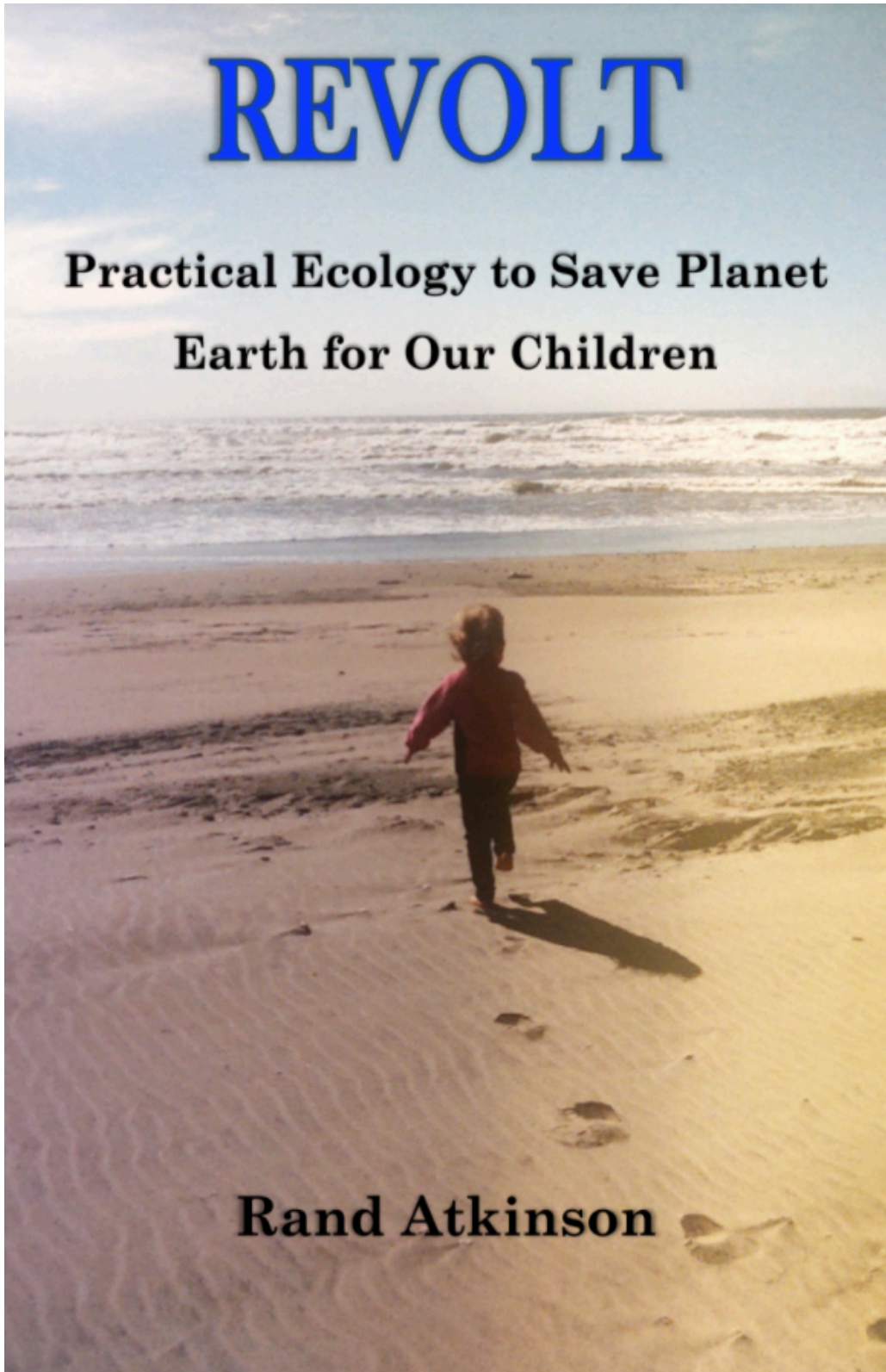


REVOLT

**Practical Ecology to Save Planet
Earth for Our Children**

Rand Atkinson





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About the Author

Rand Atkinson is an ecologist, professor, environmental consultant, fish farmer, and a passionate seeker of knowledge about the natural world. This life-long adventure and accumulation of awareness of what is happening to the world he loves has created this book of concern and direction.

Rand graduated as a field biologist at the beginning of the 1970's environmental movement and quickly became immersed in water law, ecological assessments, and a need how to feed the world responsibly. With his passion of following Aldo Leopold's land ethics started companies to evaluate and restore aquatic systems, rear native plants, and grow fish sustainably. Eventually, he has passed his knowledge as an adjunct professor in restoration and reclamation.

Rand currently resides in the Northwoods of Wisconsin where he can observe and enjoy "the land" just out the door of his cabin. From here he continues to seek and write about the intersection of nature and humankind ... with hope.

Preface

It was in the 1970's when the environmental movement began that I was introduced to the teachings of Aldo Leopold through a professor, a student of one of his graduate students. Leopold's passions and philosophy had been passed from professor to student to professor to student, again and again. Though land resource related problems and human impacts have grown exponentially from 1940's his message still rings clear to every new situation regarding Leopold's precious land.

I was told that Leopold required writing courses in the curriculum of his graduate students. They knew the special importance of his words and philosophy must be heard, understood, and spread throughout the world. The prominence of his words has been perceived and carried forward into an environmental movement, conservation preservation efforts, and laws. Though he foresaw our predicament of this failing earth and knew the reasons why, he still had hope we could shift our values to see land as a community not as a commodity.

During these 1970's college days we used to have conversations on what will save the "land". Will it be Leopold's Land

Ethic or environmental laws? For the last forty years we have witnessed many laws passed that have helped to save the land, but as with greed and politics it is man's cultural ethics in the long run that are important to life.

These essays are an attempt to bring Aldo's wisdom and advice to today's culture. These writings are plain and straight forward, not poetic as Aldo, but simple endeavors to address what has come about since his time. These essays were composed during a 40-year career that was incessantly and passionately engaged with the land and natural resources. This is my fate on excepting the land ethic.

These essays are narratives of what one can do to make a difference. Written for the common person ... hopefully the thinking human who knows their offspring will be confronting many life destroying events, circumstances, and realities our own species and too many other species must face if we do not change our ways globally.

Forward

Over the years, I have read Leopold's *Sand County Almanac* so many times, but not enough. Each time gleaning ...at first knowledge, then inspiration, then wisdom, then all repeated with each passing year. This book is truly a creation for all time to those who listen and those who do not. It is time for all to listen. It is time for REVOLT.

Aldo literally called for a REVOLT-“revolt against the tedium of the merely economic attitude towards the land”. It has come to the point where the “land” as Aldo called this planet's earth living presence, whether land, water, or air, needs to be understood, appreciated, AND paid attention to. We are at that critical point where this economic attitude will destroy the existence of the ecological communities and natural systems that supports all life.

This book is about this necessary REVOLT. It is about the history of what man has done with the land ... with nature

since Leopold's writing. Part 1 gives examples of the capabilities and value to spirit and thought of being on the land in each season. Part 2 describes the misdeeds that a mere economic attitude has done and continues to do to the land and the plight of our planet if it continues. Part 3 defines, simply, what it will take to change man's destruction and move to a sustainable planet earth. This book is about a revolution and uprising that must occur to save us from ourselves.

Humility

Life has no meaning without humbleness ... the humbleness of place, of the moment, and of the trust in the self that the subconscious brings to reality.

At one moment one is secure in the presence of shelter and the routine of this physical world whether it be family and friends, laughter or pleasure, and solemn song or dance. The next moment we long for the change in this same world towards adventure and conflict, power, need for more, and the freedom from of the routine of the security of a rigid dance lesson. The conscious mind powers us towards the false reality of humanity that is the only game in town. There has been no humbleness.

So, to see the truth we must leave town to seek a home within while we leave this security of the known towards a country of uncertainty. We drive into the blizzard where the snowflakes fill the pathway with a white road of nothingness. Life slows and becomes black or white, tracks end beyond the visibility of our new view. This is humility.

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ABOUT THIS BOOK... This book of essays/stories leads to questions about how our everyday actions affect nature around us and beyond ... and what we as individuals can do to make it better for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

- Rand Atkinson

