



View from

Listening Point

Newsletter of the **Listening Point Foundation, Inc.**

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Dedicated to preserving Listening Point and advancing Sigurd Olson's wilderness philosophy.

Family Connections & Letters to Home

By Annette Drewes

October 2021 – I arrived in Ely under the harvest moon. Pulled east by the moon's rising, the drive from Bemidji was awash with aspen gold. Fall has come to the north country, long, sublime and intoxicating. I drank it in.

How do I describe this movement from home and house in Bemidji to retreat and reflection in Ely? I am not leaving behind something I want to get away from, for I love the pines, the neighbors, the husband who cooks my meals and the antics of the "boys," our two wire-haired hunting dogs. This is the house we raised our girls in, the space where boys and girls gathered from the surrounding houses to compete in a game of Spoons, ate fresh baked cookies by the dozen, and told stories to one-up-each other on the front porch as the sun went down. No, there are many happy memories here.

Yet there is also a yearning to make space for the undiscovered, about myself, about the possibilities of writing. I sit in the same decade of life that Sigurd sat as he contemplated making a living as a writer. I too am contemplating a writing life. Spending time with the books Sig held in his hands, at times underlining passages or words, settles me into reflection.

Why did the books of Louis L'Amour and James Michener captivate me? My friends saw Michener's thousand-page stories (*Alaska, Hawaii*, etc.) as too dense, and L'Amour's much shorter westerns as 'same story, different characters.' I however, disappeared into box canyons and tucked under a small pinyon tree



Elizabeth and the boys.

clinging to the rock slope above me, seeking shelter from the burning sun. On other days I found myself standing in flat country, a small fir forest behind me and a rampaging river roiling before me. Moving water, the only sign that spring had arrived in these northern lands. Words in books carried me to locations I had never been and placed me under shadowed moonlight or noon day suns heavy with heat.

This weekend the books in Sig's library took me to Ellsmere Island, north of Latitude Eighty; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; the Ozarks; Upstate New York; Chequamegon Country; Northwest Territories; the Aleutian Islands; and even to Rome. All these places in just three days! No wonder I was so tired at the end of it!

And yet, I was also brought back to Ely, to the home where Sigurd and Elizabeth raised their young boys. Tucked within the pages of a book written by the actress Helen Hayes (*Gathering Hope*) and within a booklet published by Irene DeLaby called *The Unique North Country*, were a newspaper clipping from the Juneau Empire dated 11/23/90 and a handwritten letter from Sig Jr. to his mom on July 7, 1992.

Under the newspaper headline "He'd rather be skiing" I learned that Sig Jr. was a frequent visitor to the slopes of Eagle crest Ski area. Apparently, Sig Jr. used to hike up the Douglas bowl to enjoy his favorite recreation, before the ski area was opened and chair lifts were installed in 1976. At the time of the article, he was 67 years old, and had been part of the Juneau Ski Patrol for 31 years. He recalled his youth in Ely.

"Our growing-up life was such a fantastic one," he says. "I look back and I really feel my brother and I were very fortunate. The summer was fishing and canoe trips. In the fall was hunting of various kinds. In the wintertime was more fishing and skiing all winter long. The cycle just went around and around all our growing-up years."

Sig Jr.'s love of skiing took him to Europe as a volunteer for the 10th Mountain Division during World War II. He was barely 20. Here he used his skills to train others in skiing, ice climbing and rock climbing. In the final year of the war his platoon fought in the Northern Apennines mountain range of Italy. German troops had control of high points, and Sig Jr.'s division was sent to open a way for the Allies through the Alps. "It wasn't a long time. It was a pretty tough time," he remembers. He was one of the few in his unit who escaped injury.

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Listening, Writing, Reading

By Patsy Mogush, LPF President

Sigurd Olson understood the value of listening. He listened to the loons, the wind in the trees, the gentle waves in the bay, and the quiet at his beloved Listening Point. Listening is essential for appreciating and feeling the joy of the natural world that surrounds us.

Olson was also a reader. Annette Drewes has been examining Sig's book collection that is now on the shelves in the Listening Point house. She shares in her article (see the front page of this newsletter) how those books transport her as she learns more about Sig through the books he read and the written treasures tucked inside them. Sig knew that books could transport the reader to the Northwoods and beyond. Many books, in addition to those on Sig's shelves, that have carried us to the Northwoods and beyond, teaching us, entertaining us, and helping us to understand ourselves and this world.

Sig had a deep need to write, as David Backes made clear in his edited book of Olson's journals, *The Wilderness Within*. As Sig struggled to become the author he felt compelled to be, reading helped lead him toward his personal style of writing. There are books that speak directly about the quest to preserve wilderness. Others immerse us in nature and the wilderness itself.

