



Larry C. Watkins

March 4, 1944 - June 12, 2023

Larry Curtis Watkins, 79, formerly of Dolgeville, passed away on Monday, June 12, 2023, following a long illness.

Born in Iowa on March 4, 1944 the son of Lawrence and Ethel Schnell Watkins, Larry earned advanced degrees from Northwest Missouri State University and the University of Kansas; and completed most of the requirements for his PhD. As a biologist and a teacher, he accepted the position of resident naturalist of the Florence Jones Reineman Wildlife Sanctuary and Beaversprite in Oppenheim, NY, where he lived and worked for sixteen years. During his tenure, Larry built and developed the nature center, renovated the on-site residence, designed nature trails, and established educational programs and Saturday evening lectures and presentations for the community.

In 1982, he poured the cornerstone for his permanent home, which he and his wife continued to expand and develop into their private sanctuary. In 1988, Larry co-authored "A Guide to Adirondack Deer Hunting". He began a second career as a science teacher with the Oppenheim-Ephratah School District, taking a true interest in the lives of his students. Mr. Watkins retired in 2007. Larry's love of travel took him to many states in the US and to many countries, including Australia, Kenya, Curacao, and Mexico. In South America, he completed graduate studies in bat behavior and published several scientific papers. Larry was a true outdoorsman and had a keen sense of respect for the natural world. He loved tools, tractors, collectibles, books of all shapes

and sizes, garage sales, wildlife, hunting, tracking, Brittany spaniels, and teaching. His love of books began in college and developed into a natural history book business, which he and his wife operated until the onset of his illness.

Survivors include his wife of thirty years, Connie Simpson Watkins of Gloversville, NY; two children, Jennifer (Jeffrey) Carnevale of Dobbs Ferry, NY and Adam (Estella) Watkins of Fairburn, GA; a sister, Linda Thompson of Cedar Rapids, IA; five grandchildren; two nephews, Brian and Jeff Thompson; a niece, Julie Hollan; and several cousins.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no services. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Assoc., in care of the funeral home. Arrangements are by the Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc. 111 County Highway 106, Johnstown, NY 12095.

Tribute Wall

PO

“ *Connie- I was surprised to learn of Larry's passing. Please accept my condolences.
May he rest in peace.
Phyllis O'Brien.*

Phyllis OBrien - July 12, 2023 at 02:38 PM

SV

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Larry was a colleague & friend at OECS.
He was a good man & will be missed!*

Susan Vavra - June 22, 2023 at 07:34 AM

SE

“ *I learned a lot from Larry as a neighbor about wildlife and botany.
The lectures on Sat evening single-handedly the most important thing in my life as a child and feel blessed having the opportunity to have learned so much. He made learning fun. His contributions to young & old of the local residents should be applauded and recognized.*

Susan Eddy - June 18, 2023 at 10:08 AM