



## Wildlife Book Club

### A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold

Thursday, August 6, 2015



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Hi, everyone! Welcome to book club!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Hi!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Hello all!

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

Right at 7:00 sharp. Good job.

**Comment From rejoyce**

Hi !!!!!!!!

**Comment From Jakermo\*♥**

Hi Raina.

**Comment From Dave in Missouri**

Hello AA, Raina and Chapin!

**Comment From Pat, NJ**

Howdy.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

Hi guys!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Hi Lacy!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Hey Lacy!

**Comment From Dave in Missouri**

Hello Lacy!

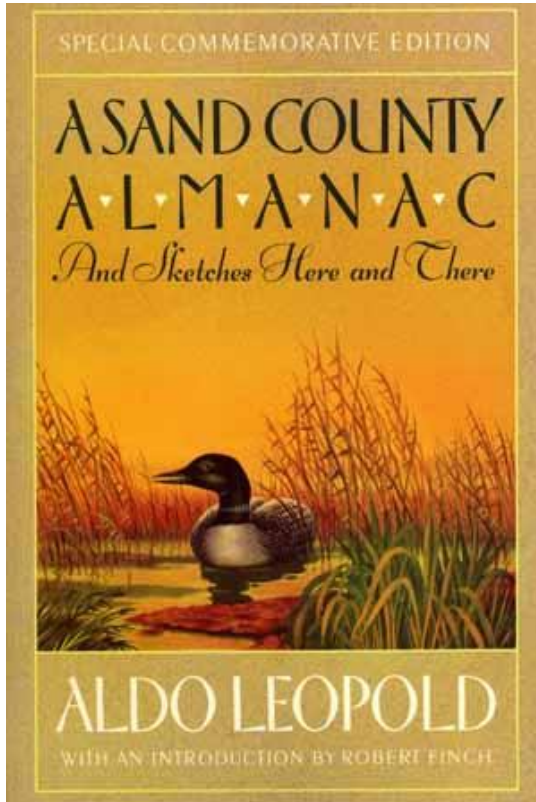


**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

LACY!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
So tonight, we are discussing ...

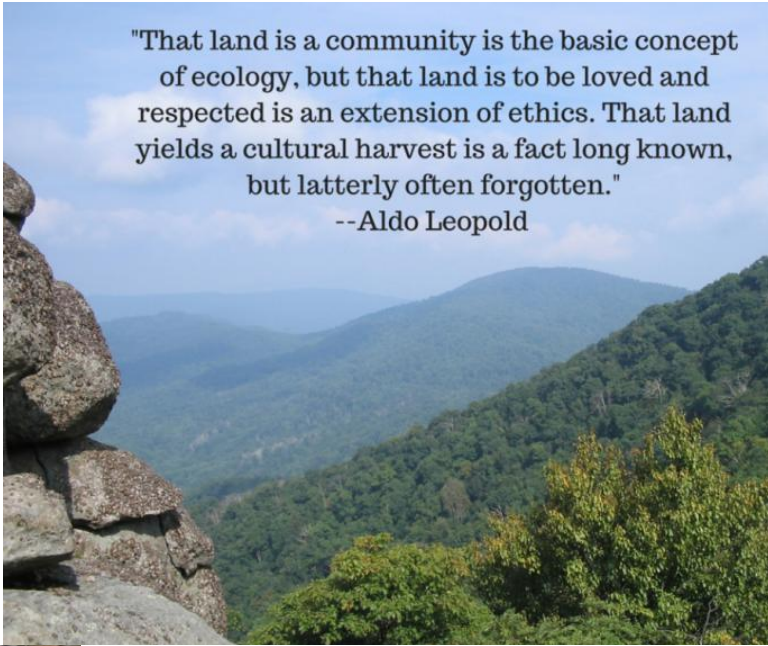


**Comment From Jakermo\*♥**  
Hi Lacy. Wow, so many WCV people.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
I have something else to kick us off ... a quote from the intro of the book!

"That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is a fact long known, but latterly often forgotten."  
--Aldo Leopold



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
He was a very eloquent writer, for sure.

**Comment From Dave in Missouri**  
Very awesome!

**Comment From rejoyce**  
I love that!!!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**  
Yay! I remembered. But I still have a few more pages to go... :(



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
You can tell from his descriptive writing that Leopold really connects with this farm where he spent so much time. Do any of you have natural places that have made a strong impression on you?



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**  
The Neuse River in Arapahoe, NC and the view from my house :)

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**  
Cape Cod!

**Comment From Lisa**  
growing up a I spent summers camping on a barrier island off the coast of SC that really made an impact on me



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
For me, it's southern Utah.

**Comment From katiesmom**  
The Grand Canyon!

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**  
Sure! My parents' farm in southwest Virginia. Though, I don't think I have learned any place as well as Leopold learned his farm.

**Comment From katiesmom**  
Monument Valley



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Book Club: A Sand County Almanac (August 2015)

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**Comment From Mary E in NC**

Kauai is one of the most beautiful places on earth!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Well, let's think about when Aldo wrote this book ...



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

It was in the 1940's correct?



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yes!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

And he reflects back on some of his earlier experiences (so, the 20s, I believe).



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Pretty amazing that he was that ecologically conscious. As he writes, not everyone had that mindset.

**Comment From rejoyce**

I liked reading it today looking at it from his time perspective.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

I kept having to remind myself of that as I was reading.

**Comment From BarbG**

I kept remembering how long ago he wrote this as I read it-A man before his time



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

And juuuust as Aldo finished the book ... and was preparing it to be published ... sadly, he passed away while fighting a fire on his neighbor's property. Well, he had a heart attack.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

So really, his son Luna edited the final manuscript, with input from other family members, and had the book published a few years after his death.

**Comment From Jakermo\*♥**

WOW, that would be a labor of love

**Comment From Mary E in NC**

That is so sad! He was such a gifted writer - so many parts of his book were absolutely lyrical!

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

I finished reading The Best American Science & Nature Writing of 2013 before I started Sand County Almanac. The contrast between nature/conservation writing almost 70 years ago with today is astounding.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Interesting, in what way?



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Interesting!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

All I kept thinking about was how much worse everything is now!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

Lyrical is a great description of it - page after page it seemed to me.

**Comment From 33mama**

Was ecology even a word that long ago?



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Ha, I think so! But Aldo is certainly considered the father of modern environmental ethics.

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

My guess. Writers today know they have an audience with "the basics" of conservation, ecology, environmental awareness, etc. Leopold didn't, and often he appears to be writing to potential critics, too.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Good point.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Well said



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

That's really interesting, Marianne.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

There is definitely a lot more conservation/environmental books/writings available today -- when you think of this coming out in 1948, you can appreciate how ground-breaking this book was.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yes, groundbreaking.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

People equate this book to Silent Spring

**Comment From rejoyce**

He really seemed to be "before his time."



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

In that is it is groundbreaking.

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

Leopold appears to be a modern voice trying to tell us what the Native Americans tried to tell our ancestors hundreds of years ago.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

His passion for his subject of Nature was clear... Not only was he all about it but he was also a great writer.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

" We don't no inherit the earth, we merely borrow it from our children" Native American proverb



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

He was clearly very passionate about his connection with the land. And he expressed the importance that everyone try to find a similar connection.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

And like you said, Lacy -- he was such a great writer that he made you feel very connected to his subjects.

**Comment From 33mama**

And amazingly observant!

**Comment From rejoyce**

He was very observant. I loved his attention to detail.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Yes!

**Comment From BarbG**

he recorded everything no matter where he was



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
And as many people have already said ... he was a very lyrical writer.

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

I felt like I was there, looking over his shoulder at everything.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

His detail... he must have spent hours every day recording observations on his property. He knew it so well!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Right? He was so intimately familiar with his land - more than 100 acres!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

I felt like I was there, looking over his shoulder at everything.

**Comment From GN**

All this praise is going to make me read the book.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
I feel pretty jealous that he had such a strong connection to his immediate environment.

**Comment From Lisa**

I hope to one day be that intimate with a piece of land



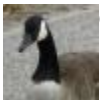
**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Oh, GN.

**Comment From Mary E in NC**

I checked this book out of the library, but after reading it, I want to own it so that I can reread it - there are so many beautiful passages!



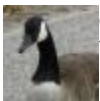
**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
I agree!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**  
I highlighted a lot of them.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
One of my favorite sections is when he talks about pine trees versus birch trees. Does anyone remember this section?



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**  
Yes! He loved the pine trees!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
Oh yes!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

I think he went so far as to say that he loves all trees but is "in love with pine trees".

**Comment From rejoyce**

I loved how he talked about the pines because I love them too!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Me too!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

I turned down the corners on about 20 pages!

**Comment From Becky in SoCal**

I love pines also.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

Yes! He seemed to be in love with pines and he even had the logic behind it!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

He kinda captured the essence of what makes pine trees so ... lovely.

**Comment From Carol in Oregon**

There were times I became very emotional reading some of his observations. Also, I learned so much I too am buying my own copy to read again.

**Comment From Becky in SoCal**

I read this book back in January, but did not re-read for our club. I think I will read again soon.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

So, Leopold connected greatly to his place, and wrote about it throughout the year. Of his sketches January through December, which is the most meaningful to you? Why?

**Comment From 33mama**

Imagine noticing that that bird's mating dance started one minute later each night!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Oh, yes that is in ... April? He was so in tune with everything ...

**Comment From GN**

Essay questions. Ugh.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Always a bad student in the bunch ...

**Comment From Carol in Oregon**

April, the sky dance.

**Comment From rejoyce**

I liked December because of the loving way he described the banded chickadee:)

**Comment From Kali - TX**

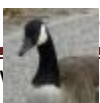
i truly loved the "reverse chronology" of the tree he cut - taking the time to examine each ring, then equate each with then-current events!

**Comment From Lydia--PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥**

I did love the description about the sky dance--and the woodcocks

**Comment From Mary E in NC**

The painting of the river in August.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

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Book Club: A Sand County Almanac (August 2015)



I think either February and looking at the tree rings or April and the prairie succession.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Love those chickadees!

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

I really enjoyed learning about silphium in July... It was sad but so interesting in detail.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

For me, it was February – cutting down the giant tree. “ ... the chronology of a lifetime, written in concentric annual rings of a good oak”. I feel like you could really feel his respect of this giant tree – in thinking about everything it’s lived through.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

He uses that theme again, in sorts, in November – “A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke he is writing his signature on the face of his land.”



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**  
I agree!

**Comment From BarbG**

love the chickadee part



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

I also liked the quote in August " We grieve for only what we know."

**Comment From Lisa**

In reference to him knowing his land I really like this quote "we need to know things personally - then we care about their fate."

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

I couldn't fathom how he tracked the birds calls and the mating dances, etc.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

Yes.... and that chapter was so detailed about the tree rings. You were traveling in time with the tree. It was beautiful.

**Comment From 33mama**

I liked the part about the beginning of spring. He went through the animals one would see and what they were doing. Then he said that geese were the true harbingers of spring because they couldn't go back.

**Comment From Mary E in NC**

The painting of the river in August.

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

I loved the return of the upland plover and how they almost were wiped out by hunting but saved at the last minute.

**Comment From Lisa**

I agree with all of these! Chickadees, tree rings, river paintings...

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

I was glad that Raina recommended I buy a copy to keep. It is also full of highlighted passages... but I look forward to reading it again.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
:)

**Comment From BarbG**

I enjoyed learning about size of therritory of specific animals on his land

**Comment From rejoyce**

He also knew what would happen when, how it would happen, and what to look for in every nook and cranny.

**Comment From Lydia--PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥**

Oh Rejoyce...I agree. Loved the banded chickadee description

**Comment From Kathy in NM ♥**

My Mom was born and raised on a north woods farm in Wisconsin. Leopold's recollections of his farm brought back a lot of good memories of our family visits in the 50's.

**Comment From Susan from NJ**

The Green Pasture in August. It was like reading poetry.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Oh, I love his section on the geese, too. Makes me think more about the geese I see passing through Virginia, too.

**Comment From Lisa**

I loved the geese too



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

The whole part about the lone geese made me very sad.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Well, speaking of waterfowl ...

**Comment From Lisa**

i think this is probably a reflection of the time when he wrote, but despite loving much of the book I was a little off put by the parts when he hunted - it was just hard for me to reconcile with the more conservationist parts



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Very touching about how the single geese were looking and calling out to others that were in their group that didn't make it, most likely due to hunting.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yes, I can understand how his love of hunting is difficult to reconcile with his passion for preserving nature.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

But more than anything, I think he really felt that people should feel connected to the natural world and see themselves as a part of whole rather than separate.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Definitely a lot of hunting in the book, but yet you can feel his connection to nature and what he's hunting. He definitely knows where his food was coming from, which is important, I think.

**Comment From Lisa**

I did like that, Brenda. We mentioned being careful not to kill as many grouse because he loved their dance



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

And he understood the crucial role predators play in keeping game animals in control and in balance.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

He definitely did ... as he discussed in Thinking Like a Mountain -- one of his more powerful and famous essays.

