

The Leopold OUTLOOK

A newsletter published quarterly by The Aldo Leopold Foundation

AUTUMN 2004



Posing as the original surveyor of the land that now includes the Leopold Memorial Reserve, Rob Nurre used antique instruments to demonstrate the craft.

THE ALDO LEOPOLD
FOUNDATION

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*Fostering the
Land Ethic
through the legacy
of Aldo Leopold*

The Surly Surveyor

A Look at the Pre-Settlement Landscape of the Leopold Memorial Reserve

"This alphabet of 'natural objects' (soils and rivers, birds and beasts) spells out a story. Once you learn to read the land, I have no fear of what you will do to it or with it. And I know many pleasant things it will do to you."

- ALDO LEOPOLD, "WHEREFORE WILDLIFE ECOLOGY,"
THE RIVER OF THE MOTHER OF GOD AND OTHER ESSAYS

On a warm night this summer, a group of Aldo Leopold Foundation members was being lambasted by a surly looking man wearing attire from the 1840s. "Squatters!" he grumbled. "What are you doing here? Don't you know that this is property of the U.S. government?" Rather than being alarmed, the gathered were amused, as they were being treated to an entertaining and engaging interpretive presentation about the original 1845 land survey of the property that now includes the Leopold Shack and Family Farm.

The program, one of the Foundation's Shack Seminar Series, explored the landscape as it appeared at the time of the original land survey through the eyes of John Brink, Deputy Surveyor, U.S. General Land Office. The program focused on the area that would eventually be acquired by Aldo Leopold along the Wisconsin River, near Baraboo, Wisconsin.

During the middle three decades of the 1800s, federal government land surveyors walked and measured their way through the wilderness creating the township and section grid that continues to define land ownership in Wisconsin, and throughout most of the other Midwestern and Western states to this day. Along the way, the surveyors recorded their observations of the landscape – the extent of forest, prairies, and wetlands, the quality of the soil, where they came to rivers and lakes, and the location of the few humans – both Native Americans and squatters – they encountered. This information was used by early settlers to choose where they would buy land, establish communities and begin the development of the new state of Wisconsin. Although these settlers soon began the process of altering the natural landscape, the surveyors' records provide a benchmark description of the land in its natural condition.

The "Surly Surveyor" program was presented by Rob Nurre, Land Records Manager with the State of Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. This state agency maintains all of the original public land survey records dating from 1833 to 1866 for Wisconsin. For the past 20 years, Nurre has traveled throughout the country, presenting interpretive programs about the original land surveys and the landscapes that the surveyors encountered.

Drawing from copies of Brink's survey records that describe the land, Nurre used antique survey instruments and tools to explain



*John Brink, Deputy Surveyor
U.S. General Land Office, 1845*



Photo by Robert McCabe

“Books or no books, it is a fact, patent both to my dog and myself, that at daybreak I am sole owner of all the acres I can walk over.”

-ALDO LEOPOLD, *A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC*

the work that was done. With the assistance of two audience members – newly sworn in for their roles as chainmen – he demonstrated how survey lines were measured with 66-foot long chains, 80 chains to the mile. Other audience members were drafted to stand in as a section corner post and a bearing tree, showing how the surveyors marked the location of their survey line on the land. Nurre then discussed how the original survey records can be used to interpret the pre-settlement landscape and how the land survey effects how landscapes are perceived today.

“Along one of the survey lines,” Nurre noted, “Brink records encountering a ‘road coursing west.’ Further along, as Brink meandered the shore of the Wisconsin River, he comes to a ‘ridge, three chains wide.’ It was where the road and the ridge met, that some ten years after Brink surveyed the township, according to Leopold’s calculations, an acorn would sprout that would eventually grow to become Leopold’s ‘Good Oak.’ That wonderful essay tells the story of the land for the next eighty years.”

