

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

Interpreter

New interpretive center starts off big

The summer of 2007 was Sugarloaf's first "can't miss" summer. It would have been difficult for a visitor or resident coming to the North Shore to miss Sugarloaf programs or facilities.



Sugarloaf's interpretive programs were everywhere. Nearly 9,000 people participated in a record summer.

Sugarloaf's new project in Duluth got off to a great start. The North Shore Interpretive Center opened in June, at the old Lester River fish hatchery, aka the "Limno Lab". Brand new exhibits lined the walls of the historic boat house. The exhibits featured University of Minnesota Duluth research about the North Shore.

Eighteen "North Shore Ambassadors" from Duluth and Two Harbors were trained in North Shore natural and cultural history as well as customer service. They put the training to good use, visiting with the travelling public and helping tourists plan their North Shore experience.

Only a small percentage of the travelling public made that right turn off of London Road and into the parking lot. But they were exactly the right people. Most visitors to the North Shore Interpretive Center said, in effect, that they were

taking the time that day to learn and investigate, not just to speed to their destination. And they were pleased with the information they got at the Interpretive Center, typically saying they couldn't find it anywhere else. Typical tourist information centers don't have information on obscure hiking trails, on blooming flowers, or on back routes through Duluth. This one does.

This program would not have been possible without the support of the Northland Foundation and Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program. The Coastal program has made a series of investments in this project, beginning with early funding of Sugarloaf's ShoreLink initiative to strengthen North Shore interpretation. Sugarloaf's landlord and partner, the University of Minnesota Duluth, is applying to the



NORTHLAND
FOUNDATION



coastal program this year for much needed exterior restoration of the fish hatchery building. Northland Foundation supported the volunteer program, specifically to enhance the lives of older adults. The Ambassadors had an average age of 60, and as expected were full of great life experiences and love for the North 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

More must be done to protect the North Shore

BY PETER GOVE

Note: This opinion piece originally ran in the Star Tribune on June 25, 2007. It is reprinted here, slightly abridged, with the author's permission. Since it was published, Mr. Gove has convened a number of meetings of conservation groups interested in the North Shore, including Sugarloaf.

Travelling north from Duluth in recent years, I have observed with dismay the conversion of family-owned resorts and undeveloped parcels along the lake to subdivisions, timeshare condos and private retreats offering – as was described in a recent real estate advertisement – “unfettered panoramic views of the lake.” “No Trespassing” signs are common along the shoreline of a public resource. Much of the Lake Superior coast is not accessible to the public. Local zoning has failed in several spots along Hwy. 61 where structures on the lower elevations of the Sawtooth Mountains ruin views for miles.

Perhaps this is the inevitable price of what has been described as a “limited supply of land and world-class scenery” and the North Shore is destined to the vagaries of the real estate market and local government zoning and variance decisions, good and bad. The appetite for continued development of limited private land on the North Shore seems certain, notwithstanding the current market slowdown. But what of the public's interest in preserving what is left of this unique landscape, Minnesota's most important lakeshore?

In the 1970s, there were discussions by those of us in state government about additional federal protection of the Lake Superior coast similar to the Indiana Dunes, Pictured Rocks, Sleeping Bear Dunes or Apostle Islands national lakeshores. Or designating the North Shore as threatened under the newly passed Minnesota Critical Areas Act. However, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Voyageurs National Park politics of the time in northern Minnesota made it impossible to pursue a national or state lakeshore to protect key areas of the Lake Superior coast and adjacent hillsides.

Thank goodness for the eight fabulous North Shore state parks and for the farsighted volunteers who built and maintain the Superior Hiking trail. And progress is being made on the Gitchi Gami state trail that, when complete, will connect Two Harbors to Grand Marais along Hwy. 61.

But as Minnesota approaches its sesquicentennial, can we not think more boldly before development inevitably overwhelms the remaining private land along the Lake Superior coast and forever impacts the Sawtooth Mountain landscape visible from Hwy. 61? I urge state and local government officials and our dynamic land conservation community (Parks and Trails Council, Minnesota Land Trust, Trust for Public Land and others) to consider what can be done in the next three to five years to protect important lakeshore and hillside parcels--by donation, scenic and conservation easements, acquisition (with public or private dollars) and other land protection tools. An overall vision and plan for Minnesota's Lake Superior coast is required.

Are there opportunities to expand North Shore state parks and Grand Portage National Monument? What are the critical views to protect from the Superior Hiking Trail and what are the most cost-effective approaches to preserve them? Can construction of the Gitchi Gami biking trail be accelerated and more lakeshore trail segments added? At the same time, is the Pollution Control Agency considering the water quality impacts on Lake Superior and North Shore rivers from continued development in an area with poor soils for septic systems? Should a citizens advocacy group focused on protecting the North Shore be organized? Perhaps the governor could call a summit meeting in 2008 of all stakeholders focused on threats to North Shore. Sure, land protection will be expensive like any other resource conservation initiative, but I believe the quality of the experience on the North Shore hangs in the balance.

