



— Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance —

The View from Skyline

SPPA will not host a Skyline Parkway trolley tour this year but will offer several outings and a workday—see calendar to right. Enjoy Duluth's Skyline Parkway!

VISIT TO THE SNIVELY HOMESTEAD

By Mark Ryan

Samuel Snively, who built Duluth's Seven Bridges Road, and as mayor contributed much to the construction and promotion of Skyline Parkway, came to the Twin Ports from the town of Greencastle, Pennsylvania where he was born in 1859. Greencastle is a small town of approximately 3700 people situated in Franklin County in the beautiful Cumberland valley, just north of the Maryland border.

This past summer while in the Washington DC area, my family and I decided to take a day trip up to Gettysburg National Military Park, a ninety-minute drive from our nation's capitol. While looking over a map I was surprised to see that Greencastle was just 30 or so miles to the west of Gettysburg. Since I've spent a lot of time researching and writing about Snively and his role in the building of Duluth's park and boulevard system, I figured it was imperative that I visit his birthplace especially since it was so near.

After spending the afternoon at Gettysburg, which was very impressive and extremely hot (101° F), we headed west toward Greencastle. Along the way we drove over the Blue Ridge Mountains, across the Appalachian Trail, and into the Cumberland valley.

We arrived in Greencastle late in the afternoon and found the center of town draped with strings of colorful banners in anticipation of "Old Home Week" a local celebration started in 1906 that was to begin the following day.

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Events

September 23 W. Duluth/Lincoln Park Ridge Hike

5.7 mile adventure hike. Cross the Keene Creek mystery bridge, onward through Piedmont Ski trails, perch out on outcrops with awesome city views, then a final venture through beautiful Lincoln Park. Meet at 1 p.m. at the parking area at 24th Ave., just below Skyline Parkway bridge crossing Piedmont Avenue. *We will carpool to the start point at Getchell & Highland Rd then hike back to the cars. Bring water and a snack. For more information contact Tim at 724-6963.

October 13 Mission Creek Hike

Hike along a former section of the parkway on the far west end. Meet at Beaner's Coffee shop at 9 a.m. to carpool. For more info, call Doug at 724-0820.

October 14 Snively Memorial Cleanup/ Excavation

We will spend a couple hours digging out this memorial beside the Stewart Creek Bridge. Park at Magney-Snively parking area and walk back to the bridge at 2 p.m. Bring a shovel and work gloves. Contact Margaret 733-9596.



Skyline News Updates

Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance Steering Committee

Terry Brown
Barb Forrest (Treasurer)
Wendy Grethen
Tim Larson
Peggy Marrin
Nancy Nelson
Doug Stevens
Margaret West

Newsletter editor:
Wendy Grethen

To submit announcements or articles to the newsletter, call 525-5098 or email contact@skylineppa.org
The next newsletter deadline is January 15, 2008.

SPPA Contact Information

Phone 525-5098
contact@skylineppa.org
www.skylineppa.org

Relevant Contacts for Skyline Parkway

Mayor Herb Bergson
730-5230
City Planner Bob Bruce
730-5580
City Planner Chuck Froseth
730-5580
City Council 730-5740
council@ci.duluth.mn.us

To report significant trash dumped along Skyline call the Fire Dept at 218-730-4380
Call 911 if you have specific information (license #, etc)

Informative Website
www.amitycreek.com

Way-Finding Grant for Skyline Parkway (update by Doug Stevens)



In 2003 the City of Duluth received a grant by the Federal Highway Administration in the amount of \$80,000 toward Skyline Parkway wayfinding. It was lost due to cutbacks in 2004. The National Scenic Byways program was not accepting grants again until 2005. Mark Anderson, MN-DOT State Scenic Byways program coordinator, reapplied for the grant and got it back notifying the City of Duluth on March 6, 2006. The city of Duluth Planning Department did not fulfill the grant due to insufficient money and staff. We all need to make sure that city planning is working on securing the grant so we don't lose it. Please write letters to the editor and voice your opinion to help ensure that the city of Duluth secures the funds to help improve way-finding along Skyline Parkway and for its management.

Seven Bridges Road Closed

At the end of June it was announced that Seven Bridges Road would be closed until the spring of 2008 to repair the final two bridges on this part of Skyline Parkway: Bridges 1 (or 0) (the first bridge you come to when driving up Occidental Boulevard) and bridge 7 (on Skyline Parkway near Maxwell Road). Both bridges have been torn down and are being completely rebuilt. Concrete walls and an arch have been completed on the first bridge. Efforts will be made to help the bridges last as long as possible including places a barrier to protect the concrete and ensure drainage and uses filler sand and materials. Rock from the original bridges will be cut and mounted the concrete forms. Several of the other bridges were repaired using this technique.

