


The Sugarloaf Interpreter

A Publication Of The
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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31 W. Superior St., #401 218-733-9938



Fall, September 1998
Duluth, MN 55802

SICA Evaluates Building Plans

At the request of the SICA Executive and Building Committees, Duluth architect Darryl Booker has developed a series of concept plans for an interpretive center at Sugarloaf Cove. Two of the plans focus on reconfiguring the existing structure, located near the beach. The third plan is for an entirely new structure to be built on adjacent land, which is currently owned by SICA founding director, Elmer L. Andersen.

All three plans were presented to the Sugarloaf Board of Directors and membership at the annual meeting on August 22, 1998. The plans provoked a great deal of discussion and interest. It is clear that more study and reflection are in order before the Board of Directors can determine what direction future SICA building plans should take and the type of structure, if any, that SICA should build.

In order to allow everyone involved with SICA the opportunity to view the plans and have input into future actions, the Building Committee has scheduled two meetings. The primary meeting of the Building Committee will take place at the SICA office in Duluth at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 11. All of the architect's plans will be available for review at that time. For those people who are unable to attend the Duluth meeting, an additional meeting will take place in the Twin Cities area on Tuesday, Septem-

ber 22. Please call Building Committee Chair Steve Pihlaja (612-788-5157) if you are interested in attending the September 22 meeting. We need to know in advance how many people will attend this meeting in order to arrange for sufficient space.

The SICA Board of Directors will meet in a special strategic planning session on Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m. at the University of Minnesota - Duluth. As with all SICA Board meetings, all members are invited to attend. A decision concerning building plans is obviously of crucial importance to SICA's future development.

In order to use the strategic planning time as efficiently as possible, **President Smith Kohlstedt has requested that topics for discussion be raised in the form of written resolutions, which should be submitted to Executive Director Terri Port no later than October 9, 1998.** The proposed resolutions will then be distributed to all Board members in advance of the strategic planning session. These resolutions will form the basis for discussion, which we hope will lead to a consensus that will guide future SICA actions.

Send written comments to SICA at 31 West Superior Street, #401, Duluth, MN 55802. For more information, contact Executive Director Terri Port at 218-733-9938 or tport@duluth.infi.net.

SICA's vision is a healthy Minnesota North Shore of Lake Superior where an informed citizenry takes personal and group responsibility to ensure that natural ecological systems and human economic and social systems coexist in a fashion sustainable into the future.



President's Column

by B.J. Smith Kohlstedt

Because my first encounter with Sugarloaf Cove was after Consolidated Papers had left, I have always known the Cove as a quiet, peaceful place. My involvement with SICA has been to keep it that way—to protect the site, keep it open to all for education, enjoyment, and reflection. A simple goal, one not destined for greatness or loud noises.

But my image of the site and the association was challenged on a July day as I drove with Terri Port, our Executive Director, to a meeting. I asked her, innocently enough, how she liked her new job.

"I love it!" she said, with all the enthusiasm of a small volcano about to erupt. "Don't you realize how great this thing is?"

"Maybe not," I replied, skeptically. "How great is it?"

"SICA is the first organization I've known that actually goes beyond NIMBY," was her answer, as if that explained everything.

As an environmental educator, everyone assumes I know what NIMBY is. Ever since Love Canal, "environmentalists" have been crying "Not In My Back Yard!" (NIMBY) whenever there is a search to find a place for any undesirable (but often necessary) by-product of our society's consumption, from refineries to toxic waste dumps. On the basis of democratic process, these sites often end up in areas with the least political clout; that is, areas with low population, low socioeconomic status, or minority representation.

Personally, I'm a bit embarrassed by the NIMBY concept and its presumed attachment to environmentalists, because it has always struck me as both short-sighted and selfish. I figure that being reminded of and responsible for our own waste by having it in our own back yard is one of the best ways to evaluate the effects of our choices. It also seems rather glib, and all to common, to fight and win a NIMBY battle, then give up concern and ignore the issue once our own back yards are safe. So, I asked Terri to elaborate.

Taconite Harbor



The boat launch at Taconite Harbor is proceeding on schedule. According to Larry Killeen at the DNR, the project is set for construction next spring, assuming all goes well this winter. DNR is negotiating to move the access road, providing safer entrance from Highway 61. Additionally, DNR is negotiating with MNDOT about locating a rest stop in the boat launch area. The facility will not include any boat slips; however, the harbor and boat launch will be a designated safe harbor and will include an area for securing boats in the event of a storm. Questions on this project should be directed to Larry Killeen at the DNR Trails and Waterways Section in St. Paul (651-297-2911 or 1-800-766-6000).

(President's Column, continued)

"This is a perfect example of the way NIMBY is supposed to work. A small community mobilizes to address a project (marina) proposed by a government agency (DNR) at a certain site (Sugarloaf Cove). It forms an association to oppose the project and provide an alternative use for the site (interpretive center), gains regional support, and is successful in removing the site from the list of locations for the original project. Now it should ride off into the sunset with a grin on its face. Instead, its members join with the government agency to support an alternative location for the original project (Taconite Harbor) and work with them on a management plan for the "saved" site as a Scientific and Natural Area and interpretive center. This relationship continues to grow to the benefit of both organizations." (Witness the new sign at the Cove, which reads "Sugarloaf Cove: A Partnership in Preservation and Education.")

"This is an example of community action at its finest," continued Terri. "It's what excited me most about the job."

"Hmmm," I said. "I never thought of it that way." But I do now, and I'm proud to be part of a great action, though I still hope it's not destined for loud noises.

SICA ACTIVITIES

- Sept 11** Review proposed building plans—Duluth. SICA office, 31 West Superior Street, 9 a.m. For more information call Terri Port at 218-733-9938
- Sept 22** Review proposed building plans—Twin Cities. Call Steve Pihlaja at 612-788-5157 for more information.
- Sept 26** SICA Program: Star Gazing Hike and Campfire at Sugarloaf Cove, meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Sugarloaf Cove parking lot.
- Oct 17** **SICA Special Planning Session. 10 a.m. Room 355, Kirby Center, University of Minnesota - Duluth.**
- October** “The State of Lake Superior.” Watch your local newspapers for details.
- Nov 21** SICA Board of Directors meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 355, Kirby Center, University of Minnesota - Duluth. All are invited to go out for lunch after the meeting. Executive Committee will meet at 9 a.m.

Stargazing at Sugarloaf Cove

Welcome the fall season with an evening of moon-and-stargazing at Sugarloaf Cove. We'll look at the first-quarter moon through a telescope, then head down the hill for marshmallows, hot chocolate, and stories by the campfire. When darkness settles in, we'll do some stargazing on the beach. Bring a flashlight and warm clothes. Meet in the parking area, 7:30 p.m., Saturday September 26.

Fishboil A Success!

On July 19th, 57 folks braved 95° degree heat to participate in a fishboil (prepared by Jack Pichotta), kayak demonstrations (by Cascade Kayak from Grand Marais), and interpretive hikes (guided by John Green). Most of those people were not SICA members, but they were interested in our plans for the site and they're also interested in joining and supporting SICA. At the end of the day, people left saying, “See you next year,” so apparently we have started a tradition!

SO, YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO SUGARLOAF COVE???

One thing we learned from the recent member survey is that not everyone has had the pleasure of visiting Sugarloaf Cove. Here's how you get there ... Heading north on Highway 61, the driveway for Sugarloaf Cove is located 0.4 miles beyond the milepost 73 marker. If you're heading south on Highway 61, the site is about 6 miles south of Schroeder (or 2.5 miles south of Taconite Harbor). Watch for **Fire Number 9096**. Park anywhere in the parking area, help yourself to brochures and a trail guide from the black mailbox, and enjoy your time. If you have any suggestions, let us know!

Sugarloaf Cove Photo Contest



Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association invites you to enter your favorite photos of Sugarloaf Cove in our first annual Photo Contest. We'll be accepting entries of your favorite scenes at the Cove ... in all seasons and from all camera angles.

Bring your camera along whenever you visit Sugarloaf Cove! Take pictures to tell us what you enjoy most about the Cove or what makes it special to you.

Winning photographers will receive a cash prize. All photos entered in the contest will become SICA property, to be used in the future in SICA calendars, brochures, and/or displays. Credit will be given to the photographers.

Send in your entries any time during the next year to the SICA office (31 West Superior Street, #401, Duluth, MN 55802). Slides are preferred, but photos will also be accepted. We'll present the winning entries at the annual meeting in August, 1999.



Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
31 West Superior Street, Suite 401
Duluth, MN 55802

SICA Board of Directors

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
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The Sugarloaf Interpreter is published quarterly by Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association. Subscription to the newsletter is a benefit of membership. Single copies available on request.
Editor: Nancy Nelson, nnelson@computerpro.com

SICA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

e-mail: _____

Memberships are annual and expire on December 31.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 Student/Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40 Supporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Library/School | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ ____ Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member |

Please make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association, and mail to SICA at 31 West Superior St., #401, Duluth, MN 55802.

Thank you!