



Environmental Hall of Famers

Read about some of the men and women who paved the way for today's environmentalists!

Rachel Carson (1907-1964), a scientist, authored books and government publications on nature's beauty. She later turned to a more sober topic: dangers to the environment – and to humans – from the use of chemical pesticides. Her epic work, *Silent Spring* (1962), helped bring about the 1972 U.S. ban on DDT and is considered by some one of the greatest books of all time.

www.rachelcarson.org

Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling (1876–1962) worked nearly 50 years as an editorial cartoonist. Through his artistic talent, he influenced others to wisely use natural resources and protect wildlife. In 1967, a wildlife refuge Darling helped secure 25 years earlier was renamed for him. J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, Florida, welcomes a million visitors every year. www.ding-darling.org

Rosalie Edge (1877-1962) believed environmental protection was every citizen's responsibility. Edge wrote letters to 11,000 fellow birdwatchers condemning the lack of governmental protection for birds. She later bought 1,400 acres of Pennsylvania land to prevent the ongoing slaughter of hawks and eagles for sport. Today, the property is known as Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. www.hawkmountain.org

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) was a forester and writer. His "Land Ethic," described in his greatest work, *A Sand County Almanac*, says humans and other creation are equal citizens of the same community. Because of this common bond, Leopold reasoned, people must learn about nature and be taught to respect, preserve and defend all of it – land, water, animals and plants. www.aldoleopold.org

John Muir (1838-1914) emigrated from Scotland at age 11. Through his writings, Muir influenced President Teddy Roosevelt and others of the worth of preserving our country's wilderness, including areas that became Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Known as "The Father of Our National Parks," Muir's likeness is found on the 2005 California state quarter. www.nps.gov/jomu

Olaus (1889-1963) and **Margaret ("Mardy") Murie** (1902-2003) spent their lives researching and protecting wildlife. Authors, the Muries' works include Olaus' *Peterson's Field Guide to Animal Tracks* and their joint work *Wapiti Wilderness*, describing 37 years living in the Tetons, studying elk. Their environmental efforts resulted in the preservation of millions of acres of Alaska wilderness. www.muriecenter.org

Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005) was both a senator and the "conservation governor" of the state of Wisconsin. Nelson founded Earth Day in 1970. The first-time event sparked a decade of environmental reform, including the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. Today, an estimated 1 billion people worldwide participate in Earth Day activities annually. www.nelsonearthday.net