

Interpreter

A Publication of The Sugarloaf
Interpretive Center Association
31 W. Superior Street, Suite 401
Duluth, MN 55802
218-733-9938

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Takes Shape

Last October the SICA Board of Directors made the decision to build a simple pavilion-type structure at Sugarloaf Cove. This building will serve as the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center until the program planning process determines that an additional structure is needed.

Following the October decision, LHB Engineers and Architects were hired to design a building that would meet the needs of the association. At the Board's February 20 meeting, Rick Carter and Todd Kennedy of LHB presented their proposed building design to the SICA Board of Directors.

The proposed design is a simple, one-story rectangle that will be inconspicuous from both the highway and Lake Superior. Six variations of the basic design were presented to the Board, varying primarily in square footage and the inclusion of amenities such as electricity, plumbing, and heat.

The Board approved the proposed design and selected a building of 1,200 square feet that includes a fireplace, a classroom area, and space for interpretive displays. The building will include a large viewing deck, electricity, and one bathroom.

The Interpretive Center will be located on an open area below the existing parking lot. The building will have a view of the Cove, but it will be nearly invisible from Lake Superior. The Board agreed that sustainable development building practices will be incorporated as much as possible, such as passive solar energy, a composting toilet, and possibly straw bale construction.

In designing the Interpretive Center, the architects had the following goals in mind:

- The building will provide a place to rest, learn, and gather along the trail at Sugarloaf Cove.



- The building will consist of one level with barrier-free access.
- The building will be located to take advantage of the site features and the view.
- The building will be constructed to maximize energy efficiency, minimize construction waste, minimize domestic waste, provide a low-maintenance interior and exterior, use environmentally benign materials and efficient ventilation to assure good indoor air quality, and take maximum advantage of salvaged or engineered materials.

The cost of the building is estimated to be approximately \$210,000. Thanks to the generosity of Elmer L. Andersen and Emily E. Andersen, SICA has already raised \$100,000 toward the building costs. A capital fund-raising effort has been launched to raise the remaining \$110,000.

To make the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center a reality, financial support is needed from all SICA members. Please send your contributions to: SICA Building Fund, 31 West Superior Street, Suite 401, Duluth, Minnesota 55802.

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 and ecological systems and human economic and social systems coexist in a fashion sustainable into the future.



Letter from the Editor

Nancy Nelson

Over the past year, you've probably noticed a few changes in the *Sugarloaf Interpreter*. We've changed the printing process, we've changed the paper, and we've changed the ink. Most of these changes were made in order to streamline production of the newsletter and make it less expensive to print. Now, thanks to the generosity of SICA member and graphic designer Wendy Strombeck, the *Interpreter* also has a new look.

We've expanded the newsletter to eight pages so that we can share with you even more information about all of the exciting things that

are happening at Sugarloaf Cove. And we've added a new feature—*Reflections From the Cove*—that will give all SICA members a chance to share their own photos, poems, notes, and memories of visits to Sugarloaf Cove. We invite you to send your *Reflections From the Cove* to Executive Director Terri Port at the SICA office, 31 West Superior Street, Suite 401, Duluth, Minnesota 55802.

We hope you enjoy the new *Sugarloaf Interpreter*, and we also hope you will visit the Cove often.

Status of Grant Applications

Now that SICA has a full-time Executive Director, the organization's operating budget is approximately \$60,000 per year. In fiscal year 1998, nearly \$23,000 was raised through memberships and donations. Grants from foundations and government agencies provide the additional funds necessary for SICA to continue operating and carrying out interpretive programs.

Operating Funds:

Since January 1999, SICA has submitted twenty Letters of Inquiry for operating funds. These letters are the first step in establishing a relationship with a charitable foundation. If the Letter of Inquiry is accepted, then the foundation requests a full proposal. So far, one full proposal has been requested; we are waiting for decisions on the remaining Letters of Inquiry.

Program Funds:

In the last quarter of 1998, SICA submitted three grant proposals for support of our programming efforts. Two of these proposals were turned down; we still await word from the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance on our proposal to create a North Shore Sustainable Development Resource Center.

We have also submitted three additional program/project proposals. One proposal was submitted to the Department of Natural Resources for a project to remove exotic plants and replace native plants at Sugarloaf Cove. Another proposal went to Consolidated Papers,

Inc. to conduct oral histories with former Sugarloaf Landing employees. The third proposal was submitted to Minnesota Power for funding to construct informational kiosks along the hiking trail at Sugarloaf Cove.

