

*Responses to the E-mail announcements of Bob's passing sent
out by Rowan Sage*

*Very empty feeling here too Rowan, that's awful. Bob was one of the
truest gentlemen I've ever met.*

Dave Kubien

*(ex-Botany grad student, now a professor at University of New
Brunswick)*

*This news is both very sad and unexpected. I've been in frequent contact
with Bob over the years, and as you say, he hadn't slowed down one bit.
Bob was a great friend and there has been nobody as supportive of my
career and future success as him. Thank you for taking the time to send
a personal message and I'll be sure to pass the news on to my former
labmates.*

Hugh Henry

Professor, University of Western Ontario (former PhD student of Bob's)

*I'm absolutely stunned. Bob and Sue are like family to me. Bob has been
a close friend and mentor for a long time...I just am shocked. I just saw
Bob and Sue in November--I had a wonderful visit with them and at that
time Bob seemed like his usual self--full of life, excited about research,
busy but enjoying it all.*

John Maron

Professor, University of Montana (collaborator with Bob)

This is very sad news indeed! Bob was most certainly a prince of a man and a great scholar. Please pass on my condolences to his family.

Bill Lucas

Professor at U.C. Davis (former Botany post-doc with Jack Dainty)

Bob was one of my heroes. Please let me know when plans are set for September - I will try to get there.

David Hik

Professor, University of Alberta (former MSc student of Bob's)

Thank you for letting me know, it is a shock and surprise. When I started at Essex, even though I was to some extent setting myself up in competition with the work he had built at UEA, Bob went out of his way to help me and promote my work. I am sure many will have had similar experiences at Toronto. Please let me know about arrangements when that information is available. Bob also played an important role in getting the animal side of GCB off the ground, as you may remember, with his special issue on geese populations.

Steve Long

Professor, University of Illinois

I am so saddened. Bob was one of the kindest and most generous men I have ever known.

Mark Bertness

Professor, Brown University

I heard last night from Joan. I'm just really glad that he was feeling so well and being so active til the end - I think that's what we all hope for. It's still a real shock though. Please pass on my sympathies, he was a great colleague and I'm really going to miss him.

Best wishes and thanks for letting me know,

Dani Way

(former Botany grad student, now post-doc at Duke University)

Thanks for sharing that sad news, Rowan. Bob will be sorely missed, for sure. I personally valued his considerate and wise counsel and found him to be a strong role model who epitomized many high standing and long lasting academic and personal values. I will miss him dearly, and know many will feel the same...

Best personal regards,

Tat Smith

Dean of Forestry, University of Toronto

That was bad news indeed about Bob Jefferies. I informed some of our mutual colleagues and friends. After having met this spring we anticipated Bob to visit Groningen and the salt marshes on Schiermonnikoog in September. He planned to discuss research plans with a number of new PhD-students. It is for sure that we will miss his enthusiastic and skilful contribution to our future work. Please keep me informed.

Sincerely Yours,

Jan Bakker

Professor, University of Gronigen (collaborator of Bob's)

I got the news yesterday (Herbert sent me an email). I cannot believe it!! He was such a great person, Angie and I are so sad. Thank you for your email.

I just returned from the Society of Experimental Biology meetings in Glasgow where we organized (with Gerhard Thiel) a brief lecture honoring Jack Dainty. And now this...

*Ed Blumwald
Professor, University of California, Davis (former Botany Professor,
University of Toronto)*

Thank you for informing me of this very sad news. Please convey my condolences to Bob's colleagues. We have lost a fine scientist and friend.

Sincerely

*Phil Grime
Professor, Sheffield University*

This is extremely bad news indeed. Although I have not known Bob long enough to know him well, it has been long enough to realize what an exceptional person he was.

Gentlemen have become rare enough in modern life that whenever one has the pleasure of an encounter one is refreshed by the experience. It was always a pleasure to be in Bob's company.

*Dick Peltier
Professor in Physics and Director of the Centre for Global Change
Science, University of Toronto*

He was a really good friend, so I'm sad to hear this. Thanks for telling me.

*Terry Chapin
Professor, University of Alaska*

I am very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was a great scientist with many important contributions to physiological and ecosystem ecology. He was on Sabbatical in Davis twice as I recall and then a frequent visitor because of his research at Bodega. I always enjoyed chatting with him. I remember the course well and the vigorous debate that it entailed, in which Bob was an important contributor.

