

## Environmental Books\*

\*The environmental books presented on this page were recommended to us by prominent members of our community. Thank you to all our contributors for the time you took to write the recommendations and for sharing with us your love for environment and reading. This page would not have been possible without you!

### Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future

*Author:* Bill McKibben

*Publisher:* Times Books: Henry Hold and Company (2007)

This book was recommended to us by our own **President Ramsey:**

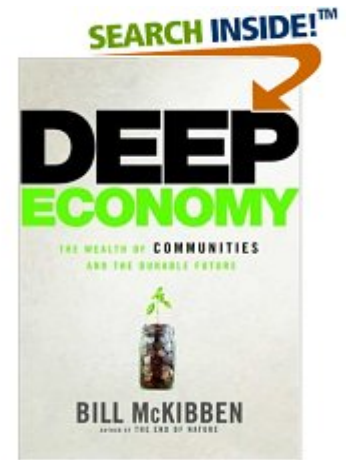
“I suggest the book, *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* by Bill McKibben. Bill spoke at our Kentucky Author Forum last year; *Deep Economy* is Bill's most recent book. He is also the author of the best seller, *The End of Nature*.

Following is a very brief synopsis:

It has been noted that *Deep Economy* should be required reading for all college students. Bill McKibben, renowned author, raises several issues that are important for us to think about and address in the ever changing global economy in which we live. As noted by one reviewer of the book, Mr. McKibben provides straightforward answers to questions that we must address: how are we going to deal with global warming, energy shortfalls and dislocations; and issues of equity vs. efficiency in our economy. Mr. McKibben breaks down these issues into a model for each of us to think about and to utilize as part of our daily lives.

As an important part of addressing the serious economic issues which face us today, Mr. McKibben speaks of the role of local economies--communities of individuals who by coming together and "taking on" an important policy initiative can have a profound influence beyond the geographical area in which they reside. Mr. McKibben's book is a "different type" of economic presentation, raising alternative issues and answers to questions to which the economics profession has discussed for many years. It is now time to think about these issues in a different way, which is exactly what Mr. McKibben does in *Deep Economy*.”

**President Ramsey** is a Kentucky native. He holds a doctoral degree in economics from UK. He has taught in UNC, WKU, UK, Loyola University and Middle Tennessee State University. Economic issues in the public sector are at the core of his academic interests. In 1999, Ramsey was named Kentucky's Distinguished Economist of the Year. (For more detailed biographical information see <http://louisville.edu/president/biography/>)



*Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* was also recommended to us by **Lauren Heberle**, Assistant Professor at the School of Urban and Public Affairs, the Associate Director of the Center for Environmental Policy and Management, and Director of the EFC Region 4:

“Dedicated to Wendell Berry, McKibben's book is a must for all who are interested in rethinking how economic structures and practices impact the sustainability of our world. This book is accessible and thought provoking and should push individuals and policy makers to rethink how we move forward in a globalized economy. For example, McKibben provides detailed examples of how it is possible to eat only locally produced food and the positive effects that practice has at the individual level and at the level of a community. At the heart of his argument is the idea that "MORE" has not meant more happiness and that in fact after a certain amount of economic growth whether at the individual or structural level happiness declines because there is a loss of connection between individuals. So not only has the capitalist structure that argues for unlimited economic growth caused irreparable harm to the sustainability of the earth, it has also lead to more unhappiness and less human connectedness. By linking environmental damage to emotional and cultural damage, McKibben strengthens the call for a rethinking of global economic interactions as well as a rethinking of individual and policy choices we make that support structures that damage our earth, our physical and emotional well being, and our ability to interact as a community. I also highly recommend Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* for the main reason that it was the seminal book that brought environmental contamination to the attention of the mainstream.”

**Dr. Heberle's** current work focuses on brownfields, smart growth, sustainable development, and environmental justice. For her, understanding community participation in each of these areas is a primary concern.

