

Interpreter

A Publication of
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association
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SICA's new mission reflects old shorewide role

Andrew Slade, Executive Director

On April 3, 2005, the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association board met for a very important strategic planning session. The board developed a new mission statement for the Association. But as the saying goes, there's nothing new under the sun. The new mission statement reflects not only SICA's current direction but also its thirteen-year history on the shore.

NEW Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association *mission:*

To inspire the preservation and restoration of the North Shore's unique environment through education and exemplary stewardship, especially at Sugarloaf Cove.



On Sugarloaf Point, visitors enjoy SICA's success in protecting and interpreting the North Shore.

same things that had been important to each of us. We wanted others to be able to stand alone on a rocky beach contemplating the beauty of the lake, skip a stone, watch a gull, feel the power of a storm, or simply listen to the music of the waves."

Although the name has remained "Sugarloaf", the Association has always functioned along the entire North Shore. As part of the negotiations to manage, own and protect Sugarloaf Cove, the North Shore now has a public boat landing and geologically unique beach at Twin Points, between Gooseberry and Split Rock. The safe harbor proposed for Sugarloaf Cove is now at Taconite Harbor, just a few miles east.

SICA's outreach work has also been shorewide. As early as 1995, public programs about the North Shore were held in Duluth, Schroeder, and beyond. SICA obtained LCMR funding to research oral histories of the Grand

Portage Band, which were published as an award-winning book.

After a few years of focusing on the restoration work at the Sugarloaf Cove site, new SICA initiatives now look shorewide again. SICA's coastal forestry project involves landowners from Duluth to Grand Portage. SICA's ShoreLink program will enhance coastal interpretation up and down the North Shore.

As Steve Pihlaja concludes, "SICA was founded on a broad far-reaching philosophical perspective focused on a small piece of land." The SICA board, staff and volunteers are eager to share their successes, as the new mission statement so clearly states.

According to long-term board member and past board president Steve Pihlaja, "Although SICA was created in reaction to the DNR plan to build a series of nine safe harbors along the North Shore, what really brought people together was the sense that development was proceeding at such a rapid and uncontrolled pace that the North Shore was being permanently changed and that a place important to many would be lost forever."

He goes on to write, "SICA's founders always were committed to the broad idea of protecting the Shore in a manner that would allow future generations to fully partake in the North Shore experience and to enjoy some of the

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.

Cove

SICA's president considers the new mission:

Dear Friends,

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association is entering into a new stage of maturity. Compared to many organizations we are still very young. We have spent a great deal of energy in our formative years and some considerable fortune concentrating on the task of preserving and restoring the Sugarloaf Cove site for public enjoyment of its natural characteristics. Our programs and much of our activities have centered on interpretation and education of the public about the natural and cultural significance of the site. Obviously, we have strived to be conscientious stewards in protecting the Scientific and Natural Area entrusted to us by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; in many respects the most vulnerable and important part of our 34 acre site. Now recently, at our regular quarterly meeting, the directors have voted to modify our mission statement in a subtle but real shift towards the larger North Shore community. We also approved three goals that will command our attention and energy over the next few years. Let me repeat them for you here as they were approved on May 21st.

Mission Statement:

To inspire the preservation and restoration of the North Shore's unique environment through education and exemplary stewardship, especially at Sugarloaf Cove.

Goals:

- *Preservation, stewardship and restoration of the Sugarloaf Cove site and the scientific and natural area for public enjoyment and understanding.*
- *Interpretation and education throughout and about the entire Minnesota North Shore, especially its interaction with the natural and cultural heritage.*
- *The development of a western North Shore gateway interpretive center at Duluth/Two Harbors area.*

These are brief statements of what we intend, but they reflect a larger ambition.

There also seems to be some appetite for a name change to reflect the maturing of our organization, but so far discussions have only provided agreement on one element; that is, "Sugarloaf" will be part of any new title. As always we would welcome your comments on the matter of name change or the new mission statement and goals as recited above. You can reach us by e-mail or "snail-mail". The address is indicated elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, let me just say on behalf of the Directors, volunteers all, we appreciate your continued support and engagement.

JIM MULLIN
PRESIDENT

SUGARLOAF INTERPRETIVE CENTER ASSOCIATION

Annual meeting and fishboil coming soon!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AUGUST 20

By Andrew Slade, SICA executive director

Annual meeting important time of transition

With our new mission statement, Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association is experiencing an important year of transition. It's so important to us that our 250-plus members are aware and supportive of what's happening. The annual meeting provides a tremendous opportunity to share the news of the year, get feedback from the members, and turn some members into board members.



