Thank You!

By Russ Baker, Board President

As we finish another successful season at Sugarloaf Cove, I want to thank all our members, volunteers, board of directors, partners and the others who supported Sugarloaf in 2021. This season over 25,000 members and visitors enjoyed Sugarloaf in 2021 (See page 10).

Much of the success Sugarloaf enjoys today is due to the vision and dedication of the early board members who started and built Sugarloaf as an organization beginning in 1992. (Some of these are mentioned in the Tombolo Award article on page 9). These individuals had a vision for Sugarloaf. They organized Sugarloaf; funded and built the nature center; carved the trails through the Sugarloaf property; designed exhibits in the nature center for visitor education and more. These early board members funded Sugarloaf through their donations and sponsoring fundraisers.

I have been a neighbor to Sugarloaf for nearly 19 years and have had the privilege of serving on the board for eight years. I have enjoyed the satisfaction of watching Sugarloaf continue to improve:

- In 2014 we improved our parking lot which increased visibility and parking capacity. We also re-stained the nature center’s exterior.
- We built new steps at three locations along the trails to improve safety in 2015.
- We remodeled the interior of the nature center in 2016
- We installed attractive interpretive signs along the trails in 2019
- In 2016, with the support of the Weeks Family Foundation, we helped manage the reduced-cost fencing program (See page 8)
- In 2021, we added an outdoor education area. (See page 3)

As we look toward 2022, help us continue to improve Sugarloaf. Your membership renewals and generous donations will allow us to:

- Expand our outdoor education area to conduct short, daily nature programs.
- Install an educational multi-media kiosk in the nature center and work to improve our other exhibits.
- Fund the site manager and site hosts to engage and educate visitors.
- Continue working with our partners to restore the North Shore forest.

We have a goal of raising $40,000 during the 4th quarter of 2021 to continue to improve Sugarloaf and realize our goals. Please assist us by renewing your membership and making donations during November and December. Thank you for your support!
Sugarloaf Cove Updates—A very busy summer

This summer, we hired extra site hosts and the results were terrific. The additional site hosts made it possible for us to be consistently open and greeting visitors 7 days a week. The site hosts greeted visitors from the front deck and also managed the gift shop. Due to their great work, we welcomed over 118 new members and doubled our gift shop sales!

Margie had an exciting summer banding birds at the Cove. In a first for the Cove, she banded a Black-billed Cuckoo. Watch for a full report soon. Margie was also busy introducing visitors to the geology of the North Shore during her ever popular Sunday geology walks.

A new staff position, site manager, was filled by Pete Gravett. Pete has a depth of experience managing and working at other nature centers and also as a fundraiser. As such, Pete took on a wide variety of projects ranging from trail and building improvements to starting a new program series – Sugarloaf Shorts.

With help from volunteers, the following projects were completed:

- Picnic tables, benches and building skirt were sanded and painted green.
- Rotten stair treads were replaced along the trail
- All trails were pruned and weed whipped.
- Shelving was installed in the water heater closet in the building
- Lighting and electricity were installed in the outdoor storage shed.
- Many trees were planted, fenced and watered.

And most significantly, a new outdoor education area was built off the southeast end of the nature center. We have more plans for this area next year including adding a white board station and better seating options.

Your membership and donations helped make all of this possible. Thank you!
Show your love for Sugarloaf with a year end donation.

Help us meet our $40,000 goal!

This year, we welcomed more visitors than ever, improved the building and trails at Sugarloaf Cove and shared the beauty and nature of the North Shore through our nature programs.

We want to keep the momentum going in 2022 by raising $40,000 by the end of December.

Your membership renewal or year end donation is vital to keeping Sugarloaf Cove beautiful and helping us help you restore the North Shore forest.

Please make your donation today, either online or by mail.

Visit Sugarloafnorthshore.org to make an online donation.

Or send a check to:
Sugarloaf
6008 London Road
Duluth, MN 55804

You can also call 218-525-0001.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Our visitors LOVE Sugarloaf Cove…..

...according to comments on Google.

