



## Matthew B. Eppard

June 17, 1968 - October 29, 2024

Matthew Bradford Eppard passed away October 29, 2024 in Vancouver WA. He was 56 years old.

"Brad" was born on June 17, 1968 in Charlotte, NC, nine minutes before his 'younger' sister, Michelle, and the second of 4 children.

If you spent any time at all with Brad, he likely showed you pictures and bragged about the two people most important to him, his 2 beautiful daughters, Samantha Grace and Sylvia Joy. They were the absolute joy of his life!

Brad was a beloved father, son, brother, nephew, uncle and friend. He was perhaps best known for his sense of humor and his truly infectious laugh.

Brad graduated from White River High School in 1986 and graduated from Central Washington University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. In 1993, Brad started his career as a Fishery Biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service where he studied adult and juvenile salmon passage at dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers. In 2005, he transferred to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, where he became a study leader, and eventually the team lead for conducting fish and dam interaction studies. He was a key participant in developing new micro-technologies for conducting

fisheries related passage research, co-authored over 60 scientific journal articles, and presented data at numerous regional, national and international fisheries conferences.

Brad had a deep faith in Jesus and we find comfort in knowing he is now with his Savior. Through the years, he enjoyed hobbies of golf, fishing and woodworking and he enjoyed spending time with family, especially his girls. He will be greatly missed!

Brad's family includes his beloved daughters, Samantha and Sylvia; mother, Nancy Youngdahl; father, Rod Eppard; Uncle Doug & Aunt Barbara Peterson, Uncle Doug & Aunt Andre Peek; siblings, Mike (Pattie), Michelle Eppard, Greg (Branden Fuller) and more nieces, nephews, family and loved ones than he could count.

# Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 06:04 PM



“ Brad and I worked together at USACE Portland District. When I started at USACE Portland District in 2022, I bussed to work. In the winter, I'd arrive downtown in the dark and walk past a few spooky spots and characters. Brad offered to pick me up in the morning and take me to work after he heard I felt a little uneasy. Sure enough, he started picking up me and taking me to work and I felt much safer walking into work with Brad. He didn't have to do it, but he did it anyway because Brad was kind and genuine. That's how I'll always remember him.

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**Tessa Rough** - November 24, 2024 at 12:00 AM

VL

“ I knew Brad since 2011, when I started at the Corps as a student admin. I can't say I knew him on a deeply personal level, but I knew him enough to know he was a genuinely good person and how much he loved and cared about his girls. They were the light of his life.

We knew each other in different places in our careers. From the beginning when I started as a student, he treated me with the same respect as anyone else. Regardless of if he was a supervisor or employee, I never worried about going to him with an issue (chasing down labor codes, or something else) because, even if there was a bit of humor, he was safe. He listened and tried to fix what he could.

One of my earlier memories of working at the Corps was at the picnic and him being the anchor for the tug of war for our division. I feel like he was much the same for those who worked under him, trying to be an anchor so the rest could float and do their jobs.

It will be hard not to see him walking in the doors to work each Tuesday and Wednesday as I pay for my own parking. His presence and the humor he brought day to day will be missed.

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**Vanessa Litzenberg** - November 22, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Thank God for people like Matthew.

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**Rodney Eppard** - November 22, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ With loving memories of Brad

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**Daniel Deng** - November 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *With loving memories of Brad*



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**Daniel Deng** - November 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *I got to know Brad almost 20 years ago, when I was fresh out of school, and I have been working with him ever since. He was always kind and caring on a personal level. Professionally, he was a visionary and a key leader in the Pacific Northwest for fish passage and sustainable hydropower, and had a profound influence on my career.*

*Trained as a biologist and being an accomplished researcher, Brad also had remarkable foresight regarding technological needs. He provided critical technical insights that contributed to the success of numerous technologies now used worldwide for fish passage and sustainable hydropower. He was always encouraging, especially during critical challenges in technology development and demonstrations.*

*I admired his ability to maintain a positive attitude and a sense of humor even in the most intense moments. While I considered him a mentor, he was also a great friend. I miss him deeply, and his legacy will continue to inspire me.*

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**Daniel Deng** - November 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Brad was a great influence on research conducted to better understand the intricacies of Columbia River fisheries and hydropower. He had such a welcoming demeanor and a great sense of humor - I always looked forward to seeing him at meetings and grabbing dinner or a beer with him afterward. Brad will be missed tremendously by many that were fortunate enough to call him a friend.

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**Ryan Harnish** - November 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Brad and I have worked closely together ever since I started working as a fish biologist for the Portland District Corps of Engineers in 2012. He was my mentor and later became Chief of the Fish Passage Team in Programs, Planning, and Project Management, Environmental Resources Branch. We shared many laughs and worked through many challenges over the years to improve passage and survival of fish. He had a great perspective on work life balance and was very supportive. He always spoke about his daughters with great enthusiasm and admiration, a very proud father. We are going to miss him very much.

*Attached is a tribute that was included in an Implementation Plan for a Columbia River system wide acoustic telemetry fish passage study in 2025 that we were working on at the time of his passing.*

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**Jon Rerecich** - November 19, 2024 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Brad and I met in the early 1990s when we both worked for the NOAA Fisheries Pasco Field Station. Some of the projects we worked on together included juvenile salmon and steelhead passage and survival studies at dams on the Snake River as well as Steve Achord's wild fish PIT-tagging study in Idaho. While in Idaho, Brad and I enjoyed many days camping and fishing together. Besides work, we shared time in the field hunting upland birds before he moved to the west side. This picture is approximately 1996 when we both harvested our limits of pheasants thanks to help from Brad's dog Cain and my dog Magic. I will miss Brad's friendship and abundant humor.

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**Eric Hockersmith** - November 17, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ I knew Brad through his daughters Sylvia and Samantha. They attended a school I worked at. One thing was certain, Brad had a deep love for his precious girls. You girls were wonderful daughters to him and he loved you so very much.

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**Judy Williams** - November 14, 2024 at 12:00 AM

NY

“ Mother, Nancy Peek Youngdahl

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**Nancy Priscilla Youngdahl** - November 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

NY

“ I am Brad's mother, Nancy, and so I have known him from the beginning of his life. He was the twin of Michelle and brother of Michael who is one year older. Brad was so tiny at birth, and weighed less than five pounds. A funny memory of Brad when he was only one was when Michael smeared Vaseline all over his face and then poured baby powder over it, so he looked like a ghost with only his eyes showing. He was sitting on his pottie-chair and I was giving Michelle a bath at the time. It took me many washes to get the Vaseline out of his hair. That was when he cried. Before that he just sat there with a somber look on his face. It is so hard for me to express my sorrow right now because of the suddenness of his death and at such an early age. We loved Brad very much and will miss his laughter and funny stories. I provided all of his birth and young life photos.

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**Nancy Youngdahl** - November 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Brad was one of my favorite battle buddies at Portland District. His leadership, support, and friendship will be missed.

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**Tammy** - November 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Matthew B. Eppard** - October 31, 2024 at 12:00 AM