Throughout the evening, you can bid on unique North Shore experiences and items through our silent auction.

All funds raised will support Sugarloaf’s ongoing North Shore forest restoration efforts and educational programs.

Cost: $45 per person
Payment via credit card, check, or cash.

RSVP: sugarloaf@boreal.org or 281-525-0001
Or preregister online at www.sugarloafnorthshore.org
DIRECTOR’S NOTES
Molly Thompson, Executive Director

Greetings Sugarloaf members!

Recently, Sugarloaf updated our strategic plan and one of the objectives is “To visibly increase North Shore landowner stewardship activities.” My experiences and conversations with landowners and managers this summer tells me that we are well underway in meeting this objective. For example, I cannot tell you how many times I had people at meetings say to me, “I’ve heard of Sugarloaf and all the great work you are doing with landowners along the North Shore.” Whether it is through our participation in the North Shore Forest Collaborative and the Cook County Invasive Team (CCIT) or through our many landowner workshops and public programs at Sugarloaf Cove, recognition of Sugarloaf is growing by leaps and bounds. We are especially grateful for your support.

With that said, we have a lot to report in this issue of the Interpreter. Angelique Edgerton, the CCIT coordinator, reports on her busy summer working providing landowner workshops and conducting volunteer community weed pulls. Our naturalist, Margie Menzies, has two updates: one about summer programs at the Cove and another fascinating article about her bird banding activities. She has discovered that the Cove is a hot spot for bird migration along the North Shore. We also have membership survey results from Michael Monten; a report on the annual meeting from board president Greg Koschinska; an introduction to our new board members by Mary McDermid; and a request for your help spreading the news about Sugarloaf through social media by Dave Carlson.

Finally, I would like to extend a special thank you to all of our new and returning volunteers this summer. Thanks to the new Master Naturalists and to Margit Berg, our volunteer program really grew this summer and among many other improvements, allowed us to keep the building open on Margie’s days off. You can find out more about how you can get involved in the volunteer report by Margit Berg.

Have a great fall and I hope to see you in the Twin Cities on November 3!

2013 Annual Meeting

The 2013 Sugarloaf Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social was held at the Cove on Saturday, August 10th. We were blessed with great weather and had really nice attendance. The meeting kicked off at 1 pm with a brief update on Cove happenings from both the board president Greg Koschinska and Executive Director Molly Thompson. They gave a brief update on the status of happenings at Sugarloaf, including a focus on improving the entry off the highway, parking lot improvements, and enhancements to the trail system. Greg also highlighted and complimented Molly and Margie on the quality of this summer’s programs. Election of board of director members for three-year terms included re-election of Skip Lamb, Jerry Meigs, Dave Vose, and Dale Ulrich. Newly elected to the board were local residents/property owners Russ Baker, Anne McKinsey, and John Wytanis. Following the elections we enjoyed ice cream and a great presentation by Cindy Hagley from Minnesota Sea
Grant talking about water quality and Lake Superior.

We also said good-bye (“sort of”) to retiring long-term board member Margit Berg. Margit has served on the Sugarloaf board since 2003, including terms as President, Secretary, various committee chairs, plus almost any other role or responsibility you can name. We say good-bye, only sort of, as Margit has agreed to take on a special role of enlarging our base of volunteers and coordinating their volunteer activities. As we grow and the number of visitors to the Cove continues to increase, it is ever more important to make sure someone is there to greet and assist people. Our naturalist, Margie Menzies, cannot always be on site due to her other commitments plus Cove activities not held on-site. So we say a big THANK YOU to Margit for all she has done in the past and a second thank you for agreeing to spearhead this important role.

Meet the newest Sugarloaf Directors

The Board of Directors of Sugarloaf: the North Shore Stewardship Association is very pleased to welcome newly elected board members Russ Baker, Anne McKinsey, and John Wytanis. New members were elected at the annual meeting held on Saturday, August 10, 2013.

