

THE SUGARLOAF

Interpreter

ADAPTING TO CHANGE



Sugarloaf

THE NORTH SHORE STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Photo by Margie Menzies

Discover

The rocks on
tell a story of
geologic time,
and evidence of
ages are here

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Nancy Simpson

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Amy Brugge, Site Host and

co-volunteer coordinator

BUSINESS OFFICE:

6008 London Road

Duluth, MN 55804

218-525-0001

Email: info@sugarloafnorthshore.org

www.sugarloafnorthshore.org

SUGARLOAF COVE:

9096 Highway 61

Schroeder, MN 55613

(not a mailing address)

218-663-7679

MISSION STATEMENT

Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association strives to inspire the preservation and restoration of the North Shore's unique environment through education and exemplary stewardship, especially at Sugarloaf Cove.

NEW VISION

Sugarloaf values and believes in 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.

Planning for Unexpected Challenges

by Russ Baker, Board President

Like most businesses and non-profits, 2020 is turning out to be a year with *unexpected* challenges! We are trying to safely navigate the effects of the pandemic and adhere to the state and county guidelines. Yet, Sugarloaf Cove is still one of the nicest, most scenic, and informative outdoor experiences on the North Shore. While our Nature Center building will not be open to the public for a while, you can still enjoy our special place!



Russ Baker

How is Sugarloaf's financial situation?

The Board of Directors have looked at our situation to manage our finances for 2020. We are forecasting a decline in visitors and program attendance/revenue. We believe the business shutdown and stock market turbulence will reduce some business memberships and some individual donations. We will be conservative with all expenditures. However, Margie, our naturalist and our new site host, Amy, will be greeting visitors and answering questions on the deck throughout the summer.

Currently, we are evaluating our programs and fundraising events for 2020. We are unlikely to conduct programs in the Nature Center for a while. However, we plan to conduct outdoor programs, with attendees following proper safety protocols. We are also offering online programs and weekly updates from the Cove by Margie via Facebook live.

We have targeted August 8th for our annual membership meeting. We are exploring offering a live web viewing option via Zoom with a possible outdoor (tent) meeting. That is to be determined!

Thank you for your past and on-going support. We depend on volunteers who help with programs and maintaining the property, along with the financial support of our members. Thanks to all of you, our board of directors, staff, and the improvements we have made at Sugarloaf during the past half dozen or so years, we will survive this challenging year. We will continue to work hard to earn your appreciation, membership and financial support.



*Because if you're up here,
you belong here.*

800.450.0709

www.northshorefcu.org

Two Harbors | Silver Bay | Lutsen | Grand Marais | Grand Portage



Sugarloaf Updates

Meet our new site host– Amy Brugge



Amy Brugge

This summer, if you visit Monday through Thursday, you will be greeted by Amy Brugge, our new site host. Amy and her husband have lived in the Schroeder area for four years, but

have loved the North Shore since first moving to Duluth 11 years ago. She is a faculty member at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and is excited to be involved with our organization. Amy loves getting outdoors and enjoying all that the North Shore has to offer, whether it be hiking, camping, or simply taking in the view on the beach. If you drop by the Cove this summer, be sure to say hello to Amy.

The Ever Changing Shoreline

Over the last 6 months, the beach at Sugarloaf Cove has taken a beating. The higher water level of Lake Superior combined with a few big storms resulted in a narrower beach and damage to the inland beach trail. We also lost a lot of land near the southwest corner of the beach due to erosion. Rope and posts that we had installed for safety reasons, were uprooted

by the high water and large waves.

This spring, Russ Baker, Phil Sogge and Dan Kaler went to work repairing the fallen posts and ropes and rebuilding the trail. Thanks to them, the trail is once again cleaned up and safe to walk. You can see the results of their hard work on the cover of this newsletter. Thanks guys!

Interpreting Sugarloaf Cove

The interpretive panels we installed along the trails last year have been a big success. This year, thanks to a grant from Arrowhead Electric Operation Round Up, we will be installing an interpretive sign at the beginning of the trail on Sugarloaf Point. This sign will describe the unique features of the point and ask visitors to please stay on the trail to protect fragile tree

roots and plants.