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

He was very much in touch with the balance required for nature to thrive.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Did anyone think about that section of the book and the video that was making the rounds recently? About the impact that wolves had on the river when they were re-introduced to Yellowstone?



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Yes!

**Comment From Lisa**

I loved the Thinking Like a Mountain one so much

**Comment From BarbG**

yes

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

And there was one part where he explained about how lack of predators will lead to an abundance of certain animals, who in turn will overgraze and not have enough to eat. Vicious cycle.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

But that may be because I always manage to bring that video up every few months haha.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Ha.

**Comment From Lisa**

I feel like people often forget that prey and predator are really one entity

**Comment From 33mama**

Yes!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

It also made me think of our other book club book -- Never Cry Wolf.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yesssss.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Everything is connected haha



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Everything in balance ... even if that was a lesson he grew to learn (after shooting that first wolf in a frenzy, which was sad).

**Comment From Lisa**

What video is this?

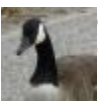


**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

I'll have to find the link again!

**Comment From rejoyce**

And it is all a delicate balance.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Oh! I have it!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Indeed.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**  
I can send it to you Lisa



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**  
Here it is for you all to watch later: <https://www.youtube.com/wat...>

**Comment From Kali - TX**

back in those days, there weren't wal-marts or big grocery stores. if people wanted to feed their families, they had to raise their own food and meat, or hunt.

**Comment From rejoyce**

I need the link too!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
Right ... and in some ways, I think it was all the better for it. More simple, more direct ... more aware of life around you, rather than being very separated from where things come from and how they make their way into your home.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Yup. I agree.

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

Me, too, Lisa. And since the killing of Cecil the lion occurred while many of us were reading the book, I was struck by his acceptance of hunting as a given. But that was the time. The illustration of a gun through a duck blind (on p. 56 in my copy) was disturbing to me.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Yes, I agree that the duck hunting was a little hard to read about. He was very frank. But ... think about the scene where he hunted the black duck. He talks about the "ethical hunt" -- not shooting a sitting duck. And he was so observant even then! Figuring that a duck would find the open sliver of water.

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

At least he learned the lesson without driving wolves to extinction.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
True.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

Yes.... not only did he know his environment intimately, but he also knew his part in it. And he was willing to play a role in the process he observed.

**Comment From Susan from NJ**

He wrote a lot about the short term gain of \$\$\$ vs looking at the long term effects. It reminded me of the current discussion of coal (keeping coal mining jobs) vs global warming.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Interesting connection, Susan.

**Comment From rejoyce**

He also had a respect for everything around him.

**Comment From Lisa**

forward thinking

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

I was wondering how much of what he wrote had effect on others at the time and shaped some of our govt's conservation efforts.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
He certainly had an affect on the education surrounding ecology.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

He was definitely a forward thinker. I'm sure many used the resources as if they were endless in his time... and now it seems like we are finally coming to grips with the fact that they are.

**Comment From 33mama**

Didn't you love his description of the prairie? Living on the east coast, I have never seen prairie land like that. It sounded beautiful.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Ohhhhh .... hold on.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

That's the "shack" that he brought his family to in Wisconsin.

**Comment From Lisa**

amazing



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

It's still around today. People can visit it through the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

**Comment From Becky in SoCal**

I love it.

**Comment From BarbG**

Wow



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Very cool.

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

33mama - I've never seen the prairies either! Only flown over.

**Comment From Lisa**

it would be so cool to visit

**Comment From 33mama**

Cool. That's bigger than Ed's cabin!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

I think I've only ever seen photos of Ed's porch cabin.

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

Need some humility? Stand in the middle of a prairie!

**Comment From Lisa**

I was traveling in Missouri last week so I got to see some wild and some not so wild prairie



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

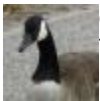
What about some of the other sections -- "Sketches Here and There" -- any passages in that section that really resonated with you?

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

The illustrations by Schwartz go so well with all the descriptions. I'm glad WCV recommended the Commemorative Edition.

**Comment From Lisa**

the one about the atoms X and Y!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

The part where he didn't want to go back to the canyon again since it would tarnish his memory of the place. Made me think about revisiting places that I grew up and seeing how they had changed and how it wasn't the same.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Ooh yes!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Oh X and Y were every interesting.

