
In loving memory of
Graham Griffiths
(June 22, 1937–May 3, 2009)
Credit: L. Monteleone

Eulogy by Dr. John Packer

(May 28, 2009)

I first met Graham in the 1960s when he was a graduate student. There wasn't much I could teach him, and on the philosophy of classification and Hennigian method that was emerging at that time, he knew vastly more than I did. I understood from what he told me and as far as I can remember, that he had graduated from Cambridge with a degree in languages or German and that he had had a job with the government in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the "Min of Ag and Fish" as it was called when I was there. Seeking change, he abandoned the Min of Ag and Fish and landed up in the Entomology Department at the U of A.

Euphrasia nemorosa
A species investigated by Graham

Eulogy by Dr. John Packer

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My contact with Graham over the next several years was with respect to the career that he had embarked upon as an environmental consultant. We have a goodly number of his vascular plant collections in the herbarium at the U of A of which I was the curator. They are excellent specimens with exemplary documentation. Among those collections are a number that represent the first record of the species for Alberta. A couple of the recent ones that come to mind are a species of *Euphrasia* and one of *Utricularia*.

Eulogy by Dr. John Packer

(May 28, 2009)

One incident in the mid '70s I can recall vividly. Graham came into the herbarium one day with a folder of specimens collected in the Yukon. He said "I've found a new species of *Senecio*." *Senecio* is the groundsel genus; it is taxonomically troublesome, with over 1000 species, many of which have been described several times by different people. I don't remember my response, but it almost certainly was, "Oh yeah, that's interesting." Not that that would have fazed Graham much; he always had firm convictions. Anyway, I looked at the material and was absolutely delighted with what I saw. "Yes," I said. "You are right, it is a new species, it is *Senecio ogotorukensis*. I described it a couple of years ago." It was truly astonishing that Graham had recognized in the field that this was different from the other northern Senecios. I think he was a little disappointed that I had got in first!

Eulogy by Dr. John Packer

(May 28, 2009)

Graham's environmental concerns were not only academic in his capacity as a consultant. They went way beyond that. I well remember many years ago when I was going to NDP conventions, running into Graham at one. I didn't even know he was a party member, and he may not have been in recent years, though I still am. On this occasion he was at one of the delegate microphones during a debate on some policy resolution, speaking vehemently about the absurdity of giving farmers in northern Alberta subsidies to clear tracts of boreal forest so they could grow pitiful crops of wheat in an unfavourable environment. This was typical of Graham, for while I and most other delegates surely agreed with him, official NDP policy favoured it. Grant Notley was elected from a northern riding.

Eulogy by Dr. John Packer

(May 28, 2009)

My more recent association with Graham was with the translation of the *Flora of the Russian Arctic*, published in Russia in 10 volumes from 1965-1987. The Arctic is a single major ecosystem and clearly it would be invaluable for Canadian and European scientists to have easy access to a Russian work that deals comprehensively with the vascular plants over half of it. I took up the matter of translating it with Norma Gutteridge, Director of the U of A Press, probably in late ‘80s. She was interested and we applied to NRC Publications in Ottawa for a grant to translate and publish the flora. Somewhat to my surprise, the application was successful. A grant to translate and publish three volumes of a proposed six-volume work was provided.

Eulogy by Dr. John Packer

(May 28, 2009)

We were in business and needed a translator. The translator had to be a taxonomist, someone familiar with the format and technical terminology. I was aware of Graham's ability in Russian, but had no idea if he was up to translating a flora. Fortunately Norma Gutteridge acquired Graham's services and there was no question about his competence in taking on the translation. He was simply outstanding: absolutely meticulous! Two of the anticipated three initial volumes were published in 1995 and 1996. Then the U of A Press got the news that the grant had been terminated – the inevitable budget cuts. But the third volume had been translated by Graham and we managed to get Graham's German publisher, Cramer of Stuttgart, to publish it and manage sales. It came out in the year 2000.

