



The View From Listening Point

NEWSLETTER *of the* Listening Point Foundation, Inc.

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 2 ~ FALL 2012

www.listeningpointfoundation.org



"Wilderness Canoe Country: Minnesota's Greatest Recreational Asset"

By Sigurd F. Olson

published in *Naturalist*, 1967

The Value of Wilderness

The wilderness canoe country is northern Minnesota's greatest recreational asset. Outside of its beauty, uniqueness, historical significance and fishing, it has a quality that other lake and forest areas do not possess, its primitive character. This is the magnet that draws people, the fact that here alone in the Midwest one can still see country as it looked before settlement. Should this quality disappear, it would lose what millions have come to cherish in a land where wilderness is fast becoming a rarity.

Conservationists have been trying to save this quality of the BWCA for almost half a century. The efforts have been many, no matter what the threats, and the objectives always the same. The road program of the twenties, the power dam proposals, the raising of water levels and the logging of the shorelines, airplanes and airplane resorts, all had they not been curbed would have destroyed in each case the wilderness itself.

When one pictures what could have happened had one of these gone through, the dams of a great power complex, submerging lakes as deep as eighty feet along the border, drowning islands, rapids,

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Sigurd with Walter F. "Wallie" Hansen, one of his two partners in the Border Lakes Outfitting Co., formed in 1929.

Photo: LPF archives

Sig and Wilderness Recreation

By Kevin Proescholdt

Sigurd Olson wrote the accompanying article in late 1966, not long after passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, and just after the public fight to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) during the Selke Committee and Freeman Directives deliberations that ran from early 1964 to the end of 1965. Sig played a very active role in this controversy, and echoes of that struggle reverberate in his article. The article appeared in the first issue of the *Naturalist* in early 1967, the magazine of the Minneapolis-based Natural History Society.

Some of the arguments made by Sig in this article reflect those same ones made during the 1964-1965 struggle. Opponents of wilderness status for the BWCA, including Dr. Frank Kaufert of the University of Minnesota Forestry School, claimed during that controversy that we had to log the BWCA in order to save it from decay or fire. Sig refutes this argument in the article. Others claimed that the concept of multiple use in general, or the 1960 Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act in particular, required that the BWCA continue to accommodate logging and motorized uses. Again, Sig counters that argument.

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Pilgrimage

Every year hundreds of people contact the Listening Point Foundation to schedule a visit to the Point. They come for many reasons—to smell the pine air, to gaze across the lake at islands floating in the distance, to hear the wailing of a loon. They come to stand on two billion year old bedrock scoured and scarred by glaciers.

But it is more than these experiences that they seek. People come to see an old cabin and to smell the cabin air inside. They come to look out through cottage glass windows in the hope of seeing what another man, Sigurd Olson, saw. Perhaps even to feel what he felt.

Why should this be so? Why should it seem important to walk a short path that another man's feet once trod? Why the feeling, so often expressed, of making a pilgrimage, an important journey of the spirit?

There are, I think, a number of reasons. It is, of course, a beautiful place. It is also evocative that in walking that short path one is following footsteps where perhaps a thought was once worked out, a thought that found its way into a beloved book. There is also the fact that Sigurd Olson, son of a preacher, sometimes used the language of scriptures. Autumn leaves and the first snow fell "like a benediction." A loud voice along a quiet, stony shore would have been "a sacrilege."

But perhaps the element that best explains the phenomenon of pilgrimage, the feeling of somehow visiting a "sacred" place, is that Sigurd Olson, in his philosophy and his writings, encouraged readers to see the world in a different light. To see the woods and waters, the world, as sacred.

At its heart, this simply means that everything is important and filled with significance. A red squirrel spiraling down a pine trunk, a vein of rose quartz winding through the bedrock, a pine knot found along the path and later placed carefully in the fireplace—these simple, natural things were imbued by the author with meaning. And yet that is not really true, either. The meanings were already present, there to be discovered and noticed.

It was Sigurd Olson's role to notice them, and then to place his discoveries lovingly between the covers of books, that readers might share them. There is a phrase in one of Sig's books—it is one of my favorites. "Trying to catch the meanings that were there, in that moment before the lifting of the dark."

What a beautiful phrase, and how well it captures the essence of Sig Olson's writing, as well as his feelings about the Point itself. "Listening Point," he wrote, "is dedicated to recapturing the almost forgotten sense of wonder and learning from rocks and trees and all the life that is found there, truths that can encompass all.... From this one point I would explore the entire north and all of life, including my own. I could look to the stars and feel that here was a focal point of great celestial triangles, a point as important as any on the planet. For me it would be a listening-post from which I might hear even the music of the spheres." In other words, it was, and is, a sacred place.

But Sig Olson also wrote that "Everyone has a listening-point somewhere. It does not have to be in the north or close to the wilderness, but some place of quiet where the universe can be contemplated with awe."

It is a vital part of the mission of the Listening Point Foundation to maintain and preserve the Point as Sig Olson knew it, so that visitors might come and catch a glimpse of what he saw, hear an echo of what he heard. Make a pilgrimage, perhaps. Executive Director Alanna Dore and Vice President Chuck Wick selflessly and tirelessly make this magic available to countless visitors. But it is well to remember that we can all seek exactly what Sigurd Olson sought, in our own lives, in our own homes, and at our own listening-points.

The search for meaning goes on endlessly in a world of ever increasing knowledge but seemingly decreasing wisdom, of frenetic speed and change. It is a search that might lead some to an old cabin on a rocky point in northern Minnesota. But it can also lead to the ground beneath your own feet, a place to stand and listen and notice things, a place from which to see the world as sacred.

—Douglas Wood



Doug Wood Illustration

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This and That...

• **Our canoe raffle was another success** this year. The canoe was ultimately won by Julie Hayek, after the initial winner decided to decline the prize. Julie and her husband Pete are recent additions to the Ely community. They have a cabin on Burntside and don't own a canoe. Julie bought only ONE chance at the Blueberry Festival.

Congratulations Julie!



Pete Hayek photo

• **Sig's writing shack** (located at the Olson family home site) has a new coat of paint thanks to a several students, Yennifer Cedeno, Justine Cenzer, Nomin Ganbat, Madison Schmidt and



Photo: LPF archives

Jennifer Tran, and two leaders, Asa Fields and MyraMae Theriault, from the Voyageur Outward Bound School. A few of the VOBS crew also worked inside the shack giving it a thorough cleaning. A few days later, volunteer Nick Voiles came along to finish up where VOBS had left off. Many thanks to all.

• **LPF's first public Sig Olson exhibition** will be housed at the International Wolf Center, in Ely. The exhibit entitled *The Sigurd Olson Legacy: Wilderness, Writings and Wolves* will run from May 19 through October 31, 2013. Five components will make up the display, including a recreation of Sig's writing shack! Please plan to visit the Wolf Center and enjoy the exhibition.

• **LPF's Northwoods dinner** was well attended, the silent auction was well received, as was the speaker Darby Nelson. This event seems to have developed quite a following. We are looking forward to next year's 15th anniversary programming.

2013: LPF's 15th anniversary year!

Save the dates — come help us celebrate:

- **April 6:** Annual LPF Luncheon in St. Paul
- **May 20 through Oct. 31:** *Wilderness, Writing and Wolves, the Sigurd Olson Legacy* exhibit at the International Wolf Center in Ely
- **July 23 – 25:** Blueberry Arts Festival, Ely – LPF information booth
- **Sept 6:** Annual LPF Northwoods dinner in Ely

• **Visitors at the Point** topped 600 this year. We had a record year for groups visiting—sometimes as many as 30 people in a group. One of the groups—the Red Shirt Canoe Club—visited the cabin and Sig's writing shack on their way north for one of the most spectacular weekends in recent BWCAW history.

The group was graced with three days of mirror calm “paddling through the skies” water. They had full moon, northern lights, articulate loons, and gourmet meals.

Their paddles took them from Lake One to Fishdance Lake. Campfire readings featured Sigurd Olson and Wendell Berry. Sig would have been proud of their efforts.



Photo: LPF archives

The Red Shirt Canoe Club, pictured L to R: Clayton T. Russell, Washburn, WI; Pete Ostlind, Madison, WI; Ejner Pagh, Rockford, IL; and newcomer David Watermill from San Francisco

SFO's Lonely Land Trip...we need your input.

If you are familiar with Sig's “Lonely Land” trip and have made the trip yourself, we would like to talk with you. We are working on a special project for next year and would greatly appreciate your participation.

Please call Alanna @ 218-365-7890. Many thanks.

Writers' Workshop Weekend

If you enjoy nature writing, here is a unique opportunity—the chance to write, talk and think about writing at Sigurd Olson's Listening Point. This Writers' Retreat is an opportunity to draw inspiration from the same rocks, woods, and waters that inspired Sig, one of the foremost nature writers of the 20th century.

