

Interpreter

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

Restoration Sometimes Looks Like Destruction

Have you visited Sugarloaf Cove lately? There are many changes to be seen, and all are the result of big, noisy, heavy equipment—backhoes, bulldozers, dump trucks, and cement trucks! Some folks have contacted us with grave concern about what is going on at Sugarloaf Cove—worried that a major development of some type is going to occur after all.



Terri Port

Please rest assured that NO large development is planned for Sugarloaf Cove! Here are the details about what is happening at the Cove:

On the tombolo, the area known to Consolidated Papers as the Lower Landing, fill material and lots of alder was removed to allow for the restoration of a native wetland community similar to what might have existed prior to placement of the fill. It certainly may look today like the earth is being prepared for a building, BUT IT IS NOT! The only things scheduled to happen in this area include planting native plants, erecting interpretive signs, and adding a spur to the interpretive trail to allow visitors to watch the wetland evolve.

The old green office building has been moved from the site for use elsewhere. The concrete slabs from the office building and a nearby garage were removed and the area was recontoured to match the slope of the hill. This area will also be planted with native plants.

The road that led from the parking lot down to the Cove has been shortened. The road now ends at the "upper house site," where the new interpretive center will be constructed. The material removed from the tombolo was used to fill in the road bed, and silt fences were installed

to divert runoff into the woods. This area will also be planted with native plants.

The upper house site is being prepared for construction of the new Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center. The concrete slab will be placed this fall. The modest log building will be constructed over the winter in Grand Marais by Mike Senty, then reassembled at Sugarloaf Cove in the spring. The building will provide space for environmental education and interpretive programs, and it will include display areas and restrooms.



Terri Port



Terri Port

So, although right now there is lots of exposed soil, by next summer vegetation will cover the tracks of the bulldozer and the new interpretive center will welcome you on your visits to the cove. SICA remains committed to our original mission—the preservation and restoration of Sugarloaf Cove and providing public access to one of the most beautiful spots on the North Shore of Lake Superior!

If you ever have any questions or concerns about what is happening at Sugarloaf Cove, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Terri Port at any of the following locations: (218)733-9938 (office); (218)879-7282 (home) or via e-mail: 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 and ecological systems and human economic and social systems coexist in a fashion sustainable into the future.

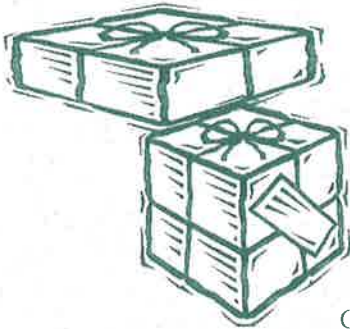
HOLIDAY GIFTS

The holidays are just around the corner. You can "give twice" by purchasing SICA calendars and sweatshirts to give to your friends and family. Proceeds from the sale of these items help the organization cover operating expenses!



Calendars:

Enjoy Sugarloaf Cove every month of the year with our beautiful 2000 calendar. All photos were submitted by SICA members as part of our first annual photo contest. (\$12.00)



SICA Sweatshirts:

Looking for something warm and cozy for yourself, or a great Christmas present for friends or family?

These high-quality sweatshirts, with a simple embroidered wave logo and the words "Sugarloaf Cove," are made in Cloquet by Carol Gist of Innovative Embroidery. These long-sleeved, crew-neck sweatshirts come in your choice of pine green or denim blue. Available in adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, and XXXL. (\$30.00)

Mail your orders to SICA, 31 West Superior Street, Suite 401, Duluth, MN 55802. Enclose \$12 for each calendar (includes shipping and handling). Enclose \$30 for each sweatshirt (plus \$5 shipping per order). For Christmas delivery, sweatshirt orders must be received by December 14 and calendar orders must be received by December 20. Checks should be made out to SICA.

SICA People

SICA has made great progress during the last two years, thanks to the leadership of President B. J. Smith Kohlstedt, Executive Director Terri Port, and all the members of the Board of Directors. The interpretive center is underway, an endowment fund has been established, and Sugarloaf Cove is becoming a true "harbor of refuge," providing inspiration and information to all who visit.

Each November it's time to select new officers for the SICA Board of Directors. After thanking retiring Secretary Carrie Anderson, Vice President John Green, and President B.J. Smith Kohlstedt for their hard work and dedication, the Board of Directors recently elected the following new officers to guide the organization for the next year.

President **Barb Liukkonen** is a Water Resource Educator with the Water Resources Center of the University of Minnesota Extension Service. She specializes in shoreland education outreach. Barb is returning to the SICA board after a one-year sabbatical. She lives in the Twin Cities, but visits Sugarloaf Cove as often as possible.