Nurre’s re-enactment required diligent preparation. Researching the site to tailor his interpretive program to the land that now includes the Leopold Memorial Reserve, Nurre visited the property twice, walking and photographing the original survey lines as they cross the Reserve property. Nurre also studied the work of Konrad Liegel, a former Leopold Fellow, who used the original land survey records and other historical information to create a pre-settlement vegetation map of the Reserve and the surrounding area.

“Leigel’s research concerning the pre-settlement vegetation and the land use history of the Reserve area is an invaluable resource for understanding the origin of local landscape and how humans have interacted with it over the past 150 years,” said Nurre.

“Commodification of the landscape started with the surveys,” Nurre said in a later interview. “The original land surveys are really a double-edged sword. They have provided us with a fascinating record for understanding the landscape as it appeared prior to the extensive changes brought on by European settlement, yet one can’t help feeling sad that these same surveys started the whole process of viewing land as commodity rather than community.”

It was this very process that Leopold lamented in the conclusion of *A Sand County Almanac*: “By and large, our present problem is one of attitudes and implements. We are remodeling the Alhambra with a steam-shovel, and we are proud of our yardage. We shall hardly relinquish the shovel, which after all has many good points, but we are in need of gentler and more objective criteria for its successful use.”

The land that Leopold purchased, just less than a century after the original 1845 survey, had already been “worn out and then abandoned by our bigger-and-better society” but soon Leopold and his family began “to rebuild, with shovel and axe, what we are losing elsewhere,” a sample of Wisconsin’s

natural landscape. This work continues through the ecological management efforts of the Aldo Leopold Foundation. Among the information that guides this effort are the records of the 1845 land survey.

“Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land.

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us.

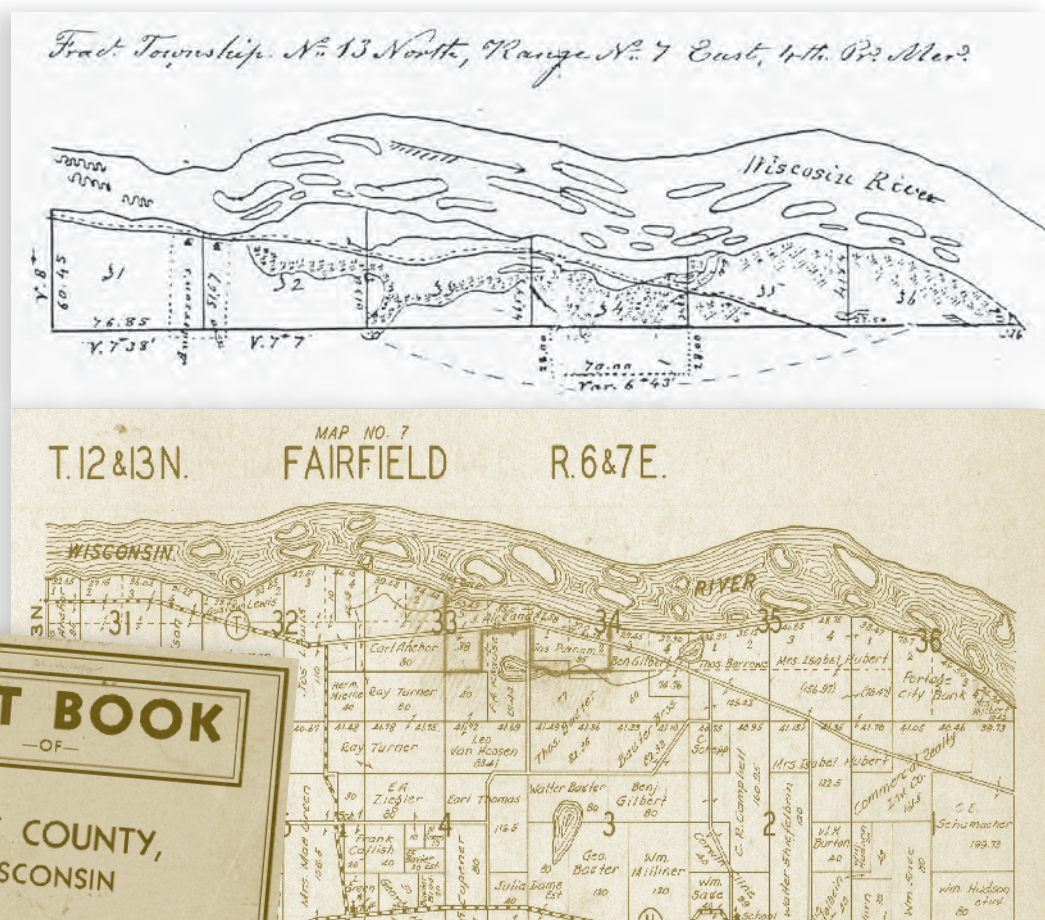
When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

