



Madeline Island

Wilderness Preserve News

Summer 2016

“TAKING STOCK”

By Victoria Erhart, President

Everyone needs to stop and take stock every so often, and I think the same thing holds true for organizations. The MIWP started out as a simple land trust with a single goal, to buy and preserve land, but we have evolved to the point that we are involved with nearly everything on the island that has to do with the environment. I love that, I am proud of that, but I worry about our ability to sustain it. Like many families, we have more passions, hopes and plans than we have either time or money; as a board, we have just begun to acknowledge that perhaps we can't do it all. Let me walk you through what we have been thinking about.

I think everyone agrees that the MIWP does education really well. The Wednesday lecture series at the Museum is very well attended and has engaging speakers on a wide-ranging menu of topics. Bonnie Matuseski and Ned Hancock do an excellent job setting it all up. This year the MIWP was the recipient of a generous grant from the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund that paid for speakers' fees, so the cost has been very reasonable. Other educational pieces, the hikes (bird hike in the spring, North End trail hikes in the fall, all led by board members) and the parade, offer

a different and more experiential approach to environmental education. There isn't much I would change here.

Something else that the MIWP board has considered, a project that appeals enormously to me, is North End trail development. We have the Capser trail, highly developed, close to town and then we have the very rudimentary North End trails, designed as winter skiing trails, well marked but “primitive” (translate “primitive” as galoshes year-round, and hip boots in the spring.). I love those North End trails and walk on them often with my dogs, but there are eight miles of them and to get them into a condition where they would be easy to navigate year-round requires enormous amounts of organizing, coordination with other agencies, and money. Should we pursue that? Or should we leave them as they are, mow them once a year, and work on developing trails closer to town? Or does the island already have enough trails? For more information on the MIWP trail system, see www.miwpp.org under “The Preserve and Trails”.

(President's letter, continued on page 6)



May-2015 hike along Big Bay Ridge Trail lead by naturalist, John Bates

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROPOSED FOR CHEQUAMEGON BAY

By Adam Haecker

All of us who live on the island year-round or descend upon the island in the summer appreciate our surroundings. I mean, look around you. The natural beauty of Chequamegon Bay and the Apostle Islands is undoubtedly breathtaking, and the cultural richness of Native American history and the fur trade industry dates back hundreds of years. Therefore, the need to protect these great resources is increasingly important; and today we might just have the best means to do so.

It is called a National Marine Sanctuaries or NMS, for short. Specifically, NMS sites are areas that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have designated for research, education and protection in the oceans and the Great Lakes. They are areas of the marine (or lake) environment with special conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural, archaeological or esthetic qualities of national significance. Some examples include historic shipwrecks, critical underwater habitats for fish, and maritime sites of cultural importance.

To date, there are 14 designated NMS sites in the United States. Of the 14 sites, 13 of them are located in ocean areas. The only one that isn't is the Thunder Bay NMS on Lake Huron, which lies immediately off of the east coast of Alpena, Michigan. At first blush, it

might seem like the interior of the country (particularly the Great Lakes) are being overlooked. Inland (fresh) waters are equally important, one might argue, and hence the proposed nomination for Chequamegon Bay and the Apostle Islands comes at a good time.

Why now? For the first time, the process for adding new sanctuaries is open for nominations from the public, state and federal agencies, and Native American tribes. Now's our chance, in other words, for NOAA's backing and support for years to come. If this nomination becomes a designation (it's a two-step process), NOAA would provide financial and technical support for the submerged (underwater) resources in Chequamegon Bay and the Apostle Islands. (The exact boundaries of the NMS are yet to be determined.).

Let's take a step back for a moment. It must first be understood that NMS designation does not come with a new set of rules, policies and oversight that change our business, commercial and recreational practices in Chequamegon Bay and the Apostle Islands. In fact, quite the opposite is true. The nomination (the first step) is a community-based, grassroots initiative, in which local businesses, agencies and like-minded partners write letters of support to get the process started



*The waters of Stockton and Outer islands along with the other Apostle Islands and Chequamegon Bay are being proposed as a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) – an area of the coastal marine or Great Lakes environment with special conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural, archaeological or esthetic qualities of national significance.
Photo by Barbara Coffin*

Once designated, NOAA's role is to provide a variety of tools that protect our natural environment and cultural resources as they exist today. These tools include regulations to protect significant marine resources, as well as education and research that furthers the mission of all parties involved. For example, NMS designation prohibits disturbance or alteration of the lakebed in areas with critical habitat and cultural resources. NOAA also does not manage the fisheries industry in Chequamegon Bay and the Apostle Islands (that's the role of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Red Cliff and Bad River bands of the Lake Superior Chippewa). And, no local or state funds are required to support a NMS. Once designated, NOAA pays the cost for operating a NMS. Further, no treaty rights are affected.

