

Interpreter

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS INVITES YOU TO

A North Shore Evening

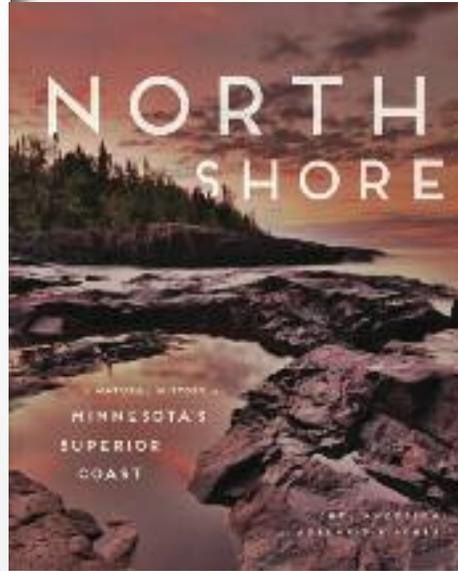
Our annual gathering celebrating the education, preservation and restoration work of Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association

Sunday, November 8, 5 pm – 8 pm

**The Shulman Residence
2400 Pillsbury Avenue South
Minneapolis**

Featuring: **Chel Anderson**, author of "North Shore: A Natural History of Minnesota's Superior Coast"

Enjoy a delicious lasagna supper followed by Chel's talk, "Celebrating the natural beauty and history of the North Shore"



Bid on unique North Shore items and experiences at our **silent auction**.

All funds raised will support Sugarloaf Cove and our ongoing North Shore forest restoration efforts.

Advance ticket sales:

\$55 per person; \$50 members

Ticket sales at the door: \$60

Payment via credit card, check, or cash.

RSVP to Sugarloaf at 218-525-0001 or sugarloaf@boreal.org

OR get your tickets online at sugarloafnorthshore.org

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SUGARLOAF COVE:

9096 Highway 61

Schroeder, MN 55613

(not a mailing address)

218-663-7679

MISSION STATEMENT

Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association strives to inspire the preservation and restoration of the North Shore's unique environment through education and exemplary stewardship, especially at Sugarloaf Cove.

NEW VISION

Sugarloaf values and believes in 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.

Greetings everyone!

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are enjoying our warm fall season. It was a beautiful and busy summer at Sugarloaf Cove, which included many improvements and a wide variety of programs. I hope you had a chance to see the improvements and attend a program or two. We also offered our third Lost Forest program for North Shore landowners and continued our restoration work with our partners in the North Shore Forest Collaborative and the Lake and Cook County Invasives Team. All of these programs and improvements and more are



The scenery was great on our first annual North Shore cruise

described in more detail in this newsletter.

At our annual meeting on August 8, we welcomed new board member David Gredzens and thanked retiring board members Jim Mullin and Tom Becken. After the meeting we took a scenic cruise along the North Shore on the Wenonah. The sun broke out just in time to make the trip spectacular. We hope to make this an annual event and would love to have you join us.

Margie Menzies was back as our naturalist this summer. We were also happy to be able to hire Beth Ruark as a site host for Mondays and Tuesdays. Beth allowed us to be open daily throughout the summer. Programs at the Cove will continue this fall with a geology walk on Fridays at 2 pm, bird banding on Saturday mornings, and a phenology walk on Sundays at 10 am. Watch our website for updates.

Finally, a big round of applause to our volunteers. Thanks to you we were able to offer more programs and greet more people this summer and now into the fall season.

Enjoy your fall and I hope to see you at our North Shore Evening on November 8.

Molly Thompson, Executive Director

Help Preserve the North Shore

Our mission at Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association, is to protect and preserve the North Shore.

You can help us by making a **planned legacy gift** via your estate plan or will. Each year we receive generous gifts from people just like you who care about the North Shore landscape and Sugarloaf Cove. Contact your attorney to make a plan, or contact Sugarloaf for more information on our Long Term Fund and designated gift opportunities.

