



## Bruce Waterman White

January 11, 1956 - March 15, 2015

BEND, ORE. Bruce W. White, 59, attorney at law, passed away peacefully March 15, 2015, with his wife, Catharine Tilton White, and family at his side. Born Jan. 11, 1956, in Ashland, Ky., raised in Camden, Maine and a 1974 graduate of Camden-Rockport High School, Bruce attended Tufts University, where he earned a bachelors degree. He later traveled west and received his J.D. from the University of Oregon. He spent his entire professional life in Bend, Or., a community and an environment that he loved dearly. Bruce leaves his beloved Cathy and is survived by his parents, Dr. Henry O. and Marian R. White, of Rockland; and siblings, Stephen and his wife, Maggie, of Stonington, Conn.; Jonathan and his wife, Jen, of Carmel, Calif.; Sarah Waltz and her husband, Ken, of South Thomaston; and nephews Brandon, Parker, Spencer and Nathan; and niece, Baker. He is also survived by his in-laws, David and Mary Tilton, of Santa Barbara, Calif; his brothers-in-law, Peter and Mike and his wife, Cecy; and his daughter-in-law, Jenny Tansey; and nieces and nephews. Bruce was passionate about many things in life beginning with sailing. It is safe to say that his love and care for the environment found its genesis on Penobscot Bay, where he and his immediate family and his best friends sailed every summer. He excelled at navigation, including using celestial navigation while sailing and racing on the Maine coast, including numerous Monhegan Island Races on the sloop Kolibri. Even while in Bend, a high desert climate, Bruce found a way to be on the ocean on either the East or West coast. His life in Bend was in many ways defined by his love of the

outdoors, and his personal interests diversified further to include cross-country skiing, hiking and fly fishing. Music was a focal point in Bruce's life, joyfully singing in the Congregational Church choir in Maine, and the Cascade Choral in Bend. He also excelled at playing the piano, harpsichord, and the organ. Bruce was well read and loved the art of legal writing and editing, including working as a copy editor at International Marine Publishing in Camden before attending law school. He was an active community member throughout his adult life being voted to the Camden Area School Board in 1980 and serving on several boards and task force groups throughout his career. His love for civics and politics played an active role in his engagement in local and national politics. Bruce's law career had a profoundly positive impact on Bend, as he was a constant champion for the community, believing strongly in the need to build and develop the community smartly. His work at Deschutes County, including testifying before Congress on the State of Oregon's Scenic Waterways for the Deschutes River, and later his private law practice sought a land-use system that was fair to landowners, but which protected the natural resources and quality of life that are vital to those local communities for today and tomorrow. Always an active community volunteer, Bruce mentored local students through The Classroom Law Project and was a co-founder and longtime board member of the Deschutes Land Trust. Bruce worked with county planners to help form Bend's first National Register historic district, the Old Town Historic District, where he owned a historic house. As a member of the Deschutes County Historical Society's board of directors since 2009, he was proud to become president of the board in 2014 and oversee the start of renovations at the Des Chutes Historical Museum. Bruce's personal interest in genealogy led him to become highly engaged with the Bend Genealogical Society and to weave together his family's fascinating past. A private funeral service will be held. A memorial service to celebrate Bruce's life will be held in Bend May 2 at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 230 NE Ninth St., and a reception for all will follow. Additionally, a memorial service will be held in Maine at a later date. Memorial contributions, should anyone desire, are to be

directed to Deschutes Land Trust, 210 NW Irving, Ste. 102, Bend, Ore. 97701; to Deschutes County Historical Society, 129 NW Idaho Ave., Bend, Ore. 97701; to Partners in Care Hospice House, 2075 NE Wyatt Court, Bend, Ore. 97701; or to St. Charles Foundation Infusion Center (in memory of Bruce W. White), 2500 NE Neff Rd., Bend, Ore. 97701.

Funeral Home:

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home New  
105 NW Irving Ave  
Bend, OR  
US 97701

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



**Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery** - May 18, 2023 at 02:20 PM

CR

“ *Every time I walk by a certain statute in our campus, I think of seeing Cathy and Bruce there in boston. It was a very great visit and lunch we had..a lovely spring day as I recall. Two perfect souks together for an all too brief time. It's now already a couple years but I hope Cathy is getting her breath back and Bruce's family is feeling some peace. A true Oregon environmental attorney who cared, and was a good guy. What a Lisa. May he shine brighter up there and watch over ya now.*

**Carol Roskam** - October 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM

FO

“ *Bruce Waterman White*

**Funeral Home Owner** - August 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Still cant believe hes gone, someone so young and strong. A jovial soul, kind and caring, intelligent and smart never intimidating. Bruce seemed most happy, when he was with his little dog Baxter, and his beloved Cathy. A shining light on earth has dimmed, but the night sky is brighter, Bruce worked hard to make our world a better place, with presence, integrity and laughter. Quoting the Tiltons, He was the greatest! Bruce would ALWAYS give you the time of day, He was a person to emulate in so many ways. One of the last times I saw him he was very weak, but he managed to hold up both thumbs as he attempted to sing, we are the champions. What a guy!

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**Sandy Humphreys** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Loving Thoughts Words of his good life speak to his care and passions ~ Body ~ Mind ~ Spirit. Riding on the waves of his Spirit, Cathy is lifted by his Love. (Aunt) Catharine Larsen 03/30/15

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**Catharine Larsen** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ We were so pleased when Cathy and Bruce met when their respective careers brought them together. Their relationship grew rapidly and was culminated with their marriage at Black Butte Ranch, attended by families and friends from many parts of the country and abroad. Bruce and shared many good times together which included visits to his home state of Maine, to Cathys family in California and to Hawaii. A highlight of Bruces life was sailing as a crew member in many races on the West Coast and along the Eastern Seaboard. Cathy and Bruce were inseparable as they enjoyed hiking, cross country skiing, and fishing in the Metolious River. A highlight of their life was when their dog Baxter came into their lives and for a while he was in dog shows with Bruce at the helm. Good memories of Bruces love of Baxter are comforting Cathy in her life ahead. Bruce will be missed by many friends and family and Baxter. Bruce was a wonderful Son-in Law. He was the greatest

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**David and Mary Tilton** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Although we were blessed with Bruces company on only a few special occasions, he touched us with his warmth, depth, and intelligence. What a remarkable man. May he rest in peace. Our deepest love and sympathy to Cathy and family.

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**Leland & Stacey Crawford** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I work with Jim Slothower and Bruce had an office here for a short time. He was always so upbeat and I would help him time to time to get things mailed, pick up his mail when he was on vacation. Bruce, you will be missed by many including me. My prayers will be said with Cathy and family in them.

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**Gloria Burnett** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ I am grateful to have shared a small but wonderful part of Bruce's life and to know that he felt blessed in his relationship with Cathy. I know that he was a loving and deeply loved person. In this way his life was well lived. I can still see his big warm smile when last I saw him. He will stay in my heart.

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**Bea Ledyard** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Lisa Joy 204.80.187.230 Submitted on 2015/03/18 at 5:50 pm I feel blessed that Bruce Cathy's lives intersected with mine, with one little dog named Baxter as the catalyst. Reading Bruce's obituary, I am struck by the deep evidence of a life fully, and well lived. I did not realize Bruce and I also shared a passion for sailing, and that connection fits my sense of Bruce well. Bruce's footprints left a trace in the best essence of the word. Peace be to Cathy and his family and friends.

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**Lisa Joy** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Matt Ray 74.93.10.145 Submitted on 2015/03/18 at 5:42 pm I will truly miss your friendly smile and the friendship we formed from the gatherings at Crater Lake ski trips. Rest in peace. Matt Ray San Francisco, CA

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**Matt Ray** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Michael S Nuesse 24.34.31.23 Submitted on 2015/03/19 at 12:06 pm Bruce was an old friend from Camden, Maine. I am sorry to hear of his passing. My sympathies to Catharine and his family.

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**Michael S. Nuesse** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ My heart goes out to you during this difficult time. The world has lost a beautiful soul. May the blessings of love be upon you May its peace abide with you May its essence illuminate your heart Now and forever more ~Sufi Blessing of Love and Peace Michele Bartow Freeman

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**Michele Freeman** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Bruce was a very special childhood friend. We spent many summers sailing with his family off the coast of Maine on the Sarah Mead and winters skiing and sledding down their monster hill back yard. Bruce was a gentle soul with always something positive to say. He was a kind friend to me. His parents are just the best and you couldnt ask for a better friend to my Mom. She loved them both so much. I still have the nursing scissors they gave me when I graduated from HS to cut the apron strings. Bruce, there is a special place for you in heaven. Please hug my Mom and pat and love all my dogs. They will be glad to see you. You are a special person and you will be missed. My condolences to your wife and of course to your family. Rest in peace dear man.

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**Jo MacNair** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ I am shocked and saddened by Bruces early passing. Both of our passions for genealogy led to the discovery that we were related as we shared common ancestors from early Connecticut; Silsby and Waterman being two of them. May Gods grace envelope Bruce in his new heavenly home and may Gods loving arms wrap around his wife Cathy and loving family of which he was so proud. Teddie Allison

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**Teddie Allison** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ Hello, as a 30 year Bend lawyer I worked with and watched Bruce in action many times. Because he was smart, honest, and never lazy, Bruces work was always exceptional. His calm demeanor was admirable. In disagreement he was not disagreeable. Bruce was a good guy whose word was true. Being an excellent lawyer aided his many civic accomplishments. We need more lawyers like Bruce. We need more people like Bruce. My heartfelt sympathies for your and our loss.

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**Greg Hendrix** - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM