



View from

# Listening Point

Newsletter of the Listening Point Foundation, Inc.

Volume XIX, Number 2

Fall 2016

[www.listeningpointfoundation.org](http://www.listeningpointfoundation.org)

## Sigurd Olson and the Establishment of Voyageurs National Park

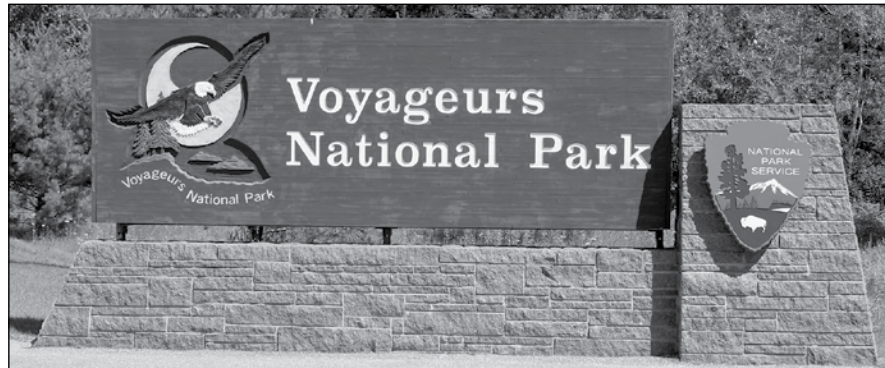
By Kevin Proescholdt

This year, 2016, marks the centennial of the formation of the National Park Service. The heightened awareness of the National Park Service surrounding this anniversary has triggered a fresh interest in the national parks that this agency manages. Of particular interest to those with an interest in Sigurd F. Olson is the story of national parks in Sig's home state of Minnesota and Sig's role with them. As this article will show, Sig did play a critical role in the establishment of Minnesota's only full-fledged national park, Voyageurs National Park, for at least a decade in the 1960s and early 1970s.

There had long been an interest in establishing a national park along the international border in northern Minnesota. As early as 1891, the Minnesota Legislature passed a resolution asking the President to establish a national park in Minnesota by "setting apart a tract of land along the northern boundary of the state, between the mouth of the Vermilion River on the east and Lake of the Woods on the west...."

By 1959, the National Park Service (NPS) expressed interest in updating its 1939 parks and recreation plan for the Minnesota Division of State Parks, and NPS field staff visited the area to do that and to begin investigating possible national areas in the Kabetogama Lake area. The State Parks Director, U.W. "Judge" Hella (not a judge in real life), briefed Minnesota Governor Elmer L. Andersen in September 1961 about the NPS interest, and Andersen became like Hella an enthusiastic national park supporter. Sigurd Olson would also play a vital role.

At this point in time, Sig stood in a very important position nationally. He had gained national attention for his wilderness conservation work in the late 1940s to protect the area later to be renamed the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Sig had worked as a wilderness ecologist for the Izaak Walton League of America since the late-1940s, and also served as a consultant to the President's Quetico-Superior Committee. He had written three critically-acclaimed and popular books (*The Singing Wilderness*, 1956; *Listening Point*, 1958; and *The Lonely Land*, 1961) that brought him new national distinction and standing, with three more books coming



out later in the 1960s. He had served on the board of directors of the National Parks Association for most of the 1950s, including six years as board president, and he had joined the Wilderness Society's Governing Council in 1956, of which he would also become president in the 1960s.

And perhaps most importantly for the Voyageurs story, Sig served on the Department of Interior's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments beginning in 1959. This prestigious board advised the Interior Secretary on park management and potential new national parks. Invited to join by President Eisenhower's Interior Secretary, Fred Seaton, Sig continued on this board during the new Kennedy Administration where he strengthened his friendship with NPS Director Conrad "Connie" Wirth and developed a close relationship with newly-appointed Interior Secretary Stewart Udall. Those connections, his position on the National Parks Advisory Board, and his

**Continued on page 6**

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

# The Meaning of Place

Places can be marvelous things. Strange things. Fragile things.

Sometimes a place is just that—a place to put your keys, hang a picture, park your car. A place to go to work or go out to eat. But sometimes places are a little bit more. Sometimes a place is rest for a weary mind, repository for dear memories and deep feelings. Sometimes a place is a home for the soul.

We all have places that mean something special to us. Although sometimes in the rush and semi-chaos of life we forget about them or lose track of them, still they are there—in some safe and treasured corner of the heart. And when the rush calms just a little, when there is a quiet moment to reflect, we can find the memories, the feelings, that are the residue of place.

It may be a church, a park, or a school remembered from childhood. It may be a hill or a trail or a patch of woods, a favorite shade tree, the site of a first kiss, the scene of some personal triumph, a ball field or a favorite fishing hole.

For many of us, the places that mean the most are out of doors—for all the added meanings the natural world provides. A favorite campsite or trail, a mountain or lake or island, is often remembered and loved as much or more for its own intrinsic qualities and values as for anything that happened there. The sounds, sights and smells of a place can become wedded to particular activities and events so deeply that they are inextricably tied in memory. And when a place is a part of something larger, a landscape of beauty and meaning and integrity, then the entirety of a sense of place is complete.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, along with Quetico Provincial Park, Voyageurs National Park and the entire Quetico Superior country, has long been such a landscape for millions. And within that landscape are countless particular places of profound meaning for countless individuals. It is one of the great mysteries and charms of wilderness and the natural world that each of us has our own pair of eyes and ears, our own mind and heart and life-experience that determines why and how we might fall in love with a place.

As a child, I was introduced and returned every year to a lake called Kabetogama, now a part of Voyageurs National Park. It is a beautiful lake—a lake of white granite shorelines and tall pines, quiet bays of cattails and bulrushes, with long vistas of open water dotted with islands. The names are as familiar and dear to me as family members: Sugarbush and Cutover, Marten and Wolf, the Grassies and Nashota's Point and Lost Bay. I long dreamed of someday having a place on Kabetogama. But when the opportunity finally arrived with a successful book and a little bit of money, the establishment of the park meant that there was precious little real estate available. Still, I gladly traded the dream of a place on “my lake” for the protection the park provided.

Instead, we found a spot on nearby Rainy Lake—an island with an old, run-down cabin, a floating (sinking) dock and an out-house. And we set about discovering, creating, and enjoying everything about it that would make it our own special place. And so it became, through a combination of sunsets and moonrises, storms and windfalls and hard work, dock repair and cabin repair and late nights of Parcheesi and cut-throat card games. Fawn Island became everything a beloved place can be—as well as a symbol and reminder of all the campsites, lakes, and islands I had loved in a lifetime of wilderness travel and canoe trips. And through the presence of my family—my wife and children and now grandchildren, it became even more.

Sigurd Olson had found his place many years before, and it was perhaps through his example and my reading of *Listening Point*—the first Olson book I read and still my favorite—that the dream and later reality of our Fawn Island came to be. On *Listening Point*, Sig discovered all that he was looking for: the opportunity to tie together his deep feelings for the Canoe Country, his love of wilderness, and his commitment to its preservation. In walking its glaciated bedrock and listening to the wind in the pines, in building his little cabin, woodshed and sauna, in swimming at the little beach and paddling the clear, deep waters of the lake—and in sharing all these joys with his family, Sig was able to forge a powerful connection to this little piece of the Earth. He found a home for his soul. And in writing his book, he gave that gift to countless readers.

Today Sig no longer walks the trail among the bearberry and the corydalis, but of course he is still there. And visitors who come to hear the loons and watch the sunsets feel his presence. They might have read the book or heard the stories, or might feel some vague call for a sense of place and a home for the soul. Such places are forever needed, and forever in need of protection. The integrity of a landscape and all of the magical places within it can never be taken for granted. And such places seem to be endlessly under assault. The siren call of riches and profit, of extraction and exploitation, is as powerful as it ever was. As Sig said, the battle goes on forever.

Places are marvelous things. Strange things. Fragile things. Sometimes they reside only in memory—in some treasured corner of the heart. But sometimes, with commitment and intent, they can be preserved and given to the future. And there are few greater gifts. For in the love of place can be found solace for the spirit, and strength for the battles to come.

— Doug Wood



Doug Wood illustration

## Inside

This and That	3
Calendar	3
Book Club Visits	4
Map Project	5
Writers Among Readers	7
Gift Shop	8-9
Quote from Sig	10
Thank You Donors	11



## This and That

- **A new exhibit** is on display at the local Ely-Winton Historical Society: "3 Stars of the North!" Dorothy Molter (the rootbeer lady), Bob Cary, and Sig Olson all have Ely histories. The exhibit will be in place until the spring of 2017.
- **Our first full year of operations** here at the LPF House has gone extremely well. We were able to share the Olson family home, Sig's writing shack and Elizabeth's cookies with more than 800 individuals. It is such a pleasure to be able to share "Sig" stories with so many folks from all over the country. Further, a number of volunteers helped with ever so many projects—tree and brush work at the Point, cutting the grass at the house, yard work, office work, watering plants, organizing bricks for the patio, many trips to the Point, storm clean up—we fared very well with no damage to the cabin or the iconic trees on the Point. The list is endless. We couldn't do what we do without the dedication and energy of our volunteers.
- **Sig's influence far and wide:** pictured here a puppy named "Sig." Kathleen, one of our members who lives close by in Brimson, Minn., stopped in for a visit. She raises dogs and has a sled dog trip business. Director Alanna happened to have a solo sled that she was looking to give away. So off the sled went, the puppy was born, and the name was shared, and Sig's influence continues on once again.



## Calendar

### 2016

**Oct. 29-30:** LPF Board meeting and strategic planning meeting, LPF House, Ely, MN

**Nov. 17:** Give MN donation day—donate online today or later.

### 2017

**April 22 (Earth Day):** LPF's annual luncheon, St. Paul, MN

**April 22:** Earth Fest, Mt. Iron, MN ([ironrangeearthfest.org](http://ironrangeearthfest.org)); LPF information booth—stop by!

**May:** Volunteer Party, date tbd

**June 9-11:** Great American Canoe Festival, Ely, MN ([greatamericancanoeifest.org](http://greatamericancanoeifest.org)); LPF information booth—come and see us.

**July 28-30:** Blueberry Arts Festival, Ely, MN; LPF information booth #151—please stop in and say hello.

**Sept. 8:** Annual Northwoods Dinner, Grand Ely Lodge, Ely, MN

*Please check our website and Facebook page for additional activities and dates.*

## Our Canoe Raffle Winners Write...

Dear Alanna and the Board of the Listening Point Foundation:

We want to thank the Listening Point Foundation for all the work you do and for the amazing Wenonah canoe and bent shaft paddles which we recently won in your raffle. In addition to being a wonderful surprise, it was very meaningful to us as we have a very special bond with the Boundary Waters and Sigurd Olson's Listening Point. As biologists, Sig's writing were always inspiring. So much so, we actually moved to Ely in the late 1990s. Although work took us away from Ely, our hearts and our love of the wilderness there still remain. We have tried to take our children camping in the Boundary Waters every summer. We have watched them grow from toddling along on the portages, to carrying the canoes and packs, to planning their own trips with their friends. But mostly we have watched their appreciation of wilderness and water grow with each passing year. So when we won the canoe, we're not sure who was more excited, us or them! Regardless, it will definitely get passed down over the years to the next generation of paddlers. In fact, they already seem to have claimed it!