We are also working on a sign for the beautiful pollinator garden in front of the Nature Center building. It will help visitors identify the flowers and butterflies seen in the garden. This sign, and future maintenance of the garden, are being funded by the Gary Thorn memorial fund.

Updating Our Exhibits

Once again, volunteer Helen Sievers has enabled us to make more improvements at Sugarloaf Cove. Thanks to her many hours volunteering for Sugarloaf, we received a grant of \$2000 from her former employer, IBM. This year, we will be using the funds to buy more bird banding supplies and new video monitors for the nature center. One monitor will display

program information, photos of the Cove from our visitors and staff, local weather information, and fun North Shore nature facts. Smaller monitors will be placed at a few of our exhibits and include videos and additional information about the exhibits. Watch our website for when the building will be open again.

Volunteer Spotlight– Lynda White

By Nancy Frischmann, RSVP Coordinator, Lake and Cook Counties

Without doubt, the past few months have been times of uncertainty and stress, as our nation and world face health and economic crises. At such times as these, we are so blessed to be surrounded by the beauty of our forests, lakes and hills. Our parks and trails can offer an outlet to



Volunteer Lynda White shares her love of bird banding with a young visitor.

stay healthy, learn about our natural and cultural history, and to help preserve our region's resources. One of the truly special areas to visit and volunteer is Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center.

As with many non-profits in our region, volunteers are critical to the ongoing services offered by Sugarloaf. Volunteers are trained to act as site hosts for the nature center, provide help for special events,

help with invasive species control, help with bird banding and with learning activities.

One dedicated volunteer is Lynda White, a volunteer who, during a normal summer, commutes weekly from the Twin Cities to help naturalist Margie Menzies with bird banding. Lynda is a retired teacher from St. Paul, who grew up in southern Connecticut. After moving to Minnesota with her husband, she fell in love the Lake Superior region and its boreal forests. An avid outdoors woman, she and her family hiked, camped, canoed, and explored. After retirement, Lynda became interested in studying birds and bird-centered volunteering.

Lynda's volunteer work with Sugarloaf consists of setting bird banding nets at sunrise, working with the bird banding team during the morning, and concentrating on 2 aspects of

banding: safely extracting birds from the nets and recording data about birds. Many species of birds are observed and banded at Sugarloaf, with the most common species being Nashville Warblers and the American Redstarts.

According to Lynda, there are many things she loves about volunteering and being at Sugarloaf: "The site and its birds are special, providing an ambiance both relaxing and invigorating, especially to a city-dweller. It's nice to know that the Sugarloaf programming includes educating and supporting local landowners in preserving and enhancing the native habitat in the area, an ultimate benefit for all of us. Bird banding at Sugarloaf offers variety in its contact with boreal species, and it's gratifying to be part of a study that contributes to scientific knowledge about these birds and the environment. It's also very satisfying to experience the camaraderie of this banding team, and Sugarloaf volunteers in general; everyone is supportive and welcoming. Besides that, there's the appeal of ample opportunity to educate the public and engage the interest of the younger generation."

While bird banding is one area of involvement, during a normal year, Sugarloaf Cove needs more volunteers to serve as site hosts during the summer and early fall months. Site hosts greet visitors, help them explore the numerous exhibits in the interpretive center, and help keep the center open. Due to COVID-19, during 2020 Sugarloaf will mainly need trail maintenance volunteers. More information can be found on the website, at sugarloafnorthshore.org.

As we continue to navigate this year and seek ways to be healthy, nurtured and positive, no better outlet exists than our natural resources. Please come explore this special place and consider ways to get involved including becoming a member. You can be part of a wonderful heritage of sharing, educating and preserving Sugarloaf Cove.

■ *Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and Master Naturalists!*

North Shore Forest Stewardship Updates

Creating Deeper Connections to your North Shore Forest

By Mike Reichenbach, University of Minnesota Extension

North Shore property owners have deep connections to the woodlands and waters of the North Shore. These connections are often rooted in childhood memories of visiting or living on the North Shore. These connections fuel enthusiasm for learning and help to motivate the act of planting trees and taking action within the community to care for the woodlands along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

It also may be why over 100 landowners have participated in the Master Woodland Owner North Shore Lost Forest program. While the name and format has changed in the 15 years since the class was first offered, the focus has been woodland health and sustainability. Participants in the classes often have common interests. For example, in 2005-2006 the interest was, "What do I do with my dying birch?" In 2010-2011 participants asked, "What should I plant to replace my dying birch?" In 2014-2015 and 2017-2018

is interested in "bringing life back to what was there". Another participant asked, "Why do I want to care for the forest?" and answered by stating, "Aesthetics, spirituality and financial stability. A property without a forest would be worthless."