Eulogy by Dr. John Packer

(May 28, 2009)

Three volumes remained. Following the termination of the grant we contacted NRC Publications from time to time about a reinstatement but got nowhere. Recently, with the International Polar Year, in which Canada was a significant participant, we thought we had a chance to get it finished. Graham prepared an application and we had high hopes. But no go. That was very disappointing and a real tragedy, because it is never going to get finished now.

I have known Graham for over 40 years. It has been an honour to know him and an honour to have had my name associated with his, as a scientist, as a taxonomist, and as a friend.

Credit: P. Cotterill

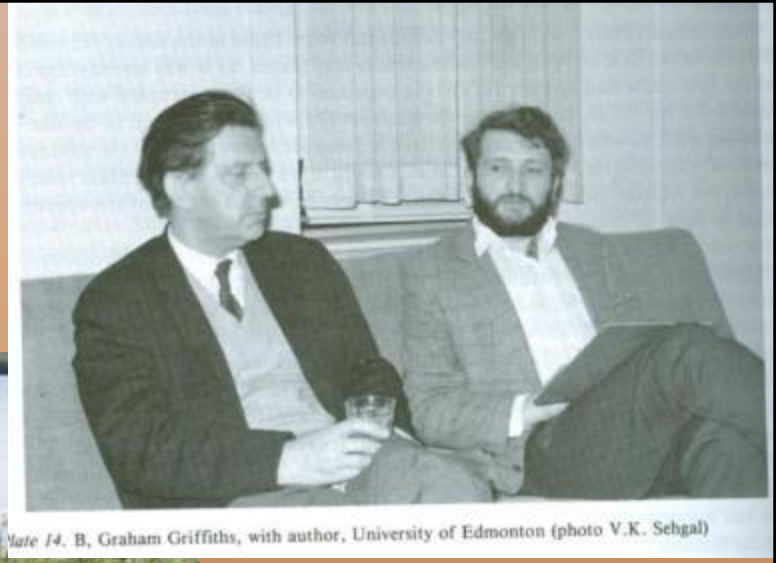

Plate 14. B, Graham Griffiths, with author, University of Edmonton (photo V.K. Sehgal)

Credit: L. Hamilton

Credit: L. Hamilton

Credit: L. Monteleone

GRAHAM C.D. GRIFFITHS, PhD

From: Patsy Cotterill & Deirdre Griffiths

A tribute to Graham can also be found in the Botanical Electronic News No. 419, found at: http://www.ou.edu/cas/botany-micro/ben/

A quick glance inside his PhD thesis, published in 1972 as a bound red book, volume 8 of *Seria Entomologica*, will tell you a lot about Graham Griffiths. It is entitled "The phylogenetic classification of Diptera Cyclorrhapha"; also illuminating is its subtitle: "with special reference to the structure of the male postabdomen". First, it shows his intense academic interest in an obscure group of organisms, a rare characteristic indeed among men, and second his patient observation and meticulous attention to detail, all quintessential qualities of a taxonomist.

Graham Griffiths, an internationally known entomologist and Albertan botanist, was born on June 22, 1937 in Cardiff, Wales. According to his sister Angela he was an inquisitive, mischievous boy who early on showed a penchant for catching flies and other insects. He was also bright academically, learning classical Greek, while attending private schools in Wales and London. During compulsory military service in Cyprus (1956-1958) he carried out intelligence interrogation as an interpreter of present-day Greek. He won scholarships to Christ's College, Cambridge where he graduated with a B.A. (Hons.) in Classics in 1961, and an M.A. in 1964. Until 1967 he worked in administration in the U.K. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and one can speculate that from this experience of bureaucracy he gained the confidence in confronting authority that would stand him in good stead in his later involvement in local politics and environmentalism.

GRAHAM C.D. GRIFFITHS, PhD

From: Patsy Cotterill & Deirdre Griffiths

In 1953, while still at school, Graham had met an amateur entomologist, Kenneth Spencer, at a meeting of the south London (now British) Entomological and Natural History Society. Spencer focused on the leaf mining flies in the family Agromyzidae. Graham's chief interest until then had been the flower flies, Syrphidae. While still at school (1954), he wrote about these flies in his first scientific article, which was accepted for publication by the journal *Entomologist.* Under Spencer's mentorship, however, he switched to studying the Agromyzidae. The two became friends – a friendship that was to last through the years – going on collecting trips together outside London and discussing the taxonomy of this family.

