

# Aldo Leopold Chronology



- 1887 -Born on January 11<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 9<sup>th</sup>
- 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 22<sup>nd</sup> (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.22<sup>nd</sup>)  
-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 8<sup>th</sup> (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 1<sup>st</sup>-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 18<sup>th</sup> (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 10<sup>th</sup>- "*Federal Aid for Wildlife*" typescript  
 -August 10<sup>th</sup>-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 19<sup>th</sup>-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 14<sup>th</sup>-Good News! Oxford Press agreed to publish his book now known as, *A Sand County Almanac*  
 -April 21<sup>st</sup> 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