

The Return of the Lost Forest

Six years ago, ten North Shore landowners were selected to become Lost Foresters as part of Sugarloaf's Lost Forest initiative. They received 40 hours of Woodland Advisor training, a forest management plan for their property, and help implementing the plan. Because of this project, 300 acres were restored, 300 acres were managed, and over 2000 conifer seedlings were planted.



This was a very successful program for Sugarloaf and the North Shore forest and we wanted it to continue, but funding was hard to come by.

Fast forward to March 2010 when Sugarloaf received a phone call from the Sustain our Great Lakes program reporting that Sugarloaf was one of only 25 projects selected from around the Great Lakes to receive funding for our Lost Forest program!

The Sustain Our Great Lakes program is a public-private partnership coordinated by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and funded by ArcelorMittal, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A Forest Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This year, additional grant funding was provided through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a \$475 million initiative to protect, restore, and enhance the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Sugarloaf will receive \$65,000 to develop forest stewardship plans for 15-20 landowners; provide on-the-ground plan implementation assistance to landowners; and provide 45 hours of woodland stewardship training for participating landowners and other interested



persons. Michael Reichenbach, University of Minnesota Extension Forestry Educator, will lead the training classes. Conservation Corps Minnesota will provide plan implementation assistance to the landowners and a forester will be hired to design the stewardship plans.

If you are a North Shore landowner and are interested in becoming a Lost Forester, contact the Sugarloaf office at 218-525-0001 or send an email to sugarloaf@boreal.org for more information. Help Sugarloaf help you restore the North Shore forest!

SUGARLOAF'S VISION is a healthy Minnesota North Shore of Lake Superior where an informed citizenry takes personal and group responsibility to ensure that natural and ecological systems and human economic and social systems coexist in a fashion sustainable into the future.

Give Sugarloaf a hand.

Share your love of Sugarloaf Cove with visitors from around the world!

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with a variety of tasks including welcoming visitors and gardening. You do not have to commit for the entire summer. It's easy and fun. Short time volunteers are welcome. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Molly at 218-525-0001 or molly@sugarloafnorthshore.org

Bird Watching for Fun and Purpose on the North Shore

By Jan Green

Want to learn more about the birds that breed in northeastern Minnesota and help contribute to conservation efforts in Minnesota? You can do both by becoming a volunteer surveyor for the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA).

The breeding bird atlas is a comprehensive, systematic field survey of the occurrence and distribution of breeding birds. Surveyors record evidence of breeding status for each species observed. Quite simply, a breeding bird atlas is a "snapshot" of all species in a specific region during a specific time period. This snapshot of birds statewide will prove an important baseline for longer term environmental monitoring.

Last year, the first year of this five year project, volunteer surveyors documented 228 species including 188 confirmed breeding species. We are just beginning to see the pictures emerge of current breeding distributions throughout the ecological regions of Minnesota. With each year of the project, we will cover more survey areas so more complete pictures will emerge as new pieces are added to the species distribution puzzle.

Volunteer bird watchers with all levels of experience can contribute. There are many opportunities for you to participate, whether you want to document breeding birds in your backyard, cabin or neighborhood, or survey a Priority Block (one of 2352 nine square mile blocks in each township of the state) in a geographical area of special interest. By participating you can improve your identification and observational skills, learn about bird behavior, explore new birding sites, share your observations via the data management web site, as well as have FUN and contribute to bird conservation.

To learn more, check out www.mnbba.org. This website has multiple layers of information. The best orientation is to start with "About the Atlas" on the



Minnesota BREEDING BIRD ATLAS



sidebar; then "Join the Project" – "Why Volunteer".

For information about a township that you would like to "adopt" for entering bird observations, or just to know more about navigating the website, contact a northeast Minnesota regional coordinator:

Cook County –

Kate Kelnberger
kkelnberger@boreal.org;
218-388-9908 or

Jeremy Ridlbauer
sundew@boreal.org; 218-370-0733

Lake County -

Jim Lind
jslind@frontiernet.net;
218-834-3199 or

Dave Grosshuesch
dgrosshuesch@fs.fed.us;
218-525-7253

South St. Louis County -

Jan Green
jgreen@d.umn.edu; 218-525-5654

For other information contact the Project Coordinator, Bonnie Sample at Audubon Minnesota, 651-739-9332 ext. 20, or bsample@audubon.org.



