Walking the Talk

It’s true….partnerships can make a big difference, especially when it comes to finding funds to restore the North Shore forest.

Sugarloaf, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the USDA Forest Service - Superior National Forest, has been awarded a $400,000 Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for reforestation work on the North Shore of Lake Superior. The funds will be used for work in the Spruce Creek and Cascade River watersheds and at Sugarloaf Cove.

Work at Sugarloaf Cove will focus on invasive plant removal and replanting of native species. The Forest Service and the DNR have specific plans for their sites, which include planting trees in the forest understory, site preparation, seedling protection, and invasive plant removal. Restoration work will start this spring.

All three organizations participating in the grant are members of the North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC), a coordinated effort between local, state, tribal, and federal land management agencies, private and non-profit organizations and individuals to revitalize and maintain a healthy forest environment on the North Shore by restoring and maintaining native trees and associated forest communities. Collaborative members work together to identify locations where restoration is needed, develop projects, and pursue funding for doing the work.

Sugarloaf is very excited about the opportunity to work with partners on projects to restore a healthy forest at multiple locations along the North Shore. We hope to leverage these funds with other grant funding to expand our restoration efforts to private landowners.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Annual Member Meeting and Ice Cream Social
August 9, 2014, 1 pm

You are invited to help us celebrate another successful year of North Shore stewardship at our annual Ice Cream Social and membership meeting, Saturday, August 9.

The activities start at 1 pm with a short general membership meeting during which you will meet our staff and board members and learn how Sugarloaf is making a difference along the North Shore. Ice cream sundaes are next on the agenda, followed by a talk about North Shore streams. We’ll end the day with a chance for you to learn water quality monitoring techniques and maybe get your feet a little wet!

FREE. You do not need to be a member to attend.
It looks like Spring/Summer is starting to take shape on the North Shore... Big Lake ice is finally melting, rivers are flowing at full strength, the snow is retreating, and Sugarloaf Cove is starting to come alive! It is setting up as another great summer at the Cove. Margie Menzies continues as our Naturalist this year. She and Molly have put together another great season of activities, including both happenings at the Cove as well as other activities up and down the Shore. You will find many of those activities listed elsewhere in this newsletter as well as in email notices and on our website.

The Board of Directors met at the Cove on Saturday, May 17, 2014 and spent a portion of the day after the meeting “sprucing up” the grounds and trails to get ready for the season. Board members John Wytanis and Russ Baker organized the cleanup both on May 17 and on the previous Saturday. Enthusiastic volunteer John Bathke joined them.

Speaking of “volunteers”, past board member Margit Berg has taken on the exceptionally important role of Volunteer Coordinator for Sugarloaf. In this role she is building a list of folks interested in working at the Cove to greet visitors, help organize and conduct programs, and all sorts of duties that will allow visitors to have a pleasant and informative experience. As I mentioned, she is building this list and plans to hold several training sessions in the coming weeks, so anyone interested in volunteering can contact Margit at margit.berg7@gmail.com.

Also, keep in mind the Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social scheduled for Saturday, August 9th. Again, at that meeting, we will be electing members to the Board of Directors. If anyone has an interest in serving on the Board or has a name to suggest, please let the Chair of the nominating committee, Jim Mullin, jamesa.mullin@gmail.com, know of your suggestion.

Have a Great Summer and hope to see you at the Cove!

3rd Annual North Shore Landowners Workshop

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2014 12:00 - 4:30
WOLF RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER, FINLAND, MN

Are you wondering what you can do about the dying birch in your woods?

Are you looking for assistance planting trees or controlling invasive plants?

Do you want to borrow equipment to plant trees or control invasive plants?

Would you like to sit down with a professional and discuss your plans for your property?

Whatever your interest or size of your property, join the North Shore Forest Collaborative for an educational and fun workshop designed specifically for private landowners on the North Shore.

This event is free and everyone with an interest in the North Shore forest is invited. To view the agenda and register, visit sugarloafnorthshore.org or call 218-525-0001.
Sugarloaf Forest Stewardship Updates

CCIT Update
by Angelique Edgerton, CCIT Coordinator

The Cook County Invasives Team (CCIT), of which Sugarloaf is a founding member, has had a busy winter, and is gearing up for an active field season. The CCIT has been involved in a number of education-based awareness campaigns, including giving monthly talks on WTIP North Shore Community Radio, working with afterschool kids’ groups at the Cook County YMCA and Grand Portage Community Center, leading in-school activities at Birch Grove Elementary, and presenting to the West End Garden Club. Additionally, the CCIT helped host a Forest Pest First Detector training in Grand Marais, and presented to the 2014 cohort of Master Naturalists at Sugarloaf Cove.

This summer, the CCIT will bring a Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) crew up to Cook County to treat invasive plants in local gravel pits. The crew will work for two weeks to help reduce plants like Canada thistle and spotted knapweed. A CCM crew will also be helping with a community tansy removal day at Schroeder.

Another big project this summer will be the opening of the community forest restoration shed at Sugarloaf Cove. (See related article below). Sugarloaf will also host an “Invasive Blitz” training provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on June 27. That training will be open to the public, and will emphasize regional invasive plant identification and methods for control.

Lastly, good news for Lake County landowners and residents….a Lake County Invasive Team is forming. Thanks to the success of the Cook County Invasive Team and funding from the US Forest Service, the battle against invasives in Lake County will now be a collaborative effort of agencies, private landowners, and organizations including Sugarloaf.

For any questions on the CCIT, invasive species identification and control, or to report a new invasive species, please contact CCIT coordinator Angelique Edgerton at (218) 387-3772 or aedgerton@sugarloafnorthshore.org.

Calling all Invasive Species Warriors!

Are you a weekend invasive species warrior but lack the tools and knowledge to win your battle?
Would you like to plant a few trees but don’t have the tools readily available?
This summer, Sugarloaf is coming to your rescue!

Sugarloaf is opening a community forest restoration shed in June from which you can check out and borrow tools that can be used to help with your forest restoration efforts. The shed will be located at Sugarloaf Cove, and will include handsaws, brush loppers, and spades, as well as backpack sprayers, handheld sprayers, and sponge applicators for herbicide application. Additionally, there will be herbicides available without charge provided you participate in a custom-designed training on herbicide selection and use. A training schedule will be posted on our website soon. To minimize accidents, all mixing, loading, and storage will be done at Sugarloaf Cove according to protocols developed in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the University of Minnesota Extension.

The shed was developed in response to local landowners reporting that invasive species control and management was difficult due to lack of access to herbicides and application equipment. The shed will address those difficulties by providing those resources. This is part of Sugarloaf’s effort to protect and restore native vegetation and ecosystems along the North Shore of Lake Superior. For more information, contact Angelique Edgerton at 218-387-3772 or aedgerton@sugarloafnorthshore.org.
What Can We Do About All of Those Dead Birch Trees?
An offer from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

By Gail Bong, NRCS

Age, ice storms, deer browse, and disease have all taken their toll on not just the birch trees, but all of the trees along the north shore of Lake Superior. Spring is a good time to replace those dead and dying trees.

Landowners planting trees should aim for diversity in their planting plans as a hedge against continued loss to disease and invasive species, and to cushion the effects of a changing climate. Diversity also offers food and cover to a wider range of wildlife. Using native tree species assures that the tree is adapted to the soils of the North Shore and the wide range of weather that occurs there. Planting trees into an area where a dead tree has created an opening on the forest floor may help slow the spread of invasive species that often take advantage of the additional sunlight in these areas, too.

Native conifer species best suited for the shoreline include white pine, red pine, jack pine, white spruce, and white cedar. Deciduous trees suitable for the North Shore include White birch, and Red or Sugar maple. Appropriate shrubs include Juneberry, Mountain maple, Beaked hazelnut, Highbush Cranberry and Ninebark.

Before trees are planted the site should be prepared by removing competing vegetation. Plant the tree at the same depth as it was in the nursery. Place a minimum three-foot weed barrier (think heavy landscape fabric) on the ground beneath the tree, and finally, all trees and shrubs will need to be protected against browse. Fences should be used around conifers and either fences or vented tree tubes around deciduous trees and shrubs.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field staff are available to give technical assistance addressing resource concerns on your land, and some cost reimbursement may be available for eligible land and landowners. Please call the NRCS field office in Duluth at 218-720-5209 x 3 with questions about your land or to schedule a site visit.

Meet the new NSFC coordinator - Duane Lula

The role of a coordinator is important to the operation of the North Shore Forest Collaborative. During 2013, we were fortunate to have Julie O’Leary as the coordinator. She helped move the NSFC forward by securing grants and keeping us organized. Julie has since accepted a position with the University of Wisconsin and is doing well.

This year, with funding from the Duluth Superior Area Foundation and the Lake Superior Coastal Program, Duane Lula is our new coordinator. Duane is a resident of Cloquet with a background in natural resources planning and recreation. He has a B.S. degree in Forest Resources Management from Purdue University.

