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Remembering David M. Lane

by Elizabeth Lane (P.O. Box 454, Rye, NH 03870) <littlebearlane@yahoo.com>

David M. Lane died of natural causes on August 25, 2012 at his home in Dover, NH.

After graduating from Dover High School, David earned both bachelors and masters degrees in botany at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), and a Ph.D. in botany at Duke University, then a masters degree in library science at Syracuse University.

Biological Sciences Librarian for 27 years and Associate Professor at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), David was active in service to the library, to the university, and to his profession, including serving from 1999 to 2000 as the president of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL). In 2011, CBHL awarded David the Charles Robert Long Award of Extraordinary Merit. It is the highest honor presented by CBHL and was established to recognize outstanding service to CBHL and/or to the field of botanical and horticultural literature, information services, and research.

The Charleston Conference was always a highlight of the year for David. He loved the city of Charleston and looked forward to revisiting his favorite eatery, Hyman’s Seafood. He eagerly anticipated seeing colleagues at the conference each year.

David cultivated an extensive personal collection of plants with a special interest in orchids, gesneriads, carnivorous plants, and succulents. He volunteered weekly at the UNH Macfarlane Greenhouses. His private collections of orchids and carnivorous plants have been donated to the greenhouses where they will be well-cared for as a living memorial to David.

David's enthusiasms also included travel, science fiction, and photography. A celebration of his life was held on September 30 (his birthday), organized with great thoughtfulness and respect by his colleagues and friends at UNH. Known for his sense of humor and generosity, David’s many colleagues will also miss his tremendous knowledge, imagination, and wisdom.

If you would like to make a memorial gift toward the care of David’s plant collections and the UNH Tropical Conservatory, it may be sent to the attention of Stephanie Gillen, University Advancement, Elliott Alumni Center, 9 Edgewood Road, Durham, NH 03824. Checks should be made payable to UNH Foundation, with Hort Gift Fund 1GB197 in the memo line. Thank you.