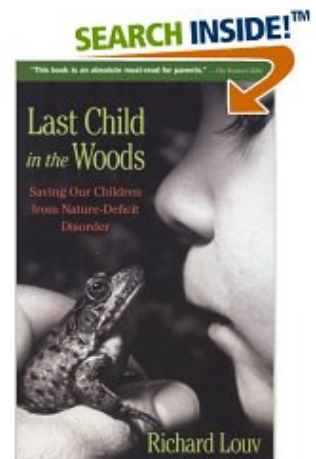
## Last Child in the Woods

*Author:* Richard Louv

*Publisher:* Algonquin Books (2006)

This book was recommended to us by our  
**Past Governor Ernie Fletcher:**

“What are some of your fondest memories of childhood? Hiking in the woods? Exploring your grandparents' farm? I imagine that if you ask adults this question you will likely be told stories of adventures in backyards, farm fields and woodlots across the Commonwealth and beyond. But will our children one day have as many outdoor adventure stories to share? Will they recall the smell of a campfire or the sound of crunching leaves while hiking through the woods? Or instead, will our children recall indoor activities such as visiting a Web site or playing a video game?



These are questions that arise when reading *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv. We are a society that has been driven indoors. While we can debate all the reasons why this is, we cannot debate the fact that our children will suffer because of it.

At a time when children are constantly being labeled with an array of learning and social disorders, Richard Louv has added another to the list – Nature Deficit Disorder. His intent is not to stigmatize children and families. He is not calling for new drug or special therapy. He just wants us to go outside. This cure for nature-deficit disorder is free and accessible to all of us.

I have been an avid outdoorsman throughout my life. I have shared camping and hunting experiences with my children and have encouraged them to do the same. When I recall the years my children were young, it is the outdoors adventures I remember best. I encourage you to read this book and think about how you, too, can share nature with children. Get to your backyards, local and state parks, and enjoy what happens.”

**Governor Ernie Fletcher** has led a remarkable life as an Air Force fighter pilot, family doctor, engineer, lay minister, state legislator, and congressman. He was born in Mt. Sterling, Montgomery County, and is a longtime resident of Lexington. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Kentucky College of Engineering in 1974 and later graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. Governor Fletcher is married to his high school sweetheart, Glenna. Both attended LaFayette High School in Lexington. Their daughter, Rachel, and her husband, Daniel, have four children: Callie, Hannah, Joshua and Manson.

## A River Runs Wild

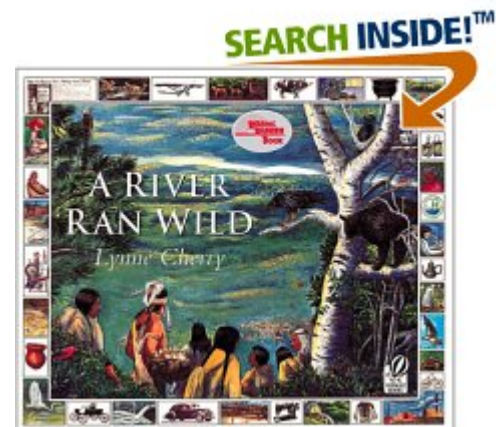
*Author:* Lynne Cherry

*Publisher:* Voyager Books (April 1, 2002)

This book was recommended to us by **Sheldon H. Berman**, Ed.D, the JCPS Superintendent:

“This book relates through both word and picture the 600-year history of a river in present-day Massachusetts. Appropriate for primary students through adults, the story begins with a description of the Nashua River’s pristine condition in the 1400’s. and then describes the river’s supportive role in the lives of Native Americans through the 1700’s. From there, the reader sees the damaging impact of neglect and pollution during the industrial age, and finally learns how a caring community struggles to restore the river to its former state of health and beauty.

The book’s rich illustrations and thumbnail sketches lead the reader to a deeper understanding of the animals, people, structures, and artifacts that surround the river as it



evolves. A River Run Wild inspires its readers to make lasting difference for future generations by taking steps to appreciate and care for the environment we all share today.”