**Comment From BarbG**

right on Chapin

**Comment From Carol in Oregon**

I loved his descriptions of the various flowers and the roles they play.

**Comment From Kathy in NM ♥**

Escudilla and the bear that's no longer there..."It's only a mountain now."



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

That was very sad ... the bear that's no longer there. :(



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Odyssey was very interesting to me – when he talks about the travels of an atom through time. From rocks, to trees, to flowers to deer, to people, and onward. Coming back to the "it's all connected" theme.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

So sad.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

That was one of the more powerful parts for me too Chapin

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

And when we're sad about the bear, we can go watch the bears on your cam. Better than anti-depressants!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Made me think back to my biogeochemistry class in college and all the different nutrient cycles.

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

"Cheat" and how it takes over! Examples similar to that everywhere in our country.

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

"Education, I fear, is learning one thing by becoming blind to another." He says this in the "Sketches Here and There Section, and it is so true. He goes on to use marshes as an example. We can all think of our own examples, I'm sure.

**Comment From Lisa**

I don't know if education always is like that - I think it depends on the person



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Go on ...

**Comment From BarbG**

sometimes education leads to more thirst for knowledge



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

I do think he was saying it has the potential to be that way. Not that education is always that way. Right?

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

I agree with Lisa. Education can open horizons or put blinders, depending on the person's "decision" on what learning means to him or her.

**Comment From GN**

Chapin is using some pretty big words...



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Ha!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

"Go"? .... "On?" :)

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

I think he said it to make us think and not allow education to be that way.

**Comment From Lisa**

i'm not sure if i remember the exact context of the quote, but I think he's saying that by learning about something in say - school - we lose some of the magic or more natural knowledge. Why that can certainly be true sometimes - for me -as a scientist the magic is only heightened.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

I think the biogeochemistry was what he was referencing, but then again "go" and "on" are pretty big.

**Comment From Jakemo\*♥**

I believe GN was being facetious.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Indeed. He was. :)



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Big word!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Anyways ...

**Comment From SAH**

Believe it or not I have read this book! I re-read parts of it the past several months. My favorite part is the jan-Dec Almanac. August is my favorite month. I need to read each month doing that month in the future! Thinking like a Mountain my favorite essay in the second part. Important lesson there. I would love to visit the "shack" sometime. He was a great writer and one of the founders of modern nature writing and a classic in American Literature!

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

As a bird lover I really liked the sections on the passenger pigeon and the Thick-Billed Parrot (which I didn't know about before). Both were sad stories for different reasons but he made the reader connect to them.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yes, same here.

**Comment From Lisa**

This book got me curious about trying some similar authors - I was thinking about John Muir in particular...



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Oooh ... maybe a future book club book!

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

It's archived :) <http://wildlifecenter.org/s...>



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

yes! Who he even referencing at some points.

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

I think of how we are influenced by the news media. They fill us full of some information that could lead us to go do good things but then quickly drop that and move on to something else. Leopold doesn't want us to be that way with what we learn about nature. He wants our learning to be cumulative, not jumping from one bandwagon to another and doing no good in the process.

**Comment From rejoyce**

I used to teach American literature and American history, and I think that this book would be an excellent required reading for both courses.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Good idea!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

We might be saving that book ;)

**Comment From Lisa**

I feel like this book should be required reading in school - maybe it is for some schools?



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

I had to read it in college. I think for some environmental ethics classes it probably is.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Maybe. It should be.

**Comment From Lisa**

The pigeon part was really sad

**Comment From rejoyce**

I liked what he said about how a species must be saved in many places if it is to be saved at all.

**Comment From Lydia--PA ♥ ♡•x•? ♥**

Loved the quote " to band a bird is to hold a ticket to a great lottery"





**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Ha! That was pretty cute.

**Comment From rejoyce**  
Yes Lydia!

**Comment From Marianne in NC**  
This hour went by fast! (my first WCV book club, although I've read the books for earlier sessions)



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**  
We aren't done!

Glad



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
you've been able to join us!

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**  
That was a really cute quote... he loved chickadees



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Again, cute illustration, too!

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**  
He is so right about banding. Look how important it became in the Pale Male saga.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
All of our book clubs connect!!! :)

**Comment From Dave in Missouri**  
Maybe GN should be required to read this book?



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Definitely.

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**  
Yes, they do, Amanda, and I love it!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**  
I helped band osprey chicks!

