



The Sugarloaf Interpreter

A Publication Of The
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

Volume 2, Number 3

Phone (218) 726-7201

Spring, March 1995

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

SICA-LCMR GRANT WILL GENERATE MUCH NORTH SHORE SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL HISTORY DATA

The Legislative Committee on Minnesota Resources grant which with legislative approval will become available in July will result in a wealth of geologic, biologic, and ecologic data as well as an inventory of the cultural history of the Sugarloaf area, all of which will be closely related to the entire North Shore environment. Conceived by Dr. J. C. Green and Dr. Martha Henderson, the program will extend into 1997 with the grant and supplementary private funding totalling \$100,000.

Central to the main thrust of the program will be the use of "geographic information system" (GIS) which will yield a graphic and basic inventory of the existing natural data on the Sugarloaf site. These data can then be translated into text material, graphs, displays, educational monologues, etc., which can be promulgated through SICA facilities.

A project manager (yet to be appointed) will coordinate the activities of a number of investigators. Sampling of the terrain and the natural phenomena on the site will yield a collection of materials which will illustrate the characteristics of the North Shore. An investigation of the ground cover and subsoils will yield information on the extent of the disturbance of the area by the logging operations, and permit a formulation of a plan of restoration which could include the re-creation of a small wetland known to have existed prior to logging days.

Among the tangible products expected to result will be photos and maps and suitable display enlargements, lesson plans for classroom use, site field guides (natural history, soils, habitat, geology, botanical, terrestrial vertebrate, bird), and a cultural history of the Sugarloaf area, including first-person accounts of historical significance.

This program will initiate an exciting first step in the role SICA can be expected to play in the protection, education, and ecological life of the Sugarloaf area and the North Shore generally, in the years to come.

KEVIN JOHNSON ELECTED TO SICA BOARD

Kevin Johnson, a great grandson of a Norwegian immigrant who homesteaded the land on which Sugarloaf Cove is situated, was elected to the SICA Board of Directors on February 25, 1995. Kevin lives in Schroeder, is on the Schroeder Town Board, participates in many civic activities, and is a long-time employee of the Department of Natural Resources, currently serving at Cascade State Park. He has received a DNR Special Recognition Award based on this outstanding service to the State Park System. Welcome aboard, Kevin!

CALENDAR

Lake Superior Center - "Gitche Gumees Sampler" Programs; 7 p.m. at the Center, Duluth:

- Wed., March 1 - Environmental monitoring and assessment, Ann Sigford.
- Wed., March 8 - Zebra mussels, Mary Balcer.
- Wed., March 15 - Kayaking and the Lake Superior Water Trail, John Anderson.
- Wed., March 22 - Biosphere preserve, Bob Brander.
- Wed., March 29 - Peregrine falcons, Dudley Edmundson.
- Thurs., March 16 - Friends of Grand Portage annual meeting, Marriot Inn Airport, Bloomington. "History of MN - Canada Boundary in Grand Portage Area", with Dr. Wm. E. Lass, Mankato State University.
- Sat., April 8 - SICA Building Committee workshop, St. Scholastica, Duluth, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Facilitator, Cindy Hagley.
- Mon., May 15 - Split Rock Historical Building opens. (State Parks are open year round.)
- Sat., May 20 - SICA Board Meeting, 3-5:30 p.m. Schroeder.
- Mon., May 22 - Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center spring and summer programs start.
- Sat., June 24 - John Schroeder Days, Schroeder.
- June 30, July 1 & 2 - Centennial Celebration, Finland.

TWIN POINTS RESORT OPTION GRANTED - FUND RAISING INITIATED

With the signing of the option on February 7, 1995, SICA has the opportunity to purchase Twin Points Resort near Two Harbors and place it in public ownership for public access, a stipulation of the sale by the present owner. By an understanding with the Department of Natural Resources an exchange will be accomplished whereby a portion of the Twin Points property, following the exercise of the option, will be exchanged for the land of the Sugarloaf property not now designated as a Scientific and Natural Area.

The Twin Points Resort consists of more than 3000 feet of excellent Lake Superior frontage with a total of 56 acres on both sides of Highway 61. The DNR is planning, after

the exchange, to provide a recreational boat access and a kayak campsite as well as to consider designating as Scientific and Natural Area some choice Lake Superior shoreline.

The purchase price of Twin Points property is \$750,000. There will be a down payment of \$120,000 with the balance payable in 3 years. Fund raising for the purchase has already started under the chairmanship of Howard Olson. Pledges and checks should be made out to:

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
Twin Points Project
1721 Fullham Street, Unit H
St. Paul, MN 55113

PEOPLE LOVE THE NORTH SHORE

From California, Randy Lake writes: "I am a transplanted Minnesotan, born and raised in the Twin Cities. In 1939, my grandparents, Theodore and Edna Bergman purchased a 5-acre parcel (later increased to 40 acres) between Silver Bay and Palisade Head, and built a small cabin. When my grandparents died, the property passed to my parents, Bern and June Lake, and they in turn passed it over to my sister and me a few years ago.

"My most vivid and happy memories are related to that property. I remember getting water by lowering buckets over the cliff. I remember the bears that would visit the dump behind the outhouse. I remember taking baths in the Lake. I remember picking blueberries on Shovel Point, boating on the Lake, hiking the rivers along the shore, and the Fisherman's Picnic.

"The North Shore is the best place on earth, Sugarloaf is a beautiful and unique place and deserves all the protection it can get."

From Anoka, Donald W. Smith writes: "I am a senior citizen with fond memories of camping on the North Shore with my two children thirty some years ago, especially the Village Park in Grand Marais. At the present time I am caring for my 96-year-old mother in my home, so I don't travel very far. Someday I hope to renew my memories of the most beautiful part of Minnesota and visit the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center."

And from Richfield, Nelson T. French writes: "The goals of SICA are clear and the establishment of a public interpre-

tive forum and facility on the Sugarloaf site is a very positive step towards providing a broader understanding of the splendid geological and biological resources of the area for North Shore residents and visitors."

JAN GREEN WINS PRESTIGIOUS WILDLIFE AWARD

At its annual meeting, the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society presented SICA Charter Board Member, Jan Green, the Society's Minnesota Award for 1994, the highest award bestowed to an individual by the Chapter. The citation stated, "You possess the rare blend of ecology, biology, politics, and economics necessary to protect and enhance ecosystems. You have accomplished this feat by being involved in a wide breadth of issues including forest ecosystems, avian ecology, and pollution."

Jan may be best known as one of Minnesota's eminent ornithologists. She was a teaching assistant at UMD in the early 1970's, has devoted her enthusiasms to birds and avian ecology through the Audubon Society and the Minnesota Ornithologist's Union, has co-authored two books, Minnesota Birds and Birds of the Superior National Forest, and a third nearly completed work entitled A Forest Bird Primer.

Jan has served on many boards, commissions, and committees, including The Nature Conservancy, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. SICA echoes the sentiments expressed in the citation, "Any professional wildlifer would be proud to have but a portion of your accomplishments."

SUGARLOAF AND THE NORTH SHORE - A HISTORY

By STEVE PIHLAJA, SICA Board Member

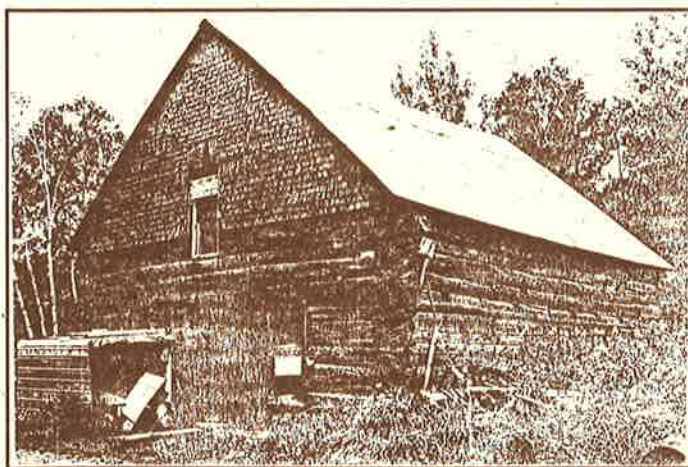
There is tradition that Sugarloaf derived its name from the protuberance on the rocky end of the lake point at the site. This consists of a coarse-grained, thick lava mass resembling a loaf of brown, coarse sugar, common in the 19th century. Others conjecture that the name comes from the fact that from a distance the point resembles an old sugarloaf hat.

The Treaty of Ghent in 1814 gave the United States the area along the North Shore as far as the Pigeon River, and British fur traders were thus expelled from the area. John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company then took control of the fur trade, establishing a post in Grand Marais in 1823.

In a severe 1846 storm Father Frederick Baraga, the 'snowshoe priest', crossed the Lake by canoe from Wisconsin and landed at the mouth of a river. There he erected a wooden cross in gratitude for his safe passage, thus naming the Cross River.

After the 1854 Treaty of LaPointe between the Ojibwa Nation and the United States, European immigration began to the North Shore. The settlers were drawn to the area by mining prospects, timber harvesting, and commercial fishing. Commodore Saxton in 1856 established a small town at the mouth of Two Island River, about 3-1/2 miles east of Sugarloaf, which, however, did not survive the Panic of 1857. In the 1890's Henry J. Redmyer established a small settlement in the vicinity of the Cross River known interchangeably as 'Redmyer' and 'Cross River'.

In 1901 a post office was established there and between 1905 and 1907 the McIver sawmill was operated in a small settlement called Thomasville, just west of Sugarloaf. During the big storm of November 18, 1905, the *Schooner Amboy* sank near Thomasville in relatively shallow water. The crew of the vessel was saved by recently arrived Norwegian immigrants, whose descendants still live in Schroeder.



Schroeder Lumber Company Bunkhouse

In 1895 John Schroeder, who owned one of the largest lumber companies in Wisconsin, purchased 35 square miles of white pine in the Cross River watershed. He established the most extensive logging operation ever attempted on the North Shore, employing over 1000 loggers. A remnant of this operation still exists - an old log bunkhouse on the Lamb Resort property. It is

on the National Register of Historic Places. The headquarters of the operation at the mouth of the Cross River included shipping docks, a warehouse, hotel, superintendent's residence, and the bunkhouse. The Schroeder Company made material physical changes in the regimen of the Cross River in order to drive the logs down to a holding pond at the edge of the Lake. The logs were gathered into rafts and towed by steam tugs across to the company's sawmill in Ashland, Wisconsin. These rafts covered 10 to 25 acres of the Lake and contained as many as 6 million board feet. Interference with Lake navigation was claimed which resulted in numerous lawsuits.

In the 1890's the Sugarloaf property was homesteaded by John Gunderson, a Norwegian immigrant, who passed it on to his son, Gilbert Johnson. His grandson, in turn, Kevin Johnson, is at present a resident of Schroeder. The property was then sold to a Chicagoan and the property passed to Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company in 1943. Earlier, in 1935, Consolidated purchased a large tract of timberland in Cook County and began logging pulpwood.

Consolidated's log rafting operation at Sugarloaf spanned 28 years, from 1943 to 1971. Spruce logs were cut in the winter and transported to Sugarloaf Landing where, starting in mid-June, the logs were sent down a chute from the bluff above the Lake into the cove. The logs were formed into giant teardrop-shaped rafts within necklace-like booms of 450 spruce logs, each 3'x22'. These rafts, containing 3,000 to 5,000 cords of wood, were formed in 3 to 4 hours in good weather and in 12 hours in bad. The process of making up the rafts became such a tourist attraction that Consolidated set up viewing platforms.

A tugboat towed the raft 62 miles across the Lake to Ashland at the rate of one mile per hour, each trip taking about 2-1/2 days. Since the rafts crossed shipping lanes and commercial fishing areas, the tugboat crew maintained constant weather and radio communications with other vessels. The tug, *Butterfield*, served from 1922 to 1957, and the diesel tug, the *John Roen III*, originally a Chicago fire boat, served from 1957 to 1971. This tug was 118 feet long, had a 6-cylinder, 840 hp engine, and pistons the "size of pulpwood sticks". There were 13 in the crew that made about seven trips each season.

In 1985 Consolidated donated the 61-acre Sugarloaf site to The Nature Conservancy which in turn sold the eastern-most 34 acres to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The Nature Conservancy eventually traded the remaining 27 acres to Cook County for the Susie Islands at the mouth of the Pigeon River.

Because of its geologic significance, in 1987 Dr. John Green nominated Sugarloaf Landing (including the point and the adjacent beach) for designation as a Scientific and Natural Area, and in 1992 the Department of Natural Resources so designated 3-1/4 acres which includes the rocky point and part of the beach.

The Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association, since its inception in 1993, has for its prime purposes the preservation and protection of the area and the development of programs designed to perpetuate the area for all time.

First Class
Postage

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
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Sugarloaf Interpreter is published quarterly by Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association. Merlin H. Berg, Editor, 2230 West Hoyt Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. Articles, graphic arts, and letters to the editor are warmly encouraged. Subscription to *Interpreter* is one of the benefits of membership in SICA; single copies available upon request.

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 94 follows your name on the address label, it indicates that your membership is due for renewal. If there is a dash following the 94 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 95, 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
Benefactor

_____ Payment Herewith _____ Please Bill Me

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.