NORTHERN WARE FALL / WINTER 2022 Voyageurs Conservancy

Voyageurs Conservancy is the official charitable partner of Voyageurs National Park

Learn more: voyageurs.org

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **CHRISTINA HAUSMAN RHODE**

With the historic flooding at Voyageurs National Park this summer, I'd like to take a moment to say thank you and recognize the many park neighbors, staff, visitors, and business owners who had their summers impacted so immensely. Thank you for your community aid in a myriad of ways from filling countless sandbags and feeding work crews, to observing no wake zones and adjusting long-planned family trips. The resiliency of these lands and people never ceases to inspire. Thank you.

As I write this, I'm overlooking Kabetogama on a rainy day. Specks of golden leaves are starting to peek through the gray fog on the edges of the lake. Fall and winter offer quiet exploration at the park. There are few national parks where you can find this level of wildness and solitude. If you've only visited in the summer, I encourage you to experience Voyageurs in a new season this coming year.

Every September, our board of directors, staff, and the leadership of the National Park Service meet to establish our goals and partnership priorities. We've recently worked to launch a new environmental education program, the Voyageurs Classroom, and we are expanding our support for science, conservation, and restoration. On the horizon, the Conservancy will support new projects including a new visitor center at Crane Lake and improvements at Kettle Falls. I look forward to sharing more in the coming months.

We are a community-funded organization and can only help our park with the support of individuals like you. We recognize and thank our many donors and friends committed to preserving this inspiring place for generations to come.

See you on the water,

Christina Hausman Rhode







Submit your favorite park memories for a chance to win prizes and help support our mission to preserve, share, and protect the natural beauty of Voyageurs. Winners will be selected in three categories: Friends & Family, Wildlife, and Landscape. View contest rules and entry information at voyageurs.org/photocontest. Email your photo and video entries to photocontest@voyageurs.org by October 17.

VOYAGEURS CONSERVANCY MEMBER BREAKFAST INTERCONNECTED: NATURE'S NETWORKS IN BRAINS AND COMMUNITY OCTOBER 27, 2022 | 8:00-9:30 AM | THE TRAILHEAD, MINNEAPOLIS OR VIRTUAL

Join us for an informal opportunity to enjoy coffee and conversation with friends of the park. Hear from our Education Field Fellow Moss Schumacher about the amazing brain benefits of time in nature and from Voyageurs Conservancy executive director Christina Hausman Rhode about the impact our supporters make possible in the park. RSVP at voyageurs.org/events or call 612-333-5424.

VOYAGEURS SPRING THAW APRIL 27, 2023 | MINNEAPOLIS + ONLINE

Mark your calendars for the third-annual Voyageurs Spring Thaw, a signature event experience raising vital funds to protect and share the natural wonder of Voyageurs National Park. On April 27, 2023, the Voyageurs Spring Thaw will gather park fans from across the U.S., with hybrid options to participate virtually or in-person in Minneapolis. More details to come at voyageurs.org/springthaw

VOYAGEURS STAR PARTY AUGUST 11/12, 2023 | VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Save the date and make your travel reservations! Take in the wonder of an International Dark Sky Park and the third-annual Voyageurs Star Party. Enjoy special speakers, Perseid meteor shower viewings, arts and crafts, telescope sessions, guided constellation tours, and more. More details to come at voyageurs.org/starparty

CHECK VOYAGEURS.ORG/EVENTS FOR A FULL LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK.

2022 VOYAGEURS PHOTO CONTEST **DEADLINE: OCTOBER 17, 2022**

GIVE TO THE MAX FOR VOYAGEURS YOUR DONATION DOUBLED ON NOVEMBER 17 AT GIVEMN.ORG/VOYAGEURS

We need your help to ensure Voyageurs is a thriving national park for generations. Will you join us? On Give to the Max Day, your gift to Voyageurs Conservancy will be doubled up to \$15,000. Thank you for supporting critical conservation, recreation, and education programs during Minnesota's annual give-together.



