Sugarloaf Annual Meeting

August 12, 2023 at 1 pm

Join us for a Wolf program,
a Groundbreaking and more!
Sugarloaf Education Campaign Update
By Pete Gravett

Our work, our wealth and our wisdom coming together . . .

Last July the Sugarloaf Board of Directors went public with the $400,000 Sugarloaf Education Campaign, a capital campaign focused on the Sugarloaf Nature Center guest experience.

The main thrust of the campaign is to create a roofed-over outdoor classroom off the lake side of the facility. The plan is to begin construction in August of this year, with a ceremonial “groundbreaking event” at the member’s annual meeting set for August 12.

Another outdoor element is a retractable awning over the Sugarloaf Store outside of the main entrance of the facility. Already installed, the awning provides a splash of color while protecting both our merchandise and our guests from the elements.

The campaign will also address the indoor guest experience with improvements to the exhibit area. The first step includes mobile exhibit pedestals, with touch-and-see shelves and increased storage for program equipment. The first two pedestals have been built and delivered by Gary Nelson Construction, who has built several exhibits over the years for the Great Lakes Aquarium.

The last element of the campaign is to explore off-site staff housing solutions. Some exciting news on this piece will be shared at the Annual Meeting on August 12 at 1 pm.

In terms of pledges, the funding gap on the Sugarloaf Education Campaign is now down to $35,765. You can contribute to the campaign by visiting sugarloafnorthshore.org/capital-campaign.

Let’s see if we can reach our $400,000 goal by the annual meeting. Thanks for all the support to-date and for your consideration as we strive to meet our goal!
Annual Membership Meeting and Ice Cream Social
August 12 at 1 pm

We’ve got a lot to howl about!

Everyone (member or not) is invited to our annual membership meeting and ice cream social on August 12 at 1 pm. We’ll start the event with a brief membership meeting which will include the presentation of our special Tombolo award, an update on our capital campaign, and our official groundbreaking for our outdoor classroom! Then we’ll have ice cream and listen to a talk about wolves by Jordyn O’Gara.

Jordyn will give a presentation on basic wolf ecology and share a bit of her research about misconceptions on gray wolves. She received her Masters of Environmental Education from the University of Minnesota Duluth and completed a thesis project focusing on debunking harmful misconceptions about gray wolves. Jordyn has worked as a coordinator for the Timber Wolf Alliance and presented at the International Wolf Symposium for her work on research triangulating wolf locations through howl surveys. This will be a fascinating talk!
With bug bites and a bit of pink from the sun, I can say with certainty that summer has returned to the Cove. Though the mosquitoes are again ferocious, there are also more pleasant heralds of the season. Monarchs have returned and have begun to lay eggs on common and swamp milkweed - the first caterpillar has even been spotted! Snowshoe hares have been bounding around the Nature center, first in early May when their color was changing from white to brown, and now young from the first litter are also present in the area.

The season for me felt like it truly started when the West End Garden Club hosted a meeting in the nature center. It was still pretty early to see much blooming during our wildflower walk afterwards, but I loved having the building full and bustling again, and was so excited to realize how many faces I recognized. There were more familiar faces during a field trip group from Great Expectations Charter School and visitors and members returning from last year.

Connection has been the main theme on my mind lately. This time last year I was focused on connecting with the land and the physical place of Sugarloaf Cove. Now I am realizing how important the connections with the people of Sugarloaf are as well. Whether those connections are fleeting, with someone on a North Shore vacation just passing through, or more concrete with the core community constantly seen hiking the trails and attending programs, they are all important.

Thank you for being a part of the interdependent ecosystem of Sugarloaf Cove!

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Thank you to the following businesses for their support!

