

## HONORS 391: Honors Discovery Seminar – Fall 2019

# Voices of Conservation and Sustainability

Department of Environmental Conservation

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HONORS 391A (SPIRE: 28800), 1 credit; Course website on Moodle,

Wednesday, 12:20-1:10 pm, CHC Residential Complex – Elm 214

In principle, everyone likes farms and forests (and “the environment”) — at least they say they do. In practice, as evidenced by continuing loss or degradation of forest and farm land and acceleration of global climate change, there is *plenty* of room for improvement at the local, regional, national, *and* global scale. In fact, as we surpass the ecological limits of this fragile Earth, our island home (BCP 1979:370) and the cumulative impact of ~330,000,000 Americans comes more clearly into view, it would be more accurate to say that, now more than ever, there is a conservation and sustainability imperative.

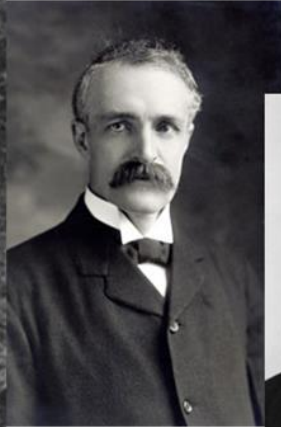
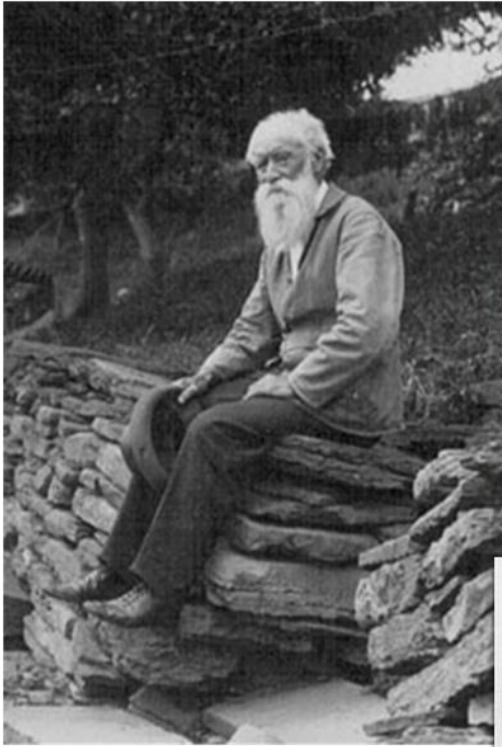
So, how can we live more sustainably? Who can we look to for guidance and encouragement? The diverse group of writers, thinkers, practitioners, and leaders listed below can help us to clarify our values, refine our attitudes, develop our communication skills, and sustain conscious actions. By the end of our seminar I hope that you will be: (1) inspired by their ideas and insights, (2) more attuned to the co-evolution of nature, culture, and place (*sensu Orion*), *and* (3) highly motivated to keep learning and leading by example. I recognize this is an ambitious reading list but posit that broad exposure to many authors is more effective than a detailed review of just a few. (And, you’re Honors students!)

Date	Session	Presentation/Discussion Topic ... <i>all readings on Moodle</i>
4 Sept	1	Introductions/expectations/learning objectives/discussion
11 Sept	2	John Burroughs
18 Sept	3	<i>“Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time”</i>
25 Sept	4	Aldo Leopold ...discuss film and readings
2 Oct	5	Sigurd Olson and Calvin Rutstrum
9 Oct	6	Rachel Carson and Elizabeth Kolbert
16 Oct	7	Wendell Berry and Gene Logsdon
23 Oct	8	<i>“Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai”</i>
30 Oct	9	Discuss Wangari Maathai film ...and revisit Berry and Logsdon
6 Nov	10	UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and Pope Francis
13 Nov	-	No seminar ...Monday schedule at UMass
20 Nov	11	Robin Kimmerer, Joseph Marshall III, and Margaret Cromarty
Thanksgiving Recess – 23 November – 1 December (...develop your essay ideas)		
4 Dec	12	Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, Duane Elgin
11 Dec	13	Paul Barten ...and, everyone presents their essay title and highlight(s)
Seminar grade = Preparation and Participation (50%) <sup>1</sup> + Peer review (15%) <sup>2</sup> + Final Essay (35%) <sup>3</sup>		

<sup>1</sup> Please read the weekly assignments in advance of our seminar and make notes on key points, quotes, and concepts so you can actively contribute to our round-table discussions.

<sup>2</sup> Thorough and constructive review and editing of a classmate’s draft essay in Word “Track Changes.”

<sup>3</sup> **WRITING PROMPT:** Write an 800 to 1,000-word essay that discusses a leader(s) who most influenced your awareness, values, attitudes, and/or behavior in relation to conservation and sustainability. (The essays will be included in a published compendium.)

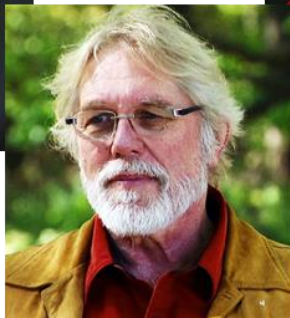


John Burroughs — Gifford Pinchot — Theodore Roosevelt  
Aldo Leopold — Rachel Carson  
Sigurd and Elizabeth Olson — Helen and Adrian Hoover



Calvin Rutstrum — Wangari Maathai  
David Owen — Tanya and Wendell Berry — Robin Wall Kimmerer  
William and Margaret Cromarty — Joseph Marshall III  
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki moon — Pope Francis





Duane Elgin — David Korten  
Joanna Macy  
Paul Hawken — Chris Johnstone  
Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee  
Elizabeth Kolbert — Chief Oren Lyons  
Kent Nerburn

## Bibliography

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## Films

- Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time. <http://www.greenfiremovie.com/>
- Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai. <http://takingrootfilm.com/>



Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai (courtesy of the Green Belt Movement)