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**  
This book is an excellent one for students to read along with WALDEN and make comparisons and contrasts.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Cool!

**Comment From Kathryn in Mi**  
Because my eyes are getting worse I didn't get very far but I really enjoyed the history of the tree rings. When I get my new glasses, I look forward to finishing the book.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
So there are a few comments that came through that tie in to the "Upshot" section -- ethics, issues, etc.

**Comment From Kathy in NM ♥**

The problems he was concerned about have sadly escalated - don't think he'd be very happy with our "progress", let alone, understand the disconnect from nature our younger generation has...

**Comment From Susan from NJ**

I wonder what he would think about if he saw the country now. Way more roads, development, shopping malls, etc.

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

His urgent call to action in the last section, "The Upshot" caught me by surprise. "Listen, people, if we don't act now, we're going to lose all this." We usually connect that attitude as beginning in the 1960s.

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

Even though what he is telling us is cautionary and even frightening, he is so compelling because he allows his love of nature shine through.

**Comment From BarbG**

He reminded me of the author of Plastic Ocean and trying to get people to listen and be aware



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**  
Definitely!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

I think that was another predominant theme -- talking about "progress", etc. Ease of travel and "improvements" make it easier for people to get around. "Today the plane has given even the sky to Tom, Dick, and Harry". More people can travel more easily to more wild places. Which is nice on one hand ... and can be detrimental on the other.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Globalization has definitely had its impact on the world ... with spreading diseases, parasites, invasive species ...

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

He definitely feels a sense of urgency, and he is so right. It is a shame more people didn't heed his advice.

**Comment From rejoyce**

There was definitely a sense of urgency in his writing.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Yes the quote about the parks. Let me find it really quickly!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Even with the hunting -- and he admits he does this too -- life is easier, and he could get around better with motors, extra hunting gadgets, etc.

**Comment From Mary E in NC**

My friends and I were talking about how much time we spent outdoors growing up and how little kids today get to play outside - it's really a shame, and your efforts to reach people with information and education about wildlife is really crucial!

**Comment From MagInAlex**

Hi Guys, sorry I missed Book Club. I'll read back!! Looks awesomely interesting! Had heard reference to book club over the last month, but didn't realize...



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

(we post on our "events" section on the website! And on our callout slide on the front page!)

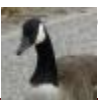
**Comment From Lisa**

yes, Mary - it's scary to think about how much time we all spend inside



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

"Parks are made to bring the music to many, but by the time many are attuned to hear it there is little left but noise"



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

I thought that was interesting and a less positive view of parks than we are used to hearing.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Yes! That actually made me think of my trip to the Grand Canyon. Literally, it was so noisy there -- so many people talking ... I just wanted solitude to absorb it all.

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

That was a great quote! Made me think of parks much differently.

**Comment From Becky in SoCal**

A sad statement, Chapin.

**Comment From Becky in SoCal**

Go in the winter, Amanda.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Good call!

**Comment From Lisa**

i really think the key to conservation is like what he said - you have to get people to connect personally

**Comment From Carol in Oregon**

Very true, Lisa.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Very true! I like that many people like different aspects of the book.

**Comment From Lisa**

I agree Amanda. I was at a state park this last week and it was irksome how loud people were in the woods.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

What resonates with Raina might be different than what resonates with me.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Another good word!

**Comment From Kathy in NM ♥**

I love his statement that everything in nature has value, whether you know about them or not.

**Comment From Lydia--PA ♥ ♡•x•? ♥**

I think my fav passage was in the forward: "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and delemmas of one who cannot"

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

A personal connection is the only connection that has a chance to overcome the lure of \$\$\$.

**Comment From Lisa**

yes, Kathy. It's human vanity that makes us think we know what something is worth



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

"Public policies for outdoor recreation are controversial. Equally conscientious citizens hold opposite views on what it is and what should be done to conserve its resource base. "

**Comment From Lisa**

I have to go - but thanks so much - this was a lot of fun!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Stop by any time and join us for our next book club :)



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Well, I think we're wrapping up -- a few things left to discuss!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

I mean, easy light things --



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Firstly, we're very much looking for suggestions for future book club books! So drop us a line at any point ... post here on the discussion.

**Comment From Lisa**

it would be awesome to do a John Muir book in the future!