A gathering of past presidents of the SICA board at the 2004 fish boil. From left, Barb Liukkonen, Dick Slade, Steve Pihlaja and B.J. Kohlstedt.

Board members needed

We'll be electing at least three new board members to join returning board members for a three-year term. We're especially interested in boosting our Duluth and North Shore board presence, and also interested in bringing on people with legal, accounting and grounds experience. If you're interested, please contact me at sugarloaf@lakenet.com or (218) 740-2755.

Annual fish boil now Sugarloaf membership exclusive

Much to the joy of our hardcore Sugarloaf supporters, and much to the disappointment of the North Shore community, the 2005 Sugarloaf traditional North Shore fish boil will be a special members-only event. Held in conjunction with our annual membership meeting, the fish boil is a great chance to meet new friends, enjoy a special guided hike on the trail, and sample some traditional North Shore cuisine.



Getting ready for the 2004 fish boil

Volunteer at Sugarloaf Cove

By Pam McDougall, Site Manager

Summer is underway at Sugarloaf Cove. There are volunteer activities for everyone. Plan to spend an hour or a day volunteering. When you volunteer at Sugarloaf Cove you may camp onsite in our primitive campsite. There is training available for any volunteer activity.

Site Hosting is available for 2-3 hours or for an entire day. Last summer we had site hosts on the property most days from 10am-3pm. This year we would like to have evening and early morning site hosts, too, to talk with the visitors we have missed. Bring the family for a picnic supper and greet Sugarloaf guests, you'll meet some interesting people.

Gardening Projects include tree planting, wildflower planting, weeding, weed whipping, and the ever-popular tansy pulling. SICA provides the equipment needed.

Maintenance Projects include staining the interior of the interpretive center, interpretive trail maintenance, and repairing winter damage. SICA provides the equipment needed.

Distribute Flyers about SICA activities and Sugarloaf Cove rack cards to lodging properties from Cove Point to Cascade Lodge. This is a fun activity for someone who has always wanted to see all of the lodging properties and likes to talk with people.

Guiding Tours along Sugarloaf Cove's interpretive trail for prearranged group tours is always rewarding. SICA hosts groups from kindergartners to senior citizens who learn about Sugarloaf Cove on a guided hike on the interpretive trail.

Exhibit Preparation is a lofty term for organizing more of the information SICA has to share with the public. It may include preparing a computer slide show and setting up the computer, mounting and displaying photos, or rearranging current displays.

To volunteer at Sugarloaf Cove contact Site Manager Pam McDougall at 218-663-7679 or email at sugarloaf@boreal.org.

The North Shore may never be the same again... we hope!

BY ANDREW SLADE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

From the outskirts of Duluth to the Canadian border, all along the scenic North Shore coastline, landowners are getting ready to bring back "lost" native conifer forest to their property, with help from Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and our Lost Forest project.



Mike Reichenbach of University of Minnesota Extension runs the Woodland Advisors program and will teach many of the Lost Forest classes at Sugarloaf in the next year.

Thanks to a major grant from the Great Lakes National Program Office, SICA is working with eleven landowners in this intensive program. Participants are attending the acclaimed 45-hour Woodland Advisor training course, customized for North Shore forests and landowners. A certified forester, Eric Hofstad of Forest Management Specialist, will work with the landowners to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan for their land, focused on native conifer forest restoration. Next year, participants will implement their planning and their training in significant on-the-ground forest restoration work.

Two of the eight training sessions are already complete. On April 2, the group met for the first time, at Sugarloaf Cove, and not only found out more about the program, but also took their first Woodland Advisor class, on Minnesota Forests. The group met again June 4 for a daylong class on North Shore tree identification and planting.

But the eleven landowners aren't the only beneficiaries. Sugarloaf Cove itself will benefit strongly. Forester Eric Hofstad is preparing a detailed Forest Stewardship Plan for the Cove, focused on three areas to be used as demonstration sites for different aspects of conifer forest restoration.

One site, on the western side of the trail, will demonstrate proactive ways to help our dying birch forests make the transition to conifer forests. Another, on the east side of the trail, will actually involve controlled burning to recreate that important ecological process. Finally, Sugarloaf will get a detailed plan of how to convert our red pine plantations to a more diverse and native forest type. Interpretive signage will help our visitors understand the project.

