Dedication in Memory of Gordon Smith

Gordon Smith was one of the first volunteers to join the Water Conservation Measures Project in August 2009 while undergoing medical treatment in Los Angeles. Sadly, he passed away on January 15, 2010. Gordon generously offered his time and effort to the project by completing more ordinance evaluations each month than anyone else, and volunteered up until just a couple weeks before his passing.

Gordon graduated in 1972 from St. Bernard High School in Playa del Rey, CA. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1976 from the University of California, Berkeley in forestry with an emphasis in resource management. He went on to Yale University where he received the degrees of Master of Forest Science in 1978 and Master of Public and Private Management in 1979. He worked in the forestry products industry for Westvaco and International Paper corporations before turning his attention to his first love of protecting and preserving our wilderness, water, and land. He worked for many years for the Trust for Public Land in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. His proudest accomplishment was his role in the preservation of the watershed and drinking water supply of the cities of Charlotte and Gastonia, NC. Over his career, he brought his experience as a forester and commercial appraiser to the brokering of land deals that conveyed thousands of acres into public ownership. Gordon was an avid outdoorsman and conservationist.

Gordon was a lifelong member of the Sierra Club, leading and participating in many outings throughout the country and serving as an officer and committee member for the Club in North Carolina. He was the third of ten siblings and he passed on his love of nature and his thirst for knowledge to them and to his 14 nieces and nephews. His work with the Water Conservation Measures Project even inspired his sister, Kathleen Smith, to volunteer and pick up where Gordon had left off. Her continuing contributions have helped keep Gordon’s memory alive for the Angeles Chapter.

May Gordon's passion and dedication to conservation efforts be an inspiration for us all.