It was through Spencer, along with a recommendation from the world-wide expert on Diptera, Willi Hennig,, that Graham was accepted as a PhD candidate in entomology under Professor Brian Hocking, Chairman of the Department of Entomology at the University of Alberta. This may seem surprising, given his background in classics, but by then Graham already had a list of publications on the Agromyzidae and their Hymenopteran parasites under his belt. He arrived in Edmonton, Alberta in September 1967 and gained his PhD in 1971.

Graham went on to do two years of graduate work at the University of Alberta, supported by a Killam Special Postdoctoral Scholarship for interdisciplinary studies, which culminated in a publication of much broader philosophical scope, *On the Foundations of Biological Systematics.* Graham did not take up an academic position at the University of Alberta, but retained his connection to it as an Honorary Research Associate from 1974 until 1997. Alberta proved to be a happy hunting ground for him and he found a number of new species of Agromyzid leaf miners, particularly in the Rocky Mountains. (By the time of his death he had six insects named after him, i.e., with the specific epithet *griffithsi.*)

GRAHAM C.D. GRIFFITHS, PhD

From: Patsy Cotterill & Deirdre Griffiths

Graham continued to publish on the Agromyzidae for over four decades and to review many publications in his field, some of which were in German. In 1965 he translated from the German Hennig's *Phylogenetic Systematics*. Spencer wrote glowingly that, after Hennig died in 1976, Graham "has been generally accepted as the leading theoretician on the evolution of the Diptera." Spencer also lauded Graham because he reared, preserved and identified the parasites of these Agromyzids, allowing him to perceive their high degree of host specificity. Spencer, in his 1992 autobiography *Flycatcher* writes: "Graham quickly mastered the complex taxonomy of the parasitic Hymenoptera and between 1964 and 1968 published six excellent revisionary papers on the Alysiinae and Dacnusini, for the first time providing detailed host information." In 1977 Graham founded and edited the prestigious series of monographs, *Flies of the Nearctic Region*, which he continued to edit and contribute to until close to his death. In several issues he made major contributions to Anthomyiidae taxonomy, a very diverse family that includes root-boring larvae (commonly referred to as root maggots) as well as stem-borers and leaf miners. As a professional scientist Graham attended the usual international congresses and gave invited lectures, including three delivered in Russian, in Leningrad where he spent a month!

In 1970 he married Deirdre Webb, whom he had met in Elk Island National Park, where Deirdre was then Chief Naturalist. For a year, under contract, Deirdre, an accomplished artist, drew taxonomic illustrations of Graham's flies. Later they joined forces as a consulting team and throughout the 1980s and 1990s carried out biophysical surveys and mapping, particularly of protected Crown lands for the Alberta Government. Deirdre documented the fauna, geology and land forms (including photography), and also prepared report maps. Graham concentrated on the flora, vegetation types and soils. Because Graham needed to know the host plants of his leaf miners, he had been familiarizing himself with the Alberta flora ever since his arrival in the province, and he did this with the same focused attention to detail that he accorded his insect taxonomy.

GRAHAM C.D. GRIFFITHS, PhD

From: Patsy Cotterill & Deirdre Griffiths

The Griffiths' surveys included the Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary, Beehive Candidate Ecological Reserve, Plateau Mountain Candidate Ecological Reserve and natural areas such Sylvan Lake, Bilby, Coyote Lake, Lesser Slave Lake, North Cooking Lake, Pinehurst Lake, Lister Lake, Crooked Lake, and others. Graham and Deirdre were among the very few naturalists to explore the Swan Hills region of Alberta, and in 1976 Graham edited a book on this area, *Alberta's Forgotten Wilderness: the Swan Hills*, which was published by the Alberta Wilderness Association and the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada (now CPAWS) – Edmonton Chapter. This work was interspersed with a three-year contract (1982-1985) to study the life history and ecology of the agricultural pests, the canola root maggots, *Delia* spp. (Anthomyiidae).

Like many another field naturalists, Graham was acutely aware of the need to conserve habitat. He was involved politically, and was not afraid to express his concerns forcibly. From 1972-74 he was chairman of the Edmonton Chapter of the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada, where he dealt with controversial issues such as protection of Alberta's mountain parks, mineral exploration in the Rockies, and sewage system design for the City of Edmonton. From 1980-82 he was chairman of the Environmental Protection Subcommittee of the Public Advisory Committee on the Environment, of which he was a member for a much longer period. He and Deirdre intervened on several occasions when the environment of their home county, Strathcona, was threatened, for example, by the injudicious use of pesticides, or the realignment of a road that would have destroyed part of a natural area. As Dr. Packer noted in his eulogy given at a memorial service for Graham in Athabasca on May 28, 2009, Graham was a person of "firm convictions," both with respect to his taxonomy and his environmental activism.

GRAHAM C.D. GRIFFITHS, PhD

From: Patsy Cotterill & Deirdre Griffiths

BOTANICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Graham's interest and expertise in the local flora grew to the point where plants dominated his interest in the field. In his later years he published on several rare plant species in regional publications such as *Alberta Naturalist, Iris* (magazine of the Alberta Native Plant Council) and *BEN*. Most notably, Graham was able to combine his knowledge of Russian, taxonomic expertise and familiarity with a northern flora to translate three volumes of a proposed six-volume set of the *Flora of the Russian Arctic* (Tolmachev, A. I. (ed.), 1965-1987, 10 volumes in Russian), at the request of Dr. John Packer, Professor of Botany at the University of Alberta, and the University of Alberta Press. Owing to a shortage of funds the remaining three volumes have not materialized, to the chagrin of both Graham and Dr. Packer. Nevertheless, Deirdre continues efforts to find a translator and editor to complete the series.

One of Graham's important contributions to Albertan botanists was to make a clear distinction between two wetland sedge species: *Carex rostrata* Stokes and *C. utriculata* Boott (*Alberta Naturalist* 1989, 19(3):105-108), which previously had been considered a single taxon, *C. rostrata*. During a survey at Coyote Lake Natural Area he observed what he called the "true" *C. rostrata* growing in a lakeshore fen with *Carex lasiocarpa* Ehrh. , *Menyanthes trifoliata* and *Calla palustris*, and distinguished it from *Carex utriculata* and *Carex aquatilis* growing in shallow water on a mineral substrate along with the provincially rare *Carex lacustris*. Graham had the sedge specialists from eastern Canada Peter Ball and Tony Reznicek confirm the identity of his specimens. Given that all Albertan herbarium specimens had been labeled "*C. rostrata*" it became important to determine how common the "true" *C. rostrata* was and for a time this taxon was on the Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre (ANHIC)'s tracking list as "status unknown." However, within a couple of field seasons it was determined that *C. rostrata*, separable from *C. utriculata* by its narrower leaves and the presence of papillae on the leaf undersides which give them a glaucous look, was common enough in peaty wetlands to be taken off the list.

It was from Coyote Lake also that Graham made the first record of ducksmeal, *Wolffia columbiana* Karst for Alberta (*Alberta Naturalist* 1988, 18(1):18-20). The occurrence of *W. arrhiza* in Alberta which he also tentatively reported was later discounted as the material was determined to be an aberrant form of *W. columbiana* (*Flora of North America* 2000, 22:152). Alerted to this genus, in 1988 Graham and Deirdre did an extensive survey of wetlands in Elk Island National Park and found an additional species, *W. borealis* (Engelm.) Landolt, as well as *W. columbiana* (*Alberta Naturalist*1990, 20 (2):59-64). As at Coyote Lake, all occurrences south to at least Ministik Game Bird Sanctuary were in beaver ponds. *Wolffia* can grow to form a green carpet over the water by late summer and is rich food for pre-migratory waterfowl. Given that nearly 20 years have passed since this survey was undertaken, it may be time to do it again!

GRAHAM C.D. GRIFFITHS, PhD

From: Patsy Cotterill & Deirdre Griffiths

With his usual taxonomic zeal Graham researched the literature and contacted authorities on the *Euphrasia* genus after finding populations of a new *Euphrasia* in Elk Island Park and hearing of similar plants on the shore of Elizabeth Lake in Lacombe. He concluded that this species should be called *Euphrasia arctica* subsp*. borealis* (Townsend) Yeo following the European nomenclature, although in North American literature this taxon is considered to be synonymous with *Euphrasia nemorosa* (Pers.) Wallr. and also *Euphrasia borealis* (Townsend) Wettst. (BEN_ # 299, December 2002). This posed the question of whether the distinction between *E. nemorosa* and *E. arctica* subsp. *borealis* made in Europe should apply to North American populations. This was exactly the sort of taxonomic conundrum that Graham loved to confront. Belonging to a Eurasian taxon, these Central Alberta populations do not get tracked by ANHIC, but of course they were not beneath Graham's notice.

Similarly, Graham launched into taxonomic detective work, consulting authorities and checking the literature, after examining specimens of the *Cardamine pratensis* L. complex from various provenances in Alberta. He determined that plants seen in the Fort MacKay area and in Elk Island National Park were *Cardamine pratensis* var. *angustifolia* Hook. (also treated as *C. nymanii* Gandog.), while those from the Conklin (Fort McMurray) area were a species newly recorded for Alberta, *Cardamine dentata* J.A. Schultes (*Iris* 55, October 2007: 6-8). The latter has thinner leaflets that are always stalked, as well as a reluctance to flower, Albertan populations reproducing mainly vegetatively by shoots developing on leaflets. Northern botanists should be aware of this distinction between the two taxa, which are both rare.

Given Graham's penchant for taxonomically difficult groups, it is not surprising that he turned his attention to moonworts, the genus *Botrychium*, on which considerable work has recently been done. Elk Island Park proved to be a hotbed of these tiny, very variable, most unfern-like Ophioglossaceae ferns. Its dry, gravelly, bison-trod trails yielded no fewer than nine species when Graham, in the company of Patrick Williston from British Columbia, launched major forays on 10 and 11 June, 2001. Patrick Williston went on to investigate several other locations of moonworts in Alberta, writing a short monograph on them, and Graham has since recorded many other occurrences of Albertan species. Ever ready to assist other amateur botanists, Graham helped Tom Maccagno survey islands in Lac La Biche for moonworts, and provided a synopsis of at least eight taxa of moonwort found on Birch Island. Graham also assisted Tom with fieldwork in Garner Lake Fen, which Tom was later successful in having protected as a provincial Natural Area.

GRAHAM C.D. GRIFFITHS, PhD

From: Patsy Cotterill & Deirdre Griffiths

In 2000 Graham and Deirdre undertook what was initially to be a one-year biophysical survey of the Crooked Lake area, sponsored by the Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca. This, and the Athabasca region generally (within the Central Mixedwood of the Boreal Forest), proved to be exciting for both of them. Deirdre decided this environment would provide almost unlimited potential for her as a naturalist and wildlife artist, and she moved to Athabasca in late 2000.

Graham moved up in 2001 having had his fill of the relentless development and increasing air pollution in Strathcona County, which left few natural areas unscathed. Established south of Athabasca, he immediately set about strengthening his relationship with colleagues at Athabasca University, where he identified plants and organized their herbarium. He took pleasure in intensively exploring Muskeg Creek Ravine close to his home and initiated "May Plants in Flower" Counts in the lower Muskeg Valley. Graham continued to be involved in the ongoing exploration and monitoring of the Crooked Lake and Crooked Creek areas.

More recently, from 2002 until 2008, Graham was a subconsultant to various environmental assessment firms contracted by pipeline and other development companies to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments which included reporting the occurrence of rare native plants in boreal and montane habitats.

