



Karolis Bagdonas

October 20, 2007

Dr. BAGDONAS, KAROLIS RICHARD, _____ Died peacefully, October 16, 2007 surrounded by his loving family at Conroe Regional Medical Center in Conroe, TX. Karolis was a devoted and loving father, husband, friend, mentor and teacher. His teachings and research in both the natural and medical fields have left an impact on the world, inspiring many to follow their life's passions, leaving many naturalists and future and present nurses to continue with theirs and his life's work in the preservation and healing of the earth and all the creatures who inhabit it. He taught at Adelphi University, Long Island, NY, The University of Turku, Finland, The University of Wyoming in Laramie, Casper College, WY, The National Audobon Society's Audobon Camp in the West, Dubois, WY and most recently at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX. He influenced students, colleagues and field scientists around the world through his summer research stations. His field teams, known as the "Bagdonas Flying Circus," did research throughout the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming and included the study and discovery of butterflies, moths, plants and all creatures great and small. He was a founding member and past President of the Xerces Society, and active member of the Lepidopterists Society. He is survived by his wife, Patrice Lussy, Huntsville, TX, son, Davin Bagdonas and daughter Halena Bagdonas, Laramie, WY, daughter Lynell Bagdonas and grandson, Zann Bagdonas, St. Petersburg, FL, sister Carolyn Stana, Denver, Co. He will be greatly missed and always remembered by those who knew him every time a butterfly flies by. A service will be held

Saturday October 20, 2007 at 1 PM at St. Thomas Catholic Church with Rev. Stephen Payne officiating. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Karolis Bagdonas*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I just now learned of Bag's passing, yet it saddens me greatly. I will always remember the wonderful parties that he and Sylvia had in Laramie...I wish I could remember the annual party they had...I've forgotten the name. I wish all the best to his children and family. I'm sorry that I am over three years late in acknowledging the death of a dear friend. I know he's chasing butterflies in heaven...no question about it...*

Dick Nunamaker - January 04, 2011 at 12:56 PM



“ *I send my condolences to Dr. Bagdonas' family. I was his student back in 1993 for Pre-Nursing courses, and I was just thinking of contacting him again to be in touch. I just found this site and learned that he passed just a few months ago. He was a great professor, and we all enjoyed his positive attitude, and easy going way. Many blessings to you and his Spirit now in that special place of Bliss.*

Kimberly Keith - March 18, 2008 at 10:13 PM



“ *Dr. B (what we called him in class) was one of the best professors that I have EVER had! He was VERY nice & always willing to help in ANY way he could. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to know such a wonderful person! He will be greatly missed!*

Vantrice - February 10, 2008 at 02:45 PM

JE

“ *Dr. Bagdonas was one of the best teachers I have ever had. He was very kind and compassionate to all his students. He will be greatly missed!*

Jessica - February 05, 2008 at 06:12 PM

TB

“ *I wanted to give you our condolences for your loss. You both seem like such sweet people and I believe it was our loss for not getting to know you and Dr. Bagdonas better. Our prayers and wishes are with you and your family in your time of need.*
Your neighbors,
The Brannons

The Brannons - November 19, 2007 at 07:48 PM

AB

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I never know what to say at these times. Karolis was a very special soul. I've never met someone who was so passionate about so many things. I think anyone who ever met him doesn't look at a butterfly in quite the same way anymore*

Alexis Bennett - October 28, 2007 at 09:31 PM

LD

“ To Patty and family - I was deeply saddened today when I read in the Dubois Frontier about Karolis passing away. I feel so Blessed that I got to meet all of you and that I got to share at least some of your time here in Dubois with you, Karolis and the occasional students and friends that came with you guys! I will miss his fishing trips up here and I sincerely hope that you will stop in and see me when you get back up here Patty. He will be greatly missed and I hope and pray that you and your family are doing okay. Take care of yourselves - God Bless You!!

*Lisa, Ed and R.J. Roberts
Dubois, Wyoming*

Lisa Roberts - Whiskey Mountain Tackle in Dubois - October 26, 2007 at 04:34 PM

“ To Patty, Davin, Halena, Sylvia, Lynell ... also to Carolyn (and I've heard there's a Christina) and Zann, whom I have not met:

I share in your sorrow over the untimely passing of Karolis. (Yes, life is a "vapor", soon gone, as the "Good Book" says.) He and I became friends (and so remained), as students at Colorado State University in 1966-67. That began largely due to his being a very friendly person. We had in common a strong interest in biological science. He majored in zoology, I in wildlife biology, disciplines with much overlap. I saw and learned about the wood frog tadpoles he studied; I shared about "my" ducks that utilized the gravel pits around Fort Collins. The "Good Book" (Proverbs) speaks of "iron sharpening iron"; that's how it was between him and me.

We quickly learned that we also had a common "blood line". The Bagdonas viking clan in Lithuania most likely came from what is now Swedish soil. And I emigrated from Sweden (with family, age 10) in 1952, to Minnesota. So we really had two common bonds: "blood" and biology.

Among my best memories are a visit to Fort Collins, with his students (1978?), visits to Laramie, playing with Davin and Halena, and my 1997 visit to Dubois. The last was an "eye-opener"; I wish more visits were possible. Not to be overlooked, due to our friendship, was Sylvia's guided tour of Helsinki in 1976. This was possible because I was then visiting Sweden, immediately after my "African adventure" (crocodiles in Botswana).

Being a good biologist requires much study, in and out of school, on and off the job, in office lab and field. Opportunities for overseas stints must, if at all possible, be utilized. Much interaction with fellow students, professors and other professionals is also essential. If I qualify as a good biologist today, Karolis is certainly among those who must be thanked.

My condolences to all of you, and my best wishes,

*Sincerely,
Dr. Göran E. D. Blomberg*

Göran Blomberg - October 26, 2007 at 12:41 PM

TD

“ *Lynell,*

I am very sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Bless you,

*Tamanee Dasch
a high school friend*

Tamanee Dasch - October 25, 2007 at 08:35 PM

NJ

“ *Thank you for touching the lives of so many people. You will be missed. Norma Dell Jones (Sam Houston Alumni Director 1977-1992) of Lovelady.*

Norma Dell Jones - October 20, 2007 at 09:30 AM

PS

“ *Davin,*

*We're sorry to hear about your dad. We hope you and your family are doing ok and hope to see you around school sometime.
Pottery Students*

Pottery Student - October 19, 2007 at 06:48 PM

CB

“ Halena: We were also so sorry to read of your loss in the paper today. Everyone here at the AHC sends you our heartfelt condolences.

Carol Bowers - October 19, 2007 at 02:30 PM

VK

“ Davin and Halena - I was sorry to read of the loss of your father in the paper. I remember you talking about spending time with your dad in Dubois in the summers.
Mrs. Kmetz

Vicky Kmetz - October 19, 2007 at 12:09 PM

LF

“ Bag's,
You will be greatly missed. No more pain my friend. God-Bless.

Laura Floyd-Advantage Travel

Laura Floyd - October 19, 2007 at 08:57 AM

KM

“ You were a great guy and a great friend, Karolis. I'll always remember with much fondness our early days in establishing the Casper campus of the University of Wyoming. If heaven has a bar, I'll bet you're having a "tall cooler" and laughing with a friend right now! I'll miss you, Karolis.

Keith Miller - October 19, 2007 at 08:39 AM