



The Land Ethic Lives Hundreds Gather to Kick-off Major Conservation Campaign

"I have purposely presented the land ethic as a product of social evolution because nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written'."

- ALDO LEOPOLD

On May 21, more than 50 years after Leopold penned these words, nearly 400 people assembled at Leopold's beloved Shack, as his land ethic took one of the most significant steps in its social evolution. The Aldo Leopold Foundation announced The Land Ethic Campaign, a \$6.9 million capital fundraising effort with the mission of fulfilling the promise of Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic.

"For most of us here today, this site is a sort of hallowed ground," said Susan Flader, chair of the Foundation's board,

Written as the final essay in A Sand County Almanac, "The Land Ethic" articulated Leopold's lifetime of ideals to encourage harmony between people and the land.

historian and Leopold scholar. "It can be said that this is the birthplace of the Land Ethic; that this is where Leopold's concept of ethically relating to land first took root 50 years ago. Since it's true this is its birthplace, today marks a rebirth of the Land Ethic."

It was a classic sort of May afternoon. The breeze brushed branches against one another; the sun shone on the river and on the soft colors of the spring prairie. A new brood of pileated woodpeckers demanded their parents provide the protein they will someday peck for themselves. And, in the middle of it all, stood the Shack, the enduring symbol and essence of the Land Ethic.

"This is by far the largest group to ever gather here at the Shack," said Carl Leopold, ALF Founder, director and youngest son of Aldo Leopold. "As I look at the old shack, its weathered face, and its deteriorating boards, I find it wonderful that this old edifice has some special magnetism that causes it to get so much attention. Why so much admiration for Aldo Leopold's shack? I suggest that it is in fact its focus on simple values, values that bring us closer to the earth."

Those same values form the core of the Land Ethic Campaign, and help define the importance of each of its major objectives: restore and protect the Leopold Shack and farm, preserve and maintain the Leopold archives, construct the National Aldo Leopold Legacy Center, and establish endowment funds.

ALF Executive Director, Buddy Huffaker spoke to what these values, which built these objectives, will accomplish.

"Just as Leopold understood the Land Ethic needed to constantly evolve, we don't see the completion of these four objectives as the end, but rather the beginning. Once we have these key assets protected, financial stability, and world-class infrastructure, we will be positioned to launch new initiatives," said Huffaker. "I believe

THE *Land Ethic* CAMPAIGN

- *Restore and Protect the Leopold Shack and Farm*
- *Preserve and Maintain the Leopold Archives*
- *Construct the National Aldo Leopold Legacy Center*
- *Establish Endowment Funds*

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OBJECTIVES OF
THE LAND ETHIC
CAMPAIGN

UPCOMING
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SEMINAR SERIES
LINE-UP

THE ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

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



Photo by Ed Pemberton

Nina Leopold Bradley, eldest daughter of Aldo Leopold, chats with ALF board member David Orr at the May 21 Land Ethic Campaign launch event. Nearly 400 people attended, including three of Leopold's surviving children.

that several years from now, we will look back at this day and on this campaign as events that sparked an epilogue to *A Sand County Almanac*, re-energizing Leopold's profound vision of a Land Ethic."

The Land Ethic Campaign co-chairs spoke to how that epilogue might read.

"The results of this effort will yield both tangible and intangible benefits that will be realized immediately but also accrue over time," said co-chair Forrest Hartmann. "Immediately it will provide us with a new education center that demonstrates how to live lightly on the land through sustainable

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

- ALDO LEOPOLD

technologies and building techniques. The Legacy Center will also provide the vehicle to tell this wonderful story of love and devotion to land and family. It will in essence provide us with a forum where we can have conversations about these values and discuss how we want to uphold them in our community."

"But more importantly it will put on display this historic place and Leopold's visionary ideas for generations to come. As school children visit on field trips and read *A Sand County Almanac*, they will begin to identify their home as the home of the Land Ethic. Over time it will allow the community to identify itself with Aldo Leopold and come to appreciate, in the way we all do, that this is Leopold Country," said Hartmann.

Celebrated conservationist and campaign co-chair, Dick Bartlett, put the importance of the Land Ethic Campaign more succinctly.

