

A New Program, Sponsored by the Friends of Retzer Nature Center—

The Land Ethic and the Gaia Concept - a Powerful Value for our Living Earth!

Retzer Nature Center has long espoused and presented the teachings of Aldo Leopold—the great Wisconsin naturalist and teacher, who taught us to think of the Land as a Community we are part of. Leopold's famous Land Ethic has become the center of our understanding about why we value and conserve land.

But Leopold's Land Ethic is founded on an older idea, one that has been around for as long as people have been around—the idea of the Earth as a Living Being. This is a concept that Leopold himself was sympathetic to, and it has occurred to all people who recognize the beauty, complexity, and harmony of the earth. In modern time, this idea has received a name—the Gaia Concept, and a champion—the environmental scientist James Lovelock. The Gaia Concept is gaining traction with modern-day philosophers and scientists—it is an old idea, whose time has come, again.

On Saturday October 11th at Retzer Nature Center, Leopold's Land Ethic and Lovelock's Gaia Concept will come together as never before—to see if, together, they can offer us new clues for living sustainably on this planet. Retzer Naturalist Supervisor Larry Kascht has been teaching about Aldo Leopold for much of his life; he will present (in plain language accessible to all) the background, principles, and applications of Leopold's Land Ethic. Guest Naturalist and Gaia scholar Martin Ogle is devoted to the presentation of the Gaia Concept; he will present a compelling case for this concept of the Earth as a living being—a concept that is both old and new—and he will show its compatibility with modern ecosystem science, and with Leopold's Land Ethic.

Martin and Larry are friends, and they are both thoroughly convinced of the compatibility of these two important ideas. Let them convince you!

Join us for our day-long program—

The Land Ethic and the Gaia Concept—a Powerful Value for our Living Earth!

This program will run from 9am till 3:30pm on Saturday October 11, 2014, at Retzer Nature Center. The program will include indoor and outdoor components—we'll consider these important ideas, and then take them outside, to show how well they fit with our direct discovery experiences of the land!

This program is designed for adults, college students, and high school students who have a serious interest in a value for the Land and Earth. There is a \$10 registration fee for this program (\$5 for students), and advance registration is requested—please call Retzer Nature Center, 262-896-8007, to register.

The day's schedule includes an hour for lunch; participants will have the option to bring their lunch, take lunch on their own, or chip in for pizza to be delivered (cost not included in the registration fee). Beverages for the day will be provided.

We hope to see you on October 11th!