The participants bring an enthusiasm for learning to the program. This enthusiasm goes beyond learning skills to improve their own property and extends to building a community of people with a common interest in restoration of the North Shore Forest. For example, one of the participants was enthusiastic about tree planting and enjoyed talking with others who are also passionate about it. Meeting with neighbors to encourage forest restoration was important to several participants. One participant noted, "The Sugarloaf Lost Forest Project has helped me meet people. Especially people who are concerned about the issues I am concerned about."

One participant expressed awareness to advocate for the restoration of the North Shore Forest,

"One of the things I like about the program [The Sugarloaf/Extension Master Woodland Program] is... it will develop an advocacy for the forest... broadening the focus of Sugarloaf to include the entire North Shore. I think that the program is really smart because it develops a core of advocates for the forest. I feel like I am armed to talk about the forest more thoughtfully than I was before. That may be the most valuable thing the program is doing. It may be more valuable than what anybody does with their piece of property."

As the result of the program, participants are planting trees on their own land and are working within their communities to create awareness of the need for establishing more long-lived conifers along the North Shore. One of the most important aspects of the Sugarloaf Lost Forest Program has been the ability to engage people around their connections to the North Shore, creating an awareness of the need to take action, and providing the skills, training and support to take action.

If you would like more information about our Lost Forest program, please send an email to sugarloaf@boreal.org.



Lost Forest participants listen to instructor Mike Reichenbach in 2015

their interest turned to planting and protecting long lived conifers. In this year's class there is a big interest in what species to plant as the climate changes.

Understanding the participants' connection to the land provides a starting place from which Sugarloaf and the University of Minnesota Extension developed the educational content that builds awareness of the need to plant and protect long lived conifers and to take action planting and protecting trees.

Class participants' personal connections include a sense of their properties as a private retreat that must be cared for to protect the natural values. One participant

Community Forest Restoration Shed Update

Since 2014, our Community Forest Restoration Shed at Sugarloaf Cove has made available tools, herbicide application equipment, and herbicides for landowners to use on their properties to treat invasive plants. Due to the special circumstances this summer, we will only be offering supplies to

people who have completed training in past years. Supplies will be distributed by reservation only on July 8, July 22, August 12 and August 19 at 10 am. If you are interested and are a past participant, visit sugarloafnorthshore.org/forest-restoration/invasives/ to sign up for one these days.

North Shore Forest Collaborative Update

by John Paulson, NSFC Coordinator

Sugarloaf is a founding member and fiscal agent of The North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC). NSFC is a coordinated effort between local, state, and federal land management agencies as well as public and private organizations and individuals who want to work together to assure a healthy

forest environment. Working together with the NSFC, Sugarloaf is able to reach more landowners and make a bigger impact along the North Shore. Everyone is invited to attend the general meetings and workshops. Visit northshoreforest.org.



Fencing participants Tom McCann and Nancy Haarmeyer (not pictured) re-fenced some of their previously planted trees this spring.

NSFC Fencing Program Reaching Tree Height!

The Spring 2020 NSFC Fencing Program was a big success, in spite of the COVID-19 challenges. All fencing and trees have been spoken for, and trees are being planted. The program is in its fifth year and has inspired North Shore landowners to plant and fence over 10,000 white pine and white cedar on their private property and to plant an additional 31,600 trees without fencing. The trees that

were planted the very first year are likely getting close to the stage where deer can no longer prevent them from reaching vigorous health and full maturity. These planted and protected trees will help improve forest habitat complexity, improve water quality and ecological health, and will create islands of seed that will scattered on the winds of the North Shore and naturally seed other spaces. The program has been made available through generous ongoing support from the Weekes Family Foundation. If you haven't taken advantage of this program in the past, please check in with us later this Fall to see if the program will be continued for 2021. Thank you to all participants and have a great planting restoration season!

Seedlings donated by Rajala Woods Foundation, Hedstrom Lumber, and Castle Danger Brewery

The NSFC thanks Rajala Woods Foundation and Castle Danger Brewery for providing free white pine tree seedlings this Spring for planting on the North Shore.

***The Rajala Woods Foundation** is devoted to bringing back longer-lived tree species, particularly the white pine, and provided tree seedlings this spring to those NSFC fencing program participants requesting the full-service package.*

***Castle Danger Brewery** is similarly devoted to bringing back white pine, and does so by giving away*

white pine seedlings through sales of its White Pine Project IPA.

***Hedstrom Lumber**, in operation for four generations, has been devoting itself to helping restore the North Shore forest by once again providing free seedlings giveaways each year. If you are aware of other organizations offering free seedlings, please let us know. We want to make sure to thank them for their generosity.*

Join NSFC's New Facebook Friends Group:

If you are a Facebook user, please join NSFC's new Facebook Friend's Group. Encourage your North Shore Facebook Friends to "Join, Like and Share", and feel free to post your North Shore Restoration Stories! To join, search for North Shore Forest Collaborative from your Facebook page.

Become a 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 contact us to make a change.

Visit sugarloafnorthshore.org to make your donation.

Join the Sugarloaf Legacy Club

**PROTECT SUGARLOAF COVE
INTO THE FUTURE**

Did you know you can contribute appreciated stock directly to Sugarloaf?

You can transfer appreciated stock directly to Sugarloaf's brokerage account.

You get the full tax deduction for the value of the stock and will not have to pay capital gains tax on the gain.

Contact Molly Thompson at 218-525-0001 for more information.

NEW! Woodlands of Minnesota Landowner Handbooks

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has released a Northern Superior Uplands handbook for Landowners. This book is part of their Woodlands of Minnesota handbook series for woodland owners in Minnesota. Topics include an introduction to Northeast Minnesota forests, a planning guide for landowners, and steps landowners can take to manage their woodlands. Free copies of the handbook are available at Sugarloaf Cove or at our business office in Duluth.



KEEP INFORMED ABOUT SUGARLOAF EVENTS AND UPDATES!

Visit our web page to
sign up or send your
email address to [info@
sugarloafnorthshore.org](mailto:info@sugarloafnorthshore.org)

Association Members

Names listed are for new and renewing memberships received between January 2019 and December 2019.

WHITE PINE (\$1000+)

Amy Andersen and Tim Wilson
 Russell Baker
 Tom and Kay Becken
 Mary Ellen and Darrell Cash
 Ted and Aileen Lyle
 Jerry Meigs
 Ben and Mary Stephens
 Susan and Jay Thompson
 William and Judy Walter

WHITE CEDAR (\$500+)

Emily Andersen
 Margit and Tom Berg
 Susan and Ari Fuad
 Eric Hageman
 Allen and Kathleen Lenzmeier
 Tammy and Mark Magney
 Rosanne and Michael Monten
 Jim and Fran Mullin
 Lowell and Ann Palecek
 Harriet Smith
 Julie Brunner and Dale Ulrich
 M.K. Volk

RED PINE (\$250+)

Julian and Jamie Andersen
 Evan and Nancy Anderson
 Mary Kay Arthur
 Malinda Baker Case
 Gregg and Anne Draeger
 Scott and Jan Ellingson
 Robert and Jodi Gearou
 John and Janet Green
 Jean Ljungkull
 Donn and Alonah Lorenz
 David and Margaret Lucas
 Harry McNeely, Jr
 William Miller and
 Stephanie Hemphill
 Roger and Margaret Nelson
 Vicki and Michael Neus
 Roger Olson
 Juliana K Rupert
 Phillip and Cecile Sogge
 Greg and Cindy Weamer
 Jonathan and Sarah Wilmshurst
 Stephen Yurek and Steven Barge

TAMARACK (\$120+)

Gerald and Aletha Bartels
 Paul and Kathrynne Baumtrog

Cynthia and Steve Betzler
 Fred and Mary Sue Brass
 Robert and Marjana Callery
 Leslie Kemp Colbeth
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 Clara Ueland and Walter McCarthy
 Gregory Vilmo
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 Don and Leny Wendel
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 Rob and Linda Whyte

BALSAM FIR (\$60+)

