

PROFILE

Rachel Carson 1907 - 1964

Best known for her text *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson was a leading American ecologist, scientist and writer who devoted her life to understanding nature and the interrelationship of humanity with the environment. Rachel was born in Pennsylvania in 1907 and pursued her love of nature through studies at Pennsylvania College for Women (Chatham University), Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory, and John Hopkins University from which she received her MA in Zoology in 1932.

Her greatest legacy resulted from awareness-raising of the long-term effects of the misuse of synthetic chemical pesticides. This courageous woman took on chemical companies and

governments who labelled her 'alarmist' but, through arguing that humans too are part of the natural world and so subject to the same effects, she was able to challenge land use practices and change the way humanity viewed the natural world. DDT was banned as a result.

Because of her commitment to understanding the natural world and sharing this knowledge through her writing, Rachel has been described as the trusted public voice of science and the finest nature writer of the twentieth century. Rachel's works included *Undersea* (1937), *Under the Sea-Wind* (1941), *The Sea Around Us* and *The Edge of the Sea* (1955). Sustainability was at the heart of her work, for she fully understood not only humanity's integral relationship with the natural world but also man's ability to change it, sometimes irreversibly.

Rachel died in 1964, following a prolonged battle with breast cancer.