"I believe it to be one of the most critical conservation efforts in history," said Bartlett. "It will take time and it will take determination. Leopold knew that. But more than 50 years ago, he set in motion a social evolution that has swept up each of us here. Now we must see that this evolution continues so that the ideal that was reborn here burns brightly in the minds and hearts of people throughout our society."

Indeed the spirit of Leopold and his Land Ethic was very much present at this gathering. It was there in his beloved pines, now standing as sentinels to the ecological conscience he realized and wrote of. It lived in the people that gathered, in the Shack and its surroundings, but perhaps nowhere more so than in Leopold's daughter Nina's soft, but proud voice.

"With the remarkable vision of hindsight –

I have often wondered if my father had any idea what a remarkable device he was creating when, in 1935, he bought this damaged land and its remaining building, the old chicken coop," said Nina Leopold Bradley. "Did he realize that the shack experience would afford him a real sense of peace – a sense of place – a sense of belonging to something greater than himself?"

"As he came to ecological and ethical consciousness, he would inspire others along a similar route. Given time to think, evaluate and articulate the concept of land health, my father wrote his final and important statement of the land ethic:

'A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.'

"Today the Aldo Leopold Foundation, our friends and colleagues, are here to celebrate and to inspire others along a similar direction," concluded Leopold Bradley, "promoting harmony between man and land – realizing a new ethical consciousness."

The Aldo Leopold Foundation hopes you will join us in making the Land Ethic Campaign the next step in the evolution of Leopold's vision.

Photo by Jill Metcalf



There were activities at the event for all ages, including Leopold bench building. The Land Ethic Campaign is critical to fostering Leopold's legacy in future generations of conservationists.

Thank you to all volunteers, ALF staff, board, cabinet, sponsors, and attendees – along with a special thank you to our event coordinator, Mary Hopkins – who all made the May 21 kickoff of the Land Ethic Campaign possible, enjoyable, and successful.

The promise of Leopold's Land Ethic is harmony between people and the land, meaning the ecological community of soil, water, plants, and animals to which we belong.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is embarking on the Land Ethic Campaign to inspire an entire society to an ethical relationship with the land through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. We will achieve this through a long-term strategy to protect and share the unique assets that embody and sustain the Leopold legacy.

Since the day Leopold first defined it, the Land Ethic has remained a compelling vision.

Join us as we lead the way to a national land ethic.

The following pages explain specific objectives of the Land Ethic Campaign.

Restore and Protect The Leopold Shack and Farm

A rickety chicken coop on the Wisconsin River near Baraboo, affectionately called the 'shack,' was renovated by the Leopold family in 1935 and served as Aldo's weekend retreat, his "refuge from too much modernity."

After seven decades of rain, snow, wind, sun, and lightning, the Shack is experiencing significant deterioration. Carefully planned intervention, with great sensitivity to its original appearance and character, will restore its integrity.

The current structure of the Shack will be meticulously documented in accordance with Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) requirements. Rotting boards will be replaced, drainage around the Shack will be redirected, lightning protection will be installed, and measures will be taken to protect it from vandalism.

Preservation of the Shack and continued restoration of the land will complement the Foundation's work with the National Park Service to recognize the site, already on the National Register of Historic Places, with their highest designation, a National Historic Landmark.



Restored and protected, the Shack and farm will continue to inspire and encourage people for generations and will play a key role in our plan to foster the Land Ethic nationally.



Each year the Land Ethic extends its reach as thousands of people, some from as far away as China, Russia, Japan, Turkey, Germany, and England, make a pilgrimage to this honored site, and learn about its historic and contemporary management for both cultural and ecological values.

While the Shack itself has become a metaphor for living lightly on the land, the land surrounding this symbolic structure is equally significant. It is the land, and the Leopold family's efforts to restore it to health, that truly informed and inspired Leopold's observations, lessons, and writing.

Serious threats to both the cultural and ecological values of the site are present because of low vigor in the original Leopold Pines and through the invasion of exotic species. In addition to addressing these threats, management objectives include the re-establishment of certain species of particular interest to Leopold, such as compass plant and draba.

Save the Leopold Pines

The crown condition of the Leopold Pines is at or below acceptable standards for maintaining tree vigor and health, especially for the red pine. These trees are in a very weakened condition and any insect or environmental stressor could cause significant mortality. It is critical that some trees be removed in order to improve the condition of the remaining trees.





