

Aldo Leopold: To Love the Earth

Aldo Leopold, who died in 1948, is considered to be the father of wildlife management in the United States. As an author, ecologist, forester and environmentalist, he wrote about nature with the eloquence of a poet, yet described its problems with the knowledge and insight of a great scientist.

Here are some quotes from his books A
Sound County Almanac and Round River:

- ❖ "Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet, one need only a shovel."
- ❖ "I heard of a boy once who was brought up an atheist. He changed his mind when he saw there were a hundred odd species of warblers, each bedecked like to the rainbow."
- ❖ "I hope to leave [my sons] good health, an education and possibly even a competence. But what are they going to do with there things if there be no more deer in the hills, and no more quails in the coverts? No more snipe whistling in the meadow, no more piping widgeons and chattering of teal as darkness covers the marshes. ... and what if there be no more goose music?"



Photograph Aldo Leopold Foundation

Leopold is often called the father of the U.S. wilderness system for his work to protect wild places.

❖ "Does the educated citizen know he is only a cog in an ecological mechanism? That if he will work with that mechanism, his mental wealth and material wealth can expand indefinitely? But that if he refuses to work with it, it will grind him to dust?"

❖ "Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."