-ALDO LEOPOLD, *A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC*

Thus, Nurre’s presentation connected the past to the present, illustrating the importance of interpreting the history of the land and restoring its health. This concept continues to be key to the Foundation’s effort to foster ethical relationships between people and the land. ■

Special thanks to Rob Nurre for his contributions to this article.

Below: Brink’s 1845 sketch of Fairfield Township along the Wisconsin River, and the same area as shown in Leopold’s Shack copy of the 1936 Sauk County Plat Book. Note pencil outline of Leopold Farm.





Curt Meine is a writer and conservation biologist. He is author of the biography *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1988), editor of the collection *Wallace Stegner and the Continental Vision* (Island Press, 1997), and co-editor with Richard L. Knight of *The Essential Aldo Leopold* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1999). He has served on the board of governors of the Society for Conservation Biology and sits on the editorial boards of the journals *Conservation Biology* and *Environmental Ethics*.

Dr. Meine is a Senior Fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation. Senior Fellows are selected by the Foundation because of their important contributions to the evolution of Leopold's Land Ethic.

JUST PUBLISHED

Correction Lines

Essays on Land, Leopold, and Conservation

Correction Lines is a new collection of essays from one of our most thoughtful and eloquent writers on conservation. The essays explore interrelated themes: the relationship between conservation's biological and social dimensions; the historic tension between utilitarian and preservationist approaches; the integration of varied cultural perspectives; the enduring legacy of Aldo Leopold; the contrasts and continuities between conservation and environmentalism; the importance of political reform; and the need to "retool" conservation to address twenty-first century realities.

The following excerpt, "Inherit the Grid," illustrates the far-reaching impact of the land survey system while also explaining the title *Correction Lines*. In weaving together the book's 11 essays, Meine finds a symbolic thread in the image of "correction lines." For Meine, "correction lines" as a phrase captures the conceptual core of the essays, as they stand for the larger question of how to better understand the landscape we have inherited by claiming the past in order to look to the future. "Inherit the Grid" appears in Chapter 9.

FROM CHAPTER 9*

Inherit the Grid

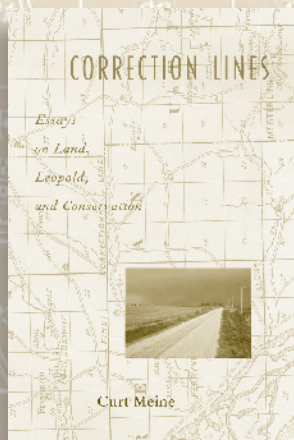
By Curt Meine

The lenses through which we see landscapes, and ourselves within them, vary from place to place and culture to culture. In much of North America, we perceive – and modify – the landscape through the superimposed system of rectangular land surveys, with its grid of township and range lines, that was instituted in the late 1700s. Where the grid system predominates, it has profoundly shaped landscapes and the patterns of life within them. "It is the grid," writes geographer John Brinkerhoff Jackson, "not the eagle or the stars and stripes, which is our true national emblem."