That's what Sig did. Sigurd Olson manifests the value of listening and of reading for understanding and inspiration. His writing makes that abundantly clear.

There are many authors who've immersed their readers in nature. Not all with the poetry of Sigurd Olson's writing, but with their own approach to sharing what's valuable to them. Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, is the 2013 winner of the Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award (SONWA) from Northland College. I've read her book twice, learning more each time about the confluence of science and indigenous understanding of nature. Annie Dillard, in *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, takes the reader gently and quietly through her local flora and fauna as she walks and listens and soaks in the surroundings. Our Doug Wood has written many books, but two stand out as examples of writing that can transport the reader into the natural world. Read about his beloved Fawn Island and, in *Deep Woods, Wild Waters*, the awe and wonder of both human nature and the natural world.

There are other books stacked on my shelf waiting to be read, including *Rooted* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt, another SONWA winner. The book pile grows.

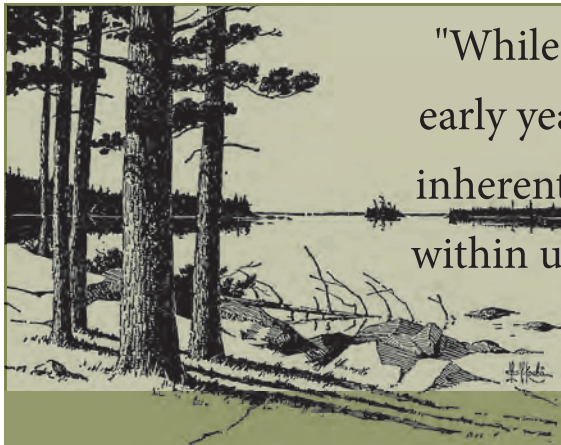
If these words seem to promote purchasing books from The Listening Point Foundation, that could certainly be true. Our website offers books by Sigurd Olson, David Backes, Douglas Wood, and others. Good choices, as those who toured the Point this summer learned when Freja Finkle, our program coordinator, and Mabel Kirst, our summer intern, opened their car trunks to display the traveling gift shop. There are many people who took their new books on canoe trips, to their cabins and homes, and who will be reading them during the winter months. In 2022, we plan to have the Listening Point house open again for visits and conversation. The books will be there.

Wherever you are during this winter season, enjoy the outdoors as much as possible, and connect with nature and wild places. If you can, find books, settle in to read, and let your mind and imagination lead you toward finding your own listening point too.



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"While we are born with curiosity and wonder and our early years full of the adventure they bring, I know such inherent joys are often lost. I also know that, being deep within us, their latent glow can be fanned to flame again by awareness and an open mind."

- Sigurd F. Olson, *Listening Point*



The cabin at Listening Point. *Photo by Steffi O'Brien*



Driftwood at Listening Point. *Photo by Sig Olson*



Elizabeth at the cabin in 1987.
Photo from the LPF Archives



Sig, Elizabeth, and family at Listening Point.



Preservation crew at the cabin in May. *Photo by Steffi O'Brien*



Afternoon snooze outside the cabin. *Photo by Brent Erb*



Adventure to Gusty Island! *Photo by Steffi O'Brien*

THIS & THAT

🦋 **Snowshoe Tours of Listening Point.** All are welcome to join in on our free snowshoe hikes out to Listening Point during the 2022 Ely Winter Festival, February 3th - 13th. Enjoy a trek through our winter wonderland and enjoy hot drinks and Elizabeth's cookies by the woodstove in the cabin. Details and registration are on the Events page of the LPF website, listeningpointfoundation.org.

🦋 **Virtual Film Festival 2022.** In partnership with the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College, we will be hosting our second virtual film screening series in February 2022. Registration and further details will be announced by email and social media in January. Stay tuned!

🦋 **No Spring Luncheon in 2022.** In order to best care for our community of supporters and volunteers, LPF has decided not to host the Spring Luncheon in the Twin Cities in April. We will share details about possible online/in-person events as they arise, and will provide updates on our planning for the Annual Northwoods Dinner in Ely in September as the year progresses.

🦋 **Writing Workshops at Listening Point - Details Coming Soon.** LPF is working on hosting one or two writing workshop weekends in 2022. More details and registration information coming soon -- watch our website and social media for announcements and sign up to receive updates at listeningpointfoundation.org/contact-us/.

Watch our website and Facebook page for announcements and updates!

Family Connections & Letters to Home continued from page 1

Returning to the U.S., Sig Jr. completed college and with his wife Esther, moved to Alaska to work with waterfowl and big game. They never returned to Minnesota (to live).

Reading the news article, I was struck by the similarities in Sig Jr. and his father's stories. Just as Sigurd saw Ely expand and the popularity of the canoe country grow, so Sig Jr. watched Alaska change from "a wild and remote place" to a popular destination.

"I'm not opposed to resource use, but I'm concerned about how we use it," Sig Jr. said.

Like his father, Sig Jr. was always open for new adventures. In 1989 he went to Siberia on a rafting trip, sponsored by the Soviets.

"You never know when the phone rings or when you go to the post office and pick up a handful of letters what opportunity is going to come up next," he said. "Life is still very interesting."

Setting the newsletter aside, it was a day later when I found the letter. Written in blue ink, on yellow sheets of paper, Sig Jr.'s handwriting is big and expansive, not afraid to meet the page. His letters slant slightly forward, and his sentences end often with exclamation points. The letter is dated July 7, 1992 and addressed "Dear Mom, Time for a letter!"

The letter details the busy schedule of those who live in north country, whether Juneau, Alaska or Ely, Minnesota. Before a host of visitors dropped in on Sig Jr. and Esther later that summer, they took a day trip, described in the letter.

"On the 4th of July however... we needed to get away from all the 'Hurley burley' activity going on so we took the boat & found a lovely sunny beach on an island & just basked in the sun, beach combed, & had our picnic lunch. We had the beach all to ourselves so no interference. We didn't even take fishing poles along! The island has a long reef extending out from it & there were lots of sea

birds, gulls, shorebirds, ducks, etc. & we enjoyed watching them through the field glasses. The sun moved around finally & our lunch beach became shaded (after lunch, though) so we moved out to the reef where we found another smaller beach above the tide & finished our time there. It was really a lovely quiet relaxing day & we didn't miss the crowds, noise, & hoopla of parades etc. one bit! I'm glad we did that!"

The letter ends,

"Well, Mom, I have some chores to do today & better get at it. I did want to visit with you first however. Please take care of yourself. I'm worried about your angina problems. Get your rest - that is 1st priority & the rest is subject to that & comes under lower priorities. Take care now, ya hear??? Your letter should come today or tomorrow & I'm looking forward to it.

Much love & stuff, Sig [Jr.]"

Setting aside the handwritten letter, and the news article, I felt the distance Elizabeth must have felt and yet the connection as well. There is something about a handwritten letter that holds more of the spirit and energy of the one who wrote it than any electronically delivered note. Should anyone go through my books when I'm gone, they are likely to find similarly written notes from my children. I treasure these artifacts that hold the muscle memory of the one who wrote them and carry with them the gift of time spent finding paper, pen, or a note card, an envelope and finally a stamp. A gift of expectancy or surprise, showing up in the mailbox and physically being opened and read. And if we are lucky, and treasure the words they carry, we can pick them up again and again.

Time to wrap this up, I need to find a notecard and write to my daughters.

—Annette

Sig Olson at the Deer Shack

By Chuck Wick

It was November of 1981, just 2 months before Sig had his fatal heart attack. Deer hunting season was in full swing and I had an invitation to visit my father, Kermit and his friend Dave at their hunting cabin on Sand Lake, about 35 miles south of Ely. It occurred to me that Sig might like to go along on this trip. Sand Lake had a special memory for Sig. Back in the 1930s, he and his business partner, Wilson Carlson, had a fantastic day of duck hunting in the rice beds of the Sand River, just a mile from Dave's cabin.

Sig thought this was a great idea. In the last year of his life, Sig had declined in many ways. He was not writing to any serious degree, not traveling or speaking to groups, and was much quieter in a social situation. To add to the fun, I decided to take my 4-year-old daughter, Karyn, along. She and Sig were good buddies, and she could have a visit with her grandfather as well.

About midafternoon, we drove down Highway 1, stopping at the bridge where the Sand River flows to remember the mallards in the rice beds and then to Dave's cabin. There were no car seats for Karyn, so she sat in the front seat next to Sig, entertaining us with her substantial vocabulary.

Dave's cabin was a very simple one room affair with no frills. It was heated by a large pot-bellied stove, identical to the original stove in the Listening Point cabin. The stove was nearly rusted out and not very efficient, so the cabin was usually chilly. Sig sat right next to the stove and kept the fire going. Coleman lanterns were used for the lights and Dave had recently upgraded to double burner lanterns, a big improvement. The conversation was almost entirely outdoor stories. Sig told the story of the huge buck he had shot on the Stony River. This is the one that graces the west wall of the Listening Point cabin. Kermit and Sig recalled their first meeting back in 1929 at the Border Lakes Outfitting Company. Sig was the outfitter and Kermit was a 20-year-old city kid with no canoeing experience. Sig said that he didn't know if he would ever see these boys again as they zig-zagged down Fall Lake toward Basswood. There is no



limit to the stories from old timers who have experienced the outdoors in so many ways.