Ultimately, NMS designation would protect a diverse fish community, including important spawning and feeding areas. Chequamegon Bay and the Apostle Islands are home to 40 species of fish, and numerous spawning reefs. Case in point: the designation would support the only self-sustaining population of lake sturgeon in Lake Superior which spawns in the Bad River. The designation also would protect archaeological resources such as the numerous shipwrecks that dot the shorelines of the Apostle Islands, as well as the Red Cliff and Bad River bands' cultural resources that are so precious to our history. There's even talk about establishing a NMS visitor

center in the already existing Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center near Ashland, Wisconsin.

What's next? The NMS process is in the pre-proposal stage. There is a 20-member nomination steering committee that is soliciting letters of support, resolutions of support and partnership offers. (For an up-to-date list of supporters, please visit the Lake Superior National Marine Sanctuary Initiative website listed in the following paragraph.) The committee also writes the nomination report, and sends it out for review. They hope to send it to NOAA by June 1. At that point, the designation process, which can take up to three years, begins. It also involves public hearings and an environmental impact statement. Please refer to the websites and contact information in the following paragraph to become more familiar with the NMS process and timeline..

Where can I find more information?

The website for the local initiative is:
<http://www.lakesuperiorsanctuary.org>

The website for the National Marine Sanctuary system or designated sanctuaries in the system is:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/welcome.html>

For general questions, please contact Karin Kozie, who is a wildlife biologist serving on the National Marine Sanctuary Nomination Committee, at 715-373-5916.



SUMMER 2016 PROGRAMS

Saturday, May 28th, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. *Spring Bird Migration on Madeline*

Annual bird hike with Victoria Erhart, MIWP Board member, and Peter Hudleston, Professor of Geology at Univ. of Minnesota. Bring your binoculars; see warblers and other spring migrants. Location: New Pavilion at the Town Park.

Saturday, May 28th, 7:00 p.m. *MIWP's 29th Annual Spring Meeting & Reception: Love Letter to Lake Superior* Jeff Richter, award-winning, northwoods nature photographer, will present a photographic circle tour of Lake Superior and its surroundings. At the Madeline Island Museum. (*see detailed announcement, page 5*)

Wednesday, June 29th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Water Tension and Great Lakes Compact*

Speaker: Peter Annin, Director of the Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation at Northland College and author of *The Great Lakes Water Wars*. The presentation delves into the long history of water diversion schemes that have proposed sending Great Lakes water everywhere from Akron to Arizona. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

(Summer Programs, continued on page 4)

(Summer Programs, continued from page 3)

Wednesday, July 13th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Timing is Everything: the Phenology of Plants*

Speaker: John Bates, Wisconsin's northwoods naturalist and author. The dates of arrival and departures, the births, the flourishing, the decays and deaths of wild things, their successions, synchronicities, dependencies, reciprocities, and cycles. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Thursday, July 14th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. *Timing is Everything: the Phenology of Plants*

Hike leader: John Bates, naturalist and author. A companion hike to the Wednesday evening program; all are invited to participate, whether attending the evening lecture or not. Location: New Pavilion at the Town Park.

Wednesday, July 27th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore – The State of the Park*

Speaker: Bob Krumenaker, Superintendent, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, will discuss the major issues, projects, challenges, and opportunities facing our local national park in the centennial year of the National Park Service. This presentation is part of the national parks 'Centennial Lecture Series'. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Wednesday, August 3rd, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Geologic Time on the Islands*

Speaker: Tom Fitz, Professor of Geology Northland College, will discuss how the processes acting over geologic time have created the Apostle Islands of today. There will be rocks, sediments, maps and lots of stories from the past and present. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Wednesday, August 10th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Furbearers of the Apostles or "Leave it to Beaver – and Others He knew"*

Speaker: John Olson, retired Furbearer Ecologist, Wisconsin DNR. The western Great Lakes region, especially the Apostles, harbors an extensive history of native wildlife, especially furbearers and most importantly, the beaver. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Wednesday, August 17th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Lamps in the Wilderness*

Speaker: Bob Mackreth, Retired Park Historian of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The lighthouses of the Apostle islands are a national treasure: six island outposts and eight towers in one of the world's most beautiful settings. The keepers and their families are gone now, replaced by solar panels and automated systems, but they left a legacy of dedication, endurance and survival in an unforgiving environment. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Wednesday, August 24th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *The Phenology of Mammals, Birds and other Creatures of the North Country*

Speaker: John Bates, Wisconsin's northwoods naturalist. Phenology is the gate through which nature becomes personal. It's often a list of firsts – the first spring peeper to sing in the spring, the first robin to return, the first walleye to spawn ... being mindful of the unfolding of natural events provides a soulful perspective of where one lives, which may be the best reason of all for paying attention. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Thursday, August 25th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. *The Phenology of Mammals, Birds and other Creatures ...*

Hike leader: John Bates, naturalist and author. A companion hike to the Wednesday evening program; all are invited to participate, whether attending the evening lecture or not. Location: New Pavilion at the Town Park.

