

John W. Lanier Sr.

March 10, 1939 - March 4, 2019

COLUMBIA — John W. Lanier, Sr., 79, of Columbia, died unexpectedly on Monday, March 4, 2019, after being stricken at his home.

He was born in Cambridge, Mass., on March 10, 1939, the son of the late David and Marjorie (Fuller) Lanier, Sr. He was raised in Massachusetts and was a 1957 graduate of St. Mark's School. He later served with honor in the U.S. Army.

John received his B.S. degree in wildlife management from the University of Massachusetts in 1967. He immediately began to work for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, setting the stage for a move to the White Mountain National Forest three years later. During his 24-year tenure as Wildlife Program Leader for the WMNF, he was deeply involved in the application of habitat management principles on numerous projects throughout New England. John worked closely with researchers to determine the effects of management activities on wildlife species, associations and habitats, and contributed to several publications on those topics.

In 1994, he retired from the WMNF and began work as the state lands wildlife biologist for the NH Fish & Game. As a habitat management specialist, John was responsible for treatment prescriptions on F & G lands and served as advisor regarding treatments on all lands controlled by the State of NH. He

also served as the state's liaison to the WMNF. John retired for the second time in 2004.

As a consultant-in-retirement, John continued his dedication to wildlife habitat improvements, promoting and implementing on-the-ground conservation practices for the Wildlife Management Institute, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Ruffed Grouse Society and others.

John enjoyed fishing and hunting, playing golf, and time spent with his family and friends.

He is survived by his two children, John W. Lanier, Jr. and Corie Chase of Naples, Fla.; and two grandchildren, Carl Chase IV and Teagen Lanier. He is predeceased by his only brother, David "Stu" Lanier, Jr.

At John's specific request, there will be no public calling hours or service. A celebration bonfire and gathering of friends and family will take place at a later date.

Memorial contributions in John's memory may be made to Partners for NH's Fish & Wildlife, online at <https://secure.webcreate.com/clients/70/contributionform.cfm> , a group dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers in New Hampshire. Where it says "Honor/Memorial Information - My gift is in memory of" enter "John Lanier for the New England Forests and Rivers Fund."

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Local arrangements are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

Tribute Wall



“ *sorry i never knew john but he was my 8th cousin through the lanier family*



Betty Christopher - August 22, 2022 at 05:37 PM

PG

“ *John overlooked a friend and I who in 1976 took an alternate high school semester, and mapped out deer yards, and participated in a woodcock study. That was 44 years ago, and to this day remembered my time with with great fondness for John. The rare kind of person that makes a strong impression, which stays with you through life. I learned of Johns passing as my friend who did alternate semester, had looked him up, and was planning a visit. He felt as strongly about John as I do. Patrick Glover*

patrick glover - July 09, 2020 at 12:30 AM

DJ

“ My heart goes out to all who loved John, and I count myself as one of those. I was lucky to have met him a few years ago. We talked on the phone together whenever we could, and he would always reach out when he was anywhere near the Burlington, VT area. We last chatted on Christmas day, or right around that time, and I called him this past Thursday hoping to reach him. When I hit the "phone has been disconnected" message and my email went unreturned, I had a sinking feeling that we'd lost another truly sweet person.

John, my friend, until we meet again, watch over all those you love. You will be ever missed.

*Yours,
Donna*

Donna Jacob - March 30, 2020 at 02:01 PM

JD

“ So long to our old friend of many, many years -- a very special wildlife biologist in the northeast -- and former coworker of mine at NHFG.

My wife Elaine and I share hearts that go out to his never-met family members who John had expressed words of respect and love.

*Jim DiStefano
Canterbury, NH*

Jim DiStefano - April 03, 2019 at 01:16 PM

DP

“ I did not know John for long, only a few years, but I admired him greatly. As a wildlife ecologist, people like John are few and far between. The breadth of knowledge and on-the ground wisdom that John had is irreplaceable in today's world. John and I met for a burger and a beer at Sud's Pub in Bethel on more than one occasion to swap stories and learn from one another. I was so stunned to hear of John's passing. To know that I'll never see his smile or his easy way, is so sad. We'll honor you in the woods and waters, though, John! Your legacy will live on for many moons. -
Deb Perkins

Deborah Perkins - April 01, 2019 at 03:20 PM

CL

“ I was absolutely stunned to hear of John's passing while travelling in Florida. I played on seven athletic teams with him at St. Mark's School. We were roommates in my senior year. I knew his parents well and they attended my first wedding when John served as my bestman.