This is an exciting project with real benefits up and down the North Shore.

PARTICIPANTS IN NORTH SHORE COASTAL FOREST PROGRAM

Jesse Schomberg	Lakewood Township
Fred Tarnowski	Knife River
Gregory Plumb	East of Gooseberry
Bill Gardner	West of Split Rock
Lee Radzak, Dick Morris	Split Rock Lighthouse
Patrick Dinneen	Silver Bay
John Kohlstedt	Wolf Ridge ELC, Finland
Greg Koschinska	Schroeder
Greg Bartel	Schroeder
Marv Fabyanske	Schroeder
Cliff Iverson	Tofte
Grand Portage Band	Marina & campground

The SICA board for 2004-2005:

Margit Berg, Schroeder & Minneapolis
Dave Carlson, Little Marais
Christina Gallup, Duluth
John Green, Duluth
Cathy Johnson, Schroeder
Mike Kennedy, Larsmont
Barb Liukkonen, Moundsview
Pat Maus, Duluth
Bill Miller, Duluth
Jim Mullin, Minneapolis
Ethan Perry, Duluth
Andrea Peterson, Grand Marais
Steve Pihlaja, Minneapolis
Dick Slade, Minneapolis

Saving the North Shore... One tourist at a time

BY ANDREW SLADE

It's summer on the North Shore, and that means a lot of things. The influx of summer visitors is a huge part of the Shore's economy and culture. Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association is finding ways this summer to link up these visitors with important information about the Shore's rich coastal resources. In doing so, we hope to increase appreciation and stewardship of the North Shore's unique environment.

It's all part of our ShoreLink initiative to strengthen interpretation of North Shore coastal resources.



Look for ShoreLink field interpreter Leah Ladehoff at the Duluth Lakewalk, the Grand Marais harbor, or other parks and beaches along the shore.

A summer at the shore

For ten weeks this summer, ShoreLink field interpreter Leah Ladehoff will be visiting popular waterfront areas from Duluth to Grand Marais to offer "learning cart" programs to the visitors and residents congregated there. While the informal and interactive programs might look like they're about geology, gulls, or water chemistry, the underlying message is about the unique coastal environment and how our actions impact it.

Leah's efforts will be joined by the Superior National Forest's Resort Naturalist program, which will provide new coastal programming at Cascade Lodge every Saturday evening as a campfire program.

ShoreLink

Way more than a three-ring binder

ShoreLink's initial presence on the North Shore was a comprehensive effort by founding board member Emily Andersen to catalogue and convene organizations involved in North Shore interpretation and protection. The resulting binder full of contact information served dozens of organizations very well for many years. But technology and the local interpretive scene have both evolved. Watch for new updated information about local interpretive organizations and programs on the Sugarloaf website, coming soon.

This project was funded in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act, by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in cooperation with Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program.

CORRECTION

With apologies to all of our members, please note the following corrections and additions to our 2004 member roster, as shown in the March 2005 Interpreter.

SUSTAINING (\$100 and more)

John and Jan Green
Dick and Ella Slade
Charlie Matsch
Bob Bruce
Andrea and Dave Peterson
Jack and Genea Pichotta
Glen and Betsy Swanson

SUPPORTING (\$50 and more)

Ed and June Rogier
Bruce Martinson
Martin Kellogg
Robert Odegard
Harry McNeely
Barb and Robert Liukkonen
Mary Burns
Mike and Barb Zins
Henny Schoeller
Edgar Rogier
Scotty Gillette
Brett and Kathy Smith
Carl Foster

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S I C A A C T I V I T I E S

J U N E 2 5

North Shore Naturalist and Woodland Advisors
Growing and Measuring a North Shore Forest

J U L Y 9

Second Saturday– Hummingbirds

J U L Y 9

North Shore Naturalist Workshop
North Shore Wildflowers, with Chel Anderson

J U L Y 1 6

North Shore Naturalist Workshop
North Shore Lighthouses, with Dennis O'Hara

J U L Y 3 0

North Shore Naturalist and Woodland Advisors
Growing and Harvesting a North Shore Forest

A U G U S T 1 3

Second Saturday– Wolves of the North Shore

A U G U S T 2 0

Board meeting, Sugarloaf Cove
Annual membership meeting
Traditional North Shore fishboil

All Second Saturday programs 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.

Address Correction Requested

membership
A P P L I C A T I O N

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 _____

M E M B E R S H I P C A T E G O R I E S

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

New Renew

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T H A N K Y O U !