



Dr. Wade Batson

May 7, 1912 - February 14, 2015

Dr. Wade Thomas Batson, Jr. of Marietta, South Carolina, husband of the late Josephine Elizabeth McDaniel Batson, passed Saturday, February 14, 2015 in Greenville, South Carolina.

Born on May 7, 1912 in Marietta, South Carolina, he was the son of the late William Thomas and Mary Lenora Hendricks Batson of Marietta.

He is survived by his daughter, Marietta Lenora Moore (Oren) and his son, Wade Thomas Batson, III (Delaney), nine grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren, and Pace, his ever constant little canine companion.

His mother was his first teacher. He continued his education at Mars Hill, the University of Tennessee and Furman. He entered the U.S. Navy during WWII as First Lieutenant. He served on the USS Irwin Russell as second in command in the North Atlantic. At the end of the war, he was commissioned as Lieutenant Commander and served as a Naval Separations Officer, discharging sailors on both East and West coasts.

In 1948 he entered Duke University, receiving both a M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Botany. Dr. Batson began teaching at the University of South Carolina in 1952, teaching both Biology and Botany for thirty years. He authored twelve books on plants, the first being Wildflowers in S.C., and wrote over forty articles in scientific journals.

A respected and beloved professor, Dr. Batson, received many accolades during his lifetime, 1966 Voted One of Three Outstanding Professors by USC Students; 1968 Meritorious Award for Teaching by the Association of

Southeastern Biologists; 1968 Michael J. Mungo Distinguished Professor of the Year Award, USC; 1976 Education Conservationist of the Year- S.C. Wildlife Federation; 1982 Order of the Palmetto Award presented by S.C. Governor Richard Riley who hosted his Retirement Party at the Governor's Mansion; 1994 Inducted into the S.C. Hall of Fame; 1995 inducted into the S.C. Hall of Science and Technology; 1995 Honorary Doctorate of Science Award- Medical University of S.C.; 2002 Wade T. Batson Endowment, University of South Carolina and Clemson; 2004 Honorary Life Member of the USC Alumni Association; 2011 Legends of Conservation Award- S.C. Carolina Wildlife Federation. Endowments have been made in his honor at USC and Clemson.

At the celebration of his 100th birthday at his home Gray Gables, Senator Mike Fair presented a Resolution from the SC General Assembly to honor the distinguished career of this great South Carolinian. Furman established a wildflower garden on the Swamp Rabbit Trail in his honor. The SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism presented him the State Park Award, one of three ever presented.

Funeral services will be held for Dr. Batson on Monday, February 16, 2015 at 11 a.m. at The Howze Mortuary Chapel with visitation prior from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Wade T. Batson Herbarium Fund in care of John Nelson, USC.

Cemetery Details

Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery

28 Ebenezer Church Road
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC

Service

FEB **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary Chapel
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC

Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Dr. Batson was my Biology and Botany teacher, and I felt myself very privileged to have him as a teacher. He was a very interesting teacher and man. I especially enjoyed our field trips in Botany - I can remember a student racing among us as we pecked along our way - shouting "Wild boar, wild boar..." !!!!!!!!!!! We all ended up with a good laugh over that. How I loved my vasculum and small eye-piece - I felt like I was Sherlock Holmes on an adventure! RIP, Dr. Batson - you were very loved. I'm so glad you lived a long time.*

Maggie Blue - August 14, 2016 at 06:16 PM

“ I was a student in Dr. Wade T. Batson's summer flora class (1972), University of South Carolina. There is no set of words to describe the profound effect he had on my life as a student and on my career as a Biology-AP Biology teacher and as a Cell Biology college instructor. After the AP Biology exam each year, I treated my students to a mini-Batson flora course for the final three weeks of school....and they loved it! I shared with them many of Dr. Batson's methods for classifying (still using my light green key book autographed by Dr. Batson and the students from the 1972 class). I taught my AP Biology students just as Dr. Batson had taught us: collecting leaves in pressed pages, learning genus and species names....including his famous methods for keying tiny flowers and identifying trees....his fun and crazy tricks for memory recall...such as the genus name for oak trees, his special hint of remembering the genus *Quercus*, which I will never forget!...and I doubt my students will either. To this day I can identify at least ten species of oaks, even from a distance. In the memories of my mind, I can hear Dr. Batson's distant shout in the woods.... "YO!"...as he raced through the woods and thickets in front of us, we 20 year olds in aerobic distress...as he shouted "YO!" for laggards to catch up!. One of my favorite summer class trips was some where in the Saluda River swamp, sliding down muddy embankments, trudging through marsh to find the only small patch of green pitcher plants in the Columbia area! Hiking and camping to Table Rock was another special memory. Each of us had packed our own versions of survival "yummy-tasting" food for the trek. Dr. Batson sat with us in amazement of what we had "trudged to carry", as he pulled out his "light weight" saltines & Vienna sausages! Over the years I had lost track of Dr. Batson and the friends I had made in that class & students from previous classes...Students were always hanging around his office! Why? He was just that kind of instructor...There was something magnetic about his sweet honesty and brilliance. However, I am not surprised he lived to the wonderful age of 102. He was a special gentleman who I wished could have taught forever! I regret, I did not know about his 100th birthday. It would have been an honor to attend, and to let him know how a part of him

as I teacher & instructor, had become a part of me!

Lynda Daniels Dickerson - April 03, 2015 at 05:20 PM

MA

“ *I had Dr. Batson for a spring botany class in 1978...each Friday, I would scurry about to get ready for his bus trip into the wild unknown...oftentimes, I would make new friends, but always, come back refreshed and sometimes covered in mud! But absolutely my most favorite college class of all times...he was indeed ahead of his time ... he was a " one of a kind"...*

everytime I'm out on a walk in the woods, I think of him. Sometimes I get off the trail on purpose , just to get muddy and pick up a few sticks on my sweater, in his honor...

Thank you Dr. Batson!!!

Mary Chadwell Seaborne, now in San Marcos, Texas

mary - March 17, 2015 at 11:25 AM

JH

“ *Dr Batson had more influence on my life than any person, except for my father. I took both Spring and Fall Flora under him in the early sixties. He was far ahead of his time in areas of conservation and saving the planet. He was "Green" long before the word was coined. I have strived to pass his values on to my family, hiking/camping friends, and anyone who wants to listen and learn the name of a wildflower or tree. I think of him every time I walk through the woods. May God bless him and his family for eternity.*

Jack Haile '64

Jack Haile - March 10, 2015 at 05:16 PM

BG

“ It has been 40 years since I had the privilege to have Dr. B as a professor at Carolina. His classes were always the first to fill up, because everyone wanted to be around him. His infectious love of botany and the thrill of being out in nature on one of his hikes was a huge draw for us. He was already 65 and was being asked to retire due to state law. But we petitioned to have him stay on. That is how well he was loved. I can still hear him in my head, "Don't be mouse-y!" And that "WHOOOP!" of his before he took off running. We knew we had to keep up or get left behind. He was in such great shape and three times our age too! There will never be another like him. RIP Dr. B. I will never forget you.

Barbara Willoughby Goel Carolina '77

Barbara W Goel - February 20, 2015 at 08:36 AM

WH

“ I will always remember his "mini" lectures. It's been 41 years and I think of him often. He was a great professor and a wonderful person.

Walter Hughes - February 16, 2015 at 11:39 AM

TH

“ Dear Marietta, Wade, and Family,

We are so sorry for your loss. You are a kind and thoughtful family. You inspired him in youth, and then Dr. B. did well with your loving care for these many years. Dr. B. taught you to do right, and he taught all his students to do the same thing. I am forever grateful to have known him as a student, as a person, and as my own family grew..

We are sorry we cannot make it to Travelers Rest today, and hope that there may be a Memorial Service later, perhaps in the spring. We pray for your faith and peace, knowing that all is as God has planned it.

May God hold you in His loving arms, and comfort you.

Tedda and Stan Howard

Tedda and STan Howard - February 16, 2015 at 08:15 AM

MS

“ *Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, USC, DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Wade Batson.*



Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, USC, DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES - February 16, 2015 at 07:25 AM

BW

“ *So sorry for your loss. His memory will live on thru Wade and the grands.He truly touched many lives .God bless you.*

Bobby &Martha Walker - February 15, 2015 at 07:25 PM

JS

“ God be you at this time. You will be in our thoughts and prayers during this sad time. Jackie Stone and. Roger Workman.

Jackie Stone - February 15, 2015 at 04:45 PM



“ Wade
I am sorry for your loss. May God wrap his arms around you and your family at this time.
Jason, Stephaine, Branson, and Audriana Chadwick

Jason Chadwick - February 15, 2015 at 03:40 PM

GS

“ Dr. B. was the best....He made this world a better place.
gary sowell
fall flora 1970
Hopkins, S.C.

gary sowell - February 15, 2015 at 03:01 PM

MW

“ Martha And Bobby Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wade Batson



Martha and Bobby Walker - February 15, 2015 at 01:57 PM

AC

“*Dear Wade & Delaney
We are thinking of you at this time. Wade you can be very proud of your father's accomplishments. He was a wonderful man.*

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”*

*We will talk later.....
Alice & Alan*

Alan Y Cannon - February 15, 2015 at 08:54 AM

SL

“*Dr. Batson's passing is a loss for all of S.C. He was recognized on a national level by all gardeners. He conducted wildflower workshops along with Backyard Wildlife Habitat workshops for all Garden Club of SC members when I served as GCSC President 1985-87. He visited my homesite where I grew wildflowers - especially Oconee Bells. I treasure his wildflower book.*

Shirley LaGarde

Shirley LaGarde - February 15, 2015 at 08:18 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Dr B's passing. He was a precious man who is leaving behind many, many people whose lives he touched throughout his life. He was full of more knowledge than many of us will ever experience.*

Marietta, Marion and all his many family members, you are in our prayers for the comfort and peace that only God can give.



Nancy Lance - February 14, 2015 at 03:55 PM