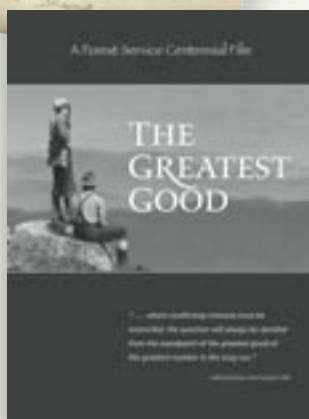
Preserve and Maintain The Leopold Archives

The Leopold archives represent a wealth of information about the evolution of Leopold's thinking and the dawning and growth of the conservation movement. The Aldo Leopold Foundation has a critical role as steward of Leopold's writings, unpublished manuscripts, journals, correspondence, sketches, photographs, and artifacts.

The objective of this initiative is to ensure that all of the surviving manuscripts and artifacts, some located in Iowa, New Mexico, Arizona, at Yale University and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, are located, described, physically and legally protected, and where possible, digitally recorded in order to preserve them for countless generations and allow scholars and others greater access to these rich resources.

Historic Photos Project

Starting in 2004, Aldo Leopold Foundation staff have been systematically cataloguing and digitizing all known historic photographs of or relating to Aldo Leopold. The goal of the project is to make a digital copy of every image, preserve the originals in the safest way possible to ensure longevity and integrity of the image, and to thoroughly catalogue each image. Each photograph is assigned a unique number and descriptive information is recorded in a searchable database. The database includes approximate date, people in the photograph, key objects in the photograph, the prints, negatives and slides that exist of the image, relations to other pictures in the collection, and any other notes or stories.



In past year alone, the Aldo Leopold Foundation has assisted journalists, publishers, and film producers with archival materials and scholarly interpretation of these materials resulting in products that have a circulation nearing 2 million.

Photo Archiving Progress to Date:

- Research of software and hardware, preservation and storage techniques, and the accession process
- Purchase of necessary software and equipment
- Development of image handling protocol from start to finish in the archiving process
- Design of numbering and identification system
- Scanning of over 3,000 photographs
- Cataloging of over 700 images
- Organization of all originals and final stage physical preservation of negatives
- Interviewing of Leopold's family and colleagues to gain more information about photographs in collection



Construct

The National Aldo Leopold Legacy Center

While the Shack and surrounding farm will always serve as the heart of the Leopold legacy, the Aldo Leopold Foundation is planning to construct an education and interpretive center on land near the Shack, where Leopold died in 1948 fighting a neighbor's brush fire.

The Legacy Center will provide the infrastructure necessary for the Foundation's operations and, more importantly, serve as the hub for educational outreach, scientific research, and stewardship initiatives. It will be an example of utilizing the "health of the land" as the measure by which building decisions are made.

The Leopold Legacy Center will be one of the greenest, or most sustainable, buildings of its kind. Ultimately the goal is to satisfy the U.S. Green Building Council's requirements for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Certification.



The Legacy Center will serve many critical functions:

- Educational Programming and Outreach
- Tours of the Land
- Retreats
- Interpretive Exhibits
- Archives and Library
- Web-based Distance Learning
- Land Stewardship and Scientific Research
- Demonstrate 'Green' Form and Function

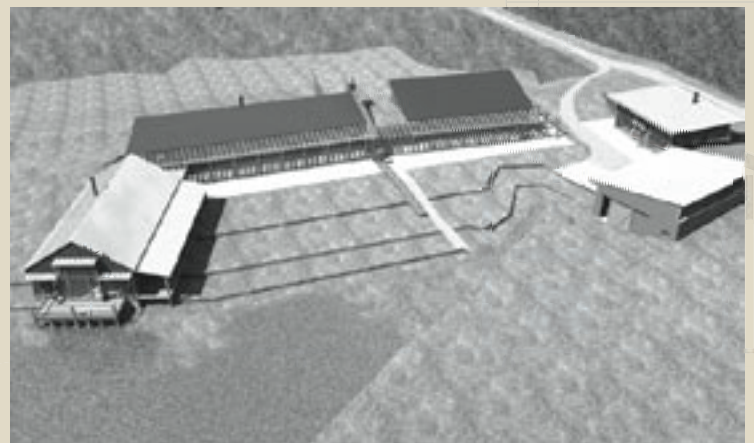
Performance Goals

Energy Efficiency – Preliminary energy modeling results indicate the facility will utilize $\frac{1}{4}$ the cooling and $\frac{1}{2}$ the heating energy of a typical building of this size.

Locally Harvested Materials – Pines and hardwoods harvested on the Leopold farm will be the primary building materials.

Energy Production – An extensive array of photovoltaic panels will generate a significant amount of energy to offset that consumed by Foundation staff and visitors.

Water Conservation – Rainwater will be captured from the building's roof and directed to a rain garden that will be a feature on the site. Composting toilets will reduce water demands.



A host of threats continue to place our planet in peril. Many of these threats can be traced back to a lack of respect and admiration for the land. Leopold's Land Ethic is a powerful antidote.

As long as we care about people, land and the connections between them, we have hope for sustainable ecosystems, economies and communities.

We invite you to join us and support the Land Ethic Campaign. Your financial support will allow the Aldo Leopold Foundation to continue to share the legacy of Aldo Leopold and awaken an ecological conscience in the people of our nation.

Make a gift to the Land Ethic Campaign!

You will receive a donation packet in your mail very soon.

You may also make a donation online by visiting our web site at www.aldoleopold.org.

Establish Endowment Funds

The Land Ethic Campaign is an ambitious initiative that will have a profound effect on the advancement of Leopold's vision of individuals and society taking responsibility for the health of the land. Adequate endowments are necessary to ensure the permanence of the Leopold legacy and to protect its past, present, and future assets.

Leopold Shack, Farm and Archives Endowment Fund

The Foundation wants to ensure the ongoing stewardship of the Leopold farm, Shack and archives. Each of these vital assets require periodic care and constant monitoring. This fund will protect these resources and allow the Foundation to better document and interpret their meaning for future generations through a range of educational materials.

Leopold Legacy Center Fund

Wherever possible, energy conservation is being integrated into the design of the Leopold Legacy Center. However, the expense of maintaining a world-class facility will clearly present the Foundation with new operating costs. This fund is critical to providing the Foundation with the financial stability needed to focus on implementing programs that promote the Land Ethic across the country.

Program Funds

These funds will support the important work of existing and future programs, thereby allowing the Foundation to focus on expanding its mission.

Land Stewardship – Taking our expertise and experience to private landowners through workshops, seminars, and actual on-the-ground projects ensure that the Land Ethic continues to inform and inspire others to care for land.

Education/Outreach – Among the Foundation's most important responsibilities is ensuring that new audiences are introduced to the eloquent and insightful ideas in Leopold's writing. The Foundation coordinates events such as Aldo Leopold Weekend, bringing communities together to read and discuss the potential of Leopold's ideas.

Publications – Foundation publications, such as *The Leopold Outlook*, our quarterly newsletter, draw upon our rich collection of archival materials, ranging from photographs to physical artifacts, to communicate the relevance of Leopold's Land Ethic today.

ALDO
LEOPOLD
WEEKEND
2005
MARCH 4-6



THE ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

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Fostering the Land Ethic through the legacy of Aldo Leopold



Foundation Expands Educational Programs

Two "Leopold Adventures" Planned

The desire to live Leopold's Land Ethic continues to grow. In response to this demand, the Foundation is organizing two unique, in-depth experiences to place members nearer to the heart of the environments that inspired Leopold's writings. For those longing for a real Shack experience, like cooking in a Dutch oven over a fire pit or discussing *A Sand County Almanac* while night falls on the Great Marsh, our fall adventure in "Leopold Country" provides the opportunity. On our spring adventure to the Colorado River Delta, we will investigate the effects of today's water regulation and explore persevering wetlands that offer hope for a return to the lush, green images Leopold so eloquently painted in "The Green Lagoons" some 80 years ago.

