



Robert J. Olszewski

January 21, 1956 - April 19, 2016

"Heaven was blessed with the gift of Robert "Rob" Olszewski on April 19, 2016. He was born January 21, 1956 to Lottie (Magolan) Olszewski and Carl J. Olszewski in Wyandotte, Mi. Rob is survived by his wife Mary (Girard) Olszewski, their dog Mackie and his sister Carol (Olszewski) Schroeder, Mother and Father-in-law Duane and Bella Girard, brother and sister-in-laws; Dan (June) Girard, Wanda (Eric) Frimodig, Dennis (Helen) Girard, Nancy Downs, Mark (Kathryn) Girard, Elizabeth (Martin) Clark, numerous nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Rob's early love of the outdoors drew him to a career in forestry. He received his bachelor at Michigan Tech University in Forestry and a Master of Science degree in Forest Hydrology at the University of Georgia. In 2007 Michigan Tech recognized Rob as an Outstanding Alumnus. Rob loved guest lecturing at UGA. His alma maters were also important because he met Mary at MTU and they married at UGA in 1979.

Rob began his career in 1980 in Florida as the State Forest Hydrologist and then as the Forestry Association Director of Governmental Affairs. In 1993 it was on to the big city of Atlanta and corporate life, first with Georgia-Pacific and finally with Plum Creek as Vice President of Environmental Affairs. Rob was involved in several professional associations including Sustainable Forestry Initiative, National Alliance of Forest Owners, Forest Landowners Association and Advisory Committees at Auburn University and the University of Georgia. He was a true Icon in the industry.

Forestry wasn't his only passion. Rob loved his Detroit sports teams, especially the Tigers. Rob enjoyed researching and investing in the stock market. Many called him the stock "guru". Nothing gave Rob greater pleasure than walking around on his timberland with his dogs.

Rob's greatest legacy will be the strong relationships he forged. He will be terribly missed by his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: MD Anderson Cancer Center, PO Box 4486, Houston, TX 77210-4486 Credit card donations 1-800-525-5841 or www.mdanderson.org/gifts - choose "Fund designated by family"

* Please include the name Robert J Olszewski with your gift

Rob Olszewski Memorial Education Fund for Future Forest Leaders:

goodforforests.com "

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

APR **25**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Czopek Funeral Directors
2157 Oak Street
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 285-9000
info@czopekfuneraldirectors.com
<http://www.czopekfuneraldirectors.com>

Memorial Service

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Tribute Wall

BO

“ Reading about Rob's death in the Forestry Log was a real shock. We shared lunch time during the six months I spent with the Florida Forest Service in 1985. Quite a bit of our time was spent discussing career moves which would take us upward from the Forest Service - me to the IRS in Atlanta and Rob to G.P. where we would occasionally run into each other. He talked fondly often about you Mary. I was very sorry to hear the news and really valued his friendship.

Robert S. O'Rear

Bob O'Rear - December 30, 2016 at 10:12 AM

ML

“ I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Rob and his passion all things natural. He always had a keen grasp of the intellectual aspect of natural resources without losing the passion for its beauty. We have lost a great champion and a great guy. Rest in Peace.

Mike Lester

Mike Lester - May 02, 2016 at 11:26 AM

MO

Thank you Mike. I agree. Rob loved to be out walking in the woods or on the small lake in Wisconsin.

Mary Olszewski - May 02, 2016 at 04:49 PM

JH

“ Rob O. (as he was affectionately known) was always there with the science and reality of sustainable economic land use in a world full of politics, media ignorance and too many people who have never been on a farm. God always takes the good ones first. His range of knowledge and influence was great, Rob will be greatly missed by the forestry community and landwoners, all across the US.

John R Helms - April 25, 2016 at 12:39 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Robert J. Olszewski.



April 25, 2016 at 09:11 AM

“Aldo Leopold says, “There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot.” Rob O. was one who could not live without.

Rob needed to live with wild things! (And yes we think the Detroit Tigers and the UGA Bulldogs were somewhere in there also)

Our friend Dr. Drew Lanham writes, “We are born to this world with a limited number of heartbeats. As babes crying wet from our mother’s wombs we have our destinies set before us. As we grow to become who we are, the time for our being grows shorter, but the millions of heartbeats that are given to us come with something that there is no limit to--our passion.”

“Passion is the fuel that makes the heart beat more fervently. Passion is the fire that burns within each of us to make the limited time we’re given worthy.”

Rob’s passion was nature. The lakes, streams, forests, and wetlands were the places that pulled him in. A flock of greenheads--wings cupped and coming into the wind on a misty lake morning --or a swollen-necked whitetail buck--nose to ground and antlers gleaming in the last light of a chilly November evening were the reasons for living a life that was all too limited for Rob. In those moments of experiencing nature, I am sure that Rob Olszewski sometimes thought that maybe heaven was in a pine plantation.

Rob watched shoreline sunrises and salt marsh sunsets knowing that each one was special and in many ways, a limited opportunity to be in Creation as a living, feeling being with unlimited passion to give towards the love and protection and stewardship of the resources given to us.

Rob was a great friend to Rick and I. We will always remember him!

Rick Cantrell and Pat Layton

Pat Layton - April 25, 2016 at 08:45 AM

MO

Pat, he did love the pine plantations and the sugar maples and the red oaks.... Rob loves being in the woods.

Mary Olszewski - May 02, 2016 at 04:52 PM

MA

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Marlyn - April 25, 2016 at 07:20 AM

MM

“ Those we love remains with us
For love itself lives on
Cherish memory never fades
Because a love one is gone
Those we love can never be
More than a thought apart
For as long as their are memory's
They will live on in our hearts.
RIP Rob O. You will be missed.
Your coworker Marlyn

Marlyn minor - April 24, 2016 at 06:24 AM

MO

Thank you Marlyn. So very true

Mary Olszewski - May 02, 2016 at 04:53 PM

DT

“ We were always refreshed to see Rob at a meeting, an event, or just at the office. He was always kind, humurous, and encouraging to all of us. Rob was truly a friend to everyone he met and we all miss him dearly. Am praying for comfort and strength for you Mary.....you and Rob have been a great couple for many years!
Dennis & Francie

Dennis Taylor - April 23, 2016 at 06:17 PM

WJ

I was saddened to hear that Rob has passed away. He was a very professional person and a forward-thinking forester. I know his pain has ended and he can now be at peace. Rest in peace Rob O....
Walter Jarck

Walter Jarck - April 26, 2016 at 10:14 AM