Beyond the canoe, however, we truly appreciate what Sigurd Olson did to preserve the Boundary Waters Wilderness and what the Listening Point Foundation does to preserve his legacy. He created a whole new generation of people who can experience and learn to appreciate the importance of wild places and our water.

We picked up the canoe last Friday and put it in the water at Listening Point. We thought Sig would have liked that. Many thanks,

—Karin Kozie and Bill Route



*Karin Kozie and Bill Route, with friend Heidi Breaker, at the Point.*

## Aitken Book Club Visits Listening Point

By Linda Hommes

What do inquisitive and adventurous people do after reading and discussing books by Sigurd Olson? Travel to Ely, of course. Paulette Anderson, Maryann Holder, Linda Hommes, Ruth Lofgren, and Nanci Sauerbrel, book club friends from Aitkin, Minn., visited Listening Point on August 22. The readers from Aitken have an additional connection to Sigurd Olson's writing. Aitkin is the home of the Jaques Art Center and Museum. Francis Lee Jaques illustrated three of Sig's books: *The Singing Wilderness*, *Listening Point* and *The Lonely Land*.

Linda Hommes shared her memories of Listening Point and the LP House in the September 21, 2016 issue of the *Aitken Independent Age* weekly newspaper. Read on for excerpts:

*After reading and discussing Sigurd Olson's Listening Point, five members of the "Classics First" Book Club were lured to Ely's northern woods.*

*Published in 1958 and illustrated with 28 Francis Lee Jaques drawings, this book chronicles Olson's relationship with the special place on a point on Burntside Lake he named "Listening Point." In Quetico-Superior country, he found all the elements he had long searched for—the sunsets, moonrises and northern lights, the little bay with crystal clear water, glaciated rocks, a level spot for a tent and, ultimately, a cabin. There he heard the wailing of loons, screaming seagulls and the whispering of pines.*

*Our August visit began when we met our tour guide, Patsy Mogush. After a short history, we followed Mogush along a mossy and lichen-covered rock-strewn trail to a 10x16 foot cedar dock overlooking a beautiful bay with sand beach and sparkling clear water.*

*Along the way we saw the two woodsheds and sauna....we continued walking along bearberry and blueberry bushes to the rocky ledge where we could actually see long parallel scratches made by the glaciers that moved from north to southwest. Here among the Norway pines, Sig and Elizabeth could look out over Burntside Lake and see the sunsets, moonrises and hear the loons.*



**Book Club members and LPF tour guide Patsy Mogush.**

*A large block of greenstone stands near Sig's one room cabin of Finnish construction.... The interior was sparsely furnished. Two handmade wood bed frames were covered with red and black checked blankets. A few wood chairs, pine trestle table and benches, stone fireplace, small seldom-used refrigerator that often stored supplies, Sig's old tackle box and a few shelves with books gave the cabin a homey, rustic atmosphere.*

*We sat quietly for several minutes listening to the wind softly blowing through the pines and the sound of waves rolling upon the shore.*

*The last stop...was a return to Ely where we toured Olson's home and his writer's "shack."*

*We left Mogush with our warm "thank you" for the knowledge and enthusiasm she had shared with us over our three-hour tour. We all came away with a deeper understating of the man, his love for all creation, and the desire to read more of his books. We acknowledge that without many individuals such as Sigurd Olson, dedicated to conservation and preservation of wilderness and historic areas, much of what we now treasure in national parks, national monuments and wilderness areas, would have been lost to future generations.*

### Can You Help?

We recently received the following note from Richard, one of our members:

*"At one time I had two cassette tapes of someone reading Sig Olson's stories. I loaned them out like a fool, and never got them back. I have never found another source for them, and cannot remember where I got them. Is there a source for recordings of his books? I would love to listen to his words again while driving on road trips or in case I go blind. Thank you."*

Please contact the Listening Point Foundation if you can assist!

# SAVE THE DATE

# give TO THE MAX

## NOV 17, 2016

# Givemn.org

**A simple and convenient donation opportunity!**  
**Just enter: Listening Point Foundation**

# Visit to the Shack Turns into Graduate Project

By Steffi O'Brien

"A little step may be the beginning of a great journey." —Unknown

And so it has been. My little step just happened to occur inside Sigurd Olson's Writing Shack on August 3, 2015. Upon entering the Shack for the first time, my eyes swept over the solid desk and classic typewriter, the table full of rocks and other outdoor treasures, and the many happy pictures of people and adventures from years past tacked to the walls.

Among other things, I also happened to notice a number of rolled up, poster-sized papers of varying length neatly stacked on top of the old filing cabinets in the far corner. Maps, I thought. Glorious maps! At least that was my guess, and it turned out to be right for the grand majority of them. But that comes later in this story.

Let me take a moment and introduce myself. My name is Steffi O'Brien, and I am a lifelong Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) enthusiast and avid reader of Sig's writings. I am also currently pursuing my Masters in Experiential Education at Minnesota State University Mankato; a program dedicated to learning and education through hands-on, direct experience, meaningful reflection and analysis, and mindful application at all stages and in all areas of life.

Back in August of 2015, I was still searching for a final capstone project for my degree. My hope was to create one that would integrate my passions for lifelong learning, the natural world (especially Northern Minnesota), and the study of geography (especially historical geography and cartography). You can probably see where this is going.

Also during that same August, my father and I finally took our long overdue trip to the BWCAW. Fresh off of our 10-day journey, we planned to stop by the Listening Point Foundation as a part of one of my smaller summer projects. The visit itself almost did not happen, due to a series of slightly bungled communications. Luckily, after persistent phone calls and voicemails from both sides, we pulled into the Olsons' driveway and began our tour at the Writing Shack.

The spotting of the maps happened almost immediately, with subsequent inquiries of whether we could unroll a few and have a look. Alanna's answer was something along the lines of, "Well, sure you can look at them! No one

has really gone through those since the '80s."

I am fairly certain my heart stopped for a brief moment when I heard those words. A collection of nearly-untouched and unexamined maps! Having studied cartography for my B.A. in Geography and having a deep and abiding love of maps and geography in general, I may have gotten a tad overexcited at this discovery.

This initial enthusiasm led to the rapid making of plans with Alanna to come back to Ely at a future date and at the very least, catalogue this collection and take notes and photos. But of course, this was not just any collection of old maps. This collection also happened to belong to Sigurd Olson, a man whose writings I identify with so strongly that his words accompany me on every Boundary Waters trip I have ever been on and led. I constantly share his story and knowledge in my academic and personal world whenever the opportunity arises. There was so much potential in those maps! I could not let the chance to investigate them disappear.

And so, let us fast-forward the story to mid-March, 2016. While many of my peers headed south for their spring breaks, I went over 300 miles north instead and found myself in Ely for a glorious week of delving into the map collection. And what did I find? The collection contained over 70 maps, varying in their markings and purposes. If I were to tell you about everything I have found so far, it would take pages.

However, what I can share with you is that I am now positioned to design a truly unique capstone project that could be a foundation for further research in the future. Multiple aspects will be involved, including educational displays for the exhibit room in the Olson home that highlight some of Sigurd's maps. Another piece will be interactive, potentially online features created through the use of Geographic Information Science (GIS). Completion for the initial project is currently scheduled for April of 2017, and though the final project design is still in the works, the grand journey of research and discovery has certainly begun.

*Editor's note: Stay tuned as the story continues! The next newsletter will contain a more detailed discussion of the map collection and the exciting features that have been found therein. There is much left to explore!*



*Steffi and the treasure trove of maps*





## Sig and Voyageurs National Park (Continued from page 1)

personal familiarity with the broad international Quetico-Superior region that included the future Voyageurs National Park would all prove immensely valuable.

In October 1961, Sig participated in a field trip with NPS staff, Hella, and others to the area around the Kabetogama Peninsula. The field party agreed that "Kabetogama had potential as a national area and recommended that the director authorize full-scale studies of the area." At the end of that same month, Wirth authorized those studies to begin, and Gov. Andersen began promoting the concept. The push to establish Voyageurs had begun.

In June of the next year (1962), Gov. Andersen invited Connie Wirth to visit Minnesota, in part to be present at the dedication of the new Bear Head Lake State Park between Tower and Ely. But Andersen had also arranged a visit to the proposed national park site so Wirth could see the area himself. Sig, Judge Hella, and others joined them on the field trip on June 27th to the Kabetogama-Rainy Lake area. Connie Wirth was quickly convinced. During that field trip and a discussion of what to name the new park, Sig suggested the name as Voyageurs, after the hardy canoeists of the fur trade era who had paddled their birchbark canoes through the region. According to an unpublished essay Sig wrote nearly two decades later, Wirth slapped his knee at Sig's suggestion and exclaimed, "That's it!" The name stuck.

Sig continued to fight for Voyageurs in the coming years, including work with the National Parks Advisory Board. In October of 1962, the board voted to submit a formal recommendation to the secretary of interior that stated that the region was "superbly qualified to be designated the second national park in the Midwest." (Isle Royale was the first national park in the region.) In 1964, as another example, Wirth's successor as National Park Service Director, George Hartzog, suggested downgrading the proposed national park to a lesser category such as a national recreation area. Sig successfully urged the Advisory Board to re-affirm its support for Voyageurs as a full national park, and Hartzog relented.

Sig spoke at public meetings, worked with the Voyageurs National Park Association, which had formed to push for the park's establishment, and continued to work with Elmer Andersen, who remained a strong park proponent even after Elmer had left the governor's office in 1963. Sig testified at the Congressional field hearings on the Voyageurs National Park legislation in International Falls in 1969, and again at House hearings in Washington, DC, the following year, testifying that the proposed park's spiritual and intangible values were its greatest resources.

The Voyageurs Park proposal was not without controversy, of course, and at many steps in the process obstacles appeared that could have delayed or killed the bill. Intense opposition in some parts of the local communities often nearly derailed the effort. In late 1970, after the Voyageurs bill had passed the House, a worried Rep. John Blatnik, who represented the area, asked Elmer Andersen and Sigurd Olson to come out to lobby for the Voyageurs bill when it appeared the bill might die in the Senate. They did so and, among many other frantic lobbying efforts, arranged a personal meeting with Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson, who chaired the Senate committee. They convinced Jackson, worked around other obstacles, and the bill passed the Senate. President Nixon

ultimately signed the Voyageurs bill into law in January 1971.

