

Remembering Joe Orosz

Joseph P. Orosz passed away on December 26, 2008, at Morristown Memorial Hospital. He was 62 years old.

Joe loved his family. His wife, Sharon, and daughter, Catherine, always came first. Together they shared so many wonderful times, including the trip to get the fourth member of the family, Tiger, their pug. In fact, it was Joe who named the tiny little puppy, not realizing Tiger would live up to his name.

Joe shared his interests with his family. He fostered a love for history, science, and nature early in Catherine. He was always there to help with school work and explain things she didn't understand. He loved sharing stories with his family, on the history of New Jersey and its mines, microscopes, and anything and everything related to minerals. Joe had a thirst for knowledge and a desire to share his.

Family time also included numerous vacations, oddly, revolving around rocks, nature, and wildlife. Nova Scotia and Bar Harbor started sparked Joe and Sharon's love for lobster. Trips to Disney World and Busch Gardens meant Joe gave in to the things Catherine wanted to do. But Sanibel Island, FL was everyone's favorite retreat. Shell collecting became the other big hobby. There were so many great memories of walking along the beach, driving through the Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge, and snorkeling the shoals. Vacations in Colorado meant touring mines visiting parks areas. His fondest memory was in Leadville, celebrating the purchase of a blue mineral with a blue margarita. Joe and Sharon also had the opportunity to visit Australia when Catherine studied there during college. Of course the highlights for Joe were snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef and visiting a mine in Tasmania. Joe and Sharon's most recent vacation was an Alaskan cruise this past year. Joe was able to fulfill his dream of walking on a glacier. He ate crab and salmon, pet the sled dogs, rode in a helicopter and a sea plane, and took in all the beauty of the mountains, ice, and wildlife.

Other fun memories included hiking and fishing with Sharon and Catherine. He loved vacations to Mohonk, in New Paltz, NY, where he took long hikes and rock scrambled. He also enjoyed good dining. Every special occasion was celebrated with a meal at a good restaurant or one of Sharon's delicious creations. Some of his favorite places included The Black Forest in Stanhope, Krave in Newton, Latour at Crystal Springs, and Cucharamama in Hoboken.

Joe's passion was minerals, from collecting to studying, to visiting mines and museums, to traveling the country for rock shows, and reading endless books on the subject. His interest started on a trip to Franklin, New Jersey many, many years ago.

Retirement allowed Joe to pursue his hobbies in greater depth. His retirement gift was a thin section machine. Later he got a digital camera to use with his microscopes and photograph the thin sections. He volunteered his time at the Franklin Museum and NYMS. He also supported the Sterling Hill Mining Museum and was on the Board of Managers of the New York Microscopical Society (NYMS) as Secretary.

He also volunteered at the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy, helping Tony Nickischer. He was interested in mineral study by XRD, Raman and optics. In his most recent article in the *Mineral News*, he coauthored the description of the first reported occurrence of opal at Franklin, NJ.

Born in Elizabeth, Joe grew up in Cranford. He was active in the Boy Scouts and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. It was during these years, as a boy and young man, when he found hobbies that would last throughout his life.

He lived in Hackensack for two years following his marriage to Sharon (Willison) in 1978. They moved to Rockaway Township, NJ in 1980; and Catherine, their only child, was born in 1981.

He received his Bachelor of Engineering Degree in 1968 and his Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1973, both from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ.

He was licensed as a Professional Engineer by the State of New Jersey in 1975 and continued to hold the license.

Joe worked at Picatinny Arsenal for thirty-eight years. When he retired in 2006, he was Branch Chief of the Lethal Mechanisms and Warheads Technology Branch in the Energetics and Warheads Division.

His deep passion for minerals and his thirst for history led him to belong to the following museums, clubs, and societies:

Founding Member – Sterling Hill Mining Museum

Life Member and Curator of Science – Franklin Mineral Museum

Life Member, Secretary, and Assistant Curator – New York Microscopical Society

Member – Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society

Member – North Jersey Mineralogical Society

Member – Fluorescent Mineral Society

Member – American Museum of Natural History

Member – National Canal Museum

Member – Historical Society of the Rockaways

Friend of the Rutgers University Geology Museum

Joe enjoyed photography, fishing, hunting, and hiking. His father fostered his interest in cameras, photographing nature, and developing his own photos. He hunted with his uncles and friends. He would take his daughter fishing and hiking.

Joe loved the outdoors. He walked on the beaches of Sanibel Island, Florida, and rock scrambled at Mohonk, in New Paltz, NY. He snorkeled at the Great Barrier Reef and walked on a glacier in Alaska. He made snowballs in the mountains of Colorado in July, and went into any mine that offered a tour. He fed kangaroos and wallabies, held a koala, observed whales bubble-net feeding, and watched the deer in his own yard.

Joe was a collector, a teacher, and a continuous learner. While minerals were his passion, he also collected microscopes, shells, fossils, and miners' equipment. He always wanted to learn more. He read books, magazines, and journals to expand his knowledge; and he established friendships with so many people who taught him so much. His retirement toy was a saw for cutting thin sections of minerals to study under his microscopes. He loved to share his knowledge with his wife and daughter and anyone else eager to learn.

In addition to his loving wife, Sharon, and his beloved daughter, Catherine, Joe is survived by his mother, Helen Orosz, of Cranford, NJ. He is also survived by his uncle, Joseph Angelo, of Linden, NJ, and several cousins. He leaves behind the family dog, a pug named Tiger, who provided endless comfort and companionship.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to:

Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute
at Morristown Memorial Hospital
100 Madison Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07962



Digital Imaging microscopy course



Joe and Sharon - NYMS Picnic at the Hinsch's



The move to Clifton



Inspecting the basement at Clifton



Joe speaking at the AMNH



Joe and Sharon – NYMS Banquet at the DoubleTree



Joe and Sharon - NYMS December banquet at the old Landmark Inn



NYMS booth at EAS convention

From the Friends and Colleagues of the Late Joseph P. Orosz

Joe will be missed, but never forgotten

The New York Microscopical Society