*Bob Pearcy
Emeritus Professor, University of California, Davis*

Thank you for your email about Bob- as a personal friend & collaborator I feel his loss, Please let me know if I can be of help in any way,

Sincerely

--

*Alan Walker
Professor, University of New South Wales*

Thank you for giving me more detail about the circumstances of Bob's demise than Herbert told me in an email yesterday. My wife Linda also knew Bob and Sue; we sent Sue a card. I've contacted some people who knew him from his East Anglia and Sydney days, Alan Walker and Tony Larkum. I also contacted Mary Bisson of SUNY Buffalo; I cannot remember whether they overlapped in Sydney.

As you say, an outstanding scholar and a true gentleman. He certainly will be missed. I shall treasure the last postcard he sent me from Churchill on 14 June: it showed a rather surprised-looking arctic hare.

Not a good year for those who moved from UEA to Toronto, with Jack Dainty's death

Thanks again.

Sincerely yours,

*John Raven
Professor, University of Dundee*

Thank you for letting me know this sad news - he was a good friend.

I am currently in Serengeti and out of contact until September. Please would you give my condolences to his good lady,

With best wishes

*Tony Sinclair
Professor, University of British Columbia*

I much appreciate you taking the trouble to write to me about Bob. I have already passed this news on to several colleagues in the UK who knew Bob, and I am certain that, as I am, all will be shocked, and very sad to hear it. Bob was universally liked. He was a real gentleman, and a great scientist. He was a highly valued member of the Editorial Board of /Journal of Ecology/, of which I am Executive Editor. I could always rely on him for good advice, and to hold the line against sloppy standards in science and in preparation of manuscripts.

On a more personal level, I first met Bob when I was a postgraduate at University of East Anglia. I had a brutal external examiner, who did his best to fail my thesis, despite it yielding several high quality publications. My supervisor was relatively inexperienced, and I was like a rabbit in the headlights. Bob took great care to advise and counsel both of us. I will never forget his support and encouragement, which helped me through a difficult time. Since he moved to Toronto we did not meet that frequently, but when we did it was always a pleasure to spend time talking with him. Despite his distinguished career he was always modest and interested to hear about other people and their work. We will all miss him a lot.

With best wishes,

Mike Hutchings

Thank you for telling me, Rowan. Yes, very sad, and a big surprise. I will write to Sue.

Bob will be missed.

Gaius R Shaver

Senior Scientist, Woods Hole marine Laboratories

I've just learned of this sad and shocking news, I appreciate you letting the me and BES know - Bob had been an active and very popular member and he will be deeply missed by friends and colleagues alike.

I will ask Hazel Norman (via this email) to post a notice on the forthcoming e-bulletin and our Bulletin Editor (Alan Crowden) will oversee the publication of an obituary in the next issue (thank you for offering to forward). I'll have an opportunity to reflect on Bob's achievements and impact at this year's annual meeting in September, in addition.

I'm in the Lake District until tomorrow. Once home, I will write to Sue (Tony Davy has kindly provided contact details).

Bob has meant a great deal to me personally - from commenting on my first single authored paper when he was on sabbatical at UCL in the mid 1980s and I was a postdoc, to a warm and inspiring conversation at Imperial last September.

With best wishes

*Malcolm Press
Professor, Birmingham University
Head of the British Ecological Society*

Thank you for passing on this stunning and devastating news to me. As you say he was an outstanding scientist, scholar, colleague and friend.

I am in touch with Sue and the family.

With best wishes,

Tony Davy

Professor, University of East Anglia

Thanks for letting me know. That is sad and sudden news. Please let me know if there are plans for gifts, endowments, scholarships, etc.

Dave Wedin

Professor, University of Nebraska (former Botany professor at U of T)

Thank you for telling me about this sad news. Bob was a buddy of mine - I wish I could now remember all of the stuff I once learned from him about nitrogen cycling (although I have not lost all of it).

Do you know how I could send condolences to his family? I still have a bit of pottery that Sue once gave to me for fixing some windows in her home.

*Best wishes
Bill Freedman*

Professor, Dalhousie University

Thanks for letting me know Rowan... Bob was an important mentor for me.

Anurag Agrawal

Professor, Cornell University (former Botany professor at U of T)

This is indeed really sad news. As you said, Bob was a true gentleman and scholar. He was always a joy to be around and to discuss matters of common interest--which were many. As I once wrote in an overview article about the field of ecology---why is it that all of the good guys die so young?

