

Interpreter

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

Restoration

Barb Liukkonen

Well, somehow we slipped from winter into high summer — leaf by leaf, spring migrant after migrant, the pale greens of spring turning into the deep greens of summer. With each tender new shoot, wild blossom, and warm breeze our souls, our spirits are restored and recharged. Of course, all too soon we begin to rue the heat and the bugs. We move on through busy days, immersed in hectic schedules. Before long we may even dream ahead to crisp fall days and somehow imagine that shoveling snow is better than mowing the lawn!

Because I'm not a big fan of mowing, I've converted our front lawn to a garden rather than turf. We have a small waterfall and pond with lots of native perennials and many bright annuals. It's not less work than mowing — it used to take only about 10 minutes to mow each week, but now I often spend hours in the garden. It's not about work load, it's about renewal. The sound of the running water, the calming effect of feeding and watching 'my' fish, the joy in tending new flowers — all restore my spirit. I don't get to the North Shore often enough, and this quiet landscape helps create a space in time to relax and recover amidst the rush of the Twin Cities.

Sugarloaf Cove serves as a similar space in time for many of us. Sitting on the cobble beach listening to the whoosh of waves and the rattle of rocks, watching a bird soar across the cove, feeling the chill of the big water — all help to remind us of why we're working so hard to pro-

tect and restore the Sugarloaf site. The sights and sounds inspire an inner peace and have a restorative effect.

Remember that oldtime song that touted "the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer?" I'm not sure where they've gone, but the days of summer don't seem so lazy to me anymore. They're plenty crazy, though, as I never seem to find enough time to recharge, even though I know that's what we all need to keep going and making a difference in the world. I hear from many friends and colleagues that we're all over-busy these days — you may be, too.

Let this be an invitation. Take the time — make the time — to visit Sugarloaf Cove this summer and restore your spirit.

Come for a Saturday hike or come to the annual meeting on August 18, and enliven your life with friends, old and new. If you need a further excuse to visit, consider volunteering as a site host so we can make sure the Interpretive Center is open to the public every weekend this summer.

If you're not eager to share the site with others, stop by some weekday when you're likely to be the only one on the beach or in the woods. Check on the progress of the wetland restoration and see creative evidence of the hard work of many volunteers. I guarantee that you'll leave feeling healthier and more focused on what's really worthwhile and important in life.

So, treat yourself to a lazy day at Sugarloaf Cove, and escape the craziness of your busy life. Enjoy.



wendy strombeck

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.

Book Award

Thanks to the outstanding skills of graphic designer Wendy Strombeck, the book *Grand Portage Chippewa: Stories and Experiences of Grand Portage Band Members* received a bronze award in the Individual Specialty category for Art Direction/Graphic Design at the 2001 SUMMIT Creative Awards competition. This is an international competition open to small- and medium-sized ad agencies and creative groups. The book

was one of more than 3,000 entries, which included books from all over the world. The awards recognize intelligent, innovative, and creative concepts, strategies, and executions. A framed award certificate honoring SICA, the Grand Portage Tribal Council, and the National Park Service as well as one.D design, will be hung in the interpretive center at Sugarloaf Cove.

Endowment Fund

The SICA endowment fund continues to grow! Two major contributions were received recently. Any and all contributions are welcome and invited, including transfers of property, stocks, or future contributions!



No contribution is too small or too large. If you are interested in helping preserve the future of Sugarloaf Cove, contact Terri Port Wright for more information (218-879-4334 or sugarloaf@qwest.net).



Grant Update

The most exciting grant that SICA has received recently came from the Lake Superior Coastal Program. The grant was submitted jointly with the MN DNR and provides funding for the following projects:

- A. Create a trail into the wetland area, partly on the ground and partly on a raised boardwalk.
- B. Create and install signs that explain the

different areas within the wetland so folks know what they are looking at. For example, signs will focus on the three primary planting zones (upland - always dry; transitional - sometimes wet; and wetland - often wet, but not always).

- C. Extend the boardwalk on the existing SICA/SNA trail over a usually wet area.
- D. Update and reprint the trail guides.

