

The Conservationist



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Potomac-Patuxent Chapter Trout Unlimited

In Memory

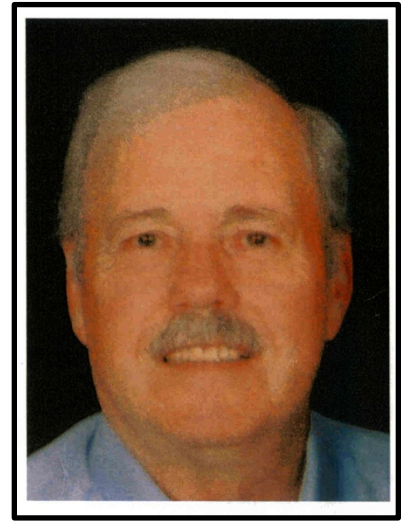
Jim Robinson

July 11th, 1949 – May 28th, 2014

PPTU Chapter President

James Neal Robinson, 64, of Scaggsville, Maryland passed away unexpectedly on May 28th at his home in Scaggsville, Howard Co., Maryland. He was born on July 11th, 1949 in Jarrettsville, MD to Donald Robinson Sr. and Helen Gross Robinson.

In 1967, Jim graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, VA, enlisting in the United States Army shortly thereafter. He served 5 years as an enlisted soldier in the Army Security Agency, spending much of that time stationed in South Korea. Returning to attend the University of Maryland, College Park on the GI Bill, Jim found a venue in which to satisfy his intellectual curiosity and launch an extraordinarily fulfilling career. Jim's career at the University of Maryland spanned 40 years, beginning with his service as a student firefighter with the College Park Fire Department, to his most recent position as Assistant Director for Electrical Services and Life Safety Systems. In between he earned a masters degree and advanced through various positions of increasing responsibility. During a career devoted to ensuring the safety of thousands of UMD students, Jim held countless leadership and mentoring positions both on and off campus. He was the former Chairman of the Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association, a member of the National Safety Council Board of Delegates, and author of numerous articles for college planning and management publications. In 2007, Jim received the Distinguished Service to Safety Award from the National Safety Council, the organization's highest award. He had only recently advised his supervisors that he planned to retire early next year.



Outside of work, Jim was a pillar of his community, taking leadership roles in numerous church and civic organizations. He served as Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster of BSA Troop 424, Savage, MD, President of the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a member of Project Healing Waters, and on countless boards and committees at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Scaggsville. This was all in addition to providing limitless support and guidance to his children and family. In his spare time he enjoyed fly-fishing and woodworking.

Jim is survived by his wife of 39 years, Rosemary Tripoli Robinson of Laurel, MD; his children Sara Tripoli Robinson of New York, NY and James Tripoli Robinson of Washington, D.C.; his brother Donald Francis Robinson, Jr. of Jarrettsville, MD and sister Carolyn Robinson Lang of Bel Air, MD.

Mailing address for the family is:
Mrs. Rosemary Robinson
8746 Susini Dr
Laurel, MD 20723

Jim Robinson Remembered **- Jay Sheppard**

Jay Sheppard's comments made at the funeral service June 1, 2014 at Emanuel Methodist Church, Scaggsville, MD.

Jim joined the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited in January 2001 at the urging of his friend, near neighbor and late member of PPTU and the same church, Dave Wittman. It was clear to all of us in PPTU immediately that here was a person who was delightful to be around and that he was someone to be counted upon. I have been an active member of PPTU since the early 80s. I have seen a lot of members come and go. Jim was clearly a person we wanted to have in our midst. As one of the past presidents of the chapter, I was on the nominating committee for new officers. For years I tried to convince Jim to become an officer or even a member of our Board. In May of 2008 Jim was elected to our Board for a 3-year term as a Director. In May 2011 he was elected to the office of Vice President with the understanding that in 2 years he would be nominated for President of the chapter. A year ago Jim was elected to a 2-year term as chapter president.

Over the past 13 years Jim contributed to many projects within PPTU. With his connections to the Boy Scouts, he got some eagle projects completed on one of our local trout streams: the Patuxent River tailwater below Brighton Dam. Trees were planted and a foot bridge built by the scouts. He also helped in the annual stockings of the local trout streams, pulling boxes loaded with trout down a mile or so of snag infested river bottoms. He lead many crews in this effort. He also had a fond spot in his large heart for helping in our Trout in the Classroom program. This program delivers trout eggs to local schools in January for the kids to raise the trout in a carefully monitored environment until late spring when the children go to a local stream to release their little trout. Jim wrote and compiled our chapter's Strategic Plan, which served as a model for the TU Council. He was interested in every facet of the chapter's activities—hot dog sales, public events, fish surveys, Brighton Dam tailwater, Paint Branch, chapter meetings, as well as the aforementioned projects. As director, vice

president and lastly as president of the chapter, Jim provided a steady hand to our progress.

Jim was the embodiment of Trout Unlimited. He was concerned not only for preserving our water quality and trout but also that future generations will have clean water and places to fish.

I have collated some of the postings by our TU members in recent days and have shared them with the family and his friends.

- Jay

My condolences to his wife and kids. I always found him to be a stand-up kind of guy who spent a lot of time making things possible for other people — TIC releases, Eagle scout projects, PPTU events. I honestly didn't know if/how he found any time to fish. He'll assuredly be missed by many, many people.

- Robert Simpson

Very, very sad. Jim was one of nicest guys I've known. He will surely be missed by all.

- Bob O'Donnell

He was a great guy, He will be missed by many people.

- Larry Vawter

Knowing Jim was a gift to us all. Big heart, open mind, open door—always time to help or counsel others and to make them feel important to him.

- Jim Greene



Jim was a man who always donated his time and energy whenever possible. Somehow, he found enough time in the day to be deeply engaged with his church, PPTU, TIC [Trout in the Classroom], and the Boy Scouts. I believe that when the final chapter is written for any of us, what matters, what really counts is the positive impact we have played in the lives of others. And you know, I suspect only God could keep count of all of the people Jim has helped throughout his life. Jim has to be one of the most selfless individuals I have ever had the privilege to meet. Thank you Jim Robinson, The impact you made on so many means you'll memory will always be with us.

- Marc Hutzell

He was very thankful for the time I spent casting with the kids at the trout release at Brighton Dam last year. He stayed until the end of the event to make sure everything was cleaned up, a very kind man who made much room in his heart for others. Thanks Jim.

- Jed Feffer

Jim led the macro invertebrates station [at the TIC release below Brighton Dam] and I had the privilege to learn there from a master. He spoke calmly, clearly and answered all the kids questions. He knew exactly what to do, what to say, and make a fun, educational presentation amongst the rain drops. I learned so much in that couple hours that I will always be able to take with me the courtesy of Jim's giving, caring nature.

For this and everything else you have done for us all, Thanks Jim. You truly will be missed,

- John Lee

Very sad news. I didn't know Jim very well but from what I could tell he was a very giving person.

- Gene Cyprych



**Last Cast
- Bob O'Donnell**

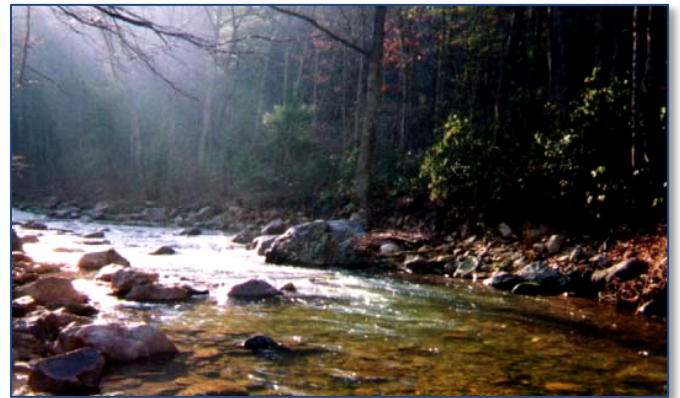
It doesn't seem fair to start planning your retirement, be so excited to travel and spend much needed time with family only to have it snatched away from you in the blink of an eye.

The very last time I talked with Jim he spoke of all his plans with quite the twinkle in his eye. You could tell he was really looking forward to getting away from the daily grind of work and the never ending call of volunteering. Not that Jim would ever stop volunteering, it was in his nature to give.

I for one will miss him. I was still hoping I had time to "skate by" a bit more at our board meetings and maybe, later on, start paying more attention to how well he ran our meetings and our chapter. We all think we have a little more time in life than we really do. These were Jim's last lines from his recent President's column in the *Conservationist*:

"So now, we take a break for a couple of months. Keep your lines wet & we'll see you again in September (sounds like a good title for a song but you don't want to hear me sing).

Until next month, tight lines ..." 🍷
Jim R.



*"God grant that I may live to fish -
Until my dying day -
And when it comes to my last cast -
I then most humbly pray -
When in the Lord's safe landing net -
I'm peacefully asleep
That in his mercy I be judged - As good enough to keep"
- Unknown*

The Chapter Board is considering a memorial for Jim. Any suggestions from our members are welcome. Once a decision is made we will announce the decision at our next meeting and also post the information on our website.

Please email your suggestions to the editor at: troutwangler@yahoo.com or you can write to our mailing address:

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter TU
P.O. Box 2865
Wheaton, MD 20915

Jim Robinson giving time to students at a Trout-in-the-Classroom release.



Jim Robinson surrounded by several proud members of PPTU celebrating the successful Boy Scout bridge project.



Jim with a nice fish and also stocking fish for others while wearing some interesting gear.

Jim always had a smile on his face.



Jim planting trees by the Patuxent River. Part of a Scout project that he was a key part of and helped with continuously.