

# Ecological Literacy and Outdoor Leadership

A look at Paul Petzoldt and the future of outdoor ethics

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## Discussion Topic

Ecological Literacy *needs* to be a part of professional outdoor leader qualifications.

## Questions

1. Why should I learn about trees in order to teach how to climb rocks?
2. Is it time for another shift in outdoor ethics?

What are some of the problems that are facing the world?



In what ways does the outdoor industry address these issues?


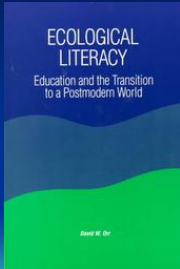
What are the industry standards for outdoor leader qualifications?



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# Ecological Literacy

David W. Orr

## Ecological Literacy con't

"...implies a broad understanding of how people and societies relate to each other and to natural systems,... It presumes both an awareness of the interrelatedness of life and knowledge of how the world works as a physical system." (Orr, 1992 pg 92)

## The current scientific paradigm shift

- An ethic based "...on the domination of nature...is being replaced by a world view based on...the interconnectedness of all things and the human place in the network."

Carolyn Merchant, 1994

## The Outdoor Ethic Timeline.

- 1965** — NOLS was founded
- 1974** — *The Wilderness Handbook*
- 1984** — *The New Wilderness Handbook*, (the WEA)
- Mid 90's** — Leave No Trace



1965  
1974  
1984  
1995

**2009**

- Is it time for another shift in outdoor ethics?

## What is the solution?

Gaining a Global Ethic  
-The Backcountry Classroom 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

## Environmental Ethics Chapter

- Steps to gaining a global ethic
  1. Gain an *outdoor* ethic (LNT)
  2. turn this into a personal *environmental* ethic.
  3. Then move to a *professional* ethic,
  4. Then a *community* ethic,
  5. Then to a *state/national* ethic;
  6. and finally to a *global* ethic. (Drury, Bonney, Berman, Wagstaff, 2005)



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## Conclusions

- Paul Petzoldt
  - The new outdoor ethic needs to stem from leader qualifications
  - A leader not trained in conservation techniques will harm the places they go.
  - Today, a leader not trained in systems of the Earth will harm the places they don't go.
- What is the new ethic?
  - Without a Global Ethic, professional outdoor leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will harm the environments they do not utilize.

“In the end we will conserve only what we love. We love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught,”  
- Baba Dioum

Where do we go from here?