

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 18th (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