

Interpreter

A Publication of The Sugarloaf
Interpretive Center Association
244 Marks Road, Esko, MN 55733
218-879-4334

Moving into the Future

During the past year, Sugarloaf Cove has been a very busy and noisy place! But on a recent Sunday visit, peace and quiet had returned to the Cove and the only sound was the wind. It was a perfect opportunity to reflect on

the many changes that have taken place at the Cove.



A new interpretive center building has been constructed to keep visitors warm and sheltered from the wind! The building is perceived by some as small, but it was supposed to be. When deciding on the size and type of building to construct, the SICA board members knew in their hearts that this building should demonstrate that living simply and in harmony with your surroundings makes sense. We couldn't encourage others to do this unless we could find a way to do it ourselves. And so the building is small, and it's built from local wood harvested in a sustainable forest and rocks quarried from a local site.

The wetland and upland restoration projects have been completed. Although there will be some additional planting in the spring to fill remaining open areas and to landscape around the interpretive center, the project is essentially

done. Now that winter has arrived, the ice is frozen around the sedges, the birch trees have lost their leaves, and the potentilla plants are sending their dry seed heads off on the wind. In five or ten years, perhaps the road will have vanished completely into the forest and people will be surprised to learn that a restoration project had ever taken place! Wouldn't it be great if restoration projects like this one encouraged folks to NOT undo nature in the first

place??? Well, we can hope, anyway.

The sight of the new picnic tables brings back pleasant memories of the annual membership meeting. Just a few months ago, more than fifty folks came together, including some who once worked for Consolidated Papers, and what a great time we had! Good food, good people, good music, and some great hikes!

Everyone loved the building and the promises it holds for the future (if you haven't seen it you have to stop by!). The hikes that included Consolidated Papers folks brought out stories and pieces of history that we never could have known without them—and what an honor it was to hear them firsthand!

So much has happened at Sugarloaf Cove in the last year! Please stop by to visit, enjoy the progress, and reflect on what a rewarding task it is to be able to work to protect one of the most beautiful places on the North Shore!!



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.

New Year Gifts for SICA



Have you had a successful year? Perhaps you would consider sharing a bit of your success with SICA! Now that the Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center building is complete, there are a few additional items that would make our programs more successful. Here's our wish list.

- ✓ Install a telephone in the Interpretive Center (\$50).
- ✓ Three indoor chairs (\$120 each, for a total of \$360).

- ✓ One low-tech flipchart and stand (\$50).
- ✓ One small TV/VCR to show videos of the Consolidated logging operation and other videos on sustainable development (\$169).
- ✓ One computer projector to show computer-based slide shows about Sugarloaf Cove, the restoration project, native plants, and other programs (\$3,500).

Any help that you can give us would be very much appreciated!
Happy Holidays!



SICA Projects

Executive Director Terri Port Wright continues to seek grant funding for SICA projects. The following grant applications have been submitted.

The Environmental Support Center in Washington, D.C. provided a grant of \$1,877 for the Board of Directors' Strategic Planning Session that was held on November 4.

A proposal for \$8,000 was submitted to the Consolidated Papers Foundation to support preparation of interpretive materials (slide show, brochure, display) based on the oral history

interviews completed with folks who formerly worked at Sugarloaf Landing. A request for \$8,000 in matching funds was submitted to the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance.

An application for \$4,200 to support SICA's monthly hike programs was submitted to the EPA Environmental Education Program.

An application was submitted to Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program to support updating the trail guide, adding a spur from the existing hiking trail into the wetland, and building an educational kiosk about the wetland restoration project.

Give A Gift To The Future!

Do you ever wonder what Sugarloaf Cove will look like ten, twenty, or fifty years into the future? Today is the time to think about this question and make plans for the future.

Operating and maintaining both the Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center and the SICA organization requires a long-term financial commitment.

SICA has established an endowment fund to provide the resources needed to protect Sugarloaf

Cove into the future, and we need your help to make the fund grow. Any contribution—small or large, stocks or bonds, or a gift in your will—can make a significant difference in enabling SICA to preserve, restore, and interpret Sugarloaf Cove for generations to come. Your generosity today will make it possible for your grandchildren and great-grandchildren to have the pleasure and honor of enjoying Sugarloaf Cove!