Help us preserve Sugarloaf Cove and the North Shore landscape.

Meet our newest Director, David Gredzens

An Introduction from David:

This year, my wife and I have resided in Castle Danger, on the Lake, for twenty years. I was born in Hamburg, Germany and came to the United States as a refugee in 1950. Art has been a mainstay for me since the age of six. I studied



painting starting at the age of eleven. I attended the Minneapolis School of Art (now the Minneapolis College of Art & Design). This year it is now 50 years of working in the art and design fields. I have worked as a graphic designer, Illustrator (and architectural illustrator), exhibit designer and photographer during this time. Also, I have given lectures at the architectural school and Southeast Asian studies department at the University of Minnesota. I have served on the Asian Arts Council at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and have produced two exhibitions of Tibetan/Himalayan art.

My exhibit design work has included corporate showrooms, trade show exhibits, museum and interpretive centers. Local projects include The Great Lakes Aquarium, The Welcome Center at Grand Portage, and Sugarloaf Cove. I have designed projects throughout the five state area.

In recent years, photography has also become a passion for me. I have been documenting the rivers of the North Shore and have assembled about 8,000 images just on the rivers and streams. I have also been photographing the Minnesota shoreline, as well as

the Canadian Islands of Lake Superior. This endeavor has taken me to remote locations, as well as familiar sites. It is my love of the natural world that is the driver for this passion.

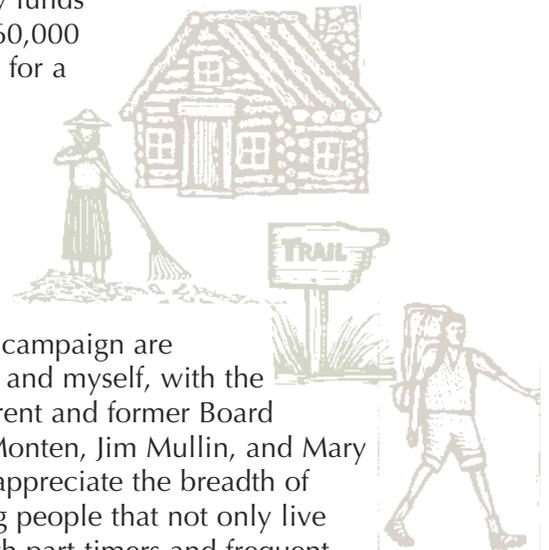


Successful Capital Campaign allows for needed improvements and repairs

by Margit Berg, Capital Campaign Chair

We are in the midst of our first capital campaign and it is clear from the great response thus far from people like you that the current parking lot, trails, and nature center needs will be addressed. Our campaign will continue through the end of 2015 so that those who wait until the end of the year to make their contributions can be a part of it.

Through mid-September there have been 87 donors and pledgers with gifts ranging in size from \$25 to \$6,000. While we appreciate receiving gifts promptly, pledges can be payable over 3 years. Any funds exceeding our \$60,000 goal will provide for a much-needed reworking of the interior of the nature center and other programming improvements.



Leading the campaign are Greg Koschinska and myself, with the assistance of current and former Board members Mike Monten, Jim Mullin, and Mary McDermid. We appreciate the breadth of support including people that not only live on the shore, both part-timers and frequent visitors too. It is already clear that the parking lot improvements have at least doubled the number of people stopping to enjoy Sugarloaf Cove and the summer programming. When the parking lot and signage are complete, the trails and plantings are improved, and the building interior is better designed, we will truly be in a position to better "Invite, Receive, and Educate," the theme of the campaign!

You can send your capital campaign contributions to:

Sugarloaf:
The North Shore Stewardship Association
6008 London Road
Duluth, MN 55804

Or donate online at sugarloafnorthshore.org

Thank you!

Invite, Receive, Educate...

