The Sugarloaf Interpreter

Great Staff
Great Programs
Great Future!
Thank You!

By Ari Fuad, Board President

This time of year, activity on the North Shore really starts to slow down. The leaves have all fallen or been blown off the trees and the big lake is loud and angry. Trail walks this time of year are different, but still very special. With the leaves down, you’ll discover new vistas and views into the forest that are available during the summer.

This was a more normal summer. Our visitor count at the Cove was down a little and that gave us time to catch up on some facility and trail maintenance. We also made a very needed improvement to the parking lot by paving the Highway 61 access aprons. This will make it easier to pull off and pull back onto the highway while reducing the amount of maintenance needed to the gravel parking lot.

There are some significant additional changes being planned at Sugarloaf. As was announced at our Annual Membership meeting this summer, we have a capital campaign underway. Our goal is to raise $400,000 by summer 2023. The primary purpose of this campaign is to fund the creation of an outdoor teaching space as well as some new exhibits. We are also going to be exploring options for off-site staff housing. Thanks to the generous contributions of some key donors, we are already more than 80% towards this funding goal.

I want to thank all our regular (and irregular) volunteers – you are all crucial to our mission and the maintenance and rehabilitation of Sugarloaf and the greater North Shore. I want to especially thank our on-site staff who work hard developing new programs and welcoming our guests. I was particularly impressed by the new “Sugarloaf Shorts” that provided more opportunities for visitors to engage with staff at the cove. Read more about this format on page 8 of this newsletter.

While we are slowing down for the season, I do have one final ask for the end of the year. We are again kicking off a year-end fund-raising campaign. Our operating budgets have gone up, in particular to support more full-time staff at the Cove. This has led to more quality interactions with visitors to the cove and it is important to our long-term mission to continue these interactions as well as more varied programs at the cove. Please help us to further our mission with a renewed membership or an extra year-end donation!

Cover photo: Sugarloaf staff left to right: Dominique Menard, Pete Gravett, Joanne Klees
Thank You Summer and Fall Volunteers!

By Pete Gravett, Director of Site Operations and Philanthropy

Bird Banding Volunteers, thank you! You continue to backstop a Sugarloaf program favorite. Linda Whyte, Joe Lutz, Michelle Strangis, Pam and Loren Albin, Larry LePre’, Ellen Doll, Shelly Bowman and Andy Witchger gave their time multiple Thursdays. Also thanks Rob Whyte for Thursday spot duty on trail maintenance. Lastly thanks Margie Menzies for coordination and oversight!

Site Host Volunteers thanks for welcoming guests, staffing the Sugarloaf store AND your miscellaneous help with projects close to the facility. Our Monday tandem of Tam Seidl and Gina Meissner helped with maintaining the wildflower garden, cleaning the exhibit area and even preparing program supplies. Our Tuesday tandem of Michael Lucca and Hannah Stelley painted the bathroom and even helped install a ceiling fan. Many others gave their time on a more spot-duty basis, including Julie and Jeff Evans, Bob and Mary Shaw, Margit Berg, Russ Baker, Bill Gabler and Barb Jansen. Welcome new Site Host Volunteers Janet Kampa and Mary Dailey, we will be adding you to the mix here shortly. So glad to have you on board.

The big site improvement project this summer was the addition of asphalt aprons to both entrances of the parking lot (see photo above). Thanks Dan Kaler and Robert Dunne for your prep work, including the use of heavy equipment in-gratis. Thanks Mark Magney and Phil Sogge for taking bids, your design input and coordination.

Beyond that project, the site improvements of spring give way to maintenance in summer . . . lots of not-so-flashy, but must-do maintenance . . .

Trails, bird banding swaths and spring plantings become overgrown by neighboring brush. Boring insects and heat-seeking mice tried and in some cases succeeded to make their way into the building. Dealing with it is not quite as fun as building anew, but maintenance has got to be done and we couldn’t do it without our vast pool of volunteers. Dan Kaler, Russ Baker and Phil Sogge were regulars spraying for bugs, clearing trails, watering and fencing seedlings, even winterizing the camper. Thanks gentlemen!

New Project Volunteers, Kim and Pierre Menard, even built a work station so yours truly has a place to spread out projects and get a little better organized. No more excuses!