The first bridge was not a Morrell and Nichol's bridge and does not have the pink granite caps like the other bridges. Mark Ryan's history research showed that it was built in 1928, much later than the others. Will the new bridge have pink granite caps on it? Time will tell!

Changes at Chester Bowl

City of Duluth Parks & Recreation Specialist, Thom Storm has retired from Chester Bowl. Thom has been a driving force for the successful ski program as well as the Mayflower and Fall Fest, summer concerts and regular maintenance at this beloved neighborhood park on Skyline.

Spirit Mountain Master Plan revision in progress

Stay tuned for any public input opportunities.

A consulting team has been hired:

- ◆ John Powers, Applied Insights (Duluth), land use planning
- ◆ Earl Thedens, Architectural Resources (Duluth), planning & design
- ◆ Don Murray, EcoSign (Whistler, British Columbia), technical assessment of existing facility
- ◆ Randy Anderson and Jeff Schiltz, Johnson Controls (Duluth), public outreach and project management

The original master plan was prepared in the 1970s when Spirit Mt. was created. The last "approved" master plan is from 1997.

The Spirit Mt. Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. in the chalet at Spirit Mt. Board meetings are open to the public.

On the Road

Doug Stevens gave several classes on Skyline Parkway (both on the topic and ON the Parkway) through Community Education this Spring & Summer. He also lead a bus tour for the 11th Annual Scenic and Historic Trails conference (September).

Peggy Marrin, newest SPPA steering member, and Doug Stevens will be attending the National Preservation Conference to be held in the Twin Cities

October 2-6 to learn about opportunities for Skyline Parkway and to spread the word about our local historic treasure.





Duluth's First Weather Bureau on Skyline Parkway

By Wendy Grethen

Recording of weather observations in Duluth began in 1870 in downtown Duluth through the U.S. Army Signal Center. The downtown office location shifted several times over the next thirty years occupying space tucked upstairs in one building or another and was at one time located in the Postal Service Building. The Department of Agriculture U.S. Weather Bureau formed in 1891 and helped to upgrade meteorological data collection and reporting. A separate building was constructed on what is now Skyline Parkway but was then 631 W. 7th Street, using its uphill side as the entrance. Much weather observation and data collection went on there for 55 years. The building was one of 25 Weather Bureau stations in the U.S. Only 11 remain today. This office station was Duluth's primary weather collecting site through 1950 with a nearby collecting station on 9th St. where data was collected until 1960. Eventually the offices and associated weather duties were consolidated and relocated to the airport.

H.W. Richardson was the first scientist to work at the Duluth facility and was there for nearly 33 years. Young women were employed at the local weather bureau during the early and mid 1940s, especially as fill-ins during the war.

In the early 20th century a 50' storm warning tower with a 20' flag pole on top and electric lanterns was a built adjacent to the building standing tall on its own on the hillside. The flags and lights communicated weather conditions, warnings, and predictions prior to telegraph communication. For example, a "high winds" or "cold-wave" warning could be communicated to the public. Messages focused on agricultural, commercial and navigational interests.

If you drive along Skyline Parkway in the 600 West block you will encounter a stone wall at 631 W. Skyline Parkway (upper side). A small wooden bus shelter is visible on the grounds above the wall. Behind that you hardly see anything except for shrubs. The house behind the shroud of bush is the old 1904 Weather Bureau building still standing even though its weather station days are long gone. Likewise, the large weather tower is no longer present even though the area behind the building is loaded with assorted towers today. The



The Weather Bureau building, 631 W. Skyline Parkway, built in 1904 is pictured here in 1930. The instrument shelter was located on ground to the right of the building. The tall tower with the flag was a weather reporting device. Pictured in the near lower right of the picture is the Incline Railway.

Photo source: Northeast Minnesota Historical Center

building currently is the Life House Harbor House group home.

Note: For more information on the beginnings of weather observation in Duluth go to http://mrcc.sws.uiuc.edu/FORTS/histories/MN_Duluth_Doty.pdf.

