



Bern, 11 December 2015

Mr. Rex Adams
Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
The University of Arizona

Dear Rex,
in 2007 I spent a couple of months at the Tree-Ring Lab in Tucson. Although several years have passed since then, my memory of your kindness and good will stays vivid. I remember my last lunch in Tucson in 2007 was with you and Paul Sheppard at an Italian restaurant in campus. You two were my closest friends in Tucson during that time.

I sincerely wish you a nice continuation of your trip.

Best regards

Alejandro Casteller

Dear Rex,

Congratulations and good work holding out for a retirement party. Thank you for being such a big part of my time at the lab. I can't imagine a better introduction to dendrochronology and the lab itself. We had our long days at Sunnyside building shelf sets and building boxes. Those days included long drives down there and of course the opportunity to dine in American history. This whole time I had the opportunity to ask you every question I could think of.

I remember when I was first hired by you and Chris. Chris took me down to the basement and Math East where we met you. You asked if I wanted to join this motley crew. I had no idea when I said yes that I would join for this long. Thank you for everything you've taught me. I love being a part of this lab and know that I largely owe this opportunity to you.

Thank you for sharing all of your knowledge, your generosity and most importantly your terrible jokes.

Alex Arizpe

Rex,

I think I've walked more miles of trail and shared more campfires with you than with anyone else I know. There's no one else I'd rather have done that with. You always hauled more than your share of the load, and you were always cheerful and ready with a joke, even when the situation wasn't very pleasant. Like all those times when the weather was bad, we were a long way from camp, and it was getting dark. And the granola bars I scrounged out of my pack had bugs in them. Those are the times when it really counts. And also, at least most of the time, you were able to keep me from getting into too much trouble of my own making.

Best of luck, partner.

Alex McCord



Hi Rex,

this is Alma, I spent seven months in Tucson almost two years ago. The side picture comes from the CTRR open house event.

At that time I was so lucky to meet you. I writing to say once again thank you for the lovely Cab tour you made to me and Alan, together with Alex.

I am seeing so many amazing pictures of you coring in some dangerous but at the same time wonderful places.

Congratulation for the time you spent and enjoyed doing dendro.

I wish you all my best,

Alma



Hugs from the disk!

Curabitur leo

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, ligula suspendisse nulla pretium, rhoncus tempor fermentum, enim integer ad vestibulum volutpat. Nisl rhoncus turpis est, vel elit, congue wisi enim nunc ultricies sit, magna tincidunt. Maecenas aliquam maecenas ligula nostra, accumsan taciti. Sociis mauris in integer.



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, California 93271-9651

January 9, 2016

Dear Rex,

We will always fondly remember the passion and humor you brought to teaching thousands of students the science and art of dendrochronology over the years. Thanks to you and Tom Harlan, the dendro lab was something we always really looked forward to, and you never disappointed us! We learned so much about tree-ring dating, and Tony still uses these talents in his work for NPS. Linda admits she never quite mastered the post oak dating, and remains relieved she never saw another post oak sample after that lab.

We also enjoyed being in the field with you, as you clearly loved collecting tree-ring samples and working in beautiful landscapes. Linda recalls the class field trip to eastern Arizona and a trip with Henri and numerous LTRR students and staff to El Malpaís as some of her best memories of the southwest, getting up into higher elevations and out of hot desert temps, and enjoying field work with people who worked hard and loved their work. You always did more than your share of the work, and carried impressive loads of field gear Rex! Tony's best memories with you are in California's White Mountains, coring bristlecone pines and remnant wood, trying to find that missing link in the bristlecone chronology.

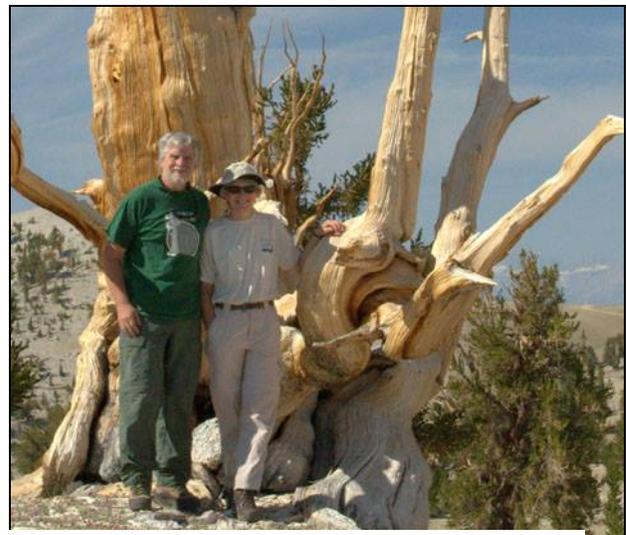
We also remember giving you that orphaned barrel cactus from the Annex that we had adopted. We left it with you when we moved to California, and you sent us at least one image of how it was flourishing in your care. Tony, who has the greenest thumb between the two of us, has a fine Sonoran cactus garden here in Three Rivers, and especially appreciates the TLC you gave that cactus! One of the two octopus agaves we brought from Tucson in 1994 also finally bloomed last year and we're swamped with all the pups. We've been doing our best to force friends to adopt some.

We send you big congratulations on your retirement and regret we cannot be there in person to help you celebrate. May you enjoy more time with family and friends and in the outdoor places you love. We hope to see you again in the Sierra, the Whites, or the Sonoran Desert in the near future. In the meantime, "Wear your Snowshoes", or whatever that saying is, among the many Rexisms we love and miss.