Cove

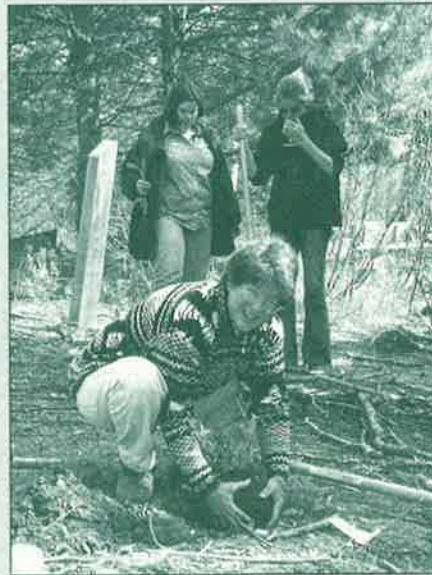
On Saturday, May 20, eleven volunteer high school students from Duluth, under the direction of staff from the Great Lakes Aquarium, spent the day planting trees at Sugarloaf Cove. The following excerpts are taken from papers written by some of these students for their honors biology class.

"The first thing we did was plant birch trees on a place where there was once a road. ... We would stick the tree straight in the ground and pack the dirt in tightly around it. Then we would tie a pink ribbon around it. The ribbon was so that people could know what type of tree it was and also so people would not step on all of the newly planted seedlings. There were many different species being planted in the same area to make it more natural like. Each species had its own ribbon color. It was cool to look down on the road and see the rainbow of ribbon. And to know that one day those ribbons will all be trees of many shapes and sizes."

ANIKKA WATTNEM

"Right before lunch, we planted cedar saplings on the hillside along the ravine. This project required the most coordination to keep from falling down the hillside into the ravine while you dug holes for the saplings. ... Now that the spring planting session is completed, the Sugarloaf Cove is on the same path that our own Marshall Prairie will soon follow. The restoration project is now in the hands of Mother Nature."

CHRIS BOWMAN



BJ Smith Kohlsedti

"While half of us dug knapweed up, the other half went to take a self-guided tour of Sugarloaf Cove. When it was my half's turn to take the tour, we learned quite a bit. We walked through a red pine forest that was actually a plantation, planted after Consolidated Papers closed down. We saw alders, bedrock, vesicles, zeolites, nurse logs, different lichens, and even an animal skull. ... We learned a lot from our trip and I am excited to go back later in the summer just to see how much has changed."

ABBY CRISOSTOMO

"It is amazing how much will come out of the work we did. Someday the birch will be mature and provide shade and shelter for animals. The cedar will be holding the banks of the ravine in place. The native plants will be able to move into places the non-native plants had been filling. Restoring an area is very rewarding work."

JENNY KAHL

Looking Back, Looking Forward

*Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
A Report to Members, August, 2000*



BETWEEN AUGUST 1999 AND AUGUST 2000, SICA ACCOMPLISHED THE FOLLOWING:

The Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center was built.

Interpretive programs were held monthly on the topics of ecology, geology, and culture of Sugarloaf Cove and the surrounding area.

The Oral History Project to interview former employees of Consolidated Papers at Sugarloaf Landing was completed.

The Oral History Project to interview elders of the Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe was completed. An interpretive brochure was completed in August, and a book is being prepared.

The wetland and upland restoration projects were completed, with over 12,000 native seedlings, shrubs, and trees planted by volunteers. This planting will help re-establish the native plant growth at Sugarloaf. The project was undertaken in cooperation with the Minnesota DNR with funding from the EPA and the MN DNR.

The Management Plan for Sugarloaf Cove was prepared by SICA under contract with the DNR. The plan includes both the Scientific and Natural Area and the SICA-owned land. The Management Plan is under review by the DNR. When completed, the management plan will guide future preservation and restoration activities at Sugarloaf Cove.

BETWEEN AUGUST 2000 AND AUGUST 2001, SICA PLANS TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:

The interior of the Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center will be finished and interpretive displays will be prepared, focusing on the ecology, geology, and cultural history of Sugarloaf Cove. The Interpretive Center will be available for use by other environmental organizations.

Interpretive displays and programs about the two oral history projects will be completed and offered to the public.


SICA will continue to offer guided interpretive hikes on the second Saturday of each month. Additional interpretive programs will be offered as well.

The Management Plan will be completed and activities included in the plan will be initiated.

The wetland and upland restoration plantings will be monitored and supplemented in spring 2001. A spur will be added to the hiking trail, with signs to interpret the restoration projects.

The area around the Interpretive Center will be landscaped using native plants, and the trail will be rerouted to lead people to the building.

SICA will take advantage of an additional matching challenge grant from the Andersen Foundation to increase operating funds. For the next four years, every dollar that is contributed by members will be matched to a maximum of \$20,000 per year!



