheryl), and Robert Riley, sister Mary (Doug) Davy, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**John D. Tregembo, Sr.**, 87, of Plymouth, MI, a retired Coast Guardsman and lighthouse keeper, “crossed the bar” January 4, 2015. John joined the USCG right out of high school and retired as chief engineman after 20 years mostly on the Great Lakes, then spent another 21 years at Detroit Diesel Corporation. His Coast Guard service included duty aboard the icebreaker **MACKINAW** and cutters **MESQUITE**, **WHITE LUPINE**, and **DAHLIA**. John was stationed at Rock of Ages Light at the age of 19. He accompanied the Coast Guard and film crews back there several times and was featured in the 1998 PBS Legendary Lighthouses series. John was an IRKPA member for 19 years and served on the board of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, as daughter Jennifer does now. His oldest daughter, the late Michelle Wilson, was editor of GLLKA’s *The Beacon* for many years. John is survived by Betty, his wife of 60 years, daughter Jennifer Tregembo (Wayne Sapulski), son John, Jr. (Marisa Orsucci), son-in-law Gregory Wilson, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and sister Cathy (Carl) Simmons.
Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association 2014 Annual Financial Report

Income and Expense for Years Ended September 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>$90,448</td>
<td>$96,749</td>
<td>$91,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Dues</td>
<td>$22,727</td>
<td>$21,990</td>
<td>$22,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations/Grants*</td>
<td>$21,515</td>
<td>$32,540</td>
<td>$26,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$16,900</td>
<td>$13,043</td>
<td>$12,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest/Discounts/Misc.</td>
<td>$218</td>
<td>$442</td>
<td>$744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auction &amp; Special Events</td>
<td>$3,687</td>
<td>$5,551</td>
<td>$3,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$155,494</td>
<td>$170,316</td>
<td>$158,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost of Goods/Programs</strong></td>
<td>$52,603</td>
<td>$53,381</td>
<td>$63,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Profit</strong></td>
<td>$102,891</td>
<td>$116,935</td>
<td>$94,703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expense

| Operating Expense       | $74,556  | $79,895  | $81,326  |
| **Net Annual Income**   | $28,335  | $37,040  | $13,377  |
| **Aid to Parks**        | $9,786   | $14,555  | $13,457  |
| **Net Increase/Decrease** | $18,549  | $22,484  | $-80     |

*Donations do not include gifts to endowment fund at Keweenaw Community Foundation.

Balance Sheets for Years Ended September 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Investments</td>
<td>$23,123</td>
<td>$34,433</td>
<td>$35,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>$595</td>
<td>$2,260</td>
<td>$431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>$146,535</td>
<td>$154,969</td>
<td>$155,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>$170,419</td>
<td>$192,711</td>
<td>$193,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets (Equipment)</strong></td>
<td>$167</td>
<td>$1,049</td>
<td>$777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$170,419</td>
<td>$192,711</td>
<td>$193,603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Liabilities & Equity    |          |          |          |
| Accounts Payable        | $1,744   | $921     | $0       |
| Credit Line/Credit Card| $933     | $303     | $2,122   |
| Payroll/Sales Tax Liability | $1,626  | $1,848   | $1,931   |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | $4,302  | $3,072   | $4,054   |
| Temp. Restricted Net Assets | $5,857  | $105     | $105     |
| Net Income              | $18,549  | $22,484  | $-80     |
| Equity                  | $166,116 | $189,639 | $189,549 |
| **Total Liabilities & Equity** | $170,419 | $192,711 | $193,603 |

Aid to Parks for Years Ended September 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aid to Parks for Years Ended September 30</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Contribution</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenstone Newspaper</td>
<td>$3,097</td>
<td>$2,878</td>
<td>$2,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keweenaw Guide Newspaper</td>
<td>$2,495</td>
<td>$2,415</td>
<td>$2,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Brochures</td>
<td>$395</td>
<td>$826</td>
<td>$1,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIR/Historic Preservation</td>
<td>$3,492</td>
<td>$4,657</td>
<td>$3,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation/Events</td>
<td>$115</td>
<td>$1,415</td>
<td>$1,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendents’ Accounts</td>
<td>$192</td>
<td>$1,212</td>
<td>$563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Projects</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,152</td>
<td>$1,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$9,786</td>
<td>$14,555</td>
<td>$13,457</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keweenaw Community Foundation Endowment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keweenaw Community Foundation Endowment</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/30 Balance</td>
<td>$154,155</td>
<td>$165,084</td>
<td>$170,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basis</td>
<td>$140,095</td>
<td>$140,959</td>
<td>$141,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant to Operating Funds</td>
<td>$5,902</td>
<td>$6,840</td>
<td>$7,456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IRKPA 2014 Annual Narrative Report

IRKPA had 957 members as of September 30 (691 memberships) and broke even financially (net loss of -$80). Member dues were up 3.4% but donations were down 17%. Sales also decreased 5% while cost of goods sold increased. Major extra expenses were $5,084 for website redesign and $2,200 for a financial review, both of which had not been done in many years for lack of funding.

Isle Royale National Park (IRNP) received $10,097 in Aid-to-Park funding to print 12,000 Greenstone newspapers and three revised brochures (10,000 copies total), pay CanoeCopia booth and travel expenses, and support the Artist-in-Residence Program and historic preservation service project. For the latter, 11 volunteers worked 684 hours maintaining and repairing historic structures and donated $3,600 (including 4 other donors). Another IRKPA volunteer donated $1,100 and recruited two more volunteers to reshingle four leaking shelter roofs. Aid to Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP) of $3,359 paid for 25,000 copies of The Keweenaw Guide newspaper and donation of five books each to school libraries in support of the High School Local History Smackdown. At IRKPA’s suggestion, the Copper Country Community Arts Center and IRNP hosted a display of works from the Isle Royale Artist-in-Residence Program in September.

IRKPA staff and volunteers had booths at Michigan Tech’s Home for the Holidays Sale, Copper Country Poor Artists Sale in Calumet, Quiet Water Symposium in East Lansing, MI, CanoeCopia in Madison, WI, Celebrate the UP in Houghton, and Michigan Tech’s “Afternoon on the Town” for students. IRKPA’s Facebook page had about 3,000 likes as of September 30 and post reach as high as 19,430. Staff and a committee volunteer invested significant time in the new website both before and after the launch in late June. The financial review was also time intensive but found only a deficiency in insurance coverage that will be corrected. IRKPA achieved GuideStar Exchange Silver status for financial transparency (GuideStar.org).

The Isle Royale botany workshop had 12 participants, five for photography, and five for the October Keweenaw photo workshop. July annual meeting events in Rock Harbor open to the public included Capt. Bill Hanrahan’s program aboard and about the Ranger III and music from Emma and Susan Dlutkowski. About 50 listeners heard a presentation about the Edisen Fishery, but Nancy Johnson Stegman and Lou Mattson told their families’ stories to the group at Edisen. The NPS later took Johnson family members to Chippewa Harbor for Cultural Resources Management.

Thanks to additional donations from the George Wright Society (GWS) and an IRKPA board member, IRKPA and GWS jointly awarded two $500 Bob Linn Scholarships this year to local students. One is majoring in biology at University of Michigan, the other is training to be a conservation officer or national park law enforcement ranger at Vermilion Community College in Ely, MN.
On December 8, Keweenaw National Historical Park staff presented the 2014 National Park Service Midwest Region Outstanding Partner Award to Liz and Ed Sheridan. This award is presented annually to an organization or person (in this case, two people) that provides an exemplary high level of support to a national park area within the Midwest Region, an area that contains 60 national park units in 13 states.

Ed Sheridan accepted the award from the staff in person at park headquarters in a bittersweet ceremony; Liz Sheridan passed away unexpectedly in February 2014. Both career educators and administrators, Liz and Ed served enthusiastically as park volunteers, assisted with special events, and helped staff the Calumet Visitor Center. In addition, Ed was on the board of the Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association while Liz served on the board of the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation.

“Liz and Ed have helped the park in many ways, and for many years,” said Acting Park Superintendent Mike Pflaum. “Their cumulative contributions are significant, particularly in terms of strengthening the park’s relationship with partners and with visitor outreach. Liz and Ed each have exemplified outstanding citizen stewardship in a meaningful way at Keweenaw NHP and are very deserving of this award and recognition.”

Pflaum went on to state that our national parks, now more than ever, benefit from the support of park partners and community such as the Sheridans provided.

Ed Sheridan (left of flag) accepting the award from Superintendent Mike Pflaum.

Feedback Brings Changes to IRKPA’s Website

Change is coming to IRKPA’s website based on your feedback after last summer’s major redesign. Fixed text boxes will replace the ones that slide up. Image files will load faster and have a gallery of their own.

The biggest issue to resolve involves the rather cumbersome steps to activate member discounts:

1. Log in or create an account. 2. Select “check/money order” as your membership payment method if not actually renewing now. 3. Add a note in the comments box for us to activate your member discount. 4. After you submit your “renewal order,” we will verify your membership is current and email you within 24 hours to confirm that your discount is activated. You will then see the member price for each item when you log in to place a merchandise order.

That method will still work and is necessary for new members joining online. However, current members can activate their 10% merchandise discount during checkout with this coupon code: IRNHA1957. No need to activate your membership discount first (unless you want to see the “special price” for each item while browsing). Call or email if you forget the code. Hope this helps—let us know!

Don Murray 1928-2014

The pilot for the first 21 years of the Winter Study of Isle Royale wolves and moose, Donald E. Murray, died November 14, 2014, at the age of 86. A decorated Korean War veteran, Don operated his own flying service for aerial and grounds spraying, drove for a freight company, and was a business agent for the Teamsters Union. He enjoyed playing guitar, hunting, fishing, and running his hobby farm.

Murray’s wife of 63 years Helen, a grandson, and 10 siblings preceded him in death. Survivors include seven children, 14 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Artist-in-Residence Program Update

Isle Royale National Park’s Artist-in-Residence program, which IRKPA and the Copper Country Community Arts Council cosponsor, was cancelled for 2015 due to the retirement of Supervisory Park Ranger Greg Blust at the end of December. Greg coordinated the AIR program since it began in 1991. The park hopes to bring the program back for the 2016 National Park Service Centennial. In the meantime, watch for more information about a show of works from the first 24 years of the Artist-in-Residence program this fall at the Michigan Tech Rozsa Center gallery.
Annual Meeting August 22
Mark your calendars for IRKPA’s annual meeting in Rock Harbor on August 22 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Isle Royale becoming a national park and to dedicate the new alternative energy systems. A group campsite is reserved for members. Another option is a room or housekeeping cottage at Rock Harbor Lodge. Watch for details in the next newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Sweepstakes Drawing 2/28
Thanks to those of you who donated for a chance to win a trip to Isle Royale this year! Those donations are not tax deductible but do help. IRKPA member Joanne Broady won the round trip for two on the Isle Royale Queen IV and two-night stay at Rock Harbor Lodge. Life members Robby and Andie Stewart won round trip tickets for two on the Ranger III. Third prize, copies of IRKPA’s The Island Within Us and Island Life, went to Tami Flaum of Asheville, NC, who hopes to introduce her husband to Isle Royale. Thanks to the Isle Royale Line and Rock Harbor Lodge for donating prizes. The next sweepstakes for a 2016 Keweenaw stay is now open. Watch for your tickets in IRKPA’s summer board election mailing!

Please Renew for 2015!
The message with this newsletter will indicate if you need to renew your IRKPA membership. We mailed renewal reminders in November. Thanks for the 347 new or renewed memberships for 2015 so far (plus 234 life memberships)!

2015 Bob Linn Scholarship
A year ago IRKPA and the George Wright Society jointly awarded $500 Bob Linn Scholarships to two local students, thanks to a generous donation from an IRKPA board member. William Lucier from Hancock High School, who had a memorable first visit to Isle Royale, is pursuing biological sciences at the University of Michigan. Matthew Marshall from Chassell High School is training at Vermilion Community College in Ely, MN to be a conservation officer or national park law enforcement ranger.

The deadline to apply for this year’s scholarship is April 15. Graduating high school seniors in the Copper Country Intermediate School District or children of IRKPA members who are accepted to college with plans to major in a natural, earth, or environmental science field are eligible. Application forms are available at irkpa.org (under Get Involved > News) or by emailing kbradof@irkpa.org or calling 906-482-7860.

Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association
800 E Lakeshore Dr
Houghton, MI 49931-1869
906-482-7860 or -3627 (800-678-6925)
irkpa@irkpa.org, www.irkpa.org
Facebook.com/IRKPA

IRKPA is a nonprofit membership organization that assists Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park by publishing and selling educational materials for park visitors. Gifts, bequests, memorials, and memberships 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

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