



Neal Smoak

September 11, 1950 - January 8, 2016

Neal Emerson Smoak, age 65, died Friday January 8, 2016 in Greenville, SC., with his wife, his children and his sister at his side.

Neal was born in Conway, SC on September 11, 1950 to Donald McCoy Smoak and Bonita Bellamy Smoak. He had a passion for all things outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing and shrimping. From an early age, he had a special interest in snakes and lent his expertise on them to various wildlife agencies . It has been said that he was never happier than when he was out on the open water or deep in the woods, surrounded by all that is God's glorious creation. These were the times that Neal was his truest self. To quote Henry David Thoreau, "Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads". This perfectly describes the way that Neal loved and appreciated nature. Neal was an animal lover, especially of dogs, and he shared this love with his wife Dana. Being brought up in a musical family, he was taught to love all types of music from classical to rock and roll, Beethoven to The Eagles. He played the guitar, as well as sang. He was a wonderful husband, father, son and brother and he will be missed dearly.

Neal is survived by his wife, Dana Kelsey Smoak of Travelers Rest, SC, his daughter Hope Smoak Connelly (Joseph) of Ridgeland ,SC, his son Fletcher Smoak (Erica) of Bluffton SC, his parents of Conway, sisters Donna Smoak Watts (Ted) of Murrells Inlet, SC, Beth Smoak Hagwood (Woody) of Conway, and Rachel Smoak Ballenger (Gil) of Charleston, SC, grandchildren Abby Smith, Camden Connelly, Madison Smoak and Watson Smoak, nephews

Matthew Watts(Becky), Gage Ballenger, Evan Ballenger and Reid O'Quinn-Hagwood, a niece Elizabeth Hagwood, two great nieces and one great nephew and a special sister in law, Karen Littlefield of Rockland, Maine as well as numerous special friends and extended family members.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, January 15, 2016 at 3:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1001 5th Avenue, Conway, SC with a visitation in the commons area at 2:00 PM prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Outdoor Dream Foundation, PO Box 802, Anderson, SC 29622.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 15. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Conway
1001 5th Avenue
Conway, SC 29526
<http://www.fumcconway.org/>

Service

JAN 15. 3:00 PM (ET)

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1001 5th Avenue
Conway, SC 29526
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Tribute Wall



“ 29 files added to the album Life Tributes

A **Good Life** is when you *assume* nothing, do more, **hood** less, smile often, *dream* big, laugh a lot and *realize* how **blessed** you are.



Goldfinch Funeral Home - January 14, 2016 at 01:27 PM



“ We had some of the best times ever chasing snakes at Okeetee. I remember when Bern Tryon came down to Wades with a new Nissan Pathfinder. When he left to go inside Wades house Neal said watch this he found an old pump from a hot tub and placed it inside the wheel well of Berns Pathfinder. When Bern came back from the house Neal said Bern do you mind if I look at you SUV and Bern said fine. Neal crawled under the vehicle. And pulled out the old hot tub pump and said to Bern you don't need this and tossed into a trash pile. Berns eyes were like saucers and did not know what to say. We all had a good laugh. Rest in Peace my friend.
Gary

gary johnson - January 13, 2016 at 12:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Neal Smoak.*



January 12, 2016 at 09:22 PM



“ *I loved it when Neal and Dana would come to my home in Winder and just hang out in the evenings, of course, after the dog shows! He was awesome with crafting wood, and always came up with new ways to accomplish what he wanted. A good man, for sure. His good humor and expertise will be missed.*

Nancy - January 12, 2016 at 06:47 PM



I remember Neal at the Conway Swimming Pool. He would get on the diving boards and spring 10ft in the air to warmup. Then he would wow us with those full gainers and half gainers.

Guerry Jordan - January 14, 2016 at 07:29 AM



Best brother ever!

Donna Smoak Watts - January 14, 2016 at 10:53 PM