**Sheldon H. Berman** is the author of *Children’s Social Consciousness and Promising Practices in Teaching Social Responsibility* as well as numerous articles and book chapters on civic education, character education, service-learning, virtual education, and education reform. Dr. Berman received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and his Masters and Doctoral degrees in Education from Harvard University. He wrote to us: “I strive to be an environmentally conscious educator. I believe very strongly that the larger mission of education is to help you people develop the convictions and skills to shape a safe, sustainable, and just world. By promoting social responsibility among students, we as educators help ensure that our environment is respected, nurtured, and preserved for future generations.”

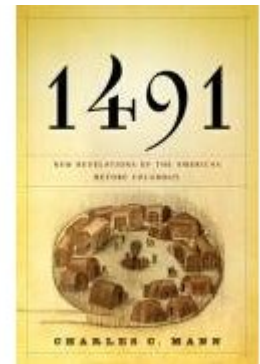
## 1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus

*Author:* Charles C. Mann  
*Publisher:* Vintage (2006)

This book was recommended to us by **Jane Eller**, the Executive Director of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council and an avid reader and member of the Lewis Book Group in Lexington for 26 years:

“Not all books about the environment are labeled as such. *1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus*, by Charles C. Mann is ostensibly a history. However it is just as much an examination of the Pre-Columbian interrelationships between humans and the ecosystems of the Americas. Using archaeological, historic and scientific clues, Mann reveals much more advanced civilizations than conventional wisdom has led us to believe. For example, Native Americans carefully managed buffalo herds, nut and fruit groves and were masters of agricultural innovation. They built huge cities, constructed intricate bridges out of rope and created highly accurate astronomical calendars. Mann proposes that such advances allowed them to support populations (before European carried epidemics hit) that were larger than those of Europe at the time.

Like Jared Diamond’s book *Collapse*, which tells how societies thrive or collapse depending on how they manage the environment, *1491* describes not only the destruction of civilizations by European disease and warfare but also the successes and failures of Native Americans to manage their resources. Also like *Collapse*, and like many other history and environmental books, there are lessons here for contemporary society.”



## The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change: A Guide to the Debate.

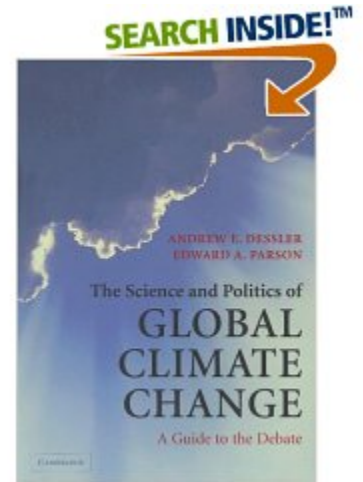
*Authors:* Andrew E. Dessler & Edward A. Parson  
*Publisher:* Cambridge University Press (2006)

This book was recommended to us by **Dr. Keith Mountain**, Chairperson and Associate Professor at the Department of Geography and Geosciences:

“Over the past 10 years climate change has transitioned from a secondary concern to a dominant environmental and political issue. However, even with the accumulated knowledge of the global climate system, from the perception of the general public, there remains considerable confusion and ambiguity related to the nature of climate change, its causation and potential impacts on society. Arguments that have been formulated both for and against the validity of climate change have become contentious serving more to polarize opinion than lead toward a consensus on both the science and policies attached to relevant issues. In *The Science and Politics of Climate Change*, the authors, both with expertise in the atmospheric sciences and in public policy, have provided a primer that is essential reading to anyone interested in an efficient, accurate, and insightful introduction to the complex issues connected to global climate change and its social relevance. This work evolves a welcome balance between the scientific foundation of climatic change and the basis of popular debate with clarity such that any generally educated reader interested in the topic can be equipped to formulate their own opinion.

