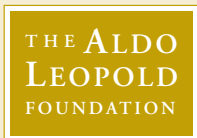


“There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot.”

- ALDO LEOPOLD



Fostering the Land Ethic through the legacy of Aldo Leopold

A Sand County Almanac

by Aldo Leopold

Admired by an ever-growing number of readers and imitated by hundreds of writers, *A Sand County Almanac* written by Aldo Leopold serves as one of the cornerstones for modern conservation science, policy, and ethics. First published by Oxford University Press in 1949 – one year after Leopold’s death – it has become a classic in the field equaled in its lasting stature only by Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden*.



While Aldo Leopold was writing in the 1940’s he could not have imagined the far-reaching impact his book would have. Over two million copies have been printed and it has been translated into nine languages.

Long respected in his own fields of forestry and wildlife management, Aldo Leopold was a prolific writer for scientific journals and conservation magazines. However, in 1937, sometime after his fifty-third birthday, Leopold became increasingly focused on reaching the general public with his conservation message. Working over a twelve-year period, Leopold wrote, re-wrote, and re-wrote again, essays that both informed people of how the natural world worked, and inspired people to take action to ensure the future health of the land and water that sustains all life.

Not only was this influential book late to develop in Leopold’s mind, it was very nearly never completed. A week after Oxford University Press agreed to publish his manuscript, titled “Great Possessions,” Aldo Leopold suffered a heart attack and died while fighting an escaped grass fire on a neighbor’s property.

Lead by Luna Leopold, Aldo’s son, a group of Leopold’s family and colleagues collaborated on the final editing of the book, reluctantly agreeing to one significant change; renaming the book from Leopold’s working title “Great Possessions” to *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There*.

Through science, history, humor, and prose, Leopold utilizes *A Sand County Almanac* and its call for a Land Ethic to communicate the true connection between people and the natural world, with the hope that the readers will begin to treat the land with the love and respect it deserves.

A Sand County Almanac

by Aldo Leopold

“Outdoor prose writing at its best... A trenchant book, full of beauty and vigor and bite... All through it is [Leopold’s] deep love for a healthy land.”

- *THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*

“First published in 1949, Leopold’s tour de force combines some of the finest nature writing since Thoreau with an outspoken and high ethical regard for America’s relationship to the land. As the foreunner of such important books as Annie Dillard’s *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, Edward Abbey’s *Desert Solitaire*, and Robert Finch’s *The Primal Place*, this classic work remains as relevant today as it was forty years ago.”

“There is a rudeness and vigor to Leopold’s writing that goes direct to the heart of the subject – to the heart of the reader...one of the seminal works of the environmental movement.”

- *THE BOSTON GLOBE*

“One of the most beautiful, heart-warming, and important nature books to appear in years.”

- *THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE*

“We may count ourselves lucky to have this final testament of a man who was not only an expert in forestry, ecology, and game management, but an exceptionally sensitive and subtle appreciator and communicator.”

- *COMMONWEAL*

“We can place this book on the shelf that holds the writings of Thoreau and John Muir.”

- *THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*

Founded in 1982 by Leopold’s children, the Aldo Leopold Foundation continues to manage the original Leopold farm and now-famous Shack, as well as serving as the executor of Leopold’s literary estate.

Foundation programs in ecological management and environmental education are designed to increase our society’s awareness and appreciation for the land.

THE ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

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