



Mr. Joseph G. Strauch Jr.

June 22, 1935 - April 14, 2022

Joseph G. Strauch, Jr., 86, of Lenox died peacefully at Kimball Farms Nursing Care Center on April 14, 2022.

He was born in Buffalo, NY, on June 22, 1935, to the late Joseph and Catherine McDermott Strauch. He attended Amherst Central High School, graduating in 1954.

Joseph attended Antioch College where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry; Oregon State University (Ph D in Physical Chemistry), University of Michigan (Ph D in Ornithology, and Colorado State University (MS in Ornamental Horticulture).

He came to the Berkshires to be Director of The Berkshire Botanical Garden in 1989. Joseph later had his own business as a stock photographer specializing in flowers. He was the author of *Wildflowers of the Berkshire and Taconic Hills* (1995).

Joseph was a long-time member of the Lenox Conservation Commission.

He married Elizabeth (Betsy) in Yellow Springs, OH, June 16, 1960.

Besides his wife, Elizabeth, of Lenox, Joseph is survived by his children, Anja Loeffel of Red Hook, NY, and Ingrid Strauch of Brooklyn, NY; grandchildren, Austin and Allison Loeffel; his sister Margaret (Enzo) Cimino of Schenectady, NY; sister-in-law, Mary (Mark) Mantuani of Eugene, OR; and several nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, Joseph is pre-deceased by his sister Rosemary Connors and his grandson Christopher Loeffel.

In keeping with Joseph's wishes, all services will be private. Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ My husband Randy and I only knew Joe for several years, but we really enjoyed getting to know him and Betsy, and sharing our love of ferns. He was so knowledgeable about plants and talented with his photography. We will always remember the afternoon he brought us to a wonderful spot, where there were 1000s of grape ferns in the sunny fields. It was glorious, and we spent hours walking and kneeling and photographing the beautiful ferns and wildflowers. He was a lovely man and I am sure he will be much missed.

Janice Stone - April 22, 2022 at 08:45 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Janice Stone - April 22, 2022 at 08:39 PM

JS

This is Joe and Randy enjoying the grape ferns on this special site in 2016.

Janice Stone - April 22, 2022 at 08:46 PM

RL

“ I was saddened to learn of Dr. Strauch's passing. My sincere condolences go out to Betsy and his family. I will remember Joe as a mentor, a colleague and a friend during my years in the Berkshires.

Almost always upbeat, Joe exuded a love for life and the natural world. He gave freely of himself, aiding our conservation efforts at Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary where he served on the sanctuary committee for many years. He initiated and organized our Native Plant Sale, spending the day at the sanctuary and ably and enthusiastically advising prospective plant shoppers on the horticultural do's and don'ts for any species in question.

He also played a key role in helping reestablish the sanctuary's Fernery, a short trail near the office building that showcased some of the Berkshire's native fern species. On these things and more I very much enjoyed working with and learning from Joe. He was also an expert ornithologist (and fine photographer), endeavors dear to my heart as well. Most of all, we appreciated his positive outlook and cheerful manner. That smile says it all. He was a learned man but also a humble one, rarely taking major credit for his accomplishments.

The Lenox community and all who had the good fortune to interact with and benefit from his knowledge and enthusiastic assistance will miss him. I am happy to have had the good fortune to know Joe.

*Rene Laubach
Former Director
Mass Audubon's Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries.*

Rene Laubach - April 17, 2022 at 04:37 PM

KA

“ *Betsy, my mother and I were very sad to see the obituary of Joe's passing in today's paper. We stopped by yesterday to see you during lunch only to notice that Joe was missing from his room. My heart sank as I always tried to say hello to him on my way to see my dad. Please know that you and your daughters are in our thoughts. I will miss the quick little wave Joe always mustered his strength to give me when I passed by his room. - Karen (from Boston) and Julee Cassidy*

Karen - April 16, 2022 at 10:18 AM