Capital Funds:

As reported on page 1, the SICA Board of Directors decided at the February meeting to move forward with construction of a modest interpretive center at Sugarloaf Cove. Approximately \$210,000 will be needed for the building. We have already raised \$100,000 for this project, and we are currently searching for individuals and foundations to provide the additional \$110,000.

"LET A MAN ONCE BEGIN TO THINK
ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF HIS LIFE AND
THE LINKS WHICH CONNECT HIM WITH
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OWN LIFE AND ALL OTHER LIFE THAT
COMES WITHIN HIS REACH, THE PRINCIPLE
OF REVERENCE FOR LIFE..."

Albert Schweitzer

In Memoriam

IONA LIND
1909 – 1998

Iona Lind, inspiration to many as well as tireless leader of the environmental movement to protect Lake Superior and the North Shore, passed away on Monday, December 7, 1998, in Tucson Arizona.

Iona was born in 1909 in Ilmajoki, Finland. She immigrated to Canada in 1929. While living in Thunder Bay she met and married John Lind. The Lind family moved to Duluth in 1934, and in 1938 they purchased 15 acres of land with six cabins near Gooseberry Falls State Park. They later added more land, increasing their holdings to 56 acres, and named their business Twin Points Resort.

The resort's success has been largely attributed to Iona's extraordinary managerial and interpersonal skills. Guests at Twin Points became part of the extended Lind family; many would send Iona photographs of family weddings, birthdays, and graduations.

In the 1960s Iona aided in the formation of the Save Lake Superior Association, which successfully fought to stop the dumping of taconite tailings into Lake Superior. It is said that Iona Lind allowed no Twin Points visitor to leave the resort without a Save Lake Superior Association membership application.

John Lind died in 1976, but Iona continued to operate the resort with the help of her family—son Alden and daughter Arlene—until 1995. Then a gift from her family, along with funding from SICA and the State of Minnesota, made the family's longtime wish a reality. The 3,300 feet of shoreline became the property of the State of Minnesota, making the area accessible to everyone.

A significant geological feature of the shoreline is the red shingle beach where Iona, during her fifty-some years of residence at Twin Points, spent a portion of each day. On October 4 1997, the Minnesota DNR designated the shingle beach as a State Scientific and Natural Area called "Iona's Beach," which will continue to stand as an inspiration to all of us who are concerned about the future of Lake Superior.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE

Cove

I like to go alone to Sugarloaf Cove, because that's when I can hear the earth speak to me.



Walking through the woods, I hear the wind whispering about the time, not so long ago, when the land was busy with the work of men. And the trees murmur stories of how hard life can be here in the winter, when the night is long and the wind is cold. And how sweet the summer is, when sunlight dances on leaves and birds sing in branches.

When I reach the cove, I sit on the beach, picking up rounded cobbles, turning them over in my hands, feeling their smooth surfaces, and wondering where they came from. Some tell me stories of ice that brought them here from ancient places far to the north. Others tell me stories of hot, flowing lava that once covered this place.

And as the waves roll restlessly back and forth across the beach, they sing to me of millions of years of wind, and water, and ice that these rocks have endured. The waves sing to me of how brief my life is, and they remind me that I'm just one small piece of this complex and amazing earth.

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of Minnesota, the North Shore has thus far escaped widespread infestation of the more notorious exotic species such as purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil. Nevertheless, many exotic species have become prominent as they disperse from points of deliberate and accidental introduction. Some familiar examples of exotic plants that are now common on the North Shore include lupine, oxeye daisy, orange and yellow-flowered hawkweeds.

Restoration at Sugarloaf Cove

As a result of species inventories, a number of exotic plants have been identified at Sugarloaf Cove. These populations are predictably associated with areas of past disturbance that involved clearing, excavating, filling, and soil compaction. Activities that removed native vegetation and changed ecological conditions left the land vulnerable to invasion.

Exotic plant species found at Sugarloaf Cove include lupine, spotted knapweed, tansy, wild parsnip, hawk weeds, and various grasses. Their presence threatens what remains of Sugarloaf Cove's remnant native diversity.



Consequently, SICA is undertaking restoration projects that involve removing exotics, reconstructing some pre-disturbance conditions, and planting native species.

Maintaining Native Diversity

Human activities and choices play a primary role both in creating and solving exotic species problems. Local introduction and spread of exotics is greatly influenced by individual decisions and actions. By our personal and collective actions we can minimize introduction and dispersal of exotics in a number of ways.