Yet the very pervasiveness of the land survey system can hinder our appreciation of it. As Hildegard Binder Johnson notes in her book *Order Upon the Land*, "most Americans and Canadians accept the survey system that so strongly affects their lives and perception of the landscape in the same way that they accept a week of seven days, a decimal numerical system, or an alphabet of 26 letters – as natural, inevitable, or perhaps in some inscrutable way divinely ordained." In our efforts to devise more sustainable land-management and landscape-design practices, we need to grasp fully the historic impacts of the survey system, and the constraints and opportunities they entail. To factor in the grid – what it signifies, the impact it has had – we first need to gain some perspective on it.

About seventy percent of the land in the continental United States – all but the thirteen original states, Maine, Vermont, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas – is delineated according to the land-survey system. The system was developed originally under the Land Ordinances of 1784 and 1785, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, and the Land Act of 1796, and modified through later acts and policies. Under the survey, all lands in the nation's public domain were to be measured and divided along survey lines whose coordinates would, in Johnson's words, "always run north-south and east-west with complete disregard of the terrain. This unconditional rule [made] it possible for the survey to be continuous not only in concept but in practice over thousands of square miles – the most extensive

*From *Correction Lines* by Curt Meine. Copyright ©2004 by the author. Reproduced by permission of Island Press, Washington, DC



Correction Lines is available from the Aldo Leopold Foundation at www.aldoleopold.org/books 304 pages, October 2004
Paper: \$25.00, 1-55963-732-3
Cloth: \$50.00, 1-55963-731-5

Gridding the round earth, is 'like trying to wrap a grapefruit with graph paper.'

The key innovation was the establishment of regular "correction lines" that allowed the grid to be adjusted slightly by shifting its lines.

uninterrupted cadastral system in the world." Eventually, the survey's grid would cover more than three million square miles of land.

Developed under the influence of eighteenth-century European rationalism and Enlightenment-era science, drawing upon (or at least resembling) diverse precursors, applied and polished according to Thomas Jefferson's political vision, the survey system was well suited to its central task: the efficient distribution of lands whose indigenous peoples were being dispossessed of their tenure, among newly arrived inhabitants for whom individual land possession was a bulwark against the inequities of European land tenure and a stabilizing keel for the embarking democracy. "It is not too soon," Jefferson wrote from France in 1785, "to provide by every possible means that as few as possible shall be without a little portion of land. The small landholders are the most precious part of a state." Among the "possible means" was the land survey system.

So began the process that would transform the face of the continent. "Across the public lands," Wallace Stegner writes, "the General Land Office imposed a grid of surveys upon which the small freeholds of the ideal agrarian democracy could be laid out like checkers on a board." With strict Euclidean geometry and Cartesian coordinates in mind, and compasses, stakes, and Gunter's chains in hand, the government surveyors began laying their lines at the "Point of Beginning" in the uncharted wild lands of eastern Ohio. The work that began along the banks of the Ohio River on September 30, 1785 would continue to the shores of the Pacific. "The result," John Hildebrand observes in his book *Mapping the Land*, "was the landscape as a work of political imagination."

Not, that is, as a foundation for social, economic, and environmental sustainability. The sciences behind the survey, after all, were mathematics and geometry, not geology, botany, zoology, the natural sciences of the day – much less in the integrating natural sciences of ecology, biogeography, and evolutionary biology, which were only faint premonitions in the Age of Enlightenment. The survey, in abstracting the earth, might indeed extend across the continent to the far Pacific. Despite "insuperable obstacles," nothing would stop it – not the continent's great rivers, or thick forests, or mucky wetlands, or treeless prairies, or sweeping plains, or abrupt plateaus, or high deserts, or bold mountains. For that matter, not native uprisings, or civil wars, or land speculators, or corrupt officials, or land rushes, or lumber and railroad barons. All fell before, within, and under the grid. In the laying on of lines, order and perfectibility, precision and control – or at least the illusion of these things – could be maintained.

Up to a point.

