

2015

David B. Fluri (May 1949-August 2012): Life after West Chester University

Wayne Fluri

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/gna_sp_series

Recommended Citation

Fluri, W. (2015). David B. Fluri (May 1949-August 2012): Life after West Chester University. Retrieved from http://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/gna_sp_series/40

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Gordon Natural Area History & Strategic Plan at Digital Commons @ West Chester University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gordon Natural Area History & Strategic Plan Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ West Chester University. For more information, please contact wcressler@wcupa.edu.

David B Fluri

(May 1949-August 2012)

Life after West Chester University

David, my brother, spent the last 40+ years of his life with amazing enthusiasm, energy and passion. Regrettably, that life ended suddenly in an automobile accident on his way home from the New Jersey shore. He and his wife, Linda Lee, were taken from us in Tabernacle New Jersey.

After his student life, Dave continued his education and received a Masters Degree in Biology from Trenton State College (College of New Jersey). Simultaneously he began his teaching career for the Bristol Township school district at FDR Middle School. Ten years later he accepted a position with the Council Rock School District where he remained for the rest of his teaching career until his retirement from teaching in 2004 at the age of 52.

His passion for wildlife and nature was intertwined in his personal life since his undergraduate days at WCU. Immediately after graduation he immersed himself in the study of raptors (birds of prey). He was chiefly concerned with their preservation and migratory habits. From the early 1970's and up to the time of his death, he was an active Falconer and continued to study the migratory habits of all raptors including eagles, hawks, falcons and even owls. He was instrumental in developing a banding program, in conjunction with the US Geological Survey, wherein raptors were captured in the most humane fashion, weighed, measured, examined, banded for identification and released back into the wild. This program weaved its way into cooperation with the Pennsylvania Wildlife Commission and became a model that was used to train and license other banders throughout the United States under the authority of the US Geological Survey.

Simultaneous to his raptor banding activities he became very involved with Falconry. From early on he cared for orphaned hawks at his home. His primary focus were Red Tail and Harris hawks. He was a founding member of both the Pennsylvania Falcon and Hawk Trust (PFHT) and the North American Falconers' Association (NAFA). And, once again, Dave was instrumental in developing a licensing program that provided a pathway for the US Geological Survey to implement guidelines that promoted responsible Falconry under a formal Licensing and Sponsorship at the State level. He was very active in the Sierra Club and National Audubon Society in promoting awareness of the need for protection of raptors.

Dave had a diversity of interests outside of teaching and nature. He was an avid guitarist for much of his life playing both acoustical and electric guitars. He was an active member of the Corvette Club of America having participated in Regional and National events with his fully restored 1963 Split Window and his 1967 428 Sting Ray. Both of which he restored himself including rebuilding motors and trannies.

He loved adventure and frequently walked and rafted the Grand Canyon and hiked the wilderness of Alaska. He was a licensed scuba diver and did dives all over the world including Tahiti and Bora Bora.

His passion for fitness was evident in his daily work-out sessions at a local fitness club. He was legendary for his prowess in "spinning classes". And until his demise, he participated in Warrior Dashes for charity 2 or 3 times a year.

He was a teacher, naturalist, conservationist, diver, guitar playing, grease monkey and fitness junkie!
And he is missed by his family, friends, students and colleagues everywhere.

