

TOWARD A LAND ETHIC: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO LAND MANAGEMENT

**Presented by
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“Holistic” defined: Relating to or concerned with the wholes or with complete systems rather than with the individual parts; holistic ecology views humans and the environment as a single system.

The land is one organism. Its parts, like our own parts, compete with each other and co-operate with each other.

The competitions are as much a part of the inner workings as the co-operations.

- Aldo Leopold

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. By land is meant the things on, over or in the earth.

Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left.

That is to say, you cannot love game and hate predators; you cannot conserve the waters and waste the ranges; you cannot build the forest and mine the farm.”

- Aldo Leopold





“The outstanding scientific discovery of the twentieth century is not television, or radio, but rather the complexity of the land organism.”

Only those who know the most about it can appreciate how little is known about it.

The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: ‘What good is it?’

If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. “

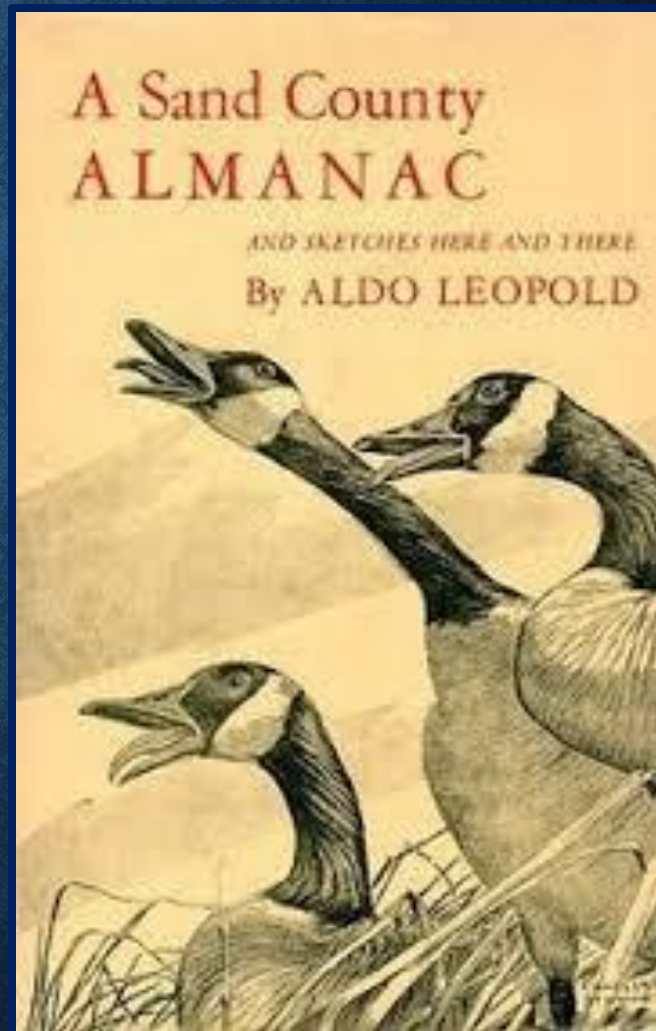
Aldo Leopold



- Iowa Native, born in 1887
- Joined the U. S. Forest Service in 1909
- Associate Director of the Forest Products Lab in Wisconsin in 1924
- In 1933 became the chair of game management at the University of Wisconsin
- “Game Management” published in 1933
- “A Sand County Almanac” published in 1949 – he found out it was to be published just before his unexpected death in 1948
- Considered the father of modern conservation
- His teachings are still resonate, are studied and implemented around the world

“There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot.”

