

From Land Ethic to Earth Ethic: Aldo Leopold in the Time of Climate Change

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" based on biogeochemistry, urging respect for the whole Earth as a living being.

J. Baird Callicott
Regents Professor of Philosophy
University of North Texas

Thursday, February 12, 2009
3:15—4:45
ECTR 118

Reception to follow at 14 Glebe Street

Sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, the Masters in Environmental Studies Program, & the Environmental Studies Minor