

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.*

## Coming Home

By Annette Drewes

"I could stay in this place forever."

Lynn had never been to Listening Point. On this cool September day hinting of winter, her voice carried a sense of awe as she spoke of the subtle golds and browns of the ferns, the windswept shrubs along the shore and the call of the loon sweeping across the lake. She found peace and a sense of connection in this place of moss and granite under sheltering pines.

Bundled against the northwest wind we sat on the dock below the sauna at Listening Point. Canted against the shore, no longer floating, the dock was taking waves over the farthest edge. This was our last writing session as part of a three-day writing retreat. Clouds hung heavy and low. The curve of the bay protected us from the brunt of the wind, but the waves were finding their way in. We were reluctant to leave.

The work of being still long enough to listen, to engage the senses, comes easily here on Burntside Lake. In our daily lives finding stillness can be challenging. Our group walked curry-colored paths carpeted with the discarded needles of white and red pine. We stood on moss cushioned rock, eyes closed, imagining roots spreading down across granite to connect with the roots of spruce and cedars. We drew air deep into our lungs. Air rich with oxygen shed from the forest. We practiced stillness so we could connect to the life around us.

"I could stay in this place forever."

Visitors to Listening Point often connect to the stillness and beauty of this pine hushed sanctuary of rock, moss, lichen and blueberries. Water laps at the shore. There is no question of "what do I need to do ...." but instead there is a call to just be. To fall back into our elemental selves, away from the crush of messages our brain sorts through almost constantly in our day-to-day life. Here, at Listening Point, we are just called to be aware and awake.

When was the last time someone affirmed to you the gifts you bring to this world? How often are you bombarded with messages that you are not enough as you are, and happiness would be yours if you just had this car, had this phone? I am bombarded continuously with emails and offers that promise to improve me, or help me become a better person whether physically, mentally or in some business capacity. All these messages subtly slide into our consciousness reminding us we are "not enough." Even our

childhood slid messages into our psyche that we continue to deal with as adults.

Carolyn, one of the participants in our retreat, remembered in the silence and the awareness of reflection a third grade teacher telling her she had no artistic talent. She left art behind, dismissing herself from being creative. I carry with me words my mother spoke, words I'm sure she never meant to harm. My 'lack of gracefulness' during a growth spurt drew a casual comment from a woman who loved me totally. As a child I had no defense and those words lodged in a part of self that feeds me to this day.

Messages from childhood begin the scaffolding for the relentless messaging we receive in today's super connected world: work harder; get stronger; think smarter. As you are, you are not enough.

For me, the natural world has always been the place I go to remember my connection to earth, my connection to this life. We are not born incomplete, we are born whole in mind, body and spirit, unique in the world. Listening Point is just one of a multitude of places we might travel to for connection and remembering that we are enough.

Rachel Carson, before writing *Silent Spring* (1962) wrote *Under the Sea Wind* (1941). Her words can carry me to the ocean, back to the wild places that remind me of life.

"The next morning the north wind was tearing the crests off the waves as they came over the inlet bar, so that each was trailing a heavy smoke of spray. Mullet were jumping in the channel, excited by the change in the wind. In the shallow river estuary and over the many shoals of the sound, the fish sensed the sudden chill that passed to the water from the air moving over it."

In a collection of essays gathered and edited by our own Cori Stanek Mattke (2009) titled *In My Place: voices of people and land*, we hear how people make the connections needed to be whole. From Del Stubbs, in his essay *My Other Mate* (p. 69), "the land here doesn't know me, my tenure is so short against its eons that my lifetime is just a blink. But the living things of this land – we are in the same room, we share this quarter section together... The salamanders and snapping turtles making their steady way around the place looking to dig in soft dirt, the small shaded grove where the coralroot orchids show their tiny beauty, or the solitary yellow lady slipper that grows every year hidden on the top of a grassy hill."