Adorning the walls of the Rainy Lake Visitor Center through September 2022 is a vibrant three-panel mural depicting the extraordinary wildlife and scenery of Voyageurs National Park. The new artwork, Giiwedino-Manidoog / Spirits of the North, commissioned by the Conservancy, was created by Sam Zimmerman and illuminates the indigenous culture that has and continues to influence the park.

This summer, Sam Zimmerman served as the Conservancy's first Community Artist & Educator. In his week-long residency at Voyageurs, Zimmerman hosted a "Following My Spirit Home" book talk, shared Indigenous star knowledge at Dark Sky programs, and met with visitors and families at art pop-ups throughout the park.

Zimmerman, battling mosquitos and the park's temperamental June weather, meticulously painted three large panels that would come together as a new mural to celebrate the park's wild nature and cultural heritage. Visitors and community members stopped by the mural pop-ups with curiosity, as Zimmerman illustrated the breathtaking nature of the park in realtime. The finished mural includes iconic park features including beaver, bear, moose, sturgeon, rocky shorelines, and a breathtaking starscape. Rich with symbolism, the painting features 16,866 stars for every day Voyageurs National Park has been open to the public.

"The story of this piece is to celebrate the beauty of the land, water and sky, the animal spirits of the park, while also serving as a reminder to visitors that the park sits on ancestral Anishinaabe and Ojibwe homes and indigenous culture was and is part of the story of the park," says Zimmerman.

Sam Zimmerman, a Grand Portage direct descendant, is a painter, author, and educator based in Duluth, Minnesota. He passionately believes in artistic expression as a gateway for education and cultural understanding. His work continues the Anishinaabe tradition of storytelling, with themes of environmental stewardship and conservation. His work has been showcased in gallery and public installations throughout the nation and abroad.

"The Voyageurs Conservancy was proud to partner with Sam Zimmerman on this project to celebrate and share Ojibwe art, stories, and community. Sam's piece illuminates the beauty of the skies, waters, rocks, wildlife and stories of what is today Voyageurs National Park, lands that were inhabited by Indigenous peoples for over 10,000 years," shared Christina Hausman Rhode, executive director of Voyageurs Conservancy.

Voyageurs Conservancy and the National Park Service thank Sam Zimmerman for using his artistic gift to share a more representative story of what is now Voyageurs National Park. Check Voyageurs. org for future locations and showings of the mural. If you'd like to view more of Zimmerman's work, follow him online on Facebook and Instagram at @ CraneSuperior.

NARRATIVE OF GIIWEDINO-MANIDOOG / SPIRITS OF THE NORTH BY SAM ZIMMERMAN / ZHAAWANOOGIIZHIK

With my first day in the park, being out sailing on the water - I was struck by the richness of the earth, and the life, spirit, and the power of the water. This piece is to celebrate the beauty of the land, water and sky, the animal spirits of the land, while also serving as a reminder to visitors that the park sits



on ancestral Anishinaabe and Ojibwe homes. The Ojibwe constellations serve as this reminder as Ojibwe people have looked up at the stars for a millennium to tell stories. The Ojibwe culture and stories were and continue to be a part of the story of the Voyageur National Park.

OJIBWE LANGUAGE TRANSLATION BY MANDIOO MA'IINGAN

Weshkad imaa gii-niingaasimoonowaan nigiimaaminonendaan wiin iye epiichi-onizhishing iye aki, epiichi-bazhishigendaagok iye bimaadiziwin, naa ge epiichi-mashkaagamig iye sa nibi. Onjida go naa nigii-shizhoobii'aan owe ji-waabanda'amaan iye epiichi-maamakaadendaagokin iye aki, nibi, giizhik, naa go ge igiyeg aadizookaanag, miziwe bago eyaawaad. Boochi igo ji-mikwenda'indwaa igiyeg biiwideg imaa sa Anishinaabewaking bimiayaawag, memindage omaampii jiigibiig. Shke naa ge igiyeg moozhekanag, pane-ko gaa-onjiseg iye bimaadiziwin ogii-kanawaabamigowaan iniyen Anishinaaben. Mii imaa wezi-aadizookeng. Mii apane ingiyeg anishinaabeg ogii-tibaadodaan iye sa aki, biinish igo omaapii Gichi-onigaming.