Breath taking views of the lake and quick access to the beach. This is probably one of the best locations to visit in North Shore area. Srivatsan L.

Very cool place to stop and learn a little bit about the history of the place! The 1 mile interpretive trail tells you all you need to know about the area, the plants that live here and more! Luke. L.

The volcanic and glacier rock was really awesome when you get around to the east side of the peninsula. The views up-close don’t disappoint, even on our rainy hike the lake and shore were beautiful! Sydney P.

Really awesome beach to look at rocks. Highly recommend their guided geology tour. Martin K.

Show your love of Sugarloaf by making a donation today!

Photo by visitor Marc Windahl via Google
Annual Membership Meeting 2021

Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association held its annual meeting and ice cream social on August 21 at Sugarloaf Cove. We met in the new outdoor education area off the lake side of the nature center. The meeting was well attended by over 50 members. Russ Baker, board president, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Minutes of the 2020 annual meeting were read and approved.

Vice president, John Bathke introduced the candidates for new board membership: Mike Reichenbach, Mark Magney and Peter Juhl. Mark and Peter are returning after taking a few years off from the board and Mike recently retired from University of MN Extension. (You can read more about them on pages 4 and 5.) A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the three candidates as board members.

Russ then acknowledged and thanked outgoing board members Nancy Simpson and Dick Osgood. He also thanked Nancy’s husband, John, for graciously donating his time and expertise in designing Sugarloaf’s new logo.

Molly Thompson, Executive Director, and Russ gave an organization update that included an overview of Sugarloaf’s accomplishments during 2021. These included staffing the nature center 7 days a week, hiring a site manager and making many improvements to the trails and building. With the additional staff, we initiated a new program on Thursday mornings called Sugarloaf Shorts. Due to the pandemic, the site hosts spent their days greeting visitors and managing gift shop sales from the front deck. We believe these changes are the reason for a 25% jump in memberships and a doubling of gift shop sales.

Russ and Molly also noted the continued success of the low-cost fencing program sponsored by the Weekes Family Foundation and in partnership with the North Shore Forest Collaborative. Also, throughout the summer, Sugarloaf hosted the “Art of Reciprocity” exhibit by Sean Connaughty in partnership with the Grand Marais Art Colony. Russ wrapped up the presentation by noting that we are continuing to make improvements to the trails and building, including installing new exhibits next spring and urging members to join Sugarloaf’s Legacy Society.

Russ then presented the Tombolo award to Michael Monten and thanked him for his many years of service to Sugarloaf. (See article on page 8).

The annual meeting adjourned for a short ice cream break and then an excellent presentation by Lee E. Frelich, University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology. His presentation title was Alternative futures for Minnesota forests in a changing climate. (A version of his presentation is available on our website for viewing).

Multimedia kiosk coming to Sugarloaf Cove

We are excited to have the opportunity to partner with Hamline University’s Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE) to install a Multimedia kiosk featuring the Sugarloaf Cove and the North Shore. The kiosk at Sugarloaf will focus on the area’s geology, ecology, land-use history and terrestrial invasive species, and will include indigenous voices and perspectives, including those from the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Visit us next summer to explore this beautiful new addition to our exhibits. This project is funded in part through a grant from the Lake Superior Coastal Program.
Peter Juhl

Peter has been an avid North Shore visitor all his life, and his family has been vacationing here since the 1920s. On a trip to Schroeder in the mid-1990s he discovered that rocks on the beach could be balanced on one another, creating striking ephemeral sculptures. He has since developed and promoted this art form, holding workshops, presentations, and photo exhibitions around Minnesota and at national and international stone balancing events. In 2013, he published Center of Gravity: A Guide to the Practice of Rock Balancing.

Peter recently wrapped up a fulfilling thirty-year career in the information technology field, most recently as a database administrator for Northwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines. Early retirement has given him more time to pursue his interests. He believes in community engagement, serving as a board member for his church, Schroeder Area Historical Society, Danebod Family Camp, and in various volunteer capacities with other non-profit groups.

