

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Camille McDuffie
Goldberg McDuffie Communications
(212)446-5106
cmcduffie@goldbergmcduffie.com

**“If you had to choose but one environmental book this season,
make it *American Earth*.”**

~ Booklist (starred review)

AMERICAN EARTH

ENVIRONMENTAL WRITING SINCE THOREAU

Bill McKibben, editor • Foreword by Al Gore

This April 22nd, The Library of America will mark Earth Day 2008 with the first definitive anthology of American environmental writing: **AMERICAN EARTH: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau** (hardcover, \$40.00), edited by **Bill McKibben** with a foreword by **Al Gore**.

“Every important advance in American environmentalism,” according to writer and activist Bill McKibben, “has coincided with” sprung from “some piece of writing, some book. We can’t afford those voices to die out.” Now, as America and the world grapple with global ecological challenges, McKibben offers an unprecedented and timely anthology gathering the best that has been thought and said about the interconnectedness of the natural world, our place in it, and our responsibility to it. Touchstones of the environmental imagination—the essays of Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, and John Burroughs; Aldo Leopold’s *A Sand County Almanac*, and Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*—are set alongside the inspiring story of an emerging activist movement, as revealed by newly uncovered narratives of pioneering campaigns for wilderness conservation, passages from landmark legal opinions and legislation, and searing protest speeches.

Here are some of America's greatest and most impassioned writers whose urgent search for a sustainable way of life created a tradition of writing, thinking and activism of defining importance to our country and the world. Thought-provoking essays on overpopulation, consumerism, energy policy, and the nature of "nature" join an ecologist's memoirs and intimate sketches of the habits of endangered species. George Catlin witnesses the sublime spectacle of a bison herd; Theodore Roosevelt makes a stirring speech at the edge of the Grand Canyon; E.B. White and Jonathan Schell address the hazards of the nuclear age; David Quammen describes catastrophic losses to the earth's biodiversity; Rick Bass celebrates the return of the wolf to Yosemite. Lyrics by Joni Mitchell and writings by Barbara Kingsolver, Barry Lopez, Michael Pollan and other contemporary authors/activists add a particular sense of urgency to the volume. This unrivaled collection features an 80-page color portfolio of images, biographical notes on the writers, and a detailed chronology of American environmentalism and American environmental history.

“The book, being published on Earth Day, can be read as a survey of the literature of American environmentalism, but above all, it should be enjoyed for the sheer beauty of the writing.”

~ Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Log on to the book's companion website for more information: www.americanearth.org

Editor **Bill McKibben** is the author of many books including *The End of Nature* (1989), the first account of global warming for a general audience, and most recently *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* (2007). Since 2006, he has organized the largest demonstrations against the causes of global climate change in American history. He is a scholar-in-residence at Middlebury College.

Beginning its second quarter century in 2008, **The Library of America** (www.loa.org) is an award-winning nonprofit publisher dedicated to preserving America's best and most significant writing in handsome, enduring volumes, featuring authoritative texts. Hailed as "the most important book-publishing project in the nation's history" (*Newsweek*), this acclaimed series now features over 180 volumes.

American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau

The Library of America

April 22, 2008

Hardcover \$40.00

ISBN: 978-1-59853-020-9