

MICROSCOPIC CLUES TO THE PAST

Plants move in at the end of the Ice Age.



Northern White Cedar
Art by Amelia Hansen Illustration

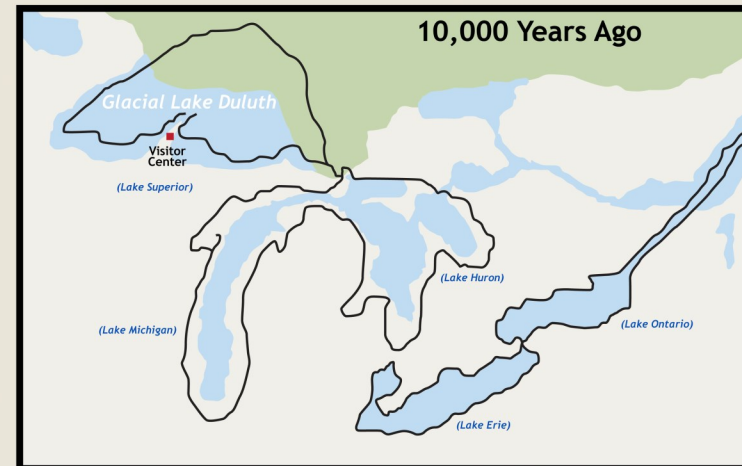
Mile-thick glacial ice blanketed this land during the Ice Age more than 10,000 years ago. As global temperatures warmed, the ice melted and retreated north. The melt water covered this land under 500 feet of water.

Modern day Lake Superior appeared only after water levels dropped. The land along its shore, waterlogged since glacial times, became "coastal wetlands" where cold tolerant cedar, spruce, and balsam forests grew.




Northern White Cedar pollen grains, discovered deep within the soil, reveal that this site has been a cedar swamp since the last glacier retreated.



Northern White Cedar Cones
Art by Amelia Hansen Illustration



Waters from Glacial Lake Duluth covered this site 10,000 years ago.

-  Retreating Glacial Ice
-  Glacial lakes
-  Shoreline of today's Great Lakes