The organization and general structure of the book is perhaps its greatest attribute. The overall format is in the form of responses to standard and frequently asked questions connected to climate, environmental change, and policy implementation. Clear and unambiguous responses to basic questions such as “Is the climate changing?”; “What will the impacts of climate change be?”; “What changes can be expected?”; “When science and politics meet “, and “How science works” form the primary purpose of the work. In this manner the text has a great utility as a substantive reference although the text is organized sequentially from the background of climate change to prospects for the future. Each chapter provides additional sources of information and recommendations for further reading. It is not until the last chapter that Dressler and Parson present their opinions on the issue. At only 190 pages, this book is a synthesis of the complex issues of climate and social policy in a very readable format for the expert and layman alike and can be positioned among key reading materials in this emerging debate.”

**Dr. Keith R. Mountain**, a native Australian, is an expert in geography and physical geography and is well versed in environmental issues facing the state, country and world.



## Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England

*Author:* Tom Wessels

*Publisher:* Countryman, 2005

This book was recommended to us by **Dr. Daniel H. Jones**, the founder of the "21st Century Parks":

“This book is a detective story that takes students into the forest and teaches them how to "read" the landscape. Using clues as diverse as old stumps, rotting logs, beaver ponds, and weeds, he helps students to understand the stories of landscape change (both human-caused and naturally driven). As a result he leaps from professional ecology to an approachable and readable introduction to understanding our forestlands and how our history has shaped them. Tying together topics as divergent as sheep farming, stone wall construction, and the Napoleonic wars, he helps us to understand the complex interactions that shape our natural landscapes. Appropriate for high school students and teachers as well as for college level readers.”

**Dr. Daniel H. Jones** also recommended:

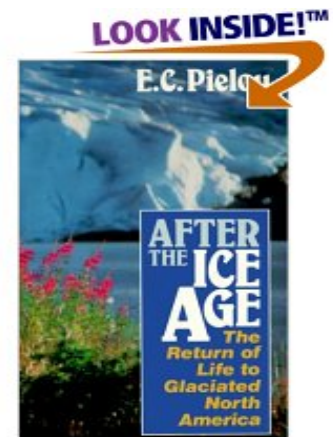
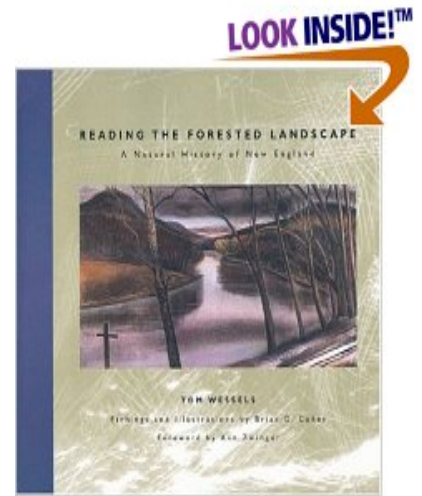
## After the Ice Age: The Return of Life to Glaciated North America

*Author:* E. C. Pielou

*Publisher:* University Of Chicago Press (1992)

“Another great environmental book that is best read at the college level is: E.C. Pielou, *After the Ice Age: The Return of Life to Glaciated North America*.

This book looks at the landscape and ecology of North America and the way in which it was shaped by the glacial epoch and the melting that followed the last glaciation (approximately the last 20,000 years). While we are often taught that our environment is ancient, timeless, and balanced, this book shows wonderfully that almost everything we take for granted about our environment has been in flux. 20,000 years ago, at the peak of the last glaciation, Louisville sat only a few miles below the southern edge of the Ice sheets, which towered a 1000 feet over the Indiana landscape. No life existed beneath them, and the vegetation and wildlife found at the present site of Louisville would have been largely unrecognizable, as was the climate. All in all, a great read and a "paradigm-shifting" presentation!”



