Hands-free Interpretation Comes to Sugarloaf

Visit Sugarloaf's new wetland restoration interpretive trail this winter!

In summer 2003, Sugarloaf volunteers installed new interpretive signs along a short spur trail that leads into our wetland restoration area. The wetland restoration has been one of Sugarloaf's biggest success stories, turning the site of an old cement block building into a rare Lake Superior coastal wetland. Now visitors can learn about that project and more.

The one-mile interpretive trail that leads around our 34-acre site has been a popular feature at Sugarloaf. The visitor gets a nicely-designed guidebook at the trailhead and reads the text in the guidebook associated with many interesting natural and cultural features alongside the trail. In the winter, this gets a bit tricky as cold winds blow through leafless forests and bulky mittens make page-turning hard.

The new section of trail is different. Like in a museum, the signs and the explanation are right there, on posts, with nice photos and images. You can keep your mittens on!

A new sign at the parking area is the first hint of something new. You can either follow the existing trail around, or head right down past the interpretive center building straight to the beach. A three-panel kiosk introduces you to the Scientific and Natural Area. Then three more signs take you into the wetland restoration, from the edge to the transition zone to the heart of the wetland.

This project was financed, in part, through the Coastal Zone Management Act, by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, in conjunction with Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program and Minnesota DNR Waters. The project also included an extension of the boardwalk along the main trail and a much-needed update of the trail guidebook.

Come on by, strap on your snowshoes and tour the Sugarloaf beach and wetland. You'll learn something and keep your fingers warm at the same time.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR HELP WITH THIS PROJECT:

Barb and Robert Liukkonen for help developing and installing the signs.

John Green and Pat Maus for help reviewing the signs.

Nancy Nelson, Wendy Strombeck and Kelly Randall for copy and design.

The Minnesota Conservation Corps for extending the boardwalk.

Pat Collins, Steve Wilson and Kelly Randall of the Minnesota DNR for assistance.

Terri Port Wright, former SICA director, for her vision and persistence.
Northeastern Exposures

It’s a simple, dominant fact about Sugarloaf Cove: it opens dramatically to the northeast. But there’s a lot more than just a view coming from that direction. Storms, glaciers and stones have come from there too. Though we call it the “North” Shore, northeast is the real story.

When you stand at the cobblestone beach and look out at Lake Superior, you’re actually looking straight up the North Shore towards Grand Marais. On a calm summer day, this means you get a nice view of Taconite Harbor and the more distant Sawtooth Mountains. The large, smooth cobbles at your feet came from that same direction, borne by unimaginable forces of ice and water.

The cobblestone beach of Sugarloaf Cove is one reason Sugarloaf was nominated for, and accepted as, a state Scientific and Natural Area. Each of these stones tells a dramatic story. Most of these stones were pulled as ragged chunks from the bedrock somewhere north and east of Sugarloaf and carried by glaciers to this site. Along the way, they became more rounded and smooth. Over the last ten thousand years, wave action worked on these chunks of rock, smoothing them over more like a giant rock polisher.

But cobbles this size had to have some serious energy to move them and sort them out like this. It hasn’t just been any wave that has done this work, but the nor’easter gales of Lake Superior, with two hundred miles of fetch to build up and then the rocky shores of Sugarloaf Point and the mainland to focus their power inward.

Northeast winds hit this end of Lake Superior in low-pressure system storms that have come across the Great Plains. In the summer, the cold water of Lake Superior dampens these cyclonic storms and they either die out or divert away from the lake. But come fall, the lake water is warmer than the land and like a hurricane feeding off warm tropical ocean water, the storm picks up energy from the lake. Winds rotate counterclockwise around a low pressure area, so as a storm tracks over the middle of the lake, the winds at the top are blowing from the east and northeast.

What an amazing confluence of forces you can find down at the Sugarloaf beach! Rocks carried from the northeast are buffeted by waves rolling from the northeast, created by northeast winds, from storms headed to the northeast. No wonder it’s such a dramatic North Shore view ...to the northeast.

ANDREW SLADE
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association Members
as of January 31, 2003

PATRONS ($500 and above)

Elmer and Eleanor Andersen  Arden Hills
Tony Andersen  Saint Paul
Tom and Kay Becken  Lake Elmo
Jean Ljungkull  Lutsen
Richard and Ella Slade  Minneapolis

SUSTAINING ($100 TO $499)

Mary Aijala  Silver Bay
Julian and Jamie Andersen  Seattle, WA
Verna and Harold Alt  Minneapolis
Mary Blickendorfer  Deer River
David and Denise Carlson  Little Marais
Don and Peg Davison  Farmington
Gary Deason  Finland
Tom Duflus  Duluth
Paul Engh  Minneapolis
Art Fennstad  Silver Bay
Paul and Edna Granlund  Schroeder
John and Janet Green  Duluth
Marcy Harris  Eden Prairie
Ginny Jacobson & Mike Anderson  Anoka
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Skip and Linda Lamb  Schroeder
Barb and Robert Liukkonen  Moundsview
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Andrew Slade & Sally Rauschenfels  Duluth
Wendy Strombeck & James Waldo  Medina
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Dale Ulrich & Julie Brunner  Saint Paul
Rebecca Wiinanen  Grand Marais
Tim Wilson & Amy Andersen  Lander, WY
Fred and El Winston  Wayzata
Al and Terri Wright  Esko
Mike and Barb Zins  Cologne

CONTRIBUTING ($25 TO $49)

Christina Gallup  Duluth
Lois and John Geist  Knife River
Norman and Ruth Harris  Eden Prairie
Peter Harris and Carrie Anderson  Silver Bay
John Henricksson  Mahtomedi
Tom Jordan  Duluth
Martin and Esther Kellogg  Saint Paul
John and Patricia Leinen  Stillwater
David and Marnie Lonsdale  Duluth
Pat Maus  Duluth
Deborah McKnight  Edina
Wilmer Miller and Ellen Sundholm  Finland
Jack and Barb Morris  White Bear Lake
Richard and Beatrice Ojakangas  Duluth
Bob and Jean Port  Cloquet
Ed and June Rogier  Minnetonka
Teresa Root  South Saint Paul
Tom Schaub and Carol Andrews  Duluth
Jackie and Dell Schott  Chanhassen
Mark and Joan Strobel  Saint Paul
Lorraine Tressel  Andover
Libby Wilkes  Lutsen

SUPPORTING ($50 TO $99)

Emily Anderson  Storrs, CT
Robert and Phyllis Beery  Rochester
Tom Beery  Duluth
Edward and Kathryn Bolstad  Grand Marais
Jim and Judy Brandenburg  Ely
Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Carlson  Saint Paul
H. Michael Casper  Silver Bay
Robert and Bette Dunn  Princeton
Lois Ann Eynick  Grand Marais

John Alt and Chel Anderson  Grand Marais
Allan Apter  Duluth
Reg and Anne Bartel  Minneapolis
Beryl Bissell  Schroeder
Betsy Bowen Studio  Grand Marais
Fred and Sue Briggs  White Bear Lake
George Carhart  Plymouth
Kermit and Margaret Carlsen  Schroeder
Gene Clark  Duluth
Ken Clark  Superior
Bob Cormier  Duluth
Kathleen Dahl  Duluth
Duluth Public Library  Minneapolis
Serina Ege  Duluth
Steve and Jan Ellington  Little Marais
Nancy and Richard Gongoll  Waconia
Jim Hall  Elk River
Sheri Harris  Lutsen
Chester and Iza Hedin  Minneapolis
Gary L. and Ellen Hedin  Two Harbors
Steve Heikkila  Silver Bay
Ellen Held  New Hope
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Tim and Beth Holst  Duluth
Barbara and Richard Hough  Arden Hills
Amanda Hudson  Rockford, IL
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Chris and Jim Kustritz  Brooklyn Park
Randy Lake  South Pasadena, CA
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Bruce Martinson  Schroeder
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Meigs  Saint Paul
Meriden Engineering  Hibbing
Jim Norvell  Schroeder
Helen and Paul Olfelt  Minneapolis
Howard and Betty Olson  Saint Paul
Barbara Peichell  Duluth
Ethan Perry  Duluth
Clyde and Karen Ritchie  Duluth

March 2003
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LOG BOOK

"Will soon be one of our favorite places on the N. Shore. Beautiful!"

"Wow! What a fantastic find. Thanks for a great lesson in nature, history and geology."

"Trail guide very well done, interesting for adults and children."

"Beautiful! Never knew this was here!"

"We were here 3 yrs ago...you have done a lot of great things + preserved a beautiful area."

"What a fabulous place! One of the jewels of the North Shore. Thanks for making it accessible to us all."

"I remember being here when the log chute was in operation!"

BUDGET  (endowment transactions not included)

Note: These figures have not been audited.

INCOME
- Membership dues: $7480
- Grants: $32,396
- Contracts: $2164
- Sales on site: $614
- Donations: $210
- Dividends: $118
- Fishboat: $350
- Fee for service: $200

Total income: $43,532

EXPENSES
- Contract labor: $4690
- Dues and subscriptions: $275
- Fundraising costs: $176
- Insurance: $2,134
- Building materials: $1181
- Office supplies: $737
- Payroll expenses: $18,549
- Postage: $372
- Printing/reproduction: $8762
- Fees: $107
- Program expenses: $2,983
- Telephone: $1,964
- Travel expenses: $2,398
- Visitor center costs: $3,790

Total expense: $48,118

FOUNDATION SUPPORT IN 2002
- Andersen Foundation- Challenge grant
- Consolidated history
- Upland exotics
- Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program- Wetland restoration interpretive trail
- Minnesota DNR- Restoration grant