All of you, we can’t thank you enough. Sugarloaf is a group effort. If you would like to volunteer, contact Pete Gravett, Site Operations Director at 763-234-7568.
Getting to Know the Cove:
Autumn Reflections after a Season at Sugarloaf
by Dominique Menard, Naturalist

When living in Lakeville, I was very close to one of the entrances to Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, and I knew my little corner intimately. I have walked around Lake Minnereggs countless times, in every sort of season, every sort of weather. Shortly before heading north to start as the naturalist at Sugarloaf Cove, I went out to watch a lunar eclipse from the top of a hill there.

It was dark walking towards home, but not so much that my backup headlamp was necessary. I knew exactly where I was on the trail. There were vague outlines yes, but more than that; I knew the change in the way the path felt under my feet and where it changed from firmly packed to sandier. I knew the smell of plum blossoms and the sound of wind through tall grass compared to aspen leaves.

As I write this, it has been almost exactly 5 months since I started working at Sugarloaf Cove. In such a short period of time, I have barely scratched the surface of knowing this place... but I have also learned so much. As I walk the paths I can start to picture multiple seasons. In the pollinator garden gone to seed I can recall the sound of bumblebees and taste the sweetness of thimbleberries though the leaves droop yellow and wilted along the path.

Having a connection with the land that I am on has always been a precious thing to me. But without undercutting the importance of the physical space—know that Sugarloaf Cove is also more than that. When reflecting on my first days in the spring and our last fall weekends, one huge difference was community. There are so many people who I have gotten to know, and so many more who might be strangers, but we are able to connect because of shared love for this special place. Thank you to the wonderful team that I've gotten to work with: Molly, Pete, and Joanne. Thanks to the board, volunteers, and all of the incredible people making things happen behind the scenes! And thanks to YOU! From regulars who have become friends, to those who are only able to visit occasionally, or even sending support from afar. This is a community, and I look forward to continuing to get to know you more as well as the land.
Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association held its annual meeting and ice cream social on July 30, 2022, at Sugarloaf Cove. Over 60 members attended the meeting. Ari Fuad, board president, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Minutes of the 2021 annual meeting were read and approved unanimously.

Former board president, Russ Baker, provided an update on board membership. Jerry Meigs and Dan Kaler were unanimously approved as renewing board members. Russ noted that he has several prospective board members he will be speaking to over the summer.

Molly Thompson, Executive Director, and Ari Fuad gave an organization update that included an overview of Sugarloaf’s accomplishments during 2022. They introduced our two new staff members, Dominique Menard, naturalist, and Joanne Klees, site host. Pete Gravett returned this summer as Director of Operations in addition to Director of Philanthropy. Dominique and Pete offered many popular classes covering topics such as birds, plants, insect life and more. Margie Menzies offered bird banding demonstrations on Thursday with the help of many dedicated volunteers. Joanne greeted visitors, managed the gift shop, and recruited many new members.

Molly provided an update about our North Shore Forest stewardship activities in partnership with the North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC). This year the low-cost fencing program sold out quickly. Currently Sugarloaf is working with the NSFC coordinator to update the NSFC website and is preparing for a landowner tour in the late summer. (For more NSFC updates see page 6.)

Pete Gravett then gave an update on site improvements including the new driveway aprons, new interpretive panels on the deck, and many improvements along the trails and in the building.

The highlight of the meeting was a special announcement made by Pete Gravett. To further our mission, we have launched a capital campaign to fund the creation of an outdoor teaching space that will accommodate up to 80 people in all weather conditions. This will include the expansion of the building’s side deck; construction of a roof to cover the area; detachable fabric walls; and overhead heat and electric. We will also improve our indoor exhibit area by installing new exhibits and upgrading our storage. Finally, we are exploring off-site staff housing options. We’ve been exploring this concept with some of our key donors and in May we received a generous lead gift for the Sugarloaf Education Capital Campaign. Our goal is to reach $400,000 by the annual meeting next year. At the time of the meeting our funding gap was about $96,500. Many members made pledges and donations. Ari and Sue Fuad’s gave $3000 to the capital campaign in addition to giving an operating gift of $2000. Ari stressed the importance of giving to both operating and capital donations to Sugarloaf.

