



John "Jack" Lattin

July 27, 1927 - January 18, 2016

John ("Jack") Daniel Lattin was born July 27, 1927 in Chicago, Illinois, to Percy Daniel and Myrtle Race Lattin. He served in the U.S. Army 1945-1947, and later graduated from Iowa State University (B.S.), University of Kansas (M.S.), and the University of California Berkeley (Ph. D.) He married his wife of 63 years JoAnne Gilmore in 1953 in Salem, Oregon. They lived in Berkeley until 1955, then moved to Corvallis where he joined the faculty of entomology at Oregon State University.

During his 40-year career at OSU, he was Curator of the Entomology Museum (1961-66), directed the Science Honors Program (1963-65), and established the University Honors Program (1966). He was later Assistant Dean of the College of Science (1967-73), Director of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory (1974-96), Acting Chair of the Department of Entomology (1976-78), and Director of the Biology Degree Program (1976-78). He was also Associate Dean of the College of Science (1982-87), and Rice Professor of Systematic Entomology (1996).

In 1964-65, he held a National Science Foundation faculty fellowship at the Agricultural University of the Netherlands, and later received a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship to that institution (1973-74). In 1987, he was a visiting scientist at Oxford University in England. For his entire career, he taught entomology, enjoying and deeply caring for his many graduate students, and published more than 150 papers - quite a feat for a two-fingered typist. Special interests included insect taxonomy, impacts of introduced insects on natural ecosystems and agriculture, the use of insects as indicators of ecological health and stability, and the role of forest insects. For 20 years he was associated with and took great pride in working with colleagues across many disciplines at the Long-Term Ecological Research Site in western Oregon. He retired in 1996.

Through his ever present hand lens, he passionately sought to understand the insects under our very feet, a mysterious and wondrous world representing the vastness of time and space. He took great delight in sharing with school children the strange and beautiful creatures housed in the OSU Entomology Museum. Many kids went away with the tools of

his trade – a net and a collecting bottle to explore the fields, forests and back yards of their own neighborhoods.

With their own hands he and JoAnne built a marvelous cabin in the woods, “The House that Jack Built”, to give his three sons and their friends room to roam and explore. He taught them to appreciate a sharp saw, a good hammer, a well-laid fire, and a well-presented fly on the stream below the cabin. The knowledge that the cabin in the woods is being carried on by a new generation gave him immense pleasure.

In his long, full, and rich life, he displayed great curiosity and wonder, and encouraged his family, students, and friends with good humor, appreciation, and deep affection. He will be greatly missed.

Jack is survived by his wife JoAnne and three sons and their families: Peter (Donna), David (Kendra), Gregory (Dina); and his much beloved grandchildren: Shannon (Adam), Chloe, Will, Jack, and Jamie.

As he requested, there will be no service. Donations in his memory may be given to the OSU Foundation for the Oregon State University Valley Library and Benton Hospice Service. Please leave your thoughts and memories at <http://www.demossturidan.com>.

Comments



“ Jack was an inspiring teacher. I greatly enjoyed taking his class. He took a great interest in my graduate studies.

Ron Rhatigan

Ron Rhatigan - April 25, 2016 at 08:52 AM



“ Dear Joanne and Family:

I was a grad student in Botany and Plant Pathology at OSU from 1975 to 1977. Jack learned that I was studying *Kalmiopsis leachiana*, a rare plant species found in southwestern Oregon, for my M.S. thesis. He suspected that there was a specialist bug that fed on the seeds of this plant. So he arranged a day trip for us to visit a location at Limpy Rock on the Umpqua R. It was fantastic experience for me, to be inspired by his great enthusiasm for research, discovery, and interactions between plants and insects. This trip turned out to be one of the defining moments of my career. I will always be grateful for his kindness and inspiration.

Bob Marquis

Robert Marquis - March 02, 2016 at 11:38 AM



“ Dear JoAnne and Family,

We are greatly saddened by the passing of Jack and will miss him dearly. I became acquainted with Jack while learning my mites at OSU and Jack was instrumental in helping us get the student originated NSF grant to study the ecology of the Alvord Basin Sand Dunes in southeastern Oregon in 1980. He was so supportive of us curious naturalists. He also was responsible for the art that we treasure from Bonnie Hall. He was very concerned about the loss of many of our native ecosystems and told me that a rare Hemiptera was found only in a few remnant tufted hairgrass sites due to the loss of our wetlands. A truly special scientist who always had time to discuss the natural world of wonder with those of us who took the time to chat with him. Our sincere condolences.

Esther and Peter McEvoy

Esther and Peter McEvoy - February 09, 2016 at 02:23 PM



“ Jack was was one of the giants in the world of true bugs, and generously helped me and, I'm sure, countless others in their careers. A truly big-hearted sole. Good bye Jack!

Jeff Aldrich

Jeffrey R. Aldrich - February 08, 2016 at 12:16 PM



“ Dear JoAnne- I was saddened to hear of Jack's passing. I was fortunate to serve on a few committees with him before he retired. He was also supportive and positive, and his enthusiasm for science was infectious. He was an excellent role model for a new faculty member and I suspect he did the same mentoring for countless other OSU faculty. Jeff Morrell

Jeff Morrell - February 03, 2016 at 09:40 PM



“ Dear JoAnne: When I came for the interview for my OSU job, in 1989, instead of sitting in an office, Jack took me for a walk around campus. Jack exuded love and enthusiasm for the University and the town. He did not interview me, instead, he convinced me that, if offered the job, I should not hesitate to accept. I did and Jack remained a good friend, collaborator, and the one I always turned to for counsel and advice. Jenny and I send you, your children and grand-children our deeply felt condolences.

Marcos and Jenny Kogan, Seattle, WA 02/03/2016

Marcos Kogan - February 03, 2016 at 01:08 PM



“ Dear JoAnne, What a beautiful obituary for a beautiful man! It was truly an honor to know Jack, even though it was for a very short time. It's an honor to know you as well and I hope we will continue our friendship. My sincere sympathy to you and your family.

Nancy Emmons

Nancy Emmons - January 29, 2016 at 02:59 PM



“ dear Joann, I'm sorry for ur loss. I'll miss him a lot.
he was a treasure to be around and he always had a smile for me...
Sarg

Brenda Conner Rice - January 29, 2016 at 01:18 PM



“ Dear Joanne and all of Jack's family and friends:
I knew Jack for over 45 years. During that time, he was my mentor, colleague, and friend. As a mentor, Jack was patient, always accessible, generous with his time, and a role model for personal and scientific integrity. As a colleague, he led by example with his passion for science. Furthermore, he seemed proud of my career path, which meant a great deal to me. As a friend, he was supportive and kind. He was very funny and loved telling stories, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I have many fond memories of Jack and I will miss him. We were all fortunate to have known him.

Jim LaBonte

James R. LaBonte - January 27, 2016 at 09:32 AM



“ Jack was an adviser to me and a teacher to Kelly back in the late 1980's. We both were struck with how his serious passion and intellect for all things entomological never overtook the depth of the kindness of his heart. He taught us so many many things, but none more important than how to live honestly, fairly, and with much grace. He made a major contribution to our lives, and will be greatly missed.

Jim DiGiulio and Kelly Donegan

James DiGiulio - January 25, 2016 at 01:27 PM



“ Jack was one of my early mentors when I arrived at OSU as an Assistant Professor in 1968. I will never forget his kindness and sage advise. You will be missed my friend. Ralph Berry, Retired, Professor Emeritus

Ralph Berry - January 25, 2016 at 09:59 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Fond memories of Jack Lattin



Sujaya Rao - January 24, 2016 at 12:57 PM



“ What I remember most about Uncle Jack is that he was the most loving man I have ever known.

We had so many wonderful Corvallis visits with family and sharing fine food and wine together. Visiting my mother in Pentwater, MI, Jack brought (and used!) his butterfly net.

My wife, Anita, and I miss him dearly.

John Brocker

John Brocker - January 23, 2016 at 08:56 AM



“ I have known Jack for more than 50 years, as a colleague at OSUs and a friend. Jack was a very dedicated scientist, caring and considerate of others, always willing to listen to others, to contribute to friendly social interactions, help others. He will be missed.

My sincere condolences to Jo Anne and the family. Let me know Jo Anne if I can ever help.

Bill Pearcy

bill pearcy - January 22, 2016 at 05:22 PM



“ Dear Joanne-I am so sorry to hear about Jack. He was one of the most engaging professors I have ever taken classes from. Jim and I really enjoyed the entomology gatherings over the years and seeing you both. We will miss him. Diana Kearns (Kimberling)

Diana Kearns - January 22, 2016 at 11:30 AM



“ THE DICKASON/LATTIN FAMILIES HAD SO MANY WONDERFUL TIMES TOGETHER ! HE UNITED CORVALLIS AND HOLLAND VIA INSECTS AND HIS PROFESSIONALISM, LOVE , THE DICKASON FAMILY,

Dan Dickason - January 22, 2016 at 10:22 AM



“ Joanne, we share your sorrow and imagine how difficult it is without Jack. We feel privileged to have known him and to have had the opportunity to discuss various aspects of natural history with him. Jack was very knowledgeable and we especially enjoyed listening to anecdotes about his entomological love, the Hemiptera.

George and Roberta Poinar

George Poinar - January 21, 2016 at 10:42 PM



“ Joanne, I was so sorry to hear the sad news. Jack will be missed greatly by the entomological community at Oregon State University and globally. My thoughts are with you and your family.

Sujaya Rao

Sujaya Rao - January 21, 2016 at 09:12 PM



“ Colleague. collaborator, mentor, above all, friend---Jack's death is a great loss for us, as for so many others, and for the family he held so dear and that we now hold close in our thoughts and prayers. Joanne, you have given us a shining example, "a pearl without price", by your faithful love and care for Jack and for your whole family, as well as by your dear friendship throughout the years. Call us whenever you want, for whatever you need; we are here for you.

Alison and Andy M.



Alison and Andy Moldenke - January 21, 2016 at 05:23 PM



“ Dear JoAnne and family,
My heart goes out to you all. Jack was such a wonderful man. Memories keep flooding back all the way to Berkeley in the 1950's; such wonderful memories. Love,
Jim Hall.

Jim Hall - January 21, 2016 at 03:45 PM



“ Joanne, please accept our kindest thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time. It was a delight to serve you and Jack while Carmina and I served you at the Stoneybrook Lodge. The Lord is always kind and gentle...

Peter & Carmina van Arkens - January 20, 2016 at 06:15 PM



“ Joanne-Our hearts ache for you. Jack was one of those kind hearted, beautiful souls that you just don't meet very often. The love that the two of you shared was an inspiration to us, it could be seen in everything that you did for him and him for you. All our love. Dion and Jill DeWolfe

Jill Dewolfe - January 20, 2016 at 03:26 PM



“ Dear JoAnne - I was so sorry to read of Jack's death. I know you will miss him terribly. My love and sympathy to your entire family. Betsey Harrington

Betsey Harrington - January 20, 2016 at 12:29 PM