

A lush forest scene with large trees and ferns. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a warm, golden glow. The forest floor is covered in dense green ferns and moss. A large, moss-covered log lies in the foreground. The text is centered in a white box.

An Interview With Dr. Alan Drengson

By Sophia Schwandt

Who Is Dr. Alan Drengson?

- Dr. Alan Drengson is a philosopher, author, poet, artist and retired professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at UVIC
- He was born in 1934
- As a child Dr. Drengson and his brother were fascinated by nature, and spent much of their time climbing, skiing, mountaineering building and wilderness journeying
- He moved to Victoria and began teaching at UVIC in 1968
- Dr. Drengson follows the philosophy of Deep Ecology and calls his own personal Ecosophy the “Wild Way”, which is the subject of one of his books

What Is “Deep Ecology”?

- In short, Deep Ecology is a form of environmentalism which considers humans as a part of a highly diverse and interconnected ecosystem
- Deep Ecology, as contrasted with so-called “Shallow Ecology”, rejects an anthropocentric model in which humans are considered “above” the rest of the ecosystem
- Deep Ecology considers humans as a species equal to all other species and natural systems, and therefore unable to exploit these systems in an ethical way
- Deep Ecologists advocate for radical societal change to challenge the *root* of environmental issues as opposed to the “damage control” of Shallow Ecology

My Interview

- I met with Dr. Drengson on Thursday, January 10th at 12:00 on the Uvic campus
- I organized the interview thanks to help from Jane Drengson, Dr. Drengson's daughter
- I captured one hour and fourteen minutes of footage of the interview, which I have cut up into a few clips as part of this presentation

Special Thanks To:

- Dr. Alan Drengson, for his time and for graciously gifting me five of his books
- Ms. Jane Drengson, for her help with organizing
- Anthony Gutierrez, for lending me his camera and teaching me how to edit video
- Mr. Mark Neufeld, for inspiring me to make this interview happen

