



John W. Huppert

March 21, 1955 - February 18, 2025

John W. Huppert, age 69, of St. Germain, passed away peacefully on February 18, 2025 as the result of an automobile accident. He was born on March 21, 1955 in Milwaukee, the son of Willard and Dorothy (nee Smith) Huppert.

John worked for 33 years in the forestry department for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, he was a past President of the Land Trust and active in the St. Germain Community. John had a love for nature, the outdoors and the numerous dogs he and Jan shared. He is preceded in death by his wife, Jan (nee Knight) Huppert in 2018.

John is survived by his brothers, Dave (Eileen) and Jim (Sharon); niece, Jessica (Joe) Garvey and their children, Emmerson, Korbyn, Brennen and Kane; mother-in-law, Jane Knight; brother-in-law, Jeff Knight; sister-in-law, Kim Knight; dear friends, John and Rose, Dan and Jean, and many other cherished friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Bolger Funeral Home, 1212 First Avenue, Woodruff. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in John's name to the Northwoods Animal Hospital, Madison Veterinary Specialists, or a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 1. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Bolger Cremation & Funeral Services - Woodruff Chapel

1212 First Avenue

(mailing address P.O. Box 40, Woodruff WI 54568)

Woodruff, WI 54568

(715) 356-6006

bolgerfuneral@gmail.com

<https://www.bolgerfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall

KP

“ I was a friend of John since kindergarten. He and Brad would come over to my house on Larkin and we played endlessly at Undies (Ed Morris) who lived next door. Throughout the years we played a ton of sports and enjoyed many great times. We played HS bball together together and John was a very smooth player. Our teammate John Snipes called him Hubba Hubba and I will never forget that. You always just wanted to hug the guy because he was so fantastic. We spoke at last years class reunion for the first time in a long time and had made tentative plans to get together this coming summer. So sad that will not happen but he will forever be cherished for the great man he was.

Keith Peterson - March 12, 2025 at 07:21 PM

MS

“ Oh my gosh what a loss. My sympathies to the family. John and I met in college at Stevens Point and were close friends ever since. We would ride together from home back to Point and and vice versa, Forestry summer camp in northern Wisconsin, lots of good times together. We both ended up working for the Wisconsin DNR although at opposite ends of the state, but stayed close, talking often and getting together when possible. We just traded messages a couple weeks ago and his voice mail is still on my phone. It's rough to think I'll never talk to him again. He will be sorely missed.

Mike Sieger

Michael Sieger - February 28, 2025 at 01:54 PM

KL

“ John was a wonderful forester, mentor, and colleague of mine. I met him when I worked seasonally on the NHALSF and then again when I started with the WI DNR in 1997. I recently was able to connect with him at a retirement gathering, and it reminded me of how patient, kind, and fun he always was to be around. John was truly one of the best foresters I ever worked with, and I'm grateful for all the memories I have working with him. He made a difference not only managing the forests of Wisconsin, but also with everyone he worked with. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Kate Lenz

Kate Lenz - February 26, 2025 at 03:55 PM

DG

“ It's with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to a great forester, mentor, and friend. John was known to many as the Eagle River Ranger, but to me, he was much more—someone who had a keen sense of wildfires before he even arrived on the scene, a true steward of the land, and a generous guide in helping me with my own land management plan. His passion for forestry and fire was unmatched, and his dedication to protecting Wisconsin's forests never wavered.

Beyond his expertise, John was simply a great guy—one who cared deeply about his work, his colleagues, and the woods he called home. His legacy will live on in the landscapes he helped manage and in the lives of those he inspired.

Rest easy, Eagle River Ranger. You will be missed.

Diane Gunderson - February 25, 2025 at 04:02 PM

JW

“ John was a forestry mentor to me when I started with the DNR back in 1997. He was a great mentor to me enlightening me to both the world's of forestry and fire fighting. He showed great patience and wisdom with me as a young "kid" just starting out his career. He wasn't just a mentor but a great guy and friend who always took time out for people. He had a great German work ethic and taught me so much. Over the years we would continue our friendship with different activities, including cross country skiing out, at Razorback Ridges, when I was able to transfer back to the Northern Highland State Forest. He will truly be missed! Sympathies to his entire family & friends.

