



## Carl William Wolfe

May 2, 1936 - November 9, 2024

Carl William Wolfe, Jr. was born in Erie, PA. He passed away on Saturday, November 9 in Grand Island, NE in the presence of family.

In childhood, he developed a lifetime love for nature and the outdoors, spending much time exploring, fishing, and hunting small game and deer on his grandparents' farm near Wattsburg, PA, the shores of Lake Erie, and the surrounding rural area.

After graduating from Strong Vincent High School in 1954, he pursued an education in forestry at Penn State University- Mont Alto. Carl always said his year at Mont Alto was a highlight of his life. He was a member of the ROTC rifle team and a leader in producing the school yearbook, *The Sylvan*. He was also a member of the Tau Phi Delta fraternity. Carl spent his college summers as a lookout on a remote fire tower at Mt. Baker National Forest in Washington state.

He received his Bachelors Degree in Forest Management in 1958 and a Masters Degree in Wildlife Management in 1960.

In 1960, Carl moved to Nebraska and started a family and began his career with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission which spanned 41 years. There, he served as a biologist researching ringneck pheasants, grouse, and

white tail deer, and later as the coordinator for outdoor education. He was a frequent contributor to Nebraskaland magazine with both photography and narrative. Outside of work, he served on the boards of the Great Plains Trail Network and Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.

In retirement, Carl dedicated himself to volunteerism and continued pursuits as a biologist, spending time researching manatees in Florida, surveying Sandhill and Whooping cranes and studying bumblebees in Nebraska.

He felt a profound responsibility for the well-being of this earth, its inhabitants, and its resources, and was dedicated to educating himself and others about them. We will forever cherish his example, his many diverse talents, his kindness, thoughtfulness, sharp problem-solving skills, and his clever humor.

May every good memory carry your spirit, like the wind, to a place of peace, Dad. We will miss you.

Carl is the son of Carl and Mildred Wolfe (West) and is survived by four sons from his marriage to Nancy V. Wolfe (Eismann)- Jeffrey of Keno, OR; John (Sue), James (Kari), Joseph (Michelle), all of Lincoln, NE; and five grandchildren- Nolan, Clara, Ian, Elliana and Greyson; and brother-in-law Edwin R. Browning. Carl was a beloved uncle to nieces Terri Brigham (Earl), Jan Carlsen, and nephew, Steve Browning. He is fondly remembered by his friend and partner, Rae Ellen Syverson, with whom he shared many cherished years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Mary Alice Browning; his former spouse, Nancy V. Wolfe (Eismann); and spouse Estella M. Geis-Wolfe.

At Carl's request, no services will be held, only a private gathering of family and friends. Memorials, in lieu of flowers, may be made on his behalf to Rowe

Sanctuary, or the Wildlife Society.

# Tribute Wall

EL

“ *The Sierra Club greatly appreciated the expertise of Carl and his deep commitment to protecting the environment for our future and for our families. Sincere condolences to his family, friends and followers.*

*Elaine Giessel, past Chair  
Kansas Sierra Club*

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**Elaine** - November 20, 2024 at 02:52 PM

MB

“ *Carl was a real gem. I enjoyed working with him at Game and Parks and visiting with him whenever I ran into him after his retirement. I bet he is busy catching up with Curt Twedt. Curt always called him “Lupus” (the scientific species name for the wolf).*

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**Mark Brohman** - November 20, 2024 at 09:48 AM

EZ

“ *I met Carl through the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society. He was a tireless advocate for wildlife and often the only “voice for wildlife” in hostile environments. We had several great conversations about how to fight for the wildlife and natural resources of Nebraska. It was comforting to know Carl was on top of things and was there to give counsel to the next generation. He gave his time to the Nebraska Chapter and helped raise a lot of funds through his generous donations at our auctions. Each item seemed to have some larger than life story that accompanied it. Carl truly lived life to the fullest. My sympathies to the Wolfe family.*



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**Eric Zach** - November 19, 2024 at 04:14 PM

YJ

“ Your friends at Joule purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Carl William Wolfe.



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**Your friends at Joule** - November 19, 2024 at 03:19 PM

DS

“ Sorry for your loss. Carl was a gentle soul.  
Carl started Trail Tales magazine at Nebraska Game and Parks for all the fourth-grade students in Nebraska. It began as a folded 11 x 17, 2-color sheet, that morphed into a full-color 16-page quarterly magazine. He knew that introducing children to nature, water issues, wildlife, Nebraska history and the outdoors was vital for their appreciation and stewardship of these resources. That is only one of the many educational projects Carl introduced at NGPC. I was lucky to have worked with him.  
Comfort to all of you, and God bless.  
Donna Schimonitz, the NGPC family

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**Donna Schimonitz** - November 19, 2024 at 10:15 AM

LC

“ *What a very special person Carl was. I met Carl when I visited Nebraska many years ago to see the Sandhill Cranes with a friend from Kentucky. At the time, I was living in Kentucky but later, moved to Wyoming - in part to be near the cranes. Over the years, I had the good fortune to visit Gibbon and Rowe Sanctuary many times and each time, I enjoyed visiting with Carl and Rae Ellen in their lovely home on the river. Carl was a role model to me and always a teacher. With a smile on his face, he would gaze as the cranes circled above - the wonder of these magnificent birds was etched in his smile and never got old. Every time that I see or hear a Sandhill Crane now, my heart will be warm with his love for these birds and everything outdoors. Thank you Carl - you made a difference in my life. Lorie*

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**Lorie Chesnut** - November 17, 2024 at 05:43 PM

DI

“ *We will miss Carl. We always looked forward to seeing him. Carl always had a smile for us as soon as he saw us, even when we knew he was not feeling well. He was so knowledgeable about plants, rocks, fossils, birds, and butterflies. He understood the science behind science, yet never talked down to someone who didn't know as much as he did. He was a pleasure to be with. ~Deb and Chuck Iwan*



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**Deb and Chuck Iwan** - November 16, 2024 at 09:45 PM