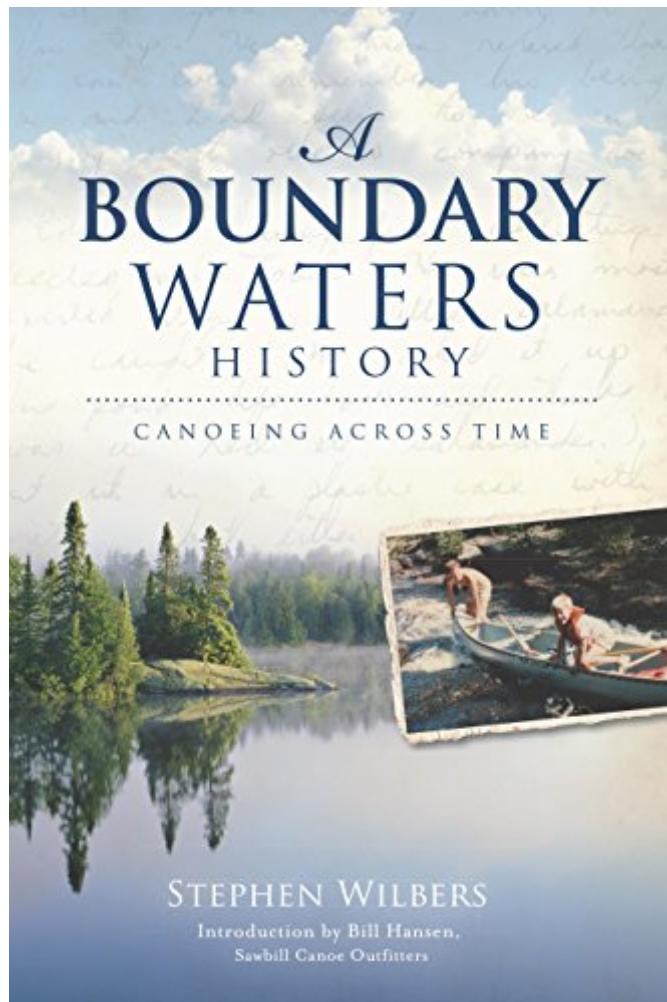


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# A Boundary Waters History: Canoeing Across Time



## **Synopsis**

Teasing out the history of a place celebrated for timelessnessâ "where countless paddle strokes have disappeared into clear watersâ "requires a sure and attentive hand. Stephen Wilbersâ ™s account reaches back to the glaciers that first carved out the Boundary Waters and to the original inhabitants, as well as to generations of wilderness explorers, both past and present. He does so without losing the personal relationship built through a lifetime of pilgrimages (anchored by almost three decades of trips with his father). This story captures the untold broader narrative of the region, as well as a thousand different details sure to be recognized by fellow pilgrims, like the grinding rhythm of a long portage or the loon call that slips into that last moment before sleep.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

My boyfriend and I got this to take on our first trip into the boundary waters. Great stories and we found out we even ended up camping at the same site that the writer and his family did on one occasions. Really fun to read while in the boundary waters but would be good anywhere.

The terrific combination of the author's talents as a writer and writing instructor, coupled with his

years of experience canoeing the Boundary Waters, makes this a marvelous read. Whether you have been to this wilderness paradise or only dream of doing it before you are too old to hoist a canoe on your shoulders, this book will introduce you to the zen of paddle and portage. As you read Wilber's descriptions of the BWCA stillness, you can hear the loon's call shatter the silence in your imagination.

A valuable book for at least chronicling some basic history of the Arrowhead Region in general. The personal story between father and son was poignant. I've had a similar experience with my father. He first took me into the BWCAW in 1965 and I was privileged to take him on a Boundary Waters trip for his 75th birthday. We also used Sawbill as a regular entry point for the early years, and I came to have a personal connection with the Hansen family through a mutual friend. The most important feature of this book is to echo the sentiments of many of the great environmentalists and advocate the preservation protection of this special place for future generations.\*I use Goodreads star rating system where 3 stars equals= "I liked it."\*

Whether you are a canoeing enthusiast or you are a couch potato without the slightest idea of what BWCA stands for, you will find much pleasure in reading Steve Wilbers' newest book: A Boundary Waters History, Canoeing Across Time. Dr. Stephen Wilbers, author, teacher and writing instructor, lives in South Minneapolis. He wrote this book to commemorate 30 years of canoe trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, most of them with his father. I traveled to the BWCA only once and it was many years ago. Reading this book evokes so many memories: the song of the loon, the intense beauty and quietude of the wilderness, and the smell of popcorn burning over the campfire. Steve's story is at once a geological and political history of the Boundary Waters and a compilation of charming stories of many trips with friends and family members. Filled with photographs from these trips, the book brings the reader an appreciation of the people as well as the environment he loves so well.

I like a memoir that tells a good tale. Wilbers does just that. His writing is excellent, and he keeps up pulled in with his stories of canoeing with his father and other friends. I, too, in my youth canoed the Boundary Waters regularly, and reading this book gave me great pleasure. There are also several photographs. You'll love this book if you a fan of the BWCA.

A quote from the book's Foreword:..."this book is a record of nearly thirty years of canoe trips, taken

almost entirely in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) Wilderness in northeastern Minnesota." Having travelled in the area a number of times, I find the writing and photographs wonderful reminders of this incomparable place.

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