same questions that fascinated Leopold, the tip of the iceberg in the potential knowledge base of what ecological integrity is and on individual species instead of looking at how those species fit into whole natural way of thinking about the science of wildlife management, which had formerly focused central principle that “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is right when it tends otherwise.” This was a new way of thinking about the science of wildlife management, which had formerly focused on individual species instead of looking at how those species fit into whole natural communities. Though Leopold was a pioneer, 80-plus years later we have only explored the tip of the iceberg in the potential knowledge base of what ecological integrity is and how stability is maintained.

At Slayton Arboretum, we engage the same questions that fascinated Leopold, Catenhusen, and Dr. Bertram Barber. We use the Arboretum as a living laboratory. We survey birds by tracking their presence, movements, and nesting habits. Bird observation remains an excellent way of evaluating environmental integrity and stability, since many bird species have very specific habits and needs. The presence or absence of these sensitive species tells us if those conditions are present and healthy. We document the existing plant communities at the Arboretum, and seek ways to evaluate their health through observations of their composition. We add to the College’s herbarium and other herbaria around the state. We monitor the chemical variables of the soil and the presence or absence of invasive weed species that are competing with the plants in the collection. We track deer damage. We observe for signs of invasive species and use what was once a barren gravel pit and cow pasture.

In this part of the country, where Leopold did pioneering research in the 1930s, citizens and wildlife managers still discuss the health and integrity of the biotic community, as it faces new challenges from increasing human population and urbanization. We are pleased to offer this year a visit from Dr. Stanley Temple, the Beers-Backum Professor Emeritus in Conservation in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For 32 years, he held the academic position once occupied by Aldo Leopold. He is a Senior Fellow at the Leopold Foundation, and has researched the impacts of Leopold’s work and students. Dr. Temple is a distinguished scholar who has received special recognitions for his contributions to ecology and conservation from numerous organizations. He has been president of the Society for Conservation Biology and chairman of the board of The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin. He will be on campus for two days discussing Leopold’s work in conservation, as well as where new directions of research might take us in the future. Please join us for Dr. Temple’s public lecture at the Dow Center on October 19 (see the program schedule for more information) for this unique opportunity both to touch the past and become inspired for the future.

Best wishes,
Laurie Rosenberg
Horticulturist and Program Coordinator for Slayton Arboretum

WHAT’S OLD IS STILL NEW
ENDURING PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATION

When I began teaching an “Environmental Stewardship” seminar, using the Slayton Arboretum to model how the principles of stewardship are applied in the “real world,” I immediately knew A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold would be our text. Known as the “father of wildlife conservation,” Leopold was one of the first professors in the United States to focus solely on this subject. At the time (the early 1930s), wildlife conservation was a new and growing field. Leopold, a graduate of our country’s first school of forestry at Yale, had begun his career in the early 1900s as an employee of the newly launched Forest Service. He shifted his focus to wildlife management, and a position at the University of Wisconsin was created specifically for him.

Leopold was an original, liberal thinker, bringing concepts of history, poetry, and ethics into his musings on the workings of the natural world. This breadth of interest made him a popular teacher and prolific writer, capable of inspiring his students to become leaders in their own right. One of his students was John Catenhusen, for whom the biology floor at Hillsdale College is named. Dr. Catenhusen received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin and was the biologist at the University Arboretum that Leopold used for research in the 1930s and 40s. Catenhusen assisted Leopold and noted botanist John T. Curtis with groundbreaking experiments on the ecological role of fire in the management of restored prairie ecosystems. Catenhusen was also a coauthor on Leopold’s pleasant study at the University Arboretum. At the UWM campus, Catenhusen is remembered (and often cited) for publishing the first comprehensive bird list for the Arboretum and adding many specimens to the Wisconsin State Herbarium.

Aldo Leopold is perhaps best known for developing the idea of a “land ethic,” with his central principle that “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is right when it tends otherwise.” This was a new way of thinking about the science of wildlife management, which had formerly focused on individual species instead of looking at how those species fit into whole natural communities. Though Leopold was a pioneer, 80-plus years later we have only explored the tip of the iceberg in the potential knowledge base of what ecological integrity is and how stability is maintained.

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Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schweitzer
Ms. Linda F. Bryant-Solomon
Mr. Matthew R. Schonert
Mr. and Mrs. Steve R. Worms
Miss Carolyn B. Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Dale W. Schaub
Ms. Grace S. Wisner
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Waldvogel
The Schwab Fund for Charitable
Dr. Denny and Mollie Robison
Mr. and Mrs. Peder Van Houten

*Memberships must be renewed annually

2013
2015
2017
2011

Saturday, April 29 1:00–3:00 p.m., Arb Entrance

FAMILY PLANTING DAY
FREE. Adults and children of all ages.

Meet at the front entrance and come dressed for the weather!

The world of the night at the Arboretum has many beautiful and fascinating secrets that will unfold before us as we hike the trails and experience heightened senses when we go without light. If you’ve never watched the Perseid meteor shower, we should be able to catch a few falling stars if conditions are right.

FREE. Adults and children of all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, September 9 2:30–4:30 p.m., Barber House

HARVEST IN THE FALL
FREE; donations welcome. Adults and children of all ages.
Poinsettias will be on sale for $10, with profits benefitting the Arboretum.

Winter Lights Fest
Saturday, December 9 6:00–8:00 p.m., Barber House

WINTER LIGHTS FEST
FREE. Adults and children of all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
There will be hot chocolate for warming up, and you can make an ornament to take home.
The Barber House Children’s Garden will be illuminated by thousands of lights, creating a winter wonderland through which visitors can stroll and kids can explore with a winter scavenger hunt. There will be hot chocolate for warming up, and you can make an ornament to take home.

April 4
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Animal tracks; Book:
—Bird calls; Book:
—Animals in the garden; Book:

April 11
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Flower patterns; Book:

May 6
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Useful things that are made from plants; Book:

June 3
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Animal tracks; Book:

May 27
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Flower patterns; Book:

June 17
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Bird calls; Book:

July 22
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Animals in the garden; Book:

Aug 5
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Animal tracks; Book:

Aug 19
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Bird calls; Book:

Aug 26
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Animals in the garden; Book:

Dec. 5
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Animal tracks; Book:

—Bird calls; Book:
—Animals in the garden; Book: