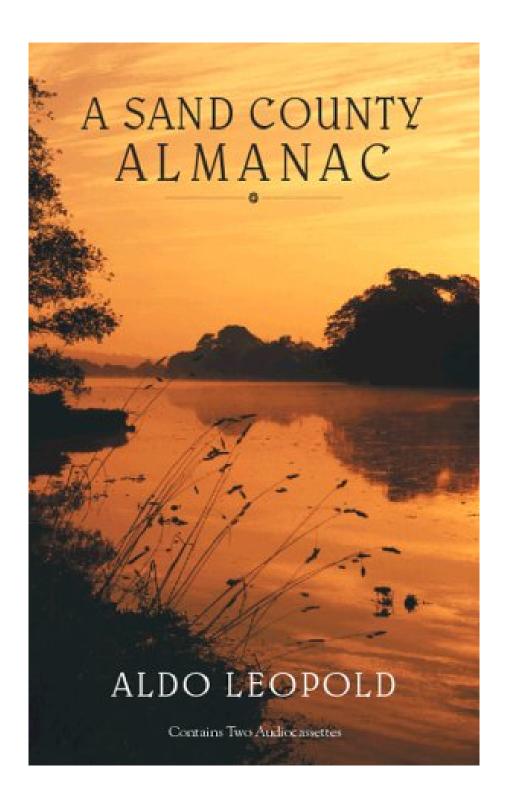


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#### Amazon.com Review

Published in 1949, shortly after the author's death, A Sand County Almanac is a classic of nature writing, widely cited as one of the most influential nature books ever published. Writing from the vantage of his summer shack along the banks of the Wisconsin River, Leopold mixes essay, polemic, and memoir in his book's pages. In one famous episode, he writes of killing a female wolf early in his career as a forest ranger, coming upon his victim just as she was dying, "in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes.... I was young then, and full of trigger-itch; I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, no wolves would mean hunters' paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view." Leopold's road-to-Damascus change of view would find its fruit some years later in his so-called land ethic, in which he held that nothing that disturbs the balance of nature is right. Much of Almanac elaborates on this basic premise, as well as on Leopold's view that it is something of a human duty to preserve as much wild land as possible, as a kind of bank for the biological future of all species. Beautifully written, quiet, and elegant, Leopold's book deserves continued study and discussion today. -- Gregory McNamee

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Review

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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.

As the forerunner to 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 nearly sixty years ago.

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Review

One of the seminal works of the environmental movement.

Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Very enjoyable and informative read.

By Gary Marlin

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 philsophical 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 there 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 be thoroughly entertained.

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

an old favorite

By Amazon Customer

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.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Still an awesome book

By MIKE C.

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 ma 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'.

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