We lost some touch soon after our military service but in the last three years he reappeared as we both visited at the same time mutual friends in Charleston, SC. He soon began working as a consultant to a New Hampshire friend of mine on possible conservation upgrades to his property. My next engagement with John this spring was to walk with both friends on that land.

I am hoping to attend the bonfire celebration of his life and meet his family and friends on that occasion. It will be an appropriate time to share good memories of John. My heartfelt condolences to his two children, whom I have yet to meet.

Charlie Lockwood

Charlie Lockwood - March 27, 2019 at 12:57 PM

CW

“ Clara Weloth lit a candle in memory of John W. Lanier Sr.



Clara Weloth - March 18, 2019 at 02:52 PM

TE

“ Tricia Ellingwood lit a candle in memory of John W. Lanier Sr.



Tricia Ellingwood - March 16, 2019 at 01:00 PM

JW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Julie Wiles-Felch - March 11, 2019 at 07:42 PM

DP

Bear-scarred beech! Nice one!!

Deborah Perkins - April 01, 2019 at 03:21 PM

JW

“ My deepest condolences to John's family and other friends. As I struggle with the reality of this sad news, I realize that not only have I lost a longtime friend and mentor, the wildlife community has lost a legend. John's content of character, knowledge of wildlife habitat management practices and love of the outdoors is unparalleled. I've had the honor of knowing John as a friend and colleague for the past 25 years. I remember instantly bonding with him as an undergrad in Wildlife Management at UNH when he would be our guest speaker in various wildlife classes and led the unforgettable field trips into Kilkenny. I also had the privilege of working with him on several occasions throughout the years - including performing bird surveys across the WMNF with the NH Audubon Society, establishing wildlife transects and conducting surveys while working at the Dartmouth College Grant, and most recently, performing woodcock surveys on properties throughout the North Country with the Wildlife Management Institute. I feel blessed to have had a friendship with John that only grew through the years - unbroken by time or distance. I truly loved him and have long considered him to be part of our family. His personality was as big as his bellowing laugh and as bright as the impy twinkle in his eyes. I am a better person for having known him and his dedication and passion have left a lasting impact on NH's wildlife and natural places (and beyond!). He was a good soul, one of the special ones - the ones who make the world a better place and help to restore our faith in humanity. He would likely be embarrassed by all of the beautiful tributes written about him, but they are all testaments to the amazing man he was and a reflection of the remarkable life he lived. I hold onto the last great big bear hug I received from John, not realizing it was my last in this world. He is already greatly missed, but his memory and legacy will forever live on. Until we meet again, my dear friend...

"There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone, the light remains."

With love,

Julie Wiles-Felch

Julie Wiles-Felch - March 11, 2019 at 09:51 AM

SP

“ *"If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives" --Robert South. John, you'd hem and haw and sputter to see all the tributes to who you were. But we all knew long ago. Happy 80th Birthday, sweetie.*
Sharon P.

Sharon Penney - March 10, 2019 at 04:01 PM

BR

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



brendan - March 10, 2019 at 01:54 PM

BR

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



brendan - March 10, 2019 at 01:52 PM

BR

“ I have known John for decades as one who built much of the foundational knowledge that informs work done by natural resource professionals in NH. During the past 8 years, I had the privilege to work with him on his dream to create a practical and simple tool for professionals to use in making habitat management decisions.

Now that dirttreeswildlife.org is live, it is catching national attention. That was John's dream. It would not have happened without his ability to engage others, his insistence on simplicity and persistence in moving forward.

Having spent thousands of hours together, planning, traveling, and presenting *Dirt to Trees to Wildlife*, John and I became good friends and shared many times with family and other friends. We cut stovewood, cleared trails, shared meals, helped with chores, told stories and took advantage of every opportunity to give each other grief. We had fun!

The suddenness of his departure took the wind out of me. His bag, readied for a hunting trip is on his floor and the list of items to remember for Florida is on his desk. My condolences to others who called John friend and especially his family who he spoke of often. I am looking forward to a time when we can all gather and raise a toast in his memory.

Be well,

brendan - March 10, 2019 at 01:32 PM

BR

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



brendan - March 10, 2019 at 12:58 PM

JH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joe Homer - March 10, 2019 at 11:52 AM

JH

My condolences to John's family. Professionally I had the pleasure to collaborate with John frequently, most recently on the "Dirt to Trees to Wildlife" project. Additionally we shared a passion for fly fishing, the Rapid River and Lake Umbagog. John was kind enough to share "his piece" of the Connecticut River with me along with a few of his special flies and suggestions on fishing them. John was such a rock of a guy, I just figured he'd always be at his cabin to greet me with a smile, a cup of coffee and a story. His legacy will live on and he will be miss by many. Joe Homer

Joe Homer - March 10, 2019 at 12:24 PM

PH

“*REST IN PEACE JOHN AND CONDOLENCES TO JOHN'S FAMILY. I ALWAYS LOVED GETTING TOGETHER WITH JOHN AT SAF MEETINGS AND LONG DISCUSSIONS IN THE WOODS ABOUT WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY. HIS EASY GOING MANNER, AND SMILE WOULD ALWAYS BRIGHTEN UP THE DAY. HE MADE A LASTING IMPACT ON THE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS THROUGHOUT NEW HAMPSHIRE AND BEYOND. WE WILL MISS YOU "JOHN".*

PETE HOWLAND

PETER HOWLAND - March 09, 2019 at 06:23 PM

EM

“*I worked for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Laconia and ran into John multiple times, although I never worked with him as I was a fisheries biologist. My memories of John is a smiling face (not surprised the photo in the paper was of him smiling), very laid back, a true field biologist (keep out of the office at all costs) and outside in very cold winter days with either just his regular clothes on or maybe on rare occasions a vest. I never saw him in a jacket. Good guy, a great wildlife biologist! So sorry for all of our loss.*

Everett McLaughlin

Everett McLaughlin - March 09, 2019 at 10:39 AM

HY

“*Very sorry for your loss. John was a unique individual, one I was glad to have encountered.*

Cranky Yankee

H. Cook Anderson aka Cranky Yankee - March 08, 2019 at 07:49 PM

KE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kelly Eggleston - March 08, 2019 at 06:54 PM

JT

“ *My condolences to John's family and friends. I believe the measure of a person's life is the number of lives that they influence, and the number of people that count them a friend. With this as measure, the sum of John's life is incalculable. I met John at a workshop in Portsmouth NH. He was 42 and concerned that his age and waste size were the same! A trend he did not want to see continue. We had a fun week during and after the meetings. We shared passions for the outdoors, ice hockey, and natural resource management. Since then we have had a lasting friendship, sustained by calls, cards, notes, and visits. The years have been punctuated with hunting and fishing adventures; including salmon fishing in Lake Ontario, goose hunting in Aroostook County, following my dogs around Maine woodcock covers, bass fishing on the Penobscot River and lakes near Argyle. I will miss the big hug which always greeted me.*

Joan Trial

Joan Trial - March 08, 2019 at 05:21 PM

JD

“ I'm so saddened by this news, and I extend my deepest sympathies to John's family. I had the pleasure of spending time with him during my tenure with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and he always had a smile on his face, and a kind word and a laugh to share. I will remember him fondly. He was a rare breed. God speed, John.

Jeannine Dube - March 08, 2019 at 10:21 AM

SC

“ Our deepest sympathies to John's family. I have no word to express our feeling. We were lucky to have him in our lives for a while. He will be dearly missed.... David & Suzanne Cook

Suzanne Cook - March 08, 2019 at 10:18 AM

IS

“ My deepest sympathy to John's family. I was lucky enough to know John for over 30 years as a colleague and a friend. In the late '80's he mentored the fledgling joint Forests & Lands/Fish & Game - Forestry & Wildlife Program, and was always ready to lend a hand, an ear, a comment. When he became the State Habitat Biologist it was a privilege (and great fun!) to work with him for a decade as one of the as one of the habitat foresters – even if it often meant running to keep up with him in the field! And since his “retirement” he was still always there, willing to venture “south of the Notches” for workshops and lectures. The natural resource community has lost a titan, but his legacy will live on. I will miss that grin, that chuckle, and what he was about to say when he pushed back his cap and raised his eyebrows! Rest well my friend, and may all your paths be in a “land of pointy-topped trees”.

Inge Seaboyer - March 08, 2019 at 04:43 AM

DM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Debra Marnich - March 07, 2019 at 04:17 PM

DM

A photo says 100 words. Here are a few, kind heart, warm smile and many laughs. You will be missed John.

Debra Marnich - March 07, 2019 at 04:19 PM

JH

John, Nels Liljedahl, Joe Homer, reviewing site in Carroll County, NH for wildlife and forest management.