While we can't promise that you will write just like Sigurd Olson, we can promise the inspiration—the cabin, the foot trails, the lake itself.

Douglas Wood, President of LPF and author of 30 books, will serve as instructor/ coordinator, providing a warm and



Sig gathering inspiration at Listening Point, ca 1981.

Photo: LPF archives

welcoming environment for writing and sharing, and guiding discussions. Come and explore the concepts of writing about landscape and the natural world, about language, personal voice and style, the business of publishing, and of course the extended opportunity to enjoy the Point itself.

Dates: Sept 6 - 8, 2013

Cost: \$535, includes both food and lodging. Adults only. Please call 218-365-7890 for more information and to reserve your spot, or email us at info@listeningpointfoundation.org. ●

Letters from Sig

The Listening Point Foundation received the following "letter from Sig" from one of our members, Jim Annis, who got it from Richard Malmel.

In a followup e-mail, Richard wrote:

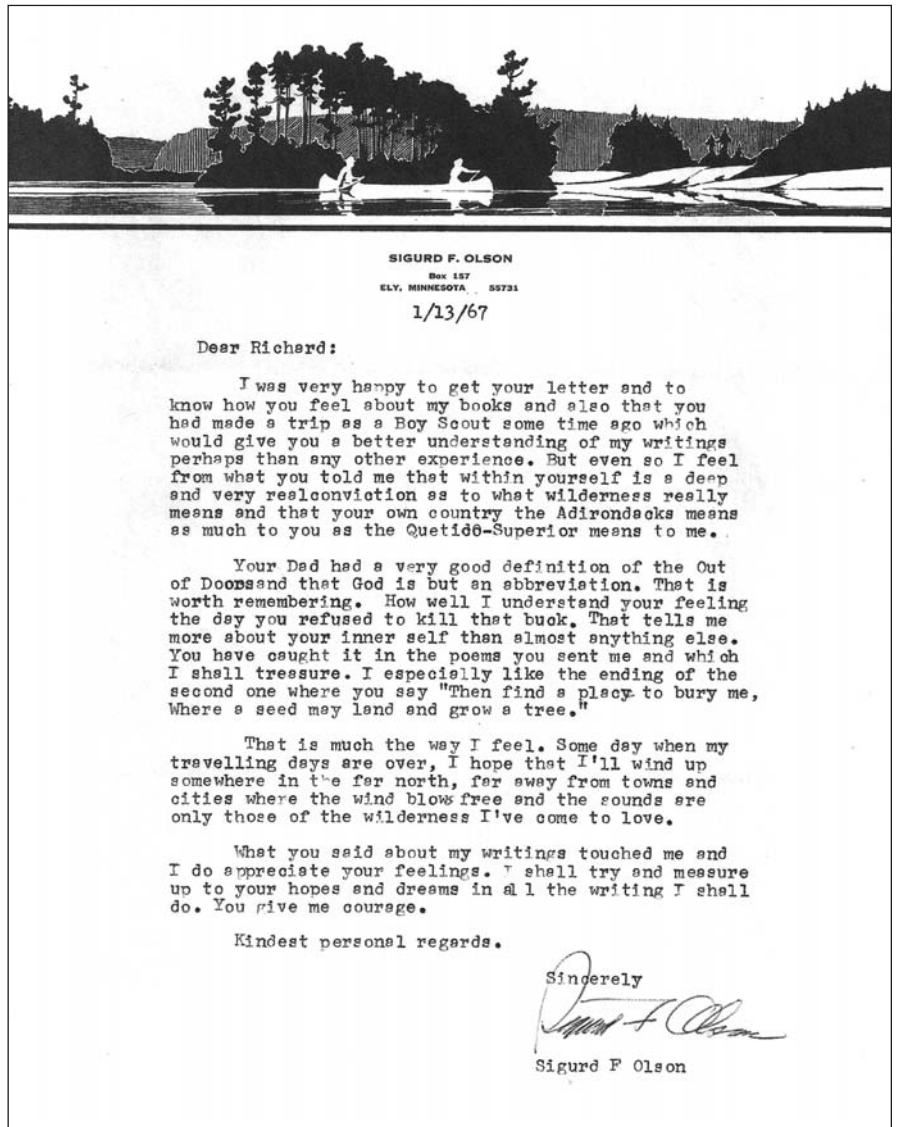
"This letter was written to me by S.F.O. I had taken a canoe trip from Ely to the Quetico Park with the Boy Scouts. We drove there from upstate New York. As a life experience the trip proved significant.