- Aldo Leopold



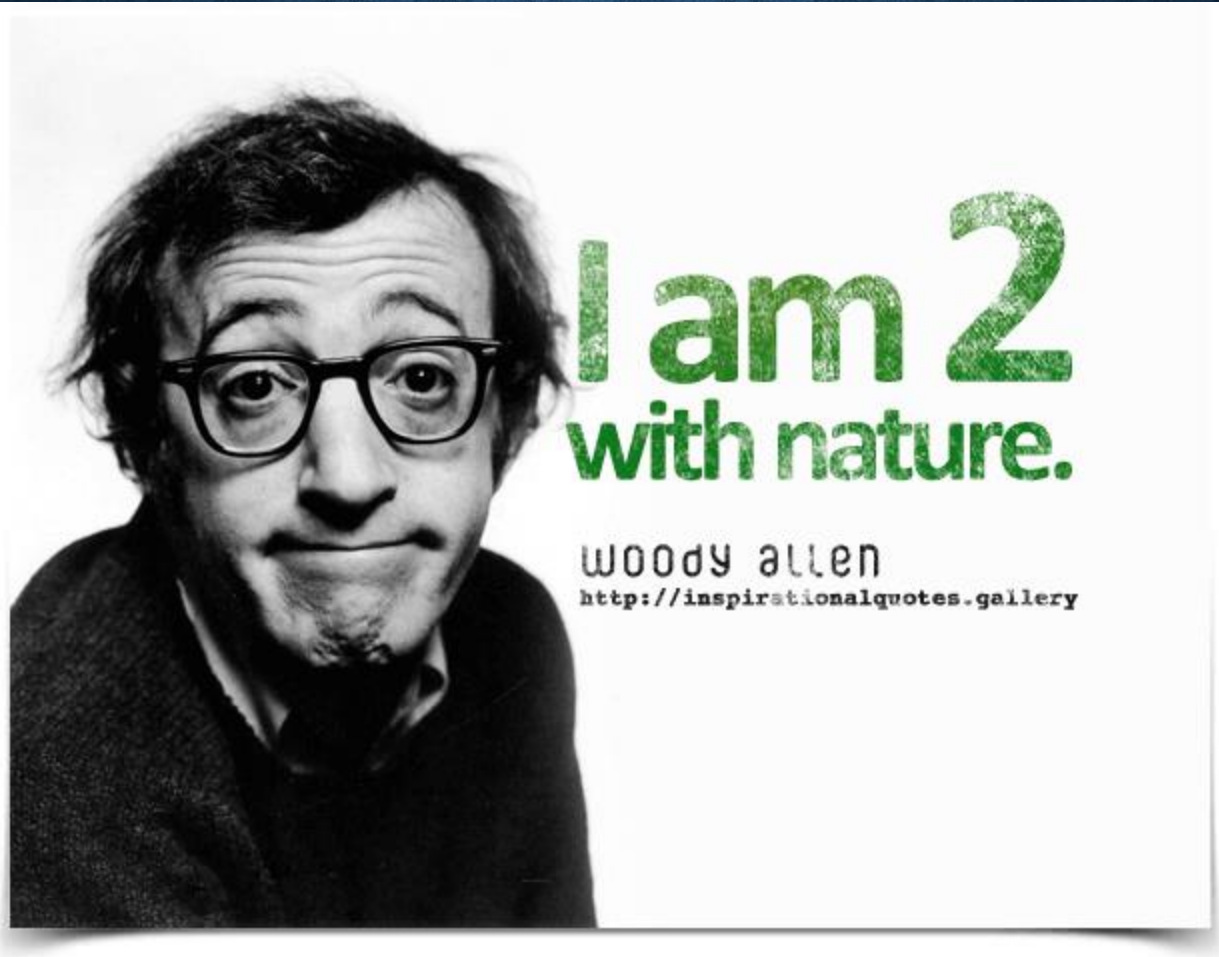


“Man always kills the thing he loves, and so we the pioneers have killed our wilderness. Some say we had to.

Be that as it may, I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in.”

- Aldo Leopold

Biophilia vs. Biophobia



I am 2
with nature.

woody allen

<http://inspirationalquotes.gallery>



Biophilia defined

“the urge to affiliate with other forms of life.”

- E. O. Wilson

“the passionate love of life and of all that is alive.”

- Erich Fromm

“ (do) we want a civilization that will move toward some more intimate relation with the natural world or . . . one that will continue to detach and isolate itself from both a dependence upon and a sympathy with that community of which we were originally a part?”



- Joseph Wood Crutch

“If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts?”

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.”

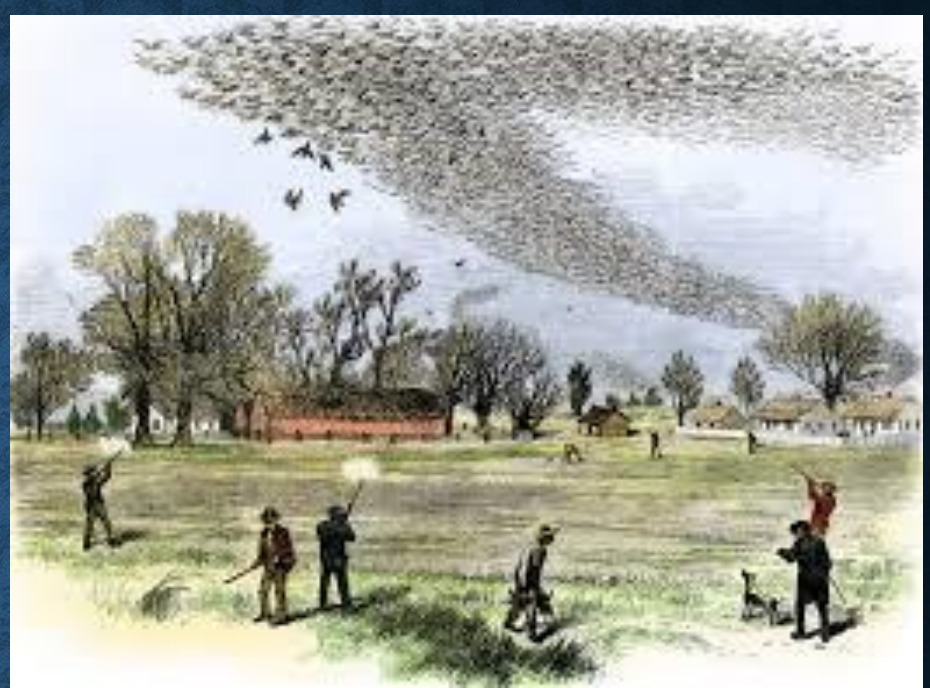
- Aldo Leopold



Photo by John Pace

There once was a bird...





“There will always be pigeons in books and in museums, but these are effigies and images, dead to all hardships and to all delights.

Book-pigeons cannot dive out of a cloud to make the deer run for cover, or clap their wings in thunderous applause of mast-laden woods.

Book-pigeons cannot breakfast on new-mown wheat in Minnesota, and dine on blueberries in Canada.”

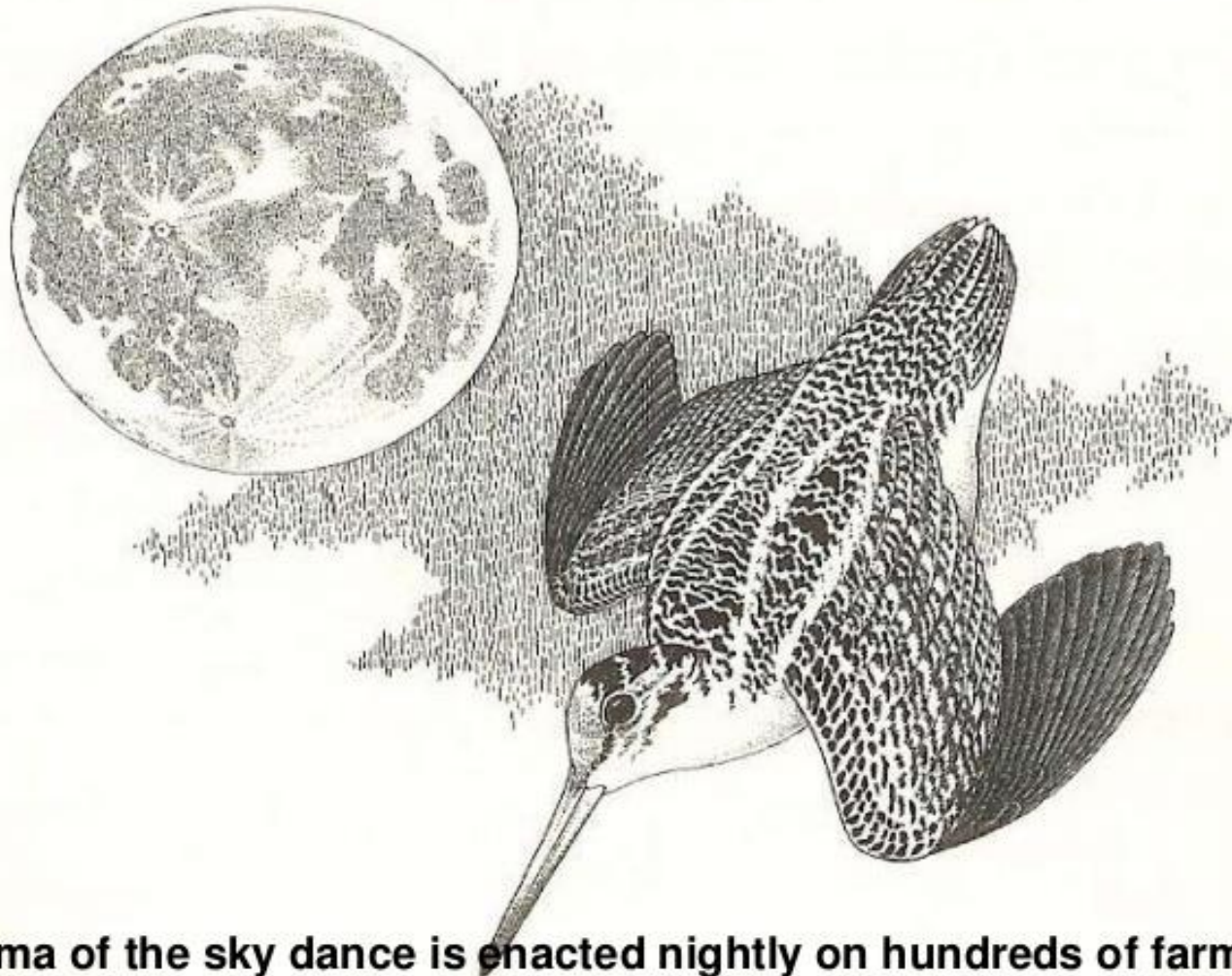
*“They know no
urge of
seasons; they
feel no kiss of
sun, no lash of
wind and
weather. They
live forever by
not living at
all.”*

- Aldo Leopold



There still is a bird...





The drama of the sky dance is enacted nightly on hundreds of farms, the owners of which sigh for entertainment, but harbor the illusion that it is to be sought in theaters. They live on the land, but not by the land.

Sky Dance...Texas-style



Dale Southern



Sonoran Desert Explorers

Vermilion Flycatcher

The Land Ethic

An **ethic** is a system of accepted beliefs that control behavior, especially such a system based on morals; what is good and bad.

“An ethic, ecologically, is a limitation on freedom of action in the struggle for existence.”

- Aldo Leopold



“There is as yet no ethic dealing with man’s relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it.”

“The only remedy is to extend our system of ethics from the man-man relation to the man-earth relation.”

“It is inconceivable to me that an ethical relation to land can exist without love, respect, and admiration for land, and a higher regard for its value.”

- Aldo Leopold



“ . . . a land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it.

It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such.”

- Aldo Leopold

“We shall achieve conservation, when and only when, the destructive use of land becomes unethical – punishable by social ostracism.

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

- Aldo Leopold



The Path Forward?

Broaden the message

- If it's about deer management, we need to talk about the benefits of fewer deer for pollinators, birds, plant diversity and other forms of native wildlife;
- If it's about rangeland improvement/grassland restoration, go beyond bobwhite to wintering sparrows, nesting grassland songbirds, plant diversity, pollinators and butterflies;
- If it is about juniper removal, don't shy away from Golden-cheeked Warblers and other songbirds dependent upon this native plant as well as thermal cover for a variety of wildlife as well as overall diversity;
- If it is about land fragmentation, conversations between landowners need to be initiated so resources might be considered in the aggregate instead of individually.

Reaching Out To New Small Landowners

- Information on restoration on small acreages to all new landowners;
- Offer services to these new landowners to build awareness of their property and fellow inhabitants;
- Encourage use of native plants for landscape plantings including alternative lawn development
- Use the media to educate and raise awareness – be a welcome wagon of sorts so landowners know you are there for help and advice.
- Work with TPWD, NRCS and other appropriate agencies to develop grant opportunities on small acreages for small-scale restoration.

Education

“Only those who know the most about it can appreciate how little is known about it.”

- Aldo Leopold



“the more I sought to inform myself, the more I realized how ignorant I was.”

- Descartes

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SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2013
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***“it is not half so
important to know
as to feel”***

- Rachel Carson

“We cannot win this battle to save species and environments without forging an emotional bond between ourselves and nature as well – for we will not fight to save what we do not love.”



- Stephen J. Gould

“If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life...”

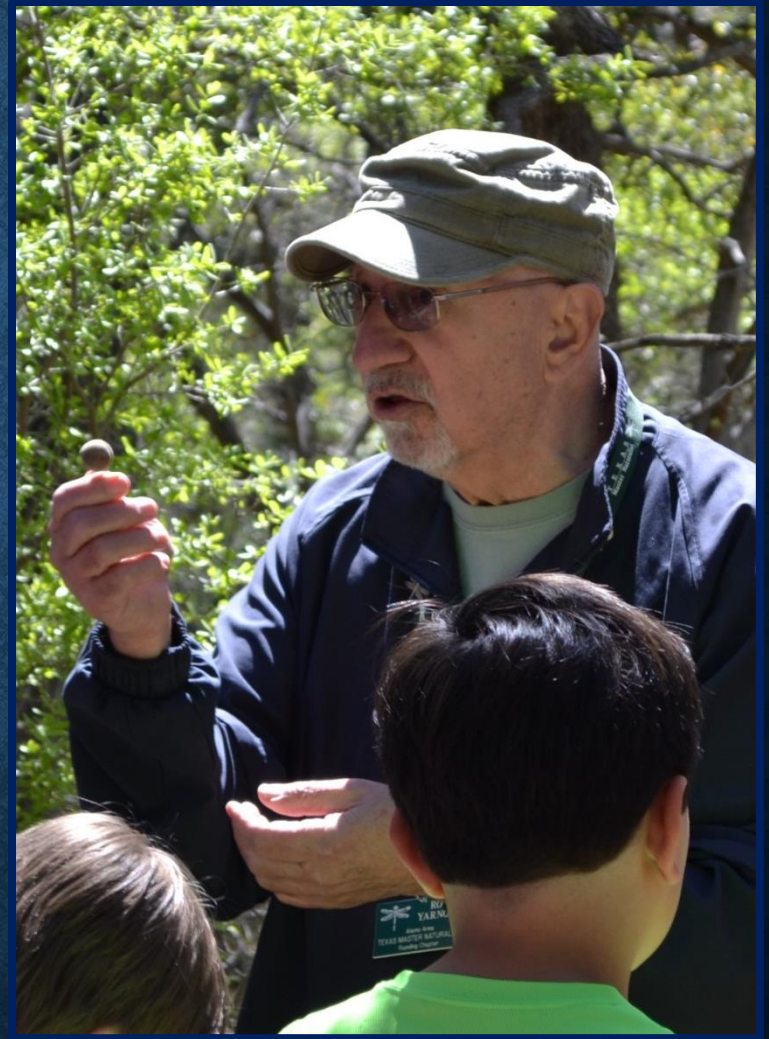
- Rachel Carson



“The problem is how to bring about a striving for harmony with the land among a people many of whom have forgotten there is any such thing as land, among whom education and culture have become almost synonymous with landlessness.

This is the problem of ‘conservation education’.”

- Aldo Leopold



“The objective is to teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees, and to enjoy what he understands.

I say land rather than wildlife, because wildlife cannot be understood without understanding the landscape as a whole.”

- Aldo Leopold



Pam Yarnold, Alamo Area MN

Remember...



"The Earth laughs in flowers."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

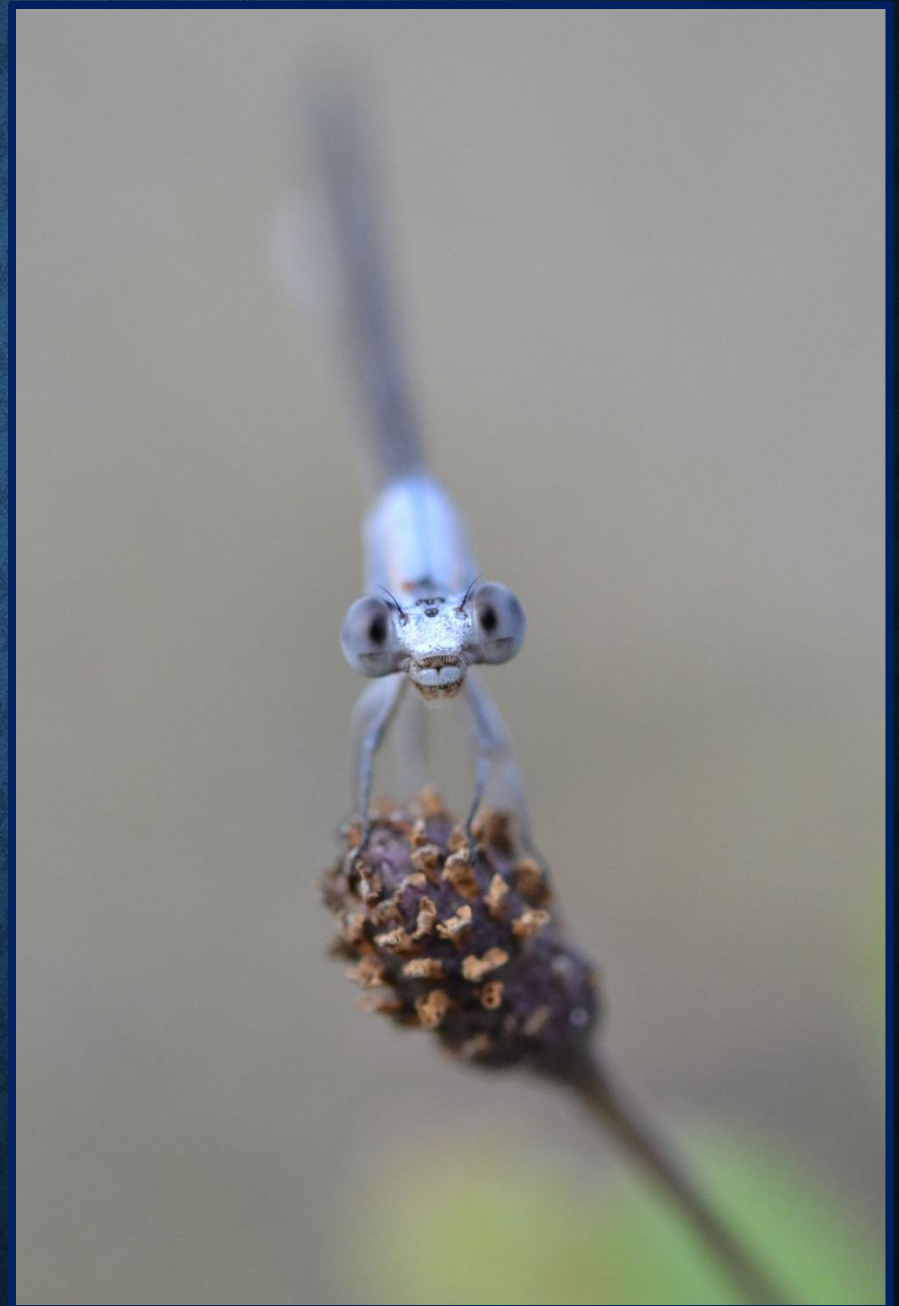




Delight in butterflies



Stare a damselfly in the eye





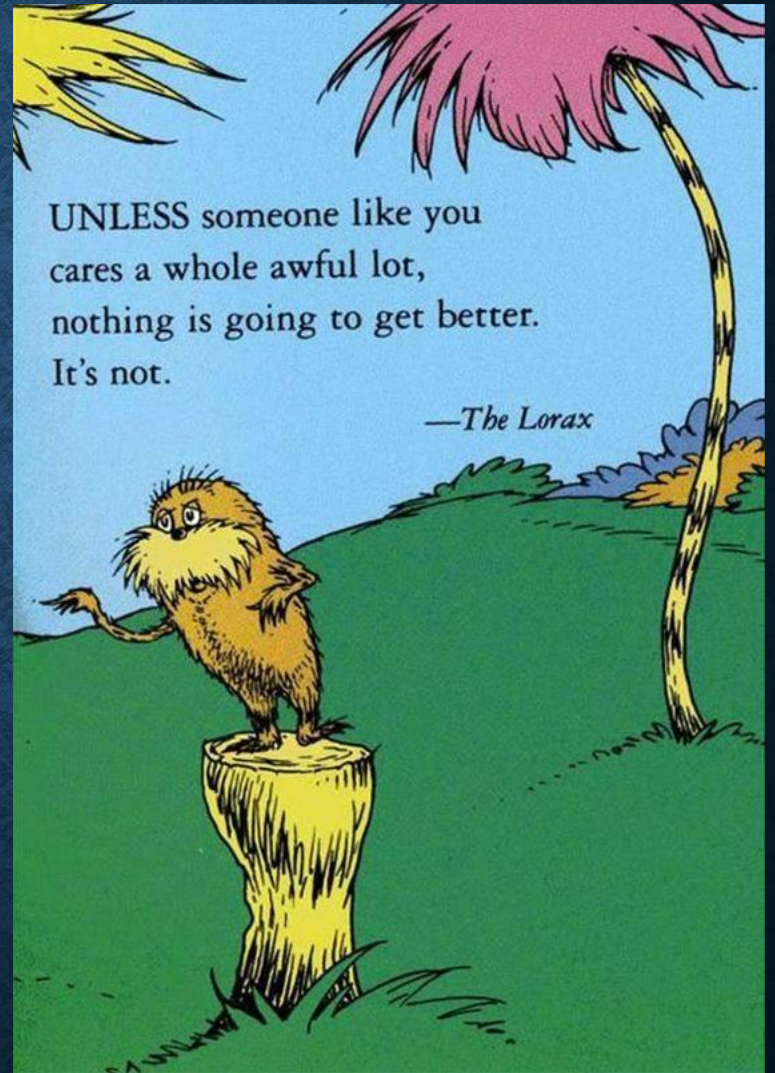
“To go in the dark with a light is to know the light. To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight, and find that dark, too, blooms and sings, and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.”

- Wendell Berry

“Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?”

- Aldo Leopold







Thank you