Wonderful Improvements at Sugarloaf Cove

by Russ Baker, Site Committee Chair

Another season, more progress at Sugarloaf. If you visited Sugarloaf this summer, we hope you noticed the continued improvements. It seems our list is long, and



A new sign and donation box near visitor center

no sooner do we finish one task than another improvement need is noticed!

Most notable was the re-grading and shaping of our parking lot. The result is more parking space and sight lines from Highway 61. (This summer we have seen an increase in visitors stopping for their first visit.) By the end of October, work on attractive new

signage and steps to the trail leading from the parking lot will be underway.

New Steps to the Beach. Over the years we have had a series of steps and platforms leading from the building to the beach. Unfortunately these did not provide the safety and accessibility we deemed necessary. Completed in July, the steps and platforms are now safe, stable and attractive too.

Updates to the Building and Trails. Twice the Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) came to Sugarloaf with teams to complete trail improvements and maintenance. They stained the storage shed, picnic tables and benches; built water bars at several places on the trails; and built and replaced "C-Steps" on the trails.

Donation Box and Information Sign. A beautiful new information sign and a donation box were installed in front of the building in July. The sign will help orient visitors and welcome them to Sugarloaf Cove, especially when the building is closed. Since we depend on the donations from our visitors and members, we added the donation box to encourage contributions and memberships. We have already seen increases!

If you have not visited Sugarloaf in a while, take time to visit, walk the trails and observe our improvements. We think you will be pleased. Thank you for your support!

Sugarloaf thanks the following generous funders, donors, and partners:

Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
Apter Family Fund
Elizabeth King Callender Foundation
Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
Cook County Community Fund
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
Biodiversity Fund
Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant program

Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program
Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation
Trillium Family Foundation
USDA Forest Service Superior National Forest
Weekes Family Foundation
Whitney Wheelock Foundation
Sugarloaf Board of Directors and members

Volunteers play an increasing role at Sugarloaf Cove

By Margit Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

With the improved visibility of the Cove because of the parking lot improvements, there has been an increase in visitors. Volunteers have been asked to play an increasing role as both site hosts in the nature center and as bird banding assistants. The number of hours spent by site hosts is estimated to be about 360 hours over the summer season. Bird banding volunteer hours were about 340 hours. Additionally, the Board members have spent many extra hours this year planning the improvements to the property as a result of the capital campaign.

On behalf of the organization I would like to say a huge thank you to the over two dozen men and women who have put in many hours of work to supplement our paid staff. Volunteers will be honored at a luncheon on October 17th that will be held at 12:30 at the Cross River Heritage Center. If you are interested in helping out next season, please contact Molly Thompson, Executive Director, at 218-525-0001 or molly@sugarloafnorthshore.org. There will be orientation sessions next spring so that all volunteers feel comfortable in their roles.

Minnesota Master Naturalist Program at Sugarloaf Graduates 20+ In Its Third Year

By Caleb Frostman, Master Naturalist graduate

Heavy clouds and intermittent sunshine on their final day of class provided an appropriate metaphor for the mixed emotions of this year's crop of Minnesota Master Naturalist candidates at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center. May 9th marked the culmination of a 6-session course in which a diverse group of inquisitive, knowledge-seeking, service-minded Minnesotans from across the state gathered every other Saturday for 12 weeks to learn more about the North Woods Great Lakes biome and become official stewards of the natural landscape.

The newly minted Master Naturalists did not don caps and gowns for the final session, but as was the case every week of class, plenty of fleece, Gore-Tex, and hiking boots were proudly worn by both students and instructors; high quality cameras were draped over shoulders; weathered coffee mugs were clutched, sipped, and refilled; and binoculars were peered through as participants searched the Nature Center grounds for warblers and waxwings.

Continued on next page

Sugarloaf thanks the following business members for their generous support:

Bluefin Bay, Tofte, MN; 1-800-BLUEFIN (258-3346); www.bluefinbay.com

Integrated Compensations Systems, Inc., St. Paul, MN; 651-451-3206; www.icomppayroll.com

Lambs Resort, Schroeder, MN; 218-663-7292; www.lambsresort.com

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Lutsen Mountains, Lutsen, MN; 218-663-7281; www.lutsen.com

Lutsen Resort, Lutsen, MN; 218-663-7212; www.lutsenresort.com

North Shore Federal Credit Union, Silver Bay, MN; 218-226-4401; www.northshorefcu.org

Sawbill Canoe Outfitters, Tofte, MN; 218-663-7150; www.sawbill.com

Temperance Liquors, Inc., Schroeder, MN; 218-663-0111

Minnesota Master Naturalist Program

Continued from previous page

This year's group of Naturalist candidates was as rich in diversity as the biota they studied. The class of more than 20 students was split fairly evenly among men and women, with participants ranging in age from recent college graduates in their early 20s up to those enjoying retirement. Geographically, the Naturalists converged on Sugarloaf for the



Master Naturalist Class of 2015

biweekly programs from both directions on the Shore (from Grand Marais down to Duluth), many added the class to cabin weekends traveling from the Twin Cities, and students' cities and towns of origin are scattered across the entire continental U.S. Professions represented among this year's graduates included everything from nurse anesthetist to lawyer-turned-family-therapist; bankers to pilots; limnologists to emergency dispatch operators; multiple published writers and a handful of active retirees. Interests drawing participants to the course varied widely, as well: Professional wildlife photographers, hunters, gardeners, journal keepers, backcountry campers, and hikers called the Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center their Saturday home throughout the duration of the course.

The curriculum itself, through in-class teachings and assigned readings, covered a wide range of topics including lakes and

limnology, ice formations, weather patterns, geology, invasive species, flora, fauna, phenology, birds, insects, lichens, and more. Highlights from the spring session at Sugarloaf included beautiful seasonal weather at almost every session, incredible ice formations in the cove for the first three meetings of the course, engaging expert guest speakers, finding wolf tracks on the premises, and making fast friendships.

In order to achieve the designation of Minnesota Master Naturalist, participants were required to complete a capstone project, expected to take at least 10 hours. Some students worked independently; others formed groups of up to three to collaborate on their final project. Capstones covered a wide swath of topics and disciplines, including creating a poster describing the fungi life cycle, an animal tracking game for school children, frog call recording and cataloging, bird banding data analysis, and other citizen science projects.

Although the group's heterogeneity resulted in spirited and engaging classroom discussion, the Naturalist candidates also recognized and appreciated the many qualities they shared. This year's Naturalists were collectively inquisitive, service-minded, explorative, collaborative, and hungry for knowledge (and the occasional pan of rhubarb bars brought to class!). Brief but meaningful new friendships were formed during group breakout sessions, capstone preparations, nature walks, carpooling to and from class, and via email correspondence between the in-person sessions. After celebratory graduation cake, goodbyes at 5:00 on the last day of class were typically Minnesotan: Longer than necessary and friendly.

With final projects submitted and presented, the graduates' commitment is far from over. In order to maintain the Master Naturalist designation, graduates must perform at least 40 hours of outdoors service work and complete 8 hours of advanced training annually. This can be done at Sugarloaf Cove, any public nature area, or in one's own backyard.

If the volume of laughter, cooperative spirit, quantity and velocity of hands raised, and number and depth of questions asked over the past 12 weeks are any indicator, the burgeoning enthusiasm of this year's Master Naturalist class bodes well for the future of natural stewardship in the state of Minnesota and beyond.



Summer Highlights 2015

By Margie Menzies, Naturalist

So my fifth summer as the naturalist at Sugarloaf Cove has come and gone, and as usual flown by all too quickly. Hard to believe that so much time has passed, and yet much has happened in these five years, and Sugarloaf continues to grow in all sorts of ways. The work on enlarging and reorganizing the parking lot and the moving of the sign a little closer to the highway at Sugarloaf has resulted in a lot more visitors finding Sugarloaf for the first time this summer. The rough count of visitors done every day shows nearly twice as many visitors as last year at this time.

