
The Sugarloaf Interpreter

A Publication Of The
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association



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Building Plans Move Forward at Sugarloaf Cove

At a Special Planning Session on October 17, the SICA Board of Directors decided to remove the last remaining building at Sugarloaf Cove. This structure served as an office building when the site was used by Consolidated Papers as a pulpwood landing prior to 1971.



Consideration was given to renovating the building for use as an interpretive center, but members of the Board agreed that upgrading or expanding the existing building would be inconsistent with SICA's goals of promoting environmental stewardship and setting an example of ecologically responsible development for the North Shore. The Cook County Zoning Ordinance currently requires new buildings to be set back at least 40 feet from the line of vegetation along the Lake Superior shoreline. The

existing building is essentially located right at the vegetation line. While it might be possible to obtain a variance for reconstruction, the Board agreed that this would be inappropriate.

Acknowledging that the building is structurally sound and could be used for other purposes, the Board of Directors agreed that the building will either be moved intact to another site, or it will be taken down carefully and all reusable parts will be recycled. The building will be open to the public on February 19, 1999, from 2-5 p.m. All fixtures and appliances will be sold. Removal of the building will take place by October 1999.

The Board also agreed that any building is merely a tool that can help SICA to achieve its vision. If a new building is constructed, it must grow from the needs of the interpretive program. Therefore the interpretive program has to be developed more fully before decisions can be made concerning the design and construction of a major interpretive center.

In the meantime, a simple pavilion-type structure will be built at Sugarloaf Cove, primarily to serve as a shelter for the educational programs. With the removal of the last of the existing buildings, SICA now has a unique opportunity to provide visitors with a

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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

One of the benefits of serving on a board of directors is all the extra education thrown in. This fall, Terri Port and I attended three days of training on "Board Strategies for the 21st Century," put on by the National Center for Non-Profit Boards. Among other things, we came away with a new perspective on the accomplishments and direction of our SICA board. We also learned ways to keep our board energized and focused.

To review what's been accomplished in just the past year is impressive. Early in 1998, we finalized the Twin Points land exchange with the DNR, which gave title for Sugarloaf Cove to SICA (excluding the 7 acres of Scientific and Natural Area still held by the DNR). This land preservation was the primary goal of SICA's original mission.

In February, we held a strategic planning session to focus on our next goals and, in April, hired a full-time Executive Director. The August annual membership meeting included architectural plans for three potential interpretive building options.

In October, we voted to remove the remaining Consolidated Papers office building and build an indoor/outdoor pavilion to provide for visitor needs without interrupting the view of the cove. The old warehouse and concrete slabs on the shore are already gone. In November we accepted a DNR proposal to remove some of the gravel fill and restore a wooded wetland on the lower landing. All this in less than one year ...

Our future schedule is just as exciting. In February we plan to hold our second strategic planning session dealing with board assessment and critical issues for 1999. By May we will have a building program based upon our interpretive needs. By our next annual membership meeting in August, we will finalize that building plan, and in November of 1999 we expect to hold our meeting in the new Sugarloaf Cove Pavilion.

(President's Column, continued)

All of this is possible because of the dedication of member volunteers (and our one staff person). As members, you guide our direction and support SICA's mission, both philosophically and financially. If you are happy with what you see happening, please renew your membership (by December 31 to see your money matched by the Andersen Foundation) and please enlist the support of others. Take them to the cove and ask them to join SICA! Let's brag a little about our accomplishments.

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place where they can experience a Lake Superior shoreline that is relatively free from signs of human development. We will take advantage of this opportunity by carefully choosing the location of the new pavilion to minimize its environmental and visual impacts, from Lake Superior and from Highway 61. Proposed pavilion designs will be presented to the Board in spring 1999, with construction to be completed by fall 1999.

In order to build a stronger interpretive program, the Board of Directors voted to contact local colleges and universities to find an intern who will carry out educational programs for SICA.

In other activity at the site, the Minnesota DNR, which manages the Sugarloaf Cove Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), decided to remove all remaining buildings and concrete slabs that were located within the SNA boundary. This work was completed in October by the IRRRB. Many of the building materials were reclaimed, and the small garage was removed in one piece.

