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

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

Cost: $50 per person
Payment via credit card, check, or cash.

RSVP: sugarloaf@boreal.org or 218-525-0001
Or preregister online at www.sugarloafnorthshore.org
The 2014 Sugarloaf Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social was held at the Cove on Saturday August 9. President of the Board, Greg Koschinska, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The agenda was reviewed and the minutes from the 2013 annual meeting were approved.

President Koschinska reported that the parking lot improvement project is moving along and on target with the timeline. The building has been power washed and will soon be stained and new gutters for the building will soon be installed. Trail marker number 6 will soon have new stairs to the lakeside to improve safety. Lastly, a new bench in honor of the family of board member, Mike Monten, will soon be placed near Trail marker #6. (Update: As of October 14, all of these projects are completed.)

Greg also reported on Sugarloaf’s forest stewardship and educational efforts. We continue our participation in the North Shore Forest Collaborative and Cook County Invasive Team. The invasive species training for North Shore landowners is underway and North Shore Landowners are using the community shed.

Educational programs this year included Bird Banding, Geological programming, the second Master Naturalist Program that helped feed into our volunteer pool here at Sugarloaf, and a variety of water, plant, and watershed programs.

Molly Thompson, Executive Director, then thanked Margie Menzies, naturalist at Sugarloaf Cove, for her hard work. She also thanked the corps of volunteers that helped to host during the summer months and provided labor for the building improvements.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Tombolo Award to Margit Berg, a longtime member of Sugarloaf’s Board of Directors. The Tombolo Award is presented periodically to an individual or organization who has significantly contributed to the Sugarloaf mission.

Greg wrapped up the meeting by thanking retiring board members William Miller, David Carlson, and TJ Yokum. The unanimous election of new and returning board members– Jim Mullin, Greg Koschinska, Mark Magney, John Bathke, James Comstock, Karen Dingle, Jan Ellingson, Todd Krynski, and Julie Magney– followed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. at which time there was an ice cream social and a program on Lake Superior Streams.

Recorded by Mary McDermid, Secretary
Here we are again already looking back and thinking about the summer in the past tense seemingly before I’ve even come up for air. How does it always go by so fast? But fly by it does. Early season this year was as usual cool, and wet, and this year seemed exceptionally foggy. I joked that the City of Duluth averages 52 foggy days a year, but it must surely be more like a 75 day average for the North Shore and all 23 of the extra days are in June!

Early season also saw lots of snowshoe hare sightings, which seemed to peter out by the end of the summer. Have not seen one in quite a while. This does not sound like a happy ending story for the hares—but also saw no evidence of predation linked to the hares—so maybe they just got better at hiding by the end of the summer! Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) spent time at Sugarloaf this summer several times. We hosted the leadership training for 2 days in early June, where they completed two new trail segments for us—the connection of the main trail to the trail down to the Nature center from the parking lot, and also creating an upland trail along the lake shore for easy access to the next section of trail toward Sugarloaf Creek. Both are fabulous and getting lots of use. CCM also spent serious time on invasive species removal both in the area as well as at Sugarloaf. On site a CCM team spent one and a half days pulling thistle! Many thanks to CCM!

Early in the season, we also had a visit from a US Fish and Wildlife team from Marquette, Michigan tasked with electroshocking fish in rivers and streams around Lake Superior for larval sea lamprey. They didn’t expect to find any at Sugarloaf, and didn’t, definitely good news for the lake and Sugarloaf. And speaking of good news for the lake, the water levels in Lake Superior are currently higher than they have been since 1996, nearly 20 years ago! Lots of larger rocks that I’m used to seeing on the shore at Sugarloaf are underwater this year. Current water level is at 183.71 meters, it was 183.78 meters in September of 1996, and the all-time record high was 183.89 meters in November of 1985.

This spring, we graduated a second class of 15 Master Naturalists, many of whom joined our dedicated corps of volunteers at Sugarloaf. Once again this summer, volunteers effectively covered my days off, so the Visitor’s Center was open 7 days a week through the summer, as well as helping me with big events and staffing during my out of building program responsibilities, as well as working on a wide array of projects for the Nature Center. Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers and Margit Berg for coordinating their efforts. Volunteers we are so much better because you are here!

WiFi arrived at Sugarloaf this summer, and with it the ability to make credit card sales for programming fees, and bookstore items, not to mention making it lots easier to access good information quickly for programming needs, as well as visitor questions!! Hooray for technology.

We have had, as usual, a wonderful assortment of guest speakers and many geology and bird banding sessions through the summer (see bird banding summary article on page 8). We had a few unusual wildlife sighting as well. A Northern Mockingbird made a visit to Sugarloaf on May 26, Memorial Day. It didn’t stick around—but definitely created some interest. This year also saw a wonderful influx of Blackburnian Warblers as breeding pairs at Sugarloaf—their song was a common sound through mid-summer.

A young bear cub made its presence known on the 5th and 6th of September. The first sign was the tipped bird feeder on the 5th of September. The feeder was restocked and righted only to be tipped over again on the morning of the 6th. We were hosting Plein Air painters from the Grand Marais Arts Colony week long Plein Air workshop. Many painters and other visitors were treated to sightings of the bear calmly sitting under the bird feeder eating its spoils. I spent a fair amount of time running the cub off so that painters felt safe to progress down the path to the beach. See picture from Sept. 6th.

Life is always interesting at Sugarloaf Cove. Join us when you can for Master Naturalist training, or other courses, regular programs, guest speakers, or just to enjoy the sights and sounds of Sugarloaf. Hope to see you soon, and thanks for another wonderful Sugarloaf Summer.
Spiffing up Sugarloaf Cove  
By Russ Baker, Chair, Building and Grounds Committee

Have you visited Sugarloaf Cove recently and noticed changes to the Nature Center and the Trail? If you haven’t visited recently, you will be pleasantly surprised...thanks to the efforts of numerous volunteers, contractors and the Conservation Corps of Minnesota.

With guidance from Molly Thompson and Margie Menzies, in June a team from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota re-routed the trail. The new trail begins in parking lot and heads toward the lake with a junction for options to hike the trail or cross the bridge toward the Nature Center.

During August we enhanced Point #6 on the trail...one of the more scenic spots on the trail. Using a memorial donation, we built steps for easy access to the ledge rock overlooking the Cove, and now you can relax on the new, beautiful memorial bench.

After 14 years, the Nature Center Building needed a “renewal”. In July volunteers pressure washed the entire building to prep for re-staining, which was completed in early September. We are indebted to our hard-working volunteers! In addition, we installed gutters on the north side of the roof during August and expect several other repairs to be finished later this fall.

The most significant and noticeable improvement to Sugarloaf is scheduled to begin in late October. Over the past two years we have developed plans to re-build the parking lot, in order to accommodate more vehicles/visitors, increase visibility from Hwy 61, and attract first-time visitors to Sugarloaf. We have approved the contractor and grading will begin this fall.

If you haven’t visited Sugarloaf lately, stop by to see and enjoy our changes.

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

Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation  Scienctic and Natural Area Program
Apter Family Fund Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program
Elizabeth King Callender Foundation Minnesota Power
Conservation Corps Minnesota National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s ‘Sustain our Great Lakes’ program
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation
Cook County Community Fund Trillium Family Foundation
Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation USDA Forest Service Superior National Forest
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Whitney Wheelock Foundation
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant program Sugarloaf Board of Directors and members
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Volunteers Key to Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center!

For the second year, an organized volunteer program helped extend the open hours of the Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center as well as provide the time for Margie Menzies, our naturalist, to plan and carry-out programs including the very important banding of birds.

Volunteers also provided the leadership and the hard work of cleaning up the grounds and power washing and staining the building. In total more than 600 hours were donated by 31 volunteers who came from the Twin Cities and the entire North Shore. Those who logged hours and deserve our thanks are:


There are additional Board members who helped above and beyond Board meetings to contribute to maintenance efforts.