"Our guide recommended a book: *The Singing Wilderness* by Sigurd F Olson. I have read the book many times and was moved for the first time in my life to write an author.

"It was an unexpected surprise to receive an answer and such a thoughtful answer. As a young person impressed, I put the letter in a frame and hung it on my wall. Over the decades, the wall changed but the letter continued to hang.

"I now live on the Oaxaca Coast of Mexico. Wendy and Jim visit the area. They are from Ely, Minnesota. The Ely connection brought forth my mention of the letter. I was of the understanding that the Foundation would enjoy sharing the letter in your newsletter.

"Reading the letter to me from Sigurd F Olson reminded me of the character of a man who would take so much time to encourage an unknown youth. Now it has traveled full circle."



For Love of Lakes

by Darby Nelson, Michigan State University Press, 2011

Reviewed by RK Olson

For Love of Lakes is not only one of the best books in my library but, in my opinion, the best of 2011. And I read a lot. Like Thoreau's *Walden*, Carson's *Silent Spring*, and Sigurd Olson's *The Singing Wilderness*, it has a timeless quality.

I started to read the book fast as I usually do with a new book. But it was not long before I realized that it should be read slowly and thoughtfully. Then I began to savor it chapter by chapter with increasing pleasure and intense interest.

Nelson writes with authority. He is a Minnesota man with lakes in his DNA. He is a writer, a scientist, and a teacher. But what a writer, what a scientist, what a teacher!

Like a good teacher he approaches his subject from several angles. He writes that a lake is like a metaphorical theater. But the curtain never truly goes up. "It remains closed but for a snippet of monologue here and a moment of repartee (there) . . . that whispers through the tiny scattered rents of the curtain. I can but wonder about the truths in the watery depths and wonder about life beyond the curtain's veil."

In more prosaic terms, Nelson writes that we must see the world below the surface not just as a world of fish and vegetation but as a universe. The picture is of a stirring new world of the seen and the unseen, each an integral part of the life of the lake.

Warming to his subject, Nelson writes that water looks to his eyes as it always has, but not to his mind. "My mind frolics," he writes, ". . . and turns the mundane into magic."

Thoreau might well have written that. "The vegetative zone of a lake is more than a place to delight the senses. It is a sacred garden, loss of the garden plucks the pulsing green heart from the lake." AMEN.

The author's premise or apologia is that the world loves and immortalizes its lakes but only what can be seen on the surface

and around the shore. Today, the surface is peppered with boats, the shore with cabins, docks, houses, bars and beaches, that is what we love. So far so good. Why not? The problem is that the life and beauty above the surface is linked to and depends on what lives below the surface. This is ominous sounding.

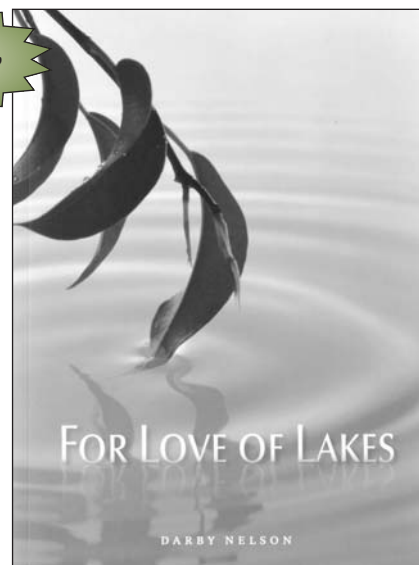
For example, we are now writing the epitaph for the Tullibee, a Minnesota sport fish trapped between increasing warm surface water and the cold low-oxygen depths. Global warming is changing life below as well as above the water. We are testing our lakes carefully to monitor the increasing density of wind-blown mercury, lethal to man and beast.

This lack of management and control is puzzling because the scientific exploration of lake ecology has been well established from the instincts of Thoreau to our modern scientific knowledge. But lakes continue to deteriorate. Why? Nelson writes that "I resolved to undertake a journey of exploration to investigate the relation between people and lakes. I also set out to get a glimpse of our lakes' future."

This book, *For Love of Lakes*, is Nelson's report.