The supper menu consisted of venison steaks, fried potatoes with lots of onions, canned corn and, of course, my mother's famous apple cake. Sig had not had a supper like this for a long time. The conversation continued throughout the meal and beyond, most of it true. By 8 PM it was bedtime for the hunters and my 4-year-old, so we continued back to Ely, full of memories and great food.

As I write this, I am in the middle of reading Sig's journals in David Backes's new book. It is a difficult book to read because of the agony Sig went through trying to find his way. When this story occurred, Sig was a great success. He accomplished his most important goals. He was relaxed, content and showed no signs of previous struggles. His journals show a repeated and incredibly strong desire for a simple life and this story fits perfectly with that desire, venison steaks, potbellied stoves, duck hunts, canoe trips, relaxed conversation and a 4-year-old child. May we all remember what is truly important and be grateful for the wonder of the outdoors and our experiences in it.

Listening Point Foundation Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Listening Point Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that welcomes charitable contributions that support its educational mission and preservation efforts.

CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT

☐ \$35

☐ \$250

☐ \$50

☐ \$500

☐ \$100

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Please send your check payable to
Listening Point Foundation (LPF) to:

Listening Point Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 180 • Ely, MN 55731

Or donate online at

www.listeningpointfoundation.org

NEW LISTENING POINT SHORT FILM

See Listening Point through the lens of Sigurd F. Olson

In collaboration with Wolvenwood Studio, Listening Point Foundation released a brand-new short film in November 2021 that features the stunning natural beauty and peace of Listening Point through artful cinematography and spectacular drone footage. Sig's own words and descriptions were used for the script, based on the first chapter of his book *Listening Point*; narrated wonderfully by Douglas Wood, our former Foundation President. The 12-minute film is free to view on the Listening Point Foundation website (link below), Facebook, and YouTube.

From the filmmaker: "Exploring the woods, bogs, and shorelines of northern Minnesota is nothing new to me. Whether chasing wildlife with my cameras, whitetail deer with bow and arrow, or simply exploring a spot on a map that looks intriguing, I love being in the woods. Having these wild places to roam allows me to loosen myself from the day-to-day stimulation of our modern world. Quietly stepping through the chaotic simplicity of nature allows me to slow my mind and spirit and place a new set of lenses over my eyes."

Filming at Listening Point over the past year has brought many joys and insights, but not in the ways I initially would have

guessed. While the Point itself is a gorgeous piece of land, I have received the same, and in some cases even more enjoyment from many other places in this corner of the world. For me, the magic of this bit of earth comes only when it is paired with the words and experiences of Sigurd himself.

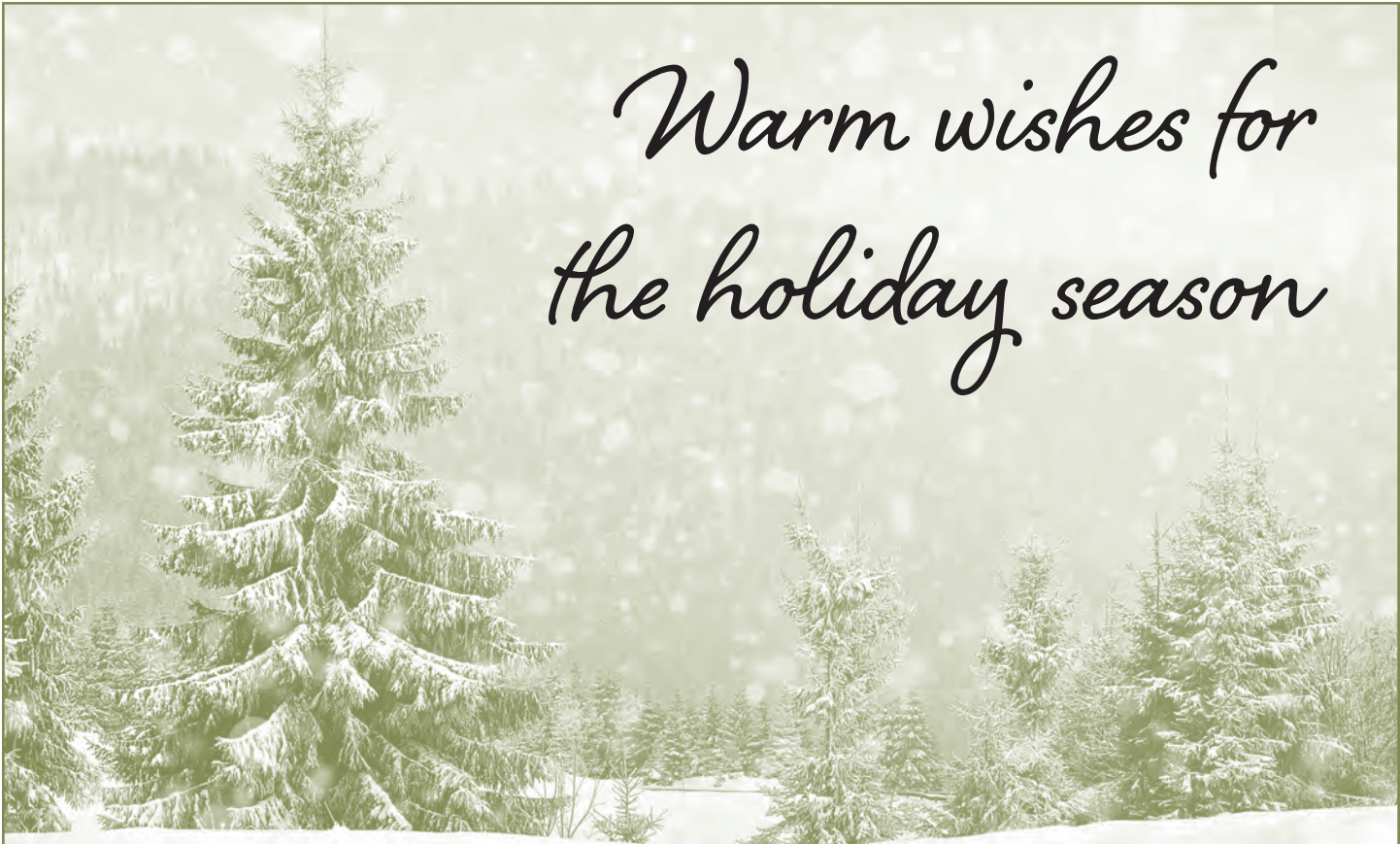
Through his writings, Sigurd has allowed me to share this place through his set of lenses. Picking through the property, tracing his very steps, trying to capture his thoughts in a visual way has brought me to a place where I can no longer separate the man from the land, and vice versa. The more I have discovered about one, the better understanding I gain of the other.