Volunteers were honored at a luncheon on October 10th. There will be a training session offered in May for continuing and new volunteers. If you would like to be a part of this esteemed group, please contact Margit Berg, Volunteer Coordinator, at margit.berg7@gmail.com or 612-377-4776. She can explain to you the scope of the job and the flexibility that we are able to offer in terms of hours of commitment.

Sugarloaf thanks the following business members for their generous support:

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


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

Lutsen Resort, Lutsen, MN; 218-663-7212; www.lutenresort.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
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 John Bathke, James Comstock, Karen Dingle, Jan Ellingson, Todd Krynski and Julie Magney.

New members were elected at the annual meeting held on Saturday, August 9, 2014.

John Bathke
ST. PAUL, MN

John was born and raised in St. Paul, MN. He has been married for 43 years to his wife, Sue. John is a licensed Real Estate Broker with Real Estate Masters, working mostly in Lake, St. Louis and Cook Counties. Together with Sue, he owns and operates B-Green, Inc., a small industrial distributor of O-rings, seals, gaskets and many other industrial products. John has had a life-long interest in the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing, and has recently become more involved with forestry. John is a member of numerous organizations, including many that are partners with Sugarloaf.

James Comstock
GRAND RAPIDS, MN

James was born in Grand Rapids, MN and grew up in Coleraine. He graduated from the University of Minnesota, Duluth with a degree in Engineering. He recently moved back to Northern Minnesota to “raise two fine young men” and is an engineer working for Minnesota Power at Taconite Harbor. He is very active in the Boy Scouts of America and serves on the Sheriff’s Department Search and Rescue Team. He loves hunting, fishing, and hiking.

Karen Dingle
DULUTH, MN

After graduating from law school in 1986, Karen focused her private practice for five and a half years on representing non-profits, primarily those serving people with disabilities. She was a founding member of the Board of Restart, Inc., serving brain injured adults. More recently, Karen has served on the Vestry at her church in St. Paul and will join the Vestry of St. Paul’s Episcopal in Duluth in January 2015. Karen and her husband Gene volunteer for Minnesota Land Trust as monitors for five properties who have put unique land in trust. Karen has been kayaking, hiking, and camping along the North Shore since her twenties. She discovered Sugarloaf Cove when a friend asked her to attend Margie’s first Master Naturalist course. Karen loves her time at the Cove and really enjoys introducing people to the geology and other aspects that make it unique.

Jan Ellingson
WACONIA, MN

Jan grew up on a wheat farm in North Dakota and graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, in Medical Technology. She lives with her husband Scott in Waconia, MN and is a piano teacher. Jan is interested in all outdoor activities including hiking, biking, xc skiing, and snowshoeing. She enjoys planting trees and then protecting them! She has been interested in Sugarloaf since it started and has truly enjoyed the friendships formed through Sugarloaf activities.
Todd Krynski
BEAVER BAY, MN

Todd and his wife Carol recently purchased and renovated Camp 61 Bunkhouse and Restaurant in Beaver Bay, MN. Todd is known for his award winning BBQ.

Julie Magney
MINNETONKA, MN

Julie grew up in Golden Valley, MN, married Phil Magney in 1982, and moved to Texas where they spent 18 years. They have loved living back in Minnesota for the past 14 years. Julie volunteers up to 25 hours a week at a young nonprofit called Harvest and does marketing and administrative tasks at Pilates MN in Wayzata.

Tombolo Award
Presented to Margit Berg

On August 9, 2014 Sugarloaf presented the Tombolo Award to Margit Berg during our Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social. The Tombolo Award recognizes an individual for outstanding service and contributions to the organization’s mission—inspiring the preservation and restoration of the North Shore.

Margit and her husband Tom discovered Sugarloaf Cove 16 years ago. Shortly thereafter, Margit accepted a position on the Sugarloaf board because, “I have always been interested in the preservation and restoration of the North Shore, and more recently how climate change is impacting our forest. I believe in many organizations working together to educate landowners about how they can help. This all happens at Sugarloaf!”

Margit served on the Sugarloaf board for ten years, including serving as the board President for two terms, and the board Secretary for three terms, in addition to chairing numerous board committees. She also founded the fall fundraiser, the famous North Shore Soup Supper. This event has grown exponentially from a home in Minneapolis to a business center in Excelsior, MN.