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Highlights of 2009



2009 Minnesota Conservation Corps crew

- Thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Power Foundation, the trails at the Cove were covered in gravel by Minnesota Conservation Corps crews. The gravel was used to cover roots and other tripping hazards on the trail.
- Reforestation continued at the Cove with the planting of a variety of native trees funded by our Spring Planting donors.
- Alexis Berke, Sugarloaf Cove naturalist, presented daily programs at the Cove. Topics ranged from bird watching to geology. These programs were promoted in the publication, "Sugarloaf Sensations" which was funded in part by a grant from the Coastal Zone Management Act, by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in conjunction with Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program.
- A new entrance sign was installed in the parking lot area. New directional signs for the trail and the building were installed on the beach.
- We received funding from the Lake Superior Coastal program to conduct invasive species informational workshops along the North Shore. This project is currently underway.
- We received funding from the Donald Weesner Foundation for trail upgrades at the Cove. We are using this funding to construct steps on the trail from the building to the Cove and to build a new trail from the parking lot to the building this summer.
- We received \$9000 in funding from the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation. This money was used to fund programs at the Cove, the Learning Cart, and new highway signs.
- The Learning Cart program reached over 6000 people in locations from Duluth to Gooseberry Falls State Park.
- Sugarloaf Cove was featured on Duluth television station, Fox21, in September. You can watch the video on our website.
- The water heater at the Cove was repaired
- Our North Shore Evening fundraiser in the Twin Cities was a great success, thanks to the hard work of volunteers and board members.
- Tom Becken, Dave Vose, and Barb Liukkonen joined the Sugarloaf board of directors.

BECOME A MEMBER !

Benefits for all members:

Subscription to *The Interpreter* newsletter with information about the organization and upcoming programs; 10% discount at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center store; Voting privileges; Newsletter acknowledgement of membership; Satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve and protect Sugarloaf Cove and the North Shore

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

\$100 Benefactor - Additional benefits: 2 complimentary tickets to the summer solstice gathering, a copy of the year's best North Shore interpretive book; invitation to annual North Shore field day and picnic

\$500 Patron - Additional benefits: a copy of the year's best North Shore interpretive book; invitation to annual North Shore field day and picnic

\$250 Sponsor - Additional benefits: invitation to annual North Shore field day and picnic

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\$ 25 Contributor

BUSINESS

\$100 - Newsletter; Free ad in newsletter (2 times per year)

\$250 - Newsletter; Free ad in newsletter (2 times per year)
Free ad on Sugarloaf Web site (1 year)

\$500 - Newsletter; Free ad in newsletter (2 times per year)
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Name displayed on annual Sugarloaf Business Banner

Payment methods:

Online at www.sugarloafnorthshore.org

Or send your payment to:

Sugarloaf, 6008 London Road, Duluth, MN 55804

Association Members

Names listed are for new or renewing memberships received between January 2009 and December 2009.

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Sugarloaf 2009 Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

Business Checking - US Bank	9,419.33
Checking -- Grand Marais Bank	11.85
Cove cash	40.00
Endowment (Schwab)	16,934.81
Savings -- US Bank	32,145.59
Total Checking/Savings	58,551.58
Accounts Receivable	
Grants Receivable	13,340.00
Total Accounts Receivable	13,340.00
Other Current Assets	
Inventory Asset	724.91
Total Other Current Assets	724.91
Total Current Assets	72,616.49

Fixed Assets

Accumulated depreciation	-38,623.01
Building and improvements	183,180.00
Equipment	15,389.00
Land	570,989.00
Total Fixed Assets	730,934.99

Total Assets

803,551.48

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	734.61
Total Accounts Payable	734.61
Other Current Liabilities	
Deferred revenue	32,873.55
Total Other Current Liabilities	32,873.55
Total Current Liabilities	34,608.16

Total Liabilities

34,608.16

Equity

Opening Balance Equity	543.39
Retained Earnings	-6,295.66
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	-3,458.89
Unrestricted Fund Balance	776,957.50
Net Income	2,198.16
Total Equity	769,943.32

Total Liabilities & Equity

803,551.48

2009 Financial Statement (Jan - Dec)

Ordinary Revenue/Expense

Revenues

Contributions	17,905.95
Grants	30,171.65
Interest earned	12.99
Membership Dues	20,888.48
Miscellaneous	134.00
Program Fees	2,400.00
Sales	415.34
Total Revenues	71,928.41
Cost of Goods Sold	116.68

Gross Revenue

71,811.73

Expenses

Advertising	494.00
Bad debt	0.25
Contract Labor	6,411.50
Dues and Subscriptions	364.19
Fundraising	509.51
Grant Expense	1,253.00
Insurance	2,202.00
Internet expenses	746.95
Miscellaneous	254.07
Office Supplies	457.80
Payroll Expenses	40,887.44
Postage and Delivery	1,765.54
Printing and Reproduction	2,081.64
Program Expense	2,807.09
Rent	2,750.00
Retail COGS	12.97
Supplies	25.02
Telephone	1,631.23
Training	5.00
Travel	1,090.23
Visitor's Center Costs	3,864.14
Total Expenses	69,613.57

Net Ordinary Revenue

2,198.16



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(partial listing)

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North Shore News...

Road construction update

This summer, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) is undertaking a large reconstruction and repair project along the I35 corridor in Duluth. There will be lane reductions and closures throughout the summer months starting on May 3. Additionally, London Road traffic will be detoured up to Superior Street at 60th Avenue for reconstruction of the Lester River Bridge. MNDOT is recommending avoiding travel through the area on Friday afternoons. Visit <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/duluthmegaproject/> for more information and updates.

Split Rock River updates

There will be significant changes made to the Split Rock River wayside at milepost 43.2. An underpass is being built that will allow pedestrians and bike riders safe

access from the parking area to the beach and the Gitchi Gammi bike trail. Other improvements will include an informational kiosk, more parking spaces, and erosion control improvements.

New visitor center at Grand Portage State Park

A new 5,800-square-foot visitor center is scheduled to open this summer at Grand Portage State Park. The visitor center will double as a Minnesota Department of Transportation highway rest area and will be fully accessible. The new facility will house travel information as well as an exhibit hall highlighting the culture and traditions of the Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe, on whose land the park is located.

Support Sugarloaf by purchasing trees or wildflowers for the Cove!

Every spring we turn to our supporters to help us with our stewardship efforts at the Cove. This summer, a new trail will be built at the Cove that will take you from the parking lot, through pine trees, across a new bridge and directly to the front of the interpretive building. No longer will you have to walk down the old gravel road. Along this trail will be native trees, wildflowers, and information that will introduce visitors to the uniqueness of the Cove.

This year, as part of our spring fundraiser, your donations will be used to purchase trees and flowers to be planted along this new trail next spring. Donations of \$100 or more will be acknowledged on a special plaque placed along the trail. All donations will help us continue our mission of restoring and protecting the North Shore and will be acknowledged on a plaque in the interpretive center. With your help, Sugarloaf just keeps getting better!

You may select from the following options:

- Naturalist: \$200** - Select either 3 native trees or 6 native wildflowers
- Forester: \$100** - Support one native conifer planted and protected
- Gardener: \$50** - Support native tree plantings
- Planter: \$30** - Support native wildflower plantings

We need your help! Working together, we can continue to restore and preserve the North Shore. Order your trees or wildflowers on our website www.sugarloafnorthshore.com or contact Molly at sugarloaf@boreal.org or 281-525-0001.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 10 AM

Field and Screen – Tips and Techniques for Outdoor Photography - \$5 Call 218-525-0001 for reservations.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 10 AM

Hummingbirds! with author Judy Bridell

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 10 AM – 4 PM

Celebrate *Lake Superior Day* at Sugarloaf Cove

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 10 AM

Field and Screen – Tips and Techniques for Outdoor Photography - \$5 Call 218-525-0001 for reservations.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1 PM

Sugarloaf Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social

- North Shore insects program - TBA
- *Naturalist programs offered Thursdays – Sundays at the Cove.*

See website or sign up for email notices for more programs

The Sugarloaf Interpreter is published semi-annually by Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association. Subscription is a benefit of membership. Single copies available on request. Submissions welcome. Send to molly@sugarloafnorthshore.org. Designer: Wendy Strombeck.

Annual memberships are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Sugarloaf, and mail to the business office at 6008 London Road, Duluth, MN 55804. Memberships are also available through the website at www.sugarloafnorthshore.org. Sugarloaf is an educational, non-profit 501(c)(3) Minnesota Corporation.

membership
APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Sugarloaf in the category I have indicated.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

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