Nothing can ruin interest in a new book more than a lengthy review. So I will end with my personal conclusion. That is that I will never be able to love a lake like Darby Nelson, but I loved the book. And so will you. So there. ●

Available in
our Gift Shop
on page 8



Sig and Wilderness Recreation (Continued from page 1)

Finally, Sig clearly calls in this article for full wilderness status for the Boundary Waters, free of logging, motorboats, and snowmobiles. He had publicly articulated this position in 1964 at the start of the Selke Committee deliberations, even though some of his wilderness friends like Charles S. Kelly and Frank Brookes Hubachek had not yet come that far. Some of Sig's other wilderness friends, however, such as Dr. Miron L. "Bud" Heinselman, had pushed strongly for full wilderness status in 1964-65 and encouraged Sig to champion that position. Sig's article repeats that call, and in some ways presages the Congressional fight that Bud himself would help lead from 1975-1978 to accomplish much of that laudable goal.

Beyond these echoes of the Selke Committee/Freeman Directives struggle, this article contains some of the familiar and some things more unusual. Sig recites the past battles to save the canoe country, as he did in many other articles. But he also writes of the economic value of wilderness recreation to the local economy, which is a less common theme for him. He also couches his call for full wilderness status for the BWCA in zoning language, another little-used rhetorical device in Sig's writings.

—Kevin Proescholdt is the national conservation director for Wilderness Watch (www.wildernesswatch.org) and a member of the Listening Point Foundation's National Advisory Board.

Wilderness Canoe Country *(Continued from page 1)*

waterfalls, beaches, and campsites, destroying forests and creating vast swamps and ugly sloughs far inland, there would have been little to protect today.

Greater use, however, brings its own hazards to the wilderness, especially when it means mechanization in the form of outboard motors, snowmobiles, and other craft or vehicles. It is my firm belief that mechanized use of any kind in this small area is destructive of wilderness values and that it should be strictly regulated and in time eliminated entirely.

Opponents of such regulation point at Canada, saying it permits airplanes, airplane resorts, and unrestricted motor boat use, that we have lost business now going north. This may be true to a certain extent, but it must be recognized that the BWCA is only a million acres whereas Canada has hundreds of millions of acres of forested lakes and waterways accessible by air.

Due to its relatively small size, the BWCA cannot stand such types of use. Canada due to its vastness can absorb it. However, Ontario has banned snowmobiles in all its provincial parks including the Quetico as detrimental to wilderness values, fish and wildlife.

No one likes regulation, but regulation is mandatory when large numbers of people use any area. Fifty years ago there were no highway patrols, or stop and go signs, nor was there any need for zoning in towns and cities. We did not need regulations then but we do now. The BWCA as a part of a national forest needs such protection through zoning if it is to be properly administered and protected.

As our population increases, and it may double by the end of the century, with more leisure time and better transportation facilities, pressures will become greater and greater. Our responsibility today is to plan as wisely as we can to preserve the wilderness character of an area that belongs not only to us but to every man, woman, and child in the United States. This is not a local issue but a national one, and whatever is done must reflect the needs of all the people. Our obligation is a great one, to preserve this area unchanged for coming generations who will need it far more than us....

The Local Economy

The canoe outfitting business is a substantial and important source of income to the area. For some years I ran the Border

Lakes Outfitting Company at Winton and know from personal experience that canoe parties leave good U.S. dollars not only with outfitters, but with motels, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and stores.

A prominent local outfitter recently had his parties fill out a questionnaire as to the actual money spent on canoe trips, the final figure averaging about \$40.00 per person. If this is a normal expenditure and there are 50,000 people going into the canoe country annually, it will amount to \$2,000,000. There are indications that this figure might well be doubled and the U.S. Forest Service estimates that some 250,000 people use the Boundary Waters Canoe Area each season. For those who believe that canoeists leave little money, such figures are hard to contradict.

Camping as a form of recreation has exploded all over the United States. With better equipment, more leisure, and improved access, whole families are taking to the road and nothing will stop the trend. It is like the boom in skiing and the phenomenal growth of ski resorts. People have discovered that this is the best and most economical way to enjoy the country and canoe trips are part of the pattern.

That is why they come in ever-increasing numbers and will continue as long as the canoe country retains its character as the only lake wilderness of its kind in the United States.

Multiple Use and Zoning

The concept of Multiple Use is a sound one and a major premise in management of the U.S. Forest Service. Only when it is understood, however, that all uses must not be practiced on every acre does it accomplish its true purpose. In the congressional act establishing this broad concept, wilderness is specifically recognized as a legitimate use in all national forests.

One fact that is usually overlooked is that the Boundary Waters Canoe Area is only the upper third of the Superior National Forest and that the balance of over two million acres of land and water can be used for recreational developments of all kinds in accordance with Forest Service planning and protection, scenic roads, resorts and lodges, snowmobile trails, free outboard motor use, timber utilization and mining. In this much larger part of the forest all such utilization is possible.

