



The Sugarloaf Interpreter

A Publication Of The
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

Volume 4, Number 2
31 W. Superior St., #401

Phone (218) 726-7201

Winter, December 1996
Duluth, MN 55802

TWIN POINTS FUND-RAISING REACHES \$571,000

A total of \$571,000 has now been pledged or paid for the purchase of Twin Points Resort. A portion of the property has already been transferred to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for a recreational boat access harbor.

Negotiations are progressing for a land exchange which will transfer an important lakeshore shingle beach, which in turn will clear the way for designation as a Scientific and Natural Area. It will be named Iona Beach in honor of Iona Lind, who with her husband were the original purchasers of the Twin Points Resort property. The balance of the purchase price yet to be raised is \$179,000.

PROGRESS OF LCMR STUDY GRANTS

A highly successful study under our first LCMR grant is now nearing completion. Authorized by the 1995 legislative session and effective on July 1, 1995, a series of professional studies of the Sugarloaf site have been made. These studies will form the basis for educational and interpretive materials, such as slide shows, displays, curriculum data, etc. One of the results of the effort has been the laying out of a trail through the property so that visitors can now have access to significant features in this important natural and geological area.

A second LCMR study grant is anticipated in the spring of 1997. This will be a joint effort with the Grand Portage Ojibway Band and the Cook County Historical Society. The subject will be "Pre-European History of North Shore Native Americans."

SICA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At the Board meeting on November 23, 1996 the following were elected as officers for the current year:

President - Steve Pihlaja
Vice President - B.J. Smith Kohlstedt
Secretary - Robert Bruce
Treasurer - Elmer L. Andersen

To the list of new Board members announced in the August, 1996 Interpreter, Norman DesChampe of Grand Portage has been added. DesChampe is Chairman of the Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council and President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

GROUND BREAKING FOR NEW STATE PARK VISITOR CENTER

A ground breaking ceremony occurred at Fort Snelling State Park on September 12 for the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center. The \$2 million center, scheduled for completion in the fall of 1997, is named in memory of Thomas C. Savage, St. Paul environmentalist who worked hard to establish the park and to secure funding for the center. Savage, who died in 1988, was the husband of SICA Board member Betty Savage. SICA Board members who participated in the ceremony included Elmer L. Andersen, Howard Olson, and of course Betty Savage.

- CALENDAR -

Dec. 27, 1996 - Jan. 1, 1997 - Wolf Ridge Winter Programs. Family Vacations. Elderhostel Winter Adventure.

Feb. 14-16, 1997 - Wolf Ridge Presidents Day. Dog sledding. WILD Workshop. Winter camping. Family Weekend. More.

Feb. 15, 1997 - SICA Board meeting, Duluth.

SICA BEACH SWEEP 1996

By John C. Green, SICA Board Member

Six dedicated Sugarloafers gathered at the Sugarloaf site on October 5 for a volunteer clean-up as part of the national Beach Sweep effort sponsored by the Center for Marine Conservation. The crew included Chel Anderson, Bob Bruce, John and Jan Green, Art Fenstad, and Caroline Miller, all SICA Board members.

The weather was gorgeous and the fall colors on the North Shore were near their peak of glory. After a strategy briefing, we scattered to the "four corners" of the property and picked up and carried out all the trash and junk we could find. B.J. and John Kohlstedt had previously stashed a wheelbarrow for us to use.

We found an interesting variety of anthropogenic debris, mostly metal junk left over from the log-rafting operation, but none of archival interest or significance. The beach sweep part of the operation covered about 2800 feet of shoreline (both beaches and the point) and supported a general impression that "our" part of Lake Superior is in fairly good condition. Only a few objects were found that we could infer probably came from the lake or from visitors. We attempted to remove a large steel cable, but one end remained stuck fast beneath a large boulder.

Because we were unable to cover every square foot, there might be an opportunity for a follow-up "sweep" in April or May, 1997.



Four members of Beach Sweep (left to right): Bob Bruce, Chel Anderson, Art Fenstad, and John Green.



"GRAMPA WOO" SUCCUMBS TO SUPERIOR STORM

The luxurious 96-foot excursion boat, the "Grampa Woo," site of several SICA meetings, met an inglorious end after a vicious October 30th storm. The *Woo*, named after the father-in-law of the owners Dana and ChunAe Kollars, was moored at Grand Portage awaiting new propellers. Kollars and his deckhand, Robin Sivill, checked on the boat that morning and noted that the boat was dragging its 3000-pound mooring. They gassed up a small inflatable boat and rushed out in the direction of the *Woo*, but the engine failed momentarily. They finally caught the *Woo* and hopped aboard.

Using the boat's radio and cell phone they contacted a freighter out of Duluth, the "Walter J. McCarthy," which began towing the *Woo* to Thunder Bay. Six hours later - and two miles from the Bay - the tow line broke and the *Woo* was again adrift. A Canadian Coast Guard cutter arrived and for the next hour in the darkness, freezing rain, and snow, an effort was made to secure a tow. When the effort failed, Kollars and Sivill jumped aboard the tug and the *Woo* was adrift again. The tug was forced to take shelter in a small cove for two days until the storm blew over, then returned to Thunder Bay.

