

## John Sherwood



During World War II John Sherwood was an army dispatcher, riding a motor bike round the countryside (admitting to quite often getting lost!). After the war he took up commercial growing (in England known as a market gardener). Thirty years later he and Mary thought they'd like to retire to Canada to be near her daughter Penny Bayne. They first came out to Canada at Christmas 1979 to 'have a look'. It was a 'green Christmas!' John was very impressed (little did he know!). One of the reasons he liked it here was because of the Naturalists' Club.

John attended his first Field Day and Dinner in 1981 and attended every one thereafter until 1995 when he 'fell by the wayside'. He was a 'loner', but when he took on a project he did his ultimate best to see the job was well done. In November 1982, he was on the Executive and became interested in just about everything in which the Club was involved. We used his home on many occasions; during one Club 'Social' he and Mary sold bunches of dried flowers which they had grown in order to make money for the Club. He attended the Co-Ordinated Resource Management Plan meetings and one time led a Brenda Mines Tour for members.

John was a man of ideas. In November 1984, he felt the Club should do something 'constructive', so he suggested the Club plant cottonwoods at Cosen's Bay to take the place of some of the older trees when they died. This was turned down because of cattle problems which had to be solved first.

In March 1986, it was John who suggested buying the Anderson property at Swan Lake. His idea was that it would be a great memorial to Jim Grant whom he very much admired. This was a special Swan Lake project as for many, many years the Club had been interested in acquiring property at Swan Lake but barriers were always erected. In 1986, John became Chairman of the new committee. Nothing too much can be said of his devotion to this project. When it was doomed because of acquisition problems it wasn't long before he suggested buying a piece of the Kaminski property which he, along with our member Bob McVickar, had spent hours and hours working on, planting & watering trees, erecting osprey poles and dealing with rodents and insects.

John, with his great sense of humor, took the Club 'to heart'. He literally 'devoted his life' to the Club. When asked why he did all that, he said "I want to give back something to the group that has given so much to me".

John died on Friday, April 2, 2010 in the Polson Residential Facility.