



Michael Newton

October 24, 1932 - August 30, 2022

Mike Newton, known worldwide as a legend in Forestry, one of the oldest and most beloved teachers at Oregon State University and loved community member has gone to be with his Heavenly Father and wife, Jane on August 30th, 2022, surrounded by family after a prolonged battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He never lost his sweetness.

Mike was born October 24th, 1932 in Hartford, Connecticut to Margaret Young Newton and David Newton. Margaret was a Vassar graduate and David a graduate of Princeton. Mike was the youngest of four siblings. The family purchased a 200 year old farm in West Townsend, VT, where they proceeded to create a "Working Boys Prep School". Mike grew up on this farm, speaking French and Latin, milking cows and logging with horses. They cut ice chunks from Burbee's Pond for their icehouse where they stored their food for the year. He learned to work hard caring for animals and studying to meet the high expectations of his rigorous parents. The "boys" would cross country ski for miles to go to a square dance in the winter. When Mike was 14, he went to Loomis Chaffe Prep School for Boys. He then went to University of Vermont at age 16, where he majored in Dairy Science with a minor in Forestry and played on the UVM Football Team. He was "dirt poor," and did odd jobs including gun smithing to make ends meet for college. Mike's sister, Mary, had a roommate at nursing school named, Jane. A romance developed and they were soon married there on the farm. Mike was in ROTC, then joined the US Army, where he served at Fort Riley, Kansas, where his son Dan was born,

then stationed in Germany on the Russian border. In the Army he was an explosive expert and also taught marksmanship on the range. He served two years, and then arrived in Corvallis in 1957 to begin his master's degree in Botany and Forest Ecology, graduating with a Ph.D. He worked two jobs to support his growing family, bought a house for \$3500 and remodeled it while studying. His research was primarily in weed science and silviculture. Mike became a professor at OSU Dept. of Forestry where he taught and did research from 1959 until 1999 when he retired. He published over 400 papers on Forest Science, taught 67+ Graduate students from 11 countries and will be remembered for his unconventional teaching techniques. He was known as a "dirt forester" who would spend more time in the field with hands on teaching, critical thinking and humor. He was known for his strength, a wonderful mentor, loved to dance, was hospitable, kind and a good father and husband. He loved working on his "stump ranch" in Eddyville rehabbing it into a beautiful forest. If you would listen... he would teach and make you think. Mike could fix anything with ingenuity. He will be greatly missed and remembered by all who knew him, with much love.

Our special thanks and love to each of the caregivers who lovingly took care of Mike for the last four and a half years and allowed him the joy of being at home until the end. We could not have done this without you. Our special thanks to Mike's many friends who continued to visit and brighten our lives and to Samaritan Evergreen Hospice.

Mike is preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Jane Webster Newton, his parents, Margaret and David Newton, siblings, John Newton, Marg Mechanic and Mary Western, daughter, Melanie Newton and Grandson, Andy Pederson. He is survived by his Newton children, Dan and (Kathy), children and great grandchildren, Linda & (Mike), and children, Tom and (April) and children. Celebration of Life will be Saturday, October 29th, 2022 at 11:00 am at the First Presbyterian Church of Corvallis, Dennis Hall: 114 SW 8th St. Corvallis, OR. Memorials are welcome to Oregon Small Woodland Association or Community Outreach, Inc. of Corvallis.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM.

First Presbyterian Church Of Corvallis

Tribute Wall

JK

“ My husband Ken Krueger and I arrived in Corvallis 1958 and met Mike and Jane along with other Masters degree candidates in Forestry. Lindy and brothers were toddlers when we would gather for socials, their parents bringing them with sleeping bags and a quart of ice cream..It was great to reconnect at Jane's lovely memorial service. My love and respect goes to all the family in memory of Mike. Judy Krueger

Judy KRUEGER - October 28, 2022 at 12:20 PM

LH

Thank you, Judy! I remember you! Mom and Pop were blessed with amazing friends. I remember being in that old Ford! Hmmm! Thanks for your reflections.

Linda Hanratty - October 31, 2022 at 11:44 PM

TG

“ I have fond memories of Mike (and Jane & Tom), primarily as customers of the Gerding's feed and grocery store. Many memories of Tom working at the store for a brief period as well as some 4-H memories. Had the Joy of interacting with Mike and Jane in the latter years around some common faith functions. What a great man that was highly intellectual, hard worker, and true gentleman. My deep condolences to the family.

Tom Gerding - October 02, 2022 at 11:34 AM

LH

Thank you, Tom! I remember when Tom worked with you! What a blessing to grow up in a community of caring faithful people. God bless you!