**Comment From Lisa**

Walden is on my list too XD

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

On the topic of today's children having no connection to nature, what about Bill McKibben's The End of Nature? of the collection of his writings, The Bill McKibben Reader: Pieces from an Active Life -



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yes, it seems a lot of people found connections to other writers in the work of Aldo Leopold.

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

Edward Abbey in Desert Solitaire: Get out of the car! Walk a half mile from the park overlook! When we hike in the western parks, we hear little American English after a mile in.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

We love suggestions! We have a list going, but we like to try to vary it up by theme ... fiction vs. non- ... species-specific vs. general nature ... etc.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

I think we've covered a wide variety so far!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

Did anyone mention how beautiful the drawings of the birds were??? I loved them.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

:)

**Comment From rejoyce**

I also liked his question that culture is fed by our present forms of outdoor recreation. Scary when you think that many children have NO outdoor recreation, but instead play video games.

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

Yes... this reminds me of the part where he talks about "isolation" in nature. Where that is part of having a relationship to the outside world... away from "progress" where one can just be themselves and process their surroundings.

**Comment From BarbG**

the drawings were great

**Comment From GN**

Thank you all for an intelligent, informative and entertaining discussion this evening.

**Comment From CK in Pa**

How about Silent Spring? I need to read that.

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

AMONG THE BEARS by Benjamin Kilham

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

Can we read something not sad?



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Also -- what do we want to collectively rate this book on Goodreads?

1-5 rating.



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Well, I'm a five over here.

**Comment From Kathy in NM ♥**

5!

**Comment From Carol in Oregon**

5



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

ditto

**Comment From Mary E in NC**

5

**Comment From rejoyce**

5

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

Personally, I think I'll give it a 5. I don't think there's anything he could have done better :)

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

5

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

4

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

I like the Silent Spring suggestion. When ONE BOOK made such a difference.

**Comment From CK in Pa**

5

**Comment From BarbG**

5

**Comment From Jakermo\*♥**

It's a great teaching tool and conversation starter, so I say 5!

**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

SILENT SPRING would be excellent too--agree with CK in Pa.

**Comment From Susan from NJ**

I read it too fast to finish in time for tonight. Even with that, I'll give it a 5 (and I'll re-read it slowly!)



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

It's definitely a conversation starter!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Okay, so sounds like five!!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

Pink and purple sunset here at the Jersey Shore (just had to share that!)

**Comment From Kathy in NM ♥**

Aldo Leopold makes his point in such a poetic way.



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

That's our first 5!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yay!

**Comment From Jakermo\*♥**

pic.

**Comment From Carol in Oregon**

I am recommending the book to several friends.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Awesome!

**Comment From Jakermo\*♥**

Right!!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

I thought several of our books had been fives ... including the first one!

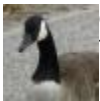


**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

I thought they were 4s, but I guess I'm wrong.

**Comment From Jakermo\*♥**

It seems like this is something so important to all of us. Although we sit inside at our monitors. LOL



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

They've all been very good!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Take those laptops outside! :)

**Comment From CK in Pa**

Lovely sunset here, too, Jersey Shore Amy

**Comment From Jakermo\*♥**

Great idea!!

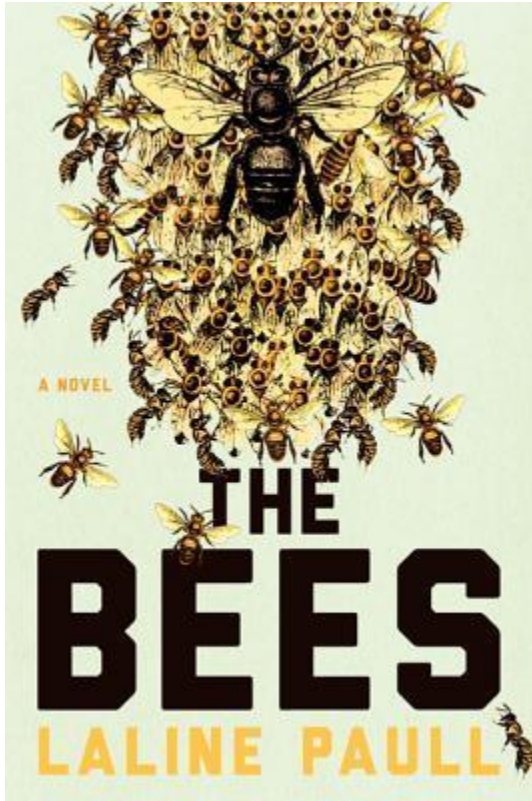


**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

So ... what's next? We have not picked the October date yet but ... the book ...

