

Interpreter

A Publication of Sugarloaf:
The North Shore Stewardship Association
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What's new at Sugarloaf Cove?

If you haven't been to Sugarloaf Cove this summer, there are a few things you've missed. We're making the Cove safer and easier to find, plus taking giant steps in our demonstrations of native forest restoration.



Won't get fooled again

You know the expression, "Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me?" That applies to walking trails as well. If someone falls on a particular spot once, that tells us there's a problem. The trail fooled us once. Rather than wait for the trail to fool us again, we should fix the problem.

That's just what we did between interpretive stops 15 and 16 this summer. People were slipping in the gravel as they climbed up a hill. Here's what it took:

- *six days hard labor from Minnesota Conservation Corps youth crews, supported by delicious cooking by Pam McDougall*
- *160 feet of 6-by-6 rough-cut tamarack from a little sawmill outside Duluth.*
- *ingenious project leadership from MCC's Willie Bittner, whose favorite word seems to be "Nice!"*
- *Just about every sturdy hand-tool conceivable, from a two-person cross-cut saw to sledgehammer, drills to hacksaws.*

No more crazy U-turns

Sugarloaf handyman Karl Smit has been busy this summer helping people find Sugarloaf Cove...the first time.

Until this summer, there was no sign at the highway showing where to turn off for Sugarloaf. Site manager Pam McDougall always used to explain that Sugarloaf visitors really want to see the Cove because they had to make a U-turn on Highway 61 to get to us.

Now, a two-foot by six-foot banner on Highway 61 at the entrance to Sugarloaf Cove brings people in the first time, without risking their lives on the highway.

And once they're in the parking lot, new signage points the way to the start of the interpretive trail. A four-foot by six-foot sign marks the trailhead, explains the trail, and acknowledges our business members.



We now have a wonderful set of "U-steps" climbing the old glacial lake shoreline.

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

Cove

Developing the landowners, not just the land

It's a fundamental principal of economic development: over time, land will be used for higher and higher levels of financial return.

In the city, that means a forest becomes a cornfield, the cornfield becomes a cul-de-sac, and the cul-de-sac becomes a shopping complex. This process of development, from time immemorial, has given us great cities and comfortable lives.

The same inexorable process has transformed the North Shore over the last 150 years. We can't grow corn here, there's not enough soil, so the forest became a field for grazing sheep, and that field grew back into a forest again. Over eighty percent of the North Shore's coastline remains in private hands.

Is there public benefit to slowing this process of economic development? We know that nature gains in important ways from having large tracts of intact forest. We know that despite environmental laws, turning a forest into a house, driveway and drainfield impairs streams and lake water quality. Each new driveway on the highway, each new house up on the ridgeline, detracts from the overall value of the wild and scenic shore.

But individuals gain from the sale of their family land; in many cases, proceeds pay for their retirement. Many wonderful supporters of good work here are part of this community because they have purchased, and come to love, a piece of subdivided land on this beautiful shore.

But "development" is also a synonym for education, for personal growth. A landowner can be developed too, through training and



experience. I believe that individual landowners are the key to the restoration of the North Shore's unique environment. Who better to care for that five-acre plot than someone who knows it deeply and personally? Who better to plant and fence native white pine and cedar, and come back each year to ensure that they're growing? Who better to work with a land trust to secure the future of their land, so their children and grandchildren will know it and love it as they have?

Conservation easements, like that in place at Sugarloaf, are one terrific tool for North Shore families to maintain their land through the generations. Aggressive tree planting by these families, like we do at the Cove, helps restore the native conifer forest. But people have to know enough about these tools to implement them...and often they do not.

At Sugarloaf, our mission is to inspire the protection and restoration of the North Shore. We will accomplish our mission, in part, by "developing" landowners, training and inspiring them to protect their land. Watch in the coming years to see how Sugarloaf works with private landowners to create the future, healthier North Shore.

ANDREW SLADE

Continued from page 1.

Wild things in cages

This may have been a record year for tree caging at the Cove. Between the hard work of Phil Monson in the burn area, MCC crews in the Andersen Grove, students from Grand Marais, Silver Bay and Duluth, and even Sugarloaf staff, about 100 new tree cages went up this summer, protecting our investment in white cedar and white pine planting.

While a conifer seedling costs us about one dollar, the cage, post and mulch mat cost a total of ten dollars per tree planted. The cages will be in place for at least 10 years.

Sometimes we got carried away with the tree fencing. Hans will be protected here until he is full grown.



Sugarloaf and MCC: Everybody wins

By Jennifer Greiber, MCC Development Associate

If you visited the Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center this summer, you may have seen teens wearing yellow hard hats busy at work. The Minnesota Conservation Corps Summer Youth Program spent three weeks working at the Cove this summer, restoring it for visitors.

The Minnesota Conservation Corps' (MCC) Summer Youth Program hires 15-18 year olds to work and camp for eight weeks in the summer. This summer 100 youth were hired from across Minnesota to be part of the program. After a week of training and orientation at the base camp in St. Croix State Park, the youth were divided into work crews and sent on projects away from the camp. Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center is one such project location.

The youth apply to the program for a number of reasons. Some want to spend the summer outside, others know friends or family who were previously in the program, and some are simply looking for a job. Whatever brought them to the program, the spirit of adventure soon takes over as the youth travel around the state, camp, and get to spend a week or more in places like Sugarloaf Cove, where they learn about North Shore geology and native habitats, gain valuable work skills, and learn to live with others.

"It is great to have a relationship with Sugarloaf," said Pete Bonk, MCC's Youth Programs Manager. "They provide a remarkable experience for our crews with the education that is available and the quality of work projects. Meanwhile, with the help of MCC crews, Sugarloaf Cove is able to improve their coastal area."

While at Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center the MCC crew restored native coastal forest, and built much-needed set of steps. After work, the crews would return to their campsite where they would cook together and spend the evenings engaged in environmental education and exploring the North Shore. Sugarloaf MCC crews also participated in the Tofte Fourth of July parade and the Fishermen's Picnic in Grand Marais,



MCC crew sitting on the steps they built. From front: Eric, Minneapolis; Johanna Weston, crew leader, Dallas; Liz, Almelund/Taylor's Falls; Mara, St Paul; Ororpa, St Paul; Frank, St Paul; and Erin, Cloquet.

winning prizes there for their parade choreography and pickled-herring eating.

MCC was a DNR program until 2003 when it transitioned to become a non-profit. Additionally, MCC offers ten month program for 18-25 year olds who are looking to gain technical experience for future natural resource careers. For more information visit

www.conservationcorps.org.

Summer programming reaches deep and wide

From magma to megapixels, North Shore Naturalist programs better than ever

In their fourth summer, Sugarloaf's day-long and weekend-long naturalist programs really came into their own. 37 people participated in four terrific workshops led by local and regional experts who shared their love for the land.

Chel Anderson kicked things off in mid-June with her popular "Ecology of Color" class. Seven participants, including a few repeat customers, learned not only the names of common North Shore wildflowers, but also the flowers' place in diverse North Shore habitats.

The next Saturday, renowned photographer Craig Blacklock took twelve participants through the process of photographing wildflowers in the field, then using the "digital darkroom" to produce stunning images.

In July, Jim Miller led another repeat class, a day of basic North Shore geology he calls "What's This Rock?" Back by popular demand, this class of eleven started at the Cove but then went up and down the shore to many fascinating sites by the end of the busy day.

Finally, later in July, long-time Sugarloaf board member and legendary geologist John Green took seven people on his two-day tour of North Shore waterfalls. John is the consummate naturalist, and his tour combines geology and scenery with flora and fauna.

Based on the successes of this year, Sugarloaf will continue to offer these workshops. Both instructors and participants have a great time...just ask Rita and Bob Hanle of Saint Paul, who took all four courses!

From Duluth's Lakewalk to Grand Portage's waterfalls, we had the North Shore covered



Take a moment, learn a lot...that's the theme of Sugarloaf's learning cart program. The idea is to bring the program to the people. Rather than schedule a program at a certain time at a certain place, the learning cart program brings

short interactive interpretive programs to busy shoreline locations, catching people at their most curious.

Molly Thompson was this year's learning cart interpreter. In her typical week, she was at Sugarloaf Cove on Wednesdays, promoting the North Shore Scenic Drive and the new brochure. Then on Thursdays she was at Grand Portage, with the morning at the lodge and casino and the afternoon up at the High Falls of Grand Portage State Park. Fridays found her at Tettegouche and Split Rock state parks. Then on Saturday and Sunday she was on Duluth's busy LakeWalk and Park Point beaches,

helping the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District and Minnesota Sea Grant get their messages about water quality, exotic species and rip currents out to the public.

2006 Annual meeting & Fish boil

Place 25 Sugarloaf members (or ten percent of all members, whichever is less) in the interpretive center at Sugarloaf Cove. Add 35 pounds of lake trout, boiled.

That's the simple recipe for Sugarloaf's annual membership meeting. But look at what the meeting produced this year:

Executive director Andrew Slade explained how everything he needed to know about Sugarloaf, he learned from planting trees.



Founding director *Emily Andersen* (shown here with board president *Jim Mullin*) received the first-ever Tombolo Award, given by the Sugarloaf board to an individual who has contributed significantly to our mission of protecting and restoring the North Shore.

Four current board members (Margit Berg, Andrea Peterson, John Green and Mike Kennedy) were voted to a three-year term expiring in 2008, and current board member Pat Maus was voted to a two-year term expiring 2007. Board members also helped dish up the fish. (From left, *Andrea Peterson, Bill Miller, Pat Maus, Ethan Perry and Karen Stromme*)

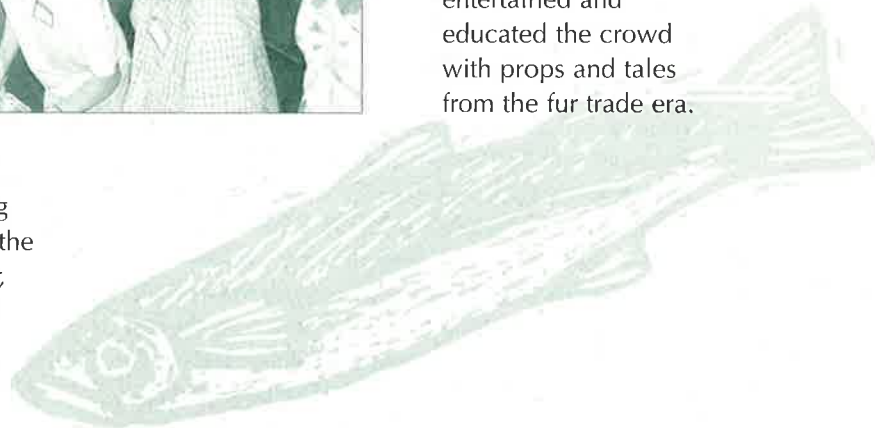


Two new board members were elected, attorney Allison Eklund of Roseville and accountant Larry Cumpston of South Saint Paul. We welcome their help and support!

We may have set a record for the youngest member and diner at the fish boil, with *Elle Moscinski* and her mother *Kim Miller* (daughter of board member *Jim Miller*)



In a unique twist, Jacques the Voyageur, aka *Jack Driscoll* of Minneapolis (shown here with new board member *Larry Cumpston*), entertained and educated the crowd with props and tales from the fur trade era.



The place of pulpwood logging in North Shore history

Andrew Slade

Sugarloaf Cove is known to historians primarily as Consolidated Paper's site for assembly of pulpwood log rafts, to carry south across Lake Superior. But what exactly is meant by "pulpwood"? And how does pulpwood logging fit into the history of logging on the North Shore?

Paper has always been made from pulp, fibers of some sort which are wetted down, spread flat on a screen, and allowed to dry. What a second-grader does in art class employs the same basic technology as a massive paper plant. But the source of that pulp has changed to meet the demands of history.

In the 1700s and even centuries before that, paper was a rare and therefore precious commodity. Created from the pulp of cotton or linen, it was used for books and letters and periodicals, but the demand did not outstrip the supply. But revolutions in printing technology and an increasingly literate public increased the demand for paper.

In the early 1800s, scientific minds turned their eye to wood as a potential source for pulp. A French naturalist, de R aumer, had observed wasps building their nests and noted that they were, in fact, chewing up wood and spitting it back out to form a durable paper-like substance. But wood fiber was problematic for use as pulp. It had too many impurities and was not as strong as cotton or linen.

It took another 100 years to figure out a way to address the problems with wood fiber and to create the paper we know today. Chemical treatments were used to clean out the impurities of wood fiber, making the paper cleaner and more uniform. The German-engineered kraft process ("Kraft" is German for strength) restored the strength of the paper. So by the 1920s, American paper makers were fully prepared to meet the growing demands for paper. As cities and businesses grew, newspapers and books could inform the masses while businesses could communicate and record their vital information.

Coincidentally, the 1920s marked the end of the big pine logging era in Northeastern Minnesota. White pine had been a dominant tree on the North Shore, especially between Duluth and Little Marais. From the 1880s on, North Shore white pines had been cut and transported for milling into lumber, used to build towns and cities across the Midwest.