VOYAGEURS FIELD FELLOWS

Voyageurs Conservancy was proud to support four Field Fellows at the park this summer. These fellows contributed to major conservation initiatives in wetland ecology, fisheries and water quality, and wildlife research. Meet two of our Field Fellows, Ella and Maeve, and learn about their unforgettable field experiences in Voyageurs National Park.

SUPPORT FUTURE FIELD FELLOWS:

The Voyageurs Field Fellows program works to increase accessibility and professional development opportunities at Voyageurs National Park. If you'd like to support future Field Fellows and their important work, please consider a gift with the attached envelope or online at VOYAGEURS.ORG/GIVE



MEET MAEVE TULEY: WOLF ECOLOGY FELLOW

For as long as Maeve Tuley can remember, it's always been about wolves. She developed a fascination for this mysterious wildlife at a young age. Growing up in northern Illinois, Maeve did not live in wolf territory, yet her curiosity grew. This passion led her to pursue a degree in Wildlife Biology from Montana State University where she monitored wolves in the rugged Rocky Mountains. Yet, it would be the northern hardwood forests of the Greater Voyageurs Ecosystem and its elusive wolves that truly captured Maeve's heart.

Maeve served as a Wolf Predation & Research Fellow with the Voyageurs Conservancy and Voyageurs Wolf Project, a research project studying the summer predation and reproductive behavior of wolves. Her research began with collaring wolves early in the season to track their location. From here, Maeve tracked wolves' behavior by hiking through the thick northwoods to investigate "cluster" sites, areas where a wolf has spent an extended period of time. These sites may reveal killed prey, beaver hunting attempts, bed or rendezvous sites, and even wolf pups. Maeve attributed her ability to continue this fieldwork to the support of the Voyageurs Field Fellows program.

"The fellowship supporting me with a stipend, housing, gas, and other supplies to do this extensive fieldwork has been extremely helpful. If I didn't have funding, I don't believe I could return and continue this work so the fellowship has been very helpful for me in the long-term to continue this dream," says Maeve.

Through the fellowship, Maeve will present her research at the International Wolf Symposium, a goal of hers from a young age. Maeve's fieldwork was instrumental for her future. She will be pursuing her Master's degree at Northern Michigan University this winter. Maeve hopes her research not only contributes to the scientific community, but helps improve the public's understanding of these complex creatures:

"To be able to teach people about wolves and hopefully find a better coexistence somehow in the future, just educating about the research we're doing. Even if people don't end up loving wolves, I hope they will develop a better appreciation for them and the land here, because it is so special and wild."

READ ABOUT OUR ENTIRE COHORT OF FIELD FELLOWS AND THEIR SUMMER EXPERIENCES AT VOYAGEURS.ORG/FIELDFELLOWS

MEET ELLA SHIVELY: WETLANDS & WILDLIFE ECOLOGY FELLOW

Ella Shively has studied rare wildlife and water science in a wide variety of landscapes. But walking into a wetland feels like coming home to her.

"My fascination with wetlands began as a child in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where I lived within biking distance of a sprawling marsh that split the city in two. The marsh was a safe space for me, a place where I could crawl out on a soggy log with my notebook and jot down descriptions of the painted turtles basking in the sun," says Ella.

Ella graduated from Northland College with degrees in natural resources and writing. She had never visited Voyageurs before, but its biodiverse ecosystems made the park a perfect fit for her interests. As a Wetland & Wildlife Ecology Field Fellow, Ella contributed to major park research including vegetation surveys on floating cattail mats, setting up bat recording devices, and conducting wetland mammal and loon surveys. Ella also protected the park's waters by operating boat decontamination stations at Kettle Falls, preventing harmful invasive zebra mussels from infesting Kabetogama, Namakan, and Sand Point Lakes.

Ella gained unique skills that set her up for a successful future in natural resources. She became a confident boat driver and studied species unfamiliar to her such as secretive marsh birds. She was grateful to build relationships with other young professionals in the program and grow her professional network. Ella plans to apply these skills to protect our most precious species. She hopes to pursue a graduate degree focusing on endangered wetland species including amphibians, reptiles, and birds:

"I really like the idea of being on that frontline and being a part of a team that's out there saying 'This species might die out in 10 years, but we're going to try to stop that' I think it's very intense, but exciting."



