

Rachel Carson

Rachel Carson (1907-1964) immersed herself in nature and shared with us the sense of wonder and delight she found there. She grew up in western Pennsylvania, and obtained her bachelor's degree in zoology from the Pennsylvania School for Women (now Chatham University) in Pittsburgh. Carson became an aquatic biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, toiling in the bureau for fifteen years, first as a feature writer, then as an editor-in-chief.

Carson's essay 'Undersea', published in the Atlantic Monthly in 1937, introduces us to the ocean world. In her first book, Under the Sea-Wind (1941), we follow the adventures of a gull, a mackerel, and an eel as they journey over, and through, the ocean. Her next publication, The Sea Around Us (1951), is filled with breathtaking images: a newly formed earth journeying through the blackness of space, enormous tides rolling unchecked across our globe, centuries-long rains falling from coarse gray clouds that envelope the planet, gigantic whales that dive to depths of half a mile and grapple with squid over fifty feet long, fragile sea creatures that swim in the enormous pressures of the ocean's depth, and the constant snowfall of minute pelagic life that defines our seafloor. The Edge of the Sea (1955) describes the striated bands of life that have existed along continental shores since the dawn of the Cambrian era. (The book contains an appendix that identifies Who's Who in the marine community.) Taken together, these writings make the ocean and its creatures a brilliant reality.

In 1952 Carson resigned from her government position to concentrate on her writing. While continuing to study the biological sciences at the graduate school of Johns Hopkins University, she turned her attention to the problems being created by the introduction of synthetic chemicals into our surroundings. The result was Silent Spring (1962), a book that initiated a series of academic debates on the use of toxic compounds, the limits of technological progress, and the ultimate responsibility of science. It also changed the course of our history. Written at a time when thoughts of the Cold War dominated our policy and life, Silent Spring focused America's attention onto the contamination of its surroundings. Carson made environmental concerns fashionable; she made them a cause célèbre.

When Silent Spring was first published, the mild-mannered author met ferocious resistance from America's multi-million-dollar chemical industry - and our government, quite frankly, who first viewed her as an outspoken bottom feeder. Carson testified before Congress that the deliberate interjection of dangerous compounds into the world around us adversely affects our genetic heritage. She pointed out that we've risked far too much in our effort to mold nature to our satisfaction. As a result of the hearings, a nationwide ecological movement sprang up that led to a ban on DDT and the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A woman of exceptional integrity and moral courage, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Carson - [cite_note-CarsonPaull-3Rachel_Carson](#) remains today an example of how a single individual can alter the massive thrust of an entire society.

Essay by Bill Lounsbury

KRL has many books by and about Rachel Carson.



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editor: Ray Pardo

raypardo@gmail.com

Guided Beach Walk: Manchester State Park

Tuesday, July 25th 12:00 - 2:00 pm Kids of all Ages

Call 871-3921 or register online

Harbor WildWatch naturalists and volunteers will lead a guided beach walk at Manchester State Park. Meet at the Manchester State Park beach and look for the blue canopy on the beach and/or volunteers and naturalists dressed in blue shirts and hats.

SPECIAL EVENT

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Manchester Library is 70 Years Old this Year

You Are All Invited to the Birthday Party

Wednesday, July 26th, 3 pm to 6 pm

Refreshments will be Served !

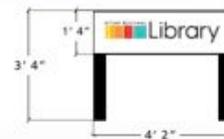
Mary J. Sanford, who owned the local Manchester Shopping Mart and was a member of the county's rural library board, donated a corner of her business to be the library, which opened July 1, 1947. In 1953 the library moved temporarily into the Manchester Improvement Club building, and the following year into a 16-foot by 24-foot modular building on Port of Manchester property.

In 1976 the Friends of the Manchester Library became a registered nonprofit organization, sought a loan to build a permanent library building, and with a grant from Kitsap Regional Library, donations, and many hours of volunteer construction, the building was completed in 1980.

We hope to have some attendees who remember the first library!!

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Kitsap Regional Library Proposes a New Sign As a Companion to Our Current Sign with the Salmon



Let us know what you think !! Write the Editor or email our President Ralph Nelson RNelson000@aol.com