

About the talk: Aldo Leopold's "The Land Ethic," (1949), is the seminal source for the development of environmental ethics. The Leopold land ethic states that "...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..." and is the environmental ethic of choice among practitioners of applied environmental sciences. The land ethic is scaled to local biotic communities and regional ecosystems but the over-riding environmental concern of the present, however, is global climate change and the land ethic cannot be scaled up to a planetary scale. Fortunately, Leopold sketched an "earth ethic" urging respect for the whole Earth as a living being.

Professor Callicott is Regents Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at the University of North Texas. Professor Callicott is one of the two founding fathers (grandfathers!) of the discipline of environmental philosophy, having worked in the field for almost 40 years, originating many of its central debates, and teaching the first course in environmental ethics in 1971. He chairs a department that is the leading center for graduate study in environmental philosophy in North America. Professor Callicott has received numerous honors including a visiting professorship at Yale University where he won the Outstanding Teaching and Leadership Award. He's been an investigator on grants totaling over a million dollars, has written or edited a dozen books, and has published well over 100 papers. He has served on the editorial advisory board of virtually every important journal related to environmental studies, including *Conservation Biology*, *Ecological Economics*, *Environmental History*, *Philosophy and Geography*, *Environmental Values*, *Society and Natural Resources*, *Agriculture and Human Values*, and *the Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*. For more on Professor Callicott, see <http://www.phil.unt.edu/faculty/bios/vjbc.php>