Vice President **Art Fenstad** is a life-long resident of the North Shore. Now retired, Art lives in Little Marais and spends much of his time fishing. Before retiring, he worked in research, environmental affairs, and quality control at Reserve Mining and later in the toxicology department of the EPA lab in Duluth. He has been on the SICA Board of Directors since the organization was founded and is an active member of the SICA Building Committee.

Treasurer **Howard Olson** recently retired as Senior Development Director for Augsburg College. He has been on the SICA Board of Directors since the beginning and has served on the finance committee for many years. Howard lives in Roseville, and he is active with a number of other environmental organizations, including the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council.

Secretary **Pat Maus** is the archivist for the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center in Duluth. She has served on the SICA Board of Directors since 1994 and was the manager of SICA's very successful LCMR 1 project. Pat lives in Duluth with her family, two cats, and fish. In her free time Pat enjoys working in her perennial garden.

Cove

The fifty hikers had dispersed slowly. We lingered behind saying "Soup somewhere en-route to Duluth, or stay here?" To stay here meant to cling a little longer to our time at Sugarloaf and nibble our brought-from-home picnic fare. We didn't discuss it, just headed for a favorite spot — the clearing where the wonderful grass grows.

This place — meadow-like, but as intimate as a living room with a cat curled in a chair — is edged by knee, waist, shoulder and way-above-your-head-high bushes and trees. But it is the grass that draws you into this captivating space. You may slow down as you glimpse it, just beyond you. If it's your first approach, I can image you might pause, extend your leg into the space, touching or tapping the grass tentatively with your hiking-boot-clad foot as though you're putting your toes into cold Lake Superior — testing it — because it appears that you will sink into it.

It is not a lawn: close-cropped, straight-topped, grass green. It is a blend of sage gray-green, silver, and wheat colors; it is individual shocks and handfuls of longish strands lying prone; it is tufts swirled gently like the hair on the back of a baby's head. This is already a space of muted, tinted, diluted colors, but on this winter day, the sunlight, intense at mid-day, bleaches it, overlaying it with an added whiteness.

We sat in the sun on this grass cushion that could double for a feather bed, admiring it as one would the glossy, rich coat of an Irish setter or the patina of burnished lake rocks.

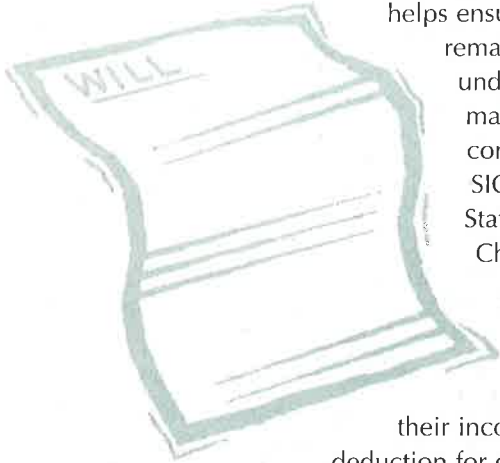
Later we walked the creek's length to the Lake. Returning up the hill, I spied an odd patch of orange on the ground. The area was the size of a small rug, like one in front of the kitchen sink. Stepping with caution, then down on our knees, peering and carefully pointing with a single finger, we could see the slender orange blades, upright but slightly less than true vertical, rising from the moss carpet. It invited us to brush over it with a flat palm, hands parallel to the ground. This unusual color among the green mosses and lichens was the stems of sporophytes — the reproductive part of the moss.

Everything we examined at that spot was the size of a map tack head, a sesame seed, or smaller. Teeny tiny cup shapes, trumpet shapes, clusters of trumpets. Snowflake-like forms, flat, petal-like, rippled edges, modest pebbles now completely decked out in assorted trimmings! It was an entourage as remarkable as if we'd found scattered diamonds, but these gems were alive. Stunning.

All of this under a capacious, blue November sky.

PAT MAUS

Leaving a Legacy



Every dollar that you give to SICA helps ensure that Sugarloaf Cove will remain as peaceful and undisturbed as it is today. To make it easier for you to contribute to organizations like SICA, the 1999 Minnesota State Legislature approved the Charitable Giving Tax Relief Act. As a result of this legislation, for the first time, people who do not

itemize deductions on their income tax will receive a 50% deduction for charitable contributions exceeding \$500. Any 501(c)(3) organization—including SICA—is an eligible charity.

Many people wish they had enough money so that they could give more generously. But one often-forgotten way of giving is to remember your favorite charity with a bequest in your will. Even people of average means have an estate, and giving in this way can provide an answer to the question “what can I do to make the world a

better place than I found it?”

There are four easy steps to leaving a legacy:

- *Decide to what organization you would like to leave a gift and why.*
- *Contact that organization for information about what opportunities are available and how your contribution could best help the organization.*
- *Contact your financial planner or attorney.*
- *Write or change your will to specify your wishes.*

Whether you leave \$5 or \$500,000, your contribution can make a significant difference in the future of Sugarloaf Cove. For more information about how to include SICA in your will, contact Executive Director Terri Port at 218-733-9938, tport@duluth.infi.net, or 31 W. Superior Street, Suite 401, Duluth, MN 55802.



John C. Green

Sea Smoke in Your Eyes? *By John C. Green*

When you visit Sugarloaf Cove in winter, you might be lucky enough to enjoy “sea smoke.” Normally, when we see something steaming, we infer hot conditions, as in a tea kettle or a volcanic fumarole.

But what we commonly call steam (also known as condensed water vapor) is often seen drifting up from Lake Superior on the coldest days of winter, clearly a long way from anything hot. What’s the explanation?

On cold days in early- to mid-winter, before the lake freezes over, frigid dry Canadian air sweeps down onto the lake surface. As it comes in contact with the relatively warm water, the air picks up moisture. Soon this moist air reaches the saturation limit and some visible “steam” condenses in wispy streaks seen blowing across the water. Further mixing with the colder, drier air above lowers the humidity and the “sea smoke,” as it is known in the Arctic, dissipates upward. But as the wind continues to move across the open lake, its water content continues to build up. When it reaches the Wisconsin or Michigan shore, the rise in elevation promotes condensation again from this now-more-humid air, producing the sometimes spectacular snow-belt phenomenon on the lee shore.

SICA ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11

Interpretive Hike at Sugarloaf Cove. Topic: Winter Birding. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at Sugarloaf Cove. Wear warm clothes, bring binoculars and bird books.

SATURDAY JANUARY 8, 2000

Interpretive Hike at Sugarloaf Cove. Topic: Winter Photography. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at Sugarloaf Cove. Wear warm clothes, bring your camera and lots of film.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12

Interpretive Hike at Sugarloaf Cove. Topic: Snowshoe Sugarloaf Cove. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at Sugarloaf Cove. Some snowshoes will be available, but be sure to call Terri at 218-733-9938 to reserve a pair. Bring your own snowshoes if you have them. Dress warm!

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19

SICA Board of Directors will meet for an all-day strategic planning session. Location to be announced.

SATURDAY AUGUST 19

Annual SICA membership meeting at Sugarloaf Cove.

Interpretive Hikes

SICA will be offering interpretive hikes at Sugarloaf Cove on the second Saturday of every month. Our first hike on Saturday November 13 was a great success. The weather was absolutely amazing for November, with temperatures in the mid-60s! By 10 a.m., 42 people had arrived for the hike, and during the next hour 10 more people came to experience Sugarloaf Cove at its early-winter best. Dr. John Green led a wonderful and informative hike, focusing on the geological significance of Sugarloaf Cove, which was one of the critical factors in designating the site as a Scientific and Natural Area.



Photo Contest

Remember to take photos whenever you visit Sugarloaf Cove. Then enter the best in our Second Annual Photo Contest. Photos can be submitted at any time during the year. Send photos to SICA at 31 West Superior Street, Suite 401, Duluth MN 55802.



Keeping in Touch

SICA has hired an intern!! Jill Hiemenz is a senior at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, majoring in Environmental Studies. She will start working for SICA in January, and her first task will be to call everyone on SICA's mailing list and encourage them to renew their membership. So, you can look forward to chatting with Jill about Sugarloaf Cove.

And don't forget that for frequent updates on SICA activities, you can be added to SICA's e-mail list. Just send an e-mail message to tport@duluth.infi.net and ask to be added to the list.



YOU CAN HELP!

Executive Director Terri Port is still seeking volunteers to serve on the Upland Restoration Project Task Force. Planning meetings will take place during the winter, and work days at the Cove will begin in the spring. To become a member of the Task Force, contact Terri Port at 218-733-9938 or tport@duluth.infi.net.



Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
31 West Superior Street, Suite 401
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SICA OFFICERS

Founding Director

Elmer L. Andersen

President

Barb Liukkonen

Vice President

Art Fenstad

Secretary

Pat Maus

Treasurer

Howard Olson

Executive Director

Terri Port

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Annual memberships are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association, and mail to SICA at 31 West Superior Street, Suite 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

- \$ 25 Contributing
 \$ 50 Supporting
 \$ 100 Sustaining
 \$ 500 Patron
 \$ 1000 Benefactor
 \$ _____ Other

New Renew

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