GRAHAM C.D. GRIFFITHS, PhD

From: Patsy Cotterill & Deirdre Griffiths

Of course, Graham collected herbarium specimens during all these surveys, which he carefully mounted and deposited in university and government herbaria. It is easy to pick out his specimens in a herbarium folder: all are carefully labeled with the tiny, neat handwriting that entomologists use for their much smaller specimen labels! From the time of its inception in 1990, Graham was a keen submitter of survey records to the ANHIC database, and attended periodic meetings to revise the list of rare and "watched" vascular plants in Alberta.

In 2007 Graham was only able to go on local field trips for personal interest while he recovered from throat cancer surgery, which left him with eating and speaking difficulties. He returned to consulting in the summer of 2008 despite increasing discomfort. After slipping quietly into a coma, he died in the early morning of May 3, 2009 in Athabasca Hospital, with his wife Deirdre at his side.

He had dedicated his life to taxonomy and made a significant contribution to both entomological and botanical science. A condensed biography of Graham is published in the first edition (2002) of "2000 Outstanding Scientists of the 21st Century" (information supplied by the research and advisory board of the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England). He will be remembered with appreciation, respect and affection by his colleagues and friends.

Botany Alberta 2008
Coyote Lake

Credit: L. Hamilton

Tributes from Peers, Colleagues and Friends

From Joyce Gould

I first met Graham after I returned to Alberta in the early 1990s. Graham and Deirdre were stewards of the North Cooking Lake Natural Area and took a passionate interest in what was living on the site and who was using it. Graham's keen eye and attention to detail soon became apparent and he was soon doing rare plant work as an environmental consultant throughout Alberta, even though his formal training was in entomology. He was often showing me specimens that he had found that he considered to be either new species or species new to the province. I didn't always agree with his determinations but I was impressed with his powers of observation. It was largely through his efforts that we now recognize *Carex utriculata* and several species of *Wolffia* in the province.

Graham's attention to detail was also apparent in the specimens that he collected—they are works of art. He collected his plants in glass bottles so that they would not get crushed in his pack. It made for a heavy and fragile load but the resulting specimens are beautiful.

Although Graham took his work seriously, he did have a playful side that came out on occasion. It was a side of him that I really enjoyed.

Graham made significant contributions to our knowledge of the plants of Alberta. He was also someone whom I considered a friend and I will miss him.

Tributes from Peers, Colleagues and Friends

From Patsy Cotterill

Many of Graham's friends knew him as he was in the field where, ideally for a taxonomist, he was as much at home as he was at his desk, with microscope, dissecting kit and computer. In fact, he loved the outdoors. Discomfort didn't seem to bother him and he had no interest in his appearance or matters sartorial. He wore sturdy boots but his shirts were often frayed at the collar and cuffs and his outerwear consisted not of the latest in outdoor gear but a cheap plastic mack or layers of old jackets. He invariably drew a smile from colleagues when he pulled out of his ancient knapsack, well, not exactly a vasculum, but not the modern plastic bag either, rather a large awkward glass jar or two. (These nevertheless proved very serviceable for the collections of the aquatic plants he was so interested in.) Graham was also pretty fearless in the field, unmoved by potential hazards such as bellowing bison in the rutting season at Elk Island, defensive attacks by ruffed grouse mothers, dense thickets possibly harbouring bears, or leech-infested ponds in which, stripped off, he immersed himself, the better to collect Potamogetons. Nor was he afraid of getting lost because he was a good navigator in the bush. I don't recall his using a GPS, but he always knew where he was by map and air photo and on the ground.

Tributes from Peers, Colleagues and Friends

From Patsy Cotterill

Although I've been on many field trips with Graham, I associate him most with Elk Island Park, and I never go there now without thinking about him. He was a mine of information about the Park; he knew where all the botanical hotspots were. When he lived in Strathcona County, which he did for many years, I think he felt extremely lucky to have the Park as his playground. From 2000 onwards, except for 2007 when he was still recovering from surgery, we did the May Count of Species in Flower together along the informal Sandhills Trail, sometimes just the two of us, sometimes in the company of others. He helped me a lot when I did a small study revisiting some of the Park's wetland species. Graham contributed specimens to the Park's herbarium and compiled a lengthy list of its vascular plant species. I am not convinced that his resources or services were adequately acknowledged by Park staff.

Although I believe Graham wanted to be (and was) recognized as a good scientist, I don't think he was much interested in a conventionally successful career in academe. He remained an *amateur* in the best sense of the word all his life, preferring to pursue his singular interests, at his own pace, and no doubt he found Alberta a treasure trove of biodiversity after London. He was completely unmaterialistic, the carbonbuster's dream; he lived very frugally, ran an old but small car, and indeed never seemed to have anything new except possibly for books. He traveled to conferences, and his consultancy work took him afield in northern Canada, but he didn't travel purely for pleasure. I think he found his greatest happiness exploring close to home, getting to know his local area intensively, observing the variations in even the common species (he was indubitably a "splitter"). He enjoyed sharing this information with others. The "even tenor of his way" was obviously to work hard at his desk during the winter and spend the summer outdoors. Sadly, he was not ready to give it all up. Even during his illness he was still working and optimistically poring over topographical maps, planning new explorations. Those of us left behind would do well to appreciate him as a role model, and to pick up the torch and continue his careful investigations while we still have the chance.

Tributes from Peers, Colleagues and Friends

From Laurie Hamilton

I met Graham in 2003 and I immediately knew I liked him. He was a person with passion, humour, intellect and gumption.

I have worked with Graham on a variety of projects and have many stories about him, but one in particular comes to mind. We were up in the Northwest Territories conducting a rare plant survey by helicopter. As some of you may know there are many lakes dotting the tundra landscape, and these we target for their rare plant potential. Well, on one occasion the helicopter dropped us off and flew off to re-fuel. The sun was beating down on us as we examined the site for rares...and of course found some. While searching, we observed massive pike lurking in the shallows, eyeing us. Graham commented that we looked like a tasty treat for these behemoths as we went about our business. We completed the survey and waited for the helicopter to return. I was waiting at the pickup site and was reviewing my notes when I heard a bit of a splash. I looked over to the nearest lake and saw Graham in the lake up to his armpits in the water. He had decided that it was a good time for a dip, stripped down to his skivvies and in he went, despite the massive pike and who knows what else (trilobites we soon found out) was in the water.

In that instance, all of his wonderful personality traits showed and my love and admiration for him was solidified. I am very glad I met him and had the benefit of working with him. Graham will live on in me and many people who have met him. I thank you, Graham.

Credit: L. Hamilton

Credit: L. Hamilton

Tributes from Peers, Colleagues and Friends

From Leslie Monteleone

Graham Griffiths was my greatest mentor with regard to botany and I have missed him dearly over this past field season. We first started working together in 1997 doing the May flowering species counts for the North Cooking Lake area. He was always so patient and kind even when I would ask about the same species over and over. I asked him once how he got into botany and he said that as an entomologist he needed to know the plant species that his "bugs of study" were eating/using. And he needed to know the plants by their leaves only because he couldn't wait for them to flower. For the most part he was self-taught regarding plant identification and was very meticulous and detail-oriented. To learn the willows he went out and tagged them in the early spring when they were flowering and then went back again when the leaves were fully developed. I am very grateful for his dedication, patience and willingness to share his knowledge.

Tributes from Peers, Colleagues and Friends

From Marsha Hayward

I first met Graham Griffiths near Lac La Biche, at one of the fieldtrips during the ANPC 2004 Botany Alberta. Tom Maccagno and a small man were walking slowly through the Garner Lake Orchid fen pointing out and discussing the various grasses, sedges and orchids as we passed throughout the fragile ecosystem. From the moment I heard Graham speaking about the specialized plant species found within this northeastern Alberta fen, I was hooked on an amazing learning experience. Although I was only privileged to know Graham for the last five years of his life, this has been both an educational and honourable experience for me. Graham has been not only a mentor to me, but a person I've greatly admired.