I do hope all is well with you other than this very depressing news.

*Hal Mooney
Professor, Stanford University*

Can I firstly offer my condolences to Bob's friends and family on their loss.

Of course we would like to have an obituary for the next issue of the Bulletin. The August issue is already in press, so it will go out in the December issue: I will need copy by October 1st. It would be good to have a nice photo too. We usually aim for 1200-1500 words.

If there is to be a scholarship fund set up I think it entirely appropriate that we include details of this in the same issue.

Kind regards

Alan

Dr Alan Crowden

Editor, British Ecological Society Bulletin

A Tribute to Bob Jefferies Written by Jan Bakker, University of Groningen

Bob Jefferies was trained as a plant ecologist and worked on salt marshes in the United Kingdom. Among other issues he published on limiting factors for plant production in salt-marsh systems. Together with A.J. Day he initiated the First European Ecological Symposium and the 19th Symposium of the British Ecological Society on Ecological Processes in Coastal Environments in 1977, and published the Symposium Volume in 1979. Later Bob got involved in the studies on plant-herbivore interactions in La Pérouse Bay, Hudson Bay, Canada. For many years a field camp was established during the growing season. Several visitors from abroad were invited to join. Together with many collaborators he published textbook studies on the effects of grubbing lesser snow geese on the subarctic tundra. From these studies he introduced the term 'arctic desert' as a result of the effect of increasing goose numbers. Goose dynamics turned out to be affected by nature conservation practices and agricultural subsidies in temperate regions. The migrating geese connect arctic and temperate wetlands, and hence a continental framework was the result of the initial work at La Pérouse Bay. The large-scale studies were always supported by sound experiments on a smaller scale such as on microorganisms in the soil. New ideas such as on soil seed banks were immediately incorporated, and always resulted in papers in journals with a high impact.

Bob was very keen in publishing, and encouraged his students to publish papers. He was extremely careful in helping other people to write good papers, and was an excellent adviser in editing. He served the *Journal of Ecology* for many years as an editor.

A special friendship existed between Bob and Rudi Drent (he died in 2008) at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. Together they gave an great impetus to the plant-herbivore work at the salt marshes on the island of Schiermonnikoog, which resulted in studies along the East Atlantic Flyway of the barnacle goose. In the early 1990s Bob spent a sabbatical year at the fieldstation 'the Herdershut' at the island. Both Bob and the Groningen researchers enjoyed this cooperation very much, and tried to achieve a more formal connection. And they were successful! For the year 2000-2001 Bob held the Gerard Baerends visiting Chair of the Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Studies at the University of

Groningen. Before and afterwards he visited Groningen twice a year and took part in the supervision of MSc- and PhD-students. The students liked this support always very much. The work on their dissertation by René van der Wal (*Defending the marsh - Herbivores in a dynamic coastal systems* 1998), Harm van Wijnen (*Nitrogen dynamics and vegetation succession in salt marshes*, 1999), Julia Stahl (*Limits to the co-occurrence of avian herbivores - How geese share scarce resources*, 2001), Dries Kuijper (*Small herbivores losing control - Plant-herbivore interactions along a natural productivity gradient*, 2004), Sandra van der Graaf (*Geese on a green wave - Flexible migrants in a changing world*, 2006) and Esther Chang (*The role of dispersal constraints in the assembly of salt-marsh communities*, 2006) greatly benefitted from Bob's input. Last spring we started enthusiastic discussions with Han Olff on a new PhD-project by Maarten Schrama, namely, the interaction of herbivores and detritivores in the salt-marsh system. The next visit was scheduled for September 2009, and was envisaged to include a workshop in which we planned to explore the exiting challenges of projects started by at least five new PhD-students.

Bob was a very open minded scientist and a good friend. We will miss his personal involvement. Even when back home in Canada, we experienced his support and attention.

Jan P. Bakker

To: PDADC-L@listserv.utoronto.ca

Subject: [PDADC-L] *University Flag @ Half-mast: Professors Robert Jefferies*

On Monday, July 12, the University of Toronto flag will be flown at half-mast in memory of emeritus Professor Robert Jefferies, formerly of Botany and now Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. A message to the university community from the Chair, Professor Locke Rowe, follows:

*Message to the UofT community from Locke Rowe, Professor and Chair,
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology,
Canada Research Chair in Evolutionary Ecology*

The Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology is very sad to announce the sudden passing of Emeritus Professor Robert Jefferies on Wednesday, July 8, 2009. Bob has been at the heart of the Department of Botany and now Ecology & Evolutionary Biology since 1973. He will be remembered as one of the world's leading arctic scientists and global change biologists, and an inspiring teacher to over 32,000 students of ecology through his work in BIO 150 and other courses.