- AmericInn By Wyndam Tofte
- Bluefin Bay on Lake Superior
- Caribou Highlands
- i.Comp
- Isak Hansen’s Hardware - (218) 663-7204
- Lamb's Campground and Resort
- Lost Woods Whiskey
- Lutsen Resort
- Lutsen Sea Villas
- Maxwell’s Woodland Nursery - (218) 353-7726
- North Shore Federal Credit Union
- Odyssey Resorts
Sugarloaf Cove has long been a sponsoring organization for Minnesota Master Naturalist classes, advanced training, and volunteer opportunities. Many members and volunteers are already a part of the program, myself included! I started with the Big Woods, Big Rivers biome while living in Lakeville, and completed the Northwoods, Great Lakes biome last fall along with our new staff member Janet Kampa.

Over the winter I also had the opportunity to complete instructor training for the program, and am happy to announce that I will be co-teaching a class starting in September with Sarah Waddle, Cook County Extension Educator and Community Center Director. We are excited to begin our Minnesota Master Naturalist Instructor journey together, with a slightly unusual course that will feature many different north shore locations and guest speakers to help connect participants with local places and people. The course is now live on minnesotamasternaturalist.org.

The other exciting news is that a new chapter has started for Cook and Lake County! The chapter is based at the Cook County Community Center in Grand Marais, and everyone involved is excited to have a hub to connect with advanced training, volunteer opportunities, and a community of kindred spirits, eager to share their latest wild flora and fauna sightings.

Perhaps due to my obsession with bumblebees, I imagine Master Naturalists as pollinators, and surrounding organizations as flowering plants. I am so excited to see how this mutually beneficial relationship can help us all grow better together.

A special thanks to the individuals especially formative to the start of the chapter—and a reminder to seasonal residents that you can be a part of more than one chapter :)

Meet our Newest Staff member

Janet Kampa, Visitor Services

Hello, I am a new resident of the North Shore. I have been living in Grand Marais with my two dogs for about a year. My husband is still working in Minneapolis and coming north whenever he can. I worked in IT for Holiday Companies for 30 years and retired when Holiday was acquired and my job ended.

I love the North Shore and everything outdoors. I completed the Minnesota Master Naturalist course in the fall of 2022 and have taken advantage of living here, discovering all the beautiful places to hike, kayak, and snowshoe. I am finally getting to do all the things I love and one of them is spending time at Sugarloaf.
The 2022 bird banding season was the 11th straight year of bird banding at Sugarloaf, and the fifth year in sequence as a Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Station, a research project sponsored by the Institute for Bird Populations. During the 2022 season a total of 316 birds were banded during weekly banding sessions. All were banded during the MAPS, or breeding season for the birds and none during the fall migration time. During the MAPS sampling sessions (May 31 - Aug. 8) we captured a total of 27 species.

We also listen and watch for any species of birds that occur within 100 meters of any of our MAPS net lane areas and this year noted 53 species that occurred during breeding season. This year 5 more species of birds were added to the list of birds that have occurred at Sugarloaf during the breeding season: Gray Catbird, Green-winged Teal, Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-billed Gull, and Bald Eagle. We consistently hear Whip-poor-wills during the MAPS season - still waiting to catch one, which is highly unlikely- but something that we would love to imagine happening.

Over the years of banding at Sugarloaf the American Redstart and the Nashville Warblers have traded places for the top species of bird banded in a particular year. This year definitely belonged to the Nashville Warblers with 90 Nashvilles banded and 74 American Redstarts- but overall the Redstarts continue to be the most banded bird at Sugarloaf with a total of 855 American Redstarts banded to 610 Nashville Warblers.

**Surprise visitor to the Cove - Painted bunting**

The photo on the left below is of a painted bunting of unknown sex, that Margie banded on June 22, 2023 at Sugarloaf Cove. For comparison, the photo on the right is of a mature male painted bunting - certainly a colorful bird.

Painted buntings are typically found in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and parts of Mississippi, Kansas, and Missouri. Finding one in Minnesota is incredibly rare. There have only been 10 previous summer reports of a painted bunting in Minnesota - none in Cook County. What a terrific find!
THANK YOU JOHN PAULSON

For the past five years, the North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC) has been fortunate to have John Paulson as its coordinator. John came to the coordinator position after 32 years as a land manager at Minnesota Power. In his time as the NSFC coordinator, John was an inspiration for North Shore landowners and the members of the NSFC. In addition to answering many emails, he was the driving force behind the new NSFC website (northshoreforest.org), a GIS database to track forest restoration along the shore, many landowner workshops, distribution of free white pine seedlings, assistance with the fencing program, sending email updates and so much more. John was always willing to do whatever it took to make the NSFC successful. He spent many hours working on grant applications and ended his tenure by successfully applying for and receiving a $375,000 grant from the state for landowner assistance (see story below.)

With the departure of John, the North Shore Forest Collaborative will be hiring a new coordinator to support the ongoing work of cooperating agencies, organizations, and private landowners in restoring and revitalizing the North Shore’s forest landscape. John’s shoes will be hard to fill. We wish him a relaxing second retirement. Thank you John!

NSFC receives $375,000 North Shore forestry outreach grant

The North Shore Forest Collaborative has received a grant from the Legislative Citizen’s Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). With this grant, the NSFC will offer North Shore landowners a FREE assessment of their woods with a forest resource professional. After the visit, landowners will receive a written summary including information about agency forest incentive programs that encourage private forest planning and restoration.

If you are interested in receiving a visit contact us at nsfcstaff@gmail.com.

Weekes Family Foundation continues to make NSFC fencing program possible

The North Shore Forest Collaborative once again was able to facilitate reduced-price tree protection fencing in the Spring of 2023. This program is only made possible with the generous donation from the Weeke’s Family Foundation. For the past, eight years, the Weekes Family Foundation has worked hand-in-hand in supporting the planting and protection of over 74,000 seedlings. This level of forest restoration effort illustrates the commitment and passion of the Weeke’s Family Foundation, and we are grateful. Thank you to all 460 landowners who have participated in the reduced fencing program all these years, and who have also been encouraging their neighbors to do likewise. Thank you also to Isak Hansen Hardware in Lutsen and Seagren’s Hardware in Two Harbors for distributing the fencing packages.

NSFC distributes Minnesota Power’s Rajala Woods white pine seedlings

The North Shore Forest Collaborative was actively working the past month to distribute the generous donation of 40,000 white pine seedlings along the North Shore to landowners. This year, marks the third major donation of white pine seedlings from Minnesota Power’s Rajala Woods Initiative. Distribution sites were located in Grand Marais at the Community Center, at Sugarloaf Cove, at the Silver Bay City Hall and at 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.

Join NSFC’s Facebook Friends Group

If you are a Facebook user, please join 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
You can make a difference by becoming a Sugarloaf Board Member.

Sugarloaf is seeking individuals to join our Board of Directors. If you are passionate about shaping Sugarloaf’s future and making a meaningful impact, this is the opportunity for you!

As a board member, you will play a pivotal role in guiding Sugarloaf’s vision, ensuring financial sustainability, and overseeing the implementation of key initiatives. Your expertise and diverse perspectives will help us navigate complex challenges and seize exciting opportunities to create a better future.

Requirement:

• A strong commitment to Sugarloaf’s mission and values

Responsibilities:

• Actively participate in 4 board meetings per year, contributing to strategic discussions and decision-making.

• Provide guidance and oversight to our executive team, ensuring effective management of resources and programs.

• Engage in fundraising and advocacy efforts to support our organization’s growth.

• Represent Sugarloaf in relevant networks, cultivating partnerships and raising awareness.

• Serve as a passionate ambassador for Sugarloaf, inspiring others to join our mission.

Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of something greater. Join us as a board member and contribute your expertise towards our mission of inspiring the preservation and restoration of the North Shore’s unique environment through education and exemplary stewardship. Together, we can make a lasting impact along the North Shore.

