

Allen E. Anderson

1927-1997

Allen E. Anderson was a native of Minnesota and joined the Merchant Marine out of high school before joining the U. S. Army where he served in Korea prior to the Korean War. He attended Colorado A & M (now Colorado State University) where he fell in love with the mountains and tried to explore all of them. During one of his normal demanding field excursions (a winter class project), he was caught in a storm near Pingree Park and experienced severe frostbite on both feet (as he would later say, because of poor foot gear). This incident forever changed his life as he met his wife Marilu, who was a nurse, while in the hospital in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Allen refused to be hobbled by loss of a few toes (and more) and continued pursuing his other love, a career in wildlife biology.

After completion of his B.S. at Colorado A & M (1953), Allen went to work for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish working on mule deer ecology in the Guadalupe Mountains. He returned to Colorado to complete his M.S. at Colorado State University in wildlife management (1960).

Two attributes mark a person to be selected for honor with a scholarship in his or her name: accomplishments and character. Allen E. Anderson was blessed with an abundance of both.

Allen worked for the Colorado Division of Wildlife from the early 1960's until retiring in 1991. His research focused on mule deer in the Poudre River drainage where he teamed with others to explore basic concepts of mule deer biology and ecology. The work was one of the preeminent deer studies of its time. Attracting attention and visitations from internationally acclaimed scientists. The research generated over 50 scientific publications and was a landmark study of its era.

He later investigated mule deer fawn survival west of Fort Collins as well as conducting a major study of puma in southwestern Colorado. Like his earlier deer studies, the puma study was another epic. Even today, it is one of the most cited puma studies in North America and the literature review that Allen published as part of the research is still the first source of information for all nescient puma researchers. The puma study, like all of Allen's research, ended with major publications. Part of the reason for Allen's tremendous accomplishments as a wildlife scientist stemmed from his deep respect for the animals he studied and a commitment to share with others his understanding of their biology.

If Allen decided a task was worth doing, he was determined to see it through regardless of the physical and emotional costs. There simply was no quit in the man. Although he did not demand the same level of commitment from his colleagues, he absolutely would not tolerate sloth or mendaciousness in his co-workers. If you did not know the answer to a question, the only answer was, "I do not know." He was a man of strong convictions, especially on social and governmental issues, and yet he was generous and and compassionate, particularly with students. He had a passion for reading, learning, field biology, jazz, and intense discussions on a wide variety of issues with his friends. He was a mentor to a

small group of students who took it upon themselves to meet and work in the field with him. Those who got to know Allen enjoyed each lunch, each discussion, each laugh, each habitat, and each mile they traversed with him, but did not enjoy his driving!

Allen Anderson was greatly respected by his peers although they had dim views about his passion for physical exertion under all weather conditions, especially long-distance bicycling late in life with trips to California, New Mexico, and places in between. This scholastic award is dedicated to keeping the memory of Allen's contributions alive, both scientific and humanitarian.

**Clait E. Braun
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