



Andrew "Andy" Alan Sechrist

January 24, 2023

Andrew "Andy" Alan Sechrist, 49, of Lancaster, died on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at home after a life-long struggle with mental illness.

Andy experienced depression, anxiety, and obsessions for most of his life and tried every means he could think of to heal. He was so much more than his illness, however. He had a tender heart for people and animals-he hugged often and loved close contact with the people and pets he cared about. He was quite silly and playful and liked to tease-especially his father. He had a passion for nature and was happiest when hiking or rappelling in beautiful places. He had a brilliant and analytical mind which helped him solve a technical problems, explain abstract concepts, or offer the perfect advice to a friend in need with equal ease.

Andy loved to learn and spent most of his life in school. He earned a BA in psychology from Millersville University, an AS in geospatial technology from Harrisburg Area Community College, a BS in wildlife science from Oregon State University, and an MS in environmental sustainability from the University of South Dakota, with a GPA of 4.0 across the board.

For the past five years, he worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior across Washington, Nevada, Montana, and Wyoming, and was certified to fight wildfires, combat invasive plants, and support wildlife such as bats,

mussels, foxes, and sage grouse. He educated visitors at Fort Laramie, Pompeys Pillar, Mount Rainier, and Lake Mead on the historical, cultural, and natural significance of the sites, and took oaths from children to certify them as Junior Rangers.

He traveled all over the Western states in his '96 Civic, hiking our national parks and soaking in their beauty; his favorites included the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Lassen Volcanic Park. In 2005 and 2013 he volunteered at Mission Wolf in Colorado which were pivotal experiences that guided him toward working to protect and save wild things.

Andrew is survived by a family who adored him and whom he cherished: his parents, H. Alan and Nancy Rogers Sechrist, sister, Amy Sechrist and her partner David Lim, and his brother Owen Sechrist, all from Lancaster, as well as much-loved friends and a large and caring extended family. He is preceded in death by grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many beloved dogs and pets.

The family will hold a Celebration of Andy's life outside when the weather is warm. In addition, his dear friend, Jodi Good, is hosting a memorial service to remember and celebrate him on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. at The Lancaster Friends Quaker Meeting House located at 110 Tulane Avenue, Lancaster, PA. All are welcome to attend.

Donations in Andy's memory can be made to the Wolf Sanctuary of PA, 465 Speedwell Forge Road, Lititz, PA 17543.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **25**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Lancaster Friends (Quaker) Meeting House
110 Tulane Terrace
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ Andrew "Andy" Alan Sechrist

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of Andy. I only recall meeting him once, when I was a child, but the time spent was such a joy and such fun that I have carried it through my life. We were second cousins, but did not have the opportunity to interact much. But that one time spent at the York Fair and then playing pool in my parents basement left a lasting impression. You never know how meaningful spending time with one person, even for a short time, will be. Prayers to Alan, Nancy, Owen and Amy and all those that loved him. ~ Shawn

Shawn Garrety Durgin - March 29, 2023 at 08:25 AM



“ I was privileged to work in Human Services with Andy. He was such a bright, gentle spirit and we often talked about hiking and where to find stands of ancient trees. I steered him to WVA in the Monongahela National Forest where I had hiked to an area of virgin Hemlocks. I remember printing out a map for him before he left the agency and wishing him well. Unfortunately, our paths never crossed again. His achievements are amazing and I can only imagine how proud you are of him and how much you miss him. I am so sorry that his light and spirit are no longer with us. Emma Bramble

Emma Bramble - February 01, 2023 at 11:43 PM

DH

“ It is with my tender heart and touched mind that I express my deepest condolences and sympathies for the passing of Andy. I enjoyed reading of his life of love, caring and service. Your tears must be many as parents should not outlive their child, a heartbreak I know all too well. You are in my prayers and thoughts. Until we met in Heaven. Blessings, Denny Hines

Denny Hines - February 01, 2023 at 09:19 PM

KF

“ What a lovely tribute to Andy's life!

Amy, and family, my heart is with you during these difficult times. You all will be on my mind as you navigate your grief. Sending you all love and moments of peace.

- Katherine Fox

Katherine Fox - February 01, 2023 at 06:10 PM

QH

“ The world is a lesser place without Andy in it. We need more of his kind- caring, thoughtful, helpful, working towards the greater good for the planet and us all. My heart is broken that I won't ever get to talk to him again, and I know that many others feel the same. I hope I blessed him in life as much as he blessed me and others. I will use his example going forward to be a better person and show the same compassion to others as he did. <3

Quinnanne Henny - February 01, 2023 at 04:15 PM

TW

“ I was not privileged to know Andy. Amy & family, my most sincere condolences regarding Andy's death. Amy, we love you.

Tanya & your CONTACT friends.

Tanya West - February 01, 2023 at 02:52 PM

VT

“ Nancy, Alan and family....I am so sorry for your loss. I didn't know your son, but your obit made me see an amazing young man. I'm sure the memory's of your son will bring you some peace.

Vivienne Thompson - February 01, 2023 at 02:11 PM

PW

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. What a beautiful tribute his obituary is. I never knew Andy. But your tribute makes me feel like I did in a way. I'm sure he continues to be with all things wild in spirit. May you feel peace.

p. ward - February 01, 2023 at 08:06 AM