The funeral service will be private. There will be a celebration of Bob's life in September. Details will be announced on the department website (<http://www.eeb.utoronto.ca/>) when they are known.

A scholarship has been established in Professor Jefferies' memory. Donations should be addressed to "University of Toronto" (with "Robert Jefferies" in the memo line) and sent to: Office of Advancement, Faculty of Arts and Science, 100 St. George Street, University of Toronto, M5S 3G3.

*A Tribute by Corey Goldman, Senior Lecturer and Associate
Chair, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Toronto*

Bob has been teaching first-year and upper-year biology students since he arrived at U of T in 1975. Since 1990, and for the past 19 years, he has taught the unit on global change biology to over 28,000 students in BIO150Y - Organisms in Their Environment, a course that he co-created. In hearing about Professor Jefferies' passing students have been expressing their sadness: "He touched many students. He was one of my most memorable professors." "He was so warm and approachable..." "... such a pleasant, inspiring and patient professor." "An inspirational researcher, a well-respected ecologist, a great lecturer, and really a true gentleman. Professor Jefferies, you will be missed by all!

A Tribute by Terry Chapin, Professor, University of Alaska

Bob Jefferies has had a huge impact on arctic science within Canada and internationally. Following the International Biological Program, there was a steep decline in ecological studies in the Canadian Arctic, and Bob's work was critical in demonstrating the value to the international community of an active ecological research program in the Canadian Arctic. Fortunately, Canada has now returned to being an important international leader in arctic research.

In addition, in terms of his specific research on herbivory and habitat alteration by geese, this work was critical in showing the kinds of ecological transformations that can occur in the north and the importance of understanding the underlying mechanisms at levels ranging from plant physiology to regional vegetation change.

A Tribute to Bob Jefferies by Rowan Sage, Peter Kotenan and Ken Abraham

Bob Jefferies was one of the world's leading arctic scientists and global change biologists, being particularly recognized as a major figure in waterfowl research. Over 50 years of professional activity, Professor Jefferies published more than 100 scholarly articles, and delivered hundreds of lectures on his research to University audiences, research conferences and colloquia. His ecological research centered on the Hudson-James Bay system, especially the region surrounding Churchill, Manitoba, where his studies of nesting Snow Geese helped to make this one of the best-understood northern ecosystems worldwide. While Bob was an unusually broad-minded scholar, he was recognized internationally as the dean of goose-plant interactions in Arctic environments, a field of study he almost single-handedly created. Bob's research documented the consequences of changing climate and wildlife populations on the region, and his efforts played a central role in setting North American wildlife management policy and in the establishment of Wapusk National Park. Bob's work on goose populations at high latitude was instrumental in demonstrating long-distance consequences of modern human activity in a biological world. Since the 1950's, high-input agriculture has created an abundance of grain, some of which is left on fields in the American Midwest following harvest. This excess grain has allowed geese populations to explode due to an abundance of feed in their wintering grounds. Upon migration to the arctic estuaries during the breeding season, the high numbers of geese have overgrazed the estuaries, leading to ecological collapse and desertification in the Hudson Bay lowlands and along the arctic coast. As they migrate, the geese carry large amounts of nutrients from the wintering grounds to high latitudes, leading to major changes in water quality and aquatic food webs of the arctic. Bob's work has become a model case for how modern human activity has far ranging impacts through interactions with migrating animals. Because of the importance of his work, Bob Jefferies was nominated to serve as one of the Canadian representatives to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). With the other IPCC members, Bob shared the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the IPCC in 2007.

At the University of Toronto, Bob was a well known lecturer in the biology curriculum, teaching global change ecology and general ecology

to over 32,000 students in his 35 years of service at the University. His former graduate students now occupy positions of influence throughout the Canadian ecological establishment, where they play instrumental roles in developing national policy in ecology and environmental sciences. To his students and colleagues, he stood out as a gentleman of unusual grace and generosity. Gentlemen have become rare enough in modern life that whenever one has the pleasure of an encounter one is refreshed by the experience.

With his death, Canada has lost one of our most important northern researchers at a time when such expertise is increasingly vital and increasingly scarce.