Voyageurs National Park, though authorized by the 1971 legislation, would not officially be established until 1975. The Voyageurs bill required the State of Minnesota to first donate state-owned lands within the park, some 36,000 acres, of which 25,000 were School Trust Lands, to the federal government. This required special legislation from the Minnesota Legislature and compensation to the State School Trust Fund (first condemnation, then the sale of state bonds to reimburse the trust fund).

But in January 1971, after the Voyageurs bill had passed Congress but before the park was officially established, Sig was asked to write about Voyageurs for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' magazine, the *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*. Here is part of what he wrote, a summation of his values and dreams for the brand-new national park he had worked for a decade to establish, in an article entitled "Intangible Values of Voyageurs National Park":

"Cultural, esthetic and intangible values are a composite of many things: beauty of terrain, geological and ecological understanding, and the background of human history. Knowledge of how the land was formed, its volcanic eras, the vast glacial periods which smoothed, gouged and shaped its surface into what we see today is vital to appreciation of its values. The evolution of wildlife and vegetation, their slow adjustment to climate, water, soil, and land forms are as necessary as having an understanding of the hopes, dreams, and fears of those who lived and labored here hundreds and even thousands of years ago. All this imparts deeper meaning and even enhances its beauty."

"As an ecologist, I became convinced that the entire area was an ecosystem of special significance, one of the rare undisturbed regions of the Great Lakes biotic complex with infinite and authentic interdependencies among its many associations. The stands of beautiful red and white pines growing along the lake shores meant more to me knowing they were the northern-most extension of their range, that while a few stands could be found elsewhere and even beyond the Quetico, it would be spruce or jackpine intermingled with birch and aspen, from here up to the barren lands of the tundra."

"Knowing the involved geological formations with their exposures of greenstone and intrusions of granite and basalts, the story of the glaciology with its disturbed drainage patterns and the response of all life to the ancient fire ecology of the north, gave new appreciation of the area's intangible values. The bogs with their paleobotanical records of phantom forests of the past imparted insight to the forests of today."

"This maze of waterways had its human history as well, for over its lakes and portages had passed voyageurs on their 3000-mile trek from Montreal into the far Northwest. Here too went the great explorers, Alexander Mackenzie, the Henrys, Verendrye and a host of others, a stream of heroic figures through the border lakes from Grand Portage and eventually through Crane, Namakan, Kabetogama and Rainy Lake into the park area. Over these routes went tons of trade goods to the west and fortunes in fur for the waiting markets of the east. This was the route of Canadian destiny."

*Continued on page 7*

# Writers Among Our Readers

Thanks to Taylor Asche and Timothy James Stouffer, who sent us some of their original written works inspired by Sigurd Olson.

## Taylor's report on Sigurd F. Olson

**Birth:** He was born on April 4, 1899. He was born in Chicago, Illinois. Sigurd was Baptist.

**Childhood experiences:** Sigurd grew up in northern Wisconsin. Then they moved to Ashland Wisconsin.

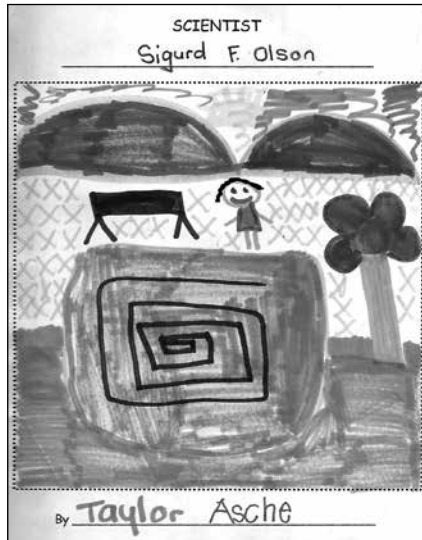
**Education:** He studied agriculture, botany, geology, and ecology. He went to school at Northland College. Then he went to University of Illinois.

**Adult experiences:** Sigurd was a teacher, author, conservationist. Sigurd helped protect the Boundary Waters. Sigurd wrote nine books about the wilderness. He lived in Ely, Minnesota next to my grandma.

**This scientist is famous for:** Olson was famous for protecting the Boundary Waters. Sigurd was also famous for writing books about nature. He was vice president of the Wilderness Society from 1963 to 1967 and president from 1968 to 1971.

**Death:** Sigurd died on January 13, 1982, and he was 82 years old.

**Research Detective:** Taylor



*One of our youngest members, Taylor Asche, wrote a report about Sigurd Olson for a class project and drew this detailed picture of the dock at Listening Point for the cover. Taylor and her family often visit the Point (with permission, of course) to swim in the summer. She wrote the report last year, while in second grade.*

## The writer

In Sigs cabin  
There's a pipe stand  
with three or four  
of his.

Maps on the walls, and  
doggerel shaped books watch  
me from shelves  
as my fingers inch  
towards His old  
keys.

The chair feels right.  
Desk a little low for my  
taste,  
but the pipe stem  
has me  
in its grasp  
and with the sound of  
wind through  
the stretching pines overhead  
I can see  
the blue smoke swirling  
round my head.

Thick and dark  
like the tannins in the waters  
that wind from creek and stream  
dripping into the lakes  
of the Boundary Waters.

—Timothy James Stouffer

## Sig and Voyageurs National Park (Continued from page 6)

As one paddles down this famous wilderness highway, it takes little imagination to picture the colorful brigades of the past, red-tipped paddles flashing in the sun, the gaudy designs on bow and stern of each canoe. As one sits before a campfire one can almost hear the sound of them and the songs of the French voyageurs coming across the waters.

