



Arden (Sandy) Sandsnes

Do what you like,
Like what you do

These words are a constant reminder of our friend Sandy. How many times did he tell us to enjoy our life's work and relish the life that comes from it. Sandy did all of that. The last time I visited with him he told me: "I have a wonderful family, my life friend is my wife, I flew airplanes, drove fast cars, started a business, and have the best friends a man could ever want." In doing what he loved, Sandy left us a legacy.

In the early days of the Wisconsin Land Information Program, before it was even formulated, before the arguments of who should be in charge of GIS and what department it should be in, Sandy was one of the pioneers who participated in the studies and formulation of the Program. And while there were many people contributing to the same goal, Sandy was a Land Surveyor. He gave voice and vision to land surveying in the GIS community.

The Wisconsin Land Information Program owes Sandy a great deal. So many years after its establishment, other states debate who should be in charge of their programs, wrangling with a push and pull between land surveyors and GIS professionals, but thanks to Sandy, this debate never gained a foothold in Wisconsin. All professions were and are a part of the Program, everyone contributes and everyone has an important voice. That is his legacy. Sandy was on the first Wisconsin Land Information Committee and on the first Board. He was active in the land surveying and the GIS associations. He always stressed how everyone has to be engaged and involved. All of us who are or have been involved in Wisconsin have done so because of Sandy.

On a personal note, Sandy was my mentor. He would present real world problems and discuss them from every angle, highlighting conditions one couldn't see in a classroom. When doubts crept in or I was unsure about what to do next, Sandy would talk me through it all, letting me arrive at my own decision with his guidance. That is a very rare trait, indeed. His guidance and insight will be with me always.

Our memory of Sandy would not be complete without remembering his humor. Any time spent with Sandy and the Sandsnes family would always be filled with laughter. His stories and his ability to see humor at every turn in life was always a treat.

Sandy died Tuesday, October 12, 2010, at the family cabin in northern Wisconsin. It was a place he cherished. A place where he shared many happy times with his family and deer hunting pals.

We miss you already Sandy, God's speed my friend.

Nancy von Meyer - November 1, 2010