



The Sugarloaf Interpreter

A Publication Of The
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

Volume 5, Number 1-X
31 W. Superior St., #401

Autumn, September 1997
Duluth, MN 55802

TWIN POINTS PURCHASE COMPLETED

A major landmark in the history of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association was achieved in July 1997 when the final payment for the Twin Points Resort was made to the Lind family. This assures the permanent establishment of an interpretive center at Sugarloaf Cove and Point.

Those who played major roles in the Twin Points acquisition were Elmer L. Andersen who chaired the fund raising drive that raised the \$750,000 in record time; Steve Pihlaja who was largely responsible for clearing the legislative and legal hurdles; and Lorrie Stromme who handled the real estate problems. An undertaking needs its stalwarts to accomplish great things. SICA has such stalwarts.

The acquisition was initiated when the SICA Board of Directors on June 16, 1994 agreed to purchase the Twin Points Resort from the Lind family for \$750,000. In a complicated arrangement much of the property would be exchanged with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the land at Sugarloaf Cove giving SICA the ability to establish an interpretive center thereon. The Twin Points property contained 3000 feet of lakeshore frontage and 56 acres of land on both sides of Highway 61.

In a memorandum of understanding in December 1994 it was agreed that 7 acres of Twin Points would be sold to DNR for \$200,000 to permit DNR to create a Lake Superior Water Trail camp site. The portion designated as a Scientific and Natural Area would also be retained by DNR for management and public access. An option signed February 7, 1995 initiated the purchase procedure, and fund raising was started. By December 1995, \$571,000 had been paid on the property, and in July of this year the final payment was made.

On September 13, 1996 a public hearing on the land exchange was held in Silver Bay, and in December 1996 the State Executive Board approved the exchange. The conservation easement for the property to be administered by SICA is in the process of being finalized.

The next exciting challenge for SICA will be to design an interpretive center and program. This will complement and enhance Sugarloaf's unique natural features, and preserve its intrinsic values.



SICA WETLAND RESTORATION MAY BE STUDIED

The Minnesota DNR has applied for a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to facilitate site planning and habitat restoration work at Sugarloaf Cove. This will include the determination of whether and how a small wetland at Sugarloaf might be restored. After receipt of the grant and when drilling and assessments are complete, options for restoration will be presented to SICA and DNR. Drilling is likely to occur in fall or early winter 1997. SICA personnel involved in this effort include John Green, Bob Bruce, and Chel Anderson. DNR participants are Pat Collins and Steve Wilson.



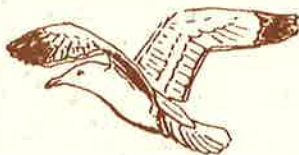
GREG KOSCHINSKA AND NANCY NELSON ELECTED TO SICA BOARD

At the August 16 meeting of the Association two new members were elected to fill vacancies caused by resignations.

Elected was Greg Koschiriska. Greg is a partner in a large accounting and consulting firm, is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, is a native of Chaska, has enjoyed an extensive professional and public life serving on many boards and civic organizations. His family owns a cottage 1.5 miles west of Sugarloaf. His professional accounting experience will be of great benefit to the Association.

Also elected was Nancy Nelson who is a free-lance self-employed science writer. She holds a MS in geology from UMD and has conducted geological research on the North Shore including research for her graduate thesis. She served as a contractor for the SICA/LCMR Site Assessment and Interpretation Project, providing copy for educational materials. She has served as President of the Association of Women in Science and is active in several organizations.

Resignations from the Board are Dr. Pershing Hofslund and Bill Corcoran who will be missed. Their contributions to the Board have been notable and are sincerely appreciated.



JILL JACOBY ENGAGED AS INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR

Another significant step in the forward-looking program of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association was taken at the August 18 Board meeting when Jill Jacoby of Duluth was hired as interim administrator. In the six months following, a job description will be finalized, and applications will be received for a permanent staff person. Jill began her duties at the Duluth headquarters on September 2, which will mean that the office will now be open on a regular basis.

Jill comes highly qualified to administer the SICA program having served in many significant educational, environmental, and research positions. She holds master degrees in environmental law and water resources, and a bachelor degree in agricultural and environmental education. She has had hands-on experience in many of the facets of the SICA program. Welcome aboard, Jill!

DEDICATION OF IONA'S BEACH SET FOR OCTOBER 4TH

A portion of the Twin Points beach will be dedicated to a Scientific and natural area on October 4 as Iona's Beach in honor of the former owner and environmentalist, Iona Lind. This celebration will start with a SICA sponsored program at the new visitor's center at Gooseberry Falls State Park at 11 a.m. A significant feature of the event will be the formal presentation of the completion of the LCMR-funded program of site assessment and research conducted by SICA at Sugarloaf. The formal dedication will take place at Twin Points at 1 p.m. and will include a program sponsored by Shorelink, a North Shore joint community effort.



GOLD ROCK POINT NOW PART OF SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE PARK

In a letter dated July 22, 1996, the Congdon Group offered to sell to the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council the property known as Gold Rock Point for the sum of \$1,060,000. In late April of 1997 a final contract acceptable to both parties was signed. Gold Rock Point which lies Northeast of Split Rock thus becomes an important future addition to the state park.

This rugged headland is one of the truly spectacular sights along the North Shore. It rises as a 100-foot sheer cliff out of the waters of Lake Superior. The vista of the Point from Split Rock was recently named by the *Minnesota Volunteer* as one of the four best views in Minnesota. Rock slab and pebble beaches south of the Point provide primary access to the famous underwater ship-wreck, the Madeira, which broke apart and sank in the great storm of November, 1905. In total, the property includes about 3700 acres of undeveloped Lake Superior shoreline.

