

Leopold Education Project Update

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The Leopold Education Project is an innovative, interdisciplinary educational curriculum based on the epic book, *A Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold. The curriculum guide, *Lessons in a Land Ethic*, and its set of indoor and outdoor investigative, hands-on learning activities was originally designed for 6-12 grade students. However, I have used it with great success in my college biology classroom and especially in outdoor investigation sessions.

The goals of the LEP are summarized in one of Leopold's quotes, "*The objective is to teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees, and enjoy what he understands.*" The LEP teaches the public about humanity's ties to the natural world and more importantly, fosters a personal relationship with the land. The program tries to establish a personal land ethic in each student by increasing the awareness, appreciation, respect and stewardship of ones surrounding natural environment. The curriculum uses 3 main areas of learning to help establish this land ethic: content knowledge, critical thinking and creative thinking.

Pheasants Forever, Inc., a national nonprofit conservation organization has been cooperatively sponsoring LEP facilitator workshops and educator in-service workshops across the northern tier of the US. for the last four years. **To obtain the curriculum guide and accompanying educational resources**, educators must attend an LEP facilitator workshop. These are held at various locations (see schedule below) around the country each year. A typical facilitator workshop may last for 2 days. Participants gain familiarity with Leopold's life and philosophy, with his book, *A Sand County Almanac*, with the teacher's guide, *Lessons in a Land Ethic*, and teaching strategies for indoor and outdoor use of the LEP curriculum. Once trained, facilitators return to their communities and conduct six-hour in-service workshops for local educators, who then use the curriculum in their classrooms. Curriculum materials are not for sale directly from Pheasants Forever. Interested parties must complete a facilitators workshop or an in-service workshop to obtain curriculum materials. The time and the training are well worth it.

If you are interested in the LEP and would like more information, please contact me, Tom Davis, Ph.D., Department of Biology, Loras College, Dubuque, IA 52004-0178, 319-588-7767, email: TODAY@LORAS.EDU or contact the LEP office at 1783 Buerkle Circle, St. Paul, MN, 55110, 612-773-2000, email: lep@pheasantsforever.org. You can visit their website at <http://www.lep.org>. I am an LEP facilitator and will be offering at 1 credit workshop for 6 days at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Milford, IA this summer, Aug. 2-7, 1998.

Upcoming LEP In-Service Workshops for 1998

Feb. 7 Story County, IA
8:30am - 3pm
Facilitators: Linda Zaletel, Nancy Kurrle
515-232-2516, sccb@iastate.edu

Feb. 7 Paffel's Wildlife Project, Hutchinson, MN
8am -4pm
Facilitator: Joe Paffel
(320-587-5707) Cost: \$12

Feb 14-15 Cameron University, Lawton, OK
8am - 5pm
Facilitators: Luann Waters, Susie Ruby
(405-521-4633)

August 2-7 Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Milford, IA;
Sun, 1 pm - Fri 1pm; 1 college credit
Facilitator: Tom Davis, Loras College
319-588-7767
Curriculum materials supplied free to participants

August 6-7 Springfield Conservation Nature
Center, Missouri
Accredited Course: Land Use and Conservation
Southwest Missouri State University
Course: SSFT576CO4; Instructor: Wendell Jeffery

Upcoming LEP Facilitator Workshops

June 26-28 Pingree Park Campus, CSU, Colorado
(53 miles west of Ft. Collins)
Contact LEP at 612-773-2000

Check LEP website for current updates of workshop
schedules.

