

Interpreter

A Publication of Sugarloaf:
The North Shore Stewardship Association
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Schroeder, MN 55613 218.525.0001

Sugarloaf programs cover the North Shore

This summer, you can't miss us.

If you visit the North Shore this summer, you're going to get educated. Sugarloaf will have virtually the entire North Shore covered with our interpretive programs. It's an exciting result of Sugarloaf's five year strategic plan that called for "interpretation and education throughout and about the entire Minnesota North Shore."



Learning cart programs

Sugarloaf's popular learning cart is back for the third summer. The learning cart provides hands-on interpretive programs at popular waterfront locations from Duluth to Grand Portage. Sugarloaf has contracted with Minnesota Sea Grant, Minnesota State Parks, the Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area program and Western Lake Superior Sanitary District. The cart program will be found at:

- Park Point Recreation Area*
- Canal Park and Lakewalk*
- Iona's Beach SNA*
- Split Rock Lighthouse State Park*
- Tettegouche State Park and Palisade Head*
- Sugarloaf Cove SNA*
- Cascade River State Park*
- Grand Marais Harbor*
- Grand Portage State Park*

Programs at Sugarloaf Cove

Spend an hour or a weekend at beautiful Sugarloaf Cove. The Cove is the heart and soul of Sugarloaf's work, including the education program. The Cove is the starting spot for most of our North Shore Naturalist programs (see text box), which bring small groups into the field to learn directly from nature and local experts.

There are free interpretive programs every Saturday from June 30 to August 25, with programs ranging from moths to search and rescue.

The one-mile interpretive trail is always open, and the well-loved guidebook was recently updated. If you haven't taken the trail with the guidebook for a few years, it's definitely worth taking an hour or two and exploring in-depth.

Programs at the Lester River

If you're driving to the North Shore from anywhere else in Minnesota, you'll go right by our new program location at the Lester River in Duluth. Pull on in for a great new North Shore interpretive experience. The exhibit will be open Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Volunteers will be onsite to answer your questions and direct you to more interpretive experiences along the shore.



*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

Low water, the North Shore and global warming

If you have a favorite place on the North Shore, go visit it soon. You may be in for a shock. You will find rocks exposed that you've never seen out there. If you have a favorite beach, chances are it's grown wider.

*I've just finished two books about global warming and its impact on natural ecosystems. Elizabeth Kolbert's **Field Notes from a Catastrophe** was a great journalistic review of conditions in Arctic areas experiencing depressing thaws and disappearing ice. Tim Flannery's **The Weather Makers** was a more bold review of theories and analysis. But both books make it clear that local impacts of climate change are happening around the world.*

What local impacts are we seeing on the North Shore?

While declining water levels aren't proof yet of climate change, they certainly are an indication of local conditions in the last few years becoming hotter and drier than what we're used to. So these new exposures are a real hint of what we will be seeing in years to come.

At the mouth of the Split Rock River, old wooden bridge pilings stick up high above the water. At Sugarloaf Cove, a bedrock shelf in the middle of the cobblestone beach has become a major landmark sticking out into the Cove. At my family's property in Little Marais, the old familiar beach is shockingly large.

The Lake Superior water level is within six inches or less of the record lows. April is typically the low water month for the year, after a winter season of high evaporation and before the bulk of spring run-off refills the lake with melted snow. Water level has been floating around just below 600 feet, reaching a recent low of 599.5 feet on March 21, just 1 inch higher than the record from 1926. As of June 1, the lake is still 16 inches below normal for this time of year.

Until recent rains, Northeastern Minnesota has been in "extreme" drought conditions. Last summer



Exposed rocks at Sugarloaf Cove

on the North Shore was remarkably hot and dry. I went swimming at Split Rock Lighthouse State Park in August, and the water was gorgeously clear and warm, like a tropical island.

It was also a great summer for walking in stream beds like the Kadunce Creek or the Caribou River, with minimal water flow making North Shore canyons newly accessible. Precipitation on the North Shore in 2006 was between two and ten inches below normal. Those quiet streams meant little water was flowing into the lake, but interestingly the warmer water wasn't evaporating as fast as cooler water.

And the snowfall this winter was significantly below average. Cross-country skiers in the Duluth area were sorely disappointed until storms in late February began. Up the shore, skiing was touch and go all winter. Low snowfall in winter means low run-off in the spring.

It's not just water levels or temperatures that indicate climate change. Our birch forests are stressed by warmer, drier summers. Insect infestations like spruce budworm aren't being knocked back by deeply cold winters. For now, the waters of Lake Superior remain cold enough to keep a microclimate right along the lake shore, but forests inland from the lake dependent on its cooling in summer will start to suffer.

Global changes are having real impacts on our North Shore. Climate change is generated in large part by us, even as we drive to the North Shore to enjoy a day "cooler by the lake." It's a tough bind we fans of the North Shore are in. But maybe it will take that personal connection to that piece of beach to trigger the broad personal choices and changes necessary to slow down this process of global climate change and keep our beautiful North Shore as we have come to love it.

ANDREW SLADE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SUGARLOAF

Lost Forest Rendezvous: The Once and Future Forest

On October 26, 2006, thirty people gathered at the Schroeder Town Hall to discuss the future of native conifer forests on the North Shore. Representatives from government agencies, university extension and conservation organizations shared their strategies to restore native forests, while private landowners both listened and shared their own concerns.

The Lost Forest Rendezvous was supported by a \$5,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and was an extension of Sugarloaf's Lost Forest Initiative. The Lost Forest Initiative, in place since 2004, engages and assists private and public landowners in the restoration of the North Shore Coastal Forest. Sugarloaf calls the North Shore Coastal Forest "Lost" because it has largely disappeared from the North Shore and will not return without significant human intervention. Additional Lost Forest Initiative funders include the Minnesota DNR.

After an introduction to the "Lost Forest" from Sugarloaf's Andrew Slade, representatives from the following organizations participated in a panel discussion.

*Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District
Minnesota DNR Division of Forestry
Minnesota DNR State Parks
The Nature Conservancy
Northeastern Minnesota Sustainable
Development Partnership
Superior National Forest*

Each person answered two questions:

- 1 What are your organization's current restoration efforts along the North Shore?**
- 2 What would your organization like to accomplish or see accomplished regarding North Shore Coastal Forest restoration?**

Each agency had their own particular focus, but they all had important shared components:

- The importance of collaboration across agencies and organizations
- The need for truly local seed source for conifers

- Concern about the impact of climate change
- The need to address the devastation of deer browse
- Reliance on the Ecological Classification System
- Support for introducing more controlled burns
- The importance of landowner outreach and site-specific restoration plans
- The need for more and consistent funding to accomplish ecological objectives



Harley Hanson, center, describes forest restoration problems at North Shore state parks.

Afternoon tours took participants to Cascade River State Park with Harley Hanson of the DNR and to Sugarloaf Cove with Andrew Slade.

After the tours, participants brainstormed a list of action items:

- Form a private landowners group to help with the restoration planning and implementation.
- Put up signs on properties undergoing restoration to show what the forest will look like in 5-20 years and then 50 years in the future.
- Have Sugarloaf coordinate a network of volunteers and para-professionals interested in forest restoration project implementation.
- Have yearly meetings of landowners to reflect on where the North Shore Coastal Forest restoration effort is headed and how to better take care of "their" forests.
- Put together a summary or clearinghouse of what restoration techniques work along the North Shore.

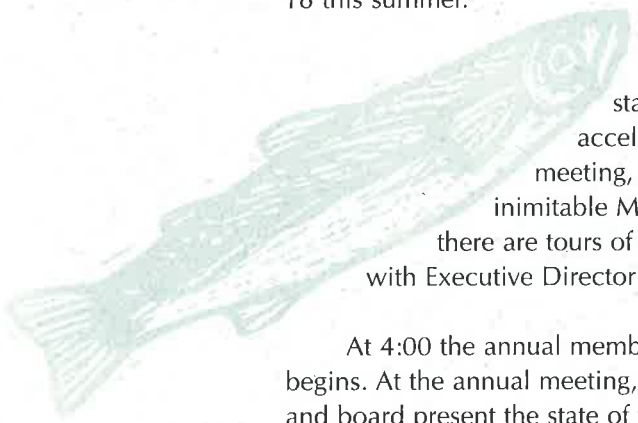
With support from the broader North Shore community, Sugarloaf is committed to helping implement these action items.

Mark your calendars! Special Days this Summer

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007

Sugarloaf's Fifteenth Annual Meeting and Fish Boil

Every summer, on the third Saturday in August, it's one of the busiest and most fun days of the summer at Sugarloaf Cove. That's August 18 this summer.



The action starts early, with an accelerated board meeting, chaired by the inimitable Margit Berg. Then there are tours of the site at 2:00, with Executive Director Andrew Slade.

At 4:00 the annual membership meeting begins. At the annual meeting, Sugarloaf staff and board present the state of the organization, plus the membership will elect new board members. The Tombolo Award, given last year to founding director Emily Andersen, will honor another Sugarloaf visionary.



At 5:00 the fish boil begins, and that's a special treat. Out of the kettle comes the traditional mix of fish, potatoes and veggies. We used to open the fish boil up to the general public, but now that Sugarloaf has over 300 members, it's a members-only event.



At the 2006 Annual Meeting, Sugarloaf members enjoyed a tour of the Cove, including new steps on the interpretive trail.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2007

Consolidated Papers reunion

Did you work at Sugarloaf Cove between 1942 and 1973? Can you tell your boom log from your balsam? Ever eat one of John Mitchell's pies? Maybe you just remember a particularly scenic outhouse.

We're inviting all North Shore Consolidated Papers employees and their families to a reunion at the Cove Labor Day weekend. There will be lunch, historic tours, and a chance to share your memories of the Cove "back in the day."

For more information, contact Pam McDougall at 218-663-7679 or sugarloaf@boreal.org.

New members bring fresh ideas, new skills to Sugarloaf's board

Allison Eklund

Allison is a native of Saint Paul and is an attorney. She serves as board counsel. She lives in Roseville with her husband Andrew and their two children. Her favorite spot on the North Shore is her family cabin just a half-mile from Sugarloaf Cove. She is concerned about climate change on the North Shore and its potential impact on species' survival, environmental stewardship, and land use conflicts. To the Sugarloaf board she brings her professional experience as an attorney and her personal interest in promoting environmental stewardship and the arts along the North Shore.

Larry Cumpston

Larry is a Certified Public Accountant and has led Lawrence Cumpston and Associates since 1983. He first visited the North Shore while camping at Finland Campground and skiing at Lutsen. He is a native of Saint Paul and still lives in South Saint Paul. He and his wife Lisa own a cabin on the North Shore east of Two Harbors. To the Sugarloaf board he brings a new level of fiscal accountability.

Veteran board member leads North Shore Waterfall Workshop July 28-29

Geologist and naturalist John Green leads his annual tour of North Shore Waterfalls again this summer. This two-day program is a treat for all fans of the North Shore. John leads participants to at least six different waterfalls, with hikes up to 2 miles long. John is the consummate North Shore naturalist, so participants learn about rocks, wildflowers, even the occasional bit of North Shore legend or politics.

Registration is \$120, \$110 for Sugarloaf members. To register, contact sugarloaf@boreal.org or call Pam at 218-663-7679.

New board members needed!

Sugarloaf members will elect a new class of board members to a three-year term at the Annual Meeting in August. The board is looking for new ideas and new energy, especially in the following areas:

***The Duluth and Twin Cities
philanthropic community***

University of Minnesota leadership

Grand Portage band members

If you're interested in serving on the Sugarloaf board, please contact Sugarloaf executive director Andrew Slade at Andrew@sugarloafnorthshore.org or nominating committee chair Bill Miller at wmiller@d.umn.edu.

Legacy of log and stone: The CCC on the North shore *By Dave Benson*

Water, of course, but also rock and logs—these elements are a big part of the appeal of the North Shore. Lake Superior and its rocky shorelines set the backdrop for human use of log and stone that are a part of the color of Northern Minnesota. This includes the stonework and logs at Gooseberry Falls, Temperance River, and Cascade River State Parks.

Most of the stone and log buildings that remain in Minnesota state parks were built during Great Depression of the 1930s. The buildings we still use were planned and constructed by people organized under a group of government agencies that were created to “make work” for the poor. They were initiated by the new administration of



The massive retaining wall at Gooseberry Falls, known as the “Castle Wall”, was one of the largest CCC projects on the North Shore.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to serve several purposes: to provide income for young, jobless men to support their families, to boost the stagnant economy, to divert the forces calling

for revolution in the United States; and to take on work that couldn't have been accomplished in any other way.

These accomplishments included parts of the infrastructure still in use today: parks, dams, airports, highways, bridges, public buildings, erosion control projects, golf courses, plazas, and sculptures. Millions of acres of trees were planted, increasing reforestation on the heels of the logging period that felled much of the nation's forest.

