



Linda Lee Knowlton

April 19, 2021

Linda Lee Knowlton died on April 19, 2021, after a valiant two-year fight with breast cancer. She spent her final days at her long-time home in Fort Collins, CO, surrounded by those who love her. Linda was a wonderful mother and best friend to her daughter, Natalie. She inspired her daughter to think for herself, to be her best in this life, and to make a meaningful impact on her community. Natalie is dedicated to carrying forward Linda's legacy and commitment to our environment and the creatures that live in it.

Linda was born in Pennsylvania Dutch County. She and her younger sister Annette ("Annie") were small town girls, a feeling she identified with throughout her life and that eventually inspired her to make Fort Collins her home.

She was a life-long learner and a fiercely independent thinker, always in search of what was just and truthful. As her high school's valedictorian, she went on to graduate from Pennsylvania State University with a BA in Foreign Service and a concentration in the Soviet Union. She then received her Masters of Liberal Studies from Georgetown University. Throughout her life she continued to seek out opportunities to learn, studying languages (French, German, and Latin) and taking countless courses in history and the arts. Linda was a regular at Colorado State University's Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning programs on world affairs, and she spent a semester there

facilitating an international current events roundtable. All her life she was a voracious and intellectual reader.

Linda was a dedicated civil servant. Out of college, she went to work for the US Census Bureau as the first non-industrial engineer ever hired by the Bureau to do performance standards for employees in repetitive jobs. She worked for the Navy's Officer in Charge of Construction, Army Financial Management Command, and Army Information Systems Engineering Command before joining the US Forest Service (USDA), where she stayed for more than 20 years and which brought her to Fort Collins in 1994.

Linda was a world traveler and lover of nature. She spent a year living in Bangkok, Thailand, and her travels took her: across Western, Central, and Eastern Europe; throughout East, South, Southeast, and Western Asia; to East and North Africa; and skiing in South America. Linda loved the mountains and was an avid hiker, skier, and snowshoer. Her soul lived out in the open space, and she found peace deep in the forests.

Linda was a leader in her community, was an advocate for animals and the environment, and influenced her friends and others to make a difference. She served on the Larimer County Library Board, the Larimer County Parks Advisory Board (including as chair for several years), and the City of Fort Collins' Land Conservation and Stewardship Board. She was also a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Linda was an early and enthusiastic member of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, becoming the first woman to chair the organization. During winter months she was a dedicated Cameron Pass Nordic Ranger for the US Forest Service. More recently she was a volunteer with the Behavior and Enrichment Volunteer Program at the Larimer Humane Society. She loved cats, big and small, and made it her mission to support the Larimer Humane Society and the Wild Animal Sanctuary.

There will be an informal gathering for friends and family later in the summer. Linda's family is welcoming donations to the Wild Animal Sanctuary—a great love of hers. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/udd8zp8h> to make a donation in her memory (and please note in the Special Instructions field "In Memory of Linda Knowlton").

Tribute Wall



“ *Linda Lee Knowlton*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I am sorry, Natalie, that you lost your mother. Every time she spoke of you, her face lit up. She was so delighted with her grandkitty, too.*

Linda enriched my life, and I am grateful to have known her, and I miss her. Memories, of course, remain. Two of my favorites: the time the wind blew her backward as we snowshoed across Dream Lake and the first time she guided me to Brown Lake and sank nearly to her knee in mud as the trail slipped away. In both cases, Linda recovered, laughed, and carried on.

Take care.

Mary LaDouceur

Mary LaDouceur - August 29, 2021 at 06:21 PM

SP

“ I first encountered Linda at the Fort Collins book club which met at the Front Range Library. Due to the fact that I was a part-time Collins resident, when Linda and I struck up a friendship our meetings were infrequent. We did, however, develop an easy relationship and always made time to visit each other in our homes which afforded wine and wonderful conversations. I found her to be a multi-faceted personality, regaling me with stories of her travel days, solo wilderness excursions, trail maintenance and knowledge of nature. One did not have to spend much time with her to realize the breadth of her intellect. Discussing books with Linda was like attending a literary convention, her insight and opinions were so precise! Her home library was a treasure, indeed. She and I exchanged correspondence over the years and I saved the letters she wrote me, filled with good cheer, new avenues of discovery, love for her daughter Natalie, and gladness in our friendship. Unfortunately, when she became ill, I visited her a couple of times when I was in CO, but sometimes my calls were unanswered most likely due to her progressive illness, and then the pandemic. The news that she is no longer with us came as a shock. I immediately retrieved her letters, to reread and also to mourn. My sincerest condolences to her beloved daughter, Natalie, whom I never had the privilege to meet...