- First, we can **learn to recognize and appreciate a landscape's native species** and

relationships—this is fundamental to forming and understanding our own connection and relationship with any place.

- We can **carefully weigh the need for new disturbance** against its destructive biological and ecological impacts.
- We can **avoid planting exotics** with habits of aggressive colonization in our gardens, yards, and other cultural landscapes. If exotic plants are already established, we can remove them and plant appropriate native species.
- We can **plan construction projects carefully** to limit the size of canopy openings in wooded areas, and to limit the areas of vegetation and soil disturbance in non-wooded areas.
- Where ground disturbance is necessary, we can **reserve humus and topsoil** to redistribute later. When this is not possible, we can **revegetate disturbed soils with native species** or impermanent nonnative annuals (for example rye grass).
- We can carefully **clean boats after each use** to prevent the spread of aquatic nonnative species.
- We can **avoid discarding live bait** such as minnows, worms, leeches, or crayfish.

All of our efforts to protect and restore our native diversity acknowledge the intrinsic value of our irreplaceable natural heritage. Such actions also affirm the interdependent nature of our relationship with the community of life which surrounds and sustains us.

Chel Anderson is a plant ecologist with the DNR County Biological Survey and a founding member of the SICA Board of Directors. A resident of Cook County for 25 years, she now lives near Hovland. Anyone with questions about exotic species can reach Chel at 218-475-0147.



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Changes at Sugarloaf Cove

The last remaining building from Consolidated Papers' pulpwood landing operation at Sugarloaf Cove will soon be gone. The building was recently purchased by a local resident who will move it from the site sometime this spring to use it for his primary residence.

A volunteer work crew will be organized in the spring to clear a way for moving the building from its location near the lakeshore up to the highway. Once the structure is removed, the foundation walls will be dismantled and the materials recycled. The concrete slab from the garage will also be removed and recycled.

An open house was held at the site in February, and many of the appliances and interior fixtures from the building were sold. There is still useable material that needs to be disposed of...this includes a free-standing shower stall, two exterior doors, miscellaneous light fixtures, a large porcelain bathtub, an older water heater and furnace, and a number of bathroom sinks and toilets.

Anyone who is interested in any of the interior fixtures or the concrete building materials should contact SICA Executive Director Terri Port at 218-733-9938 or tport@duluth.infi.net.



Lake County Land Sold

When the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association was first organized in 1992, the land at Sugarloaf Cove was owned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). SICA expected to lease the land from the DNR on a long-term basis in order to establish and manage a center for the education and pleasure of the general public.

But things changed in 1994 when SICA became an integral player in helping to fulfill Iona Lind's wish that her family's land at Twin Points Resort become available for public use.

In late 1995, SICA purchased more than 50 acres of land at Twin Points from the Lind family. Approximately 5.5 acres of the land was sold immediately to the DNR to be used as a public boat launch. The following year SICA completed negotiations with the DNR to exchange most of the remaining land at Twin Points for title to 28 acres at Sugarloaf Cove

Following the completion of this complicated land exchange, SICA became a landowner at Sugarloaf Cove and was left with about 24 acres of land in Lake County. Because SICA does not have the resources to maintain both Sugarloaf Cove and this 24-acre parcel, the Board of Directors decided that the Lake County land should be sold.

The land was placed on the market last November, and in February the SICA Board of Directors accepted an offer of \$65,000. The Board is currently negotiating with the buyer to establish appropriate protective covenants that will help to ensure that the land is used in an environmentally responsible way.

The sale of this land will provide SICA with critically needed cash for operating expenses. It will also relieve SICA of the obligation of paying over \$2,200 in annual property taxes on the Lake County land.



Native American Oral History Project

The LCMR-funded project to preserve the oral history of Native Americans along Lake Superior's North Shore is well underway. The project is a joint effort by the Grand Portage Ojibwe Band, SICA, and the Grand Portage National Monument.

The project has two major parts. Part one, the compilation of an annotated bibliography, has been completed in draft form. Part two of the

project involves collecting oral histories from members of the Grand Portage Ojibwe Band. The oral historians, Don Auger and Paul Driben from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, will begin their interviews this month.

When completed, the project will provide written materials and a video that will be available for use at interpretive centers, historical societies, and environmental learning centers.

SICA ACTIVITIES

APRIL 9-11

Lake Superior Youth Symposium at Wolf Ridge ELC in Finland, Minnesota.

This symposium for high school students is coordinated by the Great Lakes Aquarium at the Lake Superior Center. SICA representatives Terri Port and Carrie Anderson will make a classroom presentation on environmental responsibility and reclaiming industrialized land, followed by an interpretive hike at Sugarloaf Cove.

APRIL 24

A lecture on "Sustainable Building Practices: Critical Issues on the North Shore"

by Rick Carter, architect with LHB Engineers and Architects. Free and open to the public at the Schroeder Town Hall, 7 p.m.

MAY 15

SICA Board of Directors meet in Duluth. UMD Kirby Student Center Room 355 at 10 a.m.

JUNE 5

SICA will celebrate National Trails Day in conjunction with the American Hiking Society and the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council. Activities at Sugarloaf Cove will include trail maintenance from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and interpretive hikes led by local experts from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a sack lunch. Tools will be provided by SICA.

JUNE 19-20

John Schroeder Days. A weekend full of activities as the town of Schroeder celebrates its heritage. SICA representatives will staff a display table and share the story of Sugarloaf Cove.

JUNE 26

Dig it Out Day at Sugarloaf Cove, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come to Sugarloaf Cove ready to dig out unwanted nonnative plants. Bring tools, gardening gloves, and lots of flower pots.

Dig It Out Day!

YOU CAN HELP US ELIMINATE NONNATIVE PLANTS AT SUGARLOAF COVE!



Come to the Cove on Saturday June 26 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Nonnative plants that we want to get rid of will be marked for removal. If you dig it out, you can take it home with you! Some of our nonnative plants include rugosa rose, lupine, creeping phlox, and oxeye daisy. Bring along your gardening tools, gloves, pots to carry plants home in, a bottle of water to drink, and maybe a sack lunch. Plan to dig for a while, then enjoy a pleasant afternoon at the Cove.

Photo Contest

SICA invites you to enter your favorite photos of Sugarloaf Cove in our first annual Photo Contest. The winning photographer will receive a copy of Craig Blacklock's book *The Lake Superior Images*.

Send color slides, color prints, or black-and-white prints (no larger than 8x10). Do not send matted, mounted, or framed prints. Each submission should be packaged in a clear plastic sleeve. The photographer's name, address, phone number, and a description of the image must be printed on each slide mount or on the back of each print. Unlabeled or mutilated photographs will not be accepted.

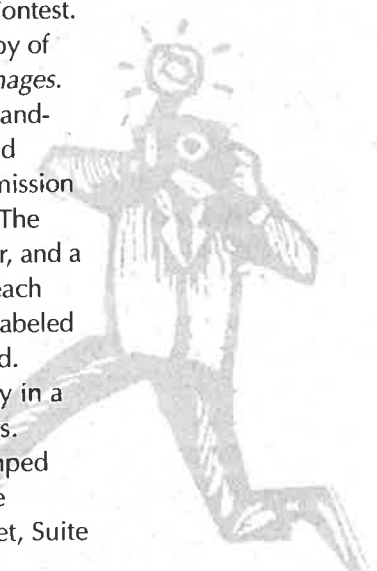
To mail your entry, package it carefully in a padded envelope with stiff cardboard sheets. Include a suitably sized self-addressed stamped envelope for return. Send to SICA Executive Director Terri Port at 31 West Superior Street, Suite 401, Duluth, MN 55802 by July 15, 1999.

Entries will be judged on the overall quality of the photograph with special attention paid to the composition of the image, exposure, color and depth of field. Judges' decisions will be final. Winning entries will be announced at the SICA annual meeting in August, 1999.

All winning photographs will become the property of SICA to be used in ways appropriate to supporting the association's mission of preserving, protecting, and interpreting Sugarloaf Cove.

Linking Resources

SICA Executive Director Terri Port was recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Schroeder Area Historical Society. Terri will work with the Historical Society to coordinate their program activities with those of SICA.



Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
31 W. Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

SICA OFFICERS

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B.J. Smith Kohlstedt

Vice President

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Terri Port

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

Annual memberships are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association, and mail to SICA at 31 West Superior Street, #401, Duluth, MN 55802. SICA is an educational, non-profit 501(c)(3) Minnesota Corporation.

membership
APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association in the category I have indicated.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP
CATEGORIES

- \$ 20 Contributing
- \$ 50 Supporting
- \$ 100 Sustaining
- \$ 500 Patron
- \$ 1000 Benefactor
- \$ _____ Other

- New
- Renew

THANK YOU!

