2008

In Memoriam: L. Scott Quackenbush (1951-2008)

DOI: 10.18785/goms.2601.08

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Recommended Citation

2008. In Memoriam: L. Scott Quackenbush (1951-2008). Gulf of Mexico Science 26 (1).
Retrieved from <https://aquila.usm.edu/goms/vol26/iss1/8>

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IN MEMORIAM

L. SCOTT QUACKENBUSH

1951-2008

As powerful as the tide, and as sadly fleeting as a wave, was the tenure of Dr. L. Scott Quackenbush at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Following the retirement of Dr. George Crozier, Scott came to the Sea Lab as Executive Director in July 2008 from California's Humboldt State University, where he was previously Associate Dean for Marine Science Programs and Marine Lab Director.

Son of William Brewster and Hope Donahue Quackenbush, Scott was born in Wheaton, Illinois, on 12 December 1951. He attended Boston University and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Biological Sciences. He moved to Pensacola, where he earned a Masters in Biological Science from the University of West Florida, then to Tallahassee where he completed his studies with a Ph.D. at Florida State University.

A marine biologist by training and a lover of the sea by inclination, Scott's academic career took him to the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts as he took positions in New Orleans, Louisiana;

College Station, Texas; Miami, Florida; Willington, North Carolina; Arcata, California; and eventually Dauphin Island, Alabama.

He soon became a familiar sight around the campus, as he would stroll the grounds, familiarizing himself with the labs, classrooms, cafeteria, and Estuarium. No detail was too insignificant for him to notice and hope to improve. From academic programs to safety in parking, he had plans to make the infrastructure as efficient as possible in order to serve the greater mission of marine science education and research.

His leadership was tested soon enough as an active hurricane season threatened the Gulf Coast with Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike arriving at an exhausting rate. His passion for preparation and communication brought order and action during these tense times, and the Sea Lab weathered the storms admirably.

His death on 12 October 2008, only three months after his arrival at the Sea Lab, left us in shock with its suddenness, in grief for his beautiful wife and children, and in sadness that his ambitious plans for the Sea Lab were left undone.

He is survived by his wife of over 22 years, Dr. Teri Butler, and their three children, Benjamin, Seth, and Hannah Quackenbush; a brother, Bruce Quackenbush, and his wife Toni; a brother, Mark Quackenbush, of Baltimore, Maryland; and seven nieces and nephews.

We honor the memory of Dr. L. Scott Quackenbush with this edition of *Gulf of Mexico Science*. And for this lover of the sea, we recall the words of another great man whose life was cut too short, yet whose memory stays with us still:

All of us have in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea—whether it is to sail or to watch it—we are going back from whence we came. *John F. Kennedy, 1962*