

Aldo Leopold

Considered by many as the father of wildlife management and of the United States' wilderness system, Aldo Leopold was a conservationist, forester, philosopher, educator, writer, and outdoor enthusiast.

Born in 1887 and raised in Burlington, Iowa, Aldo Leopold developed an interest in the natural world at an early age, spending hours observing, journaling, and sketching his surroundings.

Graduating from the Yale Forest School in 1909, he eagerly pursued a career with the newly established U.S. Forest Service in Arizona and New Mexico. By the age of 24, he had been promoted to the post of Supervisor for the Carson National Forest in New Mexico. In 1922, he was instrumental in developing the proposal to manage the Gila National Forest as a wilderness area, which became the first such official designation in 1924.

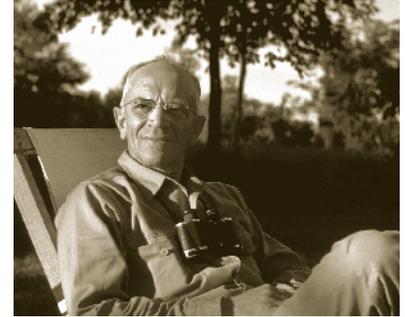
Following a transfer to Madison, Wisconsin in 1924, Leopold continued his investigations into ecology and the philosophy of conservation, and in 1933 published the first textbook in the field of wildlife management. Later that year he accepted a new chair in game management – a first for the University of Wisconsin and the nation.

In 1935, he and his family initiated their own ecological restoration experiment on a worn-out farm along the Wisconsin River outside of Baraboo, Wisconsin. Planting thousands of pine trees, restoring prairies, and documenting the ensuing changes in the flora and fauna further informed and inspired Leopold.

A prolific writer, authoring articles for professional journals and popular magazines, Leopold conceived of a book geared for general audiences examining humanity's relationship to the natural world. Unfortunately, just one week after receiving word that his manuscript would be published, Leopold experienced a heart attack and died on April 21, 1948 while fighting a neighbor's grass fire that escaped and threatened the Leopold farm and surrounding properties. A little more than a year after his death Leopold's collection of essays *A Sand County Almanac* was published. With over two million copies sold, it is one of the most respected books about the environment ever published, and Leopold has come to be regarded by many as the most influential conservation thinker of the twentieth century.

Leopold's legacy continues to inform and inspire us to see the natural world *"as a community to which we belong."*

See back for Leopold Chronology



"That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics."

- ALDO LEOPOLD

"As a society, we are just now beginning to realize the depth of Leopold's work and thinking."

MIKE DOMBECK, CHIEF EMERITUS U.S. FOREST SERVICE, PROFESSOR OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UW-STEVENS POINT, UW SYSTEM FELLOW OF GLOBAL CONSERVATION

THE ALDO
LEOPOLD
FOUNDATION

Fostering the Land Ethic through the legacy of Aldo Leopold

Aldo Leopold

A Brief Chronology

- 1887 Aldo Leopold, born in Burlington, Iowa on January 11, eldest of four children of Carl and Clara Leopold.
- 1904 Attends Lawrenceville School in New Jersey from January 1904 to May, 1905, to prepare for college.
- 1906 Begins coursework at Yale Forest School (Master of Forestry, 1909).
- 1909 Joins U.S. Forest Service (established 1905). First field assignment as assistant on Apache National Forest in southeastern Arizona.
- 1911 Transferred to Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico as deputy supervisor, then supervisor. Founds and edits Carson Pine Cone, a U.S. Forest Service newsletter.
- 1912 Marries Estella Bergere of Santa Fe on October 9. Five children: Starker, 1913; Luna, 1915; Nina, 1917; Carl, 1919; Estella, 1927.
- 1922 Submits formal proposal for administration of Gila National Forest as a wilderness area (administratively designated by Forest Service on June 3, 1924).
- 1924 Accepts transfer to U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin as assistant (later associate) director.
- 1928 Leaves Forest Service Products Laboratory and Forest Service to conduct game surveys of Midwestern states as a private consultant.
- 1933 In July, accepts appointment to a new chair of game management in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wisconsin.
- 1935 In April, acquires the Wisconsin River farm (the Shack) that would be the setting for many of the essays in *A Sand County Almanac*.
- 1939 Becomes chair of a new Department of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin.
- 1941 Develops initial plans for a volume of ecological essays.
- 1947 In December, submits revised book manuscript titled "Great Possessions" to Oxford University Press, which notifies him of acceptance on April 14, 1948.
- 1948 Stricken by heart attack and dies on April 21 while helping to fight a grass fire on a neighbor's farm near the Shack. Burial in Burlington, Iowa.
- 1949 "Great Possessions" final editing overseen by Luna B. Leopold and published as *A Sand County Almanac*.
- 2004 Governor James Doyle signs legislation making the first weekend in March Aldo Leopold Weekend across Wisconsin.

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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