An earlier article quoted an owner of several Lake Superior properties that “lakeshore is gold.” He is correct from his own financial perspective, but what about the interests of the people of Minnesota to enjoy the North Shore for generations to come? I believe more can be done, despite the challenges, and now is the time to start.

Stewardship News

Sugarloaf is "The North Shore Stewardship Association." So just what is Sugarloaf doing to promote stewardship of the North Shore? Here are a few new ideas we're launching. If these sound interesting, please let us know and we'll get you involved!

Conservation crews for hire

If you own land on the North Shore, you have come to love the rocks and trees and flowers here. And you probably know that bringing your dying birch trees back to life or recreating the original forest takes a lot of work.

However, if you don't live on the shore year-round, you don't have time to do that work. Sugarloaf wants to help. The idea is to create a conservation crew available for hire on the North Shore. The crew would come to your property and help with your native forest restoration work. They could prepare planting sites in the fall, plant trees in the spring, install tree cages and fencing in the summer, and thin the forest year-round. They could also help build trails or retaining walls and install other erosion control measures.

Landowners will spend \$10,000 or more hiring professional landscapers and lawn care contractors to maintain a beautiful yard at home. Maybe they would do the same to maintain a beautiful forest at their cabin? Sugarloaf thinks so.



MCC crew installing deer fence

To kick this off, Sugarloaf worked with neighboring landowners Jim and Fran Mullin. A youth crew from the Minnesota Conservation Corps did all the grunt work necessary for Jim and Fran to plant 100 conifer trees next spring. Over the course of two days the crew cleared planting sites, establish access trails, and

removed competing grasses and shrubs.

A Sugarloaf conservation crew would consist of local high school and college students. It would be a great summer job for these students and a perfect introduction to a career in natural resources.

Integrated North Shore Conservation Planning

In June, Twin Cities conservationist Peter Gove published an opinion piece in the Star Tribune newspaper about development on the North Shore (see page 2). Gove pointed out that this is the time for conservation groups to come together and address critical land protection issues. This article led to a renewed effort by Minnesota conservation groups working on the North Shore to come together to share their plans, resources and dreams.

The following groups and agencies are planning to contribute their North Shore conservation strategies to a unified plan, to be developed by Sugarloaf:

SUGARLOAF



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY



PARKS AND TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA



MINNESOTA LAND TRUST



MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY



TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND



Using Geographic Information Systems technology, this collaborative will create a list of the 25 most endangered parcels on the North Shore. Sugarloaf is currently seeking funding for this initiative.

Consolidated Reunion brings old friends together again

It's been 35 years since the roar of tugboats and the thunderous splash of logs off the ramp filled Sugarloaf Cove. It's been 35 years since a crew last

pulled out a raft of pulpwood from the Cove and took the long slow journey across Lake Superior. But on September 2, 2007, those 35 years disappeared and it was like the rafting stopped that week.

Nearly 100 former workers at the site and their families enjoyed a one-day reunion at

the Cove. When they weren't swapping tales and renewing old rivalries, they enjoyed a talk on North Shore logging history from Todd Lindahl and a tour of the "new" Sugarloaf Cove with Sugarloaf board member Andrea Peterson.

In 35 years, a lot has changed at the Cove. All of the buildings that had been on the site, including the tar-paper dorms these guys had lived in, have been recycled and removed. The former lower landing, what used to be a gravel lot stacked eight feet deep with pulpwood, is now a coastal wetland. The upper landing is now a stately red pine forest.

There were lots of stories to be told. And fortunately there were volunteers there to hear... and record... those stories. Thanks to the support of the Mead Witter Foundation, dozens of

people sat down to tell their stories and get them on tape.

There was the story of Charles "Moonlight" Johnson and the last drive from Headquarters Camp in Hovland. Leo Shilts talked about clearing stumpage after a fire. Marne Anderson recalled planting the red pines at Sugarloaf. Harry Fisher remembered Tofte's own "Whiskey Row." And there was the story about how crewmember Alfred West



Reunion goes head out on a tour of the site. Most of the trees in this picture weren't alive last time these people were here.



Sugarloaf board members Andrea Peterson and Margit Berg checked people in



George Mead visits with Harriet and Ralph Swanson

taught all the Sugarloaf kids how to drive.

A great time was had by all. Lunch was the old Sugarloaf Cove favorite of steak grilled on heated beach cobblestones.

The committee heard all sorts of compliments, but perhaps the one they didn't want to hear was, "See you all at the next reunion!"



