

https://www.wiscnews.com/baraboonewsrepublic/news/friend-of-the-earth-conservationist-nina-leopold-bradley-dies-at-93/article_e0c0bc8a-8753-11e0-b098-001cc4c03286.html

Friend of the Earth: Conservationist Nina Leopold Bradley dies at 93

Ed Zagorski, News Republic
May 26, 2011



Nina Leopold Bradley died Wednesday at her home in Baraboo. She was the eldest daughter of Aldo Leopold. She has undertaken conservation research throughout her life and would lecture on her father and the land ethic. Contributed

Ed Zagorski, News Republic

Buddy Huffaker will remember Nina Leopold Bradley as a visionary who inspired many to respect the world in which they live.

"Nina's greatest attribute was her ability to connect with and charm people of all ages and backgrounds," said Huffaker, executive director of the Aldo Leopold Foundation. "She entertained and engaged foreign dignitaries, including the Princess of Japan, as well as local elementary school children - all of whom walked away interested and committed to conservation."

Bradley, 93, died Wednesday at her home in Baraboo.

She was the middle of five children to Aldo and Estella Leopold. Aldo Leopold is the renowned author of "A Sand County Almanac," which was inspired by the Leopold family's restoration of a worn-out farm in Fairfield Township along the Wisconsin River.

Bradley grew up in Madison and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She conducted research from Hawaii to Botswana on wildlife issues with her first husband, William Elder, Huffaker said.

"She was the real vision and force behind the development of the Aldo Leopold Center," Huffaker said. "Since the 1970s, when she and her late husband, Charles, moved to the Baraboo area, the two began a program of ecological research, restoration and education and trained and inspired individuals that are now leaders in conservation and science all across the country."

Estella Leopold Jr., the youngest daughter of Aldo Leopold, said she always admired her sister's work in conservation.

"She was a special leader in conservation work," Leopold said. "She earned many honors in her lifetime. She was a well-known speaker at conservation conventions all over America."

Estella Leopold said UW-Madison and Northland College in Ashland awarded honorary degrees to her sister. In addition to numerous state and national awards, Bradley also was honored by the Wilderness Society, which presented her its Bob Marshall Award in 1995.

"She was a great spokesperson for our family regarding our family's work," Leopold said. "She was a superb public speaker who used a lot of different quotations from our father. She was also able to charm many audiences."

Huffaker said Bradley published two papers.

"One... documented her pioneering prairie restoration techniques and the other documented changes in seasonal biological events referred to as phenology, such as blooming of plants and the migration of birds," Huffaker said. "It was a study her father began in the 1930s and one she resumed in 1976, which shows biological responses to climate change."

Leopold said Bradley and her husband, Charles, had many family reunions in Baraboo. These gatherings helped plant the seed for the establishment of the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

"She was one heck of a naturalist," Leopold said. "She knew her plant species and different birds that came to the Aldo Leopold Center."

Howard Mead, vice president of the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, said he met Bradley in the early 1960s.

Mead was part of the group that started the Leopold Reserve -nearly 2,000 acres of land surrounding the Aldo Leopold Shack, a rehabilitated chicken coop in which Aldo Leopold and his family would spend their summers.

"She was one of the most gracious and unforgettable people I have known," Mead said. "She could always draw others in when she spoke. She believed in treating the land similar to the way you would treat a person. My life and the lives of my children are much better for knowing her."

Send email to [**ezagorski@capitalnewspapers.com**](mailto:ezagorski@capitalnewspapers.com)

AdChoices 

Sponsored