Susan Patello - June 08, 2021 at 12:11 PM

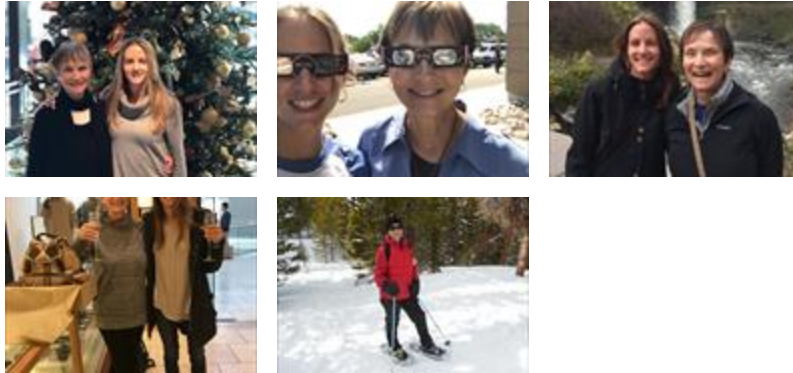
NK

Susan what a wonderful note about my mom. Thank you for sharing. And thank you for being a friend to her. I will contact you about her memorial service, planned for September.

Natalie Knowlton - July 19, 2021 at 08:56 PM

NK

“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Natalie Knowlton - May 25, 2021 at 09:02 PM

AH

Dear Natalie,

My heart is saddened to learn of the passing of your beautiful mother. She was my co-worker while we both were with the U.S. Forest Service. But beyond that, she was a dear friend. We spent many, many happy, wonderful hours together. I recall so fondly the evening she came to a party at my place and brought along her very beautiful little girl whom I later affectionately nicknamed "Natooshka".

Linda was admired by so, so many people for her honesty, tenacity, independence and humor. I so appreciated her level-headedness and incredible intelligence. And, although we lost touch after your move to Fort Collins, she and you will be forever in my mind and heart.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences over this grievous loss of your wonderful mother.

Peace.

John Hahn (aka Allen)

Allen Hahn - May 28, 2021 at 02:00 AM

NK

I remember your friendship with my mom! So good to hear from you, thank you for your note. You were such a good friend to her. I remember how much she laughed when you two would spend time together. <3

Natalie Knowlton - July 19, 2021 at 08:58 PM

NA

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Natalie - May 25, 2021 at 11:52 AM

MS

“ *Linda served on the City of Fort Collins - Natural Areas Board for many years and as the chair for several years. As the Natural Areas Manager and board facilitator I got the pleasure of working with her and getting to know her. She was an ardent supporter and protector of our natural areas and the environment. She always provided much wisdom and humor to our meetings. I will never forget her smile and the look in her eyes when she was having fun! Hard to realize I won't be seeing her again.*

Mark Sears - May 10, 2021 at 01:46 PM

NK

I also miss the look in her eyes during moments of joy. Her laughter was consuming. Thank you for the kind note, Mark. I will be in touch about a memorial service in September.

Natalie Knowlton - July 19, 2021 at 09:01 PM

ND

Natalie: sorry this is so late. I just found out when the church did a remembrance today that included your mom. We knew each other primarily through service on the City's NRAB and PWV and progressive politics, and I echo what Mark Sears said. Linda was a treasure to know and made many important contributions. All the best to you and yours.

*-Nate Donovan
ndonovan9412@gmail.com*

Nate Donovan - December 05, 2021 at 06:03 PM

TH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go to you, Natalie--your mom will be missed. She talked about you with such love and pride.*

Linda and I hiked together for years and went to art exhibits, meals out and more. I think of Linda when out in the mountains she enjoyed so much. Once in a Poudre Wilderness Volunteers' hike, we got lost--taking the wrong trail. There were people about, but Linda wouldn't let me ask for directions because we had our uniforms on and she was too embarrassed. We ended up walking at least a couple extra miles to get back to our car. We laughed about that for months. Another time at Coyote Ridge, we stopped a motorcyclist headed up the trail. Linda, all 95 lbs of her, stood in front of the cycle, saying no motorized vehicles were allowed; of course he argued with us. Linda whips out her phone and says, "let's just ask a City ranger--I have them on speed dial"--which was all it took for him to turn around. Hiking was always an adventure with Linda. I will miss her dearly.

Trudy Haines - May 08, 2021 at 12:40 PM

NK

Thank you for this note, Trudy. She loved you so much, and just loved her time with you (except when you were hoping to redecorate her bathroom). I enjoy our friendship; that is what my mom would have wanted.

Natalie Knowlton - July 19, 2021 at 09:00 PM