LEOPOLD

Adventures

2005/06



OCTOBER 20-23, 2005

A Weekend in Leopold Country

An exploration of the sites and experiences that inspired the Land Ethic

Join the Aldo Leopold Foundation on a special weekend filled with fall color and a hands-on "Sand County" experience. This unique opportunity will let you take part in life at the Shack the way the Leopolds did: help to cook a dutch oven supper, assist with seed collection and prairie planting, even make your own Leopold Bench. We will be joined by experts that will help interpret the significance of Leopold's Land Ethic, and we will have the rare chance to listen to the inspiring words of *A Sand County Almanac* read by Aldo's eldest daughter Nina Leopold Bradley. We will also take a field trip down to Madison to tour the Forest Products Lab where Leopold worked from 1924 to 1928, and participate in an interpretive hike at the University of Madison Arboretum, where Leopold first started to experiment with restoration techniques that he also put in practice at the Shack. Our lodging will be at a rustic camp facility near the Shack, but we will sample different local restaurant fare for most meals. This in-depth Leopold exploration is not to be missed!

Dates: October 20-23, 2005

Registration and Itinerary:

Contact Jennifer Kobylecky, Education Coordinator at 608-355-0279 ext 6#.

Cost: \$450 per person, includes accommodations, meals, and local transportation.

Please register by August 5, 2005.

MARCH 29-APRIL 3, 2006

The Colorado River Delta Tour

Retracing Aldo Leopold's Journey

Join the Aldo Leopold Foundation and La Ruta de Sonora on a journey to examine the ecology, conservation, and international policies that have changed the lower Colorado river basin and delta. In 1922 Aldo Leopold embarked on a three-week journey across the Colorado River Delta, described in his journal as a "voyage of discovery." This journey served as the inspiration for the bittersweet essay "The Green Lagoons" which would later grace his influential *A Sand County Almanac*. Leopold predicted changes in this historic landscape, but probably could not have imagined the ecological, aesthetic, and ethical complexity surrounding the health of the Colorado River, which is now the most controlled river in the world. This tour offers the opportunity to learn not only the culture of the Arizona-Sonora border region, but also to understand the lasting impact this region had on Aldo Leopold and his concept of land health.



Dates: March 29-April 3, 2006

Registration and Itinerary: Contact La Ruta de Sonora at 800. 806.0766 or visit www.laruta.org.

Cost: \$1,250 per person/double occupancy, including a \$200 tax deductible donation to the Aldo Leopold Foundation. Includes accommodations, meals, and local transportation. Rate excludes airfare.

For more information, contact Jennifer Kobylecky, Education Coordinator at Aldo Leopold Foundation, 608.355.0279 ext 6#.

THE *Shack*
Seminar SERIES 2005

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



JULY 11

Kamyar Enshayan *Get Yourself a Farmer!*

Since 1997, Kamyar Enshayan has worked to help institutional food buyers in metro areas to buy a greater portion of their food from local farms. He has also worked to make it easier for residents to find and purchase locally grown foods. The relationship among consumers, farmers, grocers and other entities is growing and so are its economic and social benefits, which Kamyar will share in detail. Kamyar Enshayan is a professor at the University of Northern Iowa and an expert in the field of marketing locally produced agriculture.



JULY 25

Dan Small
Bringing Leopold's Message to a Diverse Audience

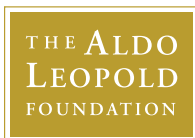
Hunters and anglers pay for conservation with their license dollars, but not all fully understand the role they play in implementing conservation methods themselves. Leopold was both a hunter and a conservationist, and he described the natural world "as a community to which we belong." Dan Small joins us to discuss how he uses Leopold's legacy in his public outreach and education efforts today. He holds a PhD from Rice University, and has been the host/producer of Milwaukee Public Television's "Outdoor Wisconsin" as well as the contributing editor of *Wisconsin Outdoor News*, a bi-weekly newspaper that covers outdoor activities, environmental concerns and other items of interest to Wisconsin's sportsmen and women.

AUGUST 8

*Thank you to
Ted Kerasote
and Stan Temple
for their Shack
Seminar Series
presentations on
June 20 and
June 27!*

Land Ethic Campaign Update

This session will provide updates on the four main facets of the campaign: restoration and protection of the Leopold Shack and farm, inventory and preservation of the Leopold archives, construction of the Leopold Legacy Center, and the establishment of an operational endowment. You'll also have a chance to get hands-on experience as we practice bark shaving with a tool that will help us prepare Leopold pines, harvested on the site, for use in construction of the Leopold Legacy Center.



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