Most recently, he served as a Senior Planner with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission where he worked with local governments and organizations on recreation, tourism, and natural resource projects. Prior to that, as a Byway Specialist at the America’s Byways Resource Center in Duluth, he provided training, technical assistance and facilitation services to state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, community organizations and others involved in the National Scenic Byways Program. Most of his professional career (35 years) was with the US Forest Service in fields of natural resource management and planning. His experience and knowledge are a great addition to the Collaborative.
Cove Updates

Volunteers Help Extend Hospitality at the Cove
By Margit Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers were instrumental in welcoming people to Sugarloaf Cove last summer and we’re enthusiastically anticipating their help again this summer. There will be two identical training sessions at the Cove, one on Saturday, May 24th and one on Friday, May 30th, both from 10:00 to 1:00, to prepare volunteers for the job of site host.

Site hosts augment the work of our naturalist, Margie Menzies. They greet and engage with visitors on her days off and when she is busy bird banding, preparing for and teaching classes. Many of our volunteers are those who have taken the Master Naturalist class at Sugarloaf Cove, but you do not need to be a Master Naturalist to volunteer. Volunteers are also needed to help with trail maintenance, tree planting/tending, and the management of invasive species.

If you are interested in volunteering in one of these ways, you can either complete a volunteer application on the web site (www.sugarloafnorthshore.org) or contact Margit Berg, Volunteer Coordinator, at 612-377-4776 or margit.berg7@gmail.com. She will answer your questions and sign you up for one of the volunteer trainings. Scheduling is done according to individual needs—there is no expectation that you have a set time every week or month as we know schedules vary.

Visitors to the Cove are very enthusiastic about the site and it is a joy to share it with them!

2014 Master Naturalist Volunteer Class

Sugarloaf was pleased to offer our second Master Naturalist Volunteer training program this winter, taught by Margie Menzies. Classes began in early March rather than the end of February due to one of the many big snowstorms we’ve had this year. But, we were off and running in early March.

Again, this year, we had a great time with another group of 15 intrepid explorers, from areas all over the state. We had a number of Twin Cities residents, folks from Knife River, Two Harbors, Silver Bay, Finland, and on up the shore to Grand Marais, and the Gunflint. Every time we met, we gave each other updates of what new features we had seen as spring inches its way north. Of course, reactions to spring news from the south got looks of wonder and groans of envy from those who live further north and were just starting to see these events. A tried and true tradition in the Northland!

This year’s class graduated on May 10 and brought our number of Sugarloaf Trained Master Naturalists to 35! Many of these graduates in the past have gone on to continue involvement at Sugarloaf as incredible volunteers, and it looks like the trend is likely to continue this year!

Thanks to all our Master Naturalist participants - we have loved adding you to the Sugarloaf family. And to those of you who haven’t had the opportunity yet to be involved in one of these classes keep your eyes open for other opportunities coming up. We will also be offering a number of additional trainings at Sugarloaf this summer - anyone can sign up for these! See the list below.

Introduction to Bird Banding May 31 and June 1
Vernal Pools and Master Naturalist Reunion June 14
Invasive Species Blitz June 27
North Shore Geology July 26 and 27
## Association Members

Names listed are for new and renewing memberships received between January 2013 and December 2013. We apologize for any omission or errors.

### WHITE PINE ($1000+)
- Jane Bratager
- Jerry Meigs
- William and Judy Walter

### WHITE CEDAR ($500+)
- Tom and Kay Becken
- Margit and Tom Berg
- Julie Brunner and Dale Ulrich
- Allen and Kathleen Lenzmeier
- Anne McKinsey
- William Miller and Stephanie Hemphill
- Jim and Fran Mullin
- Tim Wilson and Amy Andersen

### RED PINE ($250+)
- Julian and Jamie Andersen
- Anonymous
- Russell Baker
- Eric and Denise Blomquist
- Darrell and Mary Ellen Cash
- John and Elizabeth Driscoll
- Patricia Holmes in honor of Margie and Marv Fabyanske
- Greg and Coralyn Koschinska
- Tammy and Mark Magney
- Mary and Mark Maher
- Rosanne and Michael Monten
- Mary Jo Roberts
- Glen and Darlene Scott
- Dr. Michael and Deann Sutley
- David A. Vose
- Paul and Joan Fuchs
- David and Rosemary Good
- John and Janet Green
- Peter and Carol Harris
- Steve Hedman
- Wayne and Nora Hornicek
- Alan and Christie Ingram
- in memory of Donald O. Ingram
- Tom Jordan
- Martin and Esther Kellogg
- Skip and Linda Lamb
- Barb and Robert Liukkonen
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- Steven Lukas
- Gary Mahaffey
- Charles Matsch
- Bill and Judith McGann
- Dave McNeeley Jr.
- Margaret Meier
- Pat Micheletti
- Stephen Nazian and Kathy Swensden
- Roger and Margaret Nelson
- Vicki and Michael Neus
- Lisa Nilles and Mark Halvorson
- Sallie O’Brien
- Dr. Rita O’Connell
- Larry and Linda Olson
- Maren Olson
- Judith Oyler
- David and Andrea Peterson
- in memory of Colleen Peterson
- John and Elizabeth Reichert
- Julian K Rupert
- John Saxhaug and Lyn Rabinovitch
- Tom and Anne Schapman
- Dick and Ella Slade
- Julie Snow
- Steve and Suzi Stedman
- Ben and Mary Stephens
- Jane Sweet
- Robert and Pat Tammen
- Jim Waldo and Wendy Strombeck
- Ann Ward
- Jonathan and Sarah Wilshurst
- Fred and El Winston
- Medora Woods
- John and Margita Wytanis
- Stephen Yurek