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# Connecting With Wild Places

By Patsy Mogush, LPF President

I read a lot. The books and articles and essays I read can teach, entertain, and provoke. They can provide guidance, awareness, connection with self and others, and with the world around us. For those who are reading this newsletter, much of what we read connects us with the natural world, deepening our understanding of nature and the value it holds. Reading can inspire us to connect with wild places, to care for wild places, and to preserve wild places.

Sigurd Olson wrote poetic stories, sharing his love of the natural world. Sig was also a reader. He wrote *In Open Horizons* that he was inspired by the words of Henry Van Dyke. "A paragraph of Henry Van Dyke's describing a rapids in the moonlight impressed me greatly. I read it over and over until it became part of my own vision. Even now, as I say the old familiar lines, I realize they open up a world of beauty and meaning beyond the purely physical." Sig went on to write that other authors, including Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, John Burroughs, and W. H. Hudson were influential in his thinking, and "the thought began to dawn that in my love of wild places and physical adventure was a deeper, more satisfying feeling I had not known until then."

Sig was influenced by writers available to him, and his writing continues to influence others.

Douglas Wood, our previous LPF president, tells stories, sings them, and writes them. Doug returned recently from a trip to New York City to record Sig's first book, *The Singing Wilderness*. You can read about his trip and see photos in this newsletter. Watch for the release of this audio version of Sig's work. Another way to learn about the beauty and value of wild places.

David Backes is the author of *A Wilderness Within: The Life of Sigurd F. Olson*, and has edited books of Sig's writing, including *The Meaning of Wilderness*. In the introduction to that book, David wrote, "...there is the potential for a new generation of those who love wild places to read Sigurd's books for the first time." That was a few years ago, and the opportunities to read, and soon listen to Sig's books, continue to grow.

Sigurd Olson's writing has influenced countless people, and will continue to do so. Have you noticed Sig quotes in publications by organizations that are following his philosophy? Sig's words are included in recent publications from Save the Boundary Waters and Friends of the Boundary Waters. Both organizations, as you know, are working toward preserving wild places. Paul Schurke, the Ely adventurer who's been to many wild places, including the North Pole and Antarctica, wrote an article for the *Intangible*, a publication of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College in Ashland, WI. In the article, he quotes Sig, presenting him as a teacher and guide.

There are others, of course, who have written about the value of nature and wild places, some during Sig's life and many after. Aldo Leopold wrote *The Sand County Almanac*, and was a contemporary and mentor for Sig. Rachel Carson is an old favorite (and mentioned in Annette Drewes' essay in this newsletter). Robin Wall Kimmerer, recipient of the Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award for her book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, has influenced countless readers. Florence Williams, in *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative*, discusses the physical and psychological benefits of deep immersion in wild spaces. The vision of the Listening Point Foundation is to foster people's connection to wild places by inspiring them to find their own listening point. The writers mentioned in this article are experts at following that vision, even those who came before Sigurd Olson. Their words, and, of course, Sig's words, inspire us to experience wild places, which leads to valuing wild places, which leads to finding ways to preserve wild places.

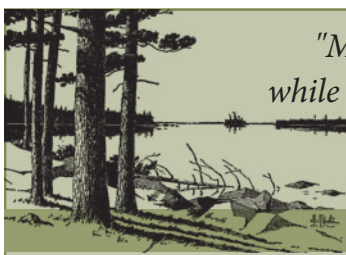
Thomas King, in *The Truth About Stories*, wrote, "...we wrote knowing that none of the stories we told would change the world. But we wrote in the hope that they would."

I believe that Sig did change the world, through his writing and his advocacy for preserving wild places. Each of us has stories to tell. We can share our stories and Sig's words with others as the quest continues to preserve what's left of the wilderness.



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"Myriads of stars were my net that night, but I no longer felt lonely, for I knew that while man might unravel the puzzled skein of life and solve the riddles of the universe, what really matters is the wonder which makes it all possible. Back of everything is always a net of dreams."

