

Margaret S. Ewing

April 4, 1940 – July 31, 2024

Margaret S. Ewing, 84, was born in New York, NY, on April 4, 1940, to Margaret and Charles Steffens, and she passed away on July 31, 2024, in Stillwater, OK. Upon graduating from high school in Massillon, OH, she attended Oberlin College (Ohio) and then enrolled at Oklahoma State University to study aquatic ecology, graduating with her MS degree (zoology) in 1964 and the Ph.D. in 1966 (zoology). In the summer of 1961, she and Dr. Sid Ewing met; and they married in 1963. To this union, three daughters were born: Holly, Ann, and Leah. Margaret studied water quality and fish parasites. At Oklahoma State University, she taught a variety of courses ranging from introductory biology, invertebrate zoology, and parasitology, led seminars on water quality and fish disease, symbiosis, the contributions women make to science, and the connection of biology to science fiction. Margaret gained tenure at OSU in 1982 and became the first woman at OSU to be promoted to full professor in the Zoology Department in 1994. Her scholarship was wide ranging, including studies of fish parasites, and she collaborated with social scientists and humanists. Her contributions as a graduate student mentor and as an engaging professor for several thousand students was noteworthy. She endowed a lectureship that facilitated the building of bridges between biology and the arts and humanities. Margaret was passionate about music, literature, poetry, metaphors, art, landscape, and community. In addition, she volunteered for hospice and Mobile Meals in addition to being a literacy tutor for many years. She is survived by her daughters, Holly Ewing (Carassa Aoki), Ann Ewing (Ryan Schwindt), and Leah Ewing (Geoffrey Tattersfield), a grandchild, Luke Schwindt, and her brother, John Steffens. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Sid Ewing, her parents, Margaret and Charles Steffens, and her brother, Charles Steffens and his wife, Louise.