**Daniel H. Jones**, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, holds degrees from Yale University (B.A., M.F.) and Indiana University, Bloomington (Ph.D.). He has spent much of his working life in the fields of education and business management. In addition to founding and managing his own business, he taught World History and the History of the American West at the University of Louisville. Most recently, he founded "21st Century Parks," a non-profit corporation that manages a partnership that seeks to develop a 4000-5000 acre park and trail system in the last major undeveloped corridor surrounding Louisville. He currently serves as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of "21st Century Parks," where he oversees planning, design, and construction of the new parks. He enjoys hiking, camping and fishing with his family, skiing, running, and reading. He wrote:

## The Soil and Health

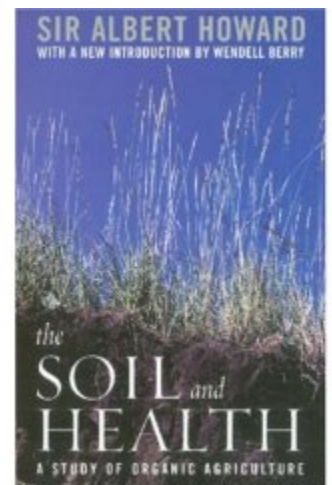
*Author:* Albert, Sir Howard

*Publisher:* University Press of Kentucky (2006)

This book was recommended to us by **Wendell Berry**, a writer and a farmer:

“I recommend *The Soil and Health* by Sir Albert Howard, newly published by the University Press of Kentucky. This is one of the best books on land use, and on the connection between agriculture and health.”

**Wendell Berry** is a prolific writer who wrote/contributed to at least twenty-five books (of poems, sixteen volumes of essays, and eleven novels and short story collections. Among these books are: *The Wild Birds: Six Stories of the Port William Membership* (1986), *The Discovery of Kentucky* (story, 1991), *A World Lost* (novel, 1997), *That Distant Land: The Collected Stories of Wendell Berry* (2004).



## Something Beautiful

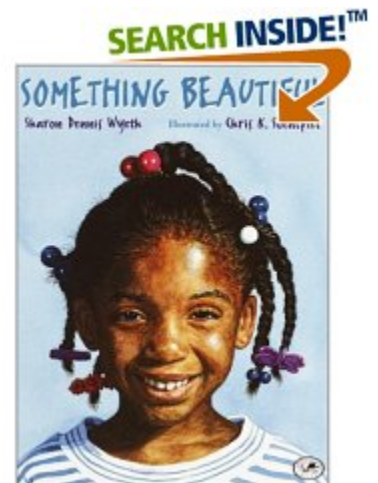
*Author:* Sharon Dennis Wyeth

*Publisher:* Dragonfly Books, 2002

This book was recommended to us by **Patty Wilson**, a teacher and a UofL student:

“I teach Computer and Practical Living at Cochran Elementary in Louisville, KY to grades K-5. One book I use every year is *Something Beautiful* by Sharon Dennis Wyeth.

It is the story of a little girl who looks for beautiful things in her urban neighborhood and sees many unbeautiful things such as



litter and graffiti on the walls. She decides to do something about it and begins to clean up around her own home. She learns that she can make a difference in the world around her.”

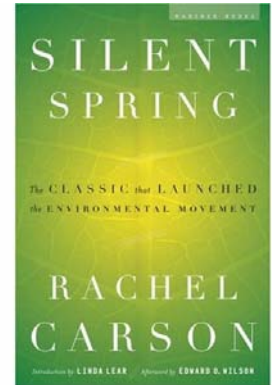
## Silent Spring

*Author:* Rachel Carson

*Publisher:* Mariner Books, 104 edition, (2002)

This book was recommended to us by **Meredith DeCosta**, a teacher and a UofL student:

“*Silent Spring*, a book written by biologist Rachel Carson, was first published in 1962. While the novel was written 45 years ago, Carson’s work is widely regarded as a landmark for environmental issues and is considered by many to be the origin of environmentalism in the United States. In the book, Carson argues that unfettered and uncontrolled use of pesticides not only harm animals, but ultimately will harm the humans that unknowingly ingest these chemicals. Carson’s *Silent Spring* eventually led to the ban of DDT as a pesticide in 1972. If you are interested in the origins of the environmental movement in the United States, then reading *Silent Spring* is an absolute must.”



