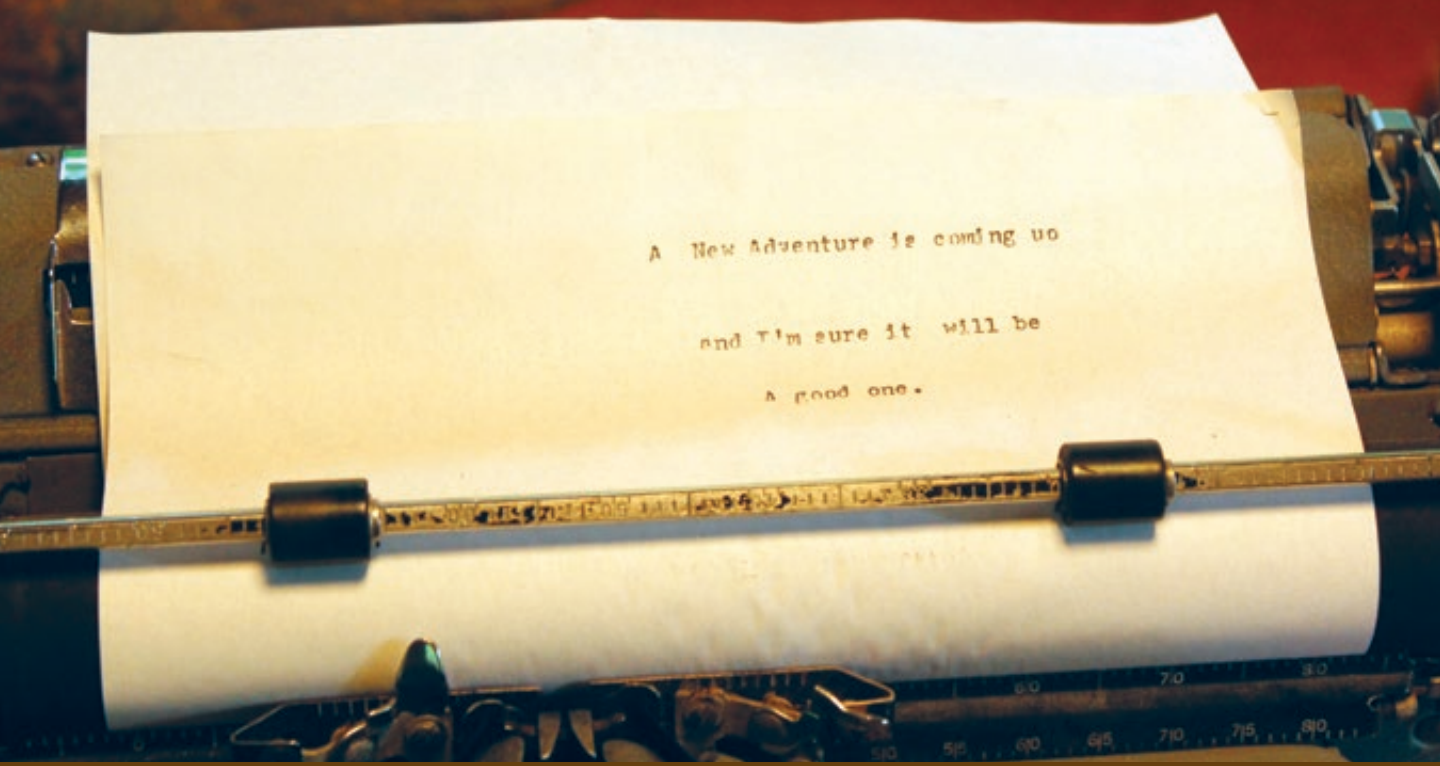
SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF QUETICO SUPERIOR CANOE COUNTRY

Summer 2015

Wilderness News

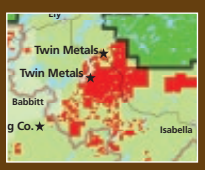
Securing Sig's Legacy

Page 3



INSIDE:

Cultivating Stewardship in Northern Minnesota
Page 6



Mining Update
Page 9

YMCA Camp du Nord
Page 10

QUETICO SUPERIOR FOUNDATION

QUETICO SUPERIOR COUNTRY

The Quetico Superior Foundation, established in 1946, encourages and supports the protection of the wilderness, cultural and historical resources of the Quetico Superior canoe country and region.

Wilderness News
Published by the Quetico Superior Foundation

Wilderness News is published, in part, with a contribution from the Andrews-Hunt Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation.

Design: Eaton & Associates Design Company
Printed on 100% recycled paper with soy-based inks

Contact us at:
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We hope you find these stories valuable, and that you'll let us know by subscribing today. Together, we can continue to care for a region we all hold dear.

Sincerely,

Jim Wyman
President, Quetico Superior Foundation

On the Cover: The paper with the possibly prophetic last words Sigurd Olson ever typed remains in the typewriter in his writing shack. Photo by Greg Seitz.

Sigurd Olson's Legacy Returns Home

By Greg Seitz

Sigurd Olson's writing shack remains just as it was when he passed away in 1982, containing a plethora of mementoes and photos from his adventures. All photos by Greg Seitz.

The soul of Sigurd and Elizabeth Olson lives on at their home in Ely. The soul smells of fresh-baked cookies in the kitchen. In the writing shack on the property, it smells of cedar. It sounds like a breeze rustling the tall red pines Sig planted as seedlings, of croaking ravens and scuttling red squirrels. It lives on, just as Sigurd's work to preserve wilderness continues. Now that the Listening Point Foundation has purchased the property, containing both the house and the writing shack, the work will continue there as it has since the Olsons bought it in 1934.

Situated on a quiet street atop a ridge on the south side of town, the property is where, for 48 years, the owners raised their family while orchestrating campaigns to permanently protect the Boundary Waters and other wilderness around the United States. It is also where Sigurd wrote all of his books, sequestered in the old garage that he repurposed as an office.

Elizabeth remained in the house until her death in 1994, twelve years after Sigurd passed away while snowshoeing on the property in 1982. Longtime family friends Chuck and Marty Wick then bought the home, and made it their own while preserving the sense of the Olsons and the history that had happened there. Twenty years later, the Wicks sold it to the Foundation to continue the stewardship.

As executive director, Alanna Dore felt it was essential that the Listening Point Foundation acquire this historic property. For her first 10 years as director, she ran the group from her dining room. Most of the work was focused on the cabin at Listening Point on Burntside Lake. But, modern times called for a place the group could call home as it seeks to expand its efforts to reach a new generation of readers and wilderness advocates.

"We don't know all the opportunities it's going to present," said Dore.

Above: the Olson home in Ely, which Sigurd and Elizabeth purchased in 1934. It is about 23 paces from the house to the writing shack (right) along a stone path.

It was this house that countless collaborators came to eat cookies, drink tea, and discuss the idea that some places on earth ought to be left alone. The room that the Olsons added to the house to accommodate just such conversations has not changed since they lived there. "The Porch" has windows on three sides, a big pine table in the middle, a stuffed owl, fish-themed lamps, a few books on the shelves, and a view of the red pines which now tower above, and a stone wall he built around the edge of the yard.

The other place unchanged is the writing shack (where this article was written). The sheet of paper with Sigurd's famous last written words remains in the Royal typewriter, the keys he pressed to type: "A New Adventure is coming up and I'm sure it will be a good one," before going out the door for his last snowshoe walk. Dozens of rocks and other natural items are displayed on a desk, perhaps totems to reconnect him with the wilderness he so evocatively wrote about and the stories that he told.

To sit in the shack and write was an honor—and intimidating. Sigurd's pipe smoke must have swirled around this room as he put on paper ideas and images that no one else so magically captured of the power and beauty of canoe country. The garage was "the birthplace of a new language," as Julie Paleen Aronow wrote in the summer 2015 "View From Listening Point" newsletter. "The language of wilderness was created there from the passion and experiences of the old voyageur."

At first the words came easily to me, my writer's block lifted by Sigurd's gentle spirit and in the morning a thousand words blurred by. But after a lunch trip to Listening Point, when I returned for the afternoon and evening, I found a feeling of inadequacy. Sigurd wrote books in the room that were beloved by millions, he sparked a movement that continues to bring a quarter million people to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness every year, he led nascent organizations that successfully preserved wild places, and he planned canoe trips along remote routes in northern Minnesota and far north into Canada.

I suddenly felt like an imposter.

My salvation was unimpressive at first. The wall that ringed the yard was overgrown with Virginia

Left: Alanna Dore, executive director of the Listening Point Foundation, in the kitchen of the Olson house. Above: the living room has been adapted to display information about Sigurd Olson's books and conservation work, as well as a nice spot to read one of his books.

creeper, obscuring the stone behind floppy leaves. I had admired the wall as a relic of an important person's hands, but it looked more like a ridge of stone. While I liked that it was there, it didn't seem to serve any purpose. Its purpose seemed to be obscured by the weeds.

As the afternoon wound down, and as I struggled to regain the flow that I had felt that morning, Dore said goodbye. As she left, she suggested I could pull some weeds if I wanted. They had an open house coming up in a couple weeks and she thought if I wanted to work on something Sig had worked on, I could "do ten feet" or whatever.