The 1997 State Parks Boundary Bill, passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, assures inclusion of Gold Rock Point in Split Rock Park. To meet the cash needs of the Gold Rock purchase, the Council must raise money from individuals, corporations, and foundations. The ultimate sale of Gold Rock Point to the DNR is fraught with many difficulties, and the Parks and Trails Council are to be congratulated for undertaking this very valuable adjunct to our State Park system.

THE GRAND MARAIS CONSERVATION EASEMENT

BY ANDREA PETERSON,
Board Member, SICA, and
Former Mayor, Grand Marais

Minnesota's wild side is never more clearly displayed than on the shores of Lake Superior. It is shoreline that explodes like thunder as the wind sends water lashing against rock, tree, and asphalt. For centuries, the Sawtooth Mountains have formed a glorious colonnade along these shores that give a glimpse into the immensity of geologic history, of the sense of wonder and discovery of the ecological progression.

Each time I walk along the water's edge, I am awed by the spectacular bulk of the great lake. Many watchers come great distances to view the stunning panorama of splendor and beauty, to experience the long curves of beaches, the rich boreal forest, and the ruggedness of rock and cliff. Delicate flowers with their vivid colors, grey driftwood displaying intricate whorls and clusters of white birch stand triumphantly in magnificent fresco.

Imagine hiking across the glaciated rocks, facing south across miles of open water and feeling the wild surf pelting trenching spray so rejuvenating that you don't care that you're dripping wet and shivering. Imagine curtains of fog presenting visual displays so lovely that you forget the greyness of the day as you watch stunning visual tricks of fog against earth.

Imagine the drama that is Lake Superior, the beauty of the land, the vigor of the people who live along the shore, and the splendor of its wildlife. Then view the changes that have occurred along the Highway 61 corridor over the last decade. Lake Superior and its shores have been studied, mapped, chronicled, and sent to committee. The old, the new, and the abiding are searching for a sense of place as the urbanization of America intensifies and the growing pains along the North Shore increase.

Dramatic changes sweeping the Lake Superior shoreline and the ridgeline of the Sawtooth Mountains bring radical shifts in economic structure, population, and cultural order. Because of these shifts, the communities along the North Shore are poised at a crossroads and are facing several decisions: where should development be allowed, how should the fragile environment be preserved, how should the unique character of the towns be protected, and how should stability be brought to the economy. In the City of Grand Marais, residents felt the pressure to develop, to enter the debate between developers and environmentalists; but the issues became confusing as the face of the community changed and the power of tourism increased.

For the citizens of this small town, the main question became, how can we protect the lakeshore that is already public?

In the autumn months of 1992, the debate intensified politically and the citizens of Grand Marais elected a city council to search out a way to protect the city-owned property. The city council was unanimous in exploring ways of protecting over sixty acres of shoreline to be sure that it would be safe from unwanted development.

After much research, the city council met with a representative from the Minnesota Land Trust to discuss land preservation options. The Minnesota Land Trust was established in 1991 as a private, nonprofit agency committed to promoting the protection and enhancement of open space. A conservation easement became the primary tool for setting up the protection of the land. With the conservation easement, landowners voluntarily agree to restrict the use of the land, yet maintain ownership.

Staff from the Minnesota Land Trust assisted the city attorney to make sure all legal matters were clarified and made public. All hearings and city council meetings were broadcast on the local public access television channel and articles were written for the local newspaper. A letter and map were also mailed to each resident in Grand Marais. A large map showing the different facets of the easement was on display during local school functions. As developed, the adopted easement includes the municipal campground, Sweetheart's Bluff, and Bear Tree and Boulder Parks.

On December 27, 1996, after four years of work, the Grand Marais city council signed the easement to the applause in the council chamber following the unanimous enactment of the agreement. As a result of this action the Lake Superior Chapter of the Minnesota Land Trust has been formed in Cook County and a mechanism has been established to monitor protected properties and to educate the public about the need to protect our natural heritage.

Grand Marais is a city of short summers and fragile environments, a gateway to the Gunflint Trail and the Sawtooth Mountains; a city whose land and shore are vulnerable. It is a town that chose to protect its wild places in a bold and ebullient way, reawakening a sense of stewardship that can be celebrated by our modernized society. The Grand Marais shoreline easement is unique because it involves land that was already public. For this sixty acres, a solution has been found to check the irresistible forces of development. The conservation easement protects open space for future generations so that they too, can rejoice in solitude, feel the surf, taste the wildness, and share the wonder. It is a philosophy of hope and renewal.

CALENDAR

Sept. 11- *Minnesota Parks and Trails Council.*
 14 *North Country Trail Building Trip.*
 Call John Leiner. (612) 436-17

Fall 1997 *North House Folk School*
 Boat building, felting, paddle-making, birch bark weaving, kick sleds, ski-making, wild crafting, mushing, and more...
 P. O. Box 759
 Grand Marais, MN 55604
 (218) 387-9762

Sept. 19- *Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center.*
 21 *Weekend retreats: history, photography, mother-earth spirituality, Superior Hiking Trail, watercolors, and other media.*
 Finland, MN 55603 (800) 523-2733

Sept. 5- *Johnson Heritage Post, Grand Marais.*
 Oct. 5 *Birney Quick Retrospective Exhibit*

Oct. 4 *Dedication of Iona's Beach*
 (See story, page 2.)

Nov. 15 *SICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING*

SICA Membership Application

I like the idea of interpretation 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.

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 memberships 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

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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

First Class
 Postage