Funding for this project was provided in part by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The Trust Fund is a permanent fund constitutionally established by the citizens of Minnesota to assist in the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.



HOW THE BEAVER SHAPED OUR WORLD

Written by Erik Ditzler, National Park Service



Perhaps the most exclusive social club in Montreal, the Beaver Club was founded in 1785 by the men that long controlled the Montreal fur trade. It is not the founders or members of the club that are important here. It is the name they chose that is significant. Why would some of the richest and most powerful men in the New World name their club after a rodent? If you follow the money, it all tracks back to our industrious friend.

There is no question that the beaver has an outsized role in shaping the environment by building dams and ponds, which create habitat for many other species. Without them, our world would look very different.

It is also true that their fur built an industry that led to the exploration of the North American continent, drove the economy for more than a century, and formed social bonds and political alliances. There were wars fought over access to beaver hunting grounds and trade routes. Some of the largest corporations of the age were founded to harvest the beaver.

The fur trade has been a part of human culture for a very long time. In Europe and Asia, the beaver has been an important resource for that industry perhaps going back to the bronze age. As demand increased, the Eurasian Beaver was harvested almost to extinction and by 1600, populations of the species were critically low. At this time, many of the nations involved in the European fur trade were beginning to arrive on the shores of North America. It was readily apparent that the North American beaver was a suitable substitute for the Eurasian beaver. Although they were a different species, they were nearly identical in one important respect - their fur could be made into high quality felt. This felt in turn, was used to manufacture the popular beaver hat.

The beaver trade established a vast trade network involving many partners on both sides of the Atlantic ocean. Economies of both the new world colonies and the European nations relied on our furry friend the beaver. An open market for European goods in the colonies, and the supply of raw material from the colonies to Europe, helped drive the colonial economy. The introduction of steel tools and gun powder transformed those indigenous societies that controlled the rich hunting and trapping grounds.

In North America, the trapping and trading of beaver quickly shifted economic relationships and political alliances with Indigenous people. There were wars fought over control of the beaver trade.

You may not have heard of the Beaver Wars between the Iroquois Confederation and the Algonquin people allied with the French, but the conflict was important in shaping the power structure of North America. The war lasted for nearly a century, from 1609 to 1701. The victorious Iroquois were able to expand into new hunting grounds and take control of the fur trade from the lower great lakes region nearly to the Atlantic coast. They expanded out of what is now northern New York all the way to the Mississippi river, forcing the relocation or destruction of many other Native groups. The first French soldiers were posted in New France during this conflict to protect trading posts.

Even if you aren't familiar with the Beaver Wars, you may have heard of the French and Indian War. That war, fought between 1754 and 1763, was also caused by a desire to dominate the fur trade in North America and ultimately resulted in France losing all its territory on the continent aside from a couple of islands.

As territory is won through warfare, the beaver trade built a robust global economy. We can follow a beaver pelt through a complex trade network, bringing trade, technology, and societal change as it moves. A beaver may have been trapped by Ojibwe hunters here in the Rainy Lake region, and exchanged for goods such as a musket, iron tools, or a wool blanket. That pelt then would have been transported by brigades of canoe men - the Voyageurs - to Montreal or perhaps a port town on Hudson Bay, to ultimately make it's way to European markets such as London, Paris or Amsterdam.

Once the pelts entered the hatting industries of Europe, some would be sold locally, while others were prepared for export. Traded through colonial networks around the world, hats were exported across the continent and back across the Atlantic to the Americas. We could trace a beaver pelt from Rainy Lake, to England, to Russia via Amsterdam, back to Britain, onto Spain, and then as a finished hat to the colonies in the Americas.

The transportation of beaver pelts required a network of trading posts, ports and a shipping industry that created jobs for canoeists and sailors in addition to all those producing and selling food and equipment to those directly involved in moving the pelts. It is fair to say the economy of this period was in large part reliant on the beaver trade.

