Cranes, Conservation, and Carleton

September 22-25, 2011

Arboretum director Nancy Braker ’81 and geology professor Mary Savina ’72 for Carleton College Alumni Adventure Trip to Baraboo, Wisconsin, September 2011

Reading List

Highly Recommended

Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There, Aldo Leopold, 1949, (re-published in several editions). We would just say – if you haven’t tapped into Leopold’s short essays, it’s about time you did. Our personal favorites include: “Thinking Like a Mountain,” “Draba,” “Good Oak,” and the seminal essay, “The Land Ethic.” The Aldo Leopold Foundation (http://www.aldoleopold.org/), which we will visit on this trip, has published a nice discussion guide to Sand County Almanac at: http://www.makingwisconsinhome.org/uploads/media/Sand_Co_Disc_Guide.pdf

Roadside Geology of Wisconsin, Robert H. Dott, Jr. and John W. Attig, 2004, Mountain Press Publishing Company. If you like to look at rock formations and dig out geologic history on your road trips, this book is a great reference to keep in your car. It opens with a condensed Geology 101 description of the common kinds of geologic formations common in Wisconsin. Excellent maps overlay highway and city locators with such geologic features as bedrock, faults, glacial deposits and outwash plains. Equally good are the illustrations and photos of geologic features. Exhaustive research and a real love of the subject matter are evident in the authors’ seemingly intimate knowledge of every mile of highway covered. Bob Dott is a legend among Wisconsin geologists; he is responsible for much of our knowledge of rocks and life in the Paleozoic oceans.

Ancient Rocks and Vanished Glaciers: A Natural History of Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin, Kenneth I. Lange, 1989, Worzalla Publishing Company. As the long time naturalist of the park, now retired, Ken knows this property inside and out. This guide provides a detailed accounting of the geological and biological aspects of this state park, which is the most visited in the state. Ken will be speaking to our group during our visit.

Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work, Curt Meine, 1991, University of Wisconsin Press. This biography follows Aldo Leopold from his childhood as a precocious naturalist to his profoundly influential role in the development of conservation and modern environmentalism in the United States. This well written and meticulously researched book is a delight to read; the extensive footnotes provide intriguing additional information – you will want to read every one! Curt will join us on Saturday evening to talk about Leopold and the Sauk County landscape that inspired his writing and work.
Other Selected Readings


- **A postglacial vegetational history of Sauk County and Caledonia Township, Columbia County, south central Wisconsin.** Kenneth I. Lange, 1990, *Technical bulletin No. 168, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources*.

- **Flora of Sauk County and Caledonia Township, Columbia County, south central Wisconsin.** Kenneth I. Lange, McCown, Wendy M., Editor, 1998, *Technical bulletin No. 190, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources*.

**Leopold’s Shack and Ricketts’s Lab: The Emergence of Environmentalism.** Michael J. Lannoo, *University of California Press, 2010*. From the book description at amazon.com:

> Aldo Leopold and Ed Ricketts are giants in the history of environmental awareness. They were born ten years and only about 200 miles apart and died within weeks of each other in 1948. Yet they never met and they didn’t read each other’s work. This illuminating book reveals the full extent of their profound and parallel influence both on science and our perception of natural world today. Leopold and Ricketts both believed that humans cannot place themselves above earth’s ecosystems and continue to survive. In light of climate change, invasive species, and collapsing ecosystems, their most important shared idea emerges as a powerful key to the future.

**Story of my boyhood and youth.** John Muir, 1917 (*re-published in several editions*). John Muir grew up in the county adjacent to Sauk County – Marquette County, Wisconsin. This is a charming story of Muir’s youth after his family arrived from Scotland when Muir was ten, through his college years at the University of Minnesota. Even though the Muir children were only granted two days off per year, John still had plenty of opportunity to observe and appreciate the nature around him in the early days of Wisconsin settlement.

**Along the Wisconsin Riverway.** Jill Metcoff, 1997, *University of Wisconsin Press*. Book of photography with essays by “voices of the region,” Leopold, Derleth, Muir, and contemporary authors.

**Devil’s Lake Wisconsin and the Civilian Conservation Corps.** Robert J. Moore, 2010, *The History Press*. Wonder how the beautiful buildings and trails at Devil’s Lake (and many other parks in the US) came to be? The CCC built ‘em. From the book description at amazon.com:

> Thousands of young men embarked on the adventure of a lifetime when they joined the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. Service at Wisconsin's popular
state park offered notoriety absent at most camp assignments. While most of the CCC work around the country was in remote forests and farmlands, at Devil's Lake tourists could view CCC project activity each day, forging that labor into an essential part of the park experience. Historian Robert J. Moore interviews veterans and mines the archives to preserve this legacy so that the gasps of wonder at nature's marvels remain mixed with respect for the men who helped bring them forth.