While I have felt such deep connections to places of my own, my appreciation for Listening Point has not come from my own experiences there but has been drawn directly from Sigurd's connection to it. It is my hope that through this project, we can give a sense of this connection, and the importance for each of us to strive to build such relationships with quiet places of our own."

—Mike Fitzgerald, Wolvenwood Studio

Watch the film now at:

listeningpointfoundation.org/listening-point/



*Warm wishes for
the holiday season*

... from the Listening Point Foundation

New Program Coordinator - Meet Freja Finkle

I think, in the back of my mind, I always knew I'd end up in Minnesota. I'd spent a long time in New York and on an island in Maine, and both were beautiful and wonderful, but didn't capture my heart in the way the woods and lakes of Northern Minnesota had.

In March I was scrambling. I was getting ready to graduate, finishing my senior thesis and being bombarded on all sides with the dreaded question: "So Freja, what's next?" And in truth, I didn't know. I needed a change of scene and a change of pace, some new paths to wander down and new sunrises to greet. When the opportunity appeared to return to Ely and work for the Foundation there was no world in which I would have said no.

I left Maine, grabbed the last odds and ends from my parents' place in New York and arrived in Ely in the same week. It had been a chaotic turn around and my head was spinning. I went out to the Point that first night in June and the smell of the warm pine needles was a gentle reminder to take a deep breath and slow down.

This summer was strange. The Foundation was reopening after a year of quiet, and I was answering emails and scheduling people to come visit before I even knew what was going on. And then there were all the wildfires. There would be days when we would struggle to see the other shore of Burntside through the smog. Despite my own confusion and fears of a new job/house/town/chapter of my life compounded with the general

anxiety of fire and summer drought, the people around me were always hopeful. Be they vacationers from California or Minneapolis or right here in Ely, they were kind and positive without fail. The welcome I received from the LPF Board and volunteers was so wonderful and really helped to ease my transition into my new life.

Ely had always been a place for me that didn't exist as part of the real world. It was one of those spaces where sunset lasted forever, and the saunas were hot and the water cold. And suddenly I was living there. Even now, after almost six months in my new space, it still catches me off guard. I'll be out on the head of the Point with a tour, looking out across Burntside and hearing the breeze and chattering of nuthatches and I'll think "I actually live here! This is where I exist!" I don't know if I'll ever not be stunned by that. There's always some new moment, the small but constant shifting of the land and water that makes each day in the woods unique and new and magical.

Over the course of this season, the Foundation had almost 500 people come out to visit the Point. Next year we're hoping there will be even more, as we will have the house in town and the writing shack open to show you. We'll have a new summer intern full of ideas and enthusiasm, and, as always, our wonderful and dedicated volunteers, board, and staff. 2022 holds a lot of promise for all of us, and I'm very excited to see you all out in Ely and to schedule you for a tour.