Beaver hats may not be as popular today as they once were, but they were considered status symbols for the wealthy, and were a must have for anyone that could afford one. Men of all social classes wore hats regularly, and a fine beaver felt hat may have cost more than two weeks of wages for a tradesman in 18th century London. They were certainly not cheap!

Why was the beaver so key to the fur trade, while other animals did not attract the same attention? Beaver fur is unquestionably the finest raw material for making felt. Beaver felt is tight yet supple. It will hold its shape to a far greater degree under rough wear than felt made from other materials. It felts so tightly that the surface feels almost like leather. For a long while, beaver fur was the only material which would permit the manufacture of a hat with a large and durable brim that would withstand heavy use.

The beaver trade connected the North American and European markets through the supply and demand of one fortuitously fuzzy animal, although the beaver certainly got the short end of that stick.



THE STORY OF US: PROTECTING VOYAGEURS' ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AFTER SUMMER FLOODING



backcountry trails, campsites, homes, and area businesses. Heavy snowpack, late ground thaw, and several high rain events caused devastating flooding in and around Voyageurs National Park. Rainy Lake and the Namakan Lake Basin experienced water levels 22 inches higher than the 2014 flood and broke the previous record set in 1950.

More than a place for recreation, the park preserves a vital story of our human history. Voyageurs holds more than 450 known archaeological sites, with some artifacts dating back as much as 10,500 years. Preserving these sites is critical to honor the cultural heritage of the region, home to the Ojibwe and other Native Peoples whose ancestors lived on and near these waters.

"It was clear that from the start of the flood that archaeology sites and historic buildings were being impacted," says Brian Harmon, Head of Natural and Cultural Resources at Voyageurs National Park with the National Park Service. The waves from the flooding threatened to erode banks where sensitive archaeological sites exist putting them at risk of damage or even washed away.

The first stage in the park's response plan involved creating a list of high priority archaeological sites to monitor. Examples included sites with cut banks that are vulnerable to erosion, pictographs, and areas with notably intact archaeology. From there, the cultural resources team boated out to record impacts on approximately 37 archaeological sites. Historical buildings also received a rapid response, including the Harry Oveson Fish Camp which had sandbags strapped along its exterior to prevent the structure from floating away. Unfortunately, the building still lost one of its iconic green doors.

It is estimated that two-thirds of the park's archaeological sites were covered by water during the flood. Positively, there weren't instances of severe damage that required immediate action. However, many sites experienced erosion resulting in exposed artifacts. Staff will return to these sites to record artifact data and to continue monitoring these vulnerable areas. For the park's historical buildings, damage reports are still being compiled and rehabilitation efforts have begun. These ongoing efforts are critical to preserve the rich history that shaped the park we enjoy today.

"All archaeology is a record of what humans have done. It is our history as a species. Everything that we have accomplished. I think that's a very worthwhile story to preserve," says Harmon.

Unraveling our human history anywhere is a major feat, but in Voyageurs National Park this work is particularly challenging. The park's wet climate quickens decomposition rates and increases foliage growth. Additionally, relative dating is often used by archaeologists to assess the age of an artifact (e.g. objects found deeper in the soil are older than objects found closer to the soil surface.) However, Voyageurs contains a shallow depth of soil above its bedrock, making it difficult to estimate the age of artifacts without radiocarbon dating.

For Brian Harmon, he hopes people walk away with a deeper respect and curiosity for archaeology, "If you care about the story of us, you care about archaeology. And the archaeology of the Border Lakes is little known, compared to many other regions of the United States. There is still a tremendous amount here for us to learn."

HELP PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Voyageurs Conservancy members value the cultural heritage of the region. The Conservancy provides funding for archaeological monitoring efforts, flood response, and historical building rehabilitation. If you'd like to support park projects like this, please consider a gift and join our dedicated supporters who ensure the park is accessible to all, ecologically sound, and remains a site of archaeological significance.

You can support the Conservancy using the attached envelope or online at **VOYAGEURS.ORG/GIVE**



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LULU KULAGA

Louise "Lulu" Kulaga's connection to Voyageurs National Park dates back to the park's earliest days. She began visiting the park with her family in 1975, the same year Voyageurs was officially established as Minnesota's national park.