- Sigurd Olson, *Runes of the North*



Freja rescues the Listening Point dock in the flooding in Spring 2022. Photo by Adam Feher



Volunteers enjoying the return of LPF to the Blueberry Arts Festival in Ely. Photo by Freja Finkle



Encouragement to sign up for the LPF newsletter at the Blueberry Arts Festival. Photo by Russell Freels



Doug Wood playing music in the cabin for his Road Scholars group. Photo by Freja Finkle



Board members and volunteers visit Gusty Island. Photo by Freja Finkle



Enjoying Listening Point during a tour. Photo by Freja Finkle



Leadership Development Program teens from YMCA Camp Northern Lights. Photo by Freja Finkle

## THIS & THAT

🌲 **Listening Point Story on TV.** The popular, longtime television program *Minnesota Bound* came out to visit Listening Point during the 2022 Ely Winter Festival last February. The story will air as part of the program on Kare-11 NBC on Sunday, January 1st, 2023 at 10:30 PM Central and again the following Saturday, January 7th at 6:30 PM Central. For those unable to watch live, the program will then be uploaded on the MNBound YouTube page for free viewing. Learn more about *Minnesota Bound* at <https://mnbound.com/>.

🌲 **Mailing List Misprint in November.** We had a mailing system error with our November 2022 mailing which resulted in first names being printed incorrectly on the mailing. We apologize for the error and appreciate everyone who reached out to us to correct their names. The issue has been resolved and we are grateful for your understanding!

🌲 **Snowshoe Tour Registration is Live!** All are once again welcome to join in on our free snowshoe hikes to Listening Point during the 2023 Ely Winter Festival, February 3-12. 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](http://listeningpointfoundation.org). Reservations required, donations welcome.

🌲 **A Wilderness Within.** Currently, the official biography of Sigurd F. Olson written by David Backes, *A Wilderness Within: The Life of Sigurd F. Olson* is on backorder. We have been having issues getting copies from our distributor but will hopefully receive our shipment soon. If you have ordered a copy recently, you are on our waitlist and we will ship the books as soon as we have them. Thank you for your understanding!

🌲 **25th Anniversary in 2023!** We are proud to announce that the Listening Point Foundation is getting ready to celebrate our 25th anniversary next year. Stay tuned for celebration event updates on our social media pages and our website.

Watch our website  
and Facebook page  
for announcements  
and updates!

## Coming Home continued from page 1

In her "Palpable Surroundings" essay (p. 107) Suzanne Schmitz wrote "I've found that a genuine experience of the earth becomes harder to find as my location and perspective get drawn further and further into an urban environment. Though, the weather is one quality of the earth that cannot be stifled, whatever the setting. Even in the city I can walk outside and feel the sting of a cold wind and know, I'm alive...It (the weather) is an ever-present assurance that I am never completely separate from the natural environment....For me, the weather makes my surroundings more than an observation; it provides a tangible experience of the earth."

Sig's words and writings of course also carry us back to wild places, places bounded by water and rock-strewn shores. Thankfully Sig ignored his own experiment over the New Year in 1935 regarding whether he was "enough." He had rented a cabin on Bear Island Lake for a few days to "find out if there really was a writer inside him waiting to break out" (pg. 114, *A Wilderness Within: The Life of Sigurd F. Olson* by David Backes). At the end of

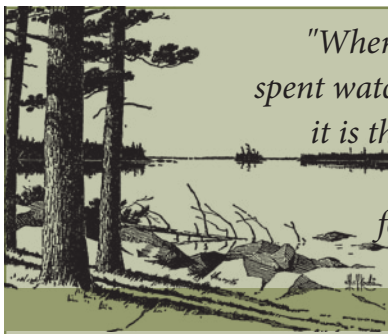
his stay, he concluded that he did not have it in himself to be a writer.

