

# Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute 50th Anniversary Conference



September 21–22, 2022  
on the Northland College Campus

## *Welcome!*

In 1971, Northland College hosted an environmental conference that inspired the founding of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute in the spring of 1972. We are delighted, fifty years later, to be hosting another environmental conference, celebrating our past and current programs and looking forward to another fifty years of promoting and protecting experiences of wildness and wonder in northern woods and waters.

Thank you for joining us!



## **Wednesday, September 21st**

9:00–9:30 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions, and Context
9:30–10:30 a.m.	Rocky Barker
10:30–10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45–11:45 a.m.	A Place to Listen—The 1981 Dedication of the Institute Building
11:45–1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–2:00 p.m.	Rick St. Germaine
2:00–2:45 p.m.	Youth Voices
2:45–3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00–4:00 p.m.	Stacy Bare
6:00–6:45 p.m.	Dinner
6:45–7:15 p.m.	Les Fil du Voyageur—Reflections and Songs
7:15–8:30 p.m.	Florence Williams—Keynote Presentation

## **Thursday, September 22nd**

8:30–9:00 a.m.	Refreshments and Social
9:00–9:45 a.m.	Kendra Atleework
9:45–10:45 a.m.	Anahkwet Reiter
10:45–11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00–12:00 p.m.	Closing Panel and Discussion
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–3:00 p.m.	Alumni Archives Open

# Speakers

## Rocky Barker



A graduate of Northland College, Rocky Barker arrived on campus the day of the 1971 conference that inspired Robert Matteson to propose creation of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. As a student, Rocky served on the Institute's Student-Faculty Advisory Committee and was in attendance for Sigurd Olson's Johnson Lecture in the fall of 1972. Rocky went on to a distinguished career as an environmental journalist and recently retired from the Idaho Statesmen.

## Rick St. Germaine



In May of 1981, Rick St. Germaine was a featured speaker at the dedication ceremony for the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute's new building on the Northland College campus. As part of his talk in 1981, Rick challenged the audience to "acknowledge the commonality by which we work together to restore peace and harmony in our world." A professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Rick is a dedicated educator at all levels and has taught at, founded, administered, and continues to consult for numerous schools throughout the country. Currently, he is also spending a fair amount of time fishing, swimming, skiing, and sledding with his young grandson.

## Stacy Bare



A veteran of the Iraq war and a 2014 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, Stacy Bare found post-service salvation in the outdoors and has dedicated his life to helping others discover the health benefits of outdoor recreation. To that end, he co-founded the Great Outdoors Lab (GO Lab) with Dr. Dacher Keltner, served as a director of Sierra Club Outdoors, launched Adventure Not War (ANW), and contributed to the production of several award-winning documentary and adventure films. Currently, Stacy is serving as the executive director for Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, an organization that empowers people to cultivate vibrant parks, trees, and green spaces.

## Les Fils du Voyageur



Self-described "edu-tainers," the Sons of the Voyageur a capella singers bring the fur trade era to life through historic songs of the voyageurs. Members of the group have been singing together since 1976, and they have performed regularly for important Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute events.

## Florence Williams



A fellow at the Center for Humans and Nature, Florence Williams is a journalist, author, and podcaster whose work focuses on connections between people, health, and nature. Her books include *BREASTS: A Natural and Unnatural History*; *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative*; and *Heartbreak: A Personal and Scientific Journey*. Florence has also written and hosted two Gracie-Award-Winning Audible Original series and provided keynote addresses for Google, the Smithsonian, and the Aspen Ideas Festival.

## Speakers Continued

### Kendra Atleewood



Author of *Miracle Country: A Memoir of a Family and a Landscape*, Kendra Atleewood is winner of the 2020 Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award and of the Women Writing the West WIL- LA Literary Award for Creative Nonfiction. As a writer, Kendra creates vivid pictures of her personal experiences and of the historical misappropriation of land, water, and culture near her home town of Bishop, California—a place she left behind and has now returned to. Atleewood earned an MFA from the University of Minnesota and has been awarded fellowships and residencies from the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, the Anderson Center, and the Minnesota State Arts Board.

### Anahkwet Reiter



Anahkwet is the Executive Director for the grassroots community organization Menikahnaehkem, whose initiatives include energy and food sovereignty, a women’s leadership cohort, and Protectors of the Menominee River. A traditional Menominee who resides on the Menominee Reservation, Anahkwet is a community organizer, activist, author, and amateur archaeologist who works to uplift the human condition and to demonstrate the enriching value of Menominee culture. In 2022, Anahkwet submitted a Rights of Nature Resolution that was adopted by the National Congress of American Indians.



## Looking Forward—We’d Welcome your Thoughts

In an early statement of the Institute’s operational philosophy, Sigurd Olson explained that the goal of the Institute’s programs was “the enhancement of life in our beautiful northern region” and “the encouragement of practices that . . . protect and preserve the unique character of our homeland here in the North.”

As we look to the future, we’d love to hear your thoughts about what new programs or activities the Institute might sponsor to continue enhancing life in our northern region.

Please send us an email at [soei@northland.edu](mailto:soei@northland.edu) or give us a call at 715-682-1223.



*Founded in 1972, Northland College’s Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute prepares people to meet challenges with intellectual and artistic creativity by promoting and protecting experiences of wildness and wonder.*

*To realize its mission, the Institute hosts LoonWatch, the Timber Wolf Alliance, the Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Awards, and numerous programs and events for young people and adults. The Institute’s publication *Intangible* is published twice a year in the spring and fall.*