Pete then distributed pledge forms and Ari joined him in encouraging people to make their pledge today. (Watch for updates on this campaign in March 2023)

The annual meeting adjourned for a short ice cream break and then an excellent presentation by Jackie Fallon, VP of Field Operations for the Midwest Peregrine Society and MN state coordinator for peregrine monitoring, about Minnesota’s Peregrine Falcons.

7231 MN 61, Tofte, MN 55615
North Shore Forest Stewardship Updates
by John Paulson, North Shore Forest Collaborative Coordinator

The NSFC’s fencing program leads the way on North Shore private forest restoration

The North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC) once again was able to facilitate reduced-price tree protection fencing in the Spring of 2022. This program is only made possible with the generous donation from the Weeke’s Family Foundation. For the past, seven years, the Weekes Family Foundation has worked hand-in-hand in supporting the planting and protection of over 70,000 white pine trees. And to think, a portion of the seven-year-old trees are about to reach a height that is beyond the reach of deer browsing! This level of forest restoration effort illustrates the commitment and passion of the Weeke’s Family Foundation. We are grateful.

Thank you, also, to all landowners who have participated in the reduced fencing program all these years, and who have also been encouraging their neighbors to do likewise.

NSFC seeks LCCMR funding for private land outreach forestry

The North Shore Forest Collaborative has received positive news that its application for state funding for private land outreach forestry through the Legislative Citizen’s Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) is likely to receive full funding of $375,000. The LCCMR 3-year grant, if approved by the next session of the state legislature, would allow the NSFC to contract with natural resource professionals to visit with North Shore private landowners to help guide them toward forest restoration resources and planning on their properties beginning in the second half of 2023.

Minnesota Power’s Rajala Woods white pine seedlings

The North Shore Forest Collaborative has just received notice of another generous donation of 40,000 white pine seedlings for North Shore landowners in the spring of 2023, via Minnesota Power’s Rajala Woods Initiative. We will send out email notifications when the seedlings are available in the spring of 2023. These seedlings will be free, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Distribution sites will be located in Grand Marais, Sugarloaf, and the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, in Two Harbors. Minnesota Power has been actively engaged in bringing back the white pine tree, and other longer-lived tree species, to northeastern Minnesota.

New NSFC website being designed

In the coming months, the North Shore Forest Collaborative will be unveiling its new website design. The intent of the redesign is to ensure visitors to the website are able to easily find the resources and information they need to support their forest restoration interests. The NSFC staff is working with SWIM Creative out of Duluth on the website redesign. This project is made possible through a grant from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.

Join NSFC’s Facebook Friends Group

If you are a Facebook user, please consider joining the NSFC’s 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: CLICK HERE

White Pine Blister Rust Zoom Meeting: mark your calendars

The NSFC has scheduled a special Zoom meeting on White Pine Blister Rust, the invasive fungal disease that can damage and kill infected white pine trees. Mark your calendar for Friday, December 16, from 5:30 PM to 7PM. A presentation regarding the pathology of blister rust, what to look for on your trees, and what resource professionals and you can do about it, will be made by the Minnesota DNR’s Forest Health Specialist Eric Otto and the USFS’s Pathologist James Jacobs, along with UMN Extension Educator (retired) Mike Reichenbach. Watch your email and our website for registration information.
Show your love for Sugarloaf with a year end donation.

Help us meet our $40,000 goal!

The future is looking great for Sugarloaf thanks to your support and our great staff.

To keep the momentum going in 2023 we need to raise $40,000 by the end of December 2022.

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!
Summer Programs: Monarchs, Moons and MEA
by Dominique Menard, Naturalist

One of the amazing things about Sugarloaf Cove is the diversity contained in such a small space. Walking the one mile interpretive trail will take you through several different microbiomes. Inspired by this natural variation, our programming this summer and fall also covered an array of topics and formats.

