

Nature activist Wendell Wood dies hiking

By Jeff Barnard
Associated Press

GRANTS PASS (AP) — Wendell Wood, a longtime environmental advocate and co-founder of the conservation group Oregon Wild, has died. He was 65.

His wife, Kathy, said Wood collapsed Tuesday hiking in the Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park south of Crescent City, California, where they lived since his retirement, and his heart had stopped by the time he was brought to a hospital.

Fellow activist Andy Kerr said Wood was a tenacious champion of ancient forests, and instrumental in Endangered Species Act protection for the short-nosed sucker and the Lost River sucker, two fish at the center of water battles in the Klamath Basin, and the western snowy plover.

After turning down a job with his family's furniture factory outside Los Angeles, Wood taught high school biology in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, for four years before moving to Eugene in 1981 to work for Oregon Natural Resources Council, which became Oregon Wild. It was three years before he could get paid, his wife said.

"He decided he had a higher calling as a warrior for nature," Kerr said. "We were all wanting to save forests and wilderness. We needed an organization and kind of made one."

Kerr recalled that at one point during the battles over the northern spotted owl, which ultimately cut logging by 90 percent on federal lands in Oregon, Washington and northern California in 1994, Wood informed him that they had just filed administrative appeals to stop 228 timber sales on national forests.

"I later was called before a congressional committee to explain that, which I happily did," Kerr said.

Oregon Wild Executive Director Sean Stevens called Wood "the conscience of the environmental community" who seemed to have eyes and ears everywhere.

Wood's efforts on behalf of fish and wildlife in the Klamath Basin in the midst of intense water battles and attempts to develop a ski area earned him death threats, fellow activist Jim McCarthy recalled.

“ He was tenacious in not letting them score, not letting that timber sale get through, not letting that road project get through. — Andy Kerr

Kerr thought of Wood as "the forests' best goalie," tenacious in his defense of nature, but with a lovable personality.

"He was tenacious in not letting them score, not letting that timber sale get through, not letting that road project get through," Kerr said.

The Wild West comes to Sisters

Sisters will explore its Western roots with the Sisters Wild West Show set for August 22-23, at Bend/Sisters Garden RV Resort.

The event will feature a Western town with western skit performances at high noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. The event is free to the public

There will be a variety of arts, crafts, food and entertainment.

Spin the wheel for a dollar and win prizes. All funds benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oregon toward a local wish.

At 6:30 p.m. Saturday, August 22 there will be a special dinner show. Admission to this show is \$38 for adults and \$18 for children (6-12). This includes a 30-minute Wild West performance, Western singalong, pig roast, dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage.

Bend/Sisters Garden RV Resort is located at 67667 Highway 20 next to Sisters Rodeo Grounds.

Obituary

Wayne S. Mutchler

July 13, 1950 — August 8, 2015

Wayne S. Mutchler, of Camp Sherman and Portland, Oregon, was born July 13, 1950 to George and Helen Mutchler in Englewood, New Jersey.

Wayne married Marisa Oliver April 9, 1981, in Portland. They have three daughters. Wayne was the owner of Mutchler Construction for almost 40 years.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Marisa Mutchler of Portland; daughters, Kara (Nick) Danner of Portland, Alexis Mutchler, and Justine Mutchler of Portland; grandson Cooper Danner; and brothers, Glenn Mutchler of Franklin, TN, Dwight Mutchler of Cayey, PA and Robert Mutchler of Sisters and sister Sheryl Kelly of Eugene.

Wayne's uniqueness was born out of his New Jersey and Oregon family, his long exploration of eastern philosophy, astronomy, health, natural healing, diet, exercise, mindfulness and the outdoors. He was an artist as a builder, a consummate



athlete, pole vaulter, zen skier, windsurfer and mountain lover.

He was disciplined, well read, and informed about everything to the "Nth" degree. The "Manly Man" as his family teased him, was the nicest, easy going, good guy, friend, husband, father and brother. He rocketed himself "to the other side" (as he would say), during his last superman workout at the Multnomah Athletic Club.

Wayne would often say; "Every Front has a Back. The bigger the Front, the bigger Back. Everything changes....., the universe is always expanding.... Entropy.... it's all Entropy....."

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