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Wrapping up a three-day writing retreat always brings a bit of sadness around leaving. Here at Listening Point magic had happened. Under spreading pines Carolyn had remembered what no longer served her, a teacher's critique of her third-grade creative skills. She departed Listening Point with a determination to pick up her brush and pen again, to explore the world through colors and light. I found a way to stand with the trees, to accept their grace and strength as my own and send love to my mother heavenward.

"I could stay in this place forever."

Listening Point provides a place to come, visit, stand in silence and awe, a place to just be. Leaving this place Lynn carried a bit of it inside her. Sitting on the dock on the shores of the lake, caressed by wind, hearing the whisper of eons and eons, she knew she was enough.



"When in the wilderness, all else is forgotten. He does not count as wasted any time spent watching the clouds, the trees, or the waters. To him, those hours are precious, for it is then that he is storing up a wealth of memories that will help him tide over the times when the stress of city life bears too heavily upon him, and make him forget the struggle in a vision of clear blue skies and sunlit woods and waters."

- Sigurd Olson, "Reflections of a Guide," *Field and Stream*, June 1928

## A Challenging Subject: Reflections From an Artist Residency Participant with the Listening Point Foundation

*By Joe Friedrichs*

A young man named Jordan Grider was eaten by wolves near the Echo Trail in October 2018, about 30 miles from the Listening Point cabin.

It's presumed that Grider accidentally injured himself while he was camping in a secluded area near the Sioux Hustler Trail. The injury caused his death. The wolves found him later.

Grider's is a collection of stories I am writing about for a forthcoming book about people who are killed, lost, injured, or face some form of hardship in the Boundary Waters. The book is being published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. The current release date is set for Spring 2024.

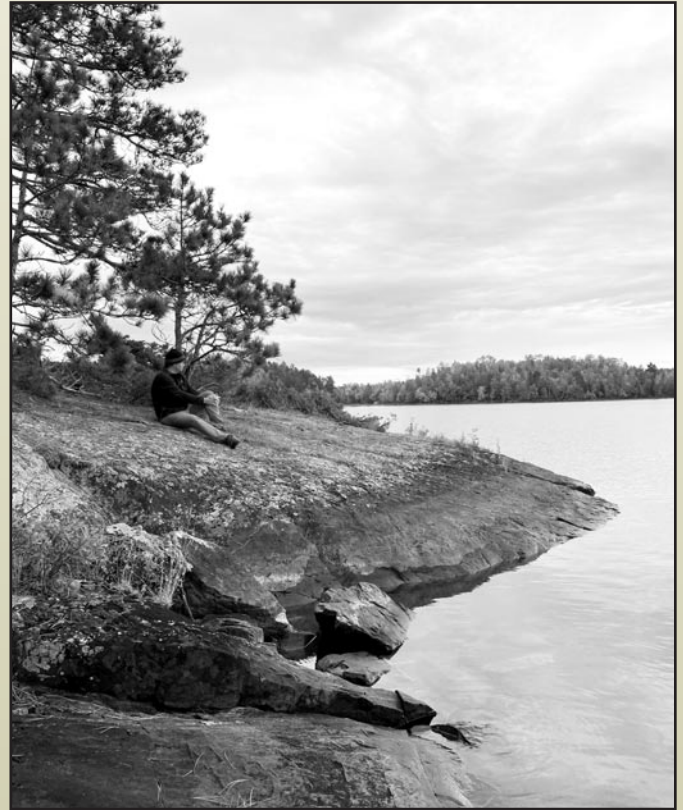
I was graciously allowed to return to Ely and the Listening Point Foundation headquarters to work on the book during the final days of September and first two days of October, 2022. The space was ideal for the content I dove into, which includes stories of heroic rescues in the Boundary Waters, and lengthy interviews with family members who lost their loved ones in this cherished wilderness. I channeled the energy and courage that Sigurd Olson wrote with in this space, and about this place. The words came to me here. Many pages were drafted, stories put down on paper.