I wanted to write, but I needed to weed that wall. The weeds came up easily, and soon exposed the wall's purpose—and beauty. Etched with piles of red pine needles, it looked like the Canadian shield: the outcome of billion-year-old rock and two-mile-thick glaciers. A pile of glaciated rock, the duff of a few millennia nestled in the nooks.

Once I had weeded the section visible from the porch, I felt like I had earned the opportunity and I returned to the shack. The words came quickly.

This experience could be available to others in the future. Dore hopes to launch a writers-in-residence program, providing the opportunity to sleep in Sig's bedroom and write in his shack. Dore envisions possibly leading some writing workshops as a trade for time.

The foundation hopes to use this new home base to help get Sigurd's writing in the hands of more young people, who need nature and wilderness more than ever.

"Next year, education and young people are going to be our focus. The year of the young," Dore says.

These new opportunities the property makes possible are exactly why it was important for the Foundation to acquire it.

When the Wicks told Dore last year that it was time for them to sell the property, she leapt into action. With a goal of raising $220,000 to buy the property, she got on the phone. She wasn't intimidated by the nearly quarter-million dollars she had to raise, because the case for donations was pretty clear. This would ensure the property stayed in the hands of those who love what the Olsons stood for. In a matter of nine months, she had secured the funding from a couple dozen donors, and the Foundation and the Wicks closed the sale in December 2014.

Since then, Alanna Dore has led the charge to adapt the home into an office, museum, and community space. And she continues to bake cookies for visitors, using Elizabeth's recipe.

Cultivating Stewardship in Northern Minnesota

By Alissa Johnson

A new program in northern Minnesota aims to connect people with a passion for the northwoods with opportunities to take care of the places they love, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. A volunteer board of directors has been working with input from Forest Service liaisons to create a nonprofit organization called the Northwoods Volunteer Connection. The goal is to recruit, train, and manage volunteers to fill a much-needed stewardship need in Superior National Forest.

"People ask me all the time, 'How can I volunteer?'" said Bill Hansen, owner of Sawbill Outfitters on the eastern side of the Boundary Waters. "I have to say there isn't much opportunity, and they're always surprised."

In lieu of volunteering, Hansen suggests that visitors pick up litter during canoe trips and leave things cleaner than they found them. But as the Vice-chair of the Board of Directors for the newly-formed Northwoods Volunteer Connection, he hopes to have a different answer next summer. By then, the Connection should be sending crews into the woods to complete stewardship projects like trail maintenance. "It's obvious to everyone that there is more potential for volunteerism in the forest," Hansen said. "The idea is to create a nonprofit organization that can be more nimble outside of the Forest Service and take on a lot of the organizational and logistical matters."

According to Suzanne Cable, Assistant District Ranger for the Tofte and Gunflint Ranger Districts of the Superior National Forest (SNF), a robust volunteer program is in place within her districts. But it's comprised of about 20 different organizations and user groups that focus on trail maintenance only, and the Forest Service interacts with each on a case-by-case basis. That leaves room for other types of projects and requires a lot of management. "The big benefit of a group like [the Northwoods Volunteer Connection] is a tremendous increase in efficiency because we maintain relationships with all those partners, which is great—they do good work. But it's time consuming," she said. Prior to working in the SNF, Cable worked in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests in Idaho, where she was involved with two volunteer groups similar to the Connection: the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, which helps the Forest Service steward wilderness and wildlands in Idaho, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation in Montana. When she moved to Minnesota, she was surprised that a similar group didn't exist and quickly became a supporter of the Connection, serving as a liaison to the Board of Directors. "The work that volunteers help us do is all supplemental to the work we can get done with our own agency employees. Volunteer work doesn't displace employees, but it is completely complementary, allowing us to get a lot more done than we could with our own employees and our own resources and funding," Cable said.

It can also be a better experience for volunteers. Cable explained that by operating outside of the agency, these types of organizations can be more creative with things like recruitment. And because the organization will oversee training and volunteer development, it can expand into a wide variety of projects as the volunteer base grows. While most start with projects like trail maintenance, Cable has seen them branch out to include managing invasive species, helping with public education, and conducting citizen scientist projects. The result is a deeper investment in a place that's already meaningful. "It's about taking ownership in a place that they love and providing a good vehicle to show that love," Cable said.

Hansen says that the Northwoods Volunteer Connection has been modeled off of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, which has nearly 20 member groups focused on providing stewardship for wilderness areas. The idea is to create partnerships between

Volunteers with the National Smokejumpers Association work on the construction of the Centennial Trail on the Gunflint Ranger District. Photos courtesy Suzanne Cable, Superior National Forest.

communities, non-profit groups and government agencies in order to get volunteers into the woods. As the mission of the Connection states:

The Northwoods Volunteer Connection partners to create connections to recruit, train, and supervise volunteers. We work to be better stewards of the land by putting boots on the ground and tools in the hands of people that care about the northwoods of northeastern Minnesota.

"Our next order of business is to raise money to hire an executive director to professionalize the organization, to get it going and get organized," Hansen said. He and the Board of Directors hope that will take place over the next several months so that on-the-ground projects can begin during the summer of 2016. "We're going to be based in Cook County to start with because we got our start over here. It may be that projects are eastside-centric for the first year or two, but as we expand, we'll be making efforts to include the whole forest."

Within Cook County, however, and eventually across the broader northwoods region, the Connection will focus on all types of lands, including the BWCAW, the Superior National Forest, and private and county lands. Cable believes that broad focus will be one key to the organization's success.

"They can recruit from a very large audience. If it was only the Boundary Waters, there's a lot of love for that but it is a limited segment of the population that uses and enjoys it," she said, noting that when you add people who love to snowmobile, cross country ski, bike, and camp to the mix—or even people who are concerned about factors like invasive species—the organization's reach grows. "That really diversifies the pool of people you can reach out to."

When the Connection is up and running, projects will be selected to complement what Forest Service employees do as part of their jobs. Hansen refers to it as building a firewall between traditional Forest Service jobs and volunteers, using a simple litmus test to choose projects: Without volunteers, would it get done? If the answer is no, then it's the perfect fit for the Connection. The organization will also stay away from advocacy. "This organization is not an advocacy group and it's not political, and we won't be lobbying for more funding. It's strictly to get boots on the ground and people in the woods doing work," Hansen said.

The result will be a partnership that greatly improves stewardship of the land and fills a much-needed niche.

To get involved with the Northwoods Volunteer Connection, email board chair John Wytanis at jwytanis@gmail.com.

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The Quetico Superior Foundation

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Mine Proposals Move at Glacial Pace

The only thing slower moving than the development of a new copper mine is probably the geologic forces that created northern Minnesota's mineral deposits. While mine proposals in the Quetico-Superior Region may be the most urgent issue facing the waters and economy of northern Minnesota, developments often happen so slowly that the projects can appear to not be moving at all.

That said, minor milestones keep marking movement toward decisions on whether or not such mining will happen.

The two primary potential mines are PolyMet and Twin Metals. PolyMet is the furthest along in the proposal process, having already released environmental review documents. It would be located in the St. Louis River watershed, draining into Lake Superior, not the Boundary Waters and Rainy River system. Twin Metals is still developing its proposal, and would be located near the South Kawishiwi River and Birch Lake, just a few miles from the wilderness.

After PolyMet's supplemental environmental impact statement was released for public comment earlier this year, the document is now back with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The DNR is working on responding to concerns included in the 58,000 comments submitted, the most ever on an environmental review in Minnesota. Ninety-eight percent of those comments opposed the project, largely because of the risk of water pollution.

Because the proposed open pit mine is in the headwaters of the St. Louis River, national environmental group American Rivers put the river on its 2015 list of "America's Most Endangered Rivers."

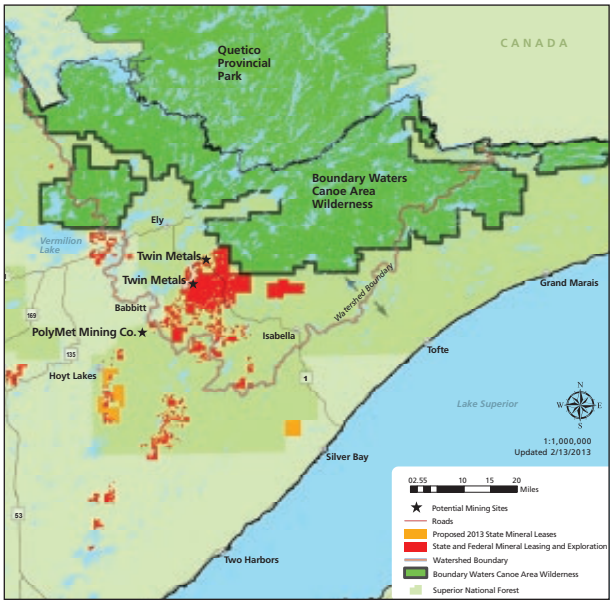
"Minnesotans cherish the St. Louis River and Lake Superior," said Andrew Slade of Minnesota Environmental Partnership. "The PolyMet mine will need 500 years of water treatment, and we just can't accept that."