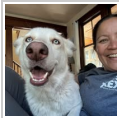
Joe Homer - March 10, 2019 at 11:41 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Amanda Mahaffey - March 07, 2019 at 10:18 AM



John was also a valued member of the Forest Stewards Guild. We mourn his loss and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. The North Woods of New Hampshire and the community of forest stewards that cares for these lands are made better for generations by John having walked among us.

Amanda Mahaffey - March 07, 2019 at 11:23 AM

JH

We were very fortunate to have John just down the hall in Laconia. His upbeat attitude and smile along with the advice he provided will always be remembered. So sorry that he is lost to his family, many friends, and those he could have mentored. Jan Hooper, retired, Belknap County Conservation District.

Jan Hooper - March 08, 2019 at 10:41 AM

DH

“ *One of John's legacies is the generation of US Forest Service and State employees he mentored and inspired. It was not just biologists that benefited from his sage advice (often shared through great stories) and pragmatic approach that brought people and different resource disciplines together to find solutions and put them to work. It felt like John never left the White Mountain National Forest because his influence continued through the ideas, commitment and experience he passed on. My condolences to John's family and friends. It is tough to lose a legend, but that's why we never do.*

Donna Hepp

Donna L Hepp - March 07, 2019 at 10:15 AM

JL

“ *My condolences to John's family and friends. We have lost a dedicated professional of our field. The last time I saw John was at a Wildlife Society meeting where I saw his smile and heard his chuckle as we met. He was a strong supporter of The Wildlife Society, a welcome mentor to many a young biologist, and a trusted colleague. The environment and the landscape are better because of John. Rest in Peace.*

Jerry Longcore

Jerry Longcore - March 07, 2019 at 09:46 AM

CH

“ *My deepest sympathies go out to the family. I will always remember John's smile and jovial personality. I first met John in Kilkenny when I was an undergraduate student at UNH. I was then fortunate to know him when we both worked at F&G.*

He was truly a hardworking, well-respected and great biologist. May he rest in peace. He will be sorely missed by the environmental community as one of the best stewards for NH landscapes.

Carol Henderson - March 07, 2019 at 09:17 AM

CR

“ *My deepest condolences to John's family. John was a great mentor and friend to me, particularly in the early 90's doing bird surveys around the WMNF. He was an amazing biologist, naturalist and outdoorsman. John always had a smile and a laugh to share, and he taught me many things about the natural world. Some of John's survey transects were so steep, it made me think he was part billy goat! John was always very supportive and encouraging to me and I will surely miss him. Farewell my friend.*

*Craig Rennie
Concord, NH*

Craig Rennie - March 07, 2019 at 08:35 AM

AB

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Alain Breault - March 07, 2019 at 08:14 AM

AB

A very special place on the Rapid River for John. You will be truly be missed, my fishing buddy...

Our heartfelt sympathies to John's family. John was always a pleasure to be with his wit and kindness toward others. A good friend that will never be forgotten.

"Tight lines" to you my friend, Alain & Diane Breault

Alain Breault - March 07, 2019 at 09:28 AM

PD

“ *It's easy to think of John and have a smile come over your face. He was both a superb biologist and a delightful friend who could educate you and entertain you at the same time. Every time I drove north along Route 3, through Columbia, I thought "I should stop and visit John". I now regret that I didn't actually stop often enough. He will be missed in many ways.*

Paul Doscher - March 07, 2019 at 07:37 AM

TH

“ *Yes, farewell to an old friend and condolences to John's family. I was fortunate to have John as a mentor when I started my forestry career in the mid seventies and had the opportunity to benefit from his vast knowledge and experience ever since. He was one of those unique individuals who could provide wildlife habitat management recommendations that were concise, practical and easy to understand. I thoroughly enjoyed my tromps in the woods with him, and have fond memories of his visits to my cabin in Ellsworth. I'll always remember his mild manner, smile, laugh and good humor - even his answering machine message would bring a smile to your face. Rest in peace dear friend, knowing that you've made a lasting impact on wildlife habitat and those that manage it.*

Tom & Cappy Hahn

Tom & Cappy Hahn - March 06, 2019 at 10:18 PM

PD

*Will miss you terribly, dear friend. You will always be loved.
Condolences to his family.*

Pete and Deb Dimmitt - March 07, 2019 at 06:07 AM

SB

I can't believe this. I saw and talked with John in the Post Office on the morning of March 4. Little did I know he had hours to live at that time. There are so many lessons there. He was such a good, nice man.

