

Marc Taylor Memorial Service June 24, 2012

Comments by: Tom Crider, Board Chairman, Southbury Land Trust

Someone once said...“A nature lover is a person who, when treed by a bear, enjoys the view.”

This brings Marc to mind...not because he would run up a tree if chased by a bear...which is about the worst thing you can do...but because he was a true lover of nature and a great *enjoyer* of nature. He loved being out in the wilds of Oregon on one of Tim’s photo expeditions, walking with Jan on Platt Farm, and even paddling down the Pomperaug River in a sinking kayak with me.

About half way through our trip the kayak began filling with water, but even though he was getting soaked on a cold spring day, Marc enjoyed every soggy minute of it...and as we were driving home later he’d forgotten the discomfort. “We should do that more often!” he said.

Marc was truly a nature lover... and, more than that...he appreciated the natural world with the curiosity of a scientist who took the time to study how nature works. This led him to the realization that we humans are screwing up natural systems like watersheds and ruining natural lands that should be preserved.

He used to say, “The problem is that too many people think Good only comes from above, rather than understanding that WE can create Good.” And so he decided... after already having done a world of good as a doctor... to become a committed environmentalist. The list of his accomplishments is long and distinguished and I won’t go into it all. I’ll just give you a small example of how effective he was.

One day Marc and I went to the home of a man we thought could be a major donor to a land trust project. He brought Marc and I to his study, we sat down, and the phone on his desk rang. He picked it up... listened for a few seconds... Then said, “I’ve already given to you people this year...I’ve told you I’m not giving you any more...don’t you people understand the word NO?”

He slammed the phone down, turned to Marc and me and said, “Now what can I do for you gentlemen?”

While I hesitated in shock, Marc saved the day ... he tipped his head back and laughed that hearty Marc Taylor laugh... which broke the tension... we were able to make the case, and we left with a big check. This man responded to something we all sensed and loved about Marc...he really cared... not just about environmental issues, but about people... somehow you knew he cared about YOU. Whether you were a friend, a patient, a potential donor, or someone he was meeting for the first time.

It's no wonder Marc was beloved by his patients. In Marc they had a doctor who took the time to listen, whose medical skills were enhanced by kindness.

Marc was always quick to give other people credit, praising them for the good things they may have done. One time I remember he overdid this a bit with me:

Marc called and asked if I could help. His and Jan's elderly dog Asher had fallen down the steep slope behind their house into the Pomperaug River. I rushed over and Marc and I pulled Asher out of the water and managed to haul her back up to safety.

After that, when Marc introduced me to someone he'd say, I'd like you to meet Tom Crider, the guy who saved our dog's life!

He could use the slightest excuse to make you feel good about yourself.

To me Marc was a wise older brother and a dear friend. As we're hearing today, he was a truly remarkable human being ... and we're going to miss him terribly. But as we remember him, I think he would be proud if we used his life as an inspiration to be a little kinder to each other and to leave this world...as he did...a better place when it comes time for us to go.