



NEWS ADVISORY

USDA FOREST SERVICE • FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

One Gifford Pinchot Drive • Madison, WI 53726-2398 • Web site: www.fpl.fs.fed.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NR # 20050222-1

February 22, 2005

Contact: **George Couch, (608) 231-9295**

E-mail: gcouch@fs.fed.us

NEW DOCUMENTARY TRACES EVOLUTION OF NATIONAL FOREST USE ETHIC Midwest Premier in Baraboo March 4 Begins Aldo Leopold Weekend

A new two-hour documentary movie about the century-long effort to find a balance between conservation, preservation and utilization of the nation's forests will have its Midwest premier Friday, March 4, at the historic Al. Ringling Theatre in Baraboo, Wis. The film will be introduced by Sally Collins, associate chief of the USDA Forest Service, which produced the movie to mark the agency's 100th anniversary.

The premier will begin at 6:30 p.m. and is expected to conclude by 9 p.m. Admission is free.

The regional premier of *The Greatest Good*, narrated by Charles Osgood, is the kickoff event for the annual Aldo Leopold Weekend, sponsored by the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo.

Leopold, who promoted the idea of preserving some areas as "wilderness" while working for the USDA Forest Service in Arizona, figures prominently in the documentary. Leopold later wrote his popular book, *A Sand County Almanac*, after moving to Wisconsin to become assistant director at the Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison and later joining the University of Wisconsin faculty.

Expected guests at the premier who also appear in the film, include Aldo's daughter, Nina Leopold Bradley; Mike Dombeck, former chief of the U.S. Forest Service; and Leopold biographer Curt Meine.

The Al. Ringling Theatre in Baraboo, in continuous operation since 1915, is considered a masterpiece of the ornate European architectural style. Recent renovations have restored its original splendor.

"*The Greatest Good*" uses rarely seen footage and photos and dozens of interviews and sweeping aerial landscape photography to tell the complex story of the U.S. Forest Service and the effort to conserve disappearing natural resources and to maximize the social benefits from those resources.

In addition to the Forest Service, the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the Ringling Theatre, sponsors of the Baraboo premier included the UW Baraboo/Sauk County, Larson Automotive and Wegner Consulting.

Additional information about the film and a trailer can be viewed at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/greatestgood/links.shtml>

Information about the Baraboo premier can be obtained from the Aldo Leopold Foundation, (608)355-0279, or mail@aldoleopold.org; or from the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory: (608)231-9200 or mailroom_forest_products_laboratory@fs.fed.us

###