**Comment From Kathy in NM** ♥

...and so, our next book is?



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Oooh, interesting!

**Comment From Becky in SoCal**

I love bees. Can't wait.

**Comment From Carol in Oregon**

Looks interesting.



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

The Bees! By Laline Paull.

**Comment From rejoyce**

Bees!!!!!!

**Comment From BarbG**

wow a novel

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

Ta-dah! Will order it right away.

**Comment From Mary E in NC**





**Comment From 33mama**

Yay!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

How's your sunset GN?

**Comment From rejoyce**

LOL GN!!

**Comment From Dave in Missouri**

Sweet GN!



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

We'll be sure to announce as soon as we figure out the exact date.

**Comment From SEK in CO**

Ok maybe the library will not have it in protective, no check out status as last one.

**Comment From 33mama**

Yay!



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Thanks so much for attending book club, everyone!!



**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

This was a great discussion!

**Comment From BarbG**

thanks for another great Book Club

**Comment From Marianne in NC**

If it weren't for the "rock stars," WCV wouldn't have entered my life. So glad you did!

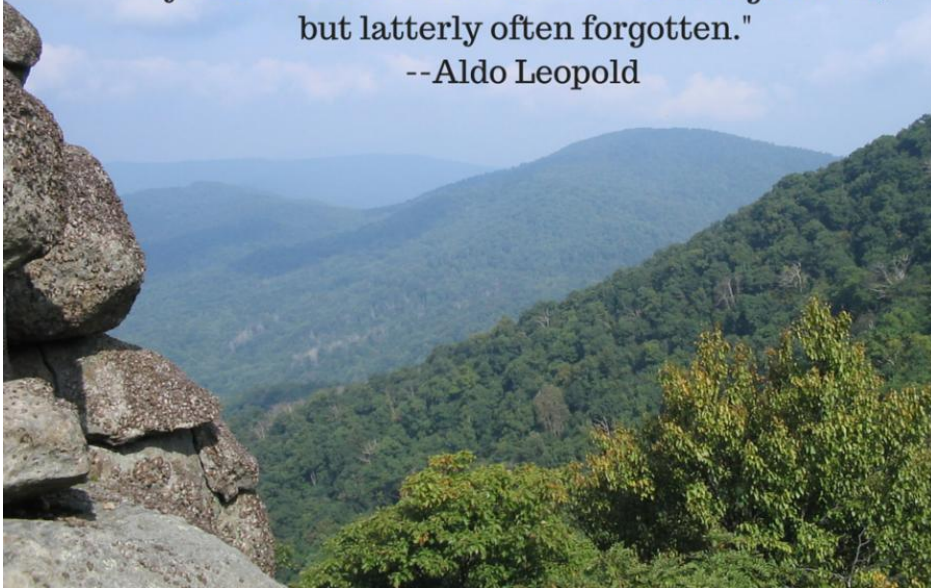
**Comment From Becky in SoCal**

Thanks everyone.

**Comment From Kathy in NM ♥**

Thank you, Amanda, Raina, Chapin and CN for an enjoyable evening - I love our book club nights!

"That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is a fact long known, but latterly often forgotten."  
--Aldo Leopold



**Comment From Brenda from Virginia**

Thank you, Amanda, Raina, Chapin, and Lacy!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

Thank you all! Glad I made the whole thing.

**Comment From Mary E in NC**

Thank you all for a great book club session!

**Comment From Mary E in NC**

Thank you all for a great book club session!

**Comment From Lacy, WCV**

Thanks for book club! This is one that I will be thinking about for a long time!

**Comment From Jersey Shore Amy**

HOw many on for Book Club tonight?



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
60-some ... at our high point?



**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**  
That's a big book club!

**Comment From Pat, NJ**

Thanks for a great session. We have such smart CNers here. Now I have two books to order



**Raina Krasner, WCV:**  
Pretty sizable book club!

**Comment From Dave in Missouri**

Goodnight all!

**Comment From Carol in Oregon**

Thank you everyone. Great discussion.

**Comment From Dave in Missouri**

Goodnight all!

**Comment From Carol in Oregon**

Thank you everyone. Great discussion.

**Comment From Lydia--PA ♥ 5•x•? ♥**

thanks to all!

**Comment From 33mama**

Great discussion as usual! Thanks all!