



A Conservationist Manifesto

By Scott Russell Sanders

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As an antidote to the destructive culture of consumption dominating American life today, Scott Russell Sanders calls for a culture of conservation that allows us to savor and preserve the world, instead of devouring it. How might we shift to a more durable and responsible way of life? What changes in values and behavior will be required? Ranging geographically from southern Indiana to the Boundary Waters Wilderness and culturally from the Bible to billboards, Sanders extends the visions of Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, and Rachel Carson to our own day. A Conservationist Manifesto shows the crucial relevance of a conservation ethic at a time of mounting concern about global climate change, depletion of natural resources, extinction of species, and the economic inequities between rich and poor nations. The important message of this powerful book is that conservation is not simply a personal virtue but a public one.

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A Conservationist Manifesto By Scott Russell Sanders **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In these predictable but frequently insightful essays, Sanders (*Writing from the Center*) muses on how to care for the Earth, local communities and future generations. He condemns the mainstream American way of life as an infantile dream of endless consumption, endless novelty, and endless play and, calling for a dream worthy of grownups, explores ways to realize this dream, such as his own decision to stay put in one place and discover that his ambition was not to make a good career but to make a good life and remain attentive to nature and the present moment. Sanders offers a 40-point Conservationist Manifesto, which, in its thoroughness, thoughtfulness and inclusion of environmental justice issues would serve the environmentalist community well. But the most original and intriguing ideas in this book are Sanders's thoughts about words and their meanings, as when he suggests that for a season we make explicit the meaning of consumers by replacing it with devourers, or that wilderness is a Sabbath of space rather than time, and we need both kinds of Sabbath because Earth could use a respite from our demands. (Apr.)

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From [Booklist](#)

How should we act in response to alarming environmental havoc? As with every great endeavor, such as the abolition of slavery, what's needed is a declaration of values and intent. A manifesto. Sanders, a proven voice of reason and clarity, offers exactly such a document in the hope of shaping an effective green movement. But first he has some stories to share, terms to define, and fresh perspectives to establish. Writing lucidly and stirringly from his home base in Indiana, Sanders views preserving wilderness as a Sabbath in space instead of in time. People who practice an "ethic of restraint" are ark builders because their simpler ways of living are "vessels" holding the wisdom we need to survive the "rising flood" of environmental concerns. Sanders writes crisply about what it really means to call a place home; reminds us of our "common wealth," the living world; and decries "endless consumption." Generosity of spirit and love of life underpin Sanders' 40-point blueprint for ecological health. --Donna Seaman

Review

"In this beautifully poetic set of meditations on conservation, Sanders issues a clarion call for reversing society's present path of ecological devastation and offers reflections on ways that individuals and society might provide better stewardship of the earth now and for future generations to come.... [His] eloquent book is a must-read for anyone committed to taking care of the natural world and passing it along to future generations." -- ForeWord, March/April 2009

"Insightful essays... original and intriguing.... Sanders offers a 40-point Conservationist Manifesto, which, in its thoroughness, thoughtfulness and inclusion of environmental justice issues would serve the environmentalist community well." -- Publishers Weekly, February 2, 2009

"A seasoned professor and writer of fiction and non-fiction has given us the benefit of his journey in the worlds of literature, natural history, and religious philosophy. But A Conservationist Manifesto is more than

that. Scott Russell Sanders's elegant writing reminds us once again that it is above all, through style that power defers to reason." -- Wes Jackson, President, The Land Institute

"Sanders's A Conservationist Manifesto is a book to be savored -- for its language, its stories, its sense of place, and for how it reminds us of the profound relationships with nature and each other that can inspire us to change how we live on this planet.... A must read for all of us who are wrestling with the future of conservation and searching for how to express the values that will take us to a greener and more sustainable future" -- Will Rogers, President, The Trust for Public Land

"[Sanders] writes beautiful prose and never fails to stir our souls and imaginations.... In this awesome new book... Sanders outlines the practical, ecological, and ethical grounds for a conservation ethic." -- Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, Spirituality & Practice, April 2009

"... [T]his is a beautiful, right-minded, and reinforcing book for all who would be conservationists.... Scott Sanders gives us one of the most graceful tellings of our plight, with many examples of people protecting or restoring what counts.... We've never been more keenly in need of his loving manual for conserving what he calls 'the basic grammar of life.'" -- Robert Michael Pyle, Orion Magazine, May/June 2009

"Sanders' style is full of the imagery and poetic prose of Aldo Leopold, the philosophic wanderings of Henry David Thoreau, and includes Wendell Berry's vital sense of place. A Conservationist Manifesto is sure to find its way on those treasured lists of must reads." -- Lynn Jenkins, Indiana Living Green, May/June 2009

"A Conservationist Manifesto is a rich book and like a rich wine or rich dessert, it is meant to be savored. Sanders sees beyond the mass destruction of consumerism and prophetically calls us to the redemptive work of conserving creation and connecting deeply with our neighbors and the places in which we live." -- Chris Smith, Englewood Review of Books, Vol. 2, #22

Users Review

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Angelita Estes:

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