Samuel and Joan Bird - March 07, 2019 at 07:37 AM

CA

“ *Calvin lit a candle in memory of John W. Lanier Sr.*



Calvin - March 06, 2019 at 08:57 PM

CA

I remember ice fishing with John and buddies in the mid-seventies, on Averill Lake. Frozen fish piled on the woodpile. One never forgot his smile, heart warming. RIP John.

Calvin - March 06, 2019 at 09:00 PM

CH

“ *To John's children; you have my deepest condolences as you have lost one of the truly deeply committed individuals to family, he spoke highly of you. To John's friends; we have lost one of the most committed and gentle friend to us and to our natural surroundings. I consider John to have been a profound influence on many in the F&G community that knew and loved him. Rest in peace John, dear friend, you will not be forgotten!*

Cheri - March 06, 2019 at 08:55 PM

KD

“ Farewell to my old friend John Lanier. He was an amazing wildlife biologist and a very fine human being. I enjoyed every minute that I spent with him in the woods and even indoors at meetings. He leaves behind a giant foot print that can never be filled. I am so glad to see that his dream of D2T2W materialized and is being used in resource management in the Northeast. Happy hunting John, you will be greatly missed!

*Ken Desmarais,
Hillsboro, NH*

Ken Desmarais - March 06, 2019 at 06:46 PM

KE

“ Wishing John’s family comfort and peace during this difficult time. John was one of a kind. One of those rare few that made a lasting impact on me from the first time I worked with him back in 2008. I am fortunate to have had John as a mentor and friend in conservation, especially as our working relationship grew stronger in these last few years. We’ve had numerous property walks, drives, and talks. Not one of them was dull or like another. He’ll be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on!

Kelly Eggleston - March 06, 2019 at 06:00 PM

BR

“ John was a good friend and neighbor, I always enjoyed our talks on hunting and wildlife habitat. He was looking forward to helping me improve habit on my property this summer, I’m sad that I won’t be able to share that time with him and be able to learn from him. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Brian Riff - March 06, 2019 at 05:23 PM

JS

“ My deepest sympathy to John’s family. He was truly one of a kind. I am grateful for having known him. He served as a mentor and colleague to me when he was at Fish and Game and I was working on my PhD. He always had a paper to suggest I read and just the right question for me to think about. John had one of the most inquiring minds and was one of the best in the field. I always appreciated his laugh and sense of humor.

I will always remember him for his kindness, humor and understated way of being. Rest In Peace John, I will think of you every time I see a Peregrine Falcon or walk through the Kilkenny.

Judy Silverberg

Judy Silverberg - March 06, 2019 at 04:45 PM

KL

“ My deepest sympathies and condolences go out to John's family and friends. I have had the recent pleasure of co-writing a forest/wildlife stewardship plan with John. I have always admired John and his work and thought of him as a legend and icon to the forestry/wildlife professions. He was an easy going, mild mannered and extremely knowledgeable individual who's dedication and passion for what he did was quite evident. I have had countless experiences listening to his wisdom, knowledge and good natured sarcasm at workshops and meetings during the course of my career. I wish I would have had the opportunity to work with him more closely before now. I am blessed and honored to be able to say I got a chance to work with him. He will be sadly missed and never forgotten.

Kevin Lemire - March 06, 2019 at 03:40 PM

RL

“ *What a loss to NH and its wildlife. He will be missed. I wished I had met him sooner and new him better. Bird hunting with John was always a wonderful experience full of companionship and humor. Laugh and laugh again. I will think of him always as I pass his driveway in Columbia. I will miss him.*

Ray Lobdell - March 06, 2019 at 02:17 PM

PN

“ *My sincerest condolences to family and friends. I had the privilege of working with John in the effort to recover the peregrine falcon in the east. In 1981, members of the Peregrine Fund, Rene Bollengier, the Recovery Team leader, along with John and me banded the first young falcons produced in the mountains in decades. He was extremely dedicated to endangered species recovery and management and his legacy will endure.*

*Paul Nickerson
Hudson, NH*

Paul Nickerson - March 06, 2019 at 02:02 PM

HN

“ *My deepest sympathies to Johns family and friends for the loss of a very fine man. I have known of John for many years but only got to know him well in the last 7 or 8. Over that time we worked on several forestry and wildlife projects together. I found him to be a superb partner with a wealth of knowledge, a keen wit, and an easy laugh. I shall miss him terribly. Attached is a photo I took of John at a Project Learning Tree workshop in 2014.*

Haven Neal

Berlin, NH



Haven Neal - March 06, 2019 at 12:42 PM