

The wildlife conservation and research community loses a great friend

Dave Ankney, highly respected scientist, educator, hunting advocate, mentor and dear friend passed away on Thursday, February 28, following a battle with cancer.

He will be missed immensely by all of us here at Long Point Waterfowl, his friends in the Long Point region, and by the waterfowl and wildlife conservation communities throughout North America. Dave's influence as a scientist, educator, and friend is reflected by the many comments posted on the Dave Ankney Tribute page: <http://longpointwaterfowl.org/tribute-to-dave-ankney/>

A tireless voice for hunters and conservation, Dave was a founding member of the Long Point Waterfowlers' Association, Past-president of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and sat on Long Point Waterfowl's Scientific Advisory Committee and Board of Directors.

Dave also will be remembered for his instrumental roles in waterfowl management and conservation planning throughout North America, including the re-introduction of wild turkeys to Ontario. He did this through science, education of the next generation, and discussion and debate in the halls of academia, duck blinds, cottage porches, fishing boats, and other various formal and informal settings. Dave most certainly made this statement ring true, "The good 'ole days are now".



Receiving the Long Point Waterfowlers' Association Partnership Award



Dave and Sandi after a successful hunt in Texas.

An ad hoc committee of Dave's former colleagues and friends has been established, and all members are committed to ensuring that Dave's legacy lives on. Several initiatives have been proposed and supported by Sandi, and the following two have been confirmed and plans are underway.

A Celebration of Dave's Life will be held at the Long Point Waterfowl Research & Education Centre on May 19.

Additional information about this event and other initiatives will soon be posted on the Dave Ankney Tribute page.

A Dave Ankney & Sandi Johnson Graduate Research Scholarship is currently being developed. Two scholarships will be awarded annually to graduate students working on waterfowl issues in North America, one to a MSc candidate and one to a PhD candidate. Long Point Waterfowl will administer the scholarship, and a multi-agency committee will select the recipients.

Donations towards the scholarship are tax receiptable and can be sent to Long Point Waterfowl (for Canadian receipts) or to Delta Waterfowl (for US receipts). Scholarship specifics, including details on how to make donations, will be presented on the Dave Ankney Tribute page this Spring.