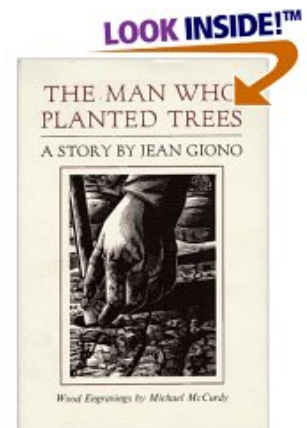
**Meredith DeCosta** is a graduate student at the University of Louisville working towards a degree in Secondary English Education. Meredith has taught for 3 years in the New Albany-Floyd County School district and currently teaches senior Honors English at Floyd Central High School. After finishing graduate school, she intends to earn her doctoral degree in Secondary English Education with an emphasis in multicultural curriculum and gender issues in the English classroom.

## The Man who Planted Trees

*Author:* Jean Giono

*Publisher:* Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 1985

This book was recommended to us by **Dr. David Wicks**, an adjunct professor at the U of L School of Education, the Co-Director of the Center for Environmental Education with the University of Louisville's Kentucky Institute for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Coordinator of Jefferson County Public Schools Center for Environmental Education:



“This simple and elegant book and inspirational woodcuts is one of the answers for our global environmental problems. Set in France, early in the last century, an ex soldier

spends his life in solitude planting trees, 100 acorns a day for years and years. As a result towns are revitalized, streams begin flowing again and the birds sing in the spring. There are many lessons for all in *the Man who Planted Trees*.”

**Dr. David Wicks** is a former president of North American Association of Environmental Educators.

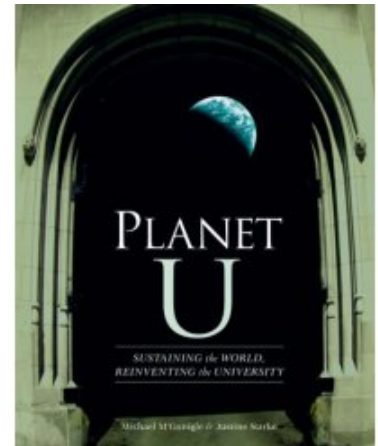
## Planet U: Sustaining the World, Reinventing the University

*Authors:* Michael R. M'Gonigle & Justine Starke  
*Publisher:* New Society Publishers, BC, Canada (2006)

This book was recommended to us by **Dr. Barbara Burns**, Chair and Professor at the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, and **Dr. John Richardson**, the director of the University Honors Program:

“This book is being read by the diverse group of professors teaching university honors courses this fall that related to the environment. These courses include environmental health, environmental education, sustainability and geopolitics (see the University Honors website for more details and descriptions!).

Planet U lays out a plan as to how the university can become an intellectually-vibrant and engaged-citizenship center for issues about the environment. We have already marked the pages that we want President Ramsey to read and we hope that the Green City Partnership and the 'greening' of the university honors program provide the context for this to happen!”



## The Lorax

*Author:* Dr. Seuss's  
*Publisher:* Harper Coll Children, (2004)

This book was recommended to us by **Art Williams**, the Director of Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District:

“I would nominate Dr. Seuss's book *The Lorax*. It's a wonderful tale of ecology, conservation and environmental protection. It's an epic saga of the potential ravages of greed on the planet's precious resources as the pursuit of "more" leads to the sad and tragic loss of the valuable "truffula" trees. But, all is not lost as a realization of what's about to be lost forever awakens and hope blossoms that even at a late date change can occur to salvage and heal the prior loss and damage. It's an eternally hopeful and



optimistic book (as are most of the Dr. Seuss books) about our ability to see a problem and solve it. Can you say “global warming”?”

## Cradle to Cradle

*Authors:* William McDonough and Michael Braungart  
*Publisher:* North Point Press, New York, 2002

This book was recommended to us by **Teddie Phillipson-Mower**, Co-Director of the UofL Center for Environmental Education and Co-Facilitator of the Environmental Education Committee of the Partnership for a Green City.

“Cradle to Cradle encourages its readers to reconsider our assumptions of a cradle to grave manufacturing model. The authors argue that in taking nature as a model for manufacturing we could produce items that provide ‘nutrients’ for other products long after their original useful lives. In doing this, we are closing the loop and removing the grave. The original item provides basic molecular building blocks for other products and more energy than the item consumed in its lifetime. Thinking out of the box, with different assumptions than those that are prevalent today, will allow us to operate as nature does – without waste.”

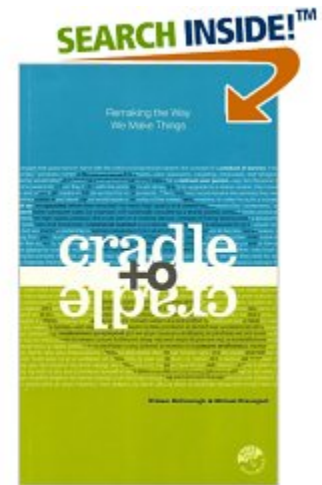
Teddie Phillipson-Mower is the program coordinator for the Environmental Education Endorsement Program for teachers (pending) and teaches Introduction to Environmental Education, Environmental Education Teaching Methods, Science Methods, General Methods and a variety of other courses at UofL. She is finishing her doctoral work at Indiana University where she was active in environmental work and enjoyed small scale organic farming. Her research areas are intellectual and ethical development, nature of science, and environmental education.

## Recycling

*Author:* Rhonda Lucas Donald  
*Publisher:* Children's Press (CT), 2002

This book was recommended to us by **Sarah Nash**, a teacher and a doctorate student at the University of Louisville:

“I like “Recycling” (True Books: Environment) by Rhonda Donald. It gives practical information about the trash that people produce everyday and gives suggestions about how to reuse and recycle things.”



**Sarah Nash** has a Masters in Instructional Technology from Teachers College, Columbia University and teaches elementary computers in Jefferson County Public Schools.

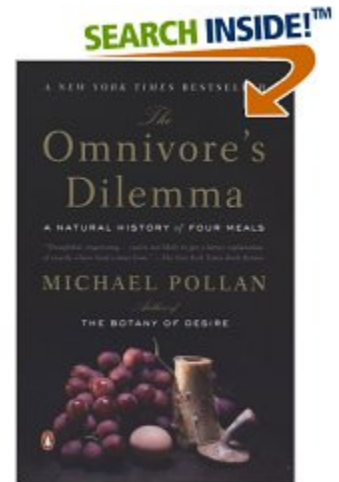
## The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals

*Author:* Michael Pollan

*Publisher:* Penguin , 2007

This book was recommended to us by **Carol Gundersen**, the founder and director of the Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farm:

“In his book *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, Michael Pollan traces meals from very different food systems--including industrial, organic, and hunter-gatherer--to their sources. Pollan's journalistic approach shows the reader the impacts of these different meals not only on our own health and that of our children, but the health of the environment which sustains life on earth.”



**Carol Gundersen** is the founder and director of the Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farm, a nonprofit education agency partnering with a working farm to reconnect urban youth with the source of their food through farm-based food education programs. You can learn more about the project at: [www.foodliteracyproject.org](http://www.foodliteracyproject.org)

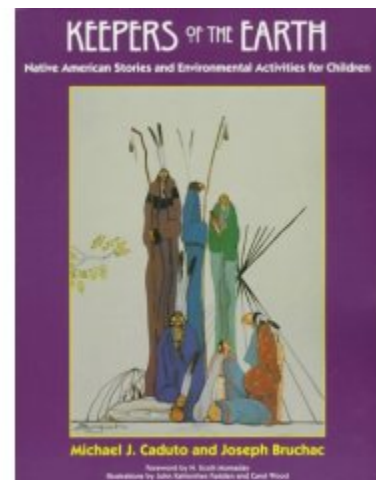
## Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children