For more information, please contact Molly Thompson at 218-525-0001 or molly@sugarloafnorthshore.org

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2023 Summer Programs

All programs are free for members.

Sugarloaf Weekly Programs

**Thursdays**: Bird Banding 7 am - noon

**Saturdays**: Nature talks and walks 10:30 am

**Sundays**: Kid’s Crafts 10 am - 2 pm

Check our website calendar for more programs

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**ALL ABOUT LOONS**
**JULY 8 AT 3 PM**

Join us at Sugarloaf to learn all about our incredible state bird from Sherry Abts, the Ely Loon Ranger. There will be a Power Point presentation covering basic information on loons, a taxidermy loon to see up close and personal, and time for your loon related questions!

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**ANIMAL SKULL MYSTERIES**
**JULY 15 AT 7PM**

Have you ever found a skull in the woods? Karen Kobey’s love of helping folks discover the wonders in nature will help you identify skulls and discover the amazing adaptations of our animal neighbors.

Karen will give a brief and lively Power Point presentation followed by the examination of her large skull collection.

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**POET-TREE WEEK**
**JULY 21-28**

Sugarloaf Cove will feature poems posted along our interpretive trail for visitors to enjoy and contemplate. Do you have a poem inspired by the North Shore that you would like to share? Email your poem to dominique@sugarloafnorthshore.org with the subject line “Poet-Tree” by July 14th. Everyone is invited to submit their poems!

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**LAUNCH EVENT: THE SEEKER**
**JULY 29 AT 1 PM**

Join us for the launch of our partnership with writer and public artist Diver Van Avery. Van Avery has partnered with musicians to create a site-specific audio and music story walk that unfolds along one of our nature trails: The Seeker: A story of belonging to all of time.

The launch event will feature an artist talk, live music, and the chance to learn and sing the songs created for this project. Visitors can come experience the project at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center through the end of October.

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**THE ART OF NATURE**
**JULY 30 1PM - 4PM**

Join artist and naturalist Janet Moore to learn the basic techniques for capturing your experiences. Materials are provided for use during the class, along with the inspiration, instruction, and guidance you need to begin your own illustrated nature sketchbook. Class will be a combination of outdoor observations and sketching, and indoor demonstrations and work time. $30.00 program fee, $25.00 for members of Sugarloaf Cove. Sign up online or call 218-663-7679.

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**ANNUAL MEETING**
**AUGUST 12 AT 1PM (SEE PAGE 3)**

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**ARCTIC RELICTS WITH RYAN CARLSON**
**AUGUST 18 AT 1 PM**

Discover the secret world of arctic relicts - rare plants found only in the Canadian Arctic and key spots along shores of Lake Superior. Ryan Carlson, a researcher from the University of Minnesota Duluth will share information about these unique species and then lead a group out to Sugarloaf Point SNA to catch a glimpse of one of these fascinating plants.
Visit our Nursery

New butterfly displays at Sugarloaf Cove.

Thanks to a grant from the Arrowhead Electric Cooperative’s Operation Round-Up, Operations Manager Pete Gravett, with the help of volunteers, has been building a new butterfly exhibit on the deck of the nature center building. The display includes interpretive panels, milkweed plantings for the caterpillars, and screened enclosures to observe the caterpillars as they mature into adults. Throughout the summer, Pete and Dominique will be offering drop in programs about the butterflies and also moths. Drop by to learn how you can provide habitat for moths and butterflies in your yard.

Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy sharing your love of Sugarloaf and the North Shore with visitors? Then becoming a site host would be perfect for you. The main job of the site host is to greet visitors, answer questions and make visitors feel at home. It’s fun and you will be fully trained by our staff.

We are also looking for volunteers interested in helping maintain our trails, host booths at local events, and assist our naturalist with programs.

Visit our website to sign up or call Sugarloaf at 218-663-7679.