



Bonnie Jean Bowne

May 17, 2019

Bonnie Jean Bowne, 65, passed away on May 17, 2019 with her mother by her bedside.

Bonnie was born on August 27, 1953 in Ames, Iowa to John and Lea Bowne. The family moved to Arvada, Colorado in 1960. Bonnie graduated from Arvada High School, and later from Colorado State University with a degree in finance and accounting and minors in art history and anthropology.

Bonnie will be remembered for capturing the beauty of nature through her painting and photography. Her passion began in her teens when an instructor at a church camp taught her how to mix paint colors for different effects. Her talents flourished under the instruction of Jeannie MacKenzie of Ft Collins, Dan Young of Silt, Colorado and Jim Wilcox of Jackson, Wyoming. She received numerous awards in juried art exhibitions. In Bonnie's words, "I strive to use the medium of oil paint to depict the light and beauty that I see in God's creation all around me."

Her mother, Lea, fondly remembers nearly 100 trips to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons in spring, summer, and fall for photography and painting. Bonnie's paintings were displayed and sold at the Art Center at Estes Park.

One of her specialties in painting was capturing the breathtaking beauty of aspen trees in the fall. Her forte in photography was capturing wild animals in their habitats at just the right moment. She patiently waited for spectacular shots of bears and bear cubs, wolves, foxes, moose, ermine, owls, otters, beavers and badgers. Friends looked forward to receiving one of her Christmas cards each year that contained a photograph from a recent trip to Yellowstone.

Bonnie respected wild animals so much that she often declined to tell people where photos were taken because she didn't want the animals to be disturbed.

In addition to wild animals, she had a special love for Siberian Huskies and enjoyed the

companionship of her 2 huskies, Tanya and Tasha.

Her working career began with a job in receiving at the Bible Book Store owned by the Yancey family in downtown Fort Collins. She later transferred to Yancey Produce where she worked for over 40 years ending her career as CFO.

Bonnie was proud of the conditioning work she did with her trainer Matt Konopka, to prepare for the Fort Collins Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. Participating in that race was one of her proudest achievements.

Bonnie was predeceased by her father John in 1977, and her sister Ann McClelland in 2018. She is survived by her mother, Lea, who was a beloved companion on their many journeys to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons, as well as a devoted caregiver during Bonnie's illness. In addition, Bonnie is also survived by her close friends: Coreen Boeding, Matt Knopka, Fred McClanahan Jr., and Vickie Mastron.

There will be a Celebration of Life Service on Thursday May 30, at 11:00 a.m. followed by a light luncheon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 2000 South Lemay in Fort Collins. Bonnie specifically requested a gathering that focused on the joys in her life, and guests are invited to wear colorful clothing in honor of her passion for the beauty in nature. Memorial contributions may be made to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Ft Collins, or the Art Center at Estes Park 517 Big Thompson Avenue Unit 245, Estes Park, CO 80517.

Fun Facts about Bonnie:

1. During a winter trip to Yellowstone, Bonnie was thrilled to see two wolves lying in the snow. Hours later, she zoomed the photograph only to discover that her "wolves" were actually coyotes!
2. Bonnie loved to photograph foxes and traveled far to find them. Once a neighbor called to tell her how much she was enjoying watching a fox with several kits who were denning under Bonnie's front porch in Fort Collins.
3. Lea fondly remembers Bonnie's love for all holidays, but especially May Day and Halloween!
4. Bonnie used to bring work home from Yancey's so her mom, Lea, could help her finish her bookwork. Because of her background in accounting, Lea was put on Yancey's payroll and worked for her daughter for twenty years!!

5. One summer in Yellowstone, Bonnie had set up her camera on the hood of her car to photograph a bear in the distance. As she was waiting for the perfect shot, Lea tapped on the windshield to warn Bonnie that the bear was getting close to the car - too close. Bonnie bolted into the car. Fortunately the camera equipment and Bonnie survived the close call, but she missed the photo opportunity!

Events

MAY **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

30

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

2000 S Lemay Avenue, Fort Collins,, CO, US, 80525

Comments



“ I first “met” Bonnie on the internet about 20 years ago. The internet was new and we and many more found the Total Yellowstone Loon Page. We were all loony about Yellowstone. I met up with Bonnie and Lea several times in Yellowstone, as did many other Loons. We would talk about bears and wolves, photography, cameras, all things Yellowstone and just shoot the breeze in general. After the Loon page was sold to a new owner, most of the Loons migrated to Facebook where we continued our friendship with each other. Bonnie loved the Denver Broncos. And hated them. Whenever they lost or did something stupid she would refer to them as the Donkeys. She had this photo she would post on Facebook of a bunch of mules standing around a football and staring at it, dumbfounded by the object. It still makes me laugh. I loved her wit, her sense of humor, her advocacy for wildlife, her intelligence, her photography, and her paintings. She will be missed by many. My condolences to Lea and all of her friends and family. Steve Stuller St. Charles, Mo.

Steve Stuller - May 21, 2019 at 11:16 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Robin - May 21, 2019 at 04:19 PM



“ 34 files added to the album Memories Album



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - May 20, 2019 at 01:30 PM