David and Susan Ahlquist
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 Anne Brataas
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WHITE SPRUCE (under \$60)

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 Chel Anderson and John Alt
 Therese Anderson
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 Allan Apter and Brenda Ion
 Terry A Baird

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 Becky Bartol
 Matt Bass
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 Kristen Rasmussen
 Rich Reardon
 Peg, Steve, and Al Robertsen
 Nancy and Don Rodning
 Yan Seiner
 Alice Silkey
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 Anne McKinsey
 Susan and Mark Richardson
 Nancy and John Simpson
 Michelle Strangis and Steve Pincus
 Jane and Clark Sweet
 Lisa Tinucci

2019 Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
Business Checking - US Bank	53,848
Cash drawer	80
Savings - Restricted & Reserves	140,341
Schwab account	419,270
Total Checking and Savings	613,539
Accounts Receivable	
Pledges Receivable	400
Other Current Assets	
Investments	266
Unrecorded incoming funds	6,250
Total Other Current Assets	6,516
Total Current Assets	620,455

Fixed Assets

Accumulated depreciation	-94,447
Building and improvements	251,118
Equipment	11,653
Land	570,989
Total Fixed Assets	739,312

Total Assets **1,359,768**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	
Total Accounts Payable	29
Other Current Liabilities	
Deferred Revenue	75,761
Total Other Current Liabilities	75,761
Total Current Liabilities	75,790
Total Liabilities	75,790

Equity

Unrealized Gain (Loss)	121,746
Unrestricted Fund Balance	741,605
Unrestricted Net Assets	405,329
Net Income	15,298
Total Equity	1,283,977

Total Liabilities & Equity **1,359,768**

2019 Statement of Activities (Jan - Dec)

Ordinary Revenue/Expense

Revenue

Contributions Income	22,013
Grants*	96,790
Interest earned	85
Membership Dues	44,717
Merchandise Sales	2,974
Miscellaneous	1,007
Program Fees	31,550
Total Income	199,136

Gross Revenue

199,136

Expenses

Advertising	1,201
Bank Service Charges	1,407
Contract Labor	15,152
Depreciation Expense	5,649
Dues and Subscriptions	155
Fundraising	1,505
Insurance	2,917
Internet expenses	2,048
Merchandise purchases	1,308
Miscellaneous	513
Office Supplies	1,127
Payroll Expenses	61,143
Postage and Delivery	796
Printing and Reproduction	2,865
Program Expense	65,069
Rent	3,000
Subscriptions	46
Telephone	757
Travel	3,142
Visitor's Center Expenses	13,529
Total Expenses	183,839

Net Ordinary Revenue **15,298**

* \$64,598 for stewardship specific projects

Sugarloaf Donors 2019

MATCHING GIFTS

Ameriprise Financial
for Lisa Tinucci
Allina Health System
for Barbara Johnson Adkins
IBM Corporation Matching Grants Program
for Helen Sievers
Textron, Inc
for Michael Neus
United Health Group
for Mary Ellen and Darrell Cash

AGENCY AND ORGANIZATION GRANTS

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program – MN DNR
MN DNR SNA Programs
The University of Minnesota Extension Northeast
Regional Sustainable Development Partnership
USDA Forest Service

FOUNDATION GRANTS

Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
The Driscoll Foundation
IBM Community Grants Foundation
InFaith Foundation/Nekola Family Charitable Fund
Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation
Trillium Foundation
Weekes Family Foundation

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Integrated Compensation Systems -
Payroll Services
Russ Baker –
Building maintenance supplies
Melissa Carbonneau –
Event planning and supplies
Julie Magney –
North Shore Evening planning and supplies
Anne McKinsey –
Office supplies
Jane Sweet –
Gardening tools and supplies

OTHER DONATIONS

Nancy and Evan Anderson
Fred and Mary Sue Brass
Jean Ljungkull
Roger and Margaret Nelson
Michael and Catrin Schaeffer
for bird banding supplies
Bill and Judy Walter
Anne and Rob Wight
for the North Shore Forest Collaborative
Amazon Smile
Castle Danger Brewery

