

## Voyageurs Featured Volunteer - Jim McCullough



Each year, volunteers give so much of their time and talent to the park, we decided to feature a different volunteer or volunteer group in each newsletter.

For the past 58 years Jim McCullough has vacationed in Voyageurs National Park. He first started vacationing here with his family in 1951. When he retired, he decided the best way to spend his time was to work here. Jim retired in 2004 and started volunteering at Voyageurs in 2007. He has worked each summer since then at the Ash River Visitor Center staffing the front desk, meeting and greeting visitors, helping them plan their trip, and roving boat launches and trails. Jim is an integral part of the interpretation staff at Voyageurs and has contributed more than 1,200 hours. He says he is trying for 1,500 hours.

When Jim is not at Voyageurs, he lives in Florida and spends much of his time in Chicago with family and friends. Thanks Jim for all your help.

Friends of Voyageurs National Park  
3131 Highway 53  
International Falls, MN 56649



# The Gouvernail

Official Newsletter of the Friends of Voyageurs National Park and Voyageurs National Park Volunteer Program

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### Friends Officers

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### Mission Statement

The Mission of the Friends of Voyageurs National Park is to sponsor outreach that supports natural, historical and educational activities available at Voyageurs National Park.

### Newsletter Title

The voyageurs were French Canadians who traveled in the Rainy Lake Region between the 1600 - 1800s in their North Canoes. In each canoe 5 - 10 men were each given a position to maintain in the canoe.

The Governail was the steersman who helped keep the canoe on the correct path.



## Voyageurs National Park Week Open House

The sixth annual Voyageurs National Park Week Open House was held on April 25, 2009. The park's open house is held each year at the end of National Park Week to celebrate the park and all that it offers and to award children for their artistic impressions of the park in the annual Youth Art Contest.

The open house culminated in an array of family activities and an award presentation at the park's Rainy Lake Visitor Center.

The Friends of Voyageurs National Park sponsored the event, and the co-president of the Friends presented a tree identification activity for the celebration.

The Youth Art Contest encourages children, from preschool to sixth grade, living near one of the park's gateway communities (Koochiching county, Northern St. Louis County, and Fort Francis, Ontario) to enter the contest.

A major goal of the event is to create an awareness of Voyageurs National Park and all that it has to offer. In April, children were invited to submit original pieces of artwork based on the theme "The Boreal Forest - Many Things It Offers."

Artwork is judged by four members from the local community, and first, second, and third place winners are announced. The categories include preschool/ kindergarten, first/second grade, third/fourth grade, and fifth/sixth grade.

The response was overwhelming, with over 220 children entering the contest! All of the artwork submissions were displayed at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center, and over 90 people attended the celebration.

The fifth-and-sixth grade first place winner was also the recipient of a grand prize - the Kids in Parks program. This program started in 2008 and introduces a family to Voyageurs National Park.

Tessa Roux, who attends Falls Elementary School, won the Kids in Parks program. Her family will spend a free weekend in the park, receive a free boat tour and a free North Canoe Voyage and spend time with a park naturalist and a park ranger. In turn Tessa will give back to the park by donating one hour towards a volunteer project. She will also co-present a program about her stay in the park and showcase her artwork at the last Special Speaker Series in August at the Historic Woodenfrog Refectory.

The Friends of Voyageurs National Park look forward to sponsoring the seventh annual Youth Art Contest next spring!



2009 Youth Art Contest winners with Park Superintendent Mike Ward

## Check out the Discovery Packs!

Voyageurs is a water based park with over 218,000 acres, one-third of which is water. To experience the park, visitors must bring their own watercraft or take a naturalist-led watercraft excursion. In 2005, the park completed its Long Range Interpretive Plan, which identified the need for increased land-based activities.

In 2008, to achieve this goal, the interpretive staff at Voyageurs started the development of Discovery Packs. Each Discovery Pack represents an interpretive theme Voyageurs has identified: plants and animals, people, geology, scenery, water, and the voyageurs and the fur trade, with one additional Discovery Pack focusing on winter. These packs are free land-based activities for families or individuals who do not bring a watercraft, who could not afford to take a tour boat excursion, or who just want to experience the park on their own.

Park staff members have completed three Discovery Packs that are currently available for check-out at the park's visitor centers. They are geology, scenery and winter. Check-out a pack today!

The Friends of Voyageurs National Park has helped fund the development of these packs. Thanks Friends!



## The Passing of a Friend

Ray Anderson passed away at his home on Thursday, October 30, 2008. Friends and family filled the Ranier Community Building on Friday, November 14 to celebrate his life. Ray had a passion for the environment and conservation. He and his wife, Ruth, have been long time active members of the Friends of Voyageurs National Park. His lasting legacy for north central Minnesota, including Voyageurs National Park, is his spectacular black and white photography of natural and historical settings and people who lived in the area. A large collection of his work was on display at the November 14th celebration in Ranier. Memorials in celebration of Ray's life may be directed to the Oberholtzer Foundation, c/o Beth Waterhouse, 818 Third Ave., Excelsior, MN 55331.

## The Definition of a Volunteer...

Volunteers are Very Important People who give their time and talent to Voyageurs National Park. What does it mean to be a volunteer at Voyageurs?

- Spending time with and learning about people from other places.
- Learning about the latest natural resource research and helping researchers in the field.
- Teaching people about nature.
- Working with children.
- Helping to maintain cultural sites.
- Assisting people planning their vacation.
- Teaching people about the natural environment of Voyageurs National Park.

In 2008 Voyageurs National Park benefited from the generous donation of time and talent of 92 people who volunteered over 6,500 hours in support of park activities. Volunteers assist with education programs, park research and monitoring, office work, and staffing of visitor centers.

Opportunities to volunteer at the park range from one-day projects to multi-month assignments.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering in the park, contact the park's volunteer coordinator at (218) 283-6670, or visit the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/voya/supportyourpark](http://www.nps.gov/voya/supportyourpark).

What does volunteering at Voyageurs mean to you?



## Where Do Your Donation Dollars Go?

### Skis and Snowshoes

More than five years ago the Friends of Voyageurs National Park purchased snowshoes and children's cross-country skis for use during the winter. This past winter your generous donation to the Friends helped reach more than 1,000 park visitors. This included 500 school aged children who either visited the park or who had park staff visit their classrooms.

If you are interested in using this equipment during the upcoming winter, please call the Rainy Lake Visitors Center for information Wednesday - Sundays at (218) 286-5258 or (888) 381-2873.

### Kettle Falls Hotel Guest Register Reproductions

Frequently, visitors ask to see Kettle Falls Hotel guest registers from years past to look for signatures of family or friends. Voyageurs National Park preserves the original, often fragile, registers in museum storage where they are inaccessible to the public.

Friends of Voyageurs National Park donated over \$1,600 to reproduce and bind guest registers dating from 1915 - 1989. This project made much sought after information available to guests while protecting a valuable historic resource. The new reproductions proudly reside on a bookshelf in the hotel's lobby for all to enjoy.

### Special Speaker Series

Once again the Friends of Voyageurs Park is sponsoring the Summer Special Speaker Series presentations on Fridays from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Historic Woodenfrog State Forest Refectory near Kabetogama Lake. This year's programs began on June 19 and will conclude on August 14. Topics covered will include both natural and cultural aspects of the park as well as human interactions with the area. Up-to-date information for the presentations can be obtained from the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center at (218) 875-2111.

Donations were also given to maintain the children's activity tables at all three visitor centers within the park. These tables are one of the more popular stops for families when they come to the park.

## Volunteer Rendezvous with VNPA

Voyageurs National Park Association (VNPA) organized two successful Volunteer Rendezvous events for volunteers to help Voyageurs National Park meet its conservation and maintenance needs.

Together, the events attracted 58 volunteers who monitored 45 miles of park trails for downed trees and overgrown brush, planted 350 native trees, and removed 700 pounds of non-native plants.

Two groups of young people participated in the fall Rendezvous: students from the University of Minnesota-Crookston Wildlife Society and a group of Boy Scouts from North Dakota who monitored trails.

The Friends of Voyageurs National Park helped VNPA with donations and food during this event.

## Join the Friends of Voyageurs National Park

### Annual Membership Levels

- ( ) \$10 Canoeman
  - ( ) \$20 Gouvernail (steerman)
  - ( ) \$35 Avant (bowman)
  - ( ) \$60 Guide
  - ( ) \$100 - \$499 Commis (clerk)
  - ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_
- (amount)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail donation checks payable to:  
Friends of Voyageurs National Park  
3131 Highway 53  
International Falls, MN 56649

National Parks Foundation Fund  
This fund is another way to support projects at Voyageurs National Park. This investment fund is designated and managed by the National Parks Foundation for larger one-time projects selected by the Friends of VNP on an as needed basis.

( ) Yes, I'd like to make a separate donation to the National Parks Foundation Friends of Voyageurs National Park Fund.

NPF Friends of VNP Fund Donation Amount

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Help Wanted!

The Friends is looking for people to serve on its board. If you are interested please contact Jean Reichow at (218) 875-2804.