The Interpretive Center

Lots of work has been completed during the last few months on the Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center. The building is now open every weekend from noon-4 p.m. All of the tables, benches, and chairs are finished and available for picnicking, thinking, or resting. Temporary interpretive displays are set up, and weekend volunteer hosts are there to help answer questions, provide directions, and forward questions to staff. Landscaping around the

building was completed in July with the help of an MCC crew using native plants including birch, mountain ash, white spruce, ninebark, highbush cranberry, bush honeysuckle, and juneberry. The building is available for use by groups for projects or meetings related to environmental education, protection, and preservation. Contact Terri to schedule use of the building or to set up a private hike (218-879-4334 or sugarloaf@qwest.net).

Thanks to Andersen Windows Corporation!

Have you noticed the gorgeous windows in our Interpretive Center that help connect us with the outdoors, give us a glimpse of the big lake, and augment our passive solar heating system? All the windows and the welcoming French doors are the generous gift of the Andersen Windows Corporation. They are highly energy efficient and are made of wood and vinyl recov-

ered from the waste stream to reduce the use of raw materials. One goal of our new center is to demonstrate environmentally friendly building and operating methods to highlight our commitment to protecting natural resources, and these windows help do just that. Thanks much to Andersen for their corporate spirit in helping support the interpretive work at Sugarloaf Cove.

SICA ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 11

Interpretive Hike, Birds of Sugarloaf Cove with Julie Flotten of Wolf Ridge.

AUGUST 18

SICA Annual Membership meeting, 1:00 p.m. at Sugarloaf Cove.

SEPTEMBER 8

Interpretive Hike, The history and restoration of the Sugarloaf Cove site. This coincides with John Schroeder Days (September 8-9) as well as the grand opening of the safe harbor at Taconite Harbor.

Interpretive Hikes begin at 10 a.m. at the Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center.

For more information contact Terri Port Wright at 218-879-4334 or sugarloaf@qwest.net.



Call for Board Members

Each August, SICA membership elects one-third of the Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on the Board, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Tim Dickson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, prior to the August 18 meeting, at 612-379-4973.

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar now for a fun day of work and play at the Annual Membership meeting at Sugarloaf Cove. This year the annual meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. and after the meeting we'd like to enlist your help in any of the following projects:

Build the deck and stairs for the new interpretive center building.

Apply polyurethane to the building's interior walls and window trim.

Attach donor plaques to tables and chairs.

Construct a boardwalk into the wetland restoration area and extend the existing boardwalk.

Work on removal/control of exotic plants.

Take a hike!

SICA will provide beverages and snacks — hope to see everyone there!

Volunteer Site Hosts Needed

The goals of the Sugarloaf Cove site host program are to allow the interpretive center to be open for visitors, to welcome visitors, inform them about Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association (SICA), and educate them about the Sugarloaf Cove site. SICA hopes to staff the facility from 12-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays from June through September, with additional hours if volunteers are available.

Site Host Duties include the following: unlock the building; check the "Site Host Notebook" for messages, updates, projects, and records of weather data and natural events; check the mailbox in the parking lot and keep it filled with trail guides and membership brochures; unlock and clean bathroom; clean the interpretive center, including sweeping, dusting, and washing windows; walk the trail if you can, and record in the notebook anything that needs to be addressed; greet visitors, give them information about the building, site and association, encourage them to hike the nature trail; and most important, enjoy yourself. Sit by the lake, picnic, read, or birdwatch.

Site hosts are still needed on the following dates: September 8, 9, 15, and 16.

To volunteer, contact Terri Port Wright at 218-879-4334 or sugarloaf@qwest.net.



Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
244 Marks Road
Esko, MN 55733

SICA OFFICERS

Founding Director

Elmer L. Andersen

President

Barb Liukkonen

First Vice President

Tim Dickson

Second Vice President

Art Fenst ad

Secretary

Pat Maus

Treasurer

Howard Olson

Executive Director

Terri Port Wright

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, nancynelson@duluth.com. Designer: Wendy Strombeck.

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.
244 Marks Road, Esko, MN 55733

THANK YOU!