YEAR END DONATIONS

Anonymous
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Andrew and Jill Beim
Dan Billman
Mary Ellen and Darrell Cash
Deborah Cooter
John and Jan Green
Dr. Kathryn Hanna
in honor of Helen Sievers
Dean and Sandy Jacobsen Hedstrom
John and B.J. Kohlstedt
Lawrence LaPre
Alonah & Donn Lorenz
Cathy Parlin
in memory of Nancy Parlin
Bob and Alice Peters
John Priem
Elaine Rosenblatt
in memory of Kevin Kvale
Phillip and Cecile Sogge
Diane and Duncan Storlie Tessari
Liv and Colin Van Dyke
in honor of Karin Van Dyke
Nancy Simpson



Thank you to the following businesses for their generous support in 2019:

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

IComp Payroll Services, St. Paul, MN;
651-429-4260; icomppayroll.com

North Shore Federal Credit Union,
Silver Bay, MN; 218-226-4401; northshorefcu.org

North Shore Winery, Lutsen, MN; 218-481-9280;

Temperance Liquors, Schroeder, MN;
218-663-0111; northshorecabins.com

GARY THORN MEMORIAL DONATIONS

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Janice Blomberg
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Marv Fabyanske
Ann Fankhanel
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Sue and Doug Nelson
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Steve Vestal and Pam Binns
Michael and Anne Vinyon
Mary and Gary Wefel
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Robert and Betty Wicklem

OTHER MEMORIALS

Mary and Dennis Kelly in honor of Nancy Simpson
Gerald Meigs in memory of Bob Hanle



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2020 Sugarloaf Programs

Private Guided Tours

Led by our extraordinary naturalist, Margie Menzies.

Choose your topic – geology, birds, plants, Lake Superior and more. \$15/person for 2 hours; Members \$10/person for 2 hours. Limited to 9 people. Off-site programs also available for an added cost.

All participants must wear masks and follow physical distancing protocols to

protect our staff. Call 218-663-7679 to reserve your date and time.

Online Programming

Watch your email and our website for dates, times, and access information.

■ LIVE FROM SUGARLOAF COVE WITH NATURALIST MARGIE MENZIES

Fridays, 5:30 pm via FACEBOOK LIVE

Every Friday this summer, join our naturalist, Margie Menzies, as she talks about the latest nature happenings at Sugarloaf Cove and takes your questions. Topics will vary from bird banding to geology to phenology. Great for all ages. You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch. We will send a link via our weekly emails or you can visit our Facebook page to watch Margie live or at another time.

■ MAKING INATURALIST WORK FOR YOU

Saturday, July 11, 10 am via Zoom

Would you like to be able to identify (almost) everything (almost) everywhere? All you need is a phone or a camera! Join MN DNR Scientific and Natural Areas Program Naturalist, Arika Preas on July 11 for an online live workshop. We will learn the ins and out of *iNaturalist*, an online citizen science project. This project's objective is to make a "living record of life on Earth" by providing a platform for sharing observations of the living world around us. You will also learn how you can use it to help Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas program. \$5 per family. Register on our website.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are adjusting our summer programming plans to include online workshops and programs with limited on-site programs.

Please bear with us as we determine times and dates.

■ FISHERS – RARELY SEEN CARNIVORES OF THE NORTH WOODS

July 25, 10 am via Zoom

Have you ever seen a fisher? Fishers are mid-sized carnivores that live in the forested regions of Minnesota. Unfortunately, the fisher population in Minnesota has declined by about 50% over the past 20 years. Why? Join Michael Joyce, NRRI Wildlife Ecologist, as he discusses the history and current status of the fisher population in Minnesota. He will talk about their latest research including research to examine cavity availability, whether artificial den boxes are a viable habitat management tool for fishers, and interactions between bobcats and fishers. \$5 per family. Register on our website.

■ TICKS, MOSQUITOES AND OUR HEALTH

August 15, 10 am via Zoom

Have you ever wondered how long a tick lives? Or how the diseases that ticks spread are diagnosed? Or maybe you just want to know how to avoid tick and mosquito bites?

During this presentation you will learn about which types of ticks and mosquitoes live here in Minnesota, the health risks associated with them, and how to better enjoy the great outdoors by keeping ticks and mosquitoes away. \$5 per family. Register on our website.

■ *For the time-being bird banding is not available to the public. We hope to open bird banding to the public later this summer.*

Annual Membership Meeting

AUGUST 8, 1:00 PM

We are making plans to offer our Annual Membership meeting via Zoom so that our members can vote for new board members and participate in other meeting matters.

Please watch your email and our website for more details.

Tree Story

by Lowell Palecek

This is the story of my experience planting long-lived conifers – white pine, white cedar, and red pine – on our property by Lake Superior. I hope to encourage other landowners to do the same, and I have some advice to share regarding how to go about it.

My story is small. Our property is small. We have 70 little trees that I have planted in 56 fence enclosures on something less than 2 out of our 3 total acres. Other people have planted many more trees on larger properties.

A large portion of the North Shore is other privately owned properties, most of them 5 acres or less. For other property owners, I hope in writing this that I can help inspire you to plant pines and cedars on your property.

I am telling you of my experience. Yours may vary. You may have an easier setting to plant trees but a drier setting where watering them annually is vital. Our place is rocky but wet. You may plant more or fewer trees. I am a relatively fit sixty-something. You may be older or younger, more fit or less.

We have taken two classes that helped a lot in our understanding. In 2015 we took the Lost Forest class given by the University of Minnesota Extension and Sugarloaf. In 2018 we took the Minnesota Master Naturalist class for this region at Sugarloaf. We have attended landowner workshops conducted by the North Shore Forest Collaborative (northshoreforest.org).

We're all just tenants

The native Americans had this right: No one owns the land. At best we're long-term tenants. The person who built our cabin had it for almost 50 years, from the early 40's until 1989. Today, I can't find anyone who remembers him.

Meanwhile, there are trees nearby that are older than the United States, and the rocks underneath us are older than life itself.

If we are tenants on the land, then we must be stewards of it for the people who come after us.

Our property

Our land is one of four parcels in a draw that leads from Highway 61 down to Lake Superior. The highway is 1000 feet from the Lake, and 100 feet above it. The lot

lines were drawn with no regard to topography, so that the upper 2/3 of our parcel climbs out of the draw and contains the minor ridge between this draw and the next one to the east. Our parcel is long and narrow, totaling about 3 acres. Most of my plantings are on the ridge above the cabin.

Around 1905 or so, a lumber company leased landing rights here to potentially get logs down to the lake. I don't know whether they used it or not. Later, I think this lake access was used for fishing. The next property to the east was developed as a commercial fishing landing. It was owned until a couple of years ago by the third generation of

the original family.

For whatever reason – logging, fire, or development, there are no 300-year-old trees on our property. There aren't even any hundred-year-old trees. We have mostly balsam firs mixed with paper-bark birch trees, with areas of aspen. There are some rock outcroppings where no trees grow.

Our property is heavily wooded.

So, what's the problem?

Balsam firs are pretty. They smell lovely. But they don't live long. They shoot up fast, thick, and weak. In a high wind, they either blow over because their roots are shallow, or they break off. This is normal. It's part of natural succession after an event opens up an area of forest to new growth. While the balsams rule, the longer-lived trees should be growing up underneath them to take their place. This is mainly white pine and white cedar, because they are somewhat shade tolerant and fast growing when small.

The succession to white pines and white cedars isn't happening. The reason mainly is whitetail deer. When the North Shore was logged off around 1900 and then suffered widespread fires around 1920, the deer population exploded. Moreover, deer from the Arrowhead region concentrate close to Lake Superior in the winter for the milder temperatures and lesser snow depths. They get hungry, and they eat what they can.

Contrary to some stories, white pine and cedar saplings are not like "candy" to deer, but they can be something the deer nibbles on to keep from starving during the long winter. Whether they are candy or survival rations, the result is that few white pines or white cedars have grown up close to the lake. (You are more likely to find them a few miles inland.)

Our goal is to help the forest succession by planting white pine and white cedar trees on our lakeside slope. We have also planted a few red pines in spaces where there is more sunlight.

Besides being majestic and strong against storms, and living for hundreds of years, white pine trees provide one more benefit. They provide strong branches high up with the right geometry for eagle nests. Do you want to support bald eagles? Plant a white pine tree.

We won't see our seedlings become big trees. That's for our grandkids and their children. Someone has to start though. If not us, who?

For more from Lowell, including tree seedling sources and planting tips, visit sugarloafnorthshore.org/treestory.



Photo credit: Mike Reichenbach



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