Voyageurs National Park is properly named, for all traffic from east and west funneled into Rainy Lake, the canoes from Grand Portage along the border, those from Fort William over the French-Dawson route, those from Lake Superior going up to Vermilion and La Croix. No wonder an important post was maintained at Rainy as a rendezvous and meeting place for expeditions from Montreal and far away Athabasca. Of such human history are intangible values made, and all add to the beauty and meaning of the Voyageurs National Park area.

Perhaps as important a value as any is the wilderness character of the area between Lake Superior and the Rainy River, where alone of the 3000 mile extent of the Voyageur's Highway, the scene is still relatively unchanged with old pines standing that voyageurs saw as they passed by. This wilderness, the old sense of solitude and silence, can still be felt there.

When we talk about the intangible values of the Voyageurs area we know such values are a composite of all the cultural facets of the region, that Voyageurs National Park is more than terrain. It is in a sense a living storehouse of beauty, of historical and scientific significance. If museums are places where the treasures of a people are safeguarded and cherished then Voyageurs is truly such a place."

—Kevin Proescholdt is the conservation director for Wilderness Watch, a national wilderness conservation organization ([www.wilderness-watch.org](http://www.wilderness-watch.org)). He also serves as one of the Listening Point Foundation's Advisors. Kevin's most recent book, *Glimpses of Wilderness*, is a set of wilderness essays set in the BWCAW and the larger Quetico-Superior and can be found at [www.kevinproescholdt.com](http://www.kevinproescholdt.com).

# Great Holiday Gift Ideas from the Northwoods & Sig Olson's Listening Point Foundation

Unique Opportunity • Heirloom  
Keepsake • Treasure

Limited Leather-Bound Edition of Listening Point  
\$500 Donation



2017 Calendar Featuring Images from Listening Point  
Photos by Steve Voiles with Sig Olson quotes  
\$15.00



Buy an engraved BRICK  
for the LPF House patio  
3 lines of text or less, 16 characters per line  
including punctuation and spaces  
\$100 donation



*Listening Point Foundation*

Please make your donation payable to:  
Listening Point Foundation (LPF)  
PO Box 180  
Ely, Minnesota 55731

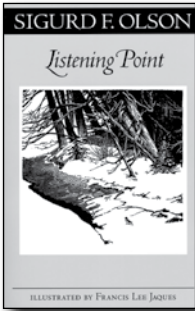
Order form is on page 10

(218)365-8889 • [www.ListeningPointFoundation.org](http://www.ListeningPointFoundation.org)



# Gift Shop

Share the spirit of Listening Point with friends and family with one of these gift items that celebrate Sigurd Olson, Listening Point, wilderness and more! See next page for order form.



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

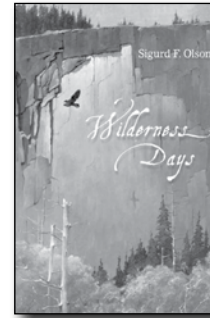
- *The Singing Wilderness*
- *Listening Point*
- *The Lonely Land*
- *Runes of the North*
- *Open Horizons*
- *Reflections from the North Country*
- *Of Time and Place*

..... \$15 each



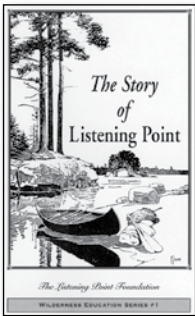
**The Wilderness World of Sigurd F. Olson DVD**  
A digitally remastered version of the classic film "The Wilderness World of Sigurd F. Olson" includes more than two hours of conversations with Sig as he speaks about the craft of writing and life in the wilderness. You'll also hear Sig's wife Elizabeth 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



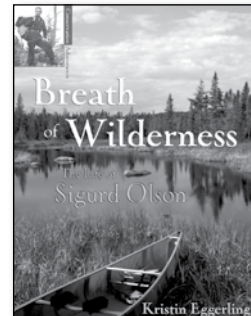
**The Story of Listening Point**  
This 28-page booklet, written by Sig's son Robert K. Olson, tells the inside story of how Listening Point came to be and why, what it meant to Sigurd Olson, and what it continues to mean to wilderness lovers and loyalists. Features dozens of historical photos and images.

..... \$5



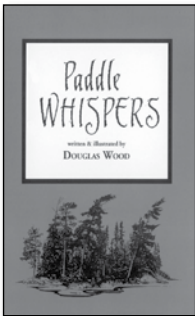
**Sig Olson's Wilderness Moments**  
For Kids! Five selections of Sig Olson's writings, with "Points to Ponder" and "Activities" following each section. Excellent opportunity to introduce Sig to the younger generation. Includes blank pages at the end of the book for several of the activities—journaling,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

..... \$5



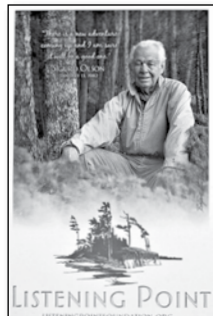
**Breath of Wilderness**  
By Kristin Eggerling. A must have for your Olson library. The story covers Sigurd Olson's love of wild places and how that love transformed his life. It is a book written for middle school students, but can be enjoyed by all. 92 pages.

..... \$13



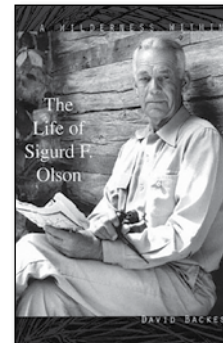
**Paddle Whispers**  
An illustrated, nonfiction meditation by Doug Wood about the human soul encountering itself through the soul of the wilderness on a canoe trip through the rocks, woods and water of the North Country.