*"IT MAY COME ON SOME QUIET DAY IN EARLY NOVEMBER WITH A HUSH SO DEEP AND SO PROFOUND IT SEEMS
TO PRESS ON EVERYTHING. ALL LIVING CREATURES FEEL IT. THEY WATCH THE SKIES AND WAIT. SUDDENLY THE AIR
IS WHITE WITH DRIFTING FLAKES AND TENSION DRAINS AS THE GROUND IS SPECKLED WITH WHITE.
THE FIRST CRYSTALS RUSTLE AS THEY SETTLE ONTO THE LEAVES AND INTO CREVICES, AND THEN ALMOST MAGICALLY
THE EARTH IS WHITE AND WINTER HAS COME."*

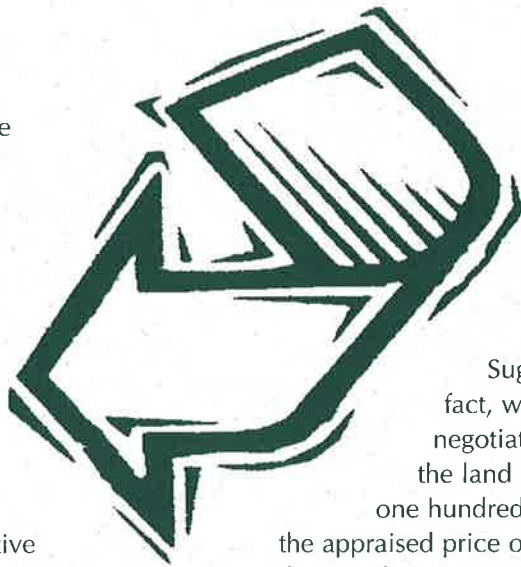
SIGURD F. OLSON

Looking Back

Elmer L. Andersen, Founding Director

Although it has been in existence only a few years, the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association has made a remarkable record of progress and seems to be on the verge of even greater accomplishment. At the start, everything was negative. Sugarloaf was ticketed for a harbor that had all but been decided on when a group formed the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and began to marshal forces to preserve it. Then, when that was done and the emphasis shifted to a harbor at Taconite Harbor, there was a dual project going on. Individuals associated with SICA (but not the organization itself) undertook to finance the harbor at Taconite Harbor. This took quite a bit of effort in order to get both federal and state funding. There were some complications over the lease, partly with Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company (the operator of the harbor) and LTV Steel Company (the owner of the company). All that was worked out. The Taconite Harbor project was funded, has been underway for a year, and is scheduled to be open for service in June. This was not a project of SICA, but members of SICA were involved in its fruition.

Then there was the matter of ownership of the land at Sugarloaf Cove. Fortunately the Department of Natural Resources offered to trade some SICA-owned land in exchange for land at Sugarloaf Cove. The opportunity arose to acquire the Twin Points Resort, located between Gooseberry Falls and Split Rock Lighthouse. This was made available at seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, although the appraisal price was eight hundred and forty-five thousand. The owners, the Alden Lind family, made a contribution of ninety-five thousand in the form of a price reduction, and the DNR agreed to put two hundred and ten thousand dollars into the project if SICA undertook to raise the money to



buy it. We put up the money for an option for one year, took soundings, and decided we could make it, and proceeded to buy it and exchange it for the land at Sugarloaf Cove. As a matter of fact, when Steve Pihlaja was negotiating the exchange of land, the land involved was worth about one hundred thousand dollars more than the appraised price of the land at Sugarloaf Cove that was being acquired. But we conceded that difference to the state in order to facilitate the exchange, and it was brought about.

Since then, a study was completed to determine the original condition of the land at Sugarloaf Cove that was filled in with gravel to make it useable by the paper company that formerly used it as a pulpwood landing. Plans of the DNR were favorable to removing the fill and seeking to restore a wetland that was there originally. Wetlands and the wildlife and flowers they support are rare on the North Shore, so it was a wonderful project to dig out the old gravel, restore the land to its original condition, and then plant native flowers and shrubs in the restored area.

As one who has watched this program from the beginning, it is enormously satisfying to see it at the present stage where there is a proper harbor provided (at Taconite Harbor), and Sugarloaf Cove is being protected and enhanced, and SICA seems prime for many years of constructive activity on the North Shore.

SICA People



Several changes in the Board of Directors took place at the SICA annual meeting in August.

New board member Rebecca Wiinanen is manager of the Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District. Her background is in biology and education, with a master's degree in education from St. Thomas. Her husband, Jim, directs Wilderness Canoe Base on Seagull Lake at the end of the Gunflint Trail. Their family

includes Karli and Sarah at UMD and Northwestern-Chicago, Marja serving a church in Australia, Laura beginning her career at Deloitte in Minneapolis, and Rob in genetics research at UW-Madison, and a husky who is most eager for hiking, canoeing, and skijoring.

Nancy Nelson left the Board of Directors after completing a three-year term, but she will continue to serve as SICA's newsletter editor.

TRANSITIONS... *by Steve Pihlaja*

Carol Tveekrem Sve died on October 26, 2000. Carol was a well-known and loved North Shore personality and a friend of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association. Carol was born on July 10, 1935, the daughter of a commercial fisherman. Her father froze to death in a Lake Superior storm before she was born. She and her brother, Jim, grew up in her grandparents' home just north of Sugarloaf Cove. After big storms, her brother would earn a little money by retrieving the logs that had broken away from the

Consolidated log rafts at Sugarloaf Cove. Carol, together with her husband Walt and their son Eric, owned and operated Split Rock Cabins, a long-time favorite North Shore destination. She is survived by her husband, Walt; a daughter, Laurie; and three sons, Kerri, Steve, and Eric. Walt and Eric are the last remaining father-and-son licensed commercial fishing team on the North Shore. Carol was a good friend to Lake Superior, North Shore neighbors, and many visitors. She will be greatly missed.



Andersen Biography Available

Governor Elmer L. Andersen, founding director of SICA, recently published his autobiography, titled *A Man's Reach*. SICA is selling books for \$25 each as a fundraising project. The retail price of the book is

\$29.95, so this is a nice deal, plus SICA makes some money as well. If you are interested in buying the book, please consider purchasing it from us! To order your book(s), send a check to SICA at 244 Marks Road, Esko MN 55733.



A note from our Executive Director

As the year comes to an end, and I worry about financial reports, grant applications, and whether I'll finish my Christmas shopping, I look up from my desk at a picture of Sugarloaf Cove and smile. I consider myself so very fortunate to be able to work with all of you to protect Sugarloaf Cove! If you get overloaded

during the holiday season, or sad and blue during the long winter days, stop by Sugarloaf, walk down to the cove, and smile! It gives back to us in return for all that we do to protect it!

Happy Holidays! Terri

SICA ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

Interpretive hike at Sugarloaf Cove.

Topic: Animal signs

SATURDAY JANUARY 13

Interpretive hike at Sugarloaf Cove.

Topic: Winter birds

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10

Interpretive hike at Sugarloaf Cove.

Snowshoeing

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10

SICA board meeting

10:30 a.m., Minnesota Sea Grant Program office, 2305 East 5th Street, Duluth.

SATURDAY MARCH 3

A joint snowshoe hike with SHTA.

Hike the Superior Hiking Trail from Caribou Wayside to Sugarloaf Road, then hike Sugarloaf Road to Sugarloaf Cove.

SATURDAY MARCH 10

Interpretive hike at Sugarloaf Cove.

Topic: Winter photography

SATURDAY APRIL 14

Interpretive hike at Sugarloaf Cove.

Topic: Water sampling Sugarloaf Creek

SATURDAY MAY 12

Interpretive hike at Sugarloaf Cove.

Topic: Wetland Restoration Update

INTERPRETIVE HIKES BEGIN AT 10 A.M.

For further information, contact Terri Port Wright at 218-879-4334 or tport@duluth.infi.net.

Interpretive Center GRAND OPENING

On August 19, 2000, SICA reached a major milestone when the new Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center was dedicated. The building, constructed by Senty Log Homes of Grand Marais from locally harvested timber, represents the realization of a dream that was born in 1992.

The Grand Opening was held even though the building wasn't quite finished, so that the fifty-plus people present for the annual membership meeting could see the progress that was being made. Barb Liukkonen, SICA

President, and Steve Pihlaja, SICA Attorney, talked about the importance of the interpretive center, about having a "focus" for future programs, and about the history of how we came to be standing around this wonderful

building. Steve also reminded everyone how much the building would mean to the late Bob Heller, Merlin Berg, and Caroline Miller, all strong supporters of the work to preserve Sugarloaf Cove and make it a center for learning.

Guided interpretive hikes were provided by Dr. John Green and Dr. Terri Port Wright. Many folks thought Terri got lost on her hike, which lasted over 2 hours. But Terri reported that her group was not lost, they were simply enthralled with all the information being provided by Don Ingram, who worked many years for Consolidated Papers at Sugarloaf Cove! Another former Consolidated Papers employee, Maurice Heyer, also joined the event and provided great stories and insights into how Sugarloaf Cove was once used as a pulpwood landing operation.

The Grand Opening weekend was topped off with a Sunday brunch cruise on the Grampa Woo III. Although the waves were a bit large for many, the trip up the shore was beautiful, informative, and fun for all forty-seven people on board.



Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
244 Marks Road
Esko, MN 55733

SICA OFFICERS

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President

Barb Liukkonen

Vice President

Art Fenstad

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Howard Olson

Executive Director

Terri Port Wright

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Annual memberships are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association, and mail to SICA at 244 Marks Road, Esko, MN 55733. 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

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Assoc.
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T H A N K Y O U !