

Leopold's book with its articulation of his "land ethic". And in the fourth part the extent of the work's influence is evaluated. The Appendix contains the never-before-published, and more autobiographical, original Foreword to *A Sand County Almanac*, which Leopold wrote in 1947.

In the estimation of the renowned novelist, Wallace Stegner, *A Sand County Almanac* is an "almost holy book in conservation circles ... the utterance of an American Isaiah." Literary scholar, John Tallmadge, echoes this comparison of Leopold to Biblical prophets — "he resorts to the only weapons prophets have ever been able to wield: the strength of truth and the transforming power of language" — then uses a vivid analogy of his own when he describes Leopold's sketches as "moments of insight that point toward a core of truth the way iron filings respond to a hidden magnet."

If there's a single statement in Leopold's work that captures this "core of truth" it is: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." This statement is repeatedly quoted by the various writers of the *Companion to A Sand County Almanac* who, for the most part, support this "core of truth" and affirm the

importance of Leopold's thesis. The one note of discord is sounded by historian, Roderick Nash, who criticizes Callicott for overstating the groundbreaking nature of Leopold's ideas and who accuses Leopold of nearly plagiarizing the great English biologist Charles Darwin and of ignoring "the anticipation of ideas" by such writers as John Muir and Albert Schweitzer. In rebuttal, Callicott declares that "Nash works in a well-surveyed woodlot, but using the modern power tools of contemporary historians he has cut various softwoods along with good oak and stacked them in the same cord."

I found some of the essays in *Companion to A Sand County Almanac* rather ostentatious in style and in the use of jargon but, on the whole, I am grateful for the extent to which it has enhanced my appreciation of a volume whose insights, descriptive power and ethical valuation of the natural world I have treasured. Field naturalists who strive to preserve what they observe will find this volume a welcome addition to their library.

GARTH C. NELSON

529 Dalhousie Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7H 3S5, Canada

Ecology in Agriculture

Edited by L. E. Jackson. 1997. Academic Press, San Diego. 474 pp. U.S. \$79.95.

Ecology in Agriculture is a volume in the Physiological Ecology series. "The intent of this book is to illustrate how the fundamental principles of ecology operate in agricultural settings and how they can be applied to solve practical problems in crop production and environmental management." With the intent is the goal to emphasize ecological study of agriculture at (1) ecophysiological responses of crops, (2) community ecology, and (3) ecosystem processes levels.

Jackson has organised 12 papers, authored by mainly American experts with a few European experts, into three sections in an attempt to achieve the stated intent and goal. The sections are (1) plant responses to the environment, (2) biotic interactions and processes, and (3) ecosystem processes. All papers are technical in nature and follow a similar format. The format includes an introduction, discussion, and review portion followed by a summarization. For readers desiring further information all

chapters have reference lists. All papers deal only with crops.

If the papers found within this volume are taken to heart a dramatic rethinking of the blanket recommendations and cultivar development would be required. Maximization of yields could possibly take second seat to ecological and sustained benefits. Development of cultivars could become site oriented not yield. This publication provides insight to a potential agricultural rethinking which may result in a more environmentally friendly industry.

The editor has provided a text which will stimulate discussion within the agricultural industry. Individuals who may benefit from reading this book include researchers, teachers, and students. The one drawback I found with book is its title. The book deals only with crops and as result does not cover agriculture as whole as the title suggests to me.

M. P. SCHELLENBERG

434 4th Avenue SE, Swift Current, Saskatchewan S9H 3M1, Canada



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