The slogan of "Saving our Wilderness through Multiple

Our responsibility today is to plan as wisely as we can to preserve the wilderness character of an area that belongs not only to us but to every man, woman, and child in the United States. This is not a local issue but a national one, and whatever is done must reflect the needs of all the people.

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Guest Pen: Sig Olson and the Lure of Ely

By John Thurston

I came to Ely eleven years ago and fell in love. I fell in love with the beauty, the people and the experiences of Nature in these North Woods. I discovered Minnesota Nice. I fell in love with the whole experience, and I couldn't get enough of it. I started reading everything I could get my hands on about the "experience" of the wilderness. Bob Cary, Helen Hoover, and Aldo Leopold among others, and, of course, Sigurd Olson.

Discovering and reading Sigurd Olson's books was, to me, akin to finding the Holy Grail. I so related to his writings, I have read most of his books several times. Especially *The Singing Wilderness* and *Listening Point*. I began to feel..... the way he wrote. Going into the wilderness was like going into communion with God. Going into the CATHEDRAL of God. It was summed up for me when I came across these words of his from "Why Wilderness?", an article he wrote over seven decades ago in 1938: "In some men, the need of unbroken country, primitive conditions, and intimate contact with the earth is a deeply rooted cancer gnawing forever at the illusion of contentment with things as they are. For months or years, this hidden longing may go unnoticed, then, without warning, flare forth in an all-consuming passion that will not bear denial. Why Wilderness? Ask the men who have known it and made it part of their lives. They might not be able to explain, but your very question will kindle a light in eyes that have reflected the campfires of a continent, the glories of dawns and sunsets and nights under the stars."

I am here today, in part, because of Sigurd Olson, and I believe there are many others who are here for the same reason.

Sig's wilderness experiences and adventures led him predictably to his first major magazine article fully focused on a "wilderness philosophy." The article was "Search for the Wild," in *Sports Afield* (May 1932): "Those who go forth into wild,

unsettled regions, if asked the reason for their travels will give a variety of answers. For some it will be fishing, others hunting and the securing of trophies, still others to photograph. What he is really looking for is that intangible something he calls 'the wild'. To most men, 'the wild' and contact with it are a necessary part of existence. The urge to escape the rush and unnaturalness of urban life and make intimate and forceful contact with the earth once more is a more powerful incentive than most men care to admit even to themselves."

Continuing this line of thought in his *Reflections from the North Country*, Olson said, "Aware of our relentless drive for economic development and an ever-higher standard of living at the expense of dwindling resources, and the swiftly mounting degradation of environment and beauty of the natural scene, we are beginning to realize our future course can no longer be at the expense of quality in our lives. Only when we see ourselves as members of a balanced community can we live successfully."

Much later Sig wrote in *Open Horizons* (1969): "I look at wilderness now

with profound respect, knowing it must be preserved as a retreat for harried mankind in a world hurtling toward what seems to be a complete divorce from the past. Knowing what it means, I can better understand the vast complex of our needs and the longing for a way of life that with many is only a memory."

Let's hope Sigurd Olson is always remembered as an integral part of Ely's history as well as a champion of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. I can't imagine Ely being "The Coolest Small Town in America," or having a chapter all to itself in Charles Kuralt's book *America*, or being listed as one of the 1000 Places to See Before You Die, or the Wolf Center or the Bear Center being here, but for the tireless efforts of Sigurd Olson so many decades ago. ●



John Thurston and his wife Sue hiking near Ely

Photo courtesy John Thurston

Wilderness Canoe Country (Continued from page 6)

Use" is sound only in the proper application of the concept, but is absolutely erroneous if it means the kind of management and utilization allowed in the rest of the forest. The wilderness was here long before white men came, needs no logging or mechanized use to survive, only protection. Those who believe that through a continuation of timber harvesting and other adverse uses the wilderness can be saved violate the true concept of zoning.

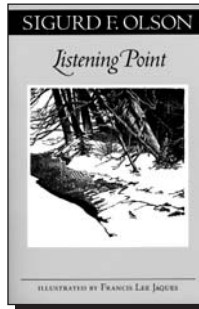
Correctly interpreted, the idea of zoning the canoe country for wilderness use and relegating all other uses to the major part of the forest is the only hope for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. If it is to remain unchanged and inviolate this is the only course and not too much to ask for the American people. ●

Gift Shop

Share the spirit of Listening Point with friends and family with one of these gift items that celebrate Sigurd Olson and Listening Point.

