

Join us for a special Land Ethic Leaders program!

FEBRUARY 28TH - MARCH 1ST, 2013

AT BACHECHI OPEN SPACE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



Presented in partnership between the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the McCune Foundation

WHAT IS LAND ETHIC LEADERS?

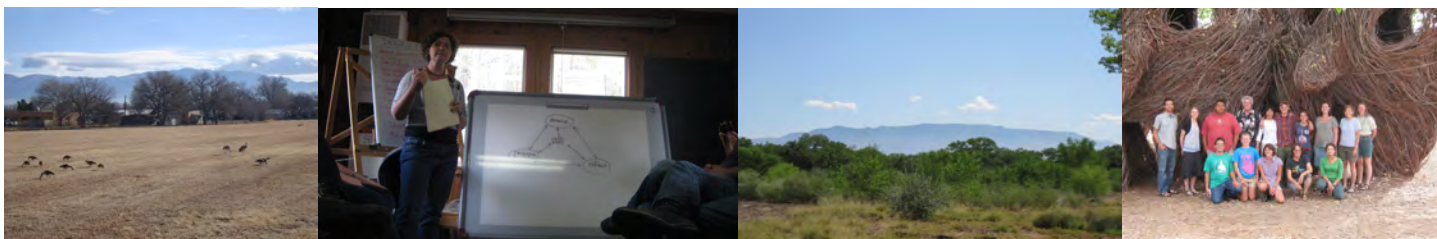
In *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold set forth his most enduring idea, the “land ethic,” a moral responsibility of humans to the natural world. “Nothing so important as an ethic is ever ‘written,’” he wrote, indicating that instead it should evolve “in the minds of a thinking community.” We designed the Land Ethic Leaders program around exactly this idea: enabling community leaders to create opportunities for rich and productive dialogue about how and why people value nature. The program is rooted in Leopold’s own method of engaging his family and students in developing a personal land ethic—observing the natural world through scientific inquiry, participating in purposeful work on the land, and reflecting on these experiences. Observe, Participate, Reflect is a flexible framework that connects you more deeply to your own environmental values, and can also be brought back to your professional networks and program outlets, building your programmatic toolbox with ideas and methods that will help you inspire and deepen connections between people and the natural world.

THE VALUE OF REFLECTION

Much of the discussion of environmental issues in American society today focuses on identifying problems and formulating solutions. It is prescriptive rather than reflective. Very little time or space is given to contemplating the root causes of these problems, their ethical implications, or our personal and communal connections with the natural world. Working on conservation—whether through education, community outreach, research, or restoration—can be gratifying, but it can also be emotionally draining. The Land Ethic Leaders program attempts to directly address this issue by giving you a chance to explore, understand, and reaffirm your beliefs and values among a diverse group, building clarity, commitment, and community to help carry you forward in your work.

SPECIAL SESSION FOR NEW MEXICO

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is partnering with the McCune Foundation to bring Land Ethic Leaders to the Southwest. This session will focus on sustainability and environmental issues with local conservation partners in the Southwest region of the United States. Leopold’s land ethic idea will be a powerful jumping-off point for our two days together. The goal of this session is to bring together participants from a range of backgrounds and disciplines to build new relationships and uncover common values that will form the basis for future actions. During the workshop you’ll be recharged and revitalized by one another, and after it you’ll go back to our work with new tools, ideas, and relationships to move forward.



What People Are Saying...

"I felt that every minute of my time was maximized by the well-wrought training presented. I have been teaching since 1975, and as you would expect, have sat through what amounts to years of training and meetings, and the two days last week were the most meaningful and valuable to me."

-August 2011 participant

"The Land Ethic Leaders program went beyond my expectations, it created a safe place to explore and honor not only my own feelings, but those of others. Listening actively was a powerful reminder of how what we think we know and what we believe is linked, vitally, to how we act. The program facilitates a deeper look at our interior landscape and in doing so, collectively, may be the catalyst for deep cultural change."

-September 2010 participant

"It was reinvigorating and inspiring, doubly to know I can lead these discussions and help re-inspire other conservationists."

-July 2011 participant

"Now I feel much more confident about my ability to discuss, and not debate, issues that I feel passionate about. I loved meeting knowledgeable people and realizing that our shared values were more than enough to overcome any age/experience differences."

-September 2010 participant

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

- **Building Leaders:** Find the Land Ethic Leader within you. Explore, renew, and deepen your own personal connections to the land, recharging your batteries so you can go on to inspire others and help to connect your audiences to shared conservation values.
- **Connecting to Nature and Each Other:** Learn to use observation, participation, and reflection as a systematic method to explore and deepen your own land ethic in relationship to the land ethic of others.
- **Recognizing Common Values Across Divides:** Engage with a community of your peers from other organizations throughout the Southwest. Learn how the Observe, Participate, Reflect model can help build bridges and build community connections around positive relationships to the land.

WHAT YOU'LL TAKE AWAY

- Facilitation skills to guide community conversations about conservation values;
- Ideas for using the film *Green Fire* to spark dialogue in your community;
- New friends and connections nearby, plus access to a network of over 250 Land Ethic Leaders across the country and around the world; and
- Renewal and recommitment to your own personal land ethic, and the confidence and inspiration to help others develop theirs

COSTS, LOCATION AND AGENDA

Registration for this workshop is \$200.00 which covers registration, meals, and program materials. Participants must cover their own travel and lodging.

Workshop site: The Bachechi Environmental Education Building, 9521 Rio Grande Boulevard, NW Albuquerque, NM.

Thur., Feb. 28: 9am-8pm Instruction and practice in the observe, participate, reflect model, mixed with a series of discussions with other participants. Timing includes optional dinner and social hour.

Fri., Mar. 1: 8am-5pm. Additional instruction and practice, environmental service project for host site, and program planning time.

MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Visit <https://www.aldoleopold.org/Programs/lel.shtml> to learn more and register for this session. Contact of the program facilitators below with additional questions.

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