

## Obituaries

### David M. Wood



David M. Wood died peacefully at home with loved ones by his side on Saturday, October 13, 2012, after a brief battle with brain cancer.

Dave was born on January 24, 1952, in Blue Island, Illinois, and moved to coastal California during primary school. He loved California for its natural diversity—having grown up surfing and then hiking in the Sierra. He attended UC Santa Barbara and

UC Davis for his bachelor's in biology. He then worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a backcountry botanist in the High Sierra near Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. This inspired him to earn a master's in botany at California State University, Fresno by 1980. He went on to get his Ph.D. at the University of Washington (1987) working on the return of plants to the most devastated area of Mount St. Helens.

In 1987, he moved to the lower Hudson Valley of New York for a post-doctoral fellowship at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies working on plant management in the rights of way of transmission power lines. He met his wife, Jean G. Hubbell, a research assistant on an air pollution project there. Besides their ecological connection, they discovered they both enjoyed gardening and outdoor adventures in the mountains. Their adventures started on a small pond where she taught him to ice skate.

In 1988, he accepted his first

teaching position in the biology department at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. He enjoyed his colleagues there and oversight of the greenhouse but yearned to be back in the West. In graduate school, he had listed three places where he would like to teach—CSU Chico topped the list and in 1990 he was offered a job in the department of biological sciences there.

Dave flourished at CSU, Chico, enjoying his colleagues, his undergraduate students, his new opportunity to have graduate students, giving talks to local organizations while exploring the mountain backcountry with his wife—especially on skis. He was passionate about providing students with modern tools and teaching methods and helped bring computers and different curriculum to the biological sciences. Those who knew him well will smile at the term “passionate,” as Dave's passion came through with gracious subtlety, always respectful of others, as a quiet and thoughtful mediator.

Dave expanded his research from Mt. St. Helens to include restoration ecology on the nearby Sacramento River with the Nature Conservancy. He took early retirement in 2010 to support his family as they transitioned to living back east in Vermont.

Dave was new to The Valley and only had a short time here before becoming ill with brain cancer. He was a stalwart volunteer in support of his daughter's education and activities from the Four Winds Nature Institute, Fayston Elementary School fundraisers to Mad River Valley Soccer and Bill Koch League. That support continued when she went to Harwood Union Middle School.

Dave volunteered at Joslin Memorial Library, where he was valued for his computer skills as well as reading knowledge and kind disposition. Dave often volunteered there with his family: Dave at the circulation desk, while Jean and Tenaya did special projects for librarian Joy Worland. He and family con-

tinued their outdoor adventures whether it was Nordic or alpine skiing, ice skating or hiking.

Dave will be sorely missed as a kind, gentle, loving soul with a wonderful sense of humor, where he'd give you an exuberant smile and toss his head back to laugh. He was an amazing husband and father—so full of quiet love.

He's survived by his wife of 20 years, Jean G. Hubbell; their daughter, Tenaya E. Hubbell-Wood of Fayston, VT; a brother, Allen D. Wood of Palo Alto, CA; and sisters- and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews from coast to coast.

A celebration of Dave's life will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2012, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the 1824 House Inn & Barn, 2150 Main Street, Waitsfield, VT.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be given to the Joslin Memorial Library, P.O. Box 359, Waitsfield, VT 05673 or the Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice, 600 Granger Road, Barre, VT 05641.

## In My View continued from Page 5

# A note to Democrats and those who voted Obama

By Robin Lehman

Congratulations on your victory. I'm glad that Mitt Romney is not our president. But for me Barack Obama would have been my third choice after Dr. Jill Stein and Rocky Anderson. Having the lesser of two corporate shills as president gives me no pleasure.

Having a warmonger Democrat who kills innocents because of an obsessive paranoia gives me no pleasure. Having an earth-raping Democrat as president instead of a Republican is somehow okay? Having our rights to habeas corpus stripped away and being spied on by drones is okay if it's a Democrat? Torture and illegal wars are okay if it's

a Democrat? Secret international deals to send yet more jobs overseas to slave labor countries like China through the Pacific Rim agreement (NAFTA on steroids some call it) is okay if a Democrat does it to us instead of a Republican? A war on half of our population through the drug war is okay if Democrats do it? Having destroyed the economies of our southern neighbors, it's somehow okay to then imprison them and treat them as dirt? This is but a small list of Obama's “accomplishments” as president.

But to you Republicans and those of you who don't vote, I hope you will understand that it is people like me, the Occupy movement, the 99 percent (or are we the 47 percent?)

who are proud of our role in moving the president to the left. We will continue to force him to move to a more cooperative and just society. Barack Obama is no Socialist. I'm a socialist and I would not vote for him. I don't like Barack Obama! So what I'm saying is that the president is not divisive, the congress is not divisive. It's us, you and me, who are divided. Realize that Barack had a margin of victory much larger than George W. in 2004 when he claimed a conservative mandate. This mandate is clear. Obama must maintain Social Security through raising the cap on individual contributions and expand Medicare to cover all our citizens from the time of birth to their death.

We want an economy that rewards work, not money. We believe that having billionaires in our society while 60 million people live in poverty is immoral. The president doesn't believe this. The president, in his economic beliefs, is much closer to you Republicans than he is to me, a Socialist.

But, lastly, there are things we agree on, like voting. The polls show and in reading comments by tea partiers we all want money out of politics. Another area where both, you and we, agree is that the present two-party system is obsolete and undemocratic. Instant run-off elections would allow for the Green party and the Libertarians and others to be heard without “throwing away” our votes. And if voting becomes more honest and inclusive then perhaps more people will vote and we can regain some of our democracy. And in regaining our democracy, perhaps we can make our country a better place for all of us.

*Lehman lives in Warren.*

Guess

Guide

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#### Warren Development Review Board

The Warren Development Review Board has scheduled public hearings at 7:00 PM, Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at the Warren Municipal Building to consider the following matters.

**Application 2012-58-ZP/CU,** Proposed additional use to existing outdoor recreational facility. Summit Ventures NE, LLC (dba Sugarbush Resort) seeks Conditional Use Approval to offer winter driving classes on the driving range at the Sugarbush Golf Club. The purpose of the school is to provide an opportunity for attendees to improve their winter driving skills in a safe and controlled environment. The street legal vehicles travel at low speeds around a prepared snow covered and frozen course. The clubhouse will be used for indoor school needs (classroom space, bathrooms, meals, etc.). The existing parking lots will be used to accommodate all driving school parking needs. No permanent construction is required. All existing site conditions will remain unchanged.

The property is identified as 169.13 Acres at 1091 Golf Course Road, (Sugarbush Golf Club) in the Rural Residential District, parcel id 053001-200. This application requires review under Article 2, Tables 2.2, Article 3, § 3.11 Article 5, § 5.3 Development Review of the Warren Land Use and Development Regulations dated March 8, 2005 and last amended November 13th, 2012.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite site to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Plans for these projects are available for public review at the Planning and Zoning/Warren Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours. If you have any questions regarding this application/hearing, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning and Zoning Office located in the Conference Room (old library) of the Warren Municipal Building at 42 Cemetery Road in Warren Village.

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