

**A Shared Environmental Vision**  
*The Sisters Visit with Nina Leopold Bradley*

“What an honor to spend time with such an articulate and passionate woman as Nina Leopold Bradley,” said Sister Mary David, prioress at Holy Wisdom Monastery.

Nina, one of three honorary co-chairs for the monastery building campaign, met recently with Sister Mary David, Sister Joanne Kollasch and Betsy Liotus, executive director of the Benedictine Life Foundation, for an update.

Nina, a plant ecologist, is the daughter of legendary conservationist, forester and founder of the modern environmental ethics movement Aldo Leopold. As such, she is particularly pleased with the many “green” elements of the new building. These include geothermal heating and cooling, green roofs, rain barrel irrigation and solar.

“If we can just educate people and offer good examples of how to live in alignment with nature rather than in opposition to it, good things will happen,” said Nina.

The visit took place at Nina’s home located on 1600 acres in Baraboo, Wisconsin, just a few miles from the [Aldo Leopold Legacy Center](#). Her days begin with a morning swim in a once sediment-filled kettle hole that is now a clean, clear reservoir that her husband Charles, a geologist for many years at Montana State University, used to call a “window into the groundwater below.”

Nina also enjoys gardening, a passion shared by the sisters. Her drip-irrigated garden fairly burst with blueberries, asparagus, tomatoes and a myriad of other vegetation.

“Gardening is therapeutic for me,” noted Nina.

“What is most amazing,” said Sister Joanne, reflecting on the visit, “is that way back in 1935, Aldo Leopold anticipated the need so prominent today to live in harmony with the earth.”



*Nina Leopold Bradley (in pink) opens her home to Sisters Mary David and Joanne.*