Russ Baker
EDEN PRAIRIE

Russ Baker’s memories and connection to the North Shore began fifty years ago when his family traveled Highway 61 from Iowa to Lac Des Milles Lacs, Ontario for fishing vacations and visiting family in Schroeder. In 2002, he secured his own spot on the shore just two miles from Sugarloaf. Russ calls Sugarloaf “One of the North Shore’s jewels.”

Anne McKinsey
LUTSEN

Anne McKinsey’s connection to the North Shore is about 27 years in the making, first as a vacation homeowner and now as her principal residence since retiring. She enjoys all that the area has to offer from hiking, biking, kayaking, and canoeing to skiing, snowshoeing and being in the woods. She served 12 years on the Superior Hiking Trail Association board of directors—two terms as President. Presently she is serving on the boards of the North House Folk School and the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association. Anne states, “I am a long-time supporter of, and frequent visitor to, Sugarloaf and recently completed the first Master Naturalist Program given at Sugarloaf.”

John Wytanis
TOFTE

John Wytanis’ connection to the North Shore began in 2005. He recently retired from the USDA Forest Service after serving as the District Ranger for the Tofte Ranger District on the Superior National Forest and among other areas and states over his past 38 years in forestry management. John continues to enjoy all things outdoors, dabbling in a little diving, fishing, fly tying, and some home brewing. John resides in Tofte, just up from Sugarloaf and the lake.
Cook County Invasive Team Update
by Angelique Edgerton, CCIT coordinator

At the beginning of June, I took over from Mike Lynch as the coordinator for the Cook County Invasive Team (CCIT) – right as the field season kicked into high gear. Since then, the CCIT has been involved in a number of projects, including community-wide invasive plant removal days, hosting a Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) crew that worked to remove invasive plants from private properties, educational workshops, and a number of other smaller projects.

One highly invasive plant and prohibited noxious weed in Minnesota is common tansy. The communities of Schroeder and Hovland, independently, held workdays to remove tansy from their public community areas. On August 8, community members from the Schroeder and Tofte areas turned out to work side by side with the CCM crew, pulling and digging up tansy from the welcome wells and rights of way along Highway 61. The community day saw 19 community members join the eight CCM crew members, bringing the total volunteer hours to just over 136 and resulting in 5.5 “heaping” truckloads of tansy that were removed. The community plans to continue monitoring and removing the tansy with the assistance of the community members who helped and with the action of the West End Garden Club. The tansy removal project in Hovland was equally successful, with all tansy patches surrounding the Hovland Town Hall removed. As in Schroeder, the community will continue monitoring the area for future recurrences.

The CCM crew that assisted in the Schroeder community day was sponsored by Sugarloaf: the North Shore Stewardship Association, through funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. They arrived on August 5, and worked through August 15, and helped eradicate invasive plants from private properties along the North Shore. The crew served a total of 18 landowners over more than 75 hours. Common species they helped eliminate included Canada thistle, bull thistle, and tansy.

In addition to actually removing invasive plants, the CCIT has been actively engaging the Cook County community in a number of educational workshops. The CCIT, the University of Minnesota Extension, and Sugarloaf teamed up to host five workshops about invasive plant control and tree planting along the North Shore. The workshops were made possible through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, and co-hosted with groups or agencies such as the Flute Reed Partnership and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The workshops covered invasive plant identification and eradication methods, different chemical control and application methods, and techniques for tree planting. The sessions included outdoor components during which attendees had the opportunity to try different tools such as backpack sprayers, and to learn how to calibrate them for appropriate chemical use. Attendees were primarily local landowners interested in maintaining their properties, and most left with the goal of learning more about chemical treatment techniques and methods.

During this past summer, the CCIT also participated in a number of smaller activities
working with communities along the North Shore. The CCIT teamed up again this year with Minnesota Sea Grant to participate in raising public awareness in northeastern Minnesota by hosting booths at various events and festivals, reaching over 1,000 total visitors. Additionally, we helped coordinate and participated in four community-wide invasive plant removal days: two in Grand Marais, one in Schroeder, and one in Hovland. Approximately 29 bags (39 gallons) of spotted knapweed and tansy were removed by 10 volunteers over 21 total volunteer hours.