Victor Hatanpaa and Larry Agurkis reminisce over lunch

MANY, MANY THANKS TO THE BUSY PLANNING COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS:

George Pope, chair

Margit Berg

Judy Gregg

Lisa Hemp

Terry Hukriede

Don Ingram

Tina Ingram

Jan Johansen

Brian Johnson

Jan Johnson

Barbara Livdahl

Jane Ljungkull

Alta McQuatters

Robert Meyers

Holly Nelson

Andrea Peterson

Dave Peterson

Todd Lindahl

Karl Smit

Finland Rescue Squad

Schroeder Area Historical Society

Tofte-Schroeder Rescue Squad

Two other people deserve special mention here. Sugarloaf site manager Pam McDougall went above and beyond the call of duty in pulling together all the pieces, including the delicious lunch. And Jean Ljungkull saved the day with a donation of \$2000 to cover the costs of the event.

Annual meeting "Saw depth, sir"

15TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEATURED
ANAGRAMS AND ACCORDIANS

On August 18, 2007, about thirty members gathered at the 15th annual Sugarloaf membership meeting. At the annual meeting, Sugarloaf staff and board report on the organization's progress in the previous year, share plans for the future, and try to inspire members to get even more involved in this great organization.

Board president Margit Berg kicked things off with her overview of the year. She pointed out Sugarloaf's successes at the Cove and at the Limno Lab in Duluth.

Margit was followed by executive director Andrew Slade. Andrew has a history of bringing some unique tact to his director's report every year. In the past, members have learned about "Sugarloaf by the Numbers," or "All I need to know about Sugarloaf I learned from planting trees." This year, Andrew said, he was a little lost in his search for meaning. Inspired by the bestselling thriller *The Da Vinci Code*, Andrew sought to find meaning in anagrams of important Sugarloaf words.

First he tried the word "**INTERPRETIVE**" but said couldn't find a good fit, with the best being "**Tip: Never tire**" and "**I rip tree vent.**"

Then he tried "**SUGARLOAF**" anagrams, which worked a bit better, with a phrase for site manager Pam McDougall "**A gal for us**" or maybe a nod to the site's history, with "**Log us afar.**"

But he found the word "**STEWARDSHIP**" gave the best anagrams:

"A shrewd spit" described our terrific Sugarloaf Point

"Swap this red" spoke directly to the financial successes of this year

"We'd sit sharp" reminded Andrew of surviving the cold in the Limno Lab

"Saw she'd trip" reminded us of the importance of fixing up the interpretive trail

"Dip wash rest" spoke to the new clean-up facilities at the Cove.

The best anagrams of "**STEWARDSHIP**" spoke directly to our mission and history:

"Saw depth sir" confirmed to us all that there is more to the Sugarloaf mission and more for this organization to do

"Part Swedish" reminded us of founding director Elmer Andersen as well as current board president Margit Berg.



Terry Hukriede

After the annual meeting, staff and volunteers served up the traditional fish boil. Diners enjoyed the food, of course, but the event was put over the top with the accordion music of Gerald Thilmany.

At the annual meeting, members elect board members to represent them for the next three years.

Skip Lamb of Schroeder, Steve Pihlaja of Minneapolis and Jerry Meigs of Saint Paul were re-elected to the board. Skip's deep local experience has been a great asset. Steve has been with Sugarloaf literally since the beginning and board members feel they'd be lost without his wise guidance. Jerry was filling out the remainder of a term and has brought new fiscal accountability to Sugarloaf.

Members also elected three people new to the Sugarloaf board.



Terry Hukriede


Steve Bortone of Duluth (left), is a fisheries scientist and the director of Minnesota Sea Grant. Spending the last few decades in Florida, he has brought fresh new ideas to the North Shore.

John Paulson, also of Duluth (center), brings tremendous experience in land planning, environmental education and trail development from his work in the Land Department at Minnesota Power.

Rick Novitsky of Grand Portage (right), brings two important connections to the board. Rick has deep connections with the Grand Portage community, especially in land use and forestry initiatives. He is also the manager of Grand Portage State Park.

A traveling history of the North Shore

By Andrew Slade



Many Native American people, when pressed to explain how they got to where they are now, talk about emerging from the earth right there in their homelands. But the Native Americans of the North Shore, the Lake Superior Ojibwe, don't talk about emerging from this place. They tell a migration story, of how they came from the east through the Great Lakes searching for the "food that grows on water."

Traveling to and through the North Shore never stopped. Most of the history of the North Shore is all about people traveling. Nowadays, the North Shore's tourist economy is based on people coming to the North Shore to stay. But until early in the 20th century, the main history was about the people and resources traveling through the North Shore.

The North Shore was opened to European settlement after the Treaty of LaPointe in 1854. But European history here begins much earlier, with waterborne explorers and missionaries. In the search for the Northwest Passage, explorers found canoe routes radiating from Lake Superior deep out into the continent of North America. International conglomerate fur trading companies used the water transportation network focused on Lake Superior to dominate the culture and economy of the region for nearly two centuries.

The North Shore shoreline has always defined the route of travel. Fur traders and Indians followed the coast in their canoes because it was safest, especially with all the fog. Until as recently as the 1920s and the widespread use of the automobile, cross-country travel in this region was generally a matter of following bodies of water and connecting them as best as possible. Immigrants and tourists came by steamship to Duluth and boarded the train from there to the interior.

Until as recently as 1925, the small fishing communities that dotted the shore were regularly connected to Duluth only by steamship. In the winter, the mail came by sled dog team along a rough track through the forested hills. Logging railroads pierced the rich timberlands, and most of them simply ran down to the lakeshore to bring their loads for rafting by water. Some of these railroads disappeared back into the forest, others are now gravel roads or state park hiking trails. The river mouths they ended at are likely now to be state parks, like Gooseberry Falls.

As you drive up Highway 61 today, it's hard to imagine what difficult, rugged terrain this once was, how forbidding it was to travel. Yet the clues of past travel are everywhere. Two Harbors was created as a railroad terminus for the first iron ore mines. The Caribou Trail, Sawbill Trail and Gunflint Trail were all built to connect inland riches with the steamboat stop on the lakeshore.

Even Sugarloaf Cove was part of this transport network, ideally situated to link the pulpwood resources of northeast Minnesota with the rail lines and paper mills across the lake in Wisconsin.

From today's Duluth mansions built on the transport of timber and iron ore to the fascinating international connections of Grand Portage, the North Shore was built on its connections to the world.

Research for this article was supported by a grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation

COASTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: *Funds for our Future*

NEWS FROM THE SUGARLOAF DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

What a wonderful surprise!

Elmer Andersen and his family have been the driving force behind Sugarloaf since Sugarloaf's inception in 1992. Elmer's political and philosophical guidance laid the foundation of Sugarloaf's unique approach to North Shore conservation issues. Financial support from family members was critical to the acquisition of the Cove and construction of the interpretive building there. And program support from the Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation has given Sugarloaf the ability to do great things with these great foundational assets.

Sugarloaf was honored to be one of four organizations invited to participate in the foundation's 50th anniversary celebration this September. Along with the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Childrens Home Society and Family Services, Sugarloaf representatives gave a brief presentation to the assembly about its work and the role of Andersen Foundation support. At the end of the event, each organization was presented with a special \$10,000 grant from the Foundation.

This gift came out of the blue but its timing was perfect. It was a wonderful surprise and a great tribute to the importance of the Andersen family in Sugarloaf history.

North Shore support from a North Shore man

Sugarloaf was awarded a \$15,000 grant for general operations from the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation in September. Lloyd K. Johnson was born in Grand Marais, and when he passed away in 2006, he was buried there too. He was a major contributor to the land exchanges, purchases and sales that led to today's BWCA and Superior National Forest. As the Foundation website says, "Mr. Johnson loved the North Shore area, particularly Cook County where he was born and raised, and is remembered by those who knew him as a loyal friend, a man of great intellect,



At the Andersen Foundation's 50th Anniversary celebration, from left: Steve Pihlaja, Andrew Slade, Julian Andersen, Margit Berg, Jerry Meigs, and Mari Oyanagi Eggum

exceptional analytical skills, a good steward of his resources and a man of vision." Sugarloaf is honored to be supported by his legacy.

Metro fundraiser best ever

After five years, it's a North Shore tradition...in the Twin Cities! Sugarloaf's annual "North Shore Evening" raised a record amount this fall, over \$10,000. As always, it was held in the home of a Sugarloaf supporter, in this case Margit Bretzke and Jeff Hanson of Saint Paul. The featured guest this year was photographer and conservationist Craig Blacklock. The silent auction featured unique North Shore items including a guided tour of the Witch Tree and unique lodging opportunities. Thanks to a great committee led by Sugarloaf board president Margit Berg, it was an evening to remember!

Many thanks to the silent auction donors:

<i>Ciceron</i>	<i>Mary Miller</i>
<i>Cove Point Lodge</i>	<i>Minnesota Power</i>
<i>Allison Eklund</i>	<i>Jim Mullin</i>
<i>Fabyanske Family</i>	<i>Ethan Perry</i>
<i>Grandmas Marathon</i>	<i>Sawtooth Pass</i>
<i>John Green</i>	<i>Adventure Resort</i>
<i>Gunflint Lodge</i>	<i>Dick and Ella Slade</i>
<i>Greg Koshinska</i>	<i>Superior National at Lutsen</i>
<i>Bill Miller</i>	<i>Take it Home, Inc.</i>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 9

Second Saturday: Skiing the North Shore, with Andrew Slade

MARCH 8

Second Saturday: Tracking Winter Wildlife, with Molly Thompson

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

Address Correction Requested

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THANK YOU!