CONTRIBUTORS TO ENDOWMENT FUND
- Jean Ljungkull
- Joanne Alt and Richard Starr
- BJ Smith Kohlstedt
- Elmer Andersen (Allan Haff Memorial)
- Barbara Richardson (Allan Haff Memorial)
- Mary Haff (Allan Haff Memorial)
- Don Ingram (Allan Haff Memorial)

Total 2002 contributions: $5,528
Status of the endowment: $10,050

PEOPLE SERVED
- Second Saturday programs: 200
- Other programs: 50

LOG BOOK REGISTRIES
- Minnesota: 305
- Wisconsin: 23
- Illinois: 7
- Iowa: 6
- California: 4
- New York: 4
- South Dakota: 3
- Missouri: 3
- GA, PA, AZ: 2 each
- MA, NE, IN, MI, ON, PA, RI, TN: 1 each
- Other countries: Tanzania, Ecuador, Lithuania, Sweden, England, France, Germany

Total log book: 384
Estimated total site visitors: 2600
A Tribute to Barb Liukkonen, past board chair

By Terri Port Wright, past executive director

Barb Liukkonen has served on the SICA Board for eleven years and offered more than just vision and leadership. She offered serious hard work in helping to build the deck, in applying polyurethane to the interior walls, and in putting up displays.

But beyond the visible labor that a person provides to any organization, Barb was one of those leaders that was simply always thinking and worrying about Sugarloaf. It didn’t matter what day of the week it was, or what time of the day. You could call Barb to ask a question and she would have been just emailing someone else about that very issue, or just writing a letter on that very topic. Her unending dedication to securing funding for projects, or for securing the decking or windows for the Interpretive Center, are just two examples of her hard work.

The interpretive signs that are now up along the trail were easy to write, but to get them from the designer and onto wood and up to Sugarloaf couldn’t have happened without Barb.

While it certainly is true that an organization like SICA relies on the amazing coordination and commitment of many people, it is also true that SICA will notice the absence of Barb because of her constant commitment and very hard and earnest work. Barb always worried about SICA and probably always will.

I just hope that now she will have a little more time to worry about shoreland education, water quality education, and maybe even do a little more quilting and work on her front yard water garden. Thank you Barb, for all of your wonderful work at Sugarloaf!

Thanks, Barb Peichel!

A big fan of Sugarloaf stepped up to the plate this fall when the association needed help. Barb Peichel of Duluth, who has been a SICA member and volunteer site host, did a great job keeping the wheels of SICA rolling, answering the mail, organizing the site and greeting visitors on fall weekends. Now she is off to Washington, DC on a prestigious Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship with the National Sea Grant College Program. As she left, she said, “Take care of Sugarloaf for me.” Thanks Barb P., we will!

Wish List

At Sugarloaf, we’re always looking for ways to improve the site and our members’ experience there. If you have any of these items unused, please consider donating them to Sugarloaf. We can provide a receipt for tax purposes.

- Binoculars for educational programs
- Snowshoes
- Hand tools for restoration work: shovels, saws, trowels, etc.
- Couch (in good shape) for interpretive center reading area.

Current SICA Board

Richard Slade, Minneapolis          President
Jim Mullin, Minneapolis            First Vice-President
Skip Lamb, Schroeder               Second Vice-President
Marcy Harris, Eden Prairie         Secretary
Rebecca Wiinanan, Grand Marais     Treasurer

Dave Carlson                      Little Marais
Christina Gallup                  Duluth
John Green                       Duluth
Barb Liukkonen                    Moundsview
Pat Maus                         Duluth
Ethan Perry                      Duluth
Andrea Peterson                  Grand Marais
Steve Piilaja                    Minneapolis
Mike Zins                        Cologne

Elmer Andersen                    Founding Director
Andrew Slade                      Interim Executive Director

March 2003
SICA ACTIVITIES

MARCH 7
Rolf Peterson presentation on Isle Royale wolves in Duluth, co-sponsored by Sugarloaf.

MARCH 8
Second Saturday at Sugarloaf
Winter camping demonstration

APRIL 12
Second Saturday at Sugarloaf
Interpretation stations by UMD students

MAY 10
Second Saturday at Sugarloaf - Tree planting

MAY 17-18
Annual work weekend and SICA board meeting at site

All Second Saturday Activities start at 10 am at the Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center.

The Sugarloaf Interpreter is published quarterly by Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association. Subscription is a benefit of membership. Single copies available on request. Submissions welcome. Send to sugarloaf@lakenet.com. Designer: Wendy Strombeck.

Annual memberships are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and mail to the SICA office at 1040 Minnesota Avenue, Duluth, MN 55802. SICA is an educational, non-profit 501(c)(3) Minnesota Corporation.

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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Thank you!