For the methodology of the land survey contained an inherent, original flaw. The survey aimed to render square townships on the land, with their eastern and western boundaries laid out along parallel north-south longitudinal meridians. But the meridian lines are not in fact parallel. They converge as they move away from the equator and toward the Earth's poles, where they intersect. In reality, the survey's squares are not (and cannot be) squares at all. Technically, they might be described as "arched trapezoids in three-dimensional space." If the survey were extended to the poles, the trapezoids would become triangles. In short, one simply cannot construct and stack identical, flat, square townships on a round earth. Or as Rob Nurre, a student of the survey system put it, gridding the round earth, is "like trying to wrap a grapefruit with graph paper; there has to be a fold somewhere."

The convergence of the meridians could not be ignored. The grid might extend unencumbered by climate, geology, hydrology, slope, aspect, soil type, flora, fauna, and native tradition. Resurveying might be required when waves washed away sandbars, rivers gained and lost oxbows, landslides reshaped hills, or volcanoes created new land. Corners might be cut through the fatigue, error, or bribery of the surveyors. None of these called into question the attempt to fit an artificial order upon the natural order. But this one ultimate "natural feature" – the curvature of our earthly orb – could not finally be dismissed.

In the beginning, nonetheless, it was. The Land Ordinances of the 1780s did not address the problem. Nor did the Land Act of 1796. Not until 1804 did Surveyor General Jared Mansfield and his stalwart surveyors begin to work out...not exactly a solution, but a technique to cope with the flaw. The problem was addressed not by reconstituting the survey or reconsidering its basic principles, but through a series of pragmatic steps described in the surveyors' field manuals over the first half of the 1800s. The

key innovation was the establishment of regular “correction lines” that allowed the grid to be adjusted slightly by shifting its lines. The General Land Office’s 1855 manual instructed the surveyors to establish correction lines “at stated intervals to provide for or counteract the error that otherwise would result from the covergency of meridians. . . .” The technique could not solve the unsolvable problem; all it could do was shift the gridlines to compensate for it.


Hildegard Binder Johnson notes that, while most deviations from the grid are invisible to casual observers, the hard corners produced by correction lines are more readily seen. Across the broad landscape of the American earth, one may find what she calls “this right-angled curiosity.” “Offsets through correction lines...can be seen from the air because of the sharp angles they produce on north-south running section roads. On the ground they make for awkward driving, even in the twentieth century.... On good modern roads, corners have often been replaced by a curve.” We might wish to protect some of these anomalies. They might remind us of our own imperfectibility. They might show us that the earth remains, despite the order we impose upon it, whole, round, and essentially wild – beyond, in the end, the willful impulse of immodest human intentions.

...
The flaw in the survey was not fatal. For all practical purposes, the surveyor’s makeshift correction lines sufficed. The grid triumphed. Where the grid was laid, we now live the world through it. It orders the streets of our cities, towns, and suburbs. It turns in on itself in our subdivisions and cul-de-sacs. It dictates how we walk to school and drive to work. It guides buses, trucks, limousines, ambulances, and hearses. It shows our neighbors where to stop and tells our politicians where to campaign. It directs our backhoes, tractors, manure spreaders, plows, and combines. Our cows lie down in its green pastures. It drains water from some lands, spreads it out over others. It fixes the borders of lands we deem special enough to include in parks. It bounds our public forests and wildlife refuges. It delimits Indian reservations. Ironically, even wilderness came to be defined by the grid: when in 1924 Aldo Leopold and his colleagues in the Forest Service first traced the boundaries of the Gila Wilderness Area, they did so along survey lines.

Although the grid’s influence was and is ubiquitous, its triumph was not absolute. Johnson’s *Order Upon the Land* is an extended study of one region, the intricately dissected coulee country of the Upper Mississippi River, where one may view “the tension between the efforts of surveyors to put a conceptual order upon the land and the country’s natural configuration of hills and valleys.” Close examination of the grid’s deviations in such places might reveal just what angle of slope, what curve of river, what depth of wetland mud, was required to give the surveyors pause and nature precedence.

One can observe other manifestations of the “tension.” Angled street corners where Chicago’s diagonal thoroughfares, following ancient beach ridges, game trails, and Indian paths, intersect the city’s post-settlement latticework of streets. Center-pivot irrigation systems on the high plains that, due to some wrinkle in local topography, leave pie-wedges of unwatered land during their circumambulations. The weird artificiality of the Four Corners of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. The way Camelback Mountain blots out the otherwise uniform nighttime grid of bright Phoenix streetlights.

Such places underscore the point. The triumph of the grid, and the tenacity of the surveyors, remains mind-boggling. The consequences, for ecosystems and human communities alike, are pervasive. In organizing the way Americans have defined, distributed, possessed, exchanged, and used land, the grid has thoroughly modified the gene flows, populations, species, and communities of life in the landscape. No one has attempted to review the myriad ways in which the land survey has affected the continent’s flora and fauna. Even listing the mechanisms of influence would be an exhausting exercise. Just the broader categories would include: encouragement of rapid agricultural development and urbanization; facilitation of habitat conversion and fragmentation; construction of roads, highways, fences, and other artificial barriers and corridors; the segregation and concentration of particular land uses; various direct and indirect effects on the quality, quantity, and distribution of water; and the division of land into multiple, exclusive jurisdictions.



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What can we say, in sum, of the enduring effects of the land survey and its grid? The very extent of the survey and its impact on American history, ideas, and land trivializes any list of attributes. Let us mention, however, a few over-arching consequences.

A tentative inventory would include the grid's many positive and long-celebrated features. Jefferson and his contemporaries devised the system with the best of intentions. The efficient process of surveying provided foundations for the nation's burgeoning wealth and its experiment in self-government. The survey gave definition to millions of freehold farms. The yeoman farmer, keeping fertile the ground of American democracy, was, in Wallace Stegner's words, "a kind of Jeffersonian hope more than he was a Jeffersonian fact." Nonetheless, the availability of land opened opportunities for individual enterprise on an unprecedented scale and grounded the very idea of democracy. The beneficiaries included not only the innumerable waves of farmers and other immigrant settlers, but veterans of the nation's wars, beginning with the Revolutionary War.

Concentration of land ownership, wealth, and political power might have been far worse without the survey. Had the older metes and bounds system of surveying been followed, property disputes might have been pandemic in the new land. Setting aside momentarily that which cannot be ignored – the alienation of the continent's native inhabitants – Americans have generally been able to avoid conflicts over land possession through the survey's clear definition of property. Through the setting aside of the "school reserve" sections and the eventual establishment of land grant colleges under the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, Americans enjoyed extraordinary access to public education. From a conservation perspective, the original survey notes and maps, however imperfect, provided invaluable records of the land at the time of European settlement and now serve as an essential source for mapping, ecological analysis, and restoration.

On the other side of the ledger are the forces that the grid directed, and with which conservationists, architects, landscape architects, economists, and planners (among others) must now contend. The survey abstracted reality. Its standardized treatment of land overwhelmed the particularities of place. It promoted land fraud, speculation, and exploitation across the continent. For generations, it encouraged the adoption of the hard utilitarian view of land as commodity, rather than (in Johnson's words) "a common good under the stewardship of its owners" or (in Aldo Leopold's words) "a community to which we belong."

The land survey magnified and deepened the distinction between public and private land, and hence between public and private interest in the use of land. For our inability to bring into harmony these interests – not to mention the interests of the prior inhabitants, future generations, and other species – we continue to pay mightily. "Too much rectilinearity, tied to efficiency, in our daily environment has been an American misfortune," Hildegard Binder Johnson concluded. The grid, of course, did not breathe these forces into being. Economic doctrines, land policies, and traditions of faith, philosophy, commerce, and science contributed as much, if not more, over many centuries. But the grid did give these forces exceptional opportunity to express themselves.