..... \$16



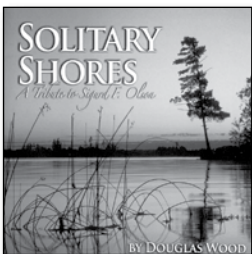
**Sigurd Olson Poster**  
The image, taken by Bryan Stenlund, may well be one of the last photos of Sig before he died. The 11" by 17" poster includes Sig's last type written words. A must have for Sig fans.

..... \$16



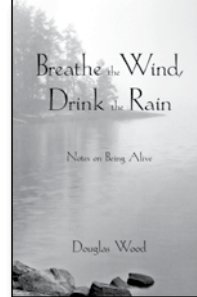
**A Wilderness Within**  
The authoritative portrait of one of the greatest environmentalists of the twentieth century. The book is a stunning look at a man with a vision for the natural world and for himself. Essential reading for Olson fans.

..... \$23 (paperback)



**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



**Breathe the Wind, Drink the Rain**  
Doug Wood's personal recipe for being truly alive—for arriving at the ground beneath your feet and feeling at home in the universe. Great to take on a canoe trip. Pen & ink drawings by Doug as well. 52 pages.

..... \$10



**LPF Hats**  
For your wearing pleasure! 100% cotton, embroidered with the Listening Point logo. Choose from cranberry, cream, loden green, khaki or new colors sea foam green and sky blue. Adjustable leather strap.

..... \$18



**2017 Calendar**  
Sigurd Olson writings, Steve Voiles photos, Listening Point and beyond! Framable images, conservation dates, incredible quotes all make for a unique calendar for 2017. Size 12" by 9". Shrink-wrapped with cardboard. Great for holiday gifts!

..... \$15



**The Meaning of Wilderness**  
Now available in paperback! First published in 2001, this book features a collection of Sigurd F. Olson's articles and speeches. It offers a lively look at the evolution of one of environmentalism's leading figures and is essential reading for Olson fans, historians, and outdoors enthusiasts around the country.

..... \$18

# Listening Point Foundation Gift Shop order form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sigurd Olson classics paperback books ..... @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
specify title(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Wilderness Days ..... @ \$18.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Story of Listening Point booklet, by Robert Olson ..... @ \$ 5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Wilderness Moments booklet ..... @ \$ 5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Breath of Wilderness ..... @ \$13.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Paddle Whispers ..... @ \$16.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ A Wilderness Within..... @ \$23.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Solitary Shores audio CD ..... @ \$18.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sigurd Olson poster ..... @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ The Meaning of Wilderness ..... @ \$18.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ LPF Hat - (choose color) ..... @ \$18.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
cranberry, cream, loden, sea foam green, sky blue

☐ 2017 Calender \* ..... @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Breathe the Wind, Drink the Rain ..... @ \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \*Shipping/Handling (\$3.00 ea for calendars) .... @ \$ 3.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Shipping/Handling (\$2.00 ea for other items) .. @ \$ 2.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send order form and your check  
to Listening Point Foundation (LPF), to:

**Listening Point Foundation, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 180 • Ely, Minnesota 55731**

**All items may be ordered from our website via PayPal.**  
**Orders also may be placed by email to**  
**info@listeningpointfoundation.org. Invoices will be**  
**included with your shipped order.**

## Quote from Sig:

*"My runes come from the wilderness, for in its solitude, silence,  
and freedom . . . I know there are moments of insight when  
ancient truths do stand out more vividly, and one senses anew his  
relationship to the earth and to all life."*

— from *Runes of the North*



# Thank You!

*The Listening Point Foundation would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations for their generous donations:\*\**

Donna Arbaugh	Jane Edson	Sandra Iverson	Gary Mathena	Jeff & Sharon Rome
Derek Asche	Susan Edwards-Brown	Jane Jenks	John McCoy	Stephen Sandell
David Barnhill	Ely Folk School	Caitlin Johnson	Marv Mitchell	Louis Stender
Tim & Vicki Barzen	Peter Fernstrum	Gabriele Johnson	Patsy & Jeff Mogush	Jim & Jean Stengel
Steven Borsch	Cynthia Findley	Linda Jorgenson	David Novak	Allen & Ann Stolee
Jim & Judy Brandenburg	F. Dallas Fogg	Steve & June Keibler	Dave O'Donnell	Doug Swanson
Rio Bright	Bruce Frana	Martin and Esther Kellogg	Anna Marie Pavlik	Mary Van Evera
Jean Brown	Larry Fonset	Marilyn & Bruce Konkler	Phil Pearson	Linda Verbeck
Anthony & Amy Cicala	Garden Club of America	Patricia Korman	Dan Perschau	John Virr
Richard Clapp	Jay Gordon	Karen Kozie & Bill Route	Terry Peters	Kathleen Voegtler
Margaret Cleveland	Wolfgang Grenier	Barbara Lamotte	Dan & Nan Peterson	Laramie & Donna Winczewski
Countryside Gardens	W. C. Hamilton	Mary Langer	Dan & Jane Pinkerton	Bob, Marion &
Frank Davis	Larry & Dee Heidemann	J. R. LeBlanc	Roger & Consie Powell	Linda Woodbury
John Delap	Jon Helminiak	Dave Lee	Betty Lou Raymond	
Larry & Nancy Dolphin	Douglas & Karen Hill	Robin Loughman	Mark Reed	
Beth Duff	Maryann Holder	Armin "Whitey" Luehrs	John & Bonny Ritter	
Barbara & Laverne Dunsmore	Diane & John Hushman	Alice Mairs	Barbara Rom	

