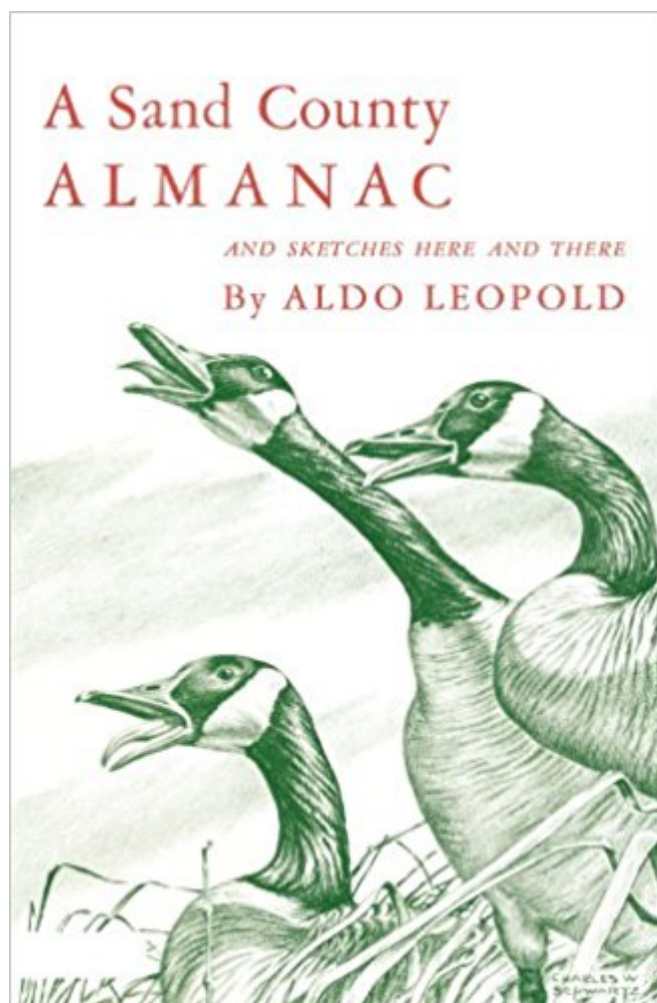


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# A Sand County Almanac And Sketches Here And There



## Synopsis

First published in 1949 and praised in The New York Times Book Review as "a trenchant book, full of vigor and bite," A Sand County Almanac combines some of the finest nature writing since Thoreau with an outspoken and highly ethical regard for America's relationship to the land. Written with an unparalleled understanding of the ways of nature, the book includes a section on the monthly changes of the Wisconsin countryside; another part that gathers informal pieces written by Leopold over a forty-year period as he traveled through the woodlands of Wisconsin, Iowa, Arizona, Sonora, Oregon, Manitoba, and elsewhere; and a final section in which Leopold addresses the philosophical issues involved in wildlife conservation. As the forerunner of such important books as Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, Edward Abbey's *Desert Solitaire*, and Robert Finch's *The Primal Place*, this classic work remains as relevant today as it was forty years ago.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"One of the seminal works of the environmental movement."--The Boston Globe "I have used this text for twenty years and will continue to use it....It should be required reading for every high school senior."--Walter L. Cook, Jr., University of Georgia "An inspirational classic--as relevant today as it was when first published in 1949."--Paul S. Miko, University of New Mexico "We can place this book on the shelf that holds the writings of Thoreau and John Muir."--The San Francisco Chronicle "It is safe to assume that A Sand County Almanac will be read for decades, and probably centuries to come."--William Vogt "Any student of the natural resources and the environment is not yet educated if he or she has not read A Sand County Almanac."--Paul T. Tueller, University of Nevada at

Reno "A classic book, good to have in a [relatively] inexpensive edition."--Professor Marshall Spector, State University of New York "A fine book--Robert Finch's introduction enhances a classic text."--Luther Erickson, Grinnell College "Beautiful edition!"--Abby Lito, Middlebury College "Special edition comments put this classic in needed perspective for modern students."--Burton E. Vaughan, Ph.D., Washington State University

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) began his professional career in 1909 when he joined the U.S. Forest Service. In 1924 he became Associate Director of the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, and in 1933 the University of Wisconsin created a chair of game management for him.