Graham fooled a lot of people with his somewhat distracted and slightly ruffled look, but behind this were a brilliant mind and a man with a keen sense of humour. Together, we discovered that we held a common interest – the boreal forest of Canada. [I made numerous trips to Athabasca, where Graham patiently went through my "discoveries" of plant specimens and my photos. We shared information and Graham helped me key plant species from Canada's northwestern boreal forest for my ongoing attempt to catalogue the plants from this huge region. Above all, Graham taught me how to look and inspired me to "keep on looking." Many of the species from outside Alberta were new to me and Graham was not only a patient and knowledgeable teacher about boreal plants but also shared his like-minded ideas about boreal ecology and conservation. Graham and I went on several field trips in northeastern Alberta, including the warm water springs at Cold Lake and the La Biche River Wildland Provincial Park area. Graham also took me on a tour of the unique ecosystem of Muskeg Creek near Athabasca. We had a great deal of fun searching for rare plants in these areas.]

In 2008, Graham conducted research for the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute and his wife Deirdre contributed greatly towards the final work for this project. Worthwhile reading is the couple's research of Crooked Lake, as well as Elk Island National Park. Graham conducted in-kind services towards the Adopt-a-Plant Alberta, in his assistance with rare plant identification for my boreal species. In autumn of 2009, Deirdre and I completed the Adopt-a-Plant Rare Plant and Lichen Survey for *Najas flexilis* from the ANHIC EO record that Graham had previously worked on.

Although Graham struggled with cancer the last two years of his life, he never gave up his enthusiasm for the natural world. [and while in hospital was requesting that I ask people to research sedge species further at Coyote Lake, Alberta and was also talking about a field trip north to the Pelican Mountains (Marten Hills) into another deep canyon area north of Athabasca where he wanted to conduct more of our rare plant searches. Deirdre has taken on the huge job of working with me on our search for unique and different plants and to learn more about the unique ecology of Boreal Alberta and beyond. Graham and Deirdre are both people I admire greatly and I feel strongly that their contributions to boreal ecology are invaluable to Canadians.]

Tributes from Peers, Colleagues and Friends

From Tom Maccagno

When I first met Graham during the summer of 2004 at a rendezvous point at the Lac La Biche Mission prior to embarking on our first trip to examine the moonworts on the island, I must admit that I was somewhat taken aback. I saw an older person with a scraggly beard, frumpy dress, thick eye-glasses, and wearing rubber boots in mid July! I was even more surprised when I saw this person clamber up to the top of the island. I thought that I had a good eye for spotting things. However, I was embarrassed by the rapidity with which Graham began identifying different species of moonworts! He had a droll sense of humor and a quizzical look. He was a wonderful mentor. Graham always had time to patiently answer any questions. He taught me a lot about botany in general and Botrychia in particular. And I believe that he quite enjoyed the trips we made on windy days on Lac La Biche. At least he kept his feet dry!

Whenever I return to the island I know that Graham will be with me in spirit. I will not be saddened. I will smile and be grateful that we crossed paths.

From Dr. Don Farrar

Thank you for letting me know of Graham's death. I am very saddened, but I am so pleased that I had the good fortune to meet and work with him for a short time. He was a great botanist and a fun companion in the field. Dr. Mary Stensvold and I are currently writing a manuscript on the *Botrychium lunaria* complex that will include analysis of a number of specimens sent to me by Graham. We will probably not be able to list all of the contributors to this particular work, but I will certainly find opportunity to acknowledge Graham's contributions when I complete my book on moonworts of North America. The Birch Island–Elk Island areas remain an exceptional meeting ground of eastern and western species.

From Lu Carbyn

I remember him as a very dedicated executive member of CPAWS-NPPAC at the time. He knew how to get under the skin of politicians by being a very "straight shooter." Moreover, I was very impressed by his abilities as a taxonomist of both insects and plants.

He was really a man of a previous era in that, much in the style of a George Ball (beetles) and a Gerd Heinrich (ichneumon wasps), he applied very meticulous scholarship to naming things. It is a shame that he passed on so relatively early in life, because there are very few people in the field of biology left who still have that devotion, interest and dedication. The practice of taxonomy now involves mainly genetic and biochemical methods, yet there is still a place for the descriptive and anatomical approach, now being sorely neglected.