The summer season started out dry this year with the pump at the bottom of the hill dry instead of flowing as is usually does late spring into midsummer. But later in June the pump resumed its normal overflowing habits and ran until the end of July or so this summer. July was dry, but August caught us up a bit.

And speaking of flowing water, I am delighted to say that a long term erosion issue has been laid to rest. Historically, every time it rained, a river ran down the driveway, past the visitor's center and straight down to the lake, eroding the driveway and trail as it went. Thanks to the CCM leadership crews and board members Greg Koschinska, his Bobcat, and Russ Baker, we have solved the problem by raising the driveway on one side and channeling the water toward the creek side, and by buiding waterbars to channel the water away from the trail. Hooray for progress on that front!

Early this summer, we installed a weather station at Sugarloaf, which has been on my wish list for quite a while. We can now tell you temperature, wind speed and direction, percent humidity, barometric pressure and trends, rainfall amounts and daily highs and lows, among other pieces of weather information. It is a wonderful addition to the nature center and it definitely keeps us up to speed on the ever changing weather of the North Shore of Lake Superior.

This summer, I was greeted as usual by the resident Whip-poor-wills and their nocturnal serenade. This year they seemed to stay further away than they have in the past, though they do always move around a fair bit through the summer until suddenly toward late

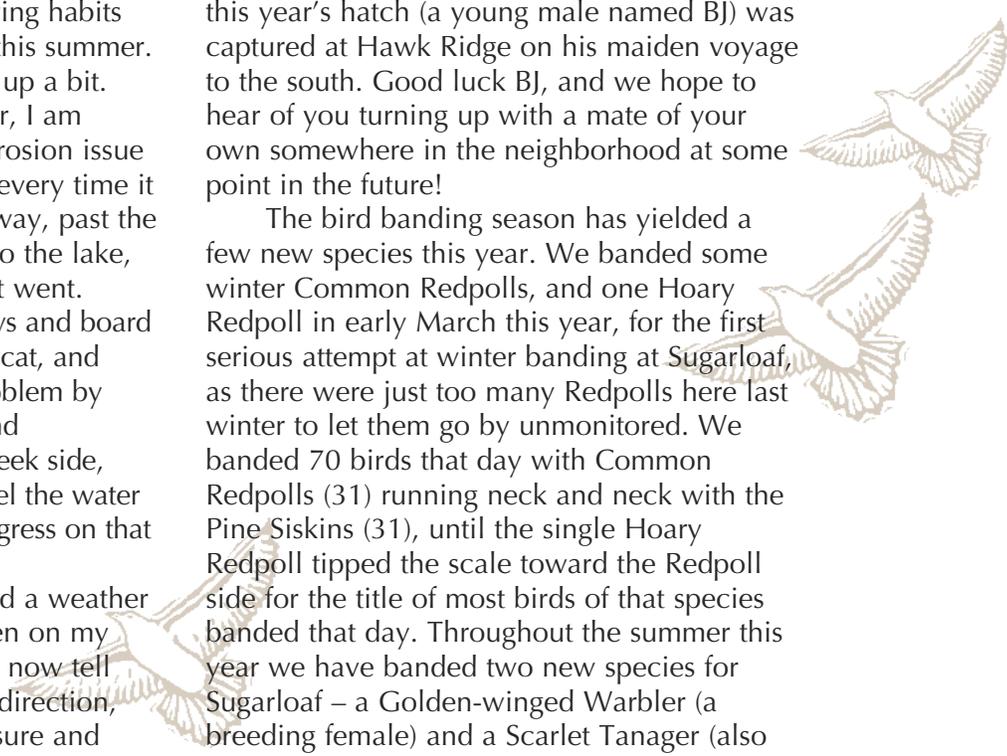
July we hear them no more because their breeding season is over and males are no longer defending territories or attempting to attract mates. In other bird news, the resident Peregrine Falcons successfully raised a brood of 4 this summer, and the calls of multiple Peregrines again rang in the air over

Sugarloaf all summer. They were banded by Jackie Fallon and the Midwest Peregrine Society research crew on the 12th of June this summer. On Thursday, September 3rd, one of this year's hatch (a young male named BJ) was captured at Hawk Ridge on his maiden voyage to the south. Good luck BJ, and we hope to hear of you turning up with a mate of your own somewhere in the neighborhood at some point in the future!

