Aldo Leopold Chronology

1887 - Born on January 11th in Burlington, Iowa to Carl and Clara Starker Leopold

1890 - Railroads were carrying more lumber out of WI than the rafting streams, logging virtually completed

1890 - Low in WI grouse cycle

1893 - A March blizzard in WI reduced migratory birds near the would-be “Shack” to zero

1899 - Wisconsin led the nation in the production of lumber
   - Last passenger pigeon killed near Babcock, WI

1904 – Aldo Leopold attended Lawrenceville Prep School in NJ (through May 1905)

1905 – He attended Sheffield Scientific School at Yale (Class of 1908)

1906 – Began his coursework at Yale Forest School (Mastery of Forestry in 1909)
   - Aldo was one of 1st generation of foresters to graduate from Pinchot Forestry School at Yale

1909 – Upon graduation, Aldo joined the US Forest Service (Established 1905)
   - Reported to District 3 - Arizona and NM territories
   - First field assignment as assistant in Apache National Forest - Blue Range
   - A dam was built near Kilbourn City (WI Dells)

1911 – Aldo transferred to Carson National Forest in northern NM as deputy supervisor
   - In 1912 became supervisor
   - Founded and edited the forest newsletter, Carson Pine Cone
   - Proposed to Estella Bergere, a schoolteacher, (knew her for 4 months) then proposed
     (knowing another had recently proposed to her before Aldo did -- Estella made him wait months for an answer before accepting!)

1912 - Married Estella Bergere on Oct. 9th

1913 - Called away to settle disputes in another forest district among local sheepmen
   - Caught in storm (cold, rain, snow) - slept in wet bedroll - became ill (acute nephritis)
     ---- misdiagnosed as rheumatism - almost died
   - Aldo Leopold becomes a father to first child, Aldo Starker Leopold born on October 22nd (son)
   - While recovering (18 months) in Burlington, Iowa he read Thoreau’s works, among others

1914 - Assigned to district headquarters in Albuquerque for the Office of Grazing
   - John Muir’s death (three days after Leopold’s father - Dec. 22nd)
   - A dam was constructed on the WI River near Prairie du Sac

1915 - Organized game and fish work in the Southwest
   - Began editing the renovated, Pine Cone bulletin of the NM Game Protective Agency
   - Prepared mimeographed Game and Fish Handbook
   - Requested to become Editorial Assistant in DC
   - Luna Bergere Leopold born on October 8th (son)

1916 - National Park System established
   - Planned recreational use of Southwest region
   - Last Canada lynx was killed in Sauk County, WI (prior to this they were regularly hunted there)

1917 - Adelina (Nina) Leopold was born in August (daughter)

1918 - Influenced alterations in Forest Service priorities
   - Left the Forest Service and accepted a full-time position as secretary of Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce

1919 - On August 1st - rejoined the Forest Service District 3, as an assistant district forester in Charge of Operations in the Southwest (20 million acres of national forest)
   - Aldo Carl Leopold born on December 15th (son)
   - December - met with Arthur Carhart in Denver, CO to discuss a possible policy for wild and Scenic areas in the Forest Service (wilderness)
1920 - Writes that last wolf and lion must be shot

1921 - July-brother Carl marries Estella’s (Aldo’s wife’s) sister, Dolores (making Aldo’s brother his brother-in-law)

1922 - Submitted formal proposal for Gila National Forest to be designated as a wilderness area

1923 - Completes the Watershed Handbook—reflecting on observations made of inspection tours of the Southwest forest
- Arrival of the first starling in WI

1924 - Transferred to US Forest Products Lab in Madison, WI as assistant-then associate director--uncomfortable with industrial emphasis of the institution
- Gila National Forest designated 500,000 acres of “roadless” wilderness
- Aldo participated in a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters (boy’s trip)

1927 - Key figure in WI Conservation Act
- Estella E. Leopold born (daughter)
- Initial chapters for Southwest Game Fields (Deer Management in the Southwest) circulated
- Growing disillusionment with his job

1928 - Aldo left the Forest Products Lab and Forest Service to conduct game surveys in Midwest until 1930
- Began delivering courses on game management

1929 - Stock Market crashed
- Served on Advisory Board of Outdoor Life magazine until 1932

1930 - Leopold served as leader in forming American game Policy-adopted in December