Although the field season is coming a close, the CCIT is as busy as ever, with a number of projects on the horizon. In early September, the CCIT plans to work with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Grand Marais to finish this year’s spotted knapweed removal in the empty lot along Highway 61. Additionally, the CCIT plans to work with 10th grade science classes at the Cook County High School to remove Siberian pea shrub from the school grounds, and to maintain a site of previous shrub removal and subsequent tree planting. Finally, the CCIT will work with youth at the Grand Marais library and with gardeners in the West End to raise awareness about different invasive species through different educational programs.

Sugarloaf Surveys Members and Visitors
By Michael Monten

During the spring of 2013, Sugarloaf launched an online survey, to which more than 70 present and recently lapsed Sugarloaf members responded. Among the insights gathered from responses were:

Respondents overwhelmingly play back and support Sugarloaf’s North Shore stewardship and Sugarloaf Cove site management and protection missions as key reasons for their membership.

These people feel well informed about Sugarloaf organization news and events.

Educational programming was often cited as a benefit, but most respondents do not attend frequently.

Appreciation for public access to North Shore lakefront in a natural setting without fee was often cited.

Respondents asked for more and better signage and way finding, from the approaches off the highway, to trail signs and trail map accessibility.

Respondents also asked for earlier and more frequent notice of events and programming – “save the date” notifications.

The survey results will be helpful to staff and board. Among this sample group, our members are by-and-large very happy with Sugarloaf’s mission, programming, and day-to-day operations. The information we received will help give direction and priority to the many tasks that make our Sugarloaf organization successful.

In the spring 2014 newsletter we will report results of a site visitor survey just completed. From July through September, staff and volunteers asked visitors to complete a four-question survey to gather information on how and why the guest arrived at Sugarloaf, what they enjoyed most, and any suggestions they might have to improve their experience at the Cove. Most of these visitors are not members and as a result, we expect to gain a larger perspective on public reaction to our nature center, grounds, and larger stewardship missions.
Summer Program Highlights 2013

by Margie Menzies

Another beautiful summer at Sugarloaf Cove has come to a close as usual all too quickly. It was a cool and wet summer well into July this year. The resident Peregrine Falcons (same two as last year) hatched and fledged two chicks this year, a male and a female. In contrast to last year when we saw them regularly, I have yet to see one this year. Occasionally I will hear one, but no sightings, however, plenty of sightings of gull and other bird remains on the shore at Sugarloaf verifying that they are definitely still out there. Some things stay the same and other things change.

It’s been a funny year, with normal seasonal happenings a bit scrambled, some desperately late, some right on time and some things just didn’t seem to happen at all this year. The raspberry crop is almost not there and very late; Juneberries are still ripening on the trees here at the Cove and it is the first day of September as I write this! Large mushrooms came early in mid-July then a dry spell shrank the mushroom crop back to their usual underground filaments. Early spring flowers bloomed alongside late summer flowers. But nature still seems to have an amazing ability to cope and continue as best it can.

Program wise, we took many great Friday hikes, did a lot of Geology, and banded lots of birds (see other article about birds) as well as hosting a great array of guest speakers on Saturdays. This year we graduated the first Master Naturalist class at Sugarloaf— a wonderful group of 20 enthusiastic and stalwart folks, capable of dealing with whatever the weather sent us—which was plenty of snow adventures. Many of these new Master Naturalists have become amazing volunteers through the summer. Between all the Master Naturalist volunteers, many board members and other area residents were able to staff the Visitor Center most of the Mondays and Tuesdays (my normal days off) through the summer, and they also provided support staffing the Visitor Center during hikes, geology explorations and bird banding. Hooray for fabulous volunteers and for Margit Berg and Anne McKinsey for being the main organizers and schedulers!

Along with the Master Naturalist class, we also hosted two advanced training workshops for anyone who was interested. I had wonderful groups for both two-day workshops— Introduction to Bird Banding, and North Shore Geology Exploration. We will definitely be looking at another Master Naturalist class in winter/spring of 2014, and more advanced training offerings to all. Keep your eyes on the Sugarloaf website and sign up to receive program notices electronically to stay up to date on what’s happening up here. There’s always lots to see and do at Sugarloaf Cove. And thanks to all of you visitors, volunteers, speakers for another great summer season at Sugarloaf.