The most popular agency of the New Deal was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC lodged young men in rural camps that did large public works projects.

One of the most notable projects in the state was Gooseberry Falls State Park. The CCC camp

there included several expert stone masons who guided the young men in constructing some of the finest and most beautiful stonework in the country. All of the older stone buildings at Gooseberry, including Lady Slipper Lodge, the Campground Shelter, and the Lake View Shelter date from the New Deal era.

Much of the work of the CCC at Gooseberry and elsewhere is somewhat invisible to us today. Roads were built, parking lots were constructed, trails were blazed, and stairways went up. We use these structures today without much thought of their history.

Beyond Gooseberry, the stonework along the highway parking area at Temperance River State Park was built by CCC Camp F-19, a forestry camp based in Tofte. A CCC camp was located within the boundaries of what is today Cascade River State Park. Many of the trails and much of the landscaping along Hwy 61 were done by the CCC. This project of “highway beautification” work, which included the extensive concourse along Lake Superior and the opening of Spruce Creek Wayside may have been the first such project anywhere in the country. Judge C.R. Magney State Park was the site of a state of Minnesota transient work camp. Some remains of structures from that time still exist in the campground.

Many of the “CCC Boys” (now old men) remember their time in the camps with fondness. In the 1940s and 1950s, many of them brought their families back to where they had worked to camp and to see what they had accomplished. This return was the foundation of the explosive growth in the popularity of camping in the 1960s and later.

These families, and now the rest of us, discovered the beauty and power of the rustic architecture that help make the North Shore a place that we love.

*David Benson, a naturalist and writer from Duluth, is the author of *Stories in Log and Stone: The Legacy of the New Deal in Minnesota State Parks* (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division, 2002). This essay supported by a generous gift from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.*

Coastal Contributions: Funds for our Future

News from the Sugarloaf development office



New support from the Schmidt Foundation

What a pleasant surprise! What a great gift!

Thanks to a fortuitous meeting between a Sugarloaf board member and his college roommate, Sugarloaf received a \$15,000 grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation. The grant supports general operations at Sugarloaf and also allows us to upgrade significantly some of our basic operations. We were able to:

- *buy our first new computer in five years*
- *upgrade our accounting software*
- *acquire file cabinets*
- *acquire new exhibit areas at Sugarloaf Cove*
- *expand the content of this newsletter and more!*

Carl Schmidt was an investor and mink rancher in southern Minnesota. The Foundation he and his wife Verna created in 1958 supports projects throughout Minnesota, though this was one of their few projects in the northern part of the state.

Spring planting campaign is underway

Every spring we look to our supporters to help us in our work to preserve and restore Sugarloaf Cove. The "Spring Planting" fundraising letter raises about \$4000 each year. Donors can dedicate a tree

or a flower identification plaque. As we go to press with this newsletter, Sugarloaf supporters and North Shore landowners are receiving this letter. Due to a glitch at the mailing service, the letter didn't include a customized return card. Our fingers are crossed that we still get a healthy response...Sugarloaf supporters are a pretty committed bunch!

Welcome new members! Increasing members!

The Sugarloaf board set an ambitious target for membership contributions this year. Sugarloaf is planning to increase membership support by 50%, from \$20,000 per year to \$30,000 per year. Plans are in place for bringing in more new members, keeping the members we have, and encouraging current members to increase their giving level. It's working so far: as of June 1, membership contributions are up 50% from last year.

Wish list

Have stuff lying around the office, home or cabin? Maybe Sugarloaf could use it! Contact Andrew Slade at Andrew@sugarloafnorthshore.org to arrange a donation.

We're looking for:

CHARCOAL GRILL

CROCKPOT

TABLE-TOP ROASTING OVEN

CASSEROLE DISHES

LAWN CHAIRS

STURDY SERVING PLATTERS AND BOWLS

STURDY FILE CABINETS

FRAMED NORTH SHORE ARTWORK

Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association
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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 28 - 29

North Shore Naturalist Workshop: North Shore Waterfall Tour

AUGUST 18

Annual meeting and fishboil

AUGUST 19

Annual North Shore Field Day for Patron and Benefactor members

SEPTEMBER 2

Consolidated Reunion

All Second Saturday programs start at 10 am at the Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center.

Address Correction Requested

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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. 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 _____

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!