In June, the DNR announced that it expects to release the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a 30-day public review period in November. Then, in February 2016, it plans to release a determination of whether or not the review is adequate.

"The adequacy decision does not authorize or approve the project. The project would still need to receive local, state and federal approvals and permits in order to proceed," the DNR stated.

PolyMet has also begun exploring for minerals in Pine County, near the Snake River, a St. Croix River tributary. It also launched a partnership with Ducks Unlimited in which the company will provide three years of funding to restore wild rice in 100 Minnesota lakes. To keep the money coming that it needs to move the mine proposal forward, Swiss conglomerate Glencore has extended financing in exchange for a one-third ownership stake in the project.

Twin Metals has also felt the funding crunch this year. After its partner Antofagasta PLC (a Chilean mining company) dropped out of the project last summer, Twin Metals nearly went bankrupt before Antofagasta stepped back in and took 100 percent control of the project this January. The company is now refining the Pre-Feasibility Study it released last summer, which mostly sought to make the financial case for the mine. Little else has been reported about the project this year.



Sulfide Mining Activity in Northeastern Minnesota. Map courtesy Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

Campers at YMCA Camp du Nord learn the essential skill of cooking in the wilderness. All photos courtesy YMCA Camp du Nord.

The Family That Goes to Camp Together, Stays Together

By Greg Seitz

All summer long, families stream to the North Arm of Burntside Lake, outside Ely, for a week at camp. There, for the past 54 years, YMCA Camp du Nord has provided opportunities to learn about nature, do arts and crafts, play silly games, acquire skills to explore the wilderness, and have profound shared experiences.

The camp is a lot like a traditional summer youth camp, but kids and parents attend together, and it's as much about relationships as it is about having fun in the woods.

Family camping is becoming more popular across the country, with the American Camping Association reporting it grew by 11 percent between 2008 and 2012. Du Nord's summer schedule fills up in January. The camp's executive director, Niki Geisler, thinks she knows why.

"There is an increased desire for an unplugged experience," she says. "Adults in particular are recognizing that you can be present with your family when you don't have the distractions of screens and technology around you."

She says one unofficial camp motto is "be where your feet are," and when someone attends its summer program, their feet are firmly planted at du Nord for a week. It runs Saturday to Saturday, June through August, and is much more than a resort.

There are a variety of cabins and tent sites that run from primitive to rustic. In fact, that lodging spectrum is part of a strategy to help people get comfortable with the wilderness.

"I say to the parents, we ask our kids constantly to meet new friends and try new things, but adults rarely do that."

– Camp du Nord Executive Director, Niki Geisler

"Canoeing is a big emphasis here, and hopefully we're preparing people to enjoy the Boundary Waters for their entire life."

– Niki Geisler

"We combine the fun and adventure with experiencing wilderness in a way that makes you want to make sure it's around for generations to come," Geisler says.

Many families at first choose one of the cozy cabins. They spend a week canoeing, cooking a meal at a campsite, navigating with a map and compass, and sleeping in a comfortable bed. Eventually, many seek a more rustic experience, and choose a tent site for a week. And then they might go on a two or three night overnight trip in the Boundary Waters with a camp staffer. The ultimate goal is that they feel ready to take their family into the wilderness on their own.

A trip to du Nord differs from a Disneyland vacation in a lot of ways, but what parents seem to appreciate the most is the fact they get to relax a little, and somebody else is there to help organize the fun.

Each mornings activities feature all age groups, when kids from toddler to teenager spend time with their peers, while parents are free to do other activities, whether that's going for a hike or having a cup of coffee and reading a book.

The kids love it. They hang out with others their own age and learn from experienced counselors with a sense of adventure. A progression of wilderness skills is a key component. The toddlers and preschoolers simply interact with nature, while the teens learn about j-strokes and campfire cooking which culminates with an overnight canoe trip.

"Canoeing is a big emphasis here, and hopefully we're preparing people to enjoy the Boundary Waters for their entire life," Geisler says.

Families are reunited for the afternoon and evening, when they can participate in more outdoor fun and creative arts. The week also includes a family triathlon, variety shows, and a popular game called "woody ball," which Geisler describes as combining capture the flag, pin guard and dress up.

All this fun and learning has a purpose: it strengthens family bonds.

Geisler's background is working at youth camps, and she says her biggest frustration at those places was that kids would go home, having experienced a life-changing week, and their parents would often be unaware of the impact, unable to understand how their children might be different people than they were before leaving for camp.

Du Nord lets families have these experiences together and change together. An important part of that is doing things out of their usual roles.

