



Robert Macleod Storm

July 9, 1918 - January 16, 2017

Robert Macleod “Doc” Storm

Robert M. Storm died January 16, 2017 in Albany, from complications sustained in a 2015 fall. Born July 9, 1918, in Calgary, Alberta Canada, to American parents, William Burns Storm and Nellie (Haley) Storm, Robert spent his youth in Portland and DeKalb, Illinois. Bob received a B.Ed. in 1939 from Northern Illinois State Teachers College, now Northern Illinois University, and a M.S. in 1941 from Oregon State University in Corvallis. He didn't obtain his Ph. D. until 1948 as WWII interrupted his studies. He was a medic with the 37th Engineers Combat Battalion. His battalion was among the first to land on Omaha Beach.

Called “Doc” by his friends and colleagues, he served as a member of the OSU faculty Zoology Department from 1948 to 1984. During this time he mentored 71 graduate students. He was a beloved professor whose field trips to southeastern Oregon to study “herps” were highly prized. Bob loved the outdoors and camped with his family and his students as much as possible.

Known as the “Dean of Northwestern Herpetology,” Bob contributed to several books including “Wildlife” by Robert B. Smith (1976), “Amphibians of Washington and Oregon” (1993), and “Reptiles of Washington and Oregon” (1995). In 2016, one of his former students honored him by endowing the

continuing “Robert M. Storm Lecture Series in Herpetology” at Oregon State University.

He leaves behind a sister, Barbara Jean Holley (one brother and one sister predeceased him); his wife Patricia Elvalee Petzel; three children from his first marriage to Carol Offner, Robert Haley Storm, Ellen Christine Storm-Rycraft, and David Bruce Storm; three children from his second wife Marvene Christensen, Susan Kay Storm, Marjorie Jane Storm, and Michael Burns Storm; three grandchildren, Haley Jasmine Hayes, Mary Storm Forson, and Sage Patricia Forson; and twin great-grandsons, Arlo Jude Hayes and Elliott Amos Hayes. His first two wives predeceased him.

He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service in honor of Bob will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, January 28 at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 NW 5th St Corvallis. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Malheur Field Station 34848 Sodhouse Lane in Princeton, Oregon 97721.

To leave condolences for the family please visit www.mchenryfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 28. 1:00 PM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home
206 NW 5th St.
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 757-8141
info@mchenryfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

RW

“ *Doc Storm welcomed me and my young wife to Oregon so I could pursue my PhD in the 70's. I think what I really learned from him was a love of the natural beauty of Oregon. Of course he also taught us by example of how to enjoy life. He is one of those who has made a significant impact on my life. Robert White*

Robert White - January 28, 2017 at 12:41 AM

BL

“ *I feel very privileged to have had Bob Storm as my good friend for many years; since my U of O graduate student mentor, David Jameson, took me on a field trip seeking Herps with Bob in the 1950s.. Bob inspired my strong interest in birding, and was always a perfect companion in fishing, hunting...and just chatting and "exploring" the wonders of Denio, NV. and S.E. Oregon . I shall miss him very much. Ed Lippert*

Byron E. Lippert - January 27, 2017 at 02:44 PM

BS

“ I was a very young graduate student who was accepted into the Natural History and Ecology program by Dr. Storm upon the recommendation of my undergraduate department head at Willamette U. I never could call him Doc like some of my colleagues in our quonset hut headquarters, even though that sometimes made him grin. I also was the only female grad student in the program at the time (way back in the mid-60s) but felt welcome among "the guys" and thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Storm's exhaustive knowledge and high expectations of his students. He left footprints all over Oregon, as well as a heritage of former students to carry on what he taught them about natural history and the importance of a holistic view of animals and their environments. Mar sin lead, Dr. Storm.
Barbara Woodworth Saigo

Barbara W Saigo - January 20, 2017 at 06:00 PM

KN

“ Doc was an amazing biologist, professor, story teller, and friend. I will always cherish the last time our paths crossed...birding with him at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge a few years ago....his mind (including his knowledge of all things in the natural world) and humor still sharp as ever. You will be missed Doc...RIP. Patty, my thoughts are with you and your family.

Kim Nelson

Kim Nelson - January 19, 2017 at 11:51 AM

MF

“*Bob Storm was my second Boy Scout Troop Master. He was the assistant Troop Master when the troop formed from a bunch of Tenderfoot scouts and was sponsored by the Christian Church. Bob had a quiet way with us - he was naturally quite familiar with the outdoors but was also more thoughtful than many people in that position, appealing to all the boys whether they were the athletes or the scholars or in between.*

Two times from those years are still some of my fondest memories of scouting. First, a trip with the Oregon Herpetological Society to southwest Oregon, near Agnes on the Rogue River and the second simply binding paper in his garage for a paper drive. His ability to "glide" through whatever sociological setting he found himself was truly amazing.

Add to that, I am a year younger than his son Bob. Bob and I would on occasion play tennis (at his invitation, neither of us were very good at the time so a good match) or do other things together - since at the time they probably lived the equivalent of 4-5 blocks from us. Bob, if you are reading this - I still remember those days.

Doc, never called him that as I was way too young, will be missed for what he brought to this world and all around him.

*Mike Franklin
Brentwood, Tennessee*

Mike Franklin - January 18, 2017 at 06:14 AM

KP

“ *Very sorry to hear of Doc Storm's passing. He was a special person very giving of his time and so encouraging to his students. I took several courses from him at OSU in 1979-80 timeframe and of course participated in many of his field outings. Learned so much from him. I'll never forget the sense of community he built among his students. Appreciated his efforts very much. Godspeed Doc.*
Karen

Karen P. - January 17, 2017 at 10:37 PM

FR

Doc welcomed my young wrestler friend who had great interest and promise in herpetology. They talked for several hours at his and Patty's house about two years ago. He adopted me as one of his many graduate students the year my own major professor was on sabbatical.

Frances - January 22, 2017 at 02:38 PM



I loved Doc Storm. He considered me one of the best field collectors he had ever seen. This meant a lot. I had no idea he felt that way except that a letter he sent to Steinhart Aquarium as a reference was returned to me by accident, and I don't think I could have ever received a higher compliment. He was pretty hard on me, but I think it was because he liked me. I worshipped the guy, and I am sorry I couldn't wish him Godspeed.

Tony Ford - October 13, 2020 at 09:51 PM