



Gary Eastman

May 1, 2022

Gary Ellis Eastman, 78, of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed away on May 1, 2022.

He was born on March 21, 1944, in Seattle, WA. He lived in Woodside, CA, until 1959 when the family moved to Hotchkiss, CO, where they raised fruit on Rogers Mesa. He graduated from Hotchkiss High School in 1961 and went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from Stanford University in 1965. He served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic from 1965 to 1967 and the U.S. Air Force from 1967 to 1969.

He moved to Fort Collins, CO in 1969, and began working at Fort Collins Nursery in the early 1970s. In 1976, he partnered with a coworker to purchase the nursery and proudly continued his work as a nurseryman, community supporter, and self-professed Tree Nerd until his retirement in 2010 when he sold the business to his son, Jesse Eastman.

Gary was an active soul and enjoyed running, fishing, and yoga. He and his wife, Kathy, loved the outdoors and spent many years climbing mountains, bagging 14ers throughout Colorado, and eating pie for strength.

His lifelong passion for plants can be seen in the many gardens and landscapes he created wherever he was living. With his family he enjoyed

many summer camping adventures, teaching his kids to fish and to identify wildflowers.

Gary loved music, whether it was listening to John Prine, singing with his Parkinson's group, or playing lullabies for his children on the autoharp. He was an exceptional cook, but never figured out how to cook a meal for fewer than eight people. He was quick to recognize when those around him needed a laugh and was happy to be the goofiest person in the room.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Ben and Edwina "Eddie" Eastman and his brother, Pete Eastman. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Reid, brother Ben Eastman (Lori) of Denver, CO, children: Anna, Jesse (Pua), and Alice, grandchildren: Matt, Deanna, and Ava, great grandchild: Lyalah, and many loving nieces and nephews.

A private family gathering will be held at a later date.

Donations in Gary's honor can be made to:

- Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek

2145 Centre Avenue

Fort Collins, CO 80526

970-416-2486

<https://www.friendsgosc.org>

- Colorado Open Lands

1546 Cole Blvd. #200

Lakewood, CO 80401

303-988-2373

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

- Rocky Mountain Conservancy

P.O. Box 3100

Estes Park, CO 80517

970-586-0108

<https://rmconservancy.org/>

• Parkinson's Support Group in Larimer County

Thad Pawlikowski, Treasurer

1017 Sabatino Lane

Fort Collins, CO 80521

(970) 420-0346 (Michelle Underhill, Director)

<https://pdsupportlc.net/wp/>

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Eastman

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Kathy, Jessie, Adele and the entire family. I met Gary in 1985 and always admired his focus, drive, attention to detail and his dry sense of humor. As a young man I admired him more than I let on, his qualities were an inspiration to me far more times than I can count and I feel fortunate having our paths cross. RIP my friend

Bob Conner - June 20, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ Gary was my boss for 9 years and was the best boss ever. He was funny, kind, passionate, fair, interesting and just a super person in every way. I greatly missed him and Kathy when I moved on to a new career and then observed his struggles with Parkinsons over the years. Kathy, thank you for being such a great support to Gary in the final chapter of his life and Jesse, thank you for following in his footsteps and carrying on his legacy.

Loretta Mannix - June 20, 2022 at 09:18 AM



“ Dear Kathy and family. Just heard of Gary's passing and want to send our condolences to you. Gary will always have a spot in my heart and I will pray for his continuing journey. Our best to you and your family with cherished thoughts of our times together. Kent and Sharon Hixson

Kent Hixson - June 19, 2022 at 03:23 PM

LG

“ My condolences to Gary's family and friends. His kind spirit and attitude will be missed. Gary exemplified extravagant hope with his PD issues and will be remembered a long time.
Lynn Gunther

Lynn Gunther - May 16, 2022 at 12:51 PM

CM

“ Thoughts and prayers with the family and all who are grieving this tremendous loss. Gary hired me when I was fresh out of college starting my horticulture career. He had such a positive impact on my professional and personal life, and I know he did for so many others. The care, integrity and humor he displayed stayed with me and many times over the years I'd find myself asking what would Gary say in this situation? I am forever grateful he gave me an opportunity to grow and was willing to mentor me. He will be greatly missed. My heart goes out to his family and friends, praying joyful memories carry through the sorrow.

Cortney Moore - May 14, 2022 at 08:26 PM

L(

“ I worked with Gary in the yoga class years back and he was always so positive and motivated. Gary seemed to have a presence that people were drawn to, which can be hard to exude with a soft voice, there was just something about him.

Sending strength and thoughts to all of Gary's family and friends.

Laura Swink (Grimm) - May 13, 2022 at 06:47 PM

DS

“ I was in Gary's yoga class and had the pleasure of conversing with him about plans and gardens. I enjoyed him and his presence. I send condolences to all who loved him. Best wishes,

Dee Sullivan

Dee Sullivan - May 13, 2022 at 09:00 AM



“ Gary Eastman was a Presence—he didn't have a Presence; he was a Presence. Like many of us with Parkinson's, Gary's verbal communication skills were somewhat muted. But His communication at the soul level was always there . . . listening, witnessing, participating. He was a good man, a loving man, and wise man. My life is richer having known him.

Christian Hageseth - May 12, 2022 at 01:09 PM

JA

“ As Gary's yoga teacher over the last 8 years, I have been so blessed to get to know this amazing man, and his family. He was a big part of the AYS community, rarely ever missing our 3 weekly classes, and of course, became endeared to all of us. For the last 5 years I enjoyed weekly one-on-one sessions with him at his home and, of course, virtually during those long, isolating Covid years. He impressed me with his keen awareness, dedication, sense of humor and his unflappable good nature over the years as he progressed with PD and chronic pain issues. He demonstrated his good, caring, sweet nature over and over again. He will always be a model of graciously riding the roller coaster of ups, downs and ups! of living a human life.

He is so very missed and his blessed presence will remain with me and our community forever.



Jennifer Atkins - May 11, 2022 at 02:34 PM

SE

“ In the mid 1950s, Gary, Ben, and Pete arrived in Grand Junction from California on the California Zephyr to spend part of the summer on our fruit farm near Hotchkiss. I was about 10 years old, and it was like having older brothers for a couple months. Gary was probably 14 or 15 years old at that time. We worked on the farm, which included tearing down and building new sheds, irrigating the trees, mowing the orchard, and thinning apples (one of the most boring jobs in the world, which always ended up in a green apple fight). Then we all went trout fishing on Leroux Creek up on Grand Mesa. My father assigned Gary to fish the creek with me. Leroux Creek is a roaring puzzle of small pools, cascades, and basalt boulders. Gary helped me tie on the flies, untangle my poorly aimed casts, and gave me a strong hand as we struggled up through the rushing water and rocks. We scouted the pools where we could easily see the trout in the clear water. Every now and then, I made a cast in the right place, and we watched the olive and red cutthroat trout rise for the fly. I am forever grateful for Gary's care and patience, and the shared intense engagement with the trout stream, and the larger natural world.

scott ellis - May 10, 2022 at 11:33 AM

CR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Crista - May 09, 2022 at 07:40 PM

NC

I love this!

Nancy Coffee - December 29, 2023 at 09:09 PM

NC

I worked for Gary for 11 years. Best boss I've ever had. I love him dearly.

My greatest memory was on a company ski trip and I had the honor to ride the chairlift with him.

He asked me the most poignant question as we rode up.

"What makes you happy"

I snapped him on the knee and said a great boss like you who inspires so many.

Love you always Gary ❤️

Nancy Coffee - December 29, 2023 at 09:15 PM

JC

“ Thinking of all of you in Gary's family and sending love to you and appreciation for having known and enjoyed Gary for so many years.

What an amazing guy in so many ways.

Jane and Jim Clark.

jane clark - May 08, 2022 at 11:35 AM

BH

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Ben Hays - May 06, 2022 at 12:41 AM

JH

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jane Hays - May 05, 2022 at 10:08 PM



“ Dear Kathy,

I pray the memories will comfort you and bring you peace during this difficult time.

Ft. Collins Nursery has been an all time favorite of mine! Being employed there and getting to know you, Gary and the rest of the crew was an honor. His knowledge of the business made an impact far beyond measure! Gary will be greatly missed.

*With Deepest Sympathy,
Diane (Schnug) Morgan*

Diane Schnug Morgan - May 05, 2022 at 07:17 AM

JM

“ Gary was a boss, a mentor then became a friend after I started working at Fort Collins Nursery when I was in middle school in the early 1990’s shagging wagons, loading bags of sheep and peat and mulch in cars and helping customers fit their prized plant purchases in their cars. He taught me many things about plants, the nursery and life with minimal words and was always one I could count on for a laugh or support. Now, as I start a garden project at my school- I know I can thank Gary for the rain this week- the knowledge of gardening he has given me as well as the importance of getting kids in the gardens and what gardens can do for all! Thank you Gary for all that you have done, thank you for your kindness and mentorship- thank you for being you! I’ll be planting a tree in the garden for you! My love and condolences to Kathy, Jesse and the rest of the family!



Jeffrey McMahon - May 04, 2022 at 09:11 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - May 03, 2022 at 05:40 PM