*Authors:* Michael J. Caduto & Joseph Bruchac

*Publisher:* Fulcrum Publishing, 1999

This book was recommended to us by **Darleen Horton**, the chairperson of the outdoor classroom committee for the Partnership for a Green City:

“*Keepers of the Earth, Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children*, by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac, and illustrated by Carol Wood, John Kahionhes Fadden and Ka-Hon-Hes, is one in a series of *Keepers* books. I have found this book to be a delightful way to combine teaching science and social studies with a heavy emphasis on environmental awareness. Each story is



accompanied by an activity and questions that make the Native American stories relevant today. It opens the door for creative and thought provoking discussion on the environment. This book is an excellent springboard for helping children connect to the natural world. It makes wonderful connections to studies of the environment. I heartily recommend this book for educators!"

**Darleen Horton** is a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching and the Ashland Teacher Award. She also was named the Environmental Educator of the Year in 2003 by the Jefferson Community Department of Soil and Water Conservation.

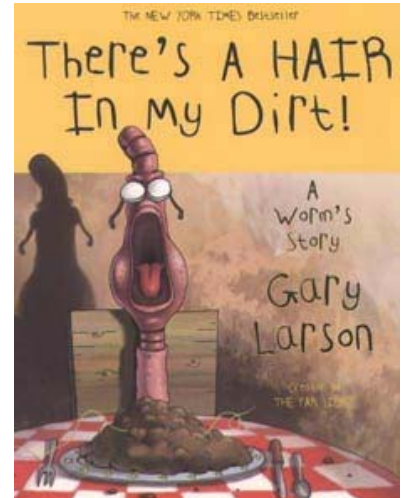
**Darleen Horton** also recommended:

### **THERE'S A HAIR IN MY DIRT! A Worm's Story.**

*Author:* Gary Larson

*Publisher:* no information

*"There's A Hair in My Dirt!,* by Gary Larson is a great read It uses humor and Larson's famous cartoon style illustrations to bring home environmental issues in a way that leaves the reader laughing and asking important questions at the same time. This is a book that approaches environmental issues in a new and somewhat unconventional way. It is not often that a worm tells such an interesting and engaging tale! The one issue that must be mentioned and addressed is that worms do NOT eat dirt! Even this point opens the door for correcting this common misconception; teaching the many values of worms to soil and to the environment!



As an educator for more than three decades, I have discovered that teaching children to be responsible keepers and caretakers of our environment is a primary role of educators.

Teaching in an elementary science lab allows me to help students make connections across all parts of the curriculum. Creating outdoor classrooms has become a passion. It allows students an opportunity to have hands-on experiences to help them increase their understanding and appreciation of earth, life, physical and environmental science, as well as observe first hand the beauty of nature."

### **The Unsettling of America: Culture & Agriculture**

*Authors:* Wendell Berry

*Publisher:* Random House (1982)

This book was recommended to us by **Barbara Kingsolver**. Barbara Kingsolver was born in 1955 in Annapolis, Maryland, and grew up in rural Kentucky. She counts among her most important early influences: the Bookmobile, a large family vegetable garden, the surrounding fields and woods, and parents who were tolerant of nature study (anything but snakes and mice could be kept in the house), but intolerant of TV.

Kingsolver's short fiction and poetry began to be published during the mid-1980's, along with the articles she wrote regularly for regional and national periodicals. She wrote her first novel, *The Bean Trees*, entirely at night, in the abundant free time made available by chronic insomnia during pregnancy. Completed just before the birth of her first child, in March 1987, the novel was published by HarperCollins the following year with a modest first printing. Widespread critical acclaim and word-of-mouth support have kept the book continuously in print since then.

She has written eleven more books since then, including the novels *Animal Dreams*, *Pigs in Heaven*, *The Poisonwood Bible*, and *Prodigal Summer*. (This information from the official website of the author <http://www.kingsolver.com/about/about.asp>)