Peter lives in Eagan with his wife Sheryl, and spends as much time as possible at the family cabin in Little Ma-rais. They have three adult children.

Mark Magney

Mark bears a famous name on the North Shore. He is, in fact, the grandson of Judge C. R. Magney, who was instrumental in establishing the state park system, preserving lands along the North Shore, and founding the MN parks and Trails Council; and for whom a North Shore Park is named. Since Mark has been coming to the family cabin near Sugarloaf his whole life, he recalls visiting the logging operation at the Cove and watching the huge pulpwood booms leaving the bay on their voyage across Lake Superior.

Mark’s parents were members of Sugarloaf since its early days. Mark and his wife Tammy joined the organization in about 2000 and Mark has been on the board previously. He is also a member of the Schroeder Area Historical Society. He and Tammy have hosted fundraisers for both organizations at their cabin.

Mark graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BS degree in civil engineering. He is the owner and president of Magney Construction, Inc., specializing in the construction of water and wastewater treatment facilities. He and Tammy live in Shorewood and have two adult children. Mark enjoys hiking, fishing, camping, bicycling, golf, and downhill and Nordic skiing.
Mike Reichenbach

Working in three different states, Illinois, Oregon and Minnesota over a span of 43 years, Mike has a long and deep experience working with landowners. He has experience operating two forestry related businesses, was program administrator of the urban forestry program for the State of Illinois and worked as an Extension Forestry Educator in Oregon and Minnesota. Mike's educational degrees include a Bachelor and Master of Science in Forestry and an Educational Doctorate. He has 20 years of experience serving on the board of non-profit organizations. Mike is proud of his work with these organizations designing, developing and implementing educational programs.

Mike lives in Barnum with his wife Kris, dog KayCee and cat Skye. Their daughter Tegan lives in Duluth. Retired from the University of Minnesota Extension, he is pursuing canoeing, kayaking and camping. He consults with the North Shore Forest Collaborative to reach out to North Shore Landowners interested in restoring long lived conifer. He also manages 80 acres of family farm and woodland in Illinois.

GIVE TO THE MAX NOVEMBER 18

Sugarloaf appreciates and relies on our donors to help us protect Sugarloaf and restore the North Shore. Early giving for Give to the Max begins Nov. 1 and continues through Give to the Max Day on Nov. 18, with random drawings for more than $100,000 in prize grants for Minnesota organizations throughout the event.

This year, over 24,000 people visited Sugarloaf Cove. Our summer programs at Sugarloaf Cove were as popular as ever and landowners planted 11,000 trees along the North Shore through our low-cost fencing program. We are excited about these results and are making plans for a terrific 2022!

Visit givemn.org and search for Sugarloaf to make your donation. Or you can always renew your membership or make a donation through our website – sugarloafnorthshore.org. Thank you!

Thank you to our Local Business Members

AmeriClnn By Wyndam Tofte
Bluefin Bay on Lake Superior
Caribou Highlands
Cove Point Lodge
i.Com
Isak Hansen’s Hardware
Lamb’s Campground and Resort
Lutsen Resort
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Maxwell’s Woodland Nursery - (218) 353-7726
North Shore Federal Credit Union
North Shore Winery
Odyssey Resorts
WatersEdge Trading Company
North Shore Forest Stewardship Updates

NSFC Seeks Large Outreach Grant
A North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC) project is still being considered for a $375,000 grant from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to perform private land forestry outreach on the North Shore. The grant request is intended to contract with private foresters/resource professionals over a three-year period to further engage North Shore landowners in forest restoration efforts. The project would increase NSFC forestry outreach capacity, and direct landowners to the resources and agency incentive programs that may be available to them to conduct tree plantings, invasive plant removal, erosion control, and other forms of forest restoration. The LCCMR is still deliberating on fiscal year 2022 projects, so if you are inclined, you may express your support for this NSFC proposal to standing members of the council at: https://www.lccmr.mn.gov/about/members/members-index.html

NSFC Fencing Program 2021 Recap:
The North Shore Forest Collaborative successfully provided reduced-price tree protection fencing, thanks to a generous $45,000 financial donation from the Weeke’s Family Foundation and support from Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association, Isak Hansen’s Hardware and Seagren’s True Value.