It is quite suiting that I was able to write these stories inside the Olson home and at the Listening Point Foundation headquarters. It was here, after all, that I wrote a bulk of the story proposal that was sent to the MHSP for consideration. In fact, I hit "send" on the email that arrived to the editors and publishers in St. Paul from the very table where I type these words now.

I came to Ely this time to work solely on the book. I stayed three nights and four days, bouncing back and forth between the Olson home, which doubles as the current LPF headquarters in Ely, and the original, or at least mostly widely recognized Listening Point of them all on Burntside Lake. I wrote more than 70 pages of the book while I was here, some 35,000 words that will be included in the manuscript. It was a time of great clarity and purpose.

I was able to meet LPF Board Member Sue Duffy while I was in Ely during my residency. Sue and some others were doing a landscaping project at the LPF headquarters on a lovely fall day. The group shared with me the details of how Sigurd built the rock wall encircling the property. We talked about plants, hazards that people might face in the canoe-country wilderness, and we talked about Sigurd Olson. The conversations were mostly simple in nature, but it felt so rewarding to see the dedication of the team, to know how cared for this place was, and remains.

I also had the chance to talk with LPF Executive Director Steffi O'Brien during my stay. Steffi has been extremely supportive of my work in recent years, both for WTIP Radio in Grand



Marais, and supplemental radio and writing projects, including the book I was here to work on.

Originally, I was scheduled to work on this book during a residency at the Oberholtzer Foundation on Mallard Island in late August. The residency was canceled due to the flooding on Rainy Lake this year. The high water in and around the Boundary Waters this year impacted so many aspects of life, so many creative and meaningful projects people had intentions to engage in. When I reached out to Steffi to explain what happened with the residency at Mallard Island, she graciously offered me a stay in Ely at the LPF headquarters. Her generosity will never be forgotten.

The stories of Sigurd Olson continue to carry great meaning in this world. It's my hope that the stories of those who have died in the BWCA will also be remembered, their stories shared with purpose. I am forever grateful to the Listening Point Foundation for providing a safe space to craft this mission.

—October 2, 2022



## Audiobook Journals: A Trip to NYC

By Douglas Wood

*[Editor's note: This is a collection of posts made by our wonderful former Board President, Douglas Wood. Doug recently traveled to New York City in Fall 2022 to work on the audiobook recording for The Singing Wilderness. He invited us to share his musings, stories, and photos from his trip with the LPF community. Enjoy!]*

**October 31:** MANY OF YOU FRIENDS know of my profound connection with Sigurd F. Olson, wilderness icon and 'poet laureate' of the Canoe Country. Sig was an important mentor and inspiration in my own journey toward becoming an author. This week I feel very fortunate to be in New York City to record an audio-book reading of Sig's first book, New York Times best-seller, *The Singing Wilderness*. It is a project a long time in coming, made possible by generous support from the Listening Point Foundation. It is exciting and feels like I am coming full circle since first discovering Sig's books and writing to him in 1977. So... off to work.

**November 01:** AS I WALK BROADWAY and Times Square and the streets of Manhattan, the North Woods, Canadian Shield and Canoe Country seem a world away. But in the small isolation recording booth, as I read 'The Singing Wilderness' aloud, I am there—in the midst of caribou moss and pine knots and forest pools, bluebills and loons and the night-howling of wolves, rapids and wave-washed shores. I am immersed in all of it, because of the extraordinary and beautiful writing of Sigurd F. Olson. It is my hope that readers and listeners will be, too.

**November 02:** SOMEONE PLAYED a trick on me, and asked me to share some photos with Facebook friends while I am in Manhattan. The Big City. I readily agreed, and now I can't stop. I see beauty everywhere, and particularly in the grand park in the heart of the city, that draws me like a moth to a flame. Today, with a couple free hours after my recording work, I once again traipsed the trails. I found the calling of jays and the singing of flowing water, the soft voice of the titmouse, and even—wonder of wonders—the song of my favorite singer of the North Woods wilderness, the white-throated sparrow.



Meanwhile there were lovely scenes everywhere, especially in the wild 'Ramble,' where, in quiet moments, I could almost imagine the Manahatta of the original Lenape people. Ginkgos, oaks, and sycamores flaunted their colors, and beside the ponds, maples were on fire. I called to the white-throats and none came, but a cardinal did, landing close beside me and wondering at the man talking like a bird.

Lovers walked hand in hand, some folks sat on the black, rocky outcrops, a man played an accordion—beautifully—and someone simply lay upon the bosom of the Earth, finding, one would hope, some comfort there. Beauty is to be found everywhere on this third planet from the sun; and the fact that here—on one of the busiest, most crowded, most expensive pieces of real estate in the world—people have decided to save room for trees and rocks and ponds and squirrels, is one of the happiest things I have found lately. Come on, go for a walk with me.



**November 03:** AFTER FIVE LOVELY autumn days in New York City, it is time to return home. My visit was a fascinating juxtaposition of traipsing the concrete canyons, walking the trails of Central Park and its flood of autumn color, and—mostly—sitting in a small recording booth and reading aloud Sigurd Olson's *The Singing Wilderness*.

As I read and the flow of familiar images passed before me, I was not surrounded by the city—with all its charms and noise and haste—but was instead in a canoe with Sig. Gathering pine knots for a campfire. Skiing a winter trail. Smelling fresh-cut balsam. Listening for the distant howl of a wolf or the midnight wail of a loon.

I had a skilled and supportive sound engineer, who said he was being introduced to a new world. I think we created something good, and useful, and lasting. I HOPE that we created something beautiful, a fitting addition to Sigurd Olson's legacy.

Once again, my great thanks to the Listening Point Foundation for making this project possible. We will let you know when the audio-book becomes available. Thanks to all you friends for visiting New York with me!

## Reflections from Listening Point - A 7th & 8th Grade Perspective

*In September 2022, about 120 7th and 8th students from Great River School in St. Paul came to visit Listening Point as part of an 8-day trip to northern Minnesota. During their time out at the Point the students spent 30 minutes alone in the woods with their journals, instructed to simply sit, listen, and take in their surroundings. Here are some of their shared reflections on that time, along with a few thoughts from one of the adult guides:*

"I love it here, it feels like a hide out. The horizon is really pretty and feels like home. I love the north woods and being there the feeling of sitting on the forest floor with creatures crawling feet from you. Sitting here knowing that Sigurd Olson walked these trails gives me the chills. I hope to do something as great as Sigurd, he did such good things - he was a trailblazer. Being here feeds my soul, one of my favorite quotes reads "Into the forest I go to lose my mind and find my soul" that's exactly what we did on this key experience. Every single piece of the land is perfect, every rock, tree, and plant. Sitting here I literally feel the inspiration pouring out of me. I'm so glad to have had the chance to visit the Listening Point Foundation." – *Gretchen Kiel, Grade 7*

...

"Listening Point was truly a magical experience. The way the sun reflected off the water was beautiful. The lake was clear so you could see the colored rocks from under the water. There were also a lot of snails that were really fun to see! The sounds of the birds, waves, wind, made it even better to just reflect on thoughts. The sun was very warm and there was a nice breeze. It was very interesting to learn about Sigurd F. Olsen and how he devoted his life to educating people about why preserving spots like Listening Point is important. If I'm ever up-north I would definitely go again!" – *Aderyn Ledger, Grade 7*

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"Where do I even start? It's a wondrous place, a spot in nature where magic seems a realistic complex. Where, cheesy as it may sound, anything is possible.

When I sat on that cliffside that drooped into the water, the waves ricocheting on the rocks, gliding clean and smooth on their stony bodies, inspiration struck me. The loud, rushing feeling so familiar to me was upon me again, however silent it may have been.

The sound of the wind through the trees is a song I will never forget. Pulling open my notebook and writing the beginning to a story that would soon be popular among my traveling peers, one



that is still revisited today by their eager energy. That's when a small aspect of my authorization changed forever. Listening Point made an impact, a huge impact on my life.

So, yes. Listening Point is worth every poem flown from the mind, worth every scab on a leg, bristled in the ticklish bramble. Creativity is worth every adventure." – *Louise Baldwin, Grade 8*

...

"When I was at Listening Point we did a thing where we sat alone in the woods for a bit and reflected on our surroundings. I was a bit apprehensive about this at first but I got into that place where you just exist and it was easily the best 30-some minutes of the 8-day trip I was on. Listening Point is an amazing collection of history and nature. The property and buildings are great and I especially liked the canoe in the cabin." – *Greta Geise, Grade 8*

...

"I would just like to thank you for teaching so many people about Listening Point! I think it is awesome that you get to educate people about Sigurd Olson. I found it interesting that we weren't allowed to pull any grass or rip any leaves. When we sat and wrote while listening to nature it was really calming and relaxing. Thank you." – *Orion Hansen, Grade 8*

...

"Listening Point was so beautiful and peaceful. I could feel the powerful energy of silence. Silence from the noises of humans and machines that is so rare to get away from nowadays. It made me feel like I could just keep sitting there for hours and hours listening to the sound of wind and water. It made me notice things that I usually wouldn't notice before because of the distractions of noise and the stress of life. A frog camouflaged on a rock, a shell in the water, the busy chatter of water bugs flying across the water, the chirping of birds in the trees, and the healing nature of silence."

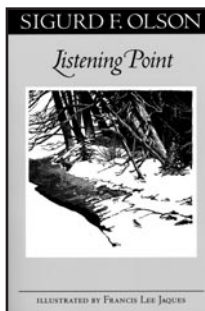
– *Asata Portwood, Grade 8*

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"The Listening Point Foundation stop on our 8-day trip was irreplaceable. Walking the cedar-strewn paths, dropping into silent reverie with our whole group at the lake, touching the Finnish joinery on the sauna, sitting with my back against the cabin's very logs, and learning the story of how the Boundary Waters was protected all fed my soul. I watched the contagion of the quiet and beauty and history work their way through the whole group of youth. The story of the BWCA's preservation reminded me of so many ways that the long arc of history bends towards justice, while at the same time those on the vanguard, like Sigurd Olson and family, bear the brunt of society's resistance to healing change. All gratitude to Sigurd Olson, to his many like-minded kin through the ages, to the Foundation, and most of all to the Listening Point itself for holding space for silence and the sacredness of the wild and for blessing our group with a day to feel it, too. I saw a light burn bright in the eyes of the youth that day. That very light is why I do this work." – *Lisa Holt, Guide*

# GIFT SHOP

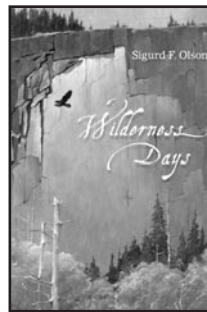
Share the spirit of Listening Point with friends and family!  
Order online at [listeningpointfoundation.org/shop](http://listeningpointfoundation.org/shop)



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

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

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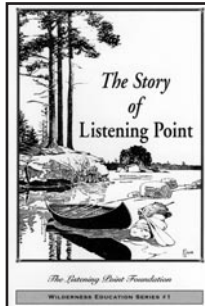
**Wilderness Days**  
University of Minnesota Press has published a new paperback edition of *Wilderness Days*—a collection of Sig's writings that depicts the essence of the magnificent woodlands and waters of the legendary Quetico-Superior region that borders Minnesota and Ontario.

..... \$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.

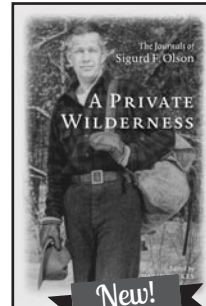
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**Sig Olson's Wilderness Moments**  
For Kids! Five selections of Sig Olson's writings, with "Points to Ponder" and "Activities" following each section. Excellent opportunity to introduce Sig to the younger generation. Includes blank pages at the end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

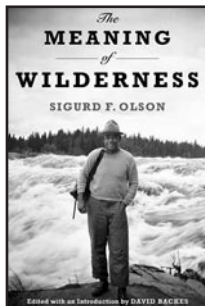
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**For Kids**



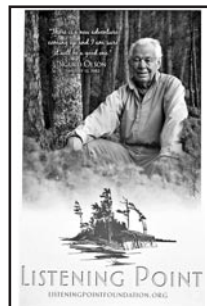
**A Private Wilderness**  
Edited by David Backes. Written mostly during the years from 1930 to 1941, Sigurd F. Olson's journals describe the dreams and frustrations of an aspiring writer honing his skills, pursuing recognition, and facing doubt. Author of Olson's definitive biography, editor David Backes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

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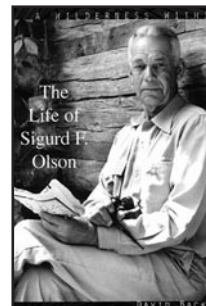
**The Meaning of Wilderness**  
Now available in paperback! First published in 2001, this book features a collection of Sigurd F. Olson's articles and speeches. It offers a lively look at the evolution of one of environmentalism's leading figures and is essential reading for Olson fans, historians, and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



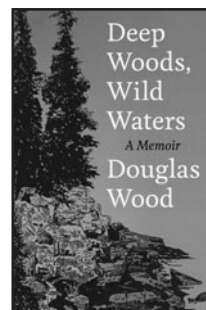
**LPF Mug**  
3 finger handle. With logo, website, and "Sig's legacy ... pass it on!" Available in black or white.

..... \$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

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*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




## LPF Hats

For your wearing pleasure! 100% cotton, embroidered with the Listening Point logo. Spruce Green, Aqua, Caribbean Blue, Ivory, Poppy, and Khaki/Spruce Green (two-tone). Availability may vary. Adjustable leather strap. .... \$18



**Listening Point Luminaria**  
Created from the original water-color 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. Luminaria is 4-sided, measures 5"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 luminaria 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



Warm wishes for  
the holidays and  
a happy new year!

... from the Listening Point Foundation

## *Listening Point Foundation Contribution Form*

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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      ☐ (other) \_\_\_\_\_

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



Honoring Doug Wood with an engraved paddle at the Annual Dinner in Ely. *Photo by Freja Finkle*



Snowshoe hike at Listening Point during the Ely Winter Festival. *Photo by Freja Finkle*



Bundled up in the cabin during the Ely Winter Festival. *Photo by Freja Finkle*



*Monotropa uniflora* growing at Listening Point. *Photo by Freja Finkle*



Great River School students explore Listening Point. *Photo by Lisa Holt*

# Thank You!

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

\* denotes brick

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

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- Robert and Rebecca Patient Charitable Fund, *In honor of Stanley Larson and Earl Patient*

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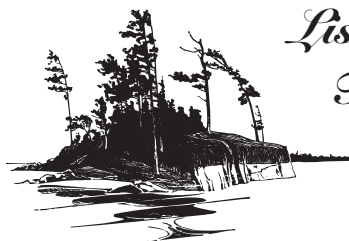
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- Mary Grayson, *In memory of Sig H. Olson, my Juneau friend*
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- David and Laurie Saari, *In memory of Jim Conover*
- Susan and Paul Schurke, *In memory of Elizabeth Olson*
- Chuck and Marty Wick, *In memory of Jim Conover*
- Ben and Barry Wolfe, *In memory of Bob Miller*

June 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022

*"Only by looking closely can we begin to understand and appreciate the intimate interrelationship of all living things to one another and to the earth."*

*The Hidden Forest (1969) by Sigurd Olson and Les Blacklock*



## *Listening Point Foundation, Inc.*

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### THE VIEW FROM LISTENING POINT — FALL/WINTER 2022

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