Jim Wetterau - February 25, 2025 at 11:12 AM

BJ

“ John was my brother from another Mother. My early life with John and his family was a touchstone that gave me an introduction into the love and support that a family can provide. His admiration for brothers Dave and Jim reflected his love for family; moments shared playing cards on their porch or making french toast in the kitchen or later camping with an adult beverage.

John loved his parents and was kind to his friends. He shared that love with Jan. All my memories of first experiences as young boys involved John, he made me better.

John, you were loved and will be missed here but there is no ending to the SPIRIT that you left with me and the others that touched you as you were amongst us.

Brad Johnston

Brad Johnston - February 25, 2025 at 11:04 AM

LH

“ I met John’s wife, Jan Knight, in 3rd grade at Atwater School in Milwaukee, WI. We remained friends through Grade School, & both were fortunate enough to have ponies that we kept at Joy Farm (my father traded a boiler for mine). Those were fun times.

We continued our friendship through Shorewood High School, where we also met John, the basketball star. Jan & John started dating & we spent good times together at each other’s houses, down at the beach along Lake Michigan, & camping at Terre Andre State Park, etc.

I moved West to Idaho, then Nevada, & then Oregon. Jan & John married & moved to northern Wisconsin. We stayed in touch, visiting when I came back to Milwaukee to visit family, & Jan & John visiting me out West. One of our greatest adventures was rafting down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho with friends of mine.

Jan would often visit me on her own when John was on fire duty with the DNR (sometimes in other states), or on his annual fishing trip to Canada with his brothers, Dave & Jim.

I moved back to Milwaukee in 2010, to live with & assist my mom, who was diagnosed with dementia, then Alzheimer’s. I met Chris in Milwaukee the following year, & we continued to stay in touch with Jan & John & visit each other (camping, hiking, & biking).

We were devastated when Jan was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2018, right after retiring from her lifelong career as a nurse. We stayed in touch with John & tried to get together at least once a year in northern Wisconsin, camping, biking, hiking, or skiing. In fact, we just skied & hung out with John on January 25 when we were up in Ironwood, Michigan. I texted him on Jan’s birthday on February 4 to let him know we were thinking of him. Unfortunately, his car accident was two days later.

Jan & John were such fun, devoted lifelong friends, & we miss them both very much. Our thoughts and prayers go out to John's family & friends, who I know will miss him at least as much as we will. They will always stay in our hearts.

Linda Hunn & Chris Locher

Linda Hunn - February 24, 2025 at 03:45 PM

BH

“*John will be sorely missed by those of us who knew him. A gentle soul who had a terrific sense of humor and love for nature. From the first time we met in Midgets baseball as little kids to becoming teammates in high school. A great high school athlete who donned number 33 on the basketball court and was renowned for his patented bank shot jumper from the wings. He was kind and always a good listener. We had a great lunch together last summer and laughed the entire time, and promised each other to do it more often. See you on the other side Hupp.*”

Bob Hackett - February 24, 2025 at 11:24 AM

RE

“*John was my mentor as a newly hired DNR forester 22 years ago. He was always patient and helpful. A super forest ranger and an excellent person. I am still growing my "Huppert" wax begonia (a houseplant) he had growing in his office that I liked and he gave me a cutting of. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends.*”

Renaë Essenmacher - February 24, 2025 at 10:01 AM

TN

“ We are so saddened at the sudden loss of our dear friend and neighbor. We always enjoyed seeing John and his ‘girls’ on their daily walks, and catching up on his outdoor adventures over a cold brew. Hoping that the knowledge that Jan was waiting for him will ease the pain and grief of losing John for all those that loved him.

Tim and Carole Nagel - February 23, 2025 at 04:00 PM

TF

“ John was a dear friend with whom I lost touch for several decades until we briefly reconnected with a delightful phone call in 2023. I will be forever saddened that despite our mutual interests in getting together again, it never happened. In our youth, John always stood out as the smartest and most levelheaded among a small band of mischievous and unruly pals. His sense of humor, humility and kindness will never be forgotten. My deepest sympathy to all who loved him

Thomas Foran - February 22, 2025 at 08:20 PM