



## Forrest Hesselbarth

May 13, 1949 - July 2, 2008

On 2 July 2008 Forrest (Woody) Deane Hesselbarth, trailbuilder and troublemaker, of Fort Collins, passed away peacefully with his wife Janet Kurman at his bedside. With his wicked good sense of humor, courage and grace Woody gallantly fought the good fight against atypical carcinoid cancer for almost 5 years. Woody was born May 13, 1949, in Kansas City MO, the eldest son of Maynard and Opal (Wells) Hesselbarth. Woody was raised with his younger brother Dennis Hesselbarth in Wichita, KS; Aurora, IL and Durango, CO. Having spent the majority of his childhood years in Durango he considered it home. Woody attributed much of his passion for the mountains- especially Wilderness and love of the outdoors- to his growing up years in Durango and many family camping adventures in the West. Woody finished his senior year of high school and graduated from Lincoln High School in Denver. Following graduation Woody attended Metro State College in Denver and joined the Colorado Air National Guard. Prior to getting a “real job” with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Woody worked at various ski areas including Vail and Kirkwood, CA and as a bicycle technician in Denver. Throughout his life he was an avid alpine and Nordic skier and bicyclist. During his years in Fort Collins, Woody was a familiar sight as he commuted on his bicycle to work at the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest (AR/P NF). Woody was a strong advocate of mass transit and bicycle travel as an alternative to commuter cars, trucks and SUVs. He was an active member of Bike Fort Collins. In 1977 he began work for the Forest Service as a seasonal recreation technician on

the White River National Forest, CO and as a seasonal wilderness ranger on the Eldorado NF, CA, San Juan NF, CO; and the Payette NF and the Nez Perce NF in Idaho. His first permanent Forest Service position was as a Wilderness Ranger and Trails Construction and Maintenance Specialist in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Moose Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce NF, ID. In 1996 the Forest Service published the first edition of Woody's widely used Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook. It has been republished in 2004 and 2007 and it remains one of the Forest Service's "best selling" publications. From 1979-1983 Woody and his search dog Elisha were members of WOOF, a volunteer search and rescue unit based in the Sierra Nevadas. Woody was a longstanding member of the American Avalanche Association and a certified EMT. During his time on the Payette and Nez Perce Forests, Woody also served on the volunteer National Ski Patrol at Brundage Mountain and Little Ski Hill both near McCall, ID. On 2 September 1995 he and Janet Kurman were united in marriage beside Payette Lake in McCall, ID. In 1983 Woody and Janet had a chance meeting at the Forest Service Clay Cup Ski Race's first Nordic event hosted by the Stanislaus NF where Janet was employed as a forester. Woody and Janet eventually reconnected through the Forest Service's internal communications system; Woody often referred to Janet as his "DG Date". In 1994 Woody and Janet's first date was a week long cross country skiing and geyser gazing trip in Yellowstone National Park. This winter trip to Yellowstone became an annual event for years and from which sprung many long-lasting and dear friendships. In 1996 Woody and Janet left Grangeville, ID and moved to San Diego, CA where Woody served as a wildland fire dispatcher for the Cleveland NF. In 2001 they returned to Colorado, where Woody was employed by the AR/P NF as a wildland fire dispatcher. Woody thoroughly enjoyed his duties and instructed many wildland firefighters and dispatchers in several Incident Command System courses. Woody made it his goal to make his courses meaningful. He used his sense of humor and story-telling skills to ensure that important information would be easily absorbed by his students. Woody loved

to read and enjoyed listening to all kinds of music. He was a huge fan of National Public Radio. Years ago Woody supported KBSU in Boise helping them locate and build a station transmitter to serve the McCall area. Locally he supported public radio stations KUNC and KWPR with his membership. Woody was respected by his colleagues for his knowledge and skills as well as his wonderful sense of humor and joy in living. Woody was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Fort Collins. He was a lifelong Christian and he greatly appreciated and respected all faiths and views. Woody leaves behind his family and family of friends, neighbors, tribal brothers & sisters, and colleagues who will all dearly miss his laughter and quick grin. He is survived by his wife, Janet Kurman Hesselbarth, his father Maynard & his wife Charlotte Hesselbarth, Grand Junction, CO; brother Dennis & his wife Joy, Wichita, KS and beloved schipperkes Rainbo, Teddy and Guy Noir. Woody was known as Uncle Woody to Holly (Hesselbarth) & Abdel Gonzales, Tracy (Hesselbarth) & Nick Winkler, Adam Kurman Davis, and John David Kurman. Woody was also known as Uncle Woody or as a reliable playmate; hiking, skiing and boating buddy; conspirator and mentor or both to Anton Seibel, Nate Eklund, Alex Eklund, Ian Bisio, Kyle Bisio, Libby Pascucci, Luke Pascucci, Mahala Moran, Hayden Moran, Robin Weinreich and all of his cousins' children. Janet would like to extend deepest thanks to the fine and compassionate staff at Front Range Cancer Specialists and Poudre Valley Hospital oncology unit for all of the loving care given to Woody and for all of the support and hugs over the past 5 years. A memorial service was held at Goes Funeral Care in the evening of July 4th during the fireworks. Please join us at the Race for Hope in support of carcinoid cancer research, City Park, Fort Collins, CO on 26 July. A celebration of Woody's life will be held at 1 PM Sunday, 27 July at Rigden Farm subdivision barn at Rigden Parkway and Custer Road in Fort Collins. An open house begins at noon. Please dress as you feel comfortable; Hawaiian shirts and/or silly hats would be considered appropriate attire. In lieu of flowers, Woody supported many charities and

causes and would be pleased if you chose to honor his memory by supporting a charity or cause that “makes a difference”, locally or globally. For more information about these celebrations and to leave online tributes please visit: [www.goesfuneralcare.com](http://www.goesfuneralcare.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Forrest Hesselbarth*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *To beloved Woody and Janet... all my best thoughts.*

**Kathy Bowman** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. We had the pleasure of working with Woody & he visited our facility on a few occasions; what a wonderful person! He had such a great attitude & view on life, we could all learn a few things from him.*

*May God bless you & help carry you through these sad times.*

**Aero Applicators** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Woody was a wonderful person and friend...he had a heart of gold and showed it in every way possible. His love for life and animals was fantastic.*

*Woody was a joy to know and we will hold him in our hearts forever.*

**Kathy Gartner** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Ever since hearing the news, I've thought about what a wonderful human being I met when he came to CSU in regard to work on the "Wilderness Management Correspondence Courses" project, where I worked with Ralph Swain. We met only a few times, but he's the sort of person one never forgets. I remember him as kind, funny, optimistic and a joy to know. My heart goes out to his family and loved ones.

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**Linda (Tomson) Detling** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ For many years Woody and I have been in contact with each other, always getting updates on our adventures, the powder reports, or just to carry on boisterous discussions about the Forest Service, or to loudly defend the concept of wilderness. Mostly though, the contacts were just short communications between kindred spirits who shared a love for the mountains...those high, lonesome places that fed our souls, for the quiet rush of joy we found out there amongst it all. In recent weeks I wondered why Woody's messages had stopped and only a day ago I shuddered with the realization that he may be gone. I felt something then, and feared the worst; that our friend had been taken from us. To all of Woody's friends and to you, Janet, please know that you are not alone in missing this incredible, spirited man. Sincerely and with sadness, john.

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**John D. Head** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ How much fun we've had, and how much fun the angels must be having now! Woody will be sorely missed here on earth by so many... and as for us, there are songs we hear, games we play, and places we go that bring forth memories of him and you, Janet. Our prayers for your peace & hope continue, and may God bless you for the loving care you've tendered these long days.

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**Donna Hawks** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ I'm feeling really lucky to have been in Woody's circle of friends, from my time on the ARNF. I'll always remember the day spent on Mt. Evans working out details for an alternate trail system to protect some wetlands and mountain goat lambing areas. Woody was in rare form and happy to be out of dispatch and on a trail again for a change of pace. His true love was wilderness and he never stopped fighting for it. I'll be thinking of him next time I'm wondering down a mountain path (and maybe wearing a "little pink sock" in his honor.) Hopefully he's in a place where his cough isn't bothering him, there's tons of clean cool air to fill his lungs, and mountains all around.... Miss ya' Woody!

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**lisa bryant** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ In life you meet people on earth that our gifts from above. Woody touched us in so many ways. His zest for life and his love for his wife Janet and his people with fur ( his dogs ) will always remain dear to our hearts. Woody we miss you already, but we know you are in his hands and we are sure you are helping in some form. I am sure there is an grass experiment up there or a fire to put out. We know you are looking at us and we can't wait to see you again. We love you.

Janet,

You are an inspiration and the love you and Woody shared was one of a kind. You are an example to us all. We love you lady.

CHUCK and LINDA Wright

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**Chuck and Linda Wright** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Sending my thoughts and prayers to the family. I too am a carcinoid patient on the carcinoid elist. My sympathies to you.

Alice Hallett - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Woody,  
Thanks for being an inspriation to all of us Carcinoid patients...  
God bless you Janet, hugs and love from us all in cyber  
space...Kathy NC

Kathy Solomon Sechrist - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Forrest Hesselbarth

john - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Janet.....my deepest sympathies and condolences....John...

john twiss - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ On behalf of the folks at the National Weather Service in Boulder, Colorado, I would like to send our sincere condolences to Woody's family and friends. We will miss his almost daily phone calls...usually looking for the "latest" fire weather forecast. I personally will miss his humor and insight, as well as our discussions on how we can "cut through red tape".

Dan Leszcynski - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Fly free Woody! I see you in a near free-fall skiing the "Cross" in the spring on Round Top Mountain! Sure you would at that time, not survive that stunt. There were many other crazy "stunts" you performed over the years and amazingly stayed alive so you could make some medical history with your carcinoid.

Way to play along for 5 years, making more friends and helping more folks laugh and shake their head at your "weirdness", which is your specialty.

Godspeed, kiss to Elisha,  
Judy

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**Judy Salviolo** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ 27.07.08, 11.50pm (German Time)

To (Aunt/Tante)Janet: Although we are thousands of miles away, we really are with you - since 2002, now and forever!!!

To (Uncle/Onkel) Woody:  
Although we didn't had much time together, we love you so much!  
We enjoyed every minute, each word, each hug, each laughter -  
your spirit will live forever!  
Thank you for everything...

LOVE and PEACE  
whenever-whenever  
Krazy Kat, Mad Matt and Rockin' Robin

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**Kat, Matt and Robin Weinreich** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KB

“Wow - I was just going through an old address book and decided to Google some old friends to see if anyone showed up - and there was Woody's obituary. We had totally lost track of each other over the years - it was in the 70s when we were friends. The obituary I read was the perfect picture of the friend I remember. Of course, you won't know me, but just wanted to extend my condolences - Woody was a unique character and must be greatly, greatly missed.

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**Karen Bailey** - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM