

Rachel Carson

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.” – Rachel Carson



Rachel Louise Carson was born on May 11, 1907 in rural Pennsylvania, where she explored the forests and rivers surrounding her farm. At a young age, she developed a love for both nature and writing. At the age of 10, her writing was published in a children’s magazine. In 1925, Rachel started Pennsylvania College for Women as an English major but then she switched her major to biology. She got a fellowship at the U.S. Marine Laboratory in Massachusetts and completed her graduate at Johns Hopkins University on a scholarship.

In 1935, she took a position with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries where she created radio programs on marine life. She became junior aquatic biologist, making her only 1 of 2 women to work with the Bureau on a professional level. Her articles on nature and conservation were published regularly in the Baltimore Sun.



During WWII, she helped the Navy by investigating undersea sounds, life, and terrain, which would help identify submarines. She published her first book, Under the Sea Wind in 1941 and in 1943 became the aquatic biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She then became editor-in-chief of all U.S. Fish and Wildlife publications.

In 1951, she published her second book, The Sea Around Us, which was a best-seller for 81 weeks. She resigned from her position at the Service to publish her third book, The Edge of the Sea.

Her last book, Silent Spring was her most well-known and encourages preservation of the environment and describes the dangers of pesticides. The pesticide industry tried to discredit her as a result.

Rachel worked hard to preserve our environment and as she once said, “Man’s endeavors to control nature by his powers to alter and destroy would inevitably evolve into a war against himself, A war he would lose unless he came to terms with.”

Carson died from in 1964 at the age of 57 and the Fish and Wildlife Service named one of its reserves after her.

