



Donald "Don" Lewis Crews

March 8, 1935 - March 8, 2015

Donald L. Crews, 79, of Fort Collins, died March 8, 2015, after a short illness.

Don was born on December 8, 1935, in Culbertson, Nebraska, to Paul and Vera (Spence) Crews. He attended public schools in Culbertson, graduating in a class of 23 students. He received a bachelor's degree in Forest Utilization from Colorado State University, a master's degree in Forest Products from Michigan State University, and a doctorate in Wood Products Engineering from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University.

In 1959 Don was married to Roberta Atkinson. To this marriage, three children were born: James, Thomas and Gail. They later divorced. Don and Diane Jones were married in 1976.

Don was a member of the faculty of the Department of Forest Sciences in the College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University for 36 years. He retired in 1999 as associate professor emeritus. For 15 years, he served as assistant dean of the College where he coordinated their undergraduate and summer employment programs. Don was an excellent recruiter and the enrollment of the College was at its highest during his tenure in the dean's office.

Don was active in Fort Collins local government. He served eight years on the City Planning and Zoning board (two as chairman), four years on the Larimer County Urban Growth Area Review Board (one as chairman), and was a member of the West Side Neighborhood Planning Committee. Don always treasured his small town heritage. In 2003, he wrote a successful proposal to FEMA to acquire a new \$250,000 fire engine for his hometown (pop. 596).

Don loved going to his family “hunting lodge” (Crews Farms) in Nebraska to hunt pheasants, quail, and turkeys. Accompanied by family members and friends, he always described these outings as “a few days of hunting, watching college and pro football games, telling great jokes, eating lots of red meat and drinking good whiskey and wine.” In addition to hunting, he enjoyed his many hiking trips to England with Diane, traveling (as of 2010, he had spent at least one night in all 50 states), cooking, working at the National Western Stock Show, Colorado Rockies baseball, and golfing. During his retirement he volunteered at the Larimer County Food Bank, as a driver for SAINT, and at the Colorado Welcome Center. He was an active member of the Poudre Golden K Kiwanis Club for many years, serving as its president in 2010-2011, and he enjoyed the camaraderie of a group of friends who met every Wednesday morning for breakfast.

He is survived by his wife Diane; brother Tom (Jan) of Federal Way, WA and Scottsdale, AZ; son Jim (Jan) and grandchildren Ashley and Kiley of Scottsdale, AZ and Boulder, CO; son Tom (Brenda) and grandchildren Tommy and McKenna of Loveland, CO; daughter Gail (Michael) Berkery and grandchildren Abigail and Ethan of Golden, CO; and stepson Sean (Beverly) Jones and grandchildren Meredith and Cooper of Golden, CO.

At Don’s request, and in lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University to support the Crews Family Scholarship for Pingree Park. Cremation has taken place

and his remains will be scattered at a favorite spot at a later date.

Friends and associates are invited to join the family at a Wake from 4-6:00 p.m. on a date to be announced later at the Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive, for fellowship, sharing of memories, and partaking of some adult beverages and munchies.

Previous Events

Wake

APR 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (MT)

Fort Collins Senior Center
1200 Raintree Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Tribute Wall



“ Donald "Don" Lewis Crews

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ I had the privilege of meeting Don during my time working in the Warner College of Natural Resources at CSU and helping him to establish the Crews Family Scholarship for Pingree Park. He had a passion for education, the outdoors and the mountain campus that brought him so many joyful memories. Don visited our office regularly and I always loved our chats about Rockies baseball, spending time outdoors and family trips and holidays. He warmly welcomed me to the WCNR family and shared his love of the National Western Stock Show with an invitation to our little boy's first rodeo and brought a huge smile to my face as he bounced my son on his knee at a Pingree Park Reunion. Don was generous with his time, talent, treasure and most importantly, his heart. I will never forget his kindness, his deep affection for his children and grandchildren and his fierce Ram Pride. I am grateful to have known him for the short time that I did and I will always remember his authenticity and exuberant laugh echoing through the hallways at CSU. Rest in peace sweet friend. You are missed.

Allison Hines - April 17, 2015 at 12:08 PM



“ Mark, Michele & Tyler Stephens purchased the Sacred Cross Bouquet for the family of Donald "Don" Lewis Crews.



Mark, Michele & Tyler Stephens - April 16, 2015 at 01:23 PM

KH

“ I wanted to let his children Gail, Jim and Tom know that I am thinking of them during this hard time. Remembrances of the love you shared however will never go away.

Kirsten Hartman - March 24, 2015 at 04:39 PM

DG

“ Don, Bob Hubbard, and I always had at least one dinner outing when we were at the CSU reunions. We were in Don's class at A&M, and were at Pingree Park Forestry Camp together in the summer of 1954.

He was a great guy and a true friend. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Dave Godshalk, A&M/CSU Class of '57

David Godshalk - March 21, 2015 at 02:45 PM

“ This is from Jim LaBau, Forestry Classmate of the CSU Class of 1957. Some memories shared by Don about the 1954 Pingree Park experience. There is also a video of other memories shared by Don-see Roberta Brouer at CSU).

XX

To the CSU/A&M Forestry Class of 1957,

It is with a sad heart that I bring the news that Dr. Don Crews passed away. I have included two emails that I received in that regard. For more information about services, etc, pull up this obituary:

<http://www.goesfuneralcare.com/obituaries/Donald-Don-Crews/#!/Obituary>

Two years ago, CSU did get a good video recording of some of Don's wild stories about his days at Pingree Camp in 1954 (dynamiting stumps and rocks with Dr Mogran, and his version of the shooting of the garbage bear).

Last September, at the 100th year celebration of the establishment of the Pingree Campus, Dr. Steinhoff was in attendance. During a showing of old pictures, there was a picture of Dr. Steinhoff standing in just this shorts streamside of a beaver "lodge" as he was about to dive underwater to lead his wildlife students into the lodge for a look. Dr. Steinhoff was not very pleased when that picture showed up in the 1954 Forester's Annual publication. At last fall's meeting, Dr. Steinhoff said he would sure like to know who took that picture. Don Crews had taken the picture and got a good laugh telling Dr. Steinhoff. A copy of that picture was reprinted in the 2007 50 class of '57 year reunion book.

I think I have a copy of it in my Anchorage files. At the moment, I am in Fort Collins and don't have access to the picture. The picture is in

the Class of 57 Fifty Year Reunion book.

We will miss Don. May he rest in peace.

Please pass this on to other '57 classmates. I don't know how good my 10 year old email list is.

Jim LaBau

Jim LaBau, CSU Class of 1957 - March 19, 2015 at 08:49 PM

PF

“ *I have fond memories of my years at Colorado State University, and many of them include Don Crews. He was a great friend and colleague. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. May you find comfort knowing what a wonderful man he was.*

Pamela Faria (Garcia)

Pamela Faria - March 16, 2015 at 10:20 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" Lewis Crews.*



March 13, 2015 at 02:28 PM

KB

“ I was pleased to have Don's guidance and assistance as my major professor for my Master's program at Colorado State University, completed in 1990 during his tenure as Associate Dean of the College. My connection with the Society of American Foresters, and to Don and Dean Jay Hughes was instrumental in my success. Thank you so much for his efforts and your family support. I returned to CSU in 2000 to earn my Ph.D under Dr. Roger Hoffer, completed in 2003.

I am available to assist with the wake; I am the founder of the Fort Collins Pipe Band, now renamed the Northern Colorado Caledonia Pipe Band. A little bagpipe music at the wake may be a touch to consider. I humbly offer my free services, if desired.

*Respectfully,
Dr. Karl E. Brown*

Karl Brown - March 12, 2015 at 10:02 AM

DL

“ This picture of Don is well chosen! It is exactly the Don Crews I have known from the fall of 1955 when I met Don (and brother Tom) at Mrs. Sapp's boarding house on Remington Street. Don was a "hasher" there (the fellow who served food, kept order among the boarders, and facilitated the clean up). Don was working his way through school and I believe in his Senior year. He was always in good spirits, with a quick joke and a laugh. I always felt a surge of joy when I saw Don and got to visit with him. It was my pleasure to co-teach with Don and to work with him assisting students. He genuinely cared for students and did his best to help every one of them, especially students who were from difficult circumstances. He and Tom are among my longest friends and I will certainly miss Don dearly. When I retired Don was kind enough to give me the Crews Broadaxe, a relic from Crews family history. I was humbled by his thoughtfulness.

Denny Lynch, Colleague and Professor Emeritus of Forest Sciences

Dennis L. (Denny) Lynch - March 11, 2015 at 10:46 PM

KL

“ Over the years it was our distinct pleasure to have had Don volunteer and work with us at the National Western Stock Show. He always had a smile on his face, stayed positive and was most fun to talk to about sports. And his face would always light up when we talked about his family. We will miss him and his friendship. Kellie Lombardi, NWSS Staff and the NWSS volunteers.

Kellie Lombardi - March 11, 2015 at 09:05 PM

PP

“ I have known Don since 1976 when I came to CSU as a graduate student. Over the years, we were friends and colleagues and enjoyed each other's company at the CSU Men's Science Club. Although we haven't seen each other in several years, he will be missed and remain in my memory. - Pat Pellicane

Pat Pellicane - March 11, 2015 at 03:52 PM

CM

“ Chrissy McCollom lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Lewis Crews



Chrissy McCollom - March 09, 2015 at 11:33 AM

SM

I babysat his children back in the 70's in Ft. Collins. He was a nice guy and I always enjoyed visiting with him. I know Jim, Tom and Gail will miss their dad. He died so young.

Sue McGinley - March 13, 2015 at 05:26 PM

AG

I was one of his student's in the late 70s, early 80s who sat across from him at his desk and absorbed, albeit, incompletely the wisdom and care he looked to share. There were plenty of profs to interact with then and to recall now, or not. He is one I do remember and I appreciate the help he offered me when things were challenging. I lost my one parent while attending college and that loss was so great and overwhelming that the people like Dr Crews who reached out and tried their best to steady the youth before them was touching and helped me from falling apart completely. Thank you Dr Crews for being a teacher and a compassionate person. It was appreciated much more than you knew.

My condolences to the family. He was a good man.

AG - April 06, 2015 at 12:59 PM