



Dennis J. Conner

June 4, 1952 - April 1, 2020

Gone too soon, Dennis passed away in Bellingham, WA on April 1, 2020, at 67 years young. He was born in Seattle, WA to James and Agnes (Fisher) Conner.

After receiving his BA in Parks and Recreation from Western Washington University, he went to work for Whatcom County Parks as a Regional Park Ranger and later the Whatcom Land Trust and there he was known as the Volunteer Coordinator “Extraordinaire”. Naturally a lover of the great outdoors, Dennis spent his time hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and traveling with “Terry’s Tours”. More than anything, he was a dedicated family man and valued time spent with loved ones. Dennis was an extraordinary man with a vivacious spirit, gentle honesty, and the most beautiful soul. He was forgiving, selfless, and always assumed the best in others. A hard worker, endless giver, and a loyal friend. His good friend, Rand Jack, said it best; “His indomitable spirit, his generosity and kindness, his devotion to our community and the natural environment, his smile, his laughter, and the twinkle in his eyes lives on in the hearts of all of us fortunate enough to know him.”

Dennis is preceded in death by his mother, Agnes; maternal grandparents, Herb and Maud Fisher; and paternal grandparents, Herman and Charlotte Fisher.

Survivors include his wife of 17 years, Terry Conner; children, Matt (Courtney) and Lisa (Kevin); step-children, Aaron (Sara), Rebekah (Kent), and Jon (Chelsea); nine grandchildren, sister, Cheryl (Ken); father, James (96 ½ years young), sister-in-law, Patricia; and other extended family members.

Donations may be made to Whatcom Land Trust, PO Box 6131, Bellingham, WA 98227.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to plan for any services at this time.

“My favorite memories with my dad were the quiet moments after a long day of working or an outdoor adventure. We would settle in around the fire in his living room or under a tarp, the weather would really set in, and dad would tell us stories. Sometimes, his stories would have a message and you would learn important life lessons from his mistakes and those of others. Other times his stories turned out to be elaborate jokes, but you didn’t realize it until the end. No matter where you went or what you were doing with dad, you were either making the story he would tell tomorrow or being enthralled by something crazy he had heard or seen. I will miss his stories, both making them with him and telling them later.” – Matt Conner (son)

“Life with my dad was a fun adventure. From running around Hovander Park, eating pig food, playing with the animals, and climbing trees, to boating in the islands – every day was full of good friends, laughter, and love.”

– Lisa Brett (daughter)

“I remember a man who gave more to his community than anyone I know. A man who embraced life and lived it to the fullest. I remember an adventurer and a humorous storyteller whose fish stories grew with each telling. I

remember the man who evolved from an acquaintance, to a friend, to a best friend, to a brother. I will miss him greatly, but I will never forget him. His passion and zest for life should inspire each of us to be a better person and live life like there is no tomorrow.” – Carl Prince (best friend, “brother”)

“Dennis was one of the finest men I have ever known. Always positive, always connecting people, always striving to make the world a better place. He will be missed by so many!” – Corbin Ball (friend)

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, “WOW, what a ride!”.

Tribute Wall

AH

“ I just learned about Dennis passing, I have so many thoughts and emotions going through my mind right now it's hard to put into words. He was my first Boss, My Best Man at my wedding. He taught me a lot about life and how to do your job and do it well. I believe if it had not been for Dennis and his teaching skill I would not of had 25 yrs of working for State parks. He will be dearly missed and always in my heart.

Thank you for being the man, the person, the boss you were.
Arnold Hampton

Arnold Hampton - July 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ I just today, 5/19/2020, learned of Dennis passing. It brought tears to my eyes. My husband worked with him when he worked for the Whatcom County Parks. Many fun stories were told of the past. One of which I seem to recall from the early 1980's of a very large spider Mike surprised him with! During the times I was honored to have been in presence, he always had a smile and a laugh. Such a gracious & unforgettable man. Please accept my prayers for him and his family. As well as for those who also are sorrowful for him gone...too young!

Blessing to all, Angela Barnes

Angela - May 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ I want to express my deepest condolences to Dennis’s wife, children, and loved ones. I met Dennis when our kids were in preschool together, and last saw him shortly before he became ill. We laughed at old memories and shared stories about our grandchildren. Dennis was a remarkable person. He was first of all kind. He had many other wonderful characteristics—hard working, generous, thoughtful, conscientious—but his basic kindness sticks in my mind. The world needs more people like Dennis, and his loss will be felt by many people for a long time to come.

Joan Kimball - April 28, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ I worked with Dennis when Whatcom Volunteer Center helped the Parks Department provide tours of Hovander House. He was always cheerful, friendly and kind and such a hard worker. He was such a light and will be greatly missed. I am so lucky to have known him. Condolences to his family and friends.

Susan Porter - April 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM