



Dr. William E. Cooper

May 8, 1938 - November 7, 2011

William “Bill” Edwin Cooper, 73 of Mason, passed away on November 7th. He grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, son of Gerald and Alma Cooper. After attending MSU and U of M, he was a zoology professor at MSU for over 30 years. Bill was a devoted teacher and scientist. His research spanned four continents, and included the first use of submarines on the Great Lakes and Lakes Tanganyika and Malawi in Africa. Bill was an avid outdoorsman, equally at home in the woods and at a lectern. He was a regular lecturer for the U. S. Office of Personnel Management Senior Executive Service and The Brookings Institution on environmental policy, a member of the National Research Council's Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology, and advisor for the EPA.

Bill enjoyed life, work, travel, and spending time with his family and friends. Many of his friends became part of his family. He will be remembered for his generosity, wit, and boundless energy. He lost his wife Jean two years ago, and is survived by his children Jill, Jason and Scott, and granddaughter Chloe. He will be missed at hunting and fishing camps across the country. Donations in his name can be made to the MSU Zoology Department. Private family services will be held later.

Tribute Wall

PA

“ *Bill, I miss you. You are my angel. I know this because I almost died from covid. I wish that I could have saved you too. Always remember love is real and it never ends. You are a consent reminder of what a gentleman is. Love you. Pat*



Patricia - September 29, 2022 at 01:00 AM

PA

“ *Bill, I miss you. You are my angel. I know this because I almost died from covid. I wish that I could have saved you too. Always remember love is real and it never ends. You are a consent reminder of what a gentleman is. Love you. Pat*



Patricia - September 29, 2022 at 01:00 AM

UV

“ Bill and I were colleagues for many years being in a similar scientific field. In mid 1990, Bill kindly agreed to serve as a part time adviser/consultant when I was a new director of a science center in Seattle. His help to me and my colleagues was invaluable. Bill's broad and deep knowledge of many subjects, his sense of humor, wit and generous help remain vivid in my memory, even after decade and half since I last saw him. We tried to contact him few times but he was busy at first and then we heard of Jean's illness, and after that I lost touch when I retired in 2010. I am writing my memoire and tried to look Bill up. I now realize that my good friend and adviser has left this world for almost a decade. I am writing to convey my deep condolences to his family, hope it is OK

Usha varanasi

Usha Varanasi - December 01, 2020 at 01:26 AM

TK

“ I was a patient of Dr. Cooper and Dr. Ellsworth in August 1972. Dr. Cooper performed my enucleation and saved my life. I last saw him in August 1990, when he performed a lid lift on me at age 18. My three lifesavers are all together in heaven now: Dr. Robert Ellsworth, Dr. Richard Lennon, and Dr. William Cooper. I wish I had a chance to thank them again for all they did for me. T. Kilb

Theresa Kilb - August 03, 2015 at 09:56 AM

BR

“ Goodbye, my friend. We worked hard together in moving Michigan forward on responsible policy during the Milliken years. We worked hard at continuing to move the state during the years we worked together at Public Sector. And, we worked hard at enjoying the outdoors we both loved, be it hunting, fishing, or working dogs together. There will be a hole in the rest of my life that will be hard to fill, but I promise to continue to spend lots of time in the outdoors continuing to do the things that mattered so much to me and you. And, every time I do, I promise to tip my hat to the heavens in honor of you and our long friendship.

Bill Rustem - November 09, 2011 at 01:13 PM

TR

“ Dr. Cooper was a mentor and friend and one of the greatest guys that I have ever known. He will be missed by his many friends around the world. He did much to protect the Great Lakes ecosystem and the natural resources of the planet during his distinguished career. His passing is a great loss for all of us.

Sincerely,

Tom Rohrer, Director
Great Lakes Institute for Sustainable Systems
Central Michigan University

Thomas K. Rohrer - November 09, 2011 at 12:13 PM