Items by and about Sigurd Olson

New Edition!



Sigurd Olson Classics
 Attractive paperback versions of seven of Sigurd Olson's most loved books.

- ❖ *The Singing Wilderness*
- ❖ *Listening Point*
- ❖ *The Lonely Land*
- ❖ *Runes of the North*
- ❖ *Open Horizons*
- ❖ *Reflections from the North Country*
- ❖ *Of Time and Place*

..... \$15 each



The Wilderness World of Sigurd F. Olson DVD

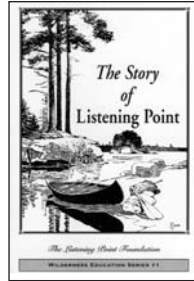
A digitally remastered version of the classic film "The Wilderness World of Sigurd F. Olson" includes more than two hours of conversations with Sig as he speaks about the craft of writing and life in the wilderness. You'll also hear Sig's wife Elizabeth and their son Sig Jr. speak candidly about Sigurd, his profession, and life in the north woods.

..... \$15



Wilderness Days
 University of Minnesota Press has published a new paperback edition of *Wilderness Days*—a collection of Sig's writings that depicts the essence of the magnificent woodlands and waters of the legendary Quetico-Superior region that borders Minnesota and Ontario.

..... \$18



The Story of Listening Point

This 28-page booklet, written by Sig's son Robert K. Olson, tells the inside story of how Listening Point came to be and why, what it meant to Sigurd Olson, and what it continues to mean to wilderness lovers and loyalists. Features dozens of historical photos and images.

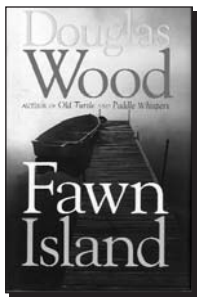
..... \$5



Sig Olson's Wilderness Moments

For Kids! Five selections of Sig Olson's writings, with "Points to Ponder" and "Activities" following each section. Excellent opportunity to introduce Sig to the younger generation. Includes blank pages at the end of the book for several of the activities—journaling, mapping, etc.

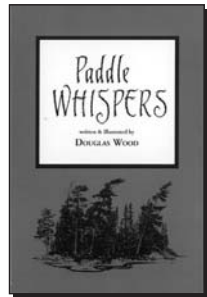
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Fawn Island (hard cover)

Fawn Island is not merely a charming wilderness hideaway; it is the entry to realms of thought and meaning as well. Author Doug Wood probes for meaning into the nature of neighborliness and independence, of community and solitude.

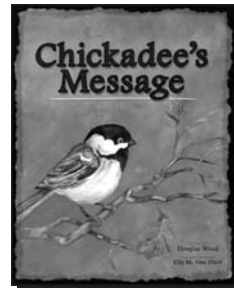
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Paddle Whispers

An illustrated, nonfiction meditation by Doug Wood about the human soul encountering itself through the soul of the wilderness on a canoe trip through the rocks, woods and water of the North Country.

..... \$16

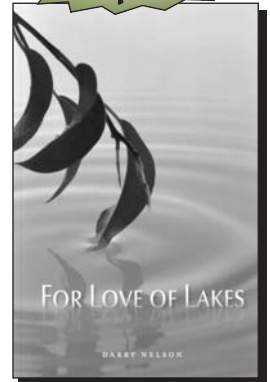


Chickadee's Message (hard cover)

Doug Wood's retelling of a Lakota Indian legend about chickadees' strong spirit and boundless good cheer. The story is accompanied by Elly Van Diest's stunning watercolor illustrations that make this an appealing book for readers of all ages.

..... \$15

Reviewed on page 5



For Love of Lakes (hard cover)

The book, by Darby Nelson, focuses on the lakes, ponds, and waters outside your very home and the intricacies of the ecosystems found there. Further, *For Love of Lakes* documents our species' long relationship with lakes and addresses the stewardship issue, while providing an improved understanding of our most treasured natural resource.

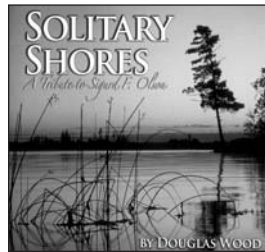
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LPF Hats

For your wearing pleasure! 100% cotton, embroidered with the Listening Point logo. Choose from two colors: cream or loden green. Adjustable leather strap.

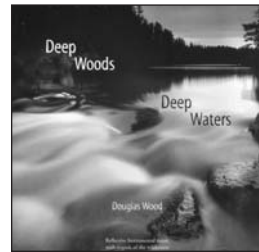
..... \$18



Solitary Shores CD

First recorded in 1983, *Solitary Shores* was Douglas Wood's musical tribute to Sigurd Olson. All of the songs have a strong North Country flavor, and there is even a segment of Sig reading from one of his own essays.

..... \$18



Deep Woods Deep Waters CD

Douglas Wood's diverse rapturous-to-ragtime melodies take you deep into the wilderness on a journey of self discovery.

..... \$18

See next page for the Gift Shop order form

Listening Point Foundation Gift Shop
order form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Items by and about Sigurd Olson:

Sigurd Olson paperback books @ \$15.00 = _____
specify title(s): _____

Wilderness World of Sigurd F. Olson DVD @ \$15.00 = _____

Wilderness Days @ \$15.00 = _____

Story of Listening Point booklet @ \$ 5.00 = _____

Wilderness Moments booklet @ \$ 5.00 = _____

Other items:

Fawn Island @ \$20.00 = _____

Paddle Whispers @ \$16.00 = _____

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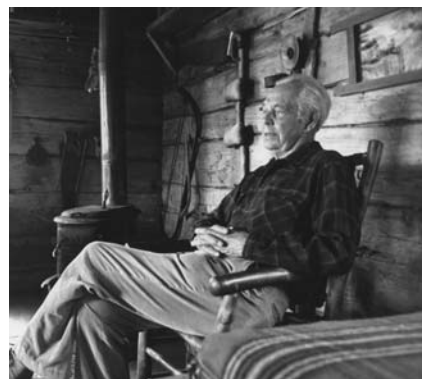
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All items may be ordered from our website via PayPal. Orders also may be placed by email (to info@listeningpointfoundation.org) or fax (to 218/365-7072). Invoices will be included with your shipped order.

Quote from Sig:

"Over all was the silence of the wilderness, that sense of oneness which comes only when there are no distracting sights or sounds, when we listen with inward ears and see with inward eyes, when we feel and are aware with our entire beings rather than our senses. I thought as I sat there of the ancient admonition 'Be still and know that I am God,' and knew that without stillness there can be no knowing, without divorcement from outside influences man cannot know what spirit means."

— from The Singing Wilderness



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Thank you one and all. We met the challenge and reached our goal with help from each of you. Special thanks goes to Martin and Esther Kellogg for their very generous \$15,000 matching donation.

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in memory of Sigurd Jr.

*These lists acknowledge gifts received from May 1, 2012 thru October 25, 2012.

Our Adventure on Listening Point

By Carlie and Chloe Beatty, age 11

Today, we visited Listening Point and learned about Sigurd Olson, a famous writer up in the small town of Ely, Minn.

Sigurd, or “Sig” grew up in Wisconsin where he fell in love with the woods, streams, and Great Lakes. He was born in Chicago in 1899 and he died while snowshoeing in 1982. The last words found on his typewriter were, “A new adventure is coming up and I’m sure it will be a good one.”

Sig moved to Ely with his family and became a biology teacher. After his teaching days, he found 36 acres of land on Burntside Lake. Sig loved the trees and never wanted to cut any of them down. He always wanted a sauna so he bought a little blacksmith shop and turned it into one! When he was finished taking a super hot sauna, he would run down to the lake and jump in! Only one of four places on Burntside Lake have a natural sand beach so this was one of my favorite spots on the tour.

Now, the coolest part, the cabin! Sig found a two-story chicken coop, which he made into his cabin. It’s only one story now but it has a lot of stuff in it like a stone fireplace, two beds, and a table. His canoe still rests up in the beams of the ceiling. The chimney was made out of rocks that were found in the lake and on the land.

We all really liked the cabin and thought it smelled like pine trees. Sig loved his cabin and tried to write there but with the view outside the windows, he couldn’t keep his eyes off it! He turned his garage into his writing area and that is where he wrote nine books. Every day Sig would go to Listening Point and hear the birds chirping and the waves splashing against the shoreline. Can you picture his life yet? I hope you enjoyed some facts about Sigurd Olson and Listening Point, come visit! ●

—Twins Carlie and Chloe Beatty and their parents visited Listening Point in September of this year.
The visit and the report were integral parts of a home-school assignment..



Cheri Beatty photo

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For more information on giving, please contact us at 218-365-7890.*



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