Linda Hanratty - October 31, 2022 at 11:46 PM

ER

“ *Evan Robinson lit a candle in memory of Michael Newton*



Evan Robinson - October 01, 2022 at 07:01 PM

ER

My family lived just down the road from the newtons I remember Dan worked for my dad a little bit I remember Lindy and I remember Tom and I remember your mother and father I remember Thomas and and I sliding down the laundry chute I don't think your mom was very happy with us down at her laundry but I'll never forget walking up the driveway And greeting your father and the smell of the bread coming from the kitchen. You are wonderful people with a wonderful father and mother I miss you all very much

Evan Robinson - October 01, 2022 at 07:20 PM

LH

*Hi Evan,
Thank you for your thoughtfulness! I remember babysitting you and your brother. God bless you!*

Linda Hanratty - October 31, 2022 at 11:47 PM

KP

“ I had the privilege to meet and interact with Mike as a student, colleague, and friend. Things I reminder include discussions about forestry, hunting stories, long days in rain gear, dynamite, lunch runs, fixing my truck’s bumper (with a big hammer). Two special memories that I will always cherish: Mike’s compliment “For a Kraut, your English is not bad” and Jane and Mike dancing at our wedding celebration.

Condolences to the family and friends.

Klaus and Maureen Puettmann

Klaus Puettmann - September 26, 2022 at 11:47 PM

LH

*Thank you, Klaus!
Pop spoke highly of you. Thank you for sharing these wonderful memories! It sounds like Pop! He could fix anything! And he loved to dance!*

Linda Hanratty - October 31, 2022 at 11:50 PM

RW

“ I was a colleague of Mike from the day I arrived at Oregon State in 1963.

We shared a belief that field work was more efficient if you camped. I helped him collect and weigh samples of varnish leaf ceanothus at one of his study sites. He carried a rifle and used it to scare away a bear that roamed too close to our tent at night. At that time, Mike used a very heavy World War II ambulance as his vehicle of choice. I was impressed when he got on the front end and moved the vehicle out of a ditch.

Much later, after we both had officially retired, he shared data from his Eddyville Forest to help explain why Douglas-fir grows so much better in New Zealand than in its home range.

My wife and I participated in many dances at the Newton's home.

We have fond memories of Mike, Jane, and their family.

Our condolences to the family.

Richard and Doris Waring

Richard Waring - September 26, 2022 at 02:33 PM

LH

*Dear Richard and Doris,
I remember you, well! Many dances when we snuck out and took a peek! Thank you for these memories. I remember that old army ambulance crummy. I am impressed he lifted it out of the ditch...no wonder he had back problems!*

Blessings on both of you!

Linda Hanratty - October 31, 2022 at 11:53 PM

GI

“ There was nobody who had greater enthusiasm about forestry than Mike. He was a true believer that good management could accelerate reforestation and protect wildlife and fish habitat. I was first a student and then a colleague with Mike. We served on advisory committees together and even co-authored a paper. That paper was written long after Mike's "official" retirement, but Mike never lost his love of research and learning. I can't help but feel the world is diminished with the loss of this giant of forestry. Mike stories could fill a book and they kind of did with the Newtonian Silviculture Conference Proceedings that was published at his retirement. Mike, you will be missed.

George Ice - September 21, 2022 at 03:33 PM

LH

Thank you, George! Pop mentioned you many times and treasured his connection with you. Yes, that Newtonian Silviculture Conference was a magnificent crack up and wrap up. Beautifully pulled off. Pop had wonderful friends in the forestry world. Thanks for sharing.

Linda Hanratty - October 31, 2022 at 11:56 PM

EF

“ My Major Prof, friend, sounding board, mentor, hero, and the only man I have ever seen asked to stop going back to the all you can eat salad bar at Wendy's.....



Ed Fredrickson - September 16, 2022 at 05:05 PM

LH

Oh Ed, Pop loved your humor and having you as a student! He mentioned you often. Thank you for sharing and thanks for the photos. Yes, he had an incredible capacity to eat and LOVED all you can eat buffets!

Linda Hanratty - October 31, 2022 at 11:58 PM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Brian Roth - September 16, 2022 at 01:37 PM

LH

Brian, thank you for this photo and others which you have shared. He deeply cared for each of you, his students. You were his passion and inspiration! He rejoiced as you grew and discovered! Thank you for sharing!

Linda Hanratty - November 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Mike was my supervisor for my Masters at Oregon State in the early 1990's. He helped me at every stage of my career and remains my mentor, hero and friend.

Brian Roth



Brian Roth - September 16, 2022 at 01:36 PM



Beautiful!

Linda Hanratty - November 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - September 14, 2022 at 10:56 AM