Saturday, September 3rd, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. *Exploring the North End Trails*

Fred Koerschner, MIWP Board member, will guide us through old logging trails and 100-year-old stands of hemlocks. Meet at the Burroughs Trail Head, 2.5 miles north of Benjamin Blvd on the North Shore Road.

Saturday, September 17th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. *Explore Madeline's North End Trails*

Ned Hancock, MIWP Board member, will lead a second fall hike of the Island's north end trails; a great time for fall photography. Meet at the Burroughs trailhead, 2.5 miles north of Benjamin Blvd on North Shore Road.

Saturday, October 8th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. *Exploring the North End Trails & Annual Pot-luck Picnic*

Steve Mueller, MIWP Board member, will lead a third fall hike of the Island's north end trails. Meet at the Burroughs trailhead, 2.5 miles north of Benjamin Blvd on North Shore Road. Picnic to follow hike at location TBA.

All Events are free (except the Spring Reception) and open to the public

29TH ANNUAL SPRING MEETING AND EVENING RECEPTION

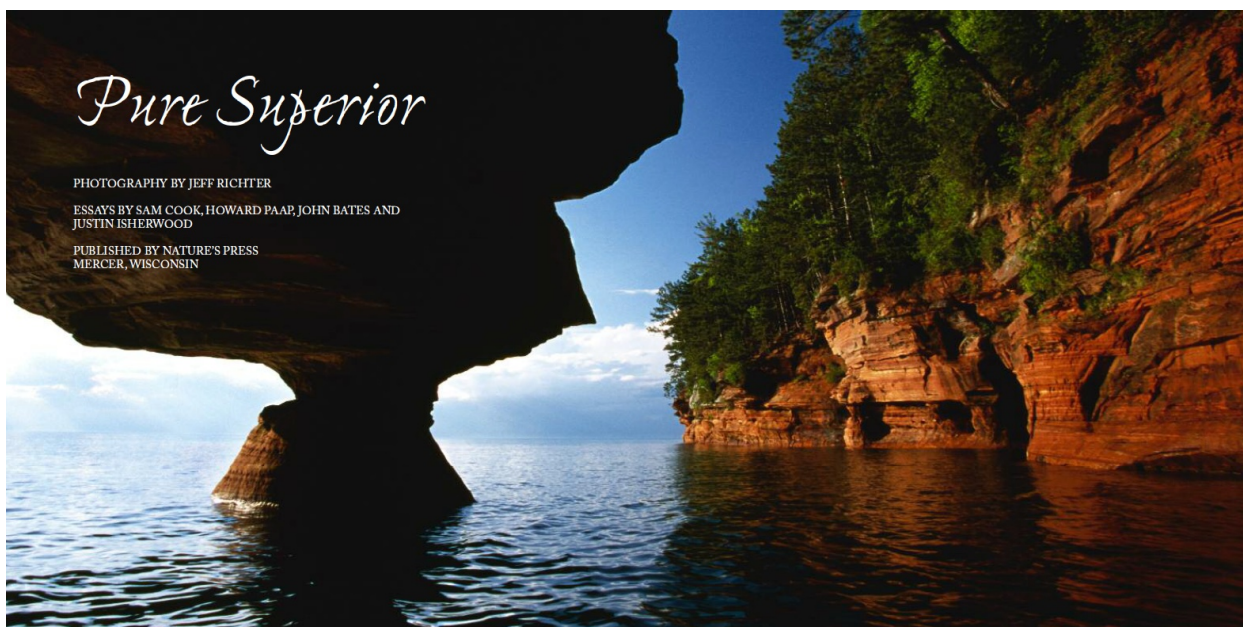
The Wilderness Preserve will be hosting its 29th Annual Spring Meeting this coming Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 28th, at the Madeline Island Museum. The event will be an evening reception with an informal buffet of elegant and hearty hors d'oeuvres, choice wine service, and coffee/tea and assorted desserts. A social gathering and food service begins at 7:00 pm, with the program beginning at 8:00 pm.

This year's program features Northwoods Nature Photographer

JEFF RICHTER

“LOVE LETTER TO LAKE SUPERIOR”

Living within the Lake Superior snow belt, Jeff ventures out in every season with camera and sleeping bag, and in his talk he will use his photographs to take us on a circle tour of Superior and its surroundings. Jeff brings back from the shores surrounding the lake candid images of nature that few of us will ever glimpse.



Jeff Richter is an award-winning, nationally published nature photographer who's had hundreds of images appear in print. The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Wisconsin Trails magazine and Willow Creek Press are some of the many environmental groups and publishers that have used Jeff's photographs. Jeff has won both national and regional awards, including an IRMA (International Regional Magazine Award) for his photo essay on albino deer, and two finalist awards in the British GAS/BBC International Photographer of the Year competition.

The price of the Spring Reception is \$30 per person.

Reservations can be made (through May 23rd)
by contacting:

MIWP Treasurer, Steve Mueller

45 University Ave. SE, Unit 505, Minneapolis, MN 55414 ☞ (612-817-9180) ☞ Email at: stvnmueller@me.com

(maximum 120 guests)

Venue: Madeline Island Museum

(President's letter: Continued from page 1)

And then there is our treatment of invasive species, buckthorn and barberry in particular. The MIWP has expended a huge amount of time and money over a lot of years in trying to eradicate these plants, but whether and how to continue this project is probably the subject about which the board is the most divided. We absolutely agree that island-wide spread of buckthorn and barberry would be a disaster: we have all seen it elsewhere and the result is terrible. What we don't agree on, and can't know, is if eradication or control is even possible at this stage of spread. The approach we have taken for the last three years, hiring two full time summer interns, has been very effective at mapping invasives and involving the community, but somewhat less effective at actual cutting. For 2016 we have decided to try something new – hire a crew led by the MIWP's consulting forester, Charly Ray, to treat South End MIWP land, which, embarrassingly, holds some of the densest buckthorn and barberry on the island. Charly's crew will work one day a week throughout the summer, and then in the fall the board will re-evaluate our progress and our program. My dearest hope, and this is a personal opinion, is that what we accomplish this summer is enough to justify some small bit of optimism that this is a battle that can be won. Or at least not lost!

Finally, the MIWP buys and protects land. That is why the organization was formed, that is the essence of our mission statement. We try to be responsible and we have internal criteria for land purchases: interior land that is contiguous with our other landholdings to reduce fragmentation, or land of special ecological significance. We have been very successful; we currently hold upwards of 2600 acres, or 17% of the island. But at some point the question arises: how much is enough? And the other, quieter question: if the cost of five acres of land is the cost of a summer of buckthorn treatment, which is better for Madeline Island? There is not, of course, a single easy answer to these questions, but a nuanced discussion about what matters the most to us, to all of us, needs to be at the core of any decisions that we make.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share what the MIWP board is wrestling with in part because the discussion is not over. We very much welcome any thoughts or opinions that you might have. Bend the ear of a board member, or use the www.miwp.org "Contact" page to send us a message. A decision that we make today has the potential to have a big impact tomorrow, and I would like very much for you to be part of it. As they say, it takes a village!

May you have a peaceful and joyous 2016, *Toria*

MONARCHS IN PERIL AT 4TH OF JULY PARADE

I'm not sure if JJ Abrams felt the earth move last July, Madeline Island being pretty far from Hollywood by any measure, but he should have. What a turnout, what creativity, what incredible authenticity in the MIWP's Fourth of July parade float Star Wars MMXV: The Buckthorn Strikes Back (previously: The Darth inVaders)! Did you see the terrifying Death Star (a weather balloon only semi-inflated because we were afraid it might pop, less magnificent but safer)? How about the multiple Darth inVaders themselves? The many and beautiful Princess Leias? Sweet R2D2, a garbage can in a previous life but so real that small children ran out and hugged him? For all of this, and so much more, the judges awarded us the coveted and special Special Award. Richly deserved, if I do say so myself.



For 2016, the MIWP is going to take on the poignant saga of the decline of the Monarch butterfly. I might sleep better if I could tell you more than that, but I do know that costumes will be spectacular. Please join us; if you wear white, the talented designers of the MIWP will turn you into an oversized Monarch caterpillar! Meet at the marina one half hour prior to parade time (the parade usually starts at 10:30 AM, but check with the Chamber of Commerce) under the MIWP banner. Or just look for the float with the giant lepidoptera. Everyone is welcome; children and dogs are encouraged. For questions, comments, suggestions or compliments, call Victoria Erhart at 715-747-2277 in early July.





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Fred Koerschner, Vice Pres.
Pixie Martin, Sec.
Steven Mueller, Treas.



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Madeline Island
Wilderness Preserve
PO Box 28
La Pointe, WI 54850
www.miwp.org

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***Yes, I'd like to support the preservation and protection
of natural areas on Madeline Island!***

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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☐ Please make my gift anonymous.

☐ Gift in memory of: _____

☐ Gift in honor of: _____

☐ Send gift card to: _____

Thank you for your generous contribution.

Your dues are tax deductible. Membership is through December 31, 2016

Please make checks payable to MIWP and send to:

**Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve
P.O. Box 28 La Pointe WI 54850**