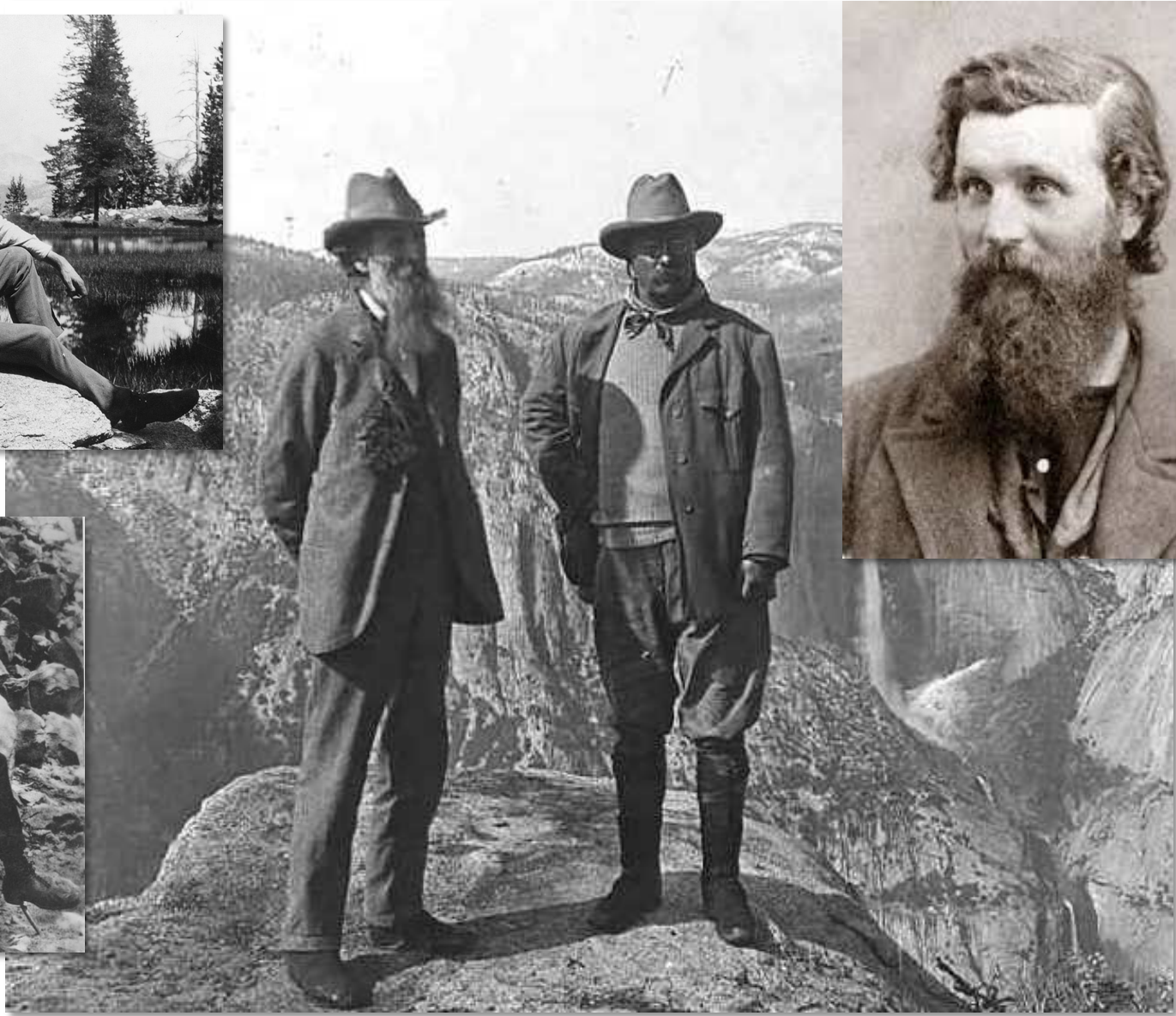
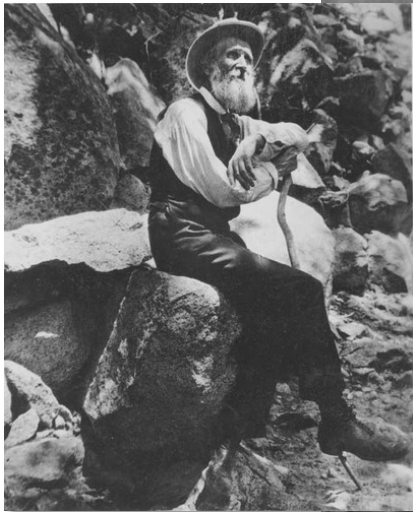
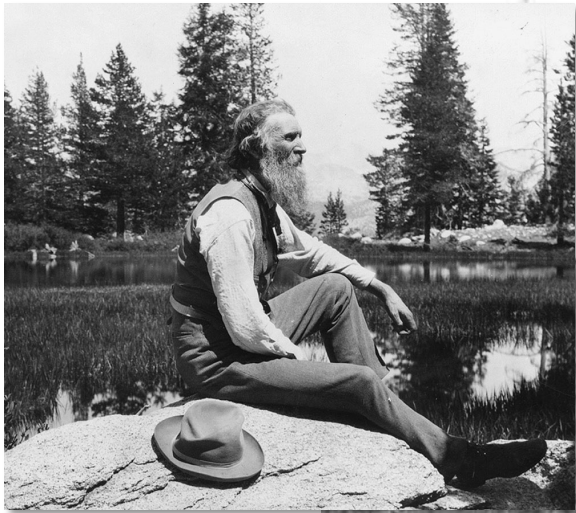


# John Muir Day — April 21

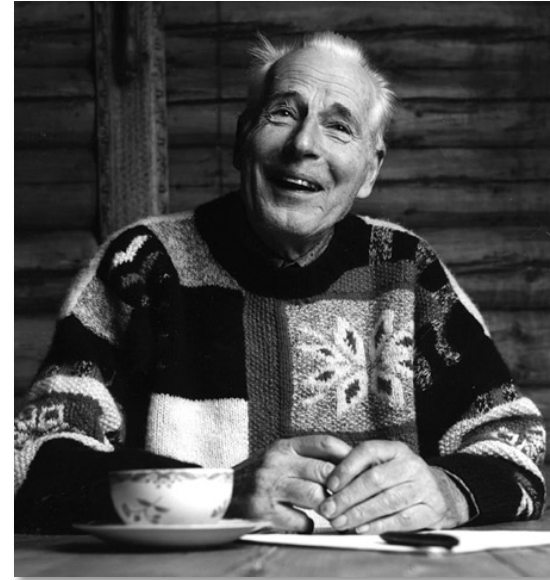


# Deep Ecology

# Arne Naess

Arne Naess was a Norwegian philosopher (teaching at Oslo). Having read Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962), he developed the ideas now known as "Deep Ecology" (or ecosophy: eco-wisdom).

Pictured in his cabin retreat (Tvergastein) in Norway.



Arne Naess  
(1912-2009)

# Deep Ecology as a New Philosophy

**Ecological:** A philosophy that understands humans as part of a systemic web of dynamic relationships between living beings, in the context of a changing physical environment.

**Deep:** Biocentric and holistic, not anthropocentric and individualistic.

## Deep vs Shallow Ecology

Naess sought a more appropriate way to understand human existence that took account of ecological science.

**Shallow ecology** keeps modern consumer society intact: Consume, but also recycle!

**Deep ecology** shifts what we value and how we perceive the world and our place in it.

# The Heart of Deep Ecology

(1) **Self-Realization**: the move from the self-as-ego to self-as-all (*atman*)

(2) **Identification with Nature**

“Identification is a spontaneous, non-rational, but not irrational, process through which the interest or interests of another being are reacted to as our own interest or interests.” (*Ecosophy T* [1985])

## When Interests Conflict ...

### (1) The **More Vital** has Priority

Life of individuals and integrity of species over mere comfort or curiosity.

### (2) The **More Near** has Priority

Care for family, for neighbors, etc.

## Values are Objective

- (1) Animals have intrinsic value.
- (2) Animals have a right to live (apart from any use they have to humans).
- (3) Nature does not belong to humans.
- (4) Nature is worth defending, whatever the fate of humans.
- (5) A wilderness area has a value independent of human access to it.



# Main Problems to Overcome

Problems that Naess identified in 1985:

- (1) Growing Militarization.
- (2) Population growth.
- (3) Economic Growth.
- (4) Habitat destruction.

## Deep Ecology Platform (1985)

- (1) Life is intrinsically valuable.
- (2) Diversity is good.
- (3) When needs conflict: we may interfere with nature only to protect vital human needs.
- (4) Reduce human interference.
- (5) Reduce human population.
- (6) Change policies.
- (7) Change ideologies.
- (8) Become agents of change.

# Ecology: Shallow and Deep

Summary comparison of shallow and deep ecology (from Arne Naess, "Ecosophy T: Deep versus Shallow Ecology," 1985)

<b>Shallow Ecology</b>	<b>Deep Ecology</b>
Natural diversity is valuable as a resource for us.	Natural diversity has its own (intrinsic) value.
It is nonsense to talk about value except as value for mankind.	Equating value with value for humans reveals a racial prejudice.
Plant species should be saved because of their value as genetic reserves for human agriculture and medicine.	Plant species should be saved because of their intrinsic value.
Pollution should be decreased if it threatens economic growth.	Decrease of pollution has priority over economic growth.
Third World population growth threatens ecological equilibrium.	World population at the present level threatens ecosystems but the population and behavior of industrial states more than that of any others. Human population is today excessive.
'Resource' means resource for humans.	'Resource' means resource for living beings.
People will not tolerate a broad decrease in their standard of living.	People should not tolerate a broad decrease in the quality of life but in the standard of living in overdeveloped countries.
Nature is cruel, and necessarily so.	Man is cruel, but not necessarily so.

## Discuss with your Neighbors

What kind of ecologist was  
Aldo Leopold?  
Deep or shallow?

