



Stephen Kenneth Stocking

January 4, 1938 - November 9, 2014

Steve will be remembered as a masterful teacher, a champion of the environment and an avid outdoorsman. He leaves behind a legacy of writings, humor and wisdom. He was a fourth generation Californian, born in Santa Cruz, to Kenneth and Mary Stocking. Steve attended El Dorado Elementary, the former Stockton High and the College of Pacific (UOP) where he met his wife of 55 years, Linda. Steve completed his Master's Degree at San Francisco State University and started his 35 year teaching career at Franklin High then moving to San Joaquin Delta College where he taught Biology, Botany and Microbiology until he retired. He spent 12 summers as a National Park Service Ranger Naturalist in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Steve was a member of the Boy Scouts of America, marching band, Archania, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Natural History Association, the Geezers, Wilsonia Historic District Trust, the Nature Conservancy, the League of Women Voters, Calaveras Big Trees Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He authored "Wildflowers of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks" with Jack Rockwell and "The Giant Sequoia of Kings Canyon National Parks". Steve updated the "Trails of Grant Grove" and edited other publications for SNHA. He also wrote many articles and letters to the Editor. He was instrumental, with Verna Johnston and others, in the establishment of the Oak Grove Regional Park. He balanced his love of the natural world with his love for his friends and especially his family. Poppy will be greatly missed by his daughters Sarah Donnelly and Susan Harper, his sons-in-law Tom Donnelly and Don Harper, his adored grandchildren Gillian, Parker and Colin Donnelly and Erin (Andre) Sage, Nora and Maxine Harper. His sister Lynn Ferguson, nephew Kent and nieces Mary Ferguson and Sally Thomas will also miss him. Along with his beloved wife Linda they will all strive to "make every walk a field trip and every meal a picnic." Donations can be made to CNPS, CBTA, SNHA or a Giant Sequoia or Native Oak can be planted in his memory.