During the six years of the fencing program, North Shore landowners have planted and protected (and tended) over 50,000 trees! Imagine all the carbon that is being stored in all those trees over this time, and all the new habitat that is being formed. Thank you to all those who have been contributing their time, money and effort to make this happen.

What do 50,000 trees mean for the environment?
- 50,000 mature trees can store an estimated 5000 metric tons per year of carbon to combat Climate Change. US Energy Administration estimates the average US citizen emits 20 metric tons/year. So, 50,000 trees may off-set carbon emissions from approximately 250 North Shore citizens!
- A new network of tree roots to contain soils to support Lake Superior clean water.
- 50,000 potential “Seed Islands” that naturally spread seedlings across the landscape.
- 50,000 new nesting and perching places for migrating birds and other critters.

If you or others may be interested in supporting/donating to this amazing cause, please contact John Paulson, at nsfcstaff@gmail.com.
The Tombolo award was established in 2006 to acknowledge individuals that demonstrate accomplishment of the Sugarloaf Cove mission statement. Past recipients are founding member, Emily Andersen (2006), Steve Pihlaja (2009), John Green (2010), Andrea Peterson (2012), Margit Berg (2014) and Jim Mullen (2017).

The 2021 award was presented to Mike Monten, a former board member from 2012 to 2019 who contributed to the establishment of the Legacy Program, recruited many board members and worked on the strategic plan update. As a former advertising executive, Mike was very helpful with our promotional efforts and was a steady hand guiding board decisions. Thank you Mike!

Michael Monten (left) was presented the Tombolo Award by Russ Baker at the Annual Meeting.
Member numbers growing steadily

This year we were extremely happy to welcome over 100 new members! We now have nearly 400 members – a record for our organization!

Memberships are the lifeblood of our organization. They support our programs, bird banding, maintenance of the building and trails, and our North Shore Forest restoration work. You can renew your membership or make an additional year end donation by visiting our website. Or, better yet, become a monthly, sustaining member.

Sustaining members make a convenient, ongoing monthly contribution, which means less mail, no renewal notices, and uninterrupted status as a Sugarloaf member. Your donation will be withdrawn monthly from your checking account or charged to your credit or debit card until you decide to stop. Visit sugarloafnorthshore.org to make your donation. It’s easy!

26,000 Happy, Informed Visitors

It was a busy year at Sugarloaf Cove. Through October 25, 2021 we have welcomed 26,529 visitors compared to last year when we welcomed 25,706 visitors. We weren’t sure what to expect after 2020, but it looks like being outdoors was still really popular.
Support Sugarloaf’s Legacy

Sugarloaf Cove was formed over millions of years in a cataclysm of volcanic and tectonic forces we can only begin to imagine. This remarkable place – rock and water and forest landscape - is today rooted in its Precambrian era beginnings. The rock erodes, forest evolves, the shoreline moves with the forces of time and water -- but the Cove remains true to its birth. There is the permanence to this place over the millennia since its beginnings – a globally unique ecological setting on the North Shore of Lake Superior.

This fall we are celebrating the third anniversary of the Sugarloaf Legacy Society. The society creates a special opportunity for people who care about the Cove and the North Shore landscape and who want to see it protected and preserved. An estate gift is a special commitment to the long-term future of this unique place. Please consider a gift for Sugarloaf in your estate.

If you have immediate questions or would like more information, please contact Executive Director Molly Thompson (218.525.0001), or Mike Monten (612.750.6868).

Thank you for supporting Sugarloaf today and into the future.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (also online at Sugarloafnorthshore.org).

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- $30  White Spruce
- $60  Balsam Fir
- $120  Tamarack
- $250  Red Pine
- $500  White Cedar
- $1000  White Pine
- $____  Other

Mail to: Sugarloaf 6008 London Road Duluth, MN 55804
Or call with credit card information: 218-525-0001