

**KIRK HOUSE PUBLISHERS**

# *Still Whistling*

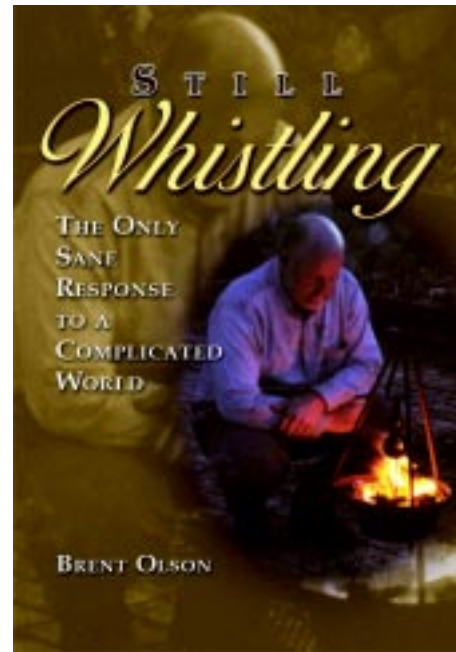
**THE ONLY SANE RESPONSE TO A COMPLICATED WORLD**

**by Brent Olson**

Olson brings his keen insight, wit and wisdom to the everyday situations that are a part of our lives in a post-9/11 America. From the trials of a farmer, the expectations of a father, to the quest of a man of faith, he writes with optimism and shrewd intelligence. The reader will laugh and cry at these perceptive American vignettes from an award-winning author.

*"In the words of Walt Whitman, 'This is not a book. Who touches this, touches a man.' In Still Whistling, you'll touch not only a plainspoken man, but also an honest, kind, and open heart."*

*-Cheryl Rainford, News Editor  
Successful Framing Agriculture Online*



We do live in a crazy world, but it's far and away the best one we have. Try to remember that. Being cheerful doesn't make you a hypocrite, it just means you're whistling in defiance of despair. As human beings, it's our most attractive trait. -Brent Olson

**ISBN 1-886513-44-9**  
**165 pages, Perfectbound, \$15.00**  
**Available: Ingram; Baker & Taylor**

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## What the reviewers are saying about **Still Whistling**

by Brent Olson

“You might be inclined to dismiss Brent Olson as a sentimental rustic. Don’t. There is a depth and honesty and often an edge to his sentimentality, and he is a rustic like the late Sen. Sam Ervin, the Watergate hearings’ “country lawyer,” was a rustic. Brent loves the place he calls home, rural Minnesota, and he respects the people he shares it with and what they do. He regrets some of the how that place and that life have changed and continue to change, but he understands the need to accept some of it as inevitable and some of it maybe even for the better. Reading him, you find yourself wanting to talk with him, to work together toward the truth of some things that matter. You feel at home, a part of the conversation, even if you’ve never sloped a pig or busted a plow.” -*Chuck Haga, Staff Writer, the Star Tribune*

“From his corner of the world, Olson shares observations of both the finest and most frustrating pieces of everyday life and reflects on why the failings that make us human become the roots of a fertile existence. Olson has tended his garden with a farmer’s patience and an artist’s eye for beauty, and these essays bear simple but nurturing fruit, rich in wisdom and compassion. Olson’s words do more than offer encouragement; they encourage the reader to whistle along.”

-*Maureen E. Reed, Ph.D., Fulbright Lecturer,  
American Studies, Universität Regensburg, Germany*

“Brent Olson has the rare gift of being able to see metaphors for life in the more mundane facts of his existence. These he presents with a type of humor and insight laced with deeply rooted integrity most often found in people who live close to the land by choice.. His essays center on the life he knows, but they are steeped in an understanding that there is a greater world around him and a greater purpose in everything he does.” -*Cheryl Rainford, Meredith Publishing*

“You hold in your hands a whistled symphony celebrating life, not a naive and sentimental celebration, but a grounded and earthy one, acknowledging life’s disappointments and dark corners while reveling in its simple joys and pleasures. Brent’s essays invite thoughtful reflection and laughter, two things I need to keep my sanity in these confusing times. If whistling is one sane response to our complicated world, reading this book may be another.”

-*Rev. Dr. David A. Bard, Northwest District Superintendent  
Minnesota Conference of The United Methodist Church*

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## About the author

### Brent Olson

Brent Olson has been farming in Big Stone County, Ortonville, Minnesota, for 24 years. At the edge of the Western Minnesota prairie he raises corn, wheat, and soybeans on 1,200 acres.

His weekly column, *Independently Speaking*, is distributed nationwide by DTN/FarmDayta Satellite News Service and is carried by a large number of newspapers. He is a correspondent for *Successful Farming* online magazine and a columnist for *Agrologisk*, the Journal for Danish Agriculture.

Active in the United Methodist Church, Brent writes a column for Northern Star, and is an editorial page writer for *Northern Spirit*. He has served as chair of the administrative council of Ortonville United Methodist Church and spent eleven years as leader of the congregation's youth program. He is a member of the State Board of Short-Term Missions and has led four international work teams.

Olson's writing style and skills brought him to the 1999 Sinclair Lewis Writer's Conference as instructor and to the White Nights Writer's Conference in Hofso, Iceland (2001), where he presented two manuscripts. He is a frequent keynote speaker at local, state, and national conferences. His book, *Letters from a Peasant: The Wit and Wisdom of a Prairie Farmer*, won a merit award from the Midwest Independent Publishers Association in 2001.

He and his wife, Robin, have been married for 27 years and have three children.

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