—Freja

Reflecting on a Summer Internship in Ely

I would like to start by giving a shoutout to all the people that made it possible for me to spend my summer in Ely. I want to give a huge thank you to Peta Barrett and Freja for giving me wonderful places to stay during my time at LPF. I want to thank Steffi and the Listening Point Foundation for giving me this amazing opportunity and letting me spend my entire summer in Ely. I also want to thank all the volunteer tour guides for teaching me everything I would ever need to know about Sig Olson. Lastly, I want to thank the town of Ely for making me feel so welcome during my stay. You all made it possible for me to pursue my passion for Sig and helped make this summer a reality.

Ever since I was a little girl, I always dreamed about spending a whole summer up north. My family never had a cabin, so our trips to the Northwoods were few and far between. I dreamt of spending my days watching the sun bounce off the waves and my nights trying to count the stars in the sky. This summer has truly fulfilled all of those dreams for me. I spent my summer going on tours, doing maintenance work, and even taking my first canoe trip ever to Gusty Island! This summer interning at LPF has truly been the most amazing opportunity ever. I met so many new people, made lasting friendships, and learned so much about Sig and the wilderness he loved so much. I met so many people who have the same love for Sig and his writing as I do, and I got to witness countless unforgettable and powerful moments during

my tours out at the Point. I will never forget the conversations I had with tour groups and the countless memories that we shared about Sig.

Thank you again to everyone who made this summer as special as it was! I completely fell in love with Ely and I am already planning a return trip. I truly feel like I found a home in Ely, and I will never forget this fantastic summer!

—Mabel



• • •

From the Executive Director: We were thrilled to have Mabel stay with us this summer as our undergraduate intern. Her enthusiasm for Sig's writing, the Foundation, and being in Ely was full of energy and good humor, and she put herself wholeheartedly into every task we set before her.

We are currently working to streamline our Internship Application process for 2022 and beyond, so if you or someone you know is an undergraduate student looking for a multi-week summer internship opportunity, please have them email us at info@listeningpointfoundation.org and watch the website for news and updates!

GIFT SHOP

Share the spirit of Listening Point with friends and family!
Order online at listeningpointfoundation.org/shop



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*

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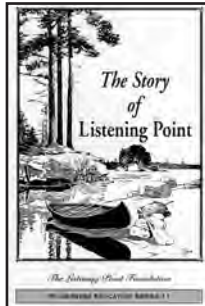
Wilderness Days
University of Minnesota Press has published a new paperback edition of *Wilderness Days*—a collection of Sig's writings that depicts the essence of the magnificent woodlands and waters of the legendary Quetico-Superior region that borders Minnesota and Ontario.

..... \$18



The 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



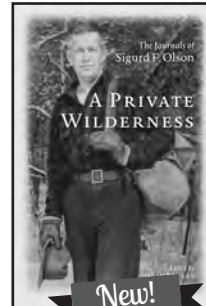
The Story of Listening Point
This 28-page booklet, written by Sig's son Robert K. Olson, tells the inside story of how Listening Point came to be and why, what it meant to Sigurd Olson, and what it continues to mean to wilderness lovers and loyalists. Features dozens of historical photos and images.

..... \$5



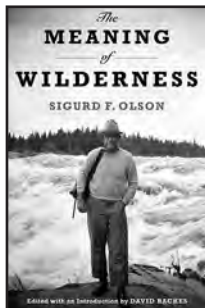
Sig Olson's Wilderness Moments
For Kids! Five selections of Sig Olson's writings, with "Points to Ponder" and "Activities" following each section. Excellent opportunity to introduce Sig to the younger generation. Includes blank pages at the end of the book for several of the activities—journaling, mapping,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

..... \$5



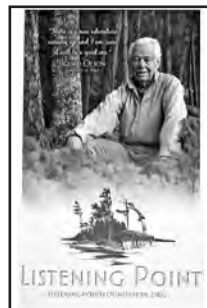
A Private Wilderness
Edited by David Backes. Written mostly during the years from 1930 to 1941, Sigurd F. Olson's journals describe the dreams and frustrations of an aspiring writer honing his skills, pursuing recognition, and facing doubt. Author of Olson's definitive biography, editor David Backes brings a deep knowledge of the writer to these journals, providing critical context, commentary, and insights along the way.

..... \$30



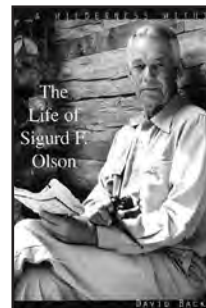
The Meaning of Wilderness
Now available in paperback! First published in 2001, this book features a collection of Sigurd F. Olson's articles and speeches. It offers a lively look at the evolution of one of environmentalism's leading figures and is essential reading for Olson fans, historians, and outdoor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

..... \$18



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 typewritten words: "A new adventure is coming up and I'm sure it will be a good one." A must have for Sig fans.

..... \$16



A Wilderness Within
By David Backes. 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)



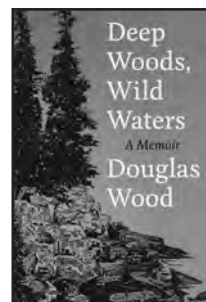
LPF Mug
3 finger handle. With logo, website, and "Sig's legacy ... pass it on!" Available in black or white.

..... \$10



Firewood Happens
by Mike Lein.
A series of short essays, humorous, knowledgeable stories for those who love to hunt, fish, or sit on a lakeshore.

..... \$12



Deep Woods, Wild Waters, A Memoir
by Douglas Wood.
A joy to read - Wood shares bushwhacking skills, hurtling down wild rapids, crossing stormy lakes, or simply navigating treacherous currents and the twisty trails of everyday life.

..... \$23

If you are shopping through Amazon, please consider using AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com).

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Every little bit helps!



Sigurd Olson Outdoor Adventure Cards
11 water resistant colorful cards for outdoor activities. Sig Olson quotes, and nature observation ideas.

..... \$15



2022 Listening Point Calendar
Featuring photos by Heidi Pinkerton & Root River Photography, the 2022 Listening Point calendar contains 12 beautiful photographs taken out at Sigurd Olson's beloved Listening Point. Order your copy today!

..... \$15



Listening Point Luminaria
Created from the original watercolor batik, Last Light on the Lake, by Listening Point Residency artist Kim Gordon. The four windows of this handmade paper luminary show a view of Listening Point and the lake in the evening light. Luminary is 4-sided, measures 5"x5"x9.5". The windows are printed on archival Japanese washi paper and the frame is of a heavyweight, dense black Forest Stewardship Council cover stock. Place luminary over a flameless candle or tealight - do not use with real flame! Comes completely assembled in a flat plastic sleeve with simple instructions to refold along score lines to its 3-D shape. Can be re-flattened and stored in its sleeve. Protect from wind and water.

..... \$17

LPF Hats
For your wearing pleasure! 100% cotton, embroidered with the Listening Point logo. Cranberry, Sage, and Light Blue. Adjustable leather strap.

..... \$18



LPF Welcomes New Board Members

Annette Drewes



Climbing trees or wading in water were my childhood occupations. Educated in the fields of Wildlife and Fisheries Management and Environmental Studies, I have worked most of my life introducing others to the natural world. In 2003 I became curious about wild rice, the native grass that grows in our lakes and streams of Minnesota, and how this annual plant was harvested and managed across state and tribal lands. I chased the harvesters, and the harvest across northern Minnesota and Wisconsin for several years and graduated with a Ph.D. in Landscape Ecology in 2008 from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. I administer Facebook Groups/Pages on Wild Rice Voices and have a website with the same name.

I currently work for the Nature Conservancy and live in Bemidji, Minnesota near the headwaters of the Mississippi River. My husband and I have two wonderful adult daughters, one living in Oregon and the other in Colorado. We share our home with two cats, and two wire-haired hunting dogs (a pointing Griffon and a Vizsla). I enjoy cross country skiing, paddling, reading, and walking in the woods. I also work on writing, mostly creative non-fiction, and am working on a book about my wild rice experience.

Mark Carlson



Sig's advocacy for public lands, canoe trip resume, and writings have had a profound influence on the choices I've made in my life and for that I am honored to serve the Listening Point Foundation. I've held the position of program director and full-time faculty of the Outdoor Leadership and Recreation Therapy programs at Vermilion Community College in Ely since 2007. Prior to my time at Vermilion, I lived in

Alaska for several years working as an outdoor recreation therapist for people who experience disabilities and as a seasonal recreation technician for the BLM.

I am raising four kids on Birch Lake south of Ely on a piece of property that my great grandmother purchased in 1929. Our home is on the opposite end of the lake from the Voyageur Outward Bound school where I instructed canoe courses for 11 years as well. I hold a B.S. degree in Recreation Resource Management from Minnesota State Mankato and an M.A. in Outdoor Education from the U of M Twin Cities. My hope is to work toward keeping Sig's legacy and philosophy relevant and inspiring to younger generations who travel the BWCAW and public lands across the country.

Sue Duffy



As a tour guide for the Listening Point Foundation since 2017, I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the folks who come on the tours and who want to learn more about Sig's life, his writings, and the roles he played in protecting public lands.

