



John Henry Kube

March 27, 1944 - August 1, 2024

John H. Kube, 80, of Petersburg, IL, a longtime forest wildlife biologist for the Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), passed away August 1, 2024.

John was born March 27, 1944, in Whitehall, Wisconsin to Adolph H. and Hazel O. (Larson) Kube. After high school, he trained and apprenticed as a steamfitter, and became a Journeyman Steamfitter. But always an outdoorsman, John felt the call of the outdoors and wanted to focus his life's work on conservation and management of natural resources. He returned to school and completed a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Natural Resource Management at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. After completing his MS Degree, he was hired by the Illinois Department of Conservation Division of Wildlife in 1973.

John married his wife of almost sixty years, Diane Sobotta, in Arcadia, Wisconsin on November 26, 1964. They had three children: Mary (deceased) and the twins, Barbra and Brenda.

John worked for the Department of Conservation (now Department of Natural Resources) until 2002. During the early part of his career, white-tailed deer and turkey populations were tiny by today's standards, and management efforts were tailored to protect the growing populations and to assist them in colonizing uninhabited areas. John and his fellow biologists spent countless

hours trapping wild turkeys and relocating them to parts of Illinois that had suitable habitat but no turkeys. They also trapped ruffed grouse from other states and transplanted them back into the Shawnee National Forest, although grouse populations never thrived in Illinois like wild turkeys did. For many years, as Deer Project Leader, John was charged with management of the statewide deer herd, setting county deer harvest quotas, and overseeing the State's system of county deer check stations to ensure that the data necessary to manage deer herds was collected. Over time, as deer herds continued to increase, management goals shifted from growing the herd to controlling numbers at levels acceptable to a wide variety of Illinoisans, including hunters, farmers, and motorists. Illinois' renown as a destination state for deer hunters from all over the country is a testament to the early work of biologists like John.

Outside of work, John was an avid hunter and fisherman, and thoroughly enjoyed many "activities" with friends centered around those seasons. A Labrador Retriever has always been a member of his family. He loved catfishing the Sangamon River and serving the catches at his July 4th birthday fish fry for his girls. He spent many memorable times at "The Shack", a floating cabin in Wisconsin on the backwaters of the Mississippi River that he, his brother Franklin(deceased), and three good friends built in 1972. Even when duck hunting or fishing was slow, the camaraderie of being out of doors and at camp with great friends was the point of it all. Especially after retirement, this was his "go-to" spot for rest and relaxation.

John is survived by his wife Diane Kube of Petersburg, daughters Brenda Kube and Barbra Webber (Gary), grandchildren Kyle Webber, Claire Webber, and Ali Kube, and sister Alice Bledig.

A Celebration of Life will be held for family and friends from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, September 1 at The Barn at Three Pines Bed and Breakfast, 517

West Douglas, Petersburg. The Barn is located in the back yard of Three Pines behind the mansion. Hurley Funeral Home (Petersburg, IL) is assisting the family. Memories or tributes can be shared at www.hurleyfh.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 1. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Three Pines Bed and Breakfast
517 W. Douglas
Petersburg, IL 62675

Tribute Wall

BP

“ I first met John in the early 90’s through a mutual friend (Dennis Michael) as I was beginning my career. We trapped turkeys and hunted deer together and I gleaned as much information from John as I could. The State of Illinois, its people and definitely the wildlife can thank John for all the hard work he did throughout his career. John you have touched more people than you could ever imagined and you will be truly missed. My condolences to the girls.

*Brad Peterson
Wisconsin Conservation Warden
Retired*

Brad Peterson - August 13, 2024 at 09:41 AM

OT

“ Loved that man! I was a deer biologist in Missouri and we hooked up with the Illinois and Iowa deer and turkey professionals to form the Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Committee in the 1970s. It exists stronger than ever today. Interesting John was born a day before me (also in Wisconsin).

Fellow cheeseheads and Packer fans.

Rest in peace good buddy. You always made my day.

*Ollie Torgerson
Fellow Conservationist*

Ollie Torgerson - August 08, 2024 at 07:13 PM

AH

“ Girls I am so very sorry for your loss. My heart just breaks for you and please know I am thinking of all of you.
It's never, ever easy. But you were so lucky to have this great man in your lives. Sending lots of love and peace your way.



Amy Henry - August 08, 2024 at 12:57 PM

ES

“ Ellen M Standish lit a candle in memory of John Kube



Ellen M Standish - August 07, 2024 at 10:14 PM

TO

“ he is my friend. you are missed.

todd - August 07, 2024 at 07:13 PM



“ Diane, so very sorry for your loss.

Rhonda Davis - August 07, 2024 at 05:40 PM

BW

“ Beth Wesley



BETH WESLEY - August 07, 2024 at 10:21 AM

LH

“ *Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of John Henry Kube*



Larry and Mary Hundt - August 07, 2024 at 08:34 AM



“ *Janet Urbick lit a candle in memory of John Henry Kube*



Janet Urbick - August 07, 2024 at 07:21 AM

DF

Diane, we are so sorry about John's passing! Our thoughts, prayers and support will always be with you and family! God Bless You! Love The Don Kube Family!

Don Kube and family - August 08, 2024 at 11:26 PM

MG

“ *John was one of a kind. He touched our lives with kindness and friendship from the moment we met him. Rest in peace dear man. You are missed with many good memories. Bill and Mary Gleason.*

mary gleason - August 06, 2024 at 11:02 PM



“ *Diane, I am so very sorry for your loss. John and I started 3 months apart in Wildlife and he became my buddy soon thereafter. One special memory I want to share is a bunch of us from the office were at the Alamo and I happened to be sitting by John. He leaned over and asked what kind of perfume I had on. He wanted to get some for his wife. So I hope you got a bottle of Babe perfume 50 years ago. Love and hugs to you my friend!!!*

Sally Miller - August 06, 2024 at 10:58 PM

CD

“ *So many memories of John visiting at our house and the times they camped at Wilson Ford on the McGee creek in Brown County. Sincere sympathies to the family.*

Carolyn Drake - August 06, 2024 at 10:02 PM

RW

“ *Ronald G Wesley lit a candle in memory of John Henry Kube*



Ronald G Wesley - August 06, 2024 at 07:30 PM