With over 47 years at the park, Lulu has a wealth of memories that capture the unparalleled Voyageurs experience. Since her first trip at age six, Lulu has spent two weeks on Kabetogama each summer and continues this tradition with her own children. One of her favorite memories includes a bustling family reunion on Kabetogama with 13 grandkids ranging in age from 3 months to 13 years old, 4 dogs, and 14 adults.

"We fished Ash River and Kab, had many bonfires taking in the Northern Lights and meteor showers, hiked Echo Bay Trail with the kids and Locator Lake Trail for the adults," says Lulu.

However, the most memorable moment of the trip occurred when the grandchildren were fishing and caught an unexpected visitor. A family of ducks swam by and took a bite of a leech that was on the end of her niece's fishing line. Carrianne screamed for help as the duck took her leech and flew off into the sky still hooked onto the fishing pole.

"With the help of my husband Brian, Carrianne managed to 'land' the duck. He gently tackled the duck and removed the hook and the leech from its beak. Everyone lived happily ever after," Lulu laughs.

This lesson on teamwork is nothing new for Lulu who has spent her career as a middle school science teacher. Lulu is a spirited educator who understands the value of outdoor classrooms and instilling an appreciation for national parks at an early age. In turn, Lulu is a strong advocate and new volunteer for the Voyageurs Classroom Initiative, a joint program between the Conservancy and the National Park Service that connects students to the park through outdoor, classroom, and virtual programs.

"Students should realize that National Parks are a valuable resource for our country. Teachers can help their students understand and appreciate the importance of our nation's history, culture, and natural resources," says Lulu. "Learning about the parks will encourage students and their families to visit our parks and appreciate all they have to offer."

Lulu regards Voyageurs National Park as "her favorite place in the world" and wants to increase awareness of this special place. This is why Lulu is a Sustaining Member with Voyageurs Conservancy. Her monthly gifts ensure the lands, wildlife, and waters of Voyageurs remain as wild in nature as her first visit in 1975 and grant opportunities for the next generation to become lifelong stewards of our national parks.

"Voyageurs is my second home. I want to help in any way possible to help sustain and improve the park for years to come," Lulu reflects.

BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER

Sustaining members are the bedrock of Voyageurs Conservancy. Through monthly giving, you expand our ability and resources to carry our work. For just \$10 a month, you will restore biodiverse habitat, preserve our starry skies, and support the next generation of park stewards.

Become an sustainer with the attached envelope or online at **VOYAGEURS.ORG/SUSTAINER**

Voyageurs Conservancy 1400 VAN BUREN ST NE #200 - 235 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413

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Front Cover Photo by Mike Treloar Photography

BRING VOYAGEURS TO YOUR CLASSROOM

OCTOBER 2022 - MAY 2023

Teachers, bring the wonder of Voyageurs National Park to your students!

The Voyageurs Classroom offers engaging opportunities for your students to connect to Minnesota's national park through hands-on learning. We offer park-based field experiences and live virtual field trips that bring the natural and cultural wonders of national parks directly to your classroom. Our lesson plans support national and state standards, including the Next Generation Science Standards and Minnesota Social Studies Standards. Schools from across Minnesota and the nation are encouraged to participate!

LEARN MORE & SIGN UP FOR OUR TEACHER NEWSLETTER AT VOYAGEURS.ORG/VOYAGEURS-CLASSROOM

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Voyageurs National Park was established when a passionate group of individuals recognized the need to protect the unparalleled beauty of northern Minnesota. Today, it exists because of supporters like you.

Your gift to the Voyageurs Conservancy supports high priority needs such as land and water conservation, environmental education, historic preservation, wildlife research, and more.

BECOME A MEMBER AND GIVE BACK TO VOYAGEURS AT VOYAGEURS.ORG/GIVE

Pictured: Voyageurs National Park's new tour boat Ne-zho-dain based at the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center. The name translates to 'Twin' or 'Two Hearts' and is named after Chief Ne-zho-dain from the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe