

The Sugarloaf Interpreter

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Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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Phone (218) 726-7201

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

TWIN POINTS ACQUISITION

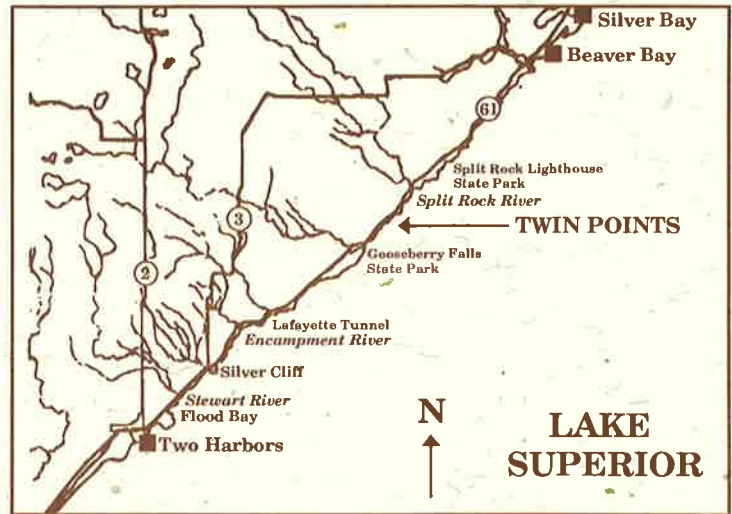
In September 1995, SICA exercised its option to purchase the property at Twin Points, located near Split Rock Lighthouse State Park. The land includes more than 3,000 feet of shoreline and 58 acres, on both sides of Highway 61.

SICA purchased the property from the Lind family, who has owned it since 1938, when Iona and John Lind, immigrants from Finland, opened the Twin Points resort. Upon her retirement in 1994, Iona Lind expressed her desire that the land become available for public use. SICA assisted in fulfilling her wish.

SICA purchased the property and promptly sold 5.4 acres to the State of Minnesota, to be administered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a public boat launch. SICA's long-range goal is to transfer the balance of the Twin Points land to public ownership, in exchange for the state-owned land at Sugarloaf. In this way, public enjoyment of the shoreline of Lake Superior will be extended to both sites. Both the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council and the Minnesota Chapter of the Nature Conservancy have expressed their strong support for this venture.

The appraised value of the Twin Points land is \$845,000. The Lind family sold the land to SICA for \$750,000 and made a \$95,000 contribution to SICA by selling their land for less than its appraised value. The State paid SICA \$210,000 for the 5.4-acre parcel. SICA has raised about one half of the \$750,000 purchase price. The balance was financed by a private mortgage. SICA has undertaken active fundraising efforts to pay off

the mortgage balance as quickly as possible. It is vital that SICA find private partners to join in this effort to raise the funds necessary to complete the Twin Points Project.



SECOND BRECKENRIDGE FILM

Walter Breckenridge, retired director of the Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis, made and narrated a film of winter on the North Shore in the late 1940's. This film was shown at SICA's annual meeting. SICA is pleased that a second Breckenridge film has recently been rescued and put into videocassette form with his narration. SICA plans to show this film at upcoming meetings and public events.

- CALENDAR -

February 17 - SICA Board Meeting, Duluth

May 18 - SICA Board Meeting, Duluth

August 17 - Annual SICA Membership and
Board Meetings, Schroeder

November 9 - SICA Board Meeting, Duluth

SICA OPENS DULUTH OFFICE

In September 1995, SICA opened an office in one of Duluth's first commercial buildings, the Hunter Building, located at 31 West Superior Street in downtown Duluth. The original Hunter Building was built by John Hunter as a bank building in 1872. After the Duluth Savings Bank closed, Gabriel and Lena Poliinsky Oreckovsky established their mercantile business there in 1909. The Hunter Building was remodeled, and the Oreckovsky's business was first called "The National Store." The business later became known as Oreck's Department Store. The office is presently used by volunteers working on SICA projects.

SNA UPDATES ON THE SHORE

Dr. John Green, a UMD geologist and SICA board member, has nominated a portion of the land formerly known as Twin Points for designation as a Scientific and Natural Area ("SNA"). The Twin Points property (recently purchased by SICA) is located in Lake County between Gooseberry Falls and Split-Rock Lighthouse State Parks. The north end of the property is a long, high beach, composed nearly entirely of somewhat flattened pebbles (or "shingle") of pink rhyolite or felsite. The rock derives from a cliff of slabby-jointed felsite at the beach's northern part. The beach was formed as wave action eroded the felsite bedrock and carried particles of it southward during storms.

The basic rationale for protection of this beach is to preserve a fairly unique, culturally undisturbed geologic feature that shows the dynamic interaction between the land and the waves of Lake Superior. The beach is an excellent example of this landform and illustrates an important geologic process. Designation as an SNA would protect the site, which many North Shore visitors call "Iona's

Beach," in recognition of Iona Lind, the owner of Twin Points resort from 1938 to 1995.

At Sugarloaf Cove, Dr. John Green has proposed that the present SNA be expanded to include the cobble beach.

SICA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER, B.J. SMITH KOHLSTEDT

B.J. Smith Kohlstedt was elected to the SICA Board of Directors on November 19, 1995. B.J. has worked for the past fifteen years at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, Minnesota. Wolf Ridge ELC is a private, accredited, residential outdoor school; B.J. is currently its Director of Special Programs. B.J. has a B.A. in biology and an M.Ed. in Environmental Education, both from UMD. She is past president of the Minnesota Naturalists' Association, and she serves on the board of the School Nature Area Project in Northfield and the board of Vermilion Wilderness Parks and Recreation Program in Ely. We are pleased to have a new board member with such credentials.

LCMR RESEARCH GRANT - UPDATE

SICA recently received the first installment of a grant from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) to research the various natural and geological features on the site at Sugarloaf. Research on geology, soils, and plant communities has been completed. Other research components (on birds, mammals, lichens, bryophytes, land uses, vascular plants, archaeology) are proceeding on schedule. The grant concludes in June, 1997. The final product will serve as a foundation for interpretive materials on how the site evolved, its uses over time, and its current natural features.

TIME FOR RENEWAL?

Please review your address label. If the first two numbers above your name are not 95, your own membership needs renewing. The second set of numbers indicates the amount of the last membership level. We are offering a new premium for renewals or new memberships at a \$25 level or higher. It is the beautiful volume written and illustrated by Howard Sivertson of Grand Marais. It is entitled "Once Upon An Isle: The Story of Fishing Families on Isle Royale." It would be a grand gift to go with a gift membership to a friend you would choose to bring into SICA. The books are being supplied by donation without charge to SICA.

MNDOT DISTRICT ENGINEER REPLIES TO HELLA ON SECOND HIGHWAY 61; DESCRIBES PROJECTED CONSTRUCTION; LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

In "Judge" Hella's reminiscences about North Shore State park Development in the September 1995 issue of this publication, he stated that "at least a study of extending the existing commercial route beyond Two Harbors should be undertaken."

In a communication to the *Interpreter*, David S. Ekern, Transportation District Engineer, Duluth, states, "We too share "Judge" Hella's concerns for the preservation of the scenic beauty of the North Shore. Today, we face an era of more demand than funding available throughout the state and nation. Therefore, we will continue to focus on the preservation and management of the present highway. MnDOT, at this time, is pursuing no studies for an inland route."

"For the past several years, we have been involved with citizen groups along the shore to insure that our plans for renovating the corridor do not upset the tender balance between beauty and transportation needs. The results of these discussions are a set of Design Goals and a philosophy to preserve the important resources of the North Shore while improving the safety of the existing highway."

"A North Shore Resource Assessment Project was undertaken in 1976 followed by a Preliminary Location Study in 1979 for a corridor between Two Harbors and Illgen City. These studies and subsequent meetings concluded that restoring the existing corridor would have the least negative impact in North Shore resources. Application of the study findings began in the mid 1980's with a project at Chapin's Curve (between Split Rock Lighthouse and Beaver Bay). Since then, more than \$40 million has been invested in highway restoration and safety improvement projects."

The Design Goals mentioned above, briefly stated are:

- I. *The design shall provide a safe highway.*
- II. *The design shall provide an aesthetically pleasing highway.*
- III. *The design shall enhance the urban centers along the highway.*

Ekern's statement continues: "The reconstruction of Highway 61 began at Chapin's Curve. Valued at \$2.3 million, the new one-mile long roadway that replaced Chapin's Curve provides a dramatic safety improvement and an impressive aesthetic enhancement for the North Shore Corridor."

"Following "Chapin's Curve", a \$1.5 million dollar project was constructed to improve the traffic flow through the City of Beaver Bay...Next, \$14 million was invested to improve Highway 61 at Lafayette Bluff which had a notoriously unsafe curve on top of the eroding rocky Lake Superior shoreline. A thorough analysis of all available

improvement alternatives revealed that the most innovative balance between project costs and environmental impacts would be achieved with the construction of an 852-foot long mined tunnel, the first to be built in Minnesota."

"To correct safety and road stability inadequacies at Silver Creek Cliff, construction of a \$23 million, 1300-foot long mined tunnel (now completed) will yield advantages similar to those at Lafayette Bluff. In progress are the renovation of the two-and-a-half miles of highway linking Silver Creek Cliff to Lafayette Bluff and the four-mile section connecting Lafayette Bluff to the south boundary of Gooseberry Falls State Park. In total, these two projects are valued at approximately \$10 million and follow the plan to transform the existing roadway into a modern highway offering safety features, structural improvements, and environmental enhancements."

"The federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) designated approximately \$18 million for use to improve Highway 61 between Schroeder and Grand Marais...Construction on this portion is anticipated in the late 1990's...MnDOT has formed a corridor management team composed of agency professionals from a wide array of disciplines who will oversee project development efforts for the Schroeder to Grand Marais segment."

"Our commitment is to plan, design, build and maintain a revitalized Highway 61 which will be modern, safe, and an environmental enhancement of the North Shore. Often our customers ask what they can do to help...we eagerly welcome and strongly encourage your participation to work proactively with us at meetings, hearings, and on committees. Please join with us to find new solutions to old problems and continue your active support of projects to improve your North Shore transportation corridor."

Derrick L. Goutermont, Chairman, Lake County Commission, writes, "We, too, have for the past twenty years repeatedly said that a high quality, limited access, double lane route inland from the shore between Two Harbors and Silver Bay would take the pressures off the scenic terrain-hugging, circuitous North Shore Scenic Drive. However, the Lake County Board will continue to support improvements to the existing highway until such time as an alternate route becomes a reality, but the mayhem which continuously occurs on this highway, amplified even more by the encouragement of bicyclists, causes us much concern. It also provides activity for ambulance service, sheriff, highway patrol, and rescue squads which consume tax dollars...We would like to support Judge Hella's concept."

First Class
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SICA Officers: President: Steve Pihlaja, Minneapolis
Secretary: Patricia Maus, Duluth

Vice-President: Barb Liukkonen, Duluth
Treasurer: Howard Olson, St. Paul

Twin Points Support

Yes, I/we will help Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association to keep Twin Points for public access with this gift to the Twin Points Purchase Fund.

\$_____ is my/our total gift commitment to be paid as follows: \$_____ is enclosed herewith.

\$_____ is pledged as follows:

\$_____ 19____

\$_____ 19____

\$_____ 19____

and/or: _____
\$_____ is pledged through a gift of insurance, real estate, a trust or will provisions as follows: _____

Name (please print)	Signature	Date		
Spouse's Name (please print)	Signature	Date		
Address	City	State	Zip	Home Phone

This gift can be matched by my employer.

Special gift designation if desired, _____

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.

SICA Membership Application

I like the idea of interpretation and education on the North Shore. I certainly believe that the important Scientific and Natural Area of Sugarloaf Cove, Beach, and Point should be protected and not be endangered.

Please enroll me as a member of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association in the category I have indicated. SICA is an educational, nonprofit 501 (c) (3) Minnesota corporation. Please send me, as a new or renewing member, my free copy of Howard Sivertson's "Once Upon An Isle: The Story of Fishing Families on Isle Royale."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

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. Thank you.