If you have comments on the SICA building program, please contact Executive Director Terri Port (218-733-9938) or Building Committee Chair Steve Pihlaja (612-788-5157).



SICA ACTIVITIES

- January 13** 7:30 p.m. Duluth's KBJR meteorologist **George Kessler** will speak on the topic of "Wild Weather Worldwide ... Why?" Wednesday, January 13, at the University of Minnesota - Duluth, in the Garden Room of the Kirby Student Center.
- February 19** 2-5 p.m. **Open House at Sugarloaf Cove.** The old office building at Sugarloaf Cove will be open to give everyone a chance to take one last look at the building and to make an offer to move it off the site. All appliances, fixtures, and miscellaneous appurtenances will be for sale.
- February 19** 7 p.m. Terry McLaughlin from the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center will present an interpretive program about **Logging in Minnesota: 1901.** Schroeder Town Hall.
- February 20** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The SICA Board of Directors will meet in the Visitor Center of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington. We will focus on strategic planning and a self-assessment of the board. The Executive Board will meet at 9 a.m.

For information about SICA programs, contact Executive Director Terri Port at 218-733-9938 or tport@duluth.infi.net.

Foundation Grant Applications Submitted

Three foundation grant applications were recently submitted on behalf of SICA. The first went to the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation requesting \$15,000 to support a 4-part lecture series on environmentally sensitive development. The lectures would be held in Schroeder and would cover the topics of:

- planning and building an environmentally sensitive home or business;
- alternative septic and gray water management systems;
- alternative energy systems; and
- minimizing impact on the environment in which you live.

The lectures would be complemented by a tour of North Shore homes that represent examples of environmentally sensitive development. A decision on this grant application will be made in December.

The second application went to the Northland Foundation requesting \$15,000 to redesign our newsletter, to create and distribute brochures inviting people to hike our trail and join SICA, to create and distribute brochures for fundraising, and to create a SICA website. We'll know in December whether this grant was approved.

The third grant application was submitted to the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance for \$25,000, with a match of \$25,000 from the Andersen Foundation. This project would allow SICA to develop a Sustainable Development Resource Center, which would include computers, books, CD-ROMs, videos, and other reference materials. The application includes funds to provide classes on sustainable development through the University of Minnesota Continuing Education program and through the Cook County Community Education program. We'll hear about this grant application in April.

Wetland Restoration Project

For the past year, the Minnesota DNR has been evaluating the possibility of restoring wetlands that existed at Sugarloaf Cove prior to Consolidated Papers' use of the site as a pulpwood landing. The wetlands under investigation were located within the Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) in the area that Consolidated Papers referred to as the "lower landing" and that geomorphologists call the "tombolo."

Pat Collins, representing the Ecological Services Section of the DNR, presented several restoration alternatives at the November 21 meeting of the SICA Board of Directors.

According to Collins, soil samples were collected last year from eighteen locations throughout the lower landing. Samples from six of these locations contained organic material underneath the gravel that was used to fill the area. These samples were examined for seeds and pollen that would indicate the types of vegetation that grew in the wetlands. The results indicated that the area was most likely covered by forested wetland and/or shrub swamp.

At least five different alternatives for the site were considered by the DNR, ranging from a minimal approach of doing nothing to a complete restoration of the entire lower landing area.

The DNR selected an alternative that involves restoration of only the specific areas where buried swamp deposits were identified. This DNR-preferred alternative was approved by the SICA Board of Directors.

The plan includes removing the alder and grass that is currently growing on these areas, removing the gravel fill material, then planting native trees, shrubs, and forbs that are representative of the plant community that would have developed on the site in the absence of disturbance. The plan also includes removing the road and any remaining building debris within the SNA and planting appropriate native plants in these areas.



The Lower Landing at Sugarloaf Cove when the site was used by Consolidated Papers.

Photo courtesy of Consolidated Papers, Inc.

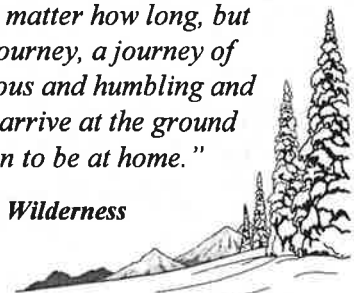
In approving the DNR's proposed plan, the SICA Board agreed that the restoration project will provide opportunities for educational programs that can teach about the process of ecological restoration as well as about the diversity of native plant communities.

Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is expected that restoration work will begin in the spring of 1999.

The SICA Board of Directors formed a Task Force composed of Chel Anderson, John Green, Pat Maus, and Nancy Nelson to work with the DNR to prepare design plans for the restoration project. Any SICA members who are interested in participating on the Task Force should contact SICA Executive Director Terri Port at 218-733-9938 or tport@duluth.infi.net.

"The world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our feet, and learn to be at home."

*from The Unforeseen Wilderness
by Wendell Berry*





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.

Watch for additional details about the contest in the next issue of the *Sugarloaf Interpreter*. In the meantime, take your camera along whenever you visit the Cove, and start building your collection of prize-winning photos.

Winning entries will be announced at the SICA annual meeting in August, 1999. All winning photos will become SICA property, to be used in SICA calendars, brochures, and/or displays. Credit will be given to the photographers.

Board Officers Elected

At the November 21 SICA Board of Directors meeting, the following officers were elected:

President: B.J. Smith Kohlstedt, Finland
Vice President: Dr. John C. Green, Duluth
Secretary: Carrie Anderson, Illgen City
Treasurer: Gregory D. Koschinska, Minneapolis

The Board thanks retiring Vice President Steve Pihlaja for his hard work and for his insight and wisdom on difficult matters. Although Steve will no longer be an officer, he will continue to be an active Board member.



WHERE IS SUGARLOAF COVE???

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 at the Cove.

MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE!

Thanks to a challenge grant from the Andersen Foundation, your membership donation to SICA can be DOUBLED! The Andersen Foundation matches SICA membership dues, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$25,000 per year. It is pretty exciting to think that if you send in \$40, it becomes \$80 with the match from The Andersen Foundation!

There's no need to wait until your membership expires. We have not yet reached the \$25,000 maximum for 1998, so by sending in your membership dues TODAY, you can help SICA take full advantage of this generous gift.

THANK YOU to all members who have already renewed your membership. We appreciate each and every dollar you give to SICA. Your continued support of the Association along with your membership dues are crucial if we are to continue to pay our bills and accomplish our mission.

Remember ... Any money received by December 31 will be doubled, so please mail your membership contributions today! And if you know of an individual or company that may be interested in joining SICA, contact Executive Director Terri Port at 218-733-9938 or tport@duluth.infi.net. Thanks again for your support!

In Memory

With much sadness we announce that Caroline Miller, a long time SICA member, passed away on November 23 as a result of gall bladder and liver cancer. Caroline was a well-known environmental activist, serving on the Board of Directors of SICA, as well as the Minnesota Land Trust. Caroline was also a respected weaver and made many of her own dyes from plants that she collected on her North Shore property, located just north of Sugarloaf Cove. Caroline will be greatly missed. She asked to be remembered through donations to the Minnesota Land Trust.

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
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SICA Board of Directors

Carrie Anderson	218-226-4136	Dana Kollars	218-226-4100
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Merlin H. Berg	651-641-0010	Gregory Koschinska	612-376-4630
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Norman Deschampe	218-475-2277	Richard Ojakangas	218-721-3026
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Nelson French	612-869-8149	Andrea Peterson	218-387-1454
John C. Green	218-525-5654	Steven Pihlaja	612-788-5157
Kim Johnson	651-733-4837		

SICA Officers

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 B.J. Smith Kohlstedt
Secretary:
 Carrie Anderson
Vice President:
 John C. Green
Treasurer:
 Greg Koschinska
Executive Director:
 Terri Port
Founding Director:
 Elmer L. Andersen

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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!