The bird banding season has yielded a few new species this year. We banded some winter Common Redpolls, and one Hoary Redpoll in early March this year, for the first serious attempt at winter banding at Sugarloaf, as there were just too many Redpolls here last winter to let them go by unmonitored. We banded 70 birds that day with Common Redpolls (31) running neck and neck with the Pine Siskins (31), until the single Hoary Redpoll tipped the scale toward the Redpoll side for the title of most birds of that species banded that day. Throughout the summer this year we have banded two new species for Sugarloaf – a Golden-winged Warbler (a breeding female) and a Scarlet Tanager (also female). This year was also a banner year for Cedar Waxwings. In the first three years from 2012-2014 we caught a total of 24. Thus far in the 2015 season alone we have captured and banded 24, doubling our banded population of Cedar Waxwings. Interestingly enough, although they have been here all summer and many young have been seen feeding on Mountain Ash berries near the visitor's center, we have yet to catch any of this year's hatch. Guess we will have to wait and see what the



Guest speaker Joe Walewski and Sugarloaf Naturalist Margie Menzies lead a walk at Sugarloaf Cove for a Photo Phenology program. Photo by Phil Hartley



Continued on page 9

North Shore Forest Stewardship Updates

LOST FOREST PROGRAM A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Sugarloaf's third round of the Lost Forest program took place this spring and summer. We had 26 participants representing 16 North Shore properties. Property sizes range from



*Lost Forest class of 2015.
Photo by Michael Reichenbach*

less than an acre to almost 300 acres for a total of over 800 acres affected by this program.

Michael Reichenbach, University of Minnesota Extension Associate Professor, led the classes which included topics such as tree identification, invasive plants and animals, North

Shore wildlife, and chainsaw safety. This year our first three classes took place at Bunker Hills Regional Park and were webcast to Sugarloaf Cove and some of the participants. We then spent three weekends together this summer on the North Shore. This year we added tours of each participant's property to the schedule. Although each property was unique, from rocky shoreline to maple forests, many of the concerns and challenges of the landowners were similar. These on-the-ground tours offered a hands-on approach to learning that was very popular. During the tours Mike offered restoration recommendations and encouragement. All in all, it was another terrific program with wonderful participants. We hope to be able to offer another round of classes next summer. This year's program was funded in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act, by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in cooperation with Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program.

CCIT + LCIT = AIT

The Cook and Lake County Invasives Teams have had a busy summer of outreach and education events, invasive plant removal

and more. In Cook County, a grant from the MN DNR's Coastal Program funded a series of workshops focusing on different aspects of invasive species control and prevention. During one workshop on shoreline restoration, attendees got their hands dirty restoring an eroded stream bank where invasive plants were removed and native species were planted.

This summer the Cook County Invasives Team (CCIT) offered three wildflower walks to look at native and non-native plants at the Temperance and Cascade rivers and Sweetheart's Bluff. And, in a joint project, the MN Department of Transportation and CCIT worked together to treat populations of Dalmatian toadflax in Cook County. Dalmatian toadflax is listed as a restricted noxious weed on the MN Department of Agriculture's eradicate list meaning that landowners are legally required to eradicate it from their property. This is the only species on the eradicate list known to be in Cook County.

In Lake County, the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) trapped rusty crayfish and held crayfish boils at the Two Harbors and Finland farmers markets to raise awareness about aquatic invasive species. The Lake County Invasives Team and Finland Youth Night participants controlled common tansy and spotted knapweed at the Finland Community Center. Also this summer, Minnesota Conservation Corps crews working for the Lake County SWCD treated large infestations of Japanese barberry and Japanese knotweed in Two Harbors. These two species are not widespread in the Arrowhead region and are high priorities for control.



Volunteers pulling spotted knapweed.

The Sugarloaf Community Forest Restoration Shed had a successful second year. Fifteen people completed the training which focused on invasive plant identification and control, as well as how to safely and effectively apply herbicides. After the training,

participants were able to borrow equipment and use herbicides from the shed. This year trainees treated common tansy, Canada thistle, bull thistle and spotted knapweed on their own properties.

Find out more about these and other invasive species activities in the Minnesota Arrowhead on the website, arrowheadinvasives.org.

NORTH SHORE FOREST COLLABORATIVE MOVING FORWARD

The North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC) has had another busy and successful year moving forward with restoration along the North Shore. This spring, the Collaborative's strategic plan was completed and is now available on the NSFC website – northshoreforest.org. It identifies goals, strategies and projects for the Collaborative.

The Collaborative is also moving ahead with our largest project so far – a \$400,000 grant from the state's Conservation Partners Legacy fund. During the summer, the Forest Service planted 2,250 white pine seedlings and 900 red oak seedlings. All trees planted were fenced to protect them from deer browsing. At Cascade River State Park, 41 acres of white pine seedlings were planted and fenced. And at Sugarloaf Cove, the area in front of the building was cleared and treated twice for invasive plants. A light prescribed burn took place late in the summer. Planting will take place this fall.

An especially important goal of the Collaborative is to find ways to assist private landowners. This summer, two NSFC partners, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), were selected to receive federal funds to hire a forest restoration coordinator. The coordinator will spend half of their time helping private landowners with their restoration efforts and the other half assisting the Forest Service with their restoration efforts. The NSFC through Sugarloaf has also applied for funding from a private family foundation to make deer exclosure material and planting assistance available to private landowners at a reduced cost.

The next general meeting of the NSFC is scheduled for Thursday, October 29. The time, agenda and location will be announced on the NSFC website – northshoreforest.org. Everyone is invited!



Summer Highlights 2015

Continued from page 7

rest of the season brings to get the complete story.

The little meadow outside the visitors center has been a topic of conversation this summer, as we have started a restoration project there aiming for a future meadow of native wildflowers and grasses to replace the former invasive grass species, hawkweed, birdsfoot trefoil, and overgrown raspberries of the past. It has been an interesting process to watch, beginning with herbicide treatment in late spring to kill all of the undesirable plants, followed by a controlled burn, a plowing under through the summer, and a final herbicide treatment administered on the 9th of September. Yet this fall there will be seeds and plugs planted to begin the process of native plants returning as the dominant species once again. This too will be very interesting to watch, I can hardly wait for next spring to see what comes up. Stay tuned for future updates on the progress of the native meadow.

As always, it has been an amazing summer at Sugarloaf and I am once again grateful to have been a part of the Sugarloaf story for another season. Keep your eyes on the website for fall and winter programming, as well as registration for the winter/spring 2016 Master Naturalist class, and many more wonderful opportunities through the year at Sugarloaf. There is always much to see, and much to learn no matter when you visit Sugarloaf. Many thanks too to all the volunteers who help with so much of what makes Sugarloaf the amazing place that it is on the North Shore of Lake Superior.

Don't forget Sugarloaf!

November 12, 2015

 **TO THE MAX**
give **DAY**

Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association

6008 London Road
Duluth, MN 55804



upcoming events

NOVEMBER 8, 5 PM

A North Shore Evening in the Twin Cities; See the front cover for more information

Watch our website or join our email list for dates and times of our upcoming programs.

www.sugarloafnorthshore.org

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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 _____

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- \$ 25 White Spruce
- \$ 50 Balsam Fir
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- \$ 500 White Cedar
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- \$ _____ Other

New Renew

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THANK YOU!