

Resolution of Respect

Thomas M. Frost

**2 July 1950–25 August
2000**



While on vacation with his family, Tom Frost drowned in Lake Superior after saving the life of his son.

Tom was born in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Drexel University in 1973 with a B.S. in Biology, and received a Ph.D in Biology from Dartmouth College in 1978. While on a postdoctoral appointment from the University of Colorado from 1978 to 1980, he studied aquatic ecology in Lake Valencia in Venezuela. The following year, he taught Limnology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He came to the University of Wisconsin in July 1981, and directed the Trout Lake Station at the Center for Limnology. Everyone who came to the Trout Lake Station will remember Tom and his personal legacy of friendship and helpfulness. He was genuinely interested in doing what he could to encourage and enhance the research effort of each and every visitor to the station.

Tom's research interests were many and diverse. He was an internationally known expert on freshwater sponges. He was keenly interested in the role of scale in ecological experiments, and the use of experiments at multiple scales to strengthen ecological inference. His leadership was pivotal in developing collaborative programs. Tom led the interdisciplinary Little Rock Lake Project, a long-term experiment on acid rain in which the lake was divided and one half was acidified for 6 years, then

allowed to recover. He was also one of the leaders of the North Temperate Lakes Long Term Ecological Research program. During Tom's tenure, facilities at the Trout Lake Station doubled and it grew to become a busy nexus of internationally recognized science.

Tom also enjoyed teaching, both on the Madison campus and at Trout Lake. In Madison, he team-taught Limnology annually during the fall semester, starting in 1981, and regularly participated in an advanced field course in marine ecology. He mentored six graduate students to the Doctorate level. He contributed to the flurry of undergraduate research projects underway at the Trout Lake Station. In addition, he participated regularly in outreach and service functions of the university with presentations and discussion about lakes, directed to audiences that ranged from local lake owners associations to the international media.

His skills in science and science management were recognized by the National Science Foundation when he was hired to serve as Program Director for Ecology in the Division of En-

vironmental Biology from September 1997 through the summer of 1999.

Tom especially loved spending time with his family, playing sports and games, traveling, a good story, a good joke, and the simple pleasures of companionship with friends. He participated in cross-country skiing, bicycling, and canoeing, and enjoyed the natural world. He was also keenly interested in politics.

Tom is survived by his wife, Susan Knight, and their sons, Eliot, 9, and Peter, 6. He will be remembered as a man who brought genuine interest to building and sustaining an ever-growing circle of friendships. His colleagues will remember him as an excellent scientist who brought humanity, warmth, and humor to our endeavors.

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