This book was recommended by the leader of the Master Naturalist class I'm taking. After a couple pages, I was hooked. Aldo Leopold has a wonderful way of telling the story of all the goings on around his Sand County farm that most of us would never see or hear. For example, his two page philosophical discussion with himself about which of two trees to turn into firewood teaches us so much about trees without seeming like a lesson. Or his recounting of the ecological history of the area decade by decade as he saws through the rings representing the years that the nearly century old oak witnessed. He recounts how he figures out what animals inhabit the area, what their range is, what they eat and so much more in beautifully crafted language that is just pleasant to read. And there's so much more. A great read for anyone interested in learning about the natural world around us while being thoroughly entertained.

Loaned this book many years ago and didn't get it back. Someone liked the book as much as I do? Read it again and enjoyed it even more. Being older now was part of it, but the current times make the book more compelling than ever. It would be a shame not to read Leopold before there are no wild lands left. This is a good edition. Be sure not to get the new and improved edition that removes references to evolution to satisfy the blue noses who will never read the book anyway. The introduction was written in 1948 and is still crisp.

This is one of my most favorite books. Leopold really was the father of the 'environmental movement' (he died in 1948), and his perspectives and writing style have rarely been matched for insight and reading enjoyment. I've given a good number of copies to friends and family members, and I keep a copy handy for myself, too. I pick it up whenever I want to get in a worthy short story about our nature and how mankind is generally pretty shortsighted about her. I always wonder to

myself how Leopold learned so much (he saw so much more than the 'average person' could) and how he developed his perspectives and writing style. One of my favorite stories is called 'Atom X'.

Currently reading this book for my college biology class. Some may say it's boring or dry, but if you really are an 'outdoorsy' (or environmental/ nature loving) kind of person, I believe that you will like this book. I had slight difficulty getting into the book, but once you find your reading groove with this book, it really makes you think about a lot of important conservation topics and issues, that we still face today.

This is one of the seminal works of conservationism and systems ecology. The eloquence of the prose elevates it to poetry, and I would consider Leopold the poet laureate of the of the modern conservation movement. There is so much in this little book that one can read it twenty times and gain new insights every time. Leopold loved nature, he was one of the founding members of The Wilderness Society, but he was no tree hugger. He acknowledged the necessity of humans using the land but recognized the limits that we must place on that use to maintain nature and by extension, to ensure our own survival. Anyone who is passionate about environmental issues should read this book to gain supreme insight as to why those issues are vitally important to the world.

Really worth five stars for any naturalist or environmentalist--almost as well as Muir, finds words to describe that in nature untouched we commune deeply with things wild, mysterious, eternal. A sense of reverence and awe. Almost lyrically describes the magic of the Sandhill Crane--passages worth rereading for we who have felt for a creature we treasure. An acute awareness even in the 1940s of the damage already done by man to critical habitat--a clear-eyed assessment of tragic mismanagement of lands and the degradation that occurs. Captures the bleak irony of the loss of the Passenger Pigeon--farmers protecting their livelihood--against the uncountable hoard of the birds who suddenly were no more. Not a lament--leaves one uplifted in the sense of determined--to see through Sand County eyes--to multiply efforts with new awareness of what's at stake today as then.

Before you buy this, know that it's mostly comprised of poetic/rambling essays with archaic language. There is very little actual adventure stories in it. I bought the book because people refer to it as "a classic" and Aldo Leopold was supposed to be a great outdoorsman. This is much more in

line with books by Ed Abbey or Rachel Carson.

This book is about the most perfect non-partisan political statement on the outdoors, nature, and human values as could be imagined to exist. The world would be a better place if more people would read it.

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