I worked for the US Forest Service on the Monongahela and Superior National Forests for over 36 years, in forestry, recreation, fire, environmental planning, and wilderness management. Prior to retiring in 2017, I was the Recreation and Wilderness Program Manager on the Superior National Forest. I also spent time working for the Voyageur Outward School in Ely from 1997 to 2007, leading adults on wilderness canoe trips and used Sig's writings and philosophies with those students.

Since retiring I have gotten involved in organizations and nonprofits that work to protect water quality and that help educate and interpret the natural resources on National Forest lands. I love spending time hiking, skiing, camping, traveling, touring, and staying active and engaged, and helping others do the same.

Bryan Stenlund



Bryan Stenlund is a returning LPF Board Member and is a psychologist in private practice in Grand Rapids MN. Having been in the profession for 50 years, and now in semi-retirement. Over the course of that time, he has worked with children to adults, physically handicapped, blind, deaf, developmentally disabled, taught clients strategic skills in improving their lives, meditation and stress management.

Bryan's connection to LPF is initially through his father and mother who were friends with Sig and Elizabeth beginning in the late forties. Bryan's father Milt had Sig as his mentor while doing his wolf studies which precipitated the MN timber wolf being removed from the bounty list and placed eventually on the endangered species list.

Bryan's family has their original seasonal cabin on Burntside Lake, beginning in 1956 while still living in Ely and Bryan was about 9, where now his two boys have grown up and visited since infancy. Bryan's extra-curricular interests lie in photography, personal writing of life experiences, and cross country skiing. He is happy to be back and involved with the Listening Point Foundation once again.





Sunset at Listening Point. *Photo by Steffi O'Brien*



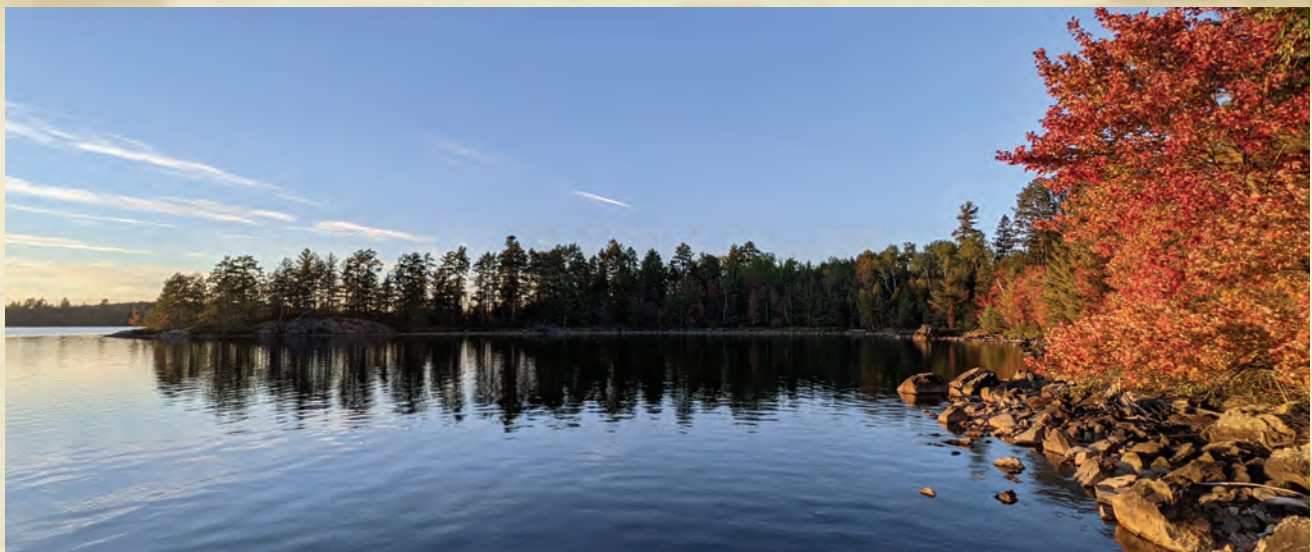
Freja giving a tour in September. *Photo by Hannah Stouter*



Road Scholar group visit in August. *Photo by Freja Finkle*



Smoky skies at Burntside Lake - August 2021.
Photo by Freja Finkle



Fall at Listening Point. *Photo by Steffi O'Brien*

Thank You!

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Thank You!

Note: This list Includes additional names from the previous issue that were accidentally omitted.

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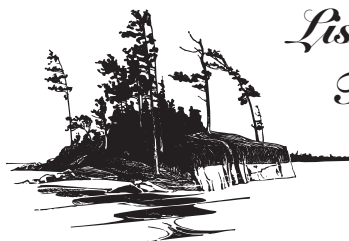
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- Margaret Rawland, *In memory of Leona Janezich, my high school classmate at Ely high*
- Roxane Reabe, *In memory of Ruth Reabe*
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May 15, 2021 – November 20, 2021



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