



## Joy Elaine Marburger

December 21, 1946 - July 19, 2021

Joy Elaine Marburger, age 74 of Chesterton, IN and East Palatka, FL passed away on Monday, July 19, 2021. She was born on December 21, 1946.

Joy is survived by her husband, Daniel Mason; daughter, Jacqueline (John Sorensen) Mason; brother, Chuck Marburger; sister, Judy Marburger; best friend, Esther Petrelli-Massey;

Joy completed her undergraduate degree in Biology at Allegheny College. She went on to complete her doctoral studies in Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Maryland. She built a successful career centered around environmental science and research. Most recently, Joy provided environmental services inclusive of land restored to historic conditions and scientific research while employed by the St Johns River Water Management District (Palatka, FL) and Indiana Dunes National Park (Porter, In). She was a passionate advocate for science and the environment and engaged in both local and international science community outreach.

Joy taught science and art in Sierra Leon, West Africa during her time with the Peace Corps. She was a traveler and sought out new experiences and learning opportunities. She was also an avid birder, and loved photography, capturing the flora and fauna around her home and during her travels.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary, where Joy spent many days volunteering.

A Celebration of Joy's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements made with Edmonds & Evans Funeral Home, Chesterton, IN. Online condolences may be made to the family at <http://www.ee-fh.com>.

# Comments

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“ Joy was a friend of mine and an important part of the team that created the first educational program at the Water Works Environmental Education Center in Palatka, Florida.

She was a strong principled lady, brave enough to lobby the Florida State Legislature to restore the Ocklawaha River, because she thought her wetland expertise could make a difference. Brave, because such an action was frowned upon by the St. Johns River Water Management District, her employer.

I was just going through old photos yesterday and found one of Joy and me paddling the Ocklawaha River together, a happy day I'll continue to remember. My love and best wishes to Jackie, Dan, Judy, and their families.



**Sandy Kokernoot** - September 02, 2021 at 10:02 AM

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“ My condolences to the family. May Joy's Soul Rest In Eternal Peace.

**James E Joiner** - August 23, 2021 at 07:39 AM

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“ I met Joy at the Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary while she was tending to some wetland plants in the marshy area near the parking lot. I was struck by her knowledge and passion for nature. Will miss seeing new pictures like the ones she regularly posted on the Sanctuary's Facebook page..

**Donna Hapac** - July 29, 2021 at 12:57 PM

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“ I was so saddened to learn of Joy's sudden passing. In my nearly two decades with the National Park Service, I've met few bigger advocates for science than Joy. Her passion, rigor, and delight in learning will be missed. My thoughts are with Dan and all her loved ones during this difficult time.

**Brenda Lafrancois** - July 28, 2021 at 02:11 PM

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“ I am deeply saddened to hear about Joy's passing. I worked with Joy on various educational outreach programs, most recently, the Indiana Watershed Steward Program. Her passion for the environment is a significant loss, especially for Northwest Indiana. Joy was my friend, and I will miss her passionate and lively discussions on monthly Zoom calls. Rest in peace, Joy.

Leslie Thompson  
Purdue University Northwest

Leslie Thompson - July 28, 2021 at 12:13 PM

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“ Just learned of Joy's passing. She was a wonderful friend and colleague that I knew for many, many years. All my best to Dan and Jackie. Should you ever find yourself back in Maine, please get in touch. We'd love to welcome you for another game of Bocce while we share happy memories of Joy's life.

Steve Travis - July 28, 2021 at 09:44 AM

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“ Very sad to learn of Joy's passing. We corresponded for many years about teaching science and Sierra Leone. We served at different times as Peace Corps volunteers there. We shared an interest as well in natural history. It was such a pleasure when she and Dan stayed with us in Delhi during their return to India where they had worked on *\*Illustrated Flora of Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan: A general guide to the wetland flora of the Gangetic plains\** <[Amazon.com/illustrated-Keoladeo-National-Bharatpur-Rajasthan/dp/0195642279](https://www.amazon.com/illustrated-Keoladeo-National-Bharatpur-Rajasthan/dp/0195642279)>. I greatly valued her knowledge, observations, and insights about plants, birds, nature. Our deepest condolences to her loved ones. May she rest in peace. She will be missed.



Richard Frazier - July 28, 2021 at 09:05 AM

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“ My deepest condolences to the family. I was a colleague of Joy with the National Park Service. We worked on some really cool projects related to genetics of invasive cattails, which she was really passionate about! All my best to you in your time of grief.

Steve Windels  
Voyageurs National Park

Steve Windels - July 27, 2021 at 05:51 PM

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“ The Chicago/NWI Peace Corps community is very sad about Joy's passing. She was curious, opinionated, adventurous and overall badass. She did Peace Corps when it was cool (the 1970s!) and I know her students in Senegal were better because of her. Joy was my friend and I will miss her very much.



Mary Owen-Thomas - July 25, 2021 at 01:28 PM



“ \*\*Sierra Leone, not Senegal

Mary Owen-Thomas - July 25, 2021 at 03:59 PM

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“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Lydia Granger - July 23, 2021 at 01:46 PM

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“ Heartfelt condolences to Dan and Joy's family. As a friend and colleague while teaching in Moyamba Sierra Leone, I greatly admired her commitment to the plant world and the environment. Her interests were great including photography of wild plants, travel, the love of local culture and the welfare of students she taught at St. Joseph's Secondary School.

We worked closely with Professor Green and his wife Sally Green in Sierra Leone to catalogue and study unique plants in Sierra Leone. she travelled with Prof. Green widely collecting specimens. I was proud to send her samples of the local plants from her graduate work after returning to US. Her passion while working here in the US had not diminished as demonstrated by her work in central Florida and northern Indiana. In 2019, she took many of us on a tour of the Dunes park and its environment with Dan , and proudly explained the invasive species and what should be done.

Her work for the park, educational activity and Westchester Bird Sanctuary will be sadly missed. We as friends will miss her on regularly scheduled Zoom meetings. May she rest in peace.

With great respect and admiration,  
Sitta Sittampalam  
Fishers, IN.

**Sitta Sittampalam** - July 23, 2021 at 09:40 AM



“ Thank you so much for sharing, Sitta

**Jackie Mason** - July 23, 2021 at 12:29 PM

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“ On behalf of the Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary I extend our sincere sympathies to Joy's family: Dan, Jackie, Judy, Chuck and best friend Esther on the passing of Joy. We were fortunate to be the beneficiary of her extensive plant knowledge as it applied to wetlands as well as her skills in providing educational programs at the Sanctuary. Her passion and joy in her field of expertise was inspiring as well as her curiosity on many different subjects. Many of the photos of plants, birds, bees, and butterfly on our Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary Facebook site were taken by Joy. Her photos are awesome and show the beauty of nature. She will be missed. Rest in Peace Joy.  
Mary K. Kaczka  
President  
Porterco Conservation Trust, Inc./Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary

**Mary Kaczka** - July 22, 2021 at 06:03 PM



“ Thank you Mary.  
Chuck Marburger

**Chuck Marburger** - July 22, 2021 at 10:59 PM



“ Thank you, Mary

**Jackie Mason** - July 23, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Jackie Mason** - July 22, 2021 at 05:00 PM