FALL OUTING SUGGESTIONS

Track a portion of the original route of the Incline Railway. Access on Skyline Parkway in the 600 West Block of Skyline (below building described above)

Venture out on the Duluth portion of the Superior Hiking Trail (built by the Superior Hiking Trail Association. Experience great views and adventure. Ample parking locations. Thirty-nine miles are waiting for you to hike. A map of the Duluth trails is at www.shta.org. Go to Duluth SHT Maps. Map brochures are available at Visit Duluth.

Come to the SPPA hikes and work days. See calendar on Front Page.



Continued from page 1, Snively's Homestead

After we parked, I stopped an elderly couple passing by and asked if they knew anything about the Snively homestead. The man said he had been born in Greencastle eighty-seven years before and had heard of the name Snively, but didn't know where the homestead was located. I was a bit disappointed, but in the course of our conversation my wife mentioned we were looking for an ice cream parlor, and the couple suggested a nearby place called Mikie's Ice Cream and Sandwich Shop. It would turn out to be a very helpful suggestion.

At Mikie's while waiting to pay for our ice cream, I noticed a small booklet for sale at the cash register. The book was titled *Greencastle-Antrim Revisited* and was part of the *Images of America* series many towns have produced about their local history. (Sheldon T. Aubut and Maryanne C. Norton authored one for Duluth a couple years back).

As I flipped through the booklet, I stopped by chance on a page showing – of all things – a photograph of the old Snively homestead! The photo's caption said the house had been built by Andrew and Susannah Snively in 1781, and best of all even listed the address: 763 Zarger Road, just off Old Grindstone Hill Road. Stunned, I turned and asked the guy in line behind me if he knew how to get to the address and he did!

He said it was just outside of town, not more than a couple miles away. We followed his easy directions, and were soon standing in front of the old Snively homestead.

The limestone structure hadn't changed much since it had been built 226 years before. It still set isolated on a gently sloping, wooded hillside just above a spring-fed creek to the east. Of course there had been some updating to the house over the years, such as new windows and cement work, but in the apex of its southern face a small, arched recessed space still remained containing Andrew and Susannah Snively's initials along with the date of construction. [See photo on back page.]



*Snively's homestead in Greencastle, PA
Photos taken by Mark Ryan*

Andrew's grandfather was Johann Jacob Schnebele, the original ancestor of the Snively family in the United States. Johann was born in Switzerland in 1659 and emigrated with two brothers to America in 1714, settling in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

His only known descendent, Jacob Schnebele was born in 1694, and later settled farther west in Franklin County near Greencastle. At some point, the name Schnebele was changed to Snively.

Jacob married twice, and Andrew was the third of five sons born out of the second marriage. Andrew and Susannah built the house on property that had been part of a large land grant given to the family by William Penn, for whom Johann

Schnebele had worked as a land agent when Penn was platting the area that would later be called Pennsylvania.

Andrew was Samuel Snively's great-grandfather. When Susannah died young, Andrew married a second wife, Mary Magdalena Shenk, and it was through that union that Sam's grandfather (also Samuel) was born in 1799. His 5th child was Jacob Snively, Sam's father. Jacob married Margaret H. Snyder, and Samuel Frisby Snively was their second child. He was born on the homestead

on November 24, 1859.

Samuel Snively grew up to become a Philadelphia lawyer who took a friend's advice and eventually moved to Duluth, Minnesota where he became the city's longest serving mayor and a major force in the completion and promotion of Duluth's wonderful park and boulevard system.

I really enjoyed visiting Greencastle and seeing the old Snively homestead. It added much to my appreciation of Samuel Snively's family background and history, something that continues to draw my interest.

MORE INFO ABOUT SAM SNIVELY

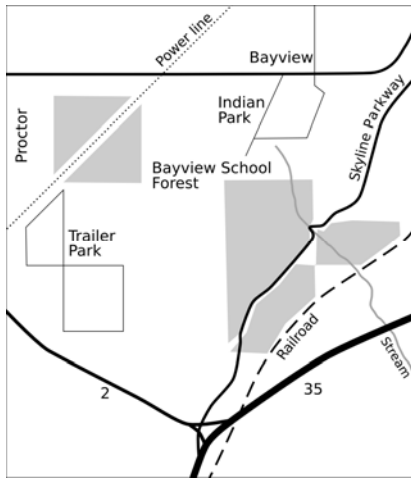
www.amitycreek.com/sevenbridges

"Snively's Road" by Mark Ryan, *Minnesota History*, v 54, n. 4, Winter 1994

"Mr. Snively, the Roadbuilder" by Mark Ryan, *Lake Superior Magazine*, Aug/Sep 1998

