



Brian Richard Chapman

January 19, 1946 - June 5, 2021

Brian R. Chapman

1946 - 2021

Dr. Brian R. Chapman - a scholar, teacher, mentor, and friend to all - died June 5, 2021 in the company of his beloved wife Sandra (Sandy) Spencer Chapman at their home in Elkins Lake, Huntsville, Texas. Brian is survived by two daughters, Lisa Chapman and Paige Najvar (David), four grandchildren Maya and Bobby (Lisa) and Noah and Eli (Paige). He is also survived by his siblings Diann Sheffield (Lowell), Carl Chapman (Marilyn), and Adelene Pless (Bubba). Brian is survived by his mother-in-law Nancy Spencer, his brothers-in-law Steve and Ronnie Spencer, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Born January 19, 1946 in Corpus Christi, Texas to Oran Wilbur Chapman and Wilna Deason Chapman, Brian's love for the outdoors grew from early family trips to national parks, fishing trips with his father and hunting with his grandfather -yet Brian admitted he was mostly his "granddads bird dog". His tenacious curiosity of the natural world grew with each trip to wooded forests or chasing shorebirds along the coast. He needed to crawl into the caves and climb up mountains, but his love of canyons drew him to the mountains of West Texas often. As a born scientist, only his passion for trains and rail yards could distract Brian from his love and interest for biology. No trip, scientific or not, was complete without a side excursion to watch a train running on the tracks.

Brian had a mischievous sense of humor, no doubt inherited from his

"granddad". He loved playing pranks on his students and telling tales that were "mostly" true. While sometimes a quiet man, Brian was happiest teasing and making others laugh or sitting around a table recounting a lifetime of funny stories for family and friends.

After receiving his Ph.D. in Zoology from Texas Tech University in 1973, Brian dedicated much of his academic career to Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi before moving and taking on many other challenging roles in academic administration. For over fifty years, his talents in research and administration served many universities including Oklahoma, Georgia, Sam Houston State, West Texas A&M, North Carolina - Wilmington, and U of H - Downtown. Brian returned to Sam Houston State University in 2013 as a Senior Research Scientist and Scholar and served as a research mentor prior to his retirement in 2018. As a world authority in mammalogy and ornithology, he continued to write, publish, and share his passions for natural history including the book *The Natural History of Texas* published with his mentor, colleague, and life-time friend, Eric Bolen.

Brian will be missed by family, friends, and hundreds of students and colleagues who had the pleasure of knowing him as both a gentleman and true scholar. In honor of Brian's love and devout passion for natural history, his family asks that gifts be given in support of his Integrative Natural History book series for which he served as an editor. Please send gifts to Sandy Chapman, 864 Elkins Lake, Huntsville, TX 77340 and made payable to SHSU Friends of Integrative Natural History.

An informal gathering to celebrate Brian's life will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2021 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, TX.

Memorial condolences to the family may be made at www.shmfh.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **26**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr
Huntsville

Tribute Wall



“ *Brian Richard Chapman*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *My condolences to Professor Chapman's family. As an undergraduate at CCSU, I was fortunate to take several of Brian's classes (Ecology, Vertebrate Biology, Professional Development). He was a consummate professor, eager to share his enthusiasm for science, and field biology in particular. I will never forget the Vertebrate Biology multi-day field trip to the Sam Houston National Forest, where he introduced us to making campfire coffee, which was basically to dump the coffee grounds in boiling water and then carefully decant. Gritty but delicious on a cold morning! He was passionate about his science, and equally passionate about his students.*

Antonio Planchart

Antonio Planchart - January 20, 2022 at 02:21 PM

LY

“ My condolences to Sandra Chapman, Lisa Chapman, Paige Najvar, Diann Sheffield, Carl Chapman, and Adelene Pless for the loss of Brian Chapman. My condolences also go to his four grand-children and to Donna Chapman.

I first met Brian at the start of our sophomore year at Mary Carroll High School in Corpus Christi, Texas. We soon began a “best friend” relationship that lasted until Brian went to Texas Tech University and I went to The University of Texas at Austin.

Brian was always an interesting person. Both Brian and I were avid readers and we had detailed discussions on many different topics. Brian loved to laugh, and he had a great sense of humor. We both enjoyed Laurel and Hardy and The Three Stooges, so when we were together, our behavior usually reflected the antics of those two groups. This was particularly true as lab partners in our science classes. We both struggled to get through our two years of Classical Latin. Our translation of Caesar’s Gallic Wars was particularly original and unique.

I also remember the times that Brian and I would stop at Whataburger for takeout and then meet his grandfather at Hazel Bazemore Park on the Nueces River for a picnic lunch. I enjoyed observing the love that Brian and his grandfather had for each other, and how much the two were alike.

During those years, I could not have had a more interesting or nicer friend. Brian Chapman was a special person, and will definitely be missed.

Lee Young

Lee Young - August 04, 2021 at 09:27 PM

AP

“ So sad! Tears will not stop. I will grieve for you until my last breathe of life. Love you dear brother, your youngest sister, Adelene

Adelene Pless - July 05, 2021 at 08:22 PM

TS

“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Brian Chapman. Dr. Chapman was a wonderful person, outstanding professor and a great mentor. I occasionally think of the field trips he would take us on and how much fun we had learning from him. I can truly say that Dr. Chapman was a major influence in my scholastic life. The biological world has lost a great scientist and teacher.

Terri Stinnett - 2 July, 2021

Terri Stinnett-Herczeg - July 02, 2021 at 03:20 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Brian Richard Chapman.



June 24, 2021 at 02:35 PM

TG

“ I am so saddened by the passing of this wonderful man. I had the pleasure of working with Brian and enjoyed many stories of his research adventures. We shared the love of west Texas, and although he called my sandwiches “pig butt with bee spit”; I still enjoy my honey ham and think of him every time I eat one. He will be missed by so many!

Tammy Gray - June 22, 2021 at 08:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brian Richard Chapman.*



June 22, 2021 at 07:46 PM



“ *Marvin Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of Brian Richard Chapman*



Marvin Hyvl - June 21, 2021 at 09:26 AM