The boat finally ran aground on the rocks near Passage Island, northeast of Isle Royale and cannot be salvaged. According to Kollars, "The lake tore the boat to shreds." The bow of the boat is now under 30 feet of water and the stern is impaled on the rocks. The boat was insured and Kollars is in Alabama negotiating for a 115-foot replacement boat. The new boat will be named - you guessed it - the "Grampa Woo."

WOLF RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

By B.J. SMITH KOHLSTEDT, Board Member, SICA



Perched on a bluff overlooking Lake Superior, twelve miles southwest of Sugarloaf Cove, is the kind of campus that attracts students from around the country. At Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, an accredited private school, people of all ages are immersed in outdoor activities while they learn natural and cultural history, develop recreational skills, and experience personal growth. School kids, preschoolers, families, teachers, and grandparents come because they've heard about the programs. Upon arrival they are stunned by the beauty of the location.

Wolf Ridge was started in 1971 in an abandoned Job Corps site in Isabella, MN. The idea came from Jack Pichotta, public school teacher and still Executive Director of Wolf Ridge, who wanted a field campus where he could take his high school kids and others to learn about nature and their part in it. Since its beginning, Wolf Ridge's programs have been funded by user fees, but its capital improvements are funded through memberships, gifts and grants.

In 1988 Wolf Ridge was moved to its present location which includes 1400 acres of maple forest, Wolf and Raven Lakes, Sawmill Creek and Baptism River, wetlands, cliffs, and rugged trails with elevation differences of several hundred feet. The eight buildings include an office, dormitory, dining hall, energy center, and four classroom buildings. Here students take classes in geology, plants, animals, astronomy, weather, human history, modern culture, skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, orienteering, rock climbing, and other topics.

With a mission to rekindle the concept of stewardship through education, Wolf Ridge has much in common with SICA. Both are located on or near the North Shore (Wolf Ridge is about a mile inland). Both share combined missions of interpretation and

preservation of the natural beauty of the land. Both must deal with the impact of the people they invite upon the lands they seek to protect.

Wolf Ridge has been a supporter of SICA in many ways. In the summer of 1996, a Wolf Ridge group of 14-16 year olds with three instructors toured Sugarloaf to learn how geology, climate, plants, animals and people interact to form a community. Wolf Ridge staff helped design the SICA brochure and I direct WR programs as well as serving as a member of the SICA Board.

As a cooperator with SICA in the Sugarloaf Site Assessment and Interpretation Project funded by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota's Resources (LCMR), Wolf Ridge provides assistance in "Development and dissemination of educational materials" to SICA. Wolf Ridge staff arranged for the Minnesota Conservation Crew (a youth training and education program) to spend the week of July 22-26, 1996 at Sugarloaf clearing the new Interpretive Trail. The group was also provided with opportunities to go canoeing and try our rock climbing wall at Wolf Ridge in the evenings.

All of this involvement is designed to benefit Wolf Ridge as well as SICA. The demonstration plots at Sugarloaf (cutting, planting, etc.) set examples for our management plan at Wolf Ridge. Research done at Sugarloaf strengthens Wolf Ridge curriculum, especially classes such as geology, forest ecology, Lake Superior and North Shore history. These classes are offered for 12,000 school children each year.

These programs are available to the public when school is not in session: on weekends, summer weeks, and New Year's week. Courses are tailored for varied audiences during Family Vacations (for preschoolers through grandparents), Elderhostel (for those 55 and older, and their grandchildren), Summer Youth Programs (for ages 9-18), Environmental Education Institute (for teachers), and adult retreats. Wolf Ridge can be reached at 800-523-2733 (MN, WI) or 218-353-7414, or visit any time 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily.

Wolf Ridge participants and others are privileged to have access to Lake Superior at Sugarloaf for educational programs. By touching the waters and exploring the shoreline, we all gain a greater understanding of the power and beauty of the Great Lake and its influence on the land and the people of the Shore. In this, Wolf Ridge and SICA share common goals, and we look forward to watching our relationship grow and prosper.

Postage
First Class

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
31 W. Superior St., #401
Duluth, MN 55802

Sugarloaf Interpreter is published quarterly by Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association. Merlin H. Berg, Editor, 2230 W. Hoyt Ave., 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: Steve Pihlaja, Minneapolis
Secretary: Robert Bruce, Duluth

Vice-President: B.J. Smith Kohlstedt, Finland
Treasurer: Elmer L. Andersen, Arden Hills

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, 31 W. Superior St., #401, Duluth, MN 55802.

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. As a new member, please send my free copy of John Green's new book, "Geology on Display" (geology of the state parks). Or, with a contribution of \$40 or more, as a renewing member, please send my free copy of Howard Sivertson's "Tales of the Old North Shore."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Membership Categories

_____ \$5 Student/Senior _____ \$10 Individual
_____ \$15 Family _____ \$20 School/Library
_____ \$25 Contributing _____ \$40 Supporting
_____ \$100 Sustaining _____ \$500 Patron
_____ Add'l Contribution

_____ Payment Herewith _____ Please Bill Me

Make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and mail to SICA, 31 W. Superior St., #401, Duluth, MN 55802. This membership will expire December 31, 1997. Thank you.