"Kids get to see their parents and the adults in their family acting silly, being active and stepping outside their comfort zones," Geisler says. "I say to the parents, we ask our kids constantly to meet new friends and try new things, but adults rarely do that."

Doing something different, challenging themselves to do something hard in the woods or on a stage, provides an opportunity to "be present with each other," Geisler says. That presence is the key to knitting families closer together.

Located down the road from YMCA Camp Widjiwagan, du Nord took a unique tack from its first year of operation in 1961, catering to families instead of solely on youth. There were skeptics, Geisler says, whose attitude was, "we don't think families will drive 5 hours to use outdoor biffies."

They were wrong. Du Nord has now grown to 150 acres, three villages, and 43 family lodging options. A new village opened up in 2000. There is a lottery in December to give everyone a fair shot at the cabins. There is talk of how they can accommodate more visitors. "Mini-camps" and other uses in the fall, winter, and spring, including long weekends for women, men, and couples, are growing in popularity.

The future seems to hold promise for du Nord, and it is taking steps to guarantee it will be able to keep doing what it does when the kid campers of today are bringing their own families. They use numerous practices to conserve water, reduce waste, and be sustainable. This also lets them educate visitors about the potential of environmental stewardship.

"We're modeling what's possible even on a large scale. We have a garden and many of our building practices have a real green emphasis," Geisler says. "Our philosophy is more about modeling than overtly teaching."

While families leave the camp (often reluctantly) after their week feeling inspired and re-energized, Geisler says, they return the favor. "It's inspiring to know that people want to be connected to nature," she says. And du Nord is there to make those connections.

www.ymcatwincities.org/camps/camp_du_nord/

Children are enthralled by camp counselors during age group. Many of the counselors grew up staying at the camp with their own families.

Doing something different, challenging themselves to do something hard in the woods or on a stage, provides an opportunity to "be present with each other," Geisler says. That presence is the key to knitting families closer together.

A Winter Wolf Story

by Paul Schurke

Ask most of us dogsledders and skiers about what we find so compelling about the Quetico Superior country in the snow season, and the answer is often the same: the wilderness is somehow wilder in winter.

Visitors are certainly less evident. Of the quarter million trekkers who visit the region annually, less than one percent ply its lakes and trails when they're frozen and snow drifted. But its residents are vastly more evident. With the foliage gone, vistas into the forest are enhanced, along with prospects for spotting wildlife.

More significantly, even the critters that remain hidden can't help but leave their calling cards behind. The vast networks of tracks that knit their way across the snowscape give hint not only of where the animals were headed, but sometimes even why. Consider this bit of track sleuthing that a friend and I found ourselves engaged in during a January dogsled and ski trek on the Kawishiwi River.

In the fleeting daylight of late afternoon, we found ourselves approaching a long set of rapids. The portage trail was deeply drifted over and in steep terrain—not a welcome prospect at day's end. But with no suitable camp options nearby, we were obliged to push on.

Fortunately a ribbon of solid shelf ice extended along the rapids edge just wide enough for us to negotiate, and we threaded our way without mishap. At the rapids base, the gorge widened out into a catchment pool. There a curious feature caught our eyes. A perfect circle—a dozen yards in diameter—was rutted into the the thin snow on its surface. At its center a protrusion of some kind poked through the thin black ice like a bullseye.

This odd scene compelled investigation. We secured our dogteams along the shoreline and ventured out on skis. As we approached, the situation revealed itself. The circle was wolf tracks and the protrusion was a moose antler.

With a bit more sleuthing, the story became clear to us. Extending along the far shoreline and out towards the frozen pool was a braided set of wolf and moose tracks. The pack has pursued the moose to the base of the rapids where it had taken a chance to make the crossing. But the moose had miscalculated the ice and punched through.

Floundering in the deep water, he had flayed mightily with his front hooves in a desperate effort to gain purchase on the thin ice and pull himself out. But that only served to create an ever larger hole, and his terror was surely heightened by the the wolves that circled round and round awaiting their chance.

The drama may have played out for an hour or more. But in the end the moose succumbed. There he lay, floating at the center of the pool formed by his death throes.

The deeply-rutted track around the pool made it apparent that the wolf pack had continued to circle with persistence, hopeful their harvest would float within their reach. Given the freshness of their tracks, we surmised that their patience had been disrupted by the approach.

Destiny had laid claim to the moose. No amount of empathy would change that. But we felt a tinge of guilt for disrupting the wolves' prospects for a meal. Ice was now reforming over the pool and the cold night ahead would render their meal inaccessible to them.

A solution presented itself. With a hatchet and long rope, I skied out to protruding antler and, after chopping an opening, looped the rope around it. Heading back to shore, I secured the free end to the upstanders of our dogsled. Would our dogs have the torque to break the moose free and tow him up onto the ice? Though it seemed unlikely, we added our muscle power to theirs by leaning into the back of the sled and encouraged them forward. The line snapped tight. Again we shouted "Hike!" The dogs lunged with more vigor. The moose broke free from its icey moorings and inched forward. Soon it was entirely on the surface. Young and robust, it clearly represented quite a prize for the wolf pack. And now it would be.

With twilight upon us, we set camp a quarter mile down stream. An hour later as the moon rose, we enjoyed our evening meal and looked upstream towards that pool to watch a silhouette of seven wolves feasting on theirs.

Paul Schurke operates Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge on White Iron Lake near Ely, Minnesota, and is a founding board member of the Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness.

North Shore: A Natural History of Minnesota's Superior Coast

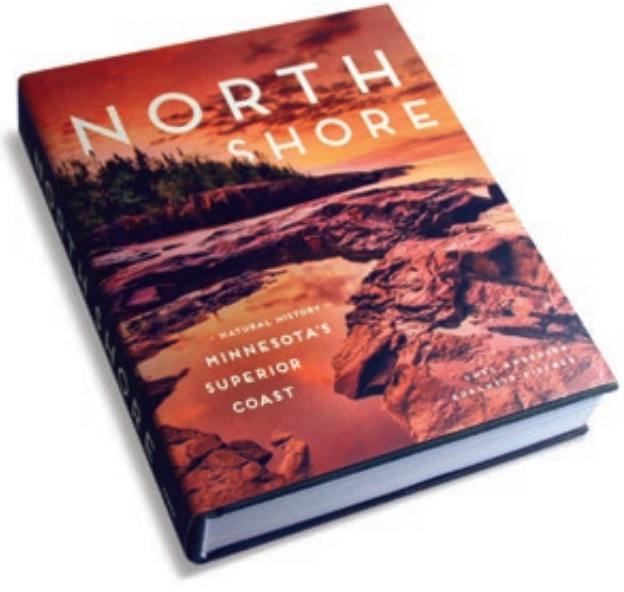
By Chel Anderson and Adelheid Fischer
Published by University of Minnesota Press
Reviewed by Stephanie Hemphill

A book of more than 500 pages invites comparison to the Bible. *North Shore: A Natural History of Minnesota's Superior Coast* is like a bible in some ways: it is vast in scope, thought-provoking, and poetic in places. It is full of passages that invite repeated visits, and reveal deeper meanings with each visit.

The authors are Chel Anderson, who has worked in the Superior National Forest since 1974 and made important contributions to the Minnesota Biological Survey, and Adelheid Fischer, a prolific writer and winner of a Minnesota Book Award for Nature Writing.

The book is a celebration of the big and little lives that make Lake Superior and its surrounding region so richly complex, an eye-opening recounting of human errors that have brought the natural systems close to collapse, and a challenge to readers to consider how we can live so that all of our neighbors can flourish. An important theme is the fact that the North Shore is not only an ancient place, with exposed bedrock about 1.5 billion years old, and an improbably wild place in the midst of the settled Midwest, but also a place shaped by humans.

The structure of the book mimics the geography of the place: major sections describe the big lake's Headwaters, Highlands, Nearshore, Lake Superior, and Islands. Smaller chapters, almost like sidebars, delve into details of plant life, animal interactions, human impacts, and so on. For those who want to know more, each section is followed by an exhaustive list of relevant books, articles, and internet resources.



Even for those who think they know the region pretty well, nearly every page offers amazing observations like this example:

> *In the complex web of life in the big lake, tiny crustaceans called mysids are an important link in the food chain. To avoid predators they spend their days near the lake bottom, as deep as 650 feet, but at sunset they migrate closer to the surface to feed on algae. This daily commute uses up huge amounts of energy, and also probably, incidentally, brings pollutants up from the bottom sediments and redistributes them through the water column.*

This is just one of the hundreds of tidbits that pop from the pages of this comprehensive book. Reading it is like being invited along on expeditions in which researchers discover new life forms in the extreme depths, learn how to restore habitat for coaster brook trout, study how changing water levels affect coastal wetlands, and observe for a lifetime the relationship between wolves and moose.

Though much more than a coffee-table book, *North Shore* is richly illustrated with photographs, maps, and illustrations. Some of the most intriguing are historic photos of logging, fishing, and other human activities that have impacted the lake and its watershed so dramatically.

The book ends with a chapter on "The Wild Card of Climate Change," with predictably depressing warnings of what is only too likely to happen in the next 100 years. Northern latitudes are expected to warm more dramatically than equatorial regions, and Minnesota is especially sensitive to climate shifts because it sits at a crossroads between the prairie, the deciduous forest and the boreal forest. Small temperature differences keep the systems separate.

The authors had two main goals, both ambitious. One was to help readers "nurture a deep sense of belonging to nature," which they achieve brilliantly by presenting authoritative science in an engaging way. The second was to motivate all of us to "prioritize this ecological knowledge in our decision-making – both in our households and in our communities." It's up to us, they point out, to give ourselves and our fellow creatures time and space to adapt. And it's up to readers of the book to determine its success in meeting that goal.

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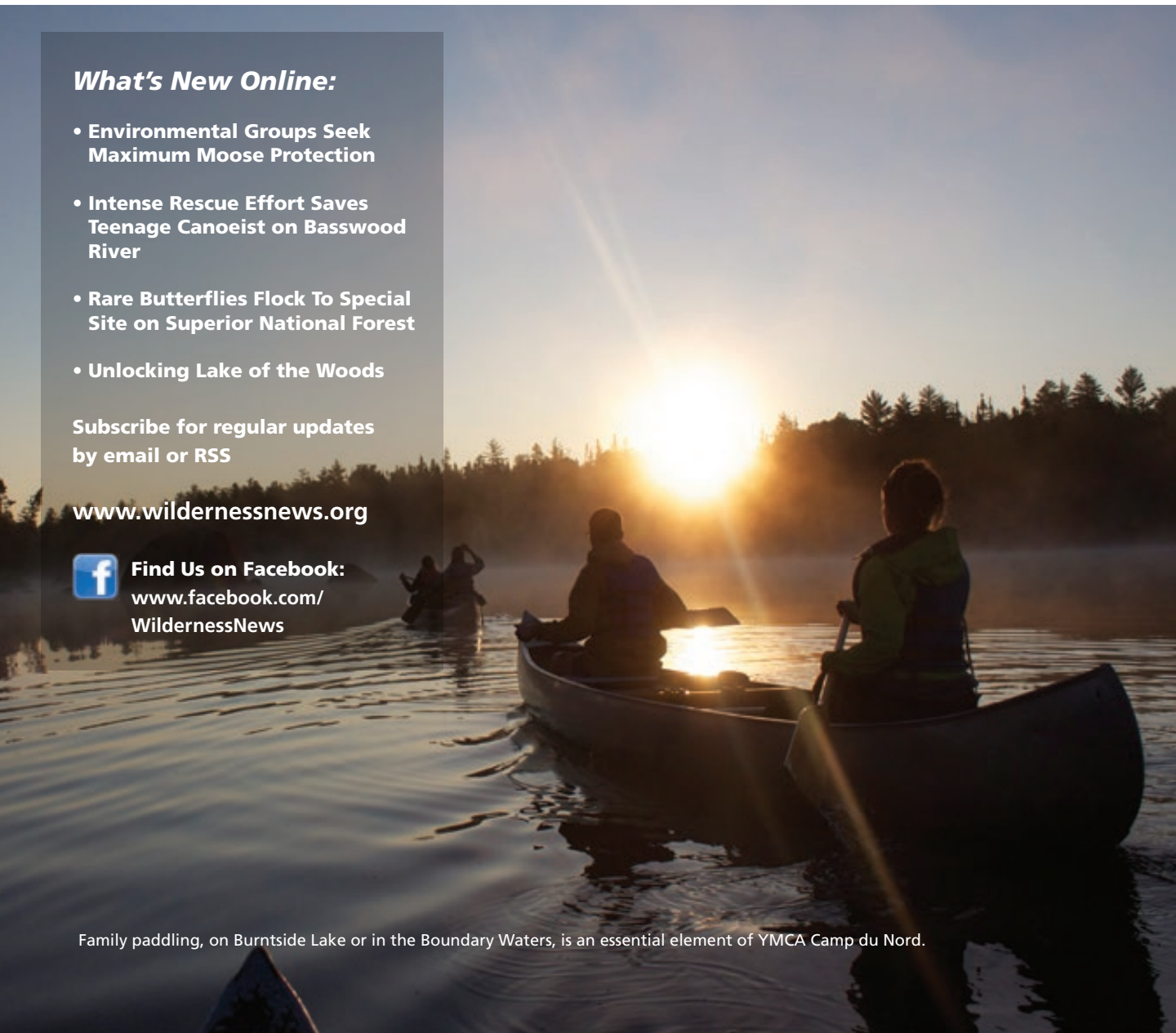

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