1931 - Depression terminated his Arms Institute funding
- Conducted surveys for Iowa and Wisconsin conservation agencies
- Began working on Game Management
- No job
- In the fall—awarded gold medal for conservation by Outdoor Life magazine

1933 - Game Management published
- Returned to Southwest to supervise erosion control for the Forest Service
- Accepted position to a new chair of game mgt. in the Dept. of Agricultural Economics for University of Wisconsin
- Faville Grove Wildlife Experimental Area established—farmers and grad students working together—worked on wild game cropping, food plots, windbreaks, and various prairie species studies

1934 - January 2, 1934—Leopold stood in front of his first set of students (18 young farmers)
- Chairman of new committee of Society of American Foresters on Game Policy
- In March-offered Course 118 in Game Management

1935 - Cooperative Wildlife Research program established
- Provided units in 9-land grant universities pioneering in game management (WI refused funding)
- He worked with Jay “Ding” Darling on a plan to conserve the nation’s wildlife—the “Duck Committee”
- Wilderness Society established
- Denied position of head of the Wilderness Society—believed head should live in DC
- In April-acquired the Wisconsin River farm, lovingly referred to as the “Shack”
- Fall—went to Germany and studied forestry and wildlife mgt. on a Carl Schurz fellowship
- Re-orientation of thinking about the purpose of land management: historical & recreational to ecological & ethical

1936 - Assisted in establishing a society of wildlife specialists
- Made the first 2 pack trips along the Rio in Chihuahua, Mexico
- In Spring, Sand Hill Cranes numbering in the hundreds regularly stopped at large marshes in Adams & Marquette counties in WI
- The “Parthenon”—the outhouse on the “Shack” property was constructed along with a new stone fireplace and buff brick chimney (new “Parthenon” was built in 1970) Young Estella was amazed to discover in her first years of school, when studying ancient Rome/Greece that there was another Parthenon in the world!

1937 - “Game Management” changed to Wildlife Management

1938 - Began a multi-year series of brief natural history articles for Wisconsin Agriculturalist & Farmer
1939 - First ecological viewpoint paper written: “*A Biotic View of Land*”
- Department of Wildlife Management at the University of WI established-Leopold acting chair
- Began teaching Wildlife Ecology 118
- Necedah National Wildlife Refuge-40,500 acres set aside in Juneau County, WI by UFWS

1940 - November 10th- “*Federal Aid for Wildlife*” typescript
- August 10th –Report to the *American Wildlife Inst. on the UT and OR Wildlife Units* typescript

1941 - Aldo developed plans for a volume of ecological essays
- US entry into WW II drew most of his students
- Fire set by careless smoker kills 500 planted trees and shrubs near the “Shack”

1942 - Began studies of WI deer problems and expanded studies into other states
- Severe winter-thousands starved

1943 - *Bambi*-Disney movie
- Leopold advocated deer reduction plan
- Wisconsin Deer Committee attacked him
- He was requested to do an elk survey in Yellowstone-declined because he was too busy!

1944 - Assembled ecological essays in a book manuscript for submission to Macmillan and Knoph Publishers-
------ book rejected by both
- Wrote “*Thinking Like a Mountain*” (famous essay)

1945 - Became vice president – *Wilderness Society*
- Son, Carl returns home from the war
- Leopold loses students in the war

1946 - Leopold developed reoccurring symptoms of tic douloureux (facial nerve condition)
- Heightened issues with the deer dilemma
- Organized study of use of airplanes over wilderness areas

1947 - Survey conducted by Swift and Leopold-extreme realities to airplane issue over wilderness areas
- September Aldo was operated on for his facial condition at the Mayo Clinic
- December 19th-submitted manuscript of his ecological essays to Oxford Press

1948 - Leopold was asked to be a representative to a United Nation’s Conference on conservation in 1949
- April 14th – Good News! Oxford Press agreed to publish his book now known as, *A Sand County Almanac*
- April 21st Aldo Leopold dies of a heart attack while fighting a fire on his neighbor’s farm

1949 - *A Sand County Almanac* is published

For detailed information and fun personal stories about Leopold and his life, you might be interested in two excellent books:
*Aldo Leopold A Fierce Green Fire* by MaryBeth Lorbiecki
*Aldo Leopold, His Life and Work* by Curt Meine