

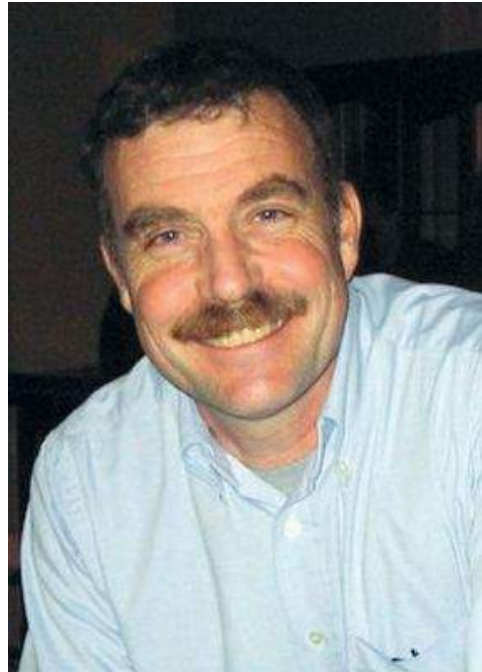
Bob Emmett, In Memoriam

Dec. 21, 1955 — April 27, 2015

From the Daily Astorian

Robert (Bob) Laurence Emmett, age 59, beloved and respected fisheries biologist, accomplished vintner, loving husband, awesome dad, best friend, passed away, on April 27, 2015, at home in Astoria, Ore., after a painful yet valiant and graceful fight with small cell lung carcinoma. He was not a smoker.

Bob is survived by his wife, Amy Emmett; his children, Nathan Emmett and Alyson Emmett; Rudy, his dog; his parents, Tom and Thelma Emmett; his siblings, Tom Emmett, Peg Iannazzi and Mary Lou Moquete; nephews Gary St. Hilaire and Dale Moquete; niece Alex Iannazzi; and in-laws Boone and Nancy White, and family.



Bob was born on Dec. 21, 1955, in Lawrence, Mass. He grew up in North Andover, Mass. After graduating in fisheries from the University of Massachusetts in 1977, he relieved himself of nearly all of his possessions, acquired a large florescent cutout hand with a prominent thumb, and in the fall began hitchhiking across the country looking for adventure, and hopefully, a job.

Word of a ridiculously hairy, bearded kid with a genuine smile, a laugh that put others at ease, and a large thumb, often arrived before he did. For a while he disappeared into Glacier National Park, back when there were still glaciers there. He stopped to pick apples in Eastern Washington for longer than he intended, making enough money to purchase an old Rebel.

Finally, his path led him to the Point Adams NMFS Field Station, where after knocking at the “front” door, and being told they had no work for him, he managed to talk himself into a temporary job. That temporary job lead to a 36-year career with NOAA/NMFS, during which he acquired a wife (Aug. 18, 1979, in Astoria), his master’s degree in environmental studies from the University of Oregon, and a Ph.D. in fisheries from Oregon State, and raised two children.

Bob swam miles and miles with Amy, and watched Nathan and Alyson swim many more. He and Amy made untold gallons of wine, sharing it with family and friends, until its reputation made it a cherished and coveted gift. He caught, cooked, or canned, every fish, crab, and clam the waters would relinquish. Bob loved to cook, especially if the ingredients had come fresh from their garden or from the sea. He loved the fellowship that came from sharing a meal and a glass of wine. He was a student of the world, reading, traveling, hoping to learn more so that he could understand more, to make a difference.

Bob was devoted to his work, a passion that was contagious to those who worked around him. And he was especially proud to have been involved with the Columbia River and Ocean Salmon Surveys, the Predator Project, and the Restoration of Trestle Bay, for which he received a Presidential Award in 1994. He enjoyed working with the Pacific Fish Management Team on



sardine issues, and traveling to Tri-National sardine meetings. He served for about 25 years on the South Slough Advisory Board as the NOAA representative. Even after his retirement, and during his illness, he continued to edit scientific papers for others.

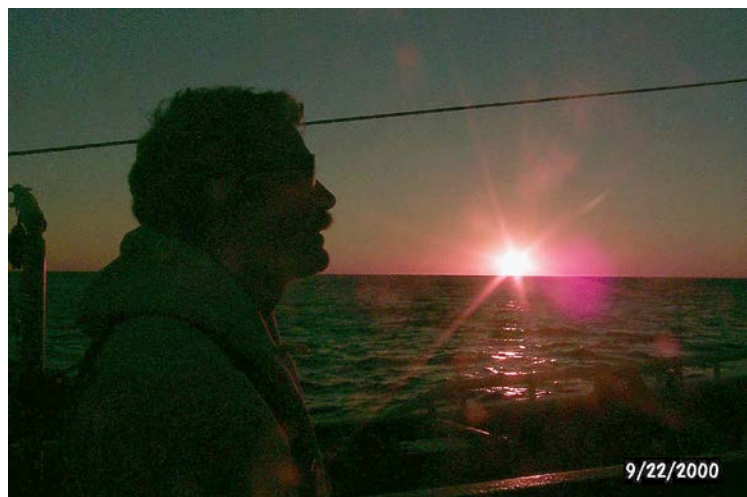
The successes he had were in the people he worked along, the doorways he opened, the keys he handed off, the pushes, the nudges, and encouragements he sent out to

everyone around him. He loved nurturing talent. Pragmatic, yet imaginative and innovative. He was never afraid to be “bad” at something.

He said he was “an extremely lucky guy.” His initials told him what to do, “just BE.” To be, simply in time and rhythm with the circumstance. He would often talk about work worth doing. How to approach it selflessly, so that it no longer feels like work. How in the midst of it, everything just flows, things get done, people work together, and projects are completed. There is a real joy in being exactly where one is meant to be.

When he wasn't at home with his family, Bob's place was on the water. He loved juggling all of the responsibilities of work, and everything the ocean could throw at him. Always going at a pace few could keep up with, he experienced life at an incredible rate. He wanted to live, planned and hoped to do more.

His ashes were cast, at his request on an outgoing tide, into the Columbia River, on Sunday, May 3, 2015, by family and friends, in front of the beach where he played with his family, in front of the house his children grew up in, near where he met his wife, and where he began his career. A part of him will always be there now, a fitting place to come and remember his smile, his energy, and especially his laugh.



In Memoriam

Remembering Bob Emmett. Contributed by John Stein, NWFSC Science and Research Director

Our colleague Robert (Bob) Emmett passed away Monday, April 27th, 2015, after a long battle with cancer. Bob worked for NOAA for 36 years, spending most of his career at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center. He was a friend to many throughout our Center as well as at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center. Bob was never very far from estuaries and the ocean and his passion for sardines, anchovies, tuna, and of course salmon was infectious. He was a leader in his field and an inspiration to many young scientists (and older scientists as well).

Bob was always there to lend a hand or provide advice and could be counted on to get done whatever he was asked to and, to do it very well. As an example, we asked Bob to get involved in the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Coastal Pelagic Species sub-committee later in his NMFS career. He quickly became an active member of the committee and was widely respected by all involved, scientists, managers and fisherman.

Bob hailed from the East Coast where he got his B. S. from the University of Massachusetts in 1977. He moved west, landing at the Hammond Laboratory in 1977 where he began work for the NWFSC (at that time, it was the combined Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Science Center). He received his Masters from the University of Oregon in 1982 and finally got his PhD at Oregon State University in 2006. After moving to Corvallis from Hammond in 1995, Bob commuted to Hatfield for about 7 years until he moved to Toledo, OR, in 2002 with his family. In 2011, Bob moved back to the Hammond Laboratory to take over as Field Station Chief.

He retired from government service last summer to focus on his health. Bob was heavily involved in the local community serving on the Toledo City Council and helping with the local swim teams, especially with their fundraising. His dog Rudy was never far from his side when at home and the evening ritual for Bob after work usually involved a dog walk. Bob was an avid gardener and with his wife Amy were home wine makers for many years; a glass of their Super Tuscan red or Sangiovese was a glass to relish.

A close friend said that Bob asked that we carry on in his place that we take time to appreciate and love our jobs and to not let things stop us from having fun doing our job or impede our passion for the work we do. His friendship, warm smile, and infectious laugh will be missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Amy, to his children, Nathan and Alison, and to the rest of his family at this time of sorrow.

