



**Waukesha County Environmental Action League**  
**Protecting Waukesha County's Natural Resources since 1978**  
E-Newsletter April 2025

*"Let the clean air blow the cobwebs from your body. Air is medicine."* Lillian Russell

**WEAL mourns passing of Board member**

It is with great sorrow that the Board of Directors of WEAL announced the passing of a longtime member of the organization, **Laurie Longtine.**



Laurie was a staunch advocate for the conservation of our natural resources and felt especially protective of the Great Lakes. She spent countless hours working with the Great Lakes Compact Coalition, a group of conservation organizations working to secure a multi-state and country treaty to protect the use of great lakes water. She spent many hours as a board member and volunteer for the Waukesha County

Environmental Action League advocating for sound land use practices and waste reduction efforts. She also worked with the Waukesha County Land Conservancy to help protect Waukesha's best remaining wetlands and natural spaces.

Laurie developed a love of the outdoors at a young age after being born in Superior and growing up in the Northwoods in Hayward. After graduating from high school, Laurie attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, which is where she met Steve on the forensics and debate team. In the fall of 1975, Laurie transferred to the University of Minnesota and graduated with a degree in English Literature, spending her last semester in England. After returning to Wisconsin, she reconnected with Schmuki and they were married on October 8, 1983 in Mequon.



**Laurie passed away on January 31, 2025**

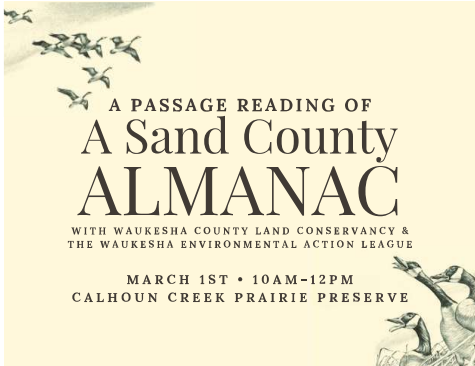
**We will miss her dearly.**



## **Sand County Almanac event held in Calhoun Creek Prairie Preserve**

Mary Hiebl

On Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup>, WEAL, along with the Waukesha County Land Conservancy, hosted the reading of excerpts from Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac* in Calhoun Creek Prairie Preserve. Attendees braved the wind and cold, to join the statewide effort to celebrate Aldo Leopold Day, the first Saturday in March, which former Governor Jim Doyle officially designated in 2004.



*A Sand County Almanac* is a collection of essays arranged in three parts. In the first part, Leopold takes the reader through the months January through December and highlights plant and animal observations as they change across the



seasons. In the second he writes about places and experiences, including in Wisconsin, Manitoba, and New Mexico. In the last, "The Upshot", he delves into philosophical issues related to wilderness, wildlife in American culture, conservation esthetic and the finale, the land ethic. The readings triggered lengthy discussion on Leopold's seminal ideas which are just as relevant today, maybe more so, as they were when the book was published in 1949.

Some oft-quoted lines from Leopold:



***"There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace."***

***"When we hear the crane's call, we hear no mere bird. We hear the trumpet in the orchestra for evolution. He is the symbol of our untamable past, of that incredible sweep of millennia which underlies and conditions the daily affairs of birds and men."***

***"There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of those who cannot."***



***"We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. "***

***To those devoid of imagination, a blank place on the map is a useless waste; to others, the most valuable part."***



## Waste reduction campaign on display at New Berlin Library

Sandy Klingensmith

WEAL's awareness campaign on reducing waste was on display in the New Berlin Public Library during



the month of March. The educational outreach campaign on waste reduction outlined methods for reduce, reuse and recycle including suggestions on composting food waste, reusing clothing, eliminating disposable cleaning supplies, and buying food products in paper containers rather than in plastic. Additional information outlined what could be recycled at the street and options for recycling other items, such as electronics, wire and scrap metal.

WEAL will have a glass case display at the Muskego Public Library for the month of October.

## EARTH DAY 2025 THEME: 'OUR POWER OUR PLANET'

Rose Reinders

As we approach Earth Day 2025, it is noteworthy that there are existing solutions for creating



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clean, cost effective, and unlimited energy for the planet through renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and tidal.

The U.S. is 2<sup>nd</sup> in leading the world in renewable energy. States like Texas, California, North Carolina, Florida, Arizona and Nevada already have 30% of their power generated by renewable energy. Worldwide, China is producing almost 50% of their power by Renewable Energy and is building more every year. Other countries such as Iceland, Australia, Uruguay and Germany are leading the way to more and more renewable energy programs.

Renewable Energy programs have proven to have many advantages, especially providing cleaner air, way less pollution, cheaper paths to provide power to homes, industry, farms, etc. One of the most important advantages is the role of renewable energy because it results in phasing out fossil fuels and replacing them with low emission energy sources.

We can, as individuals, families and citizens, take action by engaging in community initiatives, participating in elections and making sustainable choices in our daily lives especially by being educated about the new power sources that will take place.

This Earth Day, let us commit to harnessing renewable energy to build a healthy, sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for us all.

Let us COMMIT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY NOW.