## Donations in Memory and Honor

### In Memory of...

- White Ash & Greg Wattson, in memory of Ray Christensen
- Rodney & Karen Daniels, in memory of Ray Christensen
- Peggy & Conrad Dejardin, in memory of Timothy Jon Dejardin
- Marilyn Dehnert Family, in memory of Jeanne T King & Tom King
- Arlene Higgins, in memory of Ray Christensen
- Paula King, in memory of Jeanne T. King from her family
- Anson Mac Farlane, in memory of Jeanne T. King
- Nan Peterson, in memory of Sig & Elizabeth

- Orville & Milda Ruud, in memory of Ray Christensen
- Claudia Simonian, in memory of Ray Christensen
- Christine Tschudy, in memory of Jeanne T. King
- Sharon & Jeff Rome, in memory of Vic Koivumaki
- Dennis & Mary Bridget Wood, in memory of Vic Koivumaki

### In Honor of...

- Susan & Bruce Knox, in honor of their son, who loved canoeing in the Boundary Waters
- Deborah Reynolds, in honor of Nancy Tubbs

## Upkeep Donors

(\*denotes an engraved patio brick)

Cathy & Mark Brown*	John McCoy*
Ray Christensen *	Cindy & Denis Miller*
Margaret Cleveland	Oberholtzer Foundation*
Wanda Copeland*	William O'Brien*
Anne Cowie*	Joy Schochet &
Martha Eayrs*	Jonathan Green*
Wolfgang Greiner*	Mary & Bob Snediker*
Phil & Dulcie Hagedorn*	Snyder Family*
John Hovdenes	Bob, Marion &
Barbara Kollar*	Linda Woodbury*
Beth Lewis*	

\*\*These lists acknowledge gifts received from May 22, 2016 to September 30, 2016

## Listening Point Foundation Contribution Form

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My contribution is in (select one) honor/memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT

- ☐ \$35      ☐ \$250  
☐ \$50      ☐ \$500  
☐ \$100      ☐ (other) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check payable to  
Listening Point Foundation to:

Listening Point Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 180  
Ely, MN 55731

Or use the PayPal option on our website  
[www.listeningpointfoundation.org](http://www.listeningpointfoundation.org)

*Listening Point Foundation is a 501(c)3 educational organization that welcomes charitable contributions that support its educational mission and preservation efforts. Giving opportunities include annual support, memorials, planned giving and in-kind donations.*

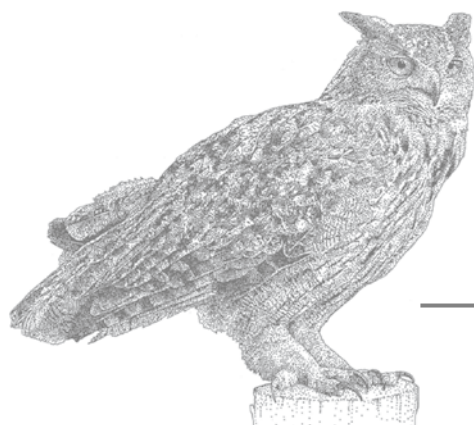
*For more information on giving, please contact us at 218-365-8889.*





# Listening Point Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 180  
Ely, Minnesota 55731



## THE VIEW FROM LISTENING POINT — FALL 2016

Special request—so you won't miss any of LPF's mailings. Please send us your winter and summer addresses. Or just give us a call. Thanks.

Published by  
**The Listening Point Foundation, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 180  
Ely, Minnesota 55731  
Telephone: 218/365-8889  
E-mail: [info@listeningpointfoundation.org](mailto:info@listeningpointfoundation.org)  
Website: [www.listeningpointfoundation.org](http://www.listeningpointfoundation.org)

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alanna Dore

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Douglas Wood, *President*  
Charles Wick, *Vice-President*  
Nancy jo Tubbs, *Secretary*  
Dr. Mark Peterson, *Treasurer*  
Robert K. Olson, *President Emeritus*  
Mark Allsup  
Tim Barzen  
Karen Friedrich  
Patsy Mogush  
Sharon Rome  
JoyGenea Schumer  
Bryan Stenlund  
John Wilke

### ADVISORS

Paul Anderson	Bloomington, MN
Dr. David Backes	S. Milwaukee, WI
John "Jeb" Barzen	Spring Green, WI
Jim Brandenburg	Ely, MN
Larry Dolphin	Austin, MN
Jon Helminiak	Mequon, WI
Mike Link	Willow River, MN
Vance G. Martin	Boulder, CO
Walter Pomeroy	Mechanicsburg, PA
Kevin Proescholdt	St. Paul, MN
Clayton Russell	Ashland, WI
Steve Waddell	Bellbrook, OH
Bryan Wood	Sandstone, MN
Dave Zentner	Duluth, MN
Franco Zunino	Murialdo, Italy

Produced and printed by:  
Advance Printing  
15576 US Hwy 63  
Hayward, WI 54843  
phone 615/634-6888  
fax 715/634-6912  
[advprint@cheqnet.net](mailto:advprint@cheqnet.net)

Editor: Laurence J. Wiland  
Production: Debra Kurtzweil

Materials in the newsletter may be reproduced with attribution to the author, the newsletter, and the Foundation. We welcome readers' letters, comments and suggestions. All photos are from the LPF archives, unless otherwise noted.

**Visit us online!**

[www.listeningpointfoundation.org](http://www.listeningpointfoundation.org)

