Every outdoors paradise needs a Leopold Bench

Looking for a project to occupy the kids’ time during these socially distant times? Build a classic Leopold bench via these handy plans. No self-respecting conservationist or private-land manager should own a piece of property without a Leopold Bench for calmly sipping a cup of coffee while viewing birds and other wildlife. Named for the great pioneering wildlife biologist and scientist Aldo Leopold (shown upper right), this bench is easy to build, requires modest skills, materials, and a couple of hours of time. Via a similar bench, Leopold observed nature and scribbled a steady stream of notes that eventually would form some of his writing in 1949’s “A Sand County Almanac,” one of the world’s foremost books on the topic of conservation.

Learn more about Aldo Leopold and see a new 2020 edition of “A Sand County Almanac” to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day at The Leopold Foundation at aldoleopold.org.

REMEMBER: SAFETY FIRST!

Cut legs from your 10-foot 2X8 at 60-degree angles. Sides (also from 2X8) and legs are parallelograms. Cut bevel edge for back/arm rest. Mark seat height at 15 5/8 inches. Align legs to marked seat height and drill holes through both legs for bolts.

Pin holes with bolts as you drill holes to ensure perfect fit. Tighten all nuts. Screw in seat and backrest. After assembly, paint or stain to your own preferences. The back-open design allows you to use the backrest as a steadying armrest.

Materials List
• Backrest: 2X6 – 4 feet
• Seat: 2X10 – 45 inches
• Sides and Legs: 2X8 – 10 feet
• Carriage bolts: (6) 3⁄8-inch by 3.5-inch, washers and nuts
• Wood screws (12) No.12 or No.14

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