

Join us for the next Land Ethic Leaders Program!

Saturday and Sunday, November 13th & 14th, 2010
At the Leopold Center in Baraboo, Wis.

What is Land Ethic Leaders?

Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*, and the concept of the land ethic itself, are ultimately about values. Our values shape our actions, both in the individual sense and as they relate to our society as a whole. Values and their relationship to individual and community decisions are extremely layered and complex, which can make it hard to find common ground to discuss them in an open, neutral setting. The Land Ethic Leaders program aims to train leaders to help their communities explore those values.

The Value of Discussion

Global climate change, air and water pollution, loss of biological diversity and a rising human

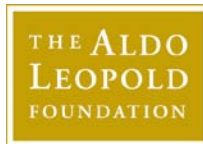


population are just a few of the complex and challenging issues we face today. Working on conservation—whether it be through education, community outreach, research, or restoration—can be gratifying, but it can also be emotionally draining. Deep understanding and knowledge of the full implications of the ecological problems before us can lead to a feeling of helplessness and disengagement, a sentiment that affects professionals and concerned citizens alike.

The Land Ethic Leaders training attempts to directly address this issue by giving you a chance to explore, question, and reaffirm your beliefs and values, deepening your commitment to conservation and your communities. The training aims to empower you to create similar dialogues in your own towns and workplaces, getting people talking about environmental issues in deeper, more meaningful ways.

Observe, Participate, Reflect

The Land Ethic Leaders program is rooted in Leopold's own method of engaging his family and students in developing a personal land ethic—*observing* the natural world through scientific inquiry, *participating* in purposeful work on the land, and *reflecting* on their experiences. Together, these activities can bring people to a new understanding and respect for the landscape around them. The program will be held in the same Wisconsin landscape that deeply inspired Leopold, along the Wisconsin River near Baraboo.



What to Expect

Goals of the Program

- Learn to lead reflective discussions based on pieces of literature or film segments to get people talking about their relationships to the land;
- Take part in activities based on observing the natural world, working together in the outdoors, and reflecting individually and as a group;
- Engage with a community of peers from a variety of backgrounds from around the country;
- Immerse yourself in Aldo Leopold's legacy at the Leopold Center and historic Shack; and
- Explore, renew, and deepen your own connection to the land.

What You'll Take Away

- The ability to lead reflective discussions on conservation and our individual and collective values;
- Tools to help you organize community-based events that connect people and land;
- A greater sense of confidence in talking about Aldo Leopold and his vision of a land ethic;
- New friends and connections to a network of Land Ethic Leaders across the country and around the world.

"The Land Ethic Leaders program went beyond my expectations, it created a safe place to explore and honor not only my own feelings, but those of others. Listening actively was a powerful reminder of how what we think we know and what we believe is linked, vitally, to how we act. The program facilitates a deeper look at our interior landscape and in doing so, collectively, may be the catalyst for deep cultural change."

-September 2010 participant

Your Commitments

We want you to engage with various members of your community to not only introduce Leopold's ideas, but to discuss them in depth. Participants are asked to plan an event or series of activities using specific tools and techniques from the workshop, within one year of attending Land Ethic Leaders. Target audiences for the activities and events may range from the general public, to your own co-workers or students, to groups or clubs, and more.

For more information or to register:

www.aldoleopold.org/greenfire/lel.html

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608.355.0279, ext. 25

Upcoming Training Dates:

Sat-Sun, Nov 13-14: Baraboo, Wis.

Thu-Fri, Feb 3-4: Albuquerque, NM

Thu-Fri, Mar 24-25: Washington, DC (*tentative*)