

# CROSSED THE BAR

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## William Samuel Payne

March 12, 1948 – May 29, 2016

Bill Payne passed away unexpectedly of natural causes at the age of 68, at home on May 29, 2016. Bill was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, the son of Kenyon T. and Jane B. Payne. He grew up in East Lansing, Michigan. He finished high school at the Leysin American School in Switzerland where he graduated in 1966, having learned to ski on the Swiss mountains and speak French. His parents sent him to Leysin while they served for two years on assignment in Nigeria for Michigan State University.

As an MSU undergraduate, Bill worked in the poultry barns, feeding chickens and shoveling what they leave behind. His love of chickens and science grew as he worked for the Federal Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory after graduation and later at MSU in microbiology as a research associate. His name is on several academic papers as a co-author.

Bill loved the Belvedere Club his whole life and participated in the gangs in the 1950's. As an adult, he came mostly off season with family and friends. He spent more time planting Birch trees and American Chestnut trees than participating in the typical Club activities.

Bill was a proud member of the American Chestnut Foundation. For more than 20 years he grew and planted American Chestnut trees in northern and central Michigan, most of them at Camp Michigania, the University of Michigan family camp at Walloon Lake, and a few in the woods of the Belvedere Club. Bill was an avid birder and could identify countless birds by sight and by their call.

His passion for the outdoors extended across the border into Canada. He was the president of Canyon Lodge Anglers' Club in the Agawa Canyon in the Algoma district of Ontario where he went every spring - first with his father and later with friends.

Bill is survived by his wife, Jackie, who lives in Lansing. His daughter, Megan lives in Scotland with her husband, Robert and their two children, Aidan and Sophie, whom he adored. His daughter, Molly, lives in Richmond, Virginia. Bill's brother, Chris, lives in Colorado and his sister, Marny, lives in Indiana.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 4 at Riley Funeral Home in Lansing, MI.