

Harlo H. Hadow
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“There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot.” Aldo Leopold

Like Aldo Leopold I am a person who cannot live happily without wild things and places. That was driven home pointedly to me my first fall of teaching at Coe College. I had moved from Durango, Colorado where I walked to my teaching position every morning gaining some 600 feet of elevation through seminatural foothills. In Cedar Rapids, I walked to Coe along a 3-lane highway through the heart of town. In late September, after teaching for 3 weeks I was a delegate from Coe to a workshop at the brand-new A.C.M. Wilderness Field Station. Driving north of the Twin Cities I was aware of my spirits soaring for the first time in a month as cities and agricultural lands gave way to forests and bogs. I spent my weekend in the incredibly lovely Near-Boreal landscapes around Low Lake and the new field station and began a love affair with that place which has lasted for 26 years.

I once heard a bear biologist introduce himself to a symposium as a “wilderness freak.” I unabashedly accept that designation for myself, although I hope I am a wilderness educator as well. I have taught at the Wilderness Field Station most years since 1980, and have directed at least one session each year since 1987. I directed students doing independent studies with the A.C.M. Tropical Field Studies Program in Costa Rica on 3 semester-long occasions. I have also taught outdoor classes in the desert Southwest and Winter Urban Ecology in Cedar Rapids often during Coe’s Winter Terms. I find teaching in wild settings exciting, rewarding, my favorite teaching experiences.

By graduate training I am a vertebrate behavioral ecologist with eclectic tastes. I have worked with communication, growth and development and ecology of various woodpeckers in the United States and Central America, with salamander population dynamics in Iowa, and with urban deer populations in Cedar Rapids, and Iowa City. I teach several vertebrate courses including Human Anatomy, Comparative Chordate Anatomy, Embryology, Ornithology and Vertebrate Natural History. My Masters and Ph.D. degrees are from the University of Colorado Boulder.

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, we will understand only what we are taught.” Senegalese conservationist Baba Dioum quoted by E.O. Wilson in *The Diversity of Life*.