We inherit a grid that is simultaneously real and metaphorical. It has shaped materially our system of land use and our way of thinking about land – about the natural, the wild, the humanized, the civilized. It holds our memories and our lives and our plans. At the same time, it signifies our adherence to, and the imposition of, an abstract construction of the human mind. We have looked to the lines first, not to the land upon which the lines were laid. In this light, we can see that one of the functions of an evolving land ethic is to help us now to read in between – and across – the lines. ■

For generations, [the grid] encouraged the adoption of the hard utilitarian view of land as commodity, rather than... 'a common good under the stewardship of its owners' or (in Aldo Leopold's words) 'a community to which we belong.'

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Exhibit Explores Concept of Wilderness

“Forty Years and Forever: The Wilderness Act of 1964,” a current exhibit at the University of Minnesota, presents the impetus for the Wilderness Act, profiles the major players, and explores the concept of wilderness in our national consciousness. Several ALF archival items are on display. Free and open to the public, the exhibit runs through December 15 at the Humphrey Forum, 301 19th Ave. S. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information, contact the Humphrey Forum at 612.624.5893 or visit www.hhh.umn.edu/humphrey-forum.

Special Thanks to Foundation Officers

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We would also like to thank outgoing officers Carl Leopold and Estella Leopold for over two decades of service!

Farm & Shack Tours

“When the toothpaste froze – that’s how we knew our season at the Shack was complete.”

- NINA LEOPOLD BRADLEY

Public tours of the Shack and historic farm are offered on select Saturdays from March through October. The last tour of the 2004 season is October 23.

Parties of 10 or more may request a private group tour during the off-season. Contact Matt Murphy, volunteer tour coordinator, at the Foundation office for details or email tours@aldoleopold.org.

A special “thank you” to Matt and to Andy Stark, volunteer tour leader, for another successful season!

Foundation Welcomes Five New Members to Board of Directors

In a continuing effort to improve our ability to foster Leopold’s vision of a Land Ethic, five new members have been elected to the ALF Board of Directors. “We are fulfilling our desire to bring both geographic diversity and to expand our professional skill sets and experience with the addition of these qualified individuals,” said Executive Director Buddy Huffaker.

The newest members increase the number of directors from 11 to 16, including a belated welcome to Francis Pandolfi whose term began in 2003. Directors serve staggered 3 year terms, and may serve up to two consecutive terms, with the exception of the Leopold siblings Luna, Nina, Carl, and Estella, who are lifetime-appointed directors. *The Leopold Outlook* asked the incoming board members to share their thoughts about joining the Foundation’s efforts.



HILDA DIAZ-SOLTERO

Coordinator, USDA Invasive Species Program
Former Associate Chief for Natural Resources, US Forest Service

“Aldo Leopold is one of the cornerstones of conservation in the United States. His vision of every person embracing and practicing the Land Ethic is a goal that I want to contribute to as a member of the Board of Directors of the Aldo Leopold Foundation.”



MADelyn D. LEOPOLD

Partner, Boardman Law Firm, Madison, WI
Former Trustee, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, Inc.

“Aldo Leopold died five days before I was born. Like most Leopolds of my generation, I never knew him as a grandfather, but only as a great man. Yet we in the family share a deep-seated and mysterious connection with his legacy. I am honored to represent that connection and to participate with this distinguished Board in advancing his ideals.”



FRANCIS P. PANDOLFI

Former COO, US Forest Service
Former CEO, Times Mirror Magazines

“I was delighted to be asked to join the Aldo Leopold Foundation Board because the opportunities to spread word of the Land Ethic are many and varied. In addition, this gives me the opportunity to meet and work with Aldo Leopold’s children, a group with the knowledge and passion to make the Land Ethic work for our entire nation.”



CAROL SKORNICKA

Senior Vice President-Corporate Affairs,
Secretary and General Counsel, Midwest Airlines, Inc.
Former Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations

“I grew up in rural Wisconsin and have abiding respect and affection for the land – as well as gratitude and pride in the contribution that Aldo Leopold and his family have made to perpetuating a set of core values that inure to the benefit of people everywhere.”



WILLIAM WEEKS

Environmental Attorney,
Sommer Barnard Ackerson, Washington, DC
Former Executive Vice President, The Nature Conservancy

“I am honored to be associated with the critical task of carrying forward the legacy of Aldo Leopold’s work and thinking. I believe the Land Ethic represents, if anything, an even more critical insight for society now than it did at the time of its original publication.”

ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

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 Andy Stark, Tour Guide

Welcome!...to Rick Stel, our new development coordinator. Rick, a Wisconsin native, replaces Membership Coordinator Sarah Lloyd, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Leopold Outlook is the quarterly newsletter for members of the Aldo Leopold Foundation. ALF was founded 1982 by the children of Aldo Leopold to foster Leopold's vision of the Land Ethic. *Outlook* comments or questions? Contact Erika Gerhardt at erika@aldoleopold.org or P.O. Box 77, Baraboo, WI 53913, 608.355.0279.

OCTOBER

20 Center for Environment Information's 30th Anniversary Community Salute to the Environment. Gene Likens, ALF board member, keynote speaker: "Acid Rain: An Unfinished Environmental Problem." Hyatt Regency, Rochester, NY.

20 Author and ALF Senior Fellow Curt Meine will be reading from his new book, *Correction Lines*, excerpted in this issue. 6:30pm, Nature Conservancy, 149 East 38th Street, New York, NY. For more information, call 212.381.2195 or email nycevents@tnc.org.

22 Curt Meine reading from *Correction Lines*. 7:30pm, Village Booksmith, 526 Oak St., Baraboo, WI. For more information, call Annie Randall at 608.355.1001.

30 Virginia Mountain Streams Symposium, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Gene E. Likens, ALF board member, keynote address.

NOVEMBER

4 Curt Meine reading from *Correction Lines*. 7:30pm, Milwaukee Audubon Society, Schlitz Audubon Center, Bayside, WI.

9-10 USFS Regional Centennial Forum, "Healthy Forests and Healthy Communities in the East – Connecting People to the Land." Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL. Keynote address

by Dr. Susan Flader, ALF board member. Panel presentation on key natural resource issues, including "Rebuilding Commitment to a Land Ethic," Buddy Huffaker, ALF executive director. A nation forum in Washington, DC in February 2005 will examine regional forum results. For more information, contact Judy Thiemer 414.297.3645 or jthiemer@fs.fed.us.

13 1st Midwest Environmental Ethics Conference, *Finding Our Voices*. Rockford, IL, Severson Dells. Buddy Huffaker, ALF executive director, and Dr. Michael Nelson, Leopold scholar, are keynote speakers. For more information, contact Rock Valley College at 815.921.7821.

DECEMBER

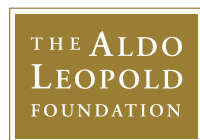
1-3 51st Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) annual meeting, Stevens Point, WI. Dr. Michael Dombeck, ALF board member, keynote speaker. Steve Swenson, ALF ecologist presenting Dec. 2. For more information, contact Gina Kaminski at 608.833.1833 or ginakaminski@wlwca.org.

MARCH 2005

4-6 *Aldo Leopold Weekend* – Signed into Wisconsin state law in 2004, events are being planned around the state. More information will follow in the next newsletter, or contact the Foundation at mail@aldoleopold.org.

Give the Gift of Membership!

Memberships are vital to ALF. Support the Foundation by joining or giving a membership to a friend. Just complete the form on the enclosed insert and mail it, along with your donation, to: Aldo Leopold Foundation, P.O. Box 77, Baraboo, WI 53913. You may also become a member on-line at www.aldoleopold.org.



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