

Dave Nolan (1943-2003) and the NWAAS Nolan funds



Many folks active in Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society in 2013 probably know that Dave Nolan gave the society a bequest in his estate. These funds are invested and income from them are used to carry on activities in the spirit of his interests. He passed in 2003, so many folks may not know who he was or why he was such a vital force for Audubon in northwest Arkansas.

The following is from his friend Flip Putthoff (July 23, 2013):

I was over at Dave's one afternoon and we were talking bird photography. Dave mentioned that when he finally got serious about it, he spent \$20,000 on top-quality photo equipment.

"People would say that's a lot," I said to Dave.

"Yeah," he shot back, "but they wouldn't bat an eye if I spent that much money on a bass boat."

(You can see Dave with his cameras in both of the photographs courtesy of Shiloh Museum of Ozark History).

The following include materials from a newsletter in his honor. After that, there is a formal obituary that appeared in the Morning News. The two photographs were taken at Bird Seed Savings Day in October 1998, a joint fundraiser for the NWAAS and Shiloh Museum of Ozark History in Springdale.



REMEMBERING DAVE NOLAN...

(from NWAAS Newsletter August 2003)

This issue of the NWAAS Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Dave Nolan, its longtime friend and supporter. Dave's passing in June has left a void both in our Chapter and in our hearts. Dave served as President of NWAAS on numerous occasions. He was our Newsletter Editor for seven years, and he held various positions on the Board for many years. He was an expert birder. He taught programs for NWAAS and other organizations about wildlife photography and how to identify birds. Dave had a passion for wildlife photography and will be remembered by many for his wonderful bird photos as well as his slide show programs documenting his travels. Dave was able to reach so many people, from tikes to seniors, teaching them about birds and wildlife. Dave was a strong leader and a tireless volunteer. We are thankful for his years of hard work and dedication, and we hope to continue the many programs he helped set in place for us including Audubon Express train ride and the annual photography contest, just to name a few. In appreciation for Dave, some of us NWAAS wanted to share the following memories with you all.

July 24, 2003 marked the two-year anniversary of the day Jill and I moved to Northwest Arkansas from Fort Worth, TX. We left friends and family to realize our dream of owning our own bird-feeding specialty store. We were just settling in to our new city when a man walked through the door of our shop. He was wearing a denim shirt and broad-rimmed hat that bounced slightly as he made his way up to our front sales counter. His name was Dave Nolan and he had come by to welcome us to the area on behalf of the NWAAS. I came to know Dave as a generous ambassador to the birding community that I am now such a part of, a wonderful photographer, and a great birder. We thank Dave Nolan for living a life that gave to others and for inspiring us to live that same sort of life. --John Humphries

The thing I remember the most about Dave was his zeal to get the young kids involved in projects. Several years ago in a casual conversation with Dave I mentioned a project that could be done around Beaver Lake to improve bird viewing and habitat work. Boy was that a mistake, his eyes opened wide and about 150 blue bird boxes later, involving over 50 kids over several years, Dave was satisfied with that minor project. I learned to never speak out loud near Dave when it came to projects. He had a passion when it came to the kids of NW Arkansas. --Alan Bland

Dave was my first contact with NWAAS. I had contacted him with a birding question. I immediately realized I was talking with someone who knew a lot about the local birds and wildlife, but that was just the tip of the iceberg so to speak. Dave was always helpful and was a super role model for those of us just starting out in Audubon. Everything I learned from Dave and about Dave over the next few years never ceased to amaze me. He just seemed larger than life. --Joan Heller

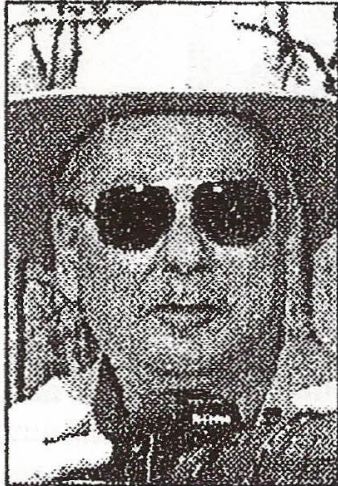
What I remember most about Dave was his determination and willingness to see a project through to the finish. He had a well of energy that got his ideas from imagination to reality. His interest in the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society helped to further the work of the Chapter to provide educational opportunities for children and adults in Northwest Arkansas. Dave did not accomplish the work of the Chapter alone, but he had the drive to keep projects moving forward. His energy and knowledge will be missed. --Cathy Ross

The day I heard Dave had passed away, as I was driving home on the interstate, a hawk flew across the road. And I immediately thought of Dave. I think the hawk was sent by Dave, or maybe it even WAS Dave, saying goodbye and feeling sorry for all us who are stuck here on the ground, without wings to fly. --Susan Young

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Elsewhere in this Newsletter tributes to Dave Nolan appear by chapter members who knew him much better than I did. Dave died earlier this summer, and the Audubon chapter is only one of many groups to be the poorer for that loss. Dave was a long-time member and officer of the chapter and its president for several years, a tireless organizer, a constant source of sensible innovations and projects, and as ready to assemble bird houses as to promote new nature trails and parks. He was both a clever craftsman (and amateur magician) and a perceptive long-range planner, and everything in between. His interest in birds was especially strong and deep, and he was an ardent and skilled photographer of them. He was equally interested in promoting interest in birds in others and in conducting classes for school students, and was able to communicate his enthusiasm to them. His work will bear fruit for a long time to come, but we have lost the source. --*David Hart, President*

(This obituary was published in the Morning News May 29, 2003)



David Thomas Nolan

David Thomas Nolan, 60, of Rogers died Tuesday, May 27 at his home. He was born Jan, 9, 1943, in Little Rock to William and Ruth Tinsdale Nolan.

Mr. Nolan graduated from Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock University and the University of Arkansas, majoring in architecture and commercial art. He then did his graduate work at the University of Illinois in public-facility management.

Mr. Nolan served in the Navy during the Vietnam War, receiving eight medals from two different countries, as well as a special unit commendation from the Secretary of the Navy in addition to two personal commendations from the Navy and one Presidential Commendation. He was also awarded the American Spirit Honor Medal from the Citizen's Committee for the Army, Navy and Air Force.

He was active in the NWA Audubon Society, having served as director and as resident on multiple occasions and as newsletter editor for seven years. Mr. Nolan was active in the Springdale Lions Club, International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Hillborne Heritage Foundation.

He was a wildlife photographer with publishing credits in various magazines, newspapers and on television. His hobbies included sailing small boats, designing commercial buildings, collecting stamps, holding a certificate as "Master Oceanographer" from the Navy and was a pilot of sailplanes. He was also a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He received the Lion of the Year award twice from the Springdale lion's Club and was a designer of corporate jewelry.

Survivors include, Janet Clark of the home; a brother, Benny D. Nolan of Siloam Springs; nieces, Linda Easterly of Little Rock and Gail (Nolan) Lumpkin of Jonesboro, and a nephew, Mike Nolan of Maumelle.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Sisco Chapel in Springdale with Larry Branum officiating. Interment will be in National Cemetery at Fayetteville. Visitation begins at 1 pm, today at Sisco Chapel. The family will be present from 6 to 8 p.m. Pallbearers are Tal Bowman, Don Fuller, Jerry Reinert, Tim Bunch, Dale Miller and Al Newton. Memorials may be made to the Audubon Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 1031, Fayetteville, 72702.