

A Gathering of Bob's Friends

June 4, 2007

5:30 p.m.

Bob Brown was an inspiration to anyone who thinks you need a degree in biology to be a naturalist. Bob was a retired banker who pursued his life-long love of nature in his free time. Over the years, Bob Brown has hiked, run or walked virtually every square inch of the Warner Parks, while also making his mark as a conservationist across the state.

Bob's keen eye for detail, his love of wilderness and his seemingly photographic memory for plant names and natural history has led others to call him the "master of Tennessee Conservation", a Nature Conservancy "Hero", a "professional amateur botanist", and Warner Park's "Best Friend".

Despite the accolades, Bob simply referred to himself as "volunteer naturalist". Yet within this simple description lies great truth: Bob willingly volunteered countless hours of his time and untold miles of trails sharing his encyclopedic knowledge of nature, interweaving historical connections and future possibilities with every step. Bob wielded a chain saw in the ongoing battle against exotic plants, served as an original board member for the Friends of Warner Park, chaired the Stewardship Committee that set up Park Watch, spearheaded the park's Stream Monitoring Project, led hikes and programs on diverse topics, and participated in plant surveys for Warner, Beaman, and the Natchez Trace.

Bob may be best known for the gentle white dog that was his constant companion for over 15 years. Doors that were usually closed to canines were opened wide when Bob and Trouble showed up. Trouble went *everywhere* that Bob went – not just on the trail, but to meetings, dedications and parties!

Together the two of them have been instrumental in preserving land, creating trails, and exemplifying what a naturalist does best: sharing a love for the great outdoors.

Opening Remarks.....Sandy Bivens
SUPERINTENDENT OF NATURE CENTERS, NASHVILLE METRO PARKS

Welcome Meditation.....Governor Winfield Dunn

Reflections on Childhood.....John Cain

Reflections on Tennessee's Trails.....Mack Pritchard
STATE NATURALIST, TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

Reflections on the Warner Parks.....Warner Bass
FRIENDS OF WARNER PARK

Reflections on Land Conservation.....Bill Coble

Closing Remarks.....Governor Winfield Dunn



You are invited to the classroom to join a gathering of friends to share memories and glimpse images celebrating Bob's life.

WARNER PARK NATURE CENTER
METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

A Gathering of Friends



Robert D. Brown

1930-2007

In Memory of Bob Brown

Twenty-four charitable organizations are the beneficiaries of Bob's estate and are listed below. A list of mailing addresses for each organization is available at the Nature Center front desk.

Austin Peay State University

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society

Cumberland River Compact

Cumberland Trail Conference

Friends of Beaman Park

Friends of Warner Parks

Greenways for Nashville

Harpeth River Watershed Association

Land Trust for Tennessee

Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America

Montgomery Bell Academy

Nashville Humane Association

The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

Swan Conservation Trust

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

Tennessee Environmental Council

The Tennessee Historical Society

Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation

Tennessee River Gorge Trust

U.S. Fund for UNICEF

University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Vanderbilt Children's Hospital

YMCA of Middle Tennessee