**At some point
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Bay View School Forest *Protected Land on Skyline*

Bay View Elementary School in Proctor has had a 40 acre forest near their school since 1976. The school is partnering with the City of Duluth on a new protected 93 acre area just above and below Skyline Parkway with 62nd Ave. Creek running through it. The parcels of land (see map on left) were added to the city's land inventory in 2005 as part of compensation when Sugarloaf Enterprises was given permission to build a higher density of houses off Skyline in the vicinity. Part of the forest was cattle land but other portions are beautiful established hardwood and spruce forest. Rob Marohn, a fifth grade teacher at the school, is an adamant supporter for the forest. Rob brought Bay View Forest Club students to city council meetings to speak for protecting the BVSF. Students gained experience

learning how the government process works to protect an area. In this case, attending the meetings and speaking up and patience worked. Thanks to him and others regular Bay View School Forest (BVSF) programs are held and

BVSF primary goals:

EDUCATION
CONSERVATION
RECREATION

plans are being made to create snowshoe trails, respecting archeological discoveries in the area.

The school's parent-teacher organization helped raise money to support 25 activity programs held last spring at the BVSF.

More recently, the Bay View School Forest Club received a \$31,000 grant from Lake Superior Coastal Program to hire two full time people for community programs in the BVSF. Scott Alslaben, the school naturalist, will lead several activities including a scavenger hunt and wildlife ecology program this month. Check www.proctor.k12.mn.us and select Bay View for a BVCF program schedule. Contact Rob at 628-4949 ext 2037 to register. Events are free and open to children and parents/adults. The school's motto is elementary environmental education for everyone.

*Rob comments,
"The demand is huge and the kids are very excited about the outdoors and have been outstanding volunteers."*



CONTRIBUTING TO A SAFER MINNESOTA

Helping Keep Skyline Parkway Clean Sentence to Serve

For seventeen years Gene Esala has been the Sentence to Serve (STS) Crew Leader for Carlton and St. Louis Counties. The Sentence to Serve program is part of the Department of Corrections and Arrowhead Regional Corrections. The program takes adults (over 18 years old) and has them give service hours as part of their sentence. Some are serving in lieu of jail or to work off a fine. Most STS people are in their early 20s and have an average of 120 to 200 community work hours to complete as part of their sentence from the court system. Some will have more than 800 hours to serve.

Gene and his partner Bob Wait have worked with the City of Duluth as well other officials in St. Louis or

Carlton Counties. In Duluth the STS crews, usually 6 to 7 people at a time, have put in numerous hours helping maintain the Rose Garden, clearing brush in city parks, and have also done some building projects, such as building two bridges in Lester Park. Some work hours several times per year include litter pick-ups along Skyline Parkway and regular clean-ups at the overlook above Wheeler Field. The crew picks up large dumped items all the way down through the smaller but significant litter: fast food waste materials, beer and pop cans, and many, many, many cigarette butts. Through seeing some much inconsiderate dumping and trashing of beautiful areas Gene is hopeful they learn something. He recognizes that the crew after the cleanups or projects "develops a growing sense of civic pride."



Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance
www.SkylinePPA.org

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Going to any mayor or city council candidate forums? Why not ask questions about Skyline Parkway? What would you to see the city administration doing for Skyline Parkway. Write a letter to the editor, contact the current council and mayor (council@ci.duluth.mn.us) and let others know about your interest in Skyline Parkway.

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Welcome New SPPA Board Member Peggy Marrin

Peggy moved to Duluth in 1996. She has been active in the Duluth Preservation Alliance. She is intrigued with Skyline Parkway's phenomenal history. Her main interests in being more involved with SPPA is to help support a manageable maintenance plan to keep primary views open, to have suitable signage along the full route, to market Skyline Parkway through low or no cost means such as newspaper articles, community programs and to educate people about Skyline Parkway's history and value to Duluth today.



What do the initials stand for?

Find out inside.

Photo by Mark Ryan

Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance Membership Form

Date _____ New Member Renewing Member
 Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

Annual Membership: \$10 Fixed-income \$20 Individual \$35 Family \$50 Business

___ I would like to be a clean-up volunteer ___ I would like to help plan SPPA events.

Please make checks payable to: Skyline Planning & Preservation Alliance (or SPPA)
and send to SPPA, 1101 W. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55806.

Thank you for your support!

9/12/07