A bulk of the programs were “Sugarloaf Shorts.” This format was outlined by Pete Gravett to be short, free, and highly accessible. For regulars to the Cove, they are a great value add to the parking fee or membership, and for the many visitors who stop by for the first time without planning to, they are a great way to get hooked on the Sugarloaf Cove. For myself, they were an excellent way to explore a wide variety of topics. The pilot “Intro to Bird Banding” short remained the most popular, but a few of my other favorites included monarchs, traditional names of moons, and native bees. My favorite review after one of these shorts came from a kiddo who participated in a scent tracking activity and then turned to her parents and asked “Could we do this at our house for my birthday?”

Interpretive hikes around Sugarloaf Cove were another program staple, and a great way to expand further on topics from shorts. Drop in craft projects were popular with families with young children who could decide how much time they wanted to spend on a project and a great way to have a sensory experience to connect with natural materials like fallen leaves or flower stems.

There were also many special programs through the season: several school groups have come for field trips, including Great Rivers School all the way from the Twin Cities, and an upcoming trip from Great Expectations in Grand Marais. We even had a group come from CareFree Living in Silver Bay. Sugarloaf Cove played host for an environmental field day led by the DNR and partners, and we were also a volunteer site for National Public Lands Day with MN Master Naturalist volunteers coming onsite to help remove invasive plants.

Invasive plants were also a theme for four outreach lessons co-taught with Tia Parks at local schools as part of the CCIT. It was a great way to help teach about stopping the spread of invasives to an area and a chance to build on relationships with the schools.

Our last burst of fall programming was for Fall Fest over MEA weekend. There was a fun atmosphere, great weather, and programming staples from the summer. The highlight of the weekend was the "Art of Observation" workshop led by Janet Moore. That was an incredible chance to dive into art as a tool for exploring your environment. I look forward to more collaboration with her!

I look forward to all of the future programming: if you have programs that you want to see at the Cove reach out! I’d love to hear from you!

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Support Sugarloaf's Legacy

This fall we are celebrating the fifth 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.

The rock erodes, the 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.

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.

Thank you for supporting Sugarloaf today and into the future.
Meet our Newest Directors

Tracy Trembley

Tracy is a semi-retired corporate IT leader, working part time as the principal consultant/owner of Applied Athena, LLC. She has her undergraduate and MBA from the Carlson School of Management. An avid hiker and bird watcher, she has completed most of the Superior Hiking trail and returns regularly to the North Shore to recharge. She is a former board member of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity - Women Build, Million Women Mentors, and Society for Information Management – Minnesota (Treasurer, STEM chair).

Tam Seidl

Tam Seidl joined the volunteer staff at Sugarloaf in 2021 working as a site host. Her love of people and nature made it a good fit. She completed her master Naturalist certification in 2019 at the North House Folk school taught by Margie Menzies, which provided her first introduction to Sugarloaf. Being a lifelong lover of the North Shore and BWCA she was one of the many who drove past Sugarloaf for years without stopping.

Tam is recently retired from her career in the telecommunications field including a position with the company that would become Comcast in Minneapolis. She was a project manager during the original build of the system network. From there she and her husband August began a start-up engineering company which stared as regional business and grew into an international company through their business relationships with Motorola and Philips.

Tam and her husband maintain homes in Grand Marais and Afton, although they plan to make a permanent move to the North Shore eventually. They have two adult sons, one living in the Denver area and the other in Excelsior, as well as two young grandchildren that thankfully live in Excelsior.
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. 17, with random drawings for more than $100,000 in prize grants for Minnesota organizations throughout the event.

This year, 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 2023!

Visit [givemn.org](http://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](http://sugarloafnorthshore.org). Thank you!

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**Thank you to our Local Business Members**

- **AmericInn By Wyndam Tofte**
- **Bluefin Bay on Lake Superior**
- **Caribou Highlands**
- **iComp Payroll & Human Resource Services**
- **Isak Hansen’s Hardware**
- **Lamb’s Campground and Resort**
- **Lutsen Resort**
- **Lutsen Sea Villas**
- **Maxwell’s Woodland Nursery - (218) 353-7726**
- **North Shore Federal Credit Union**
- **North Shore Winery**
- **Odyssey Resorts**
- **Semira Mundt, Edina Realty**
- **WatersEdge Trading Company**
Member numbers growing steadily

From October 1, 2021 – November 1, 2022, we have welcomed 109 new members. 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. Thank you!**

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!

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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