



## Wesley L. Doak

March 25, 1946 - January 18, 2025

Wesley Lowell Doak, 78, passed away on January 18, 2025, due to sudden illness and medical complications. He was born and raised in Chicago, IL. As an adult, he lived in the Lakeland Area as well as in Marshfield, WI, spending all summers and most winter weekends in northern Wisconsin. He permanently relocated to Arbor Vitae in 2013.

Wes first experienced and fell in love with the Northwoods of Wisconsin when he was a camper and counselor at Adventurers' Camp for Boys in Lac du Flambeau. He earned a BA in Chemistry from Johns Hopkins University in 1967, a MS in Organic Chemistry from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1971, and a Teaching Certification from UW-Superior in 1984.

Wes was passionate about the outdoors and physical fitness, especially cross-country skiing and paddling. In the late 1970s, Wes was one of the founding members of Minocqua Winter Park, which opened in December of 1979. As a PSIA-certified cross country ski instructor, Wes enjoyed nothing more than to bring the joy of skiing to others. Wes started a family and taught chemistry and physics at Marshfield Senior High School, being named Teacher of the Year and leading the cross-country ski team to a State Championship. After retiring from MSHS, he returned to his passion of ski instruction and spent as much time as possible at Minocqua Winter Park, recently celebrating its 45th anniversary.

Wes was a caring, generous, and vibrant person who lived life fully and cherished time with his family and close friends. He was a master audio engineer and spent countless hours listening to music on his perfectly designed surround sound systems. He delighted in outfitting friends and family with their own state-of-the-art audio. Wes loved to illuminate those around him, not only with his knowledge and enthusiasm, but also with bonfires, headlamps, and other fun light-up gadgets. Time spent with Wes is never forgotten.

Wes is survived by his children, Allison Doak and her wife Liane Ware, Angie (Doak) Works and her husband Nate; his grandchildren, Olivia Nesgoda and Iris, Liam, Dylan, and Noah Works; longtime life companion Debby and her children and grandchild; his children's mother, Joan Heenahan; his brother, Edwin Doak and wife Leslie.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lowell and Katherine (Bethke) Doak.

There will be a private memorial at a future date to honor and celebrate the life of Wes Doak.

In lieu of sending flowers, please consider making a donation to the Minocqua Winter Park Foundation or another cross-country ski trail of your choice.

# Tribute Wall



“ Man, I just heard a joke about physics teachers that made me think of him. He taught me physics at Marshfield high school, I wasn't a great student, but he was a great teacher! Had to look him up after and came across this. Sorry for the families loss. There's too many great memories having him as the teacher, even for physics, which I wish I paid more attention in, and taken Chemistry with him.



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**Cory Werner** - November 15, 2025 at 06:32 AM

SL

“ Prayers to the family. What a genuine soul. When I first moved to the area by Winter Park, I remember Wes being a true kind neighbor showing our family around the land. Impromptu, taking a walk in the woods, and “let me know anyway I can help kind of guy.” Always waving hello kind of neighbor, enjoyed seeing him at top of squirrel hill events. Grateful to know such a kind humble soul, always with a smile, waving have a great day in passing. Last time seeing him was an astrology event looking at stars over Squirrel hill. Very fitting Wes. Thinking of you and your family from Squirrel Hill.



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**SL** - March 07, 2025 at 11:07 PM

CM

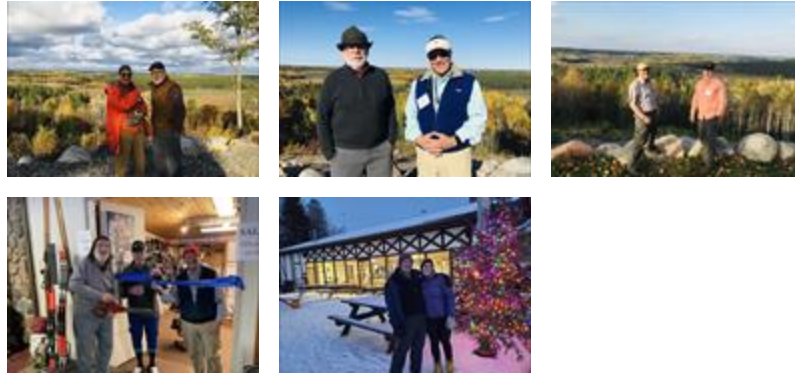
“ Wes taught me to cross-country ski. More importantly, he taught me how to teach others to ski. If there's snow beyond, he'll be sliding on it, and teaching others how to stride and glide.

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**chad mcgrath** - February 20, 2025 at 12:24 AM

LI

“ 5 files added to the album Photos of Wes with Family and Friends



Liane - February 01, 2025 at 04:07 PM

MD

“ One always learned something when talking to Wes. We planned many kayak outings with NSTA and kept in touch through volunteering at MWP. As we organized activities for its 45th anniversary last month, I thought to myself, “this guy will be around forever to be a part of the place he loves”. I’m sad to hear of his passing; we’ll miss you.

mary dunphy - January 29, 2025 at 07:39 AM

GG

“ Wes was great to speak with - a passion for the outdoors, I worked with Him on the Ski trail at Marshfield school forest, then would see Him at Minocqua Winter Park - He loved that place, I saw Him ski once - and He was very technically solid, I will miss you, bless You.....

Glenn Gesell - January 27, 2025 at 03:53 PM

DW

“ I was in 11 grade when Mr. Doak started teaching at Marshfield Senior High, and he was my teacher for several chemistry courses. He had a great enthusiasm that made me want to hang out in the chemistry rooms during free periods. He also organized the first-ever Science Olympiad team from Marshfield. I had never even heard of Science Olympiad, but thanks to his enthusiasm we were soon on a bus to (I forget where) to participate. Our Science Quiz team won the gold medal! Miss you, Mr. Doak.

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**David Wittman** - January 27, 2025 at 12:52 PM

GF

“ To Wes’s family and loved ones, I only had a few conversations with Wes over the years, and those were memorable. His passion for learning, teaching and developing opportunities for his students was always there. He had a broader view about wholeness and wellness, and at the same time wanted to make things happen, make things work. The impact that he had on our community’s life through his teaching and civic work will be felt for a long time.

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**Georgette Frazer** - January 26, 2025 at 11:47 AM

JM

“ Jennifer Arnett Musson lit a candle in memory of Wesley Doak



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**Jennifer Arnett Musson** - January 24, 2025 at 09:09 PM

JM

“ Many years ago, after I was first married and wanted to cross country ski with my friends, my late husband, Gale, surprised me with a brand new pair of cross country skis, boots and poles that he purchased through Wes , who was working out at Minocqua Winter Park. It was a wonderful gift and surprise. I was very grateful that Wes was so thoughtful to help Gale and to select the right skis for me. It was a real kindness. Sending my sincerest condolences to you all, his family.

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**Jennifer Arnett Musson** - January 24, 2025 at 08:40 PM