

## Quotes from Ruth Hine (1923-2010)

"I arrived at the UW in 1946, and Leopold taught his famous Wildlife Ecology 118 in the spring of 1947. I had the blessed good sense to take it right off the bat. He died in 1948. Leopold was just tremendous. His course opened up concepts all over the place, the most exciting of which was plant succession. It was exciting in the first place just to know that there were plant communities. I was used to seeing trees, plants, and shrubs. I never "saw" a community. Then there was the concept that these communities change, that a grassland becomes a woods and goes through different stages along the way to a climax forest.

"Leopold was an excellent lecturer. He often used the blackboard and had many handouts. He had a marvelous way of explaining things. He was interested in us as a class and as people.

Aligned with that, I was in the right place at the right time and so doggone lucky that my path crossed with Estella Leopold, who was an undergraduate in botany at the time. We took Fassett's Spring Flora of Wisconsin class together, and she invited me to the [famous Leopold] shack. Several times I would go up with her and Mr. Leopold, and the three of us would go off for a walk. Mr. Leopold was a completely different person. He was quiet within himself. That's what he needed up there. Before Estella and I would take off for the woods he might say, 'Don't go into the woods now Estella, it's deer season.' Just a quiet comment, and we wouldn't go into the woods."

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"The reason why the [WDNR] endangered species and nongame programs appealed to me so much is that you are dealing with the whole breadth of programs, not just huntable and sports fishing species that most DNR research people must focus on because of federally supported projects. Now, I'm not saying I'm against hunting and fishing, but it's only a piece of the action. I'm more interested in the whole forest than in the ruffed grouse's place in the forest, and I'm more interested in how you can maintain a forest community than in how you can best harvest that population of ruffed grouse."

Quotes are from an interview by author, Sumner Matteson, printed in *AFIELD, Portraits of Wisconsin Naturalists, Empowering Leopold's Legacy* (Little Creek Press, January 2020; [littlecreekpress.com](http://littlecreekpress.com)).

