

Obituary--Richard Lee Bottorff

October 1, 1943-April 20, 2020

Obituary contributed by his brother, Loren Bottorff, Olympia, Washington.

Other contributions made by R. W. Baumann, S. A. Grubbs, and R. E. DeWalt

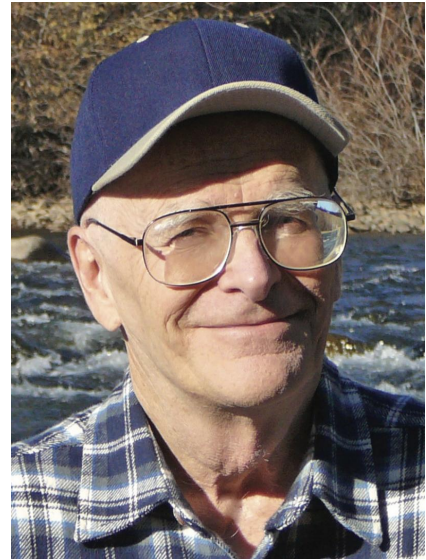
Richard Lee Bottorff was born in Placerville, California, on October 1, 1943 to Lorraine and Philip Bottorff. Richard died in Roseville, Calif., on April 20, 2020 at the age of 76. As a child, he helped his parents raise turkeys, pears and walnuts on the family farms. Richard graduated from El Dorado High School in 1961.

For much of his life, Richard's favorite activity was fishing wherever he may be — from farm ponds to the High Sierra, Central Oregon, New England and Alaska. Richard loved to learn as demonstrated by his many degrees and personal research. His first degree was as a civil engineer and he went on to earn a Master's degree in structural engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. Richard worked for a short time at a prestigious San Francisco engineering firm before being drafted into the U.S. Army during the height of the Vietnam War. Rather than being sent across the Pacific Ocean, Richard was sent across the U.S. to the Army's Cold Region Research and Engineering Laboratory in New Hampshire to research the structural properties of ice.

Following his Army service, Richard worked as a hydrologist in Colorado performing watershed studies for clients such as Coors Beer and ski areas that were only in the idea phase. His lifelong love of nature consumed his free time and he started his own research on several subjects including Cottonwood Habitat for Birds in Colorado. Richard renewed his formal education by studying biology at Colorado State University and then moving to Auke Bay, Alaska to earn a Master's of Science in Fisheries from the University of Alaska. He then attended the University of California at Davis where he earned a PhD in aquatic ecology for his research on the macroinvertebrates of the Cosumnes River basin in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

His love of nature and learning now focused on the aquatic insects that he often used for bait while fishing as a youth — Stoneflies. His favorite times moved from fishing to turning over submerged river rocks and beating shoreline bushes with nets to discover the various species of stoneflies residing at that place and time. Any road trip with Richard always included short stops at streams along the way to collect stoneflies. He amassed a significant collection and became an expert in the field, even in discovering and naming several genera and species of stoneflies that were previously unknown. The collection is so significant that it will be donated to Brigham Young University museum for permanent storage and research. Richard used his expertise as a consultant to many firms needing to have aquatic insects identified for their own projects. Richard has many publications to his name, the most recent being one on Sockeye Salmon Research at Karluk Lake, Alaska and another on the Stoneflies of Nevada.

Richard helped several family members build houses and finally built two houses for himself at Lake Tahoe with the help of family. Richard loved his family and was the keeper of history for various branches of the family tree. He was a true friend to many people who cherished him for his gentle and sincere attitude. Both family and friends could always depend on Richard. Many very important people in Richard's life preceded him in death. Richard is survived by his sister Phyllis (Ken) Merrill of Rescue, Calif.; his brother Loren (Shari) Bottorff of Olympia, Wash.; three nieces; Julie (Jim) Nord of



Shingle Springs, Calif., Melissa (Michael) Woodall of West Sacramento, Calif., and Rosemary (Daniel) Colgrove of Sacramento, Calif.; several grand-nieces and grand-nephews, one aunt, numerous cousins and many many friends and colleagues. We will all miss him greatly.

Richard Lee Bottorff contributed greatly to the taxonomy, life history, and drumming behavior of western North American stoneflies. He collaborated with Legends such as Al Knight, Ken Stewart, Stan Szczytko and most recently with Andy Sheldon and Dick Baumann. Richard collaborated on the descriptions of three genera and six species of stoneflies, all western North American taxa. These have been listed below.

Taxa described by R. L. Bottorff

Capniidae

Sierracapnia Bottorff & Baumann, 2015

Sierracapnia washoe Bottorff & Baumann, 2015

Perlodidae

Cosumnoperla Szczytko & Bottorff, 1987

Cosumnoperla hypocrena Szczytko & Bottorff, 1987

Cosumnoperla sequoia Bottorff, 2007

Isoperla miwok Bottorff & Szczytko, 1990

Susulus Bottorff, Stewart & Knight, 1989

Chloroperlidae

Suwallia sierra Baumann & Bottorff, 1997

Sweltsa pisteri Baumann & Bottorff, 1997

Richard Lee Bottorff Peer-Review Publications and Technical Reports

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- Bottorff RL (1991) Macroinvertebrate functional organization, diversity, and life history variation along a Sierra Nevada river continuum, California. Unpublished Ph.D Dissertation, University of California-Davis., 179 pp.
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Artikel/Article: [Obituary-Richard Lee Bottorff October 1, 1943-April 20, 2020 3-5](#)