Margit currently serves as Coordinator of Volunteer Services at Sugarloaf Cove where she manages over 40 volunteers providing training, coordination of site hosting, and special projects.

The Sugarloaf board of directors and staff wish to thank Margit for her many years of service and continuing commitment to the mission of Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association.
Year number three of bird banding at Sugarloaf Cove began Memorial Day weekend on May 24, 2014. As of the end of September 2014, we have banded approximately once weekly for a total of 20 sessions. It was an interesting year in many ways. This year we added two aerial mist nets that allowed us to reach 20 feet up into the tree canopy in 2 locations. Thanks to Joe Lutz and Rita Ryan for their construction genius! These higher nets will add wonderful possibilities to banding at Sugarloaf far into the future.

During May through the end of September, we have caught 602 birds, recaptured 68 birds, and banded 534 birds. We added 9 new species to our cumulative list of species captured at Sugarloaf making our total an impressive 69 species. New this year were: American Robin, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Clay-colored Sparrow, Hairy Woodpecker, House Wren, Blackburnian Warbler, Northern Parula, and Merlin. The Merlin, a small falcon species, arrived early on the morning of the 3rd of July, and caught me running solo (a rare day, thankfully) on a busy net morning. So, I retrieved the beautiful adult male Merlin from the net and regrettably had to send it on its way unbanded—but not before we had both had a good look at each other. Shown is a chart that compares our three years of banding records through September.

Thanks to: Rita Ryan, Carol Tveekrem, Grace Glick, Joe Lutz, and Linda Whyte for all your efforts in keeping the operation running smoothly! It takes more than one person to run a banding station like Sugarloaf, and I am very grateful for the time these wonderful volunteers are willing to put in for the birds!
COOK COUNTY INVASIVE TEAM – A LOSS AND A GAIN.

Angelique Edgerton, our Cook County Invasive Team (CCIT) coordinator recently accepted an offer to work for the St. Croix River Association as their Invasive Species Coordinator. Angelique was a valuable and hard-working employee. She always had a smile and was eager to help landowners across Cook County. Thanks to her many successes, Lake County has decided to collaborate with the CCIT to form the CCIT/LCIT (Lake County Invasive Team). We are currently interviewing applicants for the coordinator position of this newly formed group. This is a great opportunity to work across county lines and help even more landowners with their non-native invasive species issues.

NORTH SHORE FOREST COLLABORATIVE

The North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC) hosted another successful landowner workshop on June 13. New this year was the opportunity for participants to have a one-on-one conversation with a forest planner about their properties. Participants also listened to presentations about invasive species control and learned what a management plan is and how it can help them with restoration of their woods.

The Collaborative is also moving ahead with our grant funded restoration project. During the summer, 465 white pine and white cedar tree seedlings were planted on 27 acres, each individually protected from deer browsing with 6’ welded wire fencing. An additional 750 white pine and white cedar tree seedlings were planted within an existing 10-acre deer exclosure. The trees were planted on deforested areas (dying birch) in Cascade River State Park, Jonvik Wildlife Management Area, and the Northern White Cedar Wildlife Management Area.

Additionally, Conservation Corps of Minnesota crew members conducted a survey of terrestrial invasive species along the trails and access roads at Cascade River State Park. Work at Sugarloaf Cove and on the Superior National Forest will begin this spring. Our hope is that this project will lead to more projects with adjacent landowners and restoration of the North Shore will keep growing.

To wrap the year up, on December 5, we are hosting a special workshop for NSFC members interested in reaching out to landowners more effectively. MN Extension educators are teaching this two-part workshop and our goal is to discuss methods which will encourage more landowners to begin restoration of their properties. If you are interested in this workshop or other North Shore Forest Collaborative activities, please contact Molly Thompson at sugarloaf@boreal.org.

MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

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.
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 White Spruce
$ 50 Balsam Fir
$ 100 Tamarack
$ 250 Red Pine
$ 500 White Cedar
$ 1000 White Pine
$ _____ Other

New Renew

SUGARLOAF
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THANK YOU!