2013 Summer Bird Banding Very Successful

By Margie Menzies

This is the second year of bird banding at Sugarloaf Cove. We got an earlier start this year and were up and running May 25 and have banded once weekly for 16 sessions so far. We also received two grants this year to expand the banding program with some needed supplies and equipment. The grants came from the Minnesota Ornithological Union and the Biodiversity Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.

As September 7, 2013, we have captured 655 birds, banded 529 birds, and recaptured 126 birds (some birds on multiple occasions!). So far this season we have captured and banded six new species for Sugarloaf: Connecticut Warbler (!), Black and White Warbler, Canada Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Eastern Wood Peewee. The total number of species caught at Sugarloaf over the last two years stands at 59. All sorts of interesting birds use Sugarloaf as a stopping point during fall migration, so we are eagerly waiting to see what September and October bring this year. Following is a chart that compares May - August in 2012, to May - August 2013.
An operation like this requires a lot of people effort. Many thanks to my intrepid bird buddies who routinely keep time with the birds: arriving pre-dawn and remaining until the last bird is successfully released to the world to help us learn more about these amazing animals. Thanks to: Carol Tveekrem, Dave Grosshuesch, Finn Garry, Grace Glick, and Rita Ryan for all your efforts in keeping the operation running smoothly!

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

Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
Apter Family Fund
Arrowhead Electric Cooperative Community Trust
Conservation Corps Minnesota
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
Cook County Community Fund
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation Biodiversity Fund
Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
Mike Reichenbach – University of Minnesota Extension
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partners Legacy Grant program
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Scientific and Natural Area Program
Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program
Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union
Minnesota Power Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s ‘Sustain our Great Lakes’ program
Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation
Trillium Family Foundation
USDA Forest Service Superior National Forest
Sugarloaf Board of Directors and members
A SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS
By Margit Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers have always been key to the work at Sugarloaf Cove, but the organization of volunteers has always been done in a rather “catch-as-catch-can” way. However, this spring, a more formal program was instituted. The new Master Naturalists, who our naturalist Margie Menzies trained at the Cove last winter, formed a nucleus of the program, as they all need to provide 30 volunteer service hours each year as part of the program. Other current and former Board members, as well as residents of the greater North Shore community, were recruited by myself, Margit Berg, with assistance from Anne McKinsey, new Board member. Anne and I developed a Volunteer Manual to guide people in their duties.

Volunteers serve in three key ways:

1) Host visitors in the Nature Center when Margie either has a day off, is banding birds, or leading a class or hike;

2) Help with maintenance of the trails and recently planted trees; and

3) Help with banding birds.

Site hosts have told of meeting some very interesting visitors from all over the world and how appreciative the visitors are for the chance to spend some time in such a peaceful site. The bird banding volunteers were up early, starting around 6:00 or 7:00 am, helping Margie with her banding efforts. See Margie’s bird banding article for their fantastic results and the list of her volunteers. Trail maintenance volunteers trimmed the trails and helped with other outdoors projects.

There was some exceptionally difficult volunteer work in connection with thinning the pine plantations at the Cove. This winter and spring, crews from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota cut the trees down and hauled about half to the parking lot with the help of volunteers John Bathke and John Wy tanis. Then volunteers Greg Koschinska, Mike Monten, John Bathke, John Wy tanis and a contracted crew finished this tough job.

Special thanks go to all of them.

Volunteers will be feted at a brunch at the Bergs this fall at which time they can get a chance to meet each other and provide feedback on their experiences. Twenty-eight individuals served in some capacity over the past four months.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for Sugarloaf, please contact Molly Thompson (sugarloaf@boreal.org or 218-525-0001) and she will put you in touch with Margit or Anne. You will be asked to complete an application form where you can indicate the types of volunteer jobs in which you are interested. Then you can schedule yourself through our new on-line sign up site or by contacting Margit or Anne.

Thank you to this year’s volunteers:

Mary Aijala
Russ Baker
John Bathke
Margit Berg
Dave Carlson
David DeLong
Karen Dingle
Marty Duschscher
Finn Gary
Grace Glick
Dave Grosshuesch
Greg Koschinska
Glenn Hambleton
Donna Hambleton
Skip Lamb
Barb Liukkonen
Mark Magney
Mary McDermid
Anne McKinsey
Todd Mestad
Mike Monten
Jim Mullin
Joan Peterson
Rita Ryan
Helen Sievers
Ella Slade
Dory Spence
Karen Tschida
Carol Tveekram
Dale Ulrich
Ann Ward
John Wy tanis
Sugarloaf: the Social Network
by Dave Carlson

How do you use the Sugarloaf website and Facebook Page? Do you share the news, events calendar, and program announcements with your own social network, online and in-person? If you do, thank you. If not, I hope you start soon. Social networking supports community and organizational development. Sugarloaf would like to double our individual and business membership numbers, and get more friends actively involved as volunteers. To do this we need to utilize all avenues of communication including social media.

Facebook is one type of social media that can really help Sugarloaf spread the word about our projects and the beauty of Sugarloaf Cove. I notice the number of people viewing the Sugarloaf Facebook page doubles within a few minutes when I post a photo or comment about Sugarloaf. If I type a few words, and paste a link to the Sugarloaf website, some of my 400+ Facebook friends respond immediately.

You can start spreading the Sugarloaf message by saving and sharing the following links. If you own a hospitality business on the North Shore, please print and display the Events Calendar and program notices. Tell your customers that Sugarloaf Cove is near milepost 73 on the west end of Cook County.

Events Calendar
http://www.sugarloafnorthshore.org/calendar.php

How to Find Sugarloaf Cove
http://www.sugarloafnorthshore.org/directions.php

The Sugarloaf Facebook Page

Thanks for spreading the Sugarloaf message.

Cove Updates

The logging of the pine plantations at the Cove is complete thanks to the hard work of volunteers, CCM crews, and a few contractors. A special thank you to Jan Bernu, our forester, who managed to do the nearly impossible and find a buyer for the logs. We are very thankful to Hedstroms Lumber of Grand Marais for agreeing to purchase the logs. It is hard to sell timber from such a small cut as ours, but Howard Hedstrom was willing to help us out.

We would also like to extend a large thank you to the hardy volunteers that got the logs out of the woods –

John Bathke, Greg Koschinska, Mike Monten, and John Wytanis.

The parking lot project at the Cove continues. This summer, Sam Parker surveyed the parking lot. Our next step is for LHB engineering firm to prepare working drawings. From these drawings, we will decide on our next steps.

If you dropped by the visitor center during August, you may have noticed that our front door was out of service. Unfortunately the lock had jammed. Fortunately, we were aware of ongoing problems with the door and a new door was on its way. The new door was installed on September 18. Board member Mark Magney donated the installation services. Mark also worked with the manufacturer to design the door and took the reins on getting this project complete. Thank you very much Mark.

Bad Vesicular Verse—a renga
by Wayne Hornicek,
Advanced Geology workshop participant

Sifting for flints, rifts,
Taking gabbro for granite:
Of quartz we had fun!

Here basalt, there diabase,
O magnificent agates!
fall/winter events

BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Saturdays, September through October; 7 am - noon, come any time

OCTOBER 12, 10 AM
Field and Screen– Secrets of Great Outdoor Photography– $5 per person

NOVEMBER 3, 5 PM
A North Shore Evening in the Twin Cities; See the front cover for more information

NOVEMBER 9, 7 PM (note time)
Peregrine Falcons– Fastest Birds on Earth; Featuring a live peregrine falcon

Watch our website or join our email list (via website) for dates and times of our upcoming programs. www.sugarloafnorthshore.org

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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.

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

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- $ 25 Contributing
- $ 50 Supporting
- $ 100 Sustaining
- $ 250 Sponsor
- $ 500 Patron
- $ 1000 Benefactor
- $ _____ Other

New Renew

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THANK YOU!

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