### TAMARACK ($100+)
- Verna Alt
- Evan and Nancy Anderson
- Anonymous
- Mary Kay Arthur
- Warren Banks
- John Bathke
- Cynthia and Steve Betzler
- Robert Callery
- David and Denise Carlson
- Meredith Cornett and Ethan Perry
- Jenny Delfs
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- Paul and Liz Diethelm
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- M K Volk
- Rosemary Welch
- Kenneth and Donna Wielinski
- Carolyn and Gary Wilhelm
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- Joanne Alt and Richard Starr
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- H. Michael Casper
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- Debra Crane-Lance
- Mollie Dean

### WHITE SPURCE (under $50)
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- Anonymous
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- Fred and Mary Sue Brass
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- Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
- Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
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- Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program
- Minnesota and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
- MN DNR – Scientific and Natural Areas program

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A special thank you to all of our volunteers. We really appreciate your donation of time and talents. You are a vital part of Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association. **THANK YOU!**

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

**Loll Designs**, Duluth, MN; 877-740-3387; www.lolldesigns.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

**Schroeder Baking Company**, Schroeder, MN; 218-663-7331

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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.
Two new ways to support Sugarloaf Cove and North Shore Forest Restoration

Become a Sustaining Member
Simply your support of Sugarloaf by becoming a Sustaining Member.
Sustaining members make a convenient, ongoing monthly contribution, which means less mail, no renewal notices, and uninterrupted status as a Sugarloaf member. Your donation will be withdrawn monthly from your bank account or charged to your credit or debit card until you contact us to make a change.
Enjoy the satisfaction of knowing your monthly donation gives Sugarloaf the security of a steady, reliable stream of income. Visit sugarloafnorthshore.org or call 218-525-0001 to get started or for more information.

Donate your Vehicle to Sugarloaf
When you donate a vehicle to benefit Sugarloaf, you turn your car into forest restoration work along the North Shore, educational programs for you and your family, and continued improvements at Sugarloaf Cove.
Donating your vehicle is fast and easy. Just complete the online form on our website and your vehicle is towed away free of charge. You will receive a hassle-free tax deduction and your gift helps support Sugarloaf. It’s a win-win!
Visit sugarloafnorthshore.org and click on the Donate a Vehicle link in the right column.

Thank you!

upcoming events

May 24    Bird Banding for Everyone, 7 am - noon
May 31 & June 1  Introduction to Bird Banding workshop, *pre-registration required*
June 8    Bird banding at Sugarloaf Cove, 7 am - noon
June 13   North Shore Landowners meeting at Wolf Ridge ELC, 12:30 - 4 pm
June 14   Vernal Pools workshop
June 15 & 19  Bird banding at Sugarloaf Cove, 7 am - noon
June 21   Mysterious Mushrooms
June 26   Bird banding at Sugarloaf Cove, 7 am - noon
June 27   Invasive Blitz, *pre-registration required*
June 28   Photography Workshop, noon - 4 pm, *pre-registration required*
July 5    Temporary Rock Sculptures
July 12   History of the Cross River
July 19   Talking Sky - Ojibwe Constellations
July 26 & 27  Geology of the North Shore, *pre-registration required*
August 9  Annual member meeting and Ice Cream Social, 1 pm
August 16  Lake Superior Astronomy
August 23  Writing Wild: Stories from Sugarloaf Cove, *pre-registration required*
August 30  In the Field with Botanist Chel Anderson

SUMMER PROGRAMS BEGINNING JULY 3

Thursdays  Bird banding demonstration, 7 am - noon
Fridays    Various events – watch website for details
Saturdays  Guest speakers, 10 am unless otherwise noted; 2 pm Geology Walk
Sundays    Naturally Superior, 12:30

See sugarloafnorthshore.org for complete descriptions, registration, and updates.
Please enroll me as a member of Sugarloaf in the category I have indicated.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY           STATE           ZIP

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SUGARLOAF
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Duluth, MN  55804
sugarloaf@boreal.org

THANK YOU!