

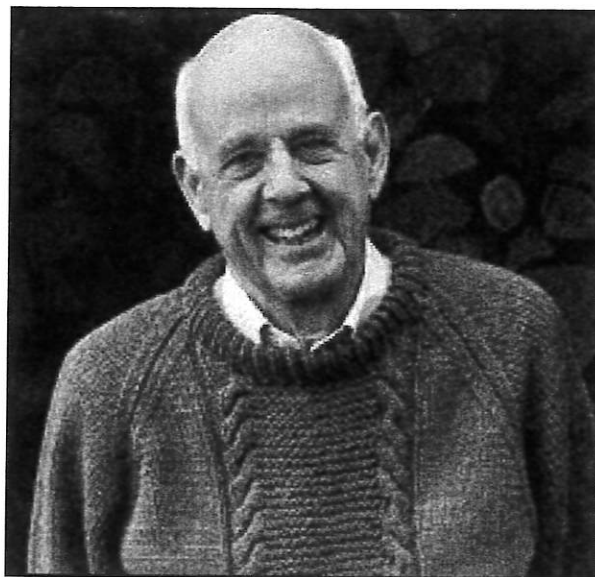
A Book Report

by Rebecca Goodman - FFD Board Member

THE CITIZENSHIP PAPERS

2013

by Wendell Berry



Wendell Berry

Wendell Berry (born 1928) is an American novelist, poet, essayist, environmental activist, cultural critic and farmer. He is an elected member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, a recipient of the National Humanities Medal and the Jefferson Lecturer for 2012

I admit to preferring reading fiction, especially the historical kind, but enjoy mixing it up with non-fiction. My mate, Jim Goodman and I stopped by New Castle, KY, home of The Berry Center, on a road trip in 2018. We wanted to visit the farm of Food Sovereignty Prize Winners in Henry County, the land Wendell Berry calls home. I purchased his book there and finally got to it.

Wendell Berry is a thought-filled man who knows how to ask the questions. The *Citizenship Papers* is a collection of some of Berry's essays and speeches, 1997-2003, much of which could have been written, like yesterday.

Ever present in Berry's non-fiction and fictional writings is the land, landscape, sense of place, and rural culture. You will find these themes in this book, as well as, thoughts of how to conduct ourselves in a post 9/11 World with a global economy equated to a weapon of mass destruction with the world as a factory and life as a commodity. Yikes!

Berry encourages one to expand their perspectives and rethink some long held philosophies. He also introduced a new idea for me to consider: Life as Miracle. All I need to do is turn my back on the "News of the Day" and look out the window or go for a walk to experience that miracle in the life that surrounds me.

Thank you Mr. Berry!