



Francis Rudolf "Rudi" Turner

September 17, 1937 - January 25, 2018

Francis Rudolf (Rudi) Turner, 80

Bloomington, IN F. Rudolf (Rudi) Turner, 80, of Bloomington IN passed away January 25, 2018 at the Residence of McCormick's Creek, Spencer, IN. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts on September 17, 1937 and was preceded in death by his father, Arthur Francis Turner, mother Gretel Margarete Kreuzler Turner and sister Gretel Susan Turner.

Rudi graduated from Brighton high school in Rochester, NY in 1955 and obtained his Bachelor's (1959) and Master's (1962) of Science degrees in Biology from the University of Rochester, followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin, TX in 1966 where he also did a post-doc in the Cell Research Institute until 1969. Employed for 48 years by the Biology Department at Indiana University, Rudi's expertise in Transmission and Scanning Electron Microscopy benefited many IU Biology researchers. His most famous micrographs have appeared in biology textbooks.

Rudi often combined his scientific interests with his love of art. He engaged in lapidary work and making jewelry inspired by nature by electroplating metals directly onto natural items like miniature orchids, leaves, and feathers. He had a lifelong interest in orchid culturing and breeding, specializing in miniature peloric Phalaenopsis. He generously supported local artisans and sponsored programs at WonderLab promoting archeology or science of art. He was an active member of the Lawrence County Rock and Mineral Club.

Rudi was passionate about natural history and Bloomington Indiana provided a unique environment for him to pursue his interests in archaeology, paleontology, geology, and fossil hunting while combining it with his love of canoeing, nature walks, wildlife and photography. He enthusiastically shared these interests with others. In 2013, Rudi and colleague David Dilcher donated 68 acres of land in Greene county to the Sycamore Land Trust known as the Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest to preserve this natural wonder for others to enjoy.

A Celebration of Life followed by a brief memorial service will be held for friends at Allen

Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Rd 37, Bloomington on February 24, 11 am to 1 pm, followed by a burial at Clear Creek Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Rudi's name may be made to one of his favorite local organizations: WonderLab, Monroe County Animal Shelter, Sycamore Land Trust, or the Monroe County Historical Society. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence at <http://www.allencares.com>.

Events

FEB 24 Memorial Gathering 11:00AM - 01:00PM
Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401

FEB 24 Memorial Service 01:00PM
Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401

Comments



“ Ellen Quardokus lit a candle in memory of Francis Rudolf "Rudi" Turner



Ellen Quardokus - February 24, 2018 at 05:07 PM



“ David Dilcher lit a candle in memory of Francis Rudolf "Rudi" Turner



David Dilcher - February 06, 2018 at 09:23 PM



“ Rudi's welcome of my fossil hunting wife is what made Bloomington my home. I was so grateful to him for sharing knowledge of locations and simple discussions of the geology of the region. He will be missed by all of the IU community who have a passion for true interdisciplinary science and art.
J. Foley

John Foley - February 06, 2018 at 09:56 AM



“ This is extremely sad to hear.

We were very good friends when I was in Bloomington and for years after I moved to Boston. We mostly connected because we are both naturalists and love to collect fossils and other artifacts in the wild. Rudi knew the woods around Indiana like the palm of his hand having spent nearly every weekend outdoors. We became friends conversing for hours in his basement "electron microscope den" as he was scanning the specimens that I brought from my projects. Both of us preferred to work at night when it was quiet in the building and nobody disturbed our work. Rudi had an excellent eye for detail and helped me make descriptions of the images we collected. He was a very good scientist.

Rudi asked me to join him in his little expeditions to the woodlands first because he told me his leg was "working not quite right" and he said he might need help moving around the steep hills. I thought the real reason he wanted me to come along was because he wanted a good company, someone to discuss some interesting news in science, comment on a rare bird singing up in the tree or tell a story from his childhood. We would take a canoe on his old green Subaru to the Lake Monroe, cross the lake to look for beautiful intact fossil trilobites or crinoid heads on the other side of the lake and then enjoy wild ripe persimmons growing right by the water's edge - Rudi knew exactly where and when to find them. I remember him encouraging me and my then girlfriend to join him on a freezing November night to watch the Leonid meteor shower. It was a marvelous sight. He was a real naturalist from the old school.

I remember walking with Rudi on the freshly ploughed Indiana fields as he was teaching me to find the Indian arrowheads and recognize the tribes who made them - something that more than anything else explained to me the history of the state and its name. Rudi was a very good friend, the kind of quite and very supportive friend that you want to share both happy news and sad events in life. He was very curious about my background and experiences, rather different from his, as I was probably the first person from across the "iron wall" he had a chance to interrogate. He became my American uncle in a sense as I called him to share the news of my kids born and big papers I published, and on my having to move to England. He was a good listener and he was always very authentic in emotions and support. He was a very good friend.

I lost contact with Rudi a couple of years ago when I moved to Europe. I called him shortly before I left and we had a very good and long conversation. He was sad to hear that I decided to leave the States as he knew I was excited to come to America. After the move, we lost contact both because I was so busy adapting to a new system and because Rudi became less responsive not returning my calls for long periods of time. He complained about his leg problems and that it was harder for him to take care of his orchid collection and his poor old diabetic cat. I wished I could help him and I am glad to hear that he was getting some help and support. It is so sad to hear that he passed away.

He will be missed so much by all of us his friends.

Arkhat Abzhanov



Arkhat Abzhanov - February 05, 2018 at 04:56 PM