



Lewis Nelson

January 26, 1941 - June 19, 2022

Lewis “Lew” Scott Nelson, age 81, passed away peacefully in the early morning of June 19th, 2022, after battling illness for the last few years. Lewis was born on January 26th, 1941, in Lake Preston, South Dakota, to Maurice and Mina (Scott) Nelson. The family lived on the outskirts of town on a small farm. Some of his fondest childhood memories included playing on the family acreage and trips to Anacortes, WA where his uncles taught him and his brother how to hunt and fish. The Puget Sound would leave an impression that would last a lifetime. These early years also served as the start of his lifelong love of geography when he was introduced to maps during a prolonged childhood illness that kept him bedridden. The school installed a speaker system between his bedroom and the classroom. He was an early proponent of ‘remote’ learning.

During high school, a similar love of science saw Lewis achieve success in fairs at the local, state, and national level. He attended Boys State in 1958 and 1959 and was a medal winner at the 1960 National Science Fair. On the employment front, he often boasted of having had the two best jobs as a teenager in Lake Preston – lifeguard and the theater projectionist. It was in high school that he met the love of his life, Gloria Danielson, also of Lake Preston.

After graduating high school, Lewis attended the University of Pennsylvania starting in the fall of 1960. He and Gloria were married on May 11th, 1963. They spent that summer together and worked in Anacortes, WA – Gloria as a

waitress and Lewis at the local sawmill. Lewis returned to classwork at Penn in the fall of 1963 and then transferred to South Dakota State University, in Brookings, in the fall of 1965. During his time at SDSU, Lewis also worked as a Biological Lab Technician for the Department of Agriculture. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1968.

Wanting to continue his education, Lewis applied for and was accepted to graduate school at Oregon State University. Lewis and Gloria packed their bags and moved to Corvallis in June of 1968. Three months later their son, Scott, was born. Despite enjoying his coursework in microbiology, poor job prospects and certain relocation led to a change in his path. During graduate school he had started performing photography jobs for various clients.

Deciding to take on photography full time, and after converting the family garage into a darkroom with help from his father-in-law, Lewis opened Scott Photo for business in 1972.

Ever independent professionally, Lewis spent his entire adult life self-employed. Scott Photo mainly served the university scientific community, but Lewis also did some commercial work and enjoyed aerial photography. Several of his Cascade Range volcano aerial photos were published in late 1980.

One could say everything changed the day Lewis walked into a local computer store in the fall of 1984 and bought his first Apple product, a Lisa computer. Now able to create content, rather than just photograph it, he quickly became an avid user and fan. He joined the fledgling Corvallis Macintosh User Group in the fall of 1985, became a board member in 1986, and was elected president in 1990. In the mid-1990s Lewis was a multi-year member of Apple's User Group Advisory Council. In the late 1990's Lewis transitioned his business to Macintosh technical support and renamed it Scott Computers. By all appearances he greatly enjoyed this second act to his career, which lasted until his retirement in 2016. Even in retirement, Lewis was a loyal Apple user and evangelist and only recently gave up his final duties as a member of the user group.

Both Lewis and Gloria shared a love of the beautiful Pacific Northwest. They enjoyed camping, backpacking, visiting the Oregon coast, road trips, and travelling in general. Camping at the Oregon coast was a summertime favorite in the earlier years. So was arriving in Anacortes at his aunt Katie's house late on a Friday evening for a weekend visit. Some of their more memorable trips later on were to the desert Southwest, Canada, Baja California, Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, Costa Rica, England, Italy, and Spain. Other activities that brought joy to his life were scuba diving, dining at his favorite restaurant, a fine wine, and good conversation.

Lewis always relied on his faith as life's challenges presented themselves. He was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church, and served on several committees, since the early 1970's. The family would like to thank the Grace community, and all of his friends, for all the support and love they have shown over these many years and especially recently as Lewis struggled with health issues that slowed him physically, but never spiritually.

Lewis is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Mary Nelson; two grandchildren, Grace and Molly; and sister, Marla Skoglund. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Gloria (Danielson) Nelson; brother, William (Bill); and sister, Nancy.

Services for Lewis will be held at Grace Lutheran Church located at 435 NW 21st St, Corvallis, OR, 97330 on Saturday, July 9th, at 1pm. Please donate to your favorite charity in lieu of any flowers. A reception will be held after the service at the church.

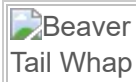
Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 9. 1:00 PM (PT)

Grace Lutheran Church
435 NW 21st St
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

Beaver
Tail Whap

“ Lew was just a wonderful neighbor, who contributed much to our neighborhood on 17th street. He and Gloria moved into our lives, and soon Scott was added.

Always there to help get small projects done, my clearest memory was when I was a Junior at CHS, and I needed assistance in a science project of testing local water samples for E-Coli. Being Microbiology Doctoral candidate, he had all the texts, and he found all the recipes for the outright dish agar, and showed me how to collect the samples, as well as how to apply them to the petri and autoclave them.

When I only got a C on the project, Lew showed up at the high school to confront my teacher, and told him he didn't have the credentials to teach any type of science class. Then went down the hallway to thank my other science teacher for all assistance he gave me, by supplying the items for the agar, and use if the school's autoclave.

The last time I saw he and Gloria, was at my father's memorial service at Grace Lutheran in 2004.

Seems he sat with my Dad during Sunday worship for years. Gloria helped with the food for the post memorial reception.

I have lived in western Washington the past 30 years, and had lost contact.

I am happy he had a companion since Gloria's passing, and continued an enriched life.

Beaver Tail Whap - July 08, 2022 at 11:44 AM

EA

“ Was introduced to Lew 14 years ago when my mom Kris Abromaitis reconnected with him. Throughout those years he was such a great light around the holidays and gatherings. He had a special way to make anyone feel included and eager to share stories to make people laugh.

Emilia Abromaitis - June 24, 2022 at 12:59 AM

KA

“ I was going to share this memory on the memorial.

Lew's eagerness for travel continued when he found a travel companion for his final 14 years, Kris Abromaitis. They traveled from Canada to Mexico and many places in between. Even as Lew was slowing down and airline travel was getting more difficult, he still appreciated new experiences. He was chosen out of the group to demonstrate how to open a bottle of champagne by cutting the top off with a saber! And the champagne was enjoyed by all. Good job, Lew!

Kris Abromaitis - June 23, 2022 at 08:29 PM

DP

“ So I'm downtown in my car at a stoplight. I am focused on the light turning green. My window is down. To my left stands Lew on the sidewalk. He says to me "So you're just going to ignore and not let me cross?" I knew that voice immediately. He got me. I will miss his razor sharp wit and his warm heart. Don Poole

Don Poole - June 22, 2022 at 08:10 PM

ST

“ Reunions, jokes, smile, laugh, killer croquet, sarcasm.... gonna miss all of it. Love ya Lewis Shawn

Shawn Toevs - June 22, 2022 at 06:20 PM

MF

“Great man. I had many great conversations discussing a wide variety of topics. I am sorry to hear of his passing. Peace to Scott and family.

Matt Field - June 22, 2022 at 07:47 AM

KR

“Lewis gave me my first job out of college as a photographer's assistant. Who is my friend for close to 50 years. Lewis is a wonderful man with a heart of gold and a dear laugh. You will be in my heart forever.
Karen Ratté

Karen Ratte - June 22, 2022 at 07:20 AM