



The Sugarloaf Interpreter

A Publication Of The
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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c/o 140 Engineering Building, College of Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota/Duluth, Duluth, MN 55812

NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS ON TWIN POINTS - SUGARLOAF PROJECT

A memorandum of understanding has been agreed upon between the State of Minnesota (DNR) and SICA for the exchange of segments of Twin Points Resort and Sugarloaf. SICA has secured an option on the Twin Points property intending to sell up to seven acres to DNR and to exchange the remainder of the Resort to DNR for state lands located at Sugarloaf that are outside the designated Scientific and Natural Area. The designated SNA would be expanded in accordance with an October 5, 1994 recommendation of the Scientific and Natural Area Advisory Committee of the State to include the entire cobble beach and adjacent area as well as all or part of the tombolo).

Following such a sale and exchange the DNR intends to work with the Lake Superior Water Trail Association to designate space at Twin Points for a water trail base camp which will include space for safety training and kayak camping. In addition, SICA and DNR intend to work together after the exchange to develop a restoration and interpretive program and a management plan for the Sugarloaf property.

As part of the agreement DNR would retain easements over portions of Sugarloaf for access to the SNA to permit management thereof, and for pedestrian public access to the entire property. If SICA is dissolved as a corporation or decides for any reason to sell or transfer any interest in Sugarloaf, it would grant the DNR the right to purchase the land at the appraised value, as determined at the time the land exchange was approved. SICA intends to use the land at Sugarloaf only for the purposes stated in the SICA Bylaws and/or the Articles of Incorporation.

LCMR PROPOSAL RECOMMENDED TO LEGISLATURE

Another step in the process by which the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources will provide a study grant for SICA has been reached with a recommendation for legislative funding.

The goal of the project will be a thorough geological, biological, and cultural survey of the land site with an accompanying historical background of the site and the area around it. This information will be computerized and published for public use. From these data possible restoration and demonstration methods will be developed and they will form the basis for interpretive materials such as guide books, student lesson plans, and display and group presentations.

The stage, called work program planning, is in progress. A SICA Task Force composed of John C. Green, Janet C. Green, Martha Henderson, Patricia Maus, Emily Andersen, Barb Liukkonen, and Ed Landin, has produced a draft of the process and products which the project will produce in the two years from July 1995 (when funds will become available) to June 1997. The Task Force has met with the LCMR staff (John Velin, Susan Thornton, and Dave Flipp) to discuss the work program and to shape it to the new LCMR project format.

If the grant is confirmed, SICA will receive state reimbursement for scheduled accomplishments. The project will be funded by a legislative grant of \$70,000 plus \$30,000 raised privately by SICA.

CALENDAR

- Thursday, December 8, 1994 - 2 p.m. SHORELINK quarterly meeting. Split Rock Lighthouse History Center.
- February, 1995 - Lee Radzak presentation. Grand Marais Community Center
- Saturday, February 25, 1995 - 10 a.m.-Noon.
SICA Board meeting. Duluth
- April 1995 - SICA Building Committee Site planning workshop.

SICA ASSURES PUBLIC ACCESS AT SUGARLOAF

Responding to a Schroeder Town Board expression of concern about public access at the developed Sugarloaf project, the SICA November Board of Directors meeting adopted a resolution in which it was reaffirmed that SICA is committed to public education. In the SICA proposed Management Plan the development of interpretive trails at the site is called for. The resolution states "that upon obtaining ownership of the 34-acre Sugarloaf site, SICA, guided by scientific research and principles, will maintain public access to the site and will establish public pathways on the site which will promote public education."

GUNNAR LJUNGKULL MEMORIAL

Long-time employee of 3M Corporation and resident of Lutsen, Gunnar Ljungkull, who died recently, was honored at the November meeting of the SICA Board of Directors by the presentation of a Memorial Resolution to his memory.

GLENN KREAG OF SEA GRANT TO SPEAK AT DECEMBER SHORELINK MEETING

The December quarterly meeting of the SHORELINK Committee will feature a discussion by Glenn Kreag of the Minnesota Sea Grant program. His subject will be "Taking a Marketing Perspective When Planning Interpretive Programs." This will provide for an interchange of ideas on points of view in preparing interpretive programs. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 1994 in the Split Rock Lighthouse History Center at 2 p.m.

MORE ON TOFTE HISTORY

Some additional items of interest regarding the Tofte family have been reported. Of the Andrew-Sonneva Tofte family, Hubert was a dentist in Grand Rapids and Orton was Cook County Commissioner. Of the John-Cecilia Tofte family Hjalmer and Reuben were dentists in Wisconsin and Duluth, respectively, and Elizabeth was a teacher in Hibbing. This family contributed land for the Tofte Park, the first school and the Zoar Lutheran Church. Both families joined in contributing land for the Tofte cemetery. The son of Nels Tofte, Albert, was regional forester for six southern states.

Reference - Mrs. Reuben (Lucille) Tofte

EXPERTS DISCUSS NORTH SHORE WEATHER

Bradley J. Bramer and David F. McGinnis, NOAA National Weather Service at Duluth, discussed North Shore weather at two meetings sponsored by SICA at Grand Marais (9/10/94) and Two Harbors (9/18/94). Using maps and charts they reviewed Lake Superior's physical characteristics and their impact on local and regional weather systems, as contained in many data sets.

Both real-time weather and long-term climatic averages reveal a distinctive 'lake effect'. "During summer, unequal solar heating causes the Lake air to move inland," McGinnis said, "which has marked effects on temperature, humidity, and cloudiness within the shoreline zone. While temperatures are decreased, humidity is increased, often to the point where fog forms, while cloudiness is suppressed over the water and enhanced over the land. The cool Lake air diverts the environmental winds and causes strong thunderstorms to decrease in strength as they approach." The local marine air cannot support deep convection," McGinnis said.

Terrain assists the Lake in modifying the weather. High elevations along the North Shore can confine the winds, increasing their speed in the vicinity of the Duluth Entry. "Snowfall amounts are strongly dependent on elevation," Bramaer said, noting as well that "'lake-effect' snow storms characteristically produce fine, powdery snow grains of very low liquid water content." McGinnis pointed out that "while 'lake-effect' snow storms are more frequent along the South Shore, North Shore snowstorms are often of greater magnitude. They are usually accompanied by cyclonic storm systems south of Lake Superior in Minnesota or Wisconsin, which provide the basic moisture feed, subsequently enhanced by the over-water passage."

The experts answered questions from the audience and promised to be back next year. By next summer, new technology may be available which will assist them in a greater understanding of our complex local weather.

OVERFLOW CROWD GREET'S RADZAK FOR HISTORY PRESENTATION

For the second presentation of "Early Photographers of Lake Superior's North Shore: A Visual History" an overflow audience greeted presenter Lee Radzak in the History Center of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. The program was hosted by Ann-Marie Rose, SICA program committee, and was introduced by former Governor Elmer L. Andersen.

Lee's presentation included a short history of the development of photography which was followed by historical photographs on slides. Archaeologist, artist, and photographer Lee has been with the Minnesota Historical Society for 18 years and site manager of Split Rock Lighthouse for the last 12 years. He drew on his own files of historical photographs as well as on the vast storehouse of such pictures in the archives of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Shown were shipwrecks, early construction problems as at the bluff during the establishment of Split Rock Lighthouse, logging operations, early settlers, commercial fishing experiences - the broad panorama of North Shore life from the 1850's to the 1930's. An additional showing is being scheduled at the Community Center in Grand Marais in February, 1995.

BIRDING ON THE NORTH SHORE

By DR. PERSHING HOFSLUND, Member, SICA Board of Directors

Our Lake has been a determiner of bird populations ever since it was formed. It determined early migration routes and still does, acting as a guide, a trap, a barrier and all of the other things that determine where birds are found. Along the North Shore one can find at one time or another at least 85% of all the birds ever found in Minnesota. Of the accidentals listed by Janssen at least 50% have been found here and of his 21 specialities I have seen 17 of them on the North Shore.

So, if you were to ask me the extent of birds on the North Shore, the reply might be, "If you had been birding in the Duluth Heights recently with Joe Bronoel and me, you would have seen eight Prairie Chickens. Or if you had visited the Nortondale Tract (now the UMD campus) on one particularly foggy day in 1952 you would have seen at least some of the 10,000 geese that appeared out of the fog, circled and then landed on the tract. Should you have been riding down Highway 61 between Silver Bay and Duluth on an August day in 1969 you probably would have occupied your time by counting the 25,000 Nighthawks that were streaming down the lakeshore. Were you on Hawk Ridge, September 18, 1993 you certainly would have seen some of the 49,615 hawks that were counted that day. If you had entered my back yard at 11:05 a.m. June 5, 1994 you would have been able to see at least 378 robins as they skimmed the trees on their migration flight. And if you spent the fall of 1993 along the North Shore you could have seen a Pacific Loon, a Common Ground Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush, Gyrfalcon, Prairie Falcon and maybe even a Pyrrhuloxia. I hedge a bit on the last-named because a severe winter storm followed the sighting and the bird was not seen again, and so could not be authenticated."

But the birding areas of then are not the same now. Subtle changes occur and over a period of time what were great birding areas then may even have disappeared now. Minnesota Point has been the North Shore's premier birding spot for longer than I can remember, but is not the same as when I first birded it in 1949. Then the parking area and the recreation grounds had thickets of small shrubs and trees on their edges. These were spots where migrating warblers stopped to rest and feed. Sparrows too, because it was here that we had our best chance to see the rare Nelson's Sharptailed and the LeContes Sparrows. They were removed to give easier access to the smelters.

Where I found my first Piping Plover nest, there is now a marina, and what was a great place to watch shorebirds has disappeared in the construction of nursing homes and apartments. The Black Duck, once a regular nester even at times so common that one found a window box in an abandoned summer home as its best nesting area, apparently no longer nests there. By contrast, the Ring-billed Gull, which was seen only in migration on the Point until about 1957 when the first nest was spotted, in 1979 had expanded to 6010 breeding adults. The airport expansion doomed much of the Common Tern nesting in the area. Whether the Horned Lark and Brewer's Blackbirds still find suitable nesting conditions there, I do not know. So people and birds have to change too and the "what and where" will be different. The best source of the "where" in Minnesota rests in Kim Eckert's guides.

In the 45 years that I have birded the North Shore there have been severe storms, the DDT days, good and bad construction, and in the last 20 years huge changes that occurred in far-off places have affected the bird life of this area. I never expect to see the Prairie Chicken again, nor the Sharp-Tailed Grouse. I worry about the Martins and Swallows that used to gather in the thousands on the Point. Last summer in my neighborhood I saw no Martins, only one Tree Swallow, and none of the Cliff Swallows that nested just a couple of blocks from my home. The passage of small birds through my yard was at an all-time low. At the same time, I have never seen so many crows, Ring-billed Gulls, and Canada Geese as I do now.

Any change in the magnitude of either side simply says that there is something environmentally wrong and needs some looking into. But when I really get discouraged, I go back to my Roberts and I read what he was saying in the 30's. "The following species that formerly occurred in the state are no longer found here: Trumpeter Swan, Eastern Turkey, Long-billed Curle, Avocet and Passenger Pigeon. The Raven is apparently nearing extinction. The White Pelican once common has disappeared many years ago as a breeding bird. The Canada Goose and Sandhill Crane have about vanished as breeding birds." When I read that list and know that in a short 60 years, we have shortened the list considerably and that now some of them can be considered pests, my hopes again come alive and I'm sure that the North Shore will remain a productive birding spot for years to come, especially when we look at such projects as Sugarloaf and Tettegouche.

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Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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SICA Officers: President: Emily Andersen, Schroeder/Duluth
Secretary: Patricia Maus, Duluth

Vice-president: Steve Pihlaja, Minneapolis
Treasurer: Howard Olson, Augsburg College, St. Paul

SICA'S PURPOSE

1) Committed to protection of the natural, aesthetic, and educational values of a tract of land which includes Sugarloaf Beach, Cove and Point, a portion of which is a designated scientific and natural area that has statutory protection.

2) Committed to the establishment of a public interpretive forum which includes staff, an appropriate non-invasive physical facility, educational materials, and ongoing, year-round educational programs. This center would depict the diverse aspects of the North Shore of Lake Superior including, but not limited to, geology, biology, economic origins, history and cultural heritage.

3) Committed to obtaining adequate private and public funding to build and maintain the physical facility, establish a staff and programming, and create an endowment fund for the center's long-range future.

PLEASE EXAMINE THE ADDRESS LABEL

If the number 93 follows your name on the address label, it indicates that your membership is due for renewal. If there is a dash following the 93 followed by another number, that is the amount of your previous membership contribution. If you can increase it, we would be appreciative and it would help finance an expanding program. If your name is followed by a 94, it indicates you are a member in good standing and we thank you. If your name is followed by a C it indicates you are receiving the *Interpreter* on a complimentary basis probably because of the position you hold. If you convert that to a paid membership, we would be delighted and will send you a free copy of Dr. Duane Lund's "The North Shore of Lake Superior, Yesterday and Today." This interesting book is available free to all new or renewing members. It has been provided at no cost to the Association.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association in the category I have indicated. I like the idea of an Interpretive Center on the North Shore and I certainly believe the important Scientific and Natural Area of Sugarloaf Cove, Beach and Point should be preserved, protected and not be endangered. As a new or renewing member, please send my free copy of Dr. Duane Lund's "The North Shore of Lake Superior, Yesterday and Today."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Membership Categories

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ \$5 Student/Senior | _____ \$50 Supporting |
| _____ \$10 Individual | _____ \$100 Sustaining |
| _____ \$15 Family | _____ \$500 Patron |
| _____ \$25 Contributing | _____ \$1000 and up
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Make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and mail to SICA, c/o 140 Engineering Building, College of Science and Engineering, UMD, Duluth, MN 55812. Memberships are annual and expire December 31, except those applications received after October 1.