The last great white pine drives on the North Shore were largely completed by 1910, and the last big sawmill in Duluth (the city to which much of the pine had been brought by train or raft) closed

down in 1932. Before the pulpwood era ramped up, there was an interim period of little logging, marked by large-scale fires burning through the slash left from the pine era (see June 2006 Interpreter).

Marketable white pine largely cleared from the area near the North Shore, and the pulping process then created demand for many other tree species. Spruce, especially black spruce, was the first choice. But the kraft process opened up the potential of using jack pine and finally the aspen that is considered the main pulpwood tree today. World War II and the boom to follow sped up demand for paper.

It was in this environment of high demand and new technology that Consolidated Paper began its harvest and transportation of North Shore and northeastern Minnesota pulpwood. Consolidated's mills in Wisconsin Rapids and Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, produced a variety of papers to meet this demand. The log rafting operation at Sugarloaf Cove commenced in 1942 and continued until pulpwood cutting and transport across Lake Superior to these mills were no longer economically viable.

Any history of pulpwood logging must also look at the impacts we recognize today in the environment from logging activities. According to the late forest ecologist Bud Heinselman, discussing the BWCA, historic pulpwood logging led to "damage to the natural landscape and ecosystem substantially exceeding that of the early big-pine logging." This is likely also partly true for the nearby North Shore. Production of paper also has been linked with production of dioxin, which has raised significant water quality and sediment issues in areas and waterways near paper plants across the country.

Logging continues on the North Shore, but now represents a blend between the big pine era and the pulpwood era. Some white pine from near the North Shore still is used for lumber production at Hedstrom's in Grand Marais. Aspen and birch forests are logged for pulpwood and paper production in both Minnesota and Ontario.

In summary, the pulpwood logging era that marked the most dramatic era of Sugarloaf Cove's human history fit into an historical and economic drama playing out across North America. It was a local activity with national impacts. While pulpwood logging lacks the historical romance of the big-pine days, it too had cultural and environmental impacts still seen today.

nature notes

Spring planting campaign raises over \$4000

In its third year, Sugarloaf's annual spring direct mail appeal raised \$4300. This campaign is a chance for Sugarloaf supporters to be part of our work restoring native vegetation at Sugarloaf Cove. This year, donors of \$200 were able to dedicate a wildflower on the new wildflower trail near the interpretive center. Twelve donors dedicated fourteen plaques, for

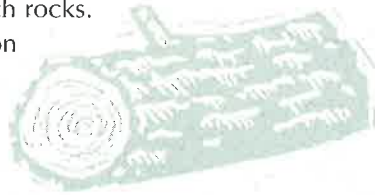


parents, wives, even British poets. Some of the flowers won't be planted until next spring, when native stock is available again. But the trail not only honors our supporters, it teaches about native plants.

Fall fundraisers: Logging camp and Metro event

Two of our most fun fundraising events return this fall. Plan to come to the Cove on October 7 for our second annual Logging Camp Dinner, this year featuring great food the way it was prepared by Sugarloaf camp cooks, including steaks grilled on beach rocks.

Then, November 5, plan on the North Shore Evening in the Twin Cities. Dave and Peggy



Lucas are hosting the event this year in their downtown Minneapolis townhome, overlooking Saint Anthony Falls near the new Guthrie Theater. Special guests will share stories and visions for the North Shore.

New membership levels lead to first North Shore Field Event



North Shore field day, visiting new and interesting places on the shore and learning about the "story behind the scenery." This year, Patron donors explored Tettegouche State Park with executive director Andrew Slade and Dorian Grilley from the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota.

At left, Jim Mullin and Dorian Grilley share the view from a remote part of Tettegouche.

Next time you renew your Sugarloaf membership, look at the new "perks" at different levels of giving. Annual membership contributions represent one-third of our annual operating revenue. As our core operations expand, the Sugarloaf board wants to encourage members to increase their level of giving.

For example, donors at the \$500 Patron level and above receive invitations to an annual

Wish list

DIGITAL PROJECTOR

OFFICE-QUALITY FILE CABINETS

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SUGARLOAF ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 14

Second Saturday- North Shore birds and bird banding

NOVEMBER 11

Second Saturday- Annual safe deer hike

DECEMBER 9

Second Saturday- Holiday book event

JANUARY 13

Second Saturday- Snowshoe hike with SHT

For more information on North Shore Naturalist programs, visit www.sugarloafica.org.

Address Correction Requested

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membership
APPLICATION

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

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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- \$ 100 Sustaining
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- \$ _____ Other

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THANK YOU!