Big hugs and best wishes on the path ahead,

Linda Mutch and Tony Caprio

P.S. See page 2 for two of the few photos Tony was able to get of you in the Whites. He said you're hard to photograph – you probably don't hold still long enough!



Tony and Linda in the White Mountains, 2013.



Rex in the White Mountains,
2009, coring ancient bristlecone
remnants, hoping to find the
missing link to bridge the
floating chronology.

*Trees and stones will teach you that which
You can never learn from masters.*

--St. Bernard of Clairvaux

(as quoted in *Tree Rings and Climate* by
H.C. Fritz)





Dr. Jesús J. Camarero
Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología
Avda. Montaña 1005, 50059 Zaragoza
Email: jjcamarero@ipe.csic.es
Zaragoza, Spain

10 December 2015

Me and other spaniards felt like at home when Rex Adams guided us through the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research (LTRR) at Tucson (University of Arizona). I think this feeling was shared by most foreign people visiting the LTRR. Rex has gently and sweetly opened the doors of tree-ring sciences to the entire world arriving to Tucson. This is probably a more valuable task than any word we can write. Gracias Rex!

Yours sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JJ', is centered on a white rectangular background.

Dr. J. Julio Camarero

Rexer: dendro-theologian,

Where to begin? I've meant to write a thank you for a long time. I've tried to tell you in person, but we always end up talking about other things. The following may seem a little random, but you will understand where I am coming from.

First, thank you for *who you are* because without this one simple thing I would be forever different. You inspire students of all ages to follow you on a path surrounded by trees where each of us can view a tree not just as an organism but as a storyteller. I am only one voice among many who I'm sure would agree that through your passion and spark each of us has been transformed into so much more.

Our paths first crossed in spring of 1999 when I was searching for a place to call home and a discipline where I could excel. From there you became a teacher, mentor, friend, champion, and second father. So many stories and memories during my 12 years in Tucson involve our adventures and conversations. Can you believe we have known each other for almost 17 years? WOW! We're both old. ☺

- Do you remember our first meeting?
- How about working with Tom on the Camp Access activities and how Tom and I are twins?
- We never finished that driftwood project for Karen. Sorry Karen.
- Me dating and measuring that damn pinyon pine
- What about when I almost peed on that horny toad in the Pinals or was it the Pinalenos?
- Singing Janis Joplin songs on the way to the Whites
- "Hello, sweet cheeks. This is little mama. What time is it?" I still hear the laughter echoing along Methuselah Ridge. How awesome it was to hear you, Tom, and Loma!
- Then there were our philosophical disagreements about displaying human remains. ☺
- Remember you and Paula and the wheel in the Western Hemisphere? That was a good one.
- How could you forget the numerous times I ripped my pants in the Whites and covered them in duct tape? Iain and Mary still laugh about it.
- Those numerous jokes that I always laughed at. Hey, I still use many of them. My favorite: a termite walks into a bar...
- Recovering Frank?
- Meeting the drill sergeant at the laundry mat in Big Pine
- Talking about movement of energy as we traverse the Methuselah Trail
- Discussing dendrochronologic ethnics, bristlecone pine research, data analysis, project development, equipment, procedures, dissertation committees, etc.
- You and Tom "encouraging" me to get a PhD. Without both of you supporting me, I would not have gone back.
- The time we sat on the bench after lunch resting and the officer thought we were homeless. I miss those lunches so very much.
- Waiting for Dr. Captain Mr. Alex McCord...
- Signing Scott and my marriage license
- Walking with Alex and me to say good-bye to Tom on Campito
- The letter you and Karen wrote as part of the adoption process to bring Max home

You are the reason I became a dendrochronologist. You are the reason I was able to explore parts of the American Southwest and California. You made me a better teacher and a better person.

I will forever attest that you are the most important and vital part of the Laboratory of Tree-Research and the least acknowledged. *Its heart. Its soul. Its spirit.* You shaped the minds and perceptions of hundreds of college students and thousands upon thousands of others. Through your passion for tree-rings, countless people have been and are inspired to learn more. Your legacy is immeasurable and no one will ever fully know the impact you have had on us – generations of people.

You always go above and beyond committing countless hours to projects, outreach, teaching, and friendships. Your ability to lighten someone's mood with laughter is remarkable. I have also seen and experienced your compassion. You listened to both my joys and sorrows and not once did you say you were too busy to talk. Your friendship is one of the most precious gifts I have.

As you have said so many times – a simple thank you would be nice. There is **NO** simple way to thank you and tell how much we appreciate you. I cannot express how incredibly thankful and blessed I am that our paths crossed.

Forever your student and friend,
Christine “little mama” Hallman
9 January 2016

“All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.”

J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

“If you got it today you don't want it tomorrow, man, 'cause you don't need it, 'cause as a matter of fact, as we discovered in the train, tomorrow never happens, man. It's all the same fucking day, man.”

Janis Joplin, Ball and Chain (live)











Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Upper Mississippi River Long Term Ecological Monitoring

2630 Fanta Reed Rd

La Crosse WI 545601

Dear Rex,

In 2002 you instructed me in the art and science of dendroecology. I was able to return to graduate school in Seattle and apply what I learned at the LTRR to riparian trees in the Pacific Northwest – western hemlock, Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and Sitka spruce. It was a great time in my education and my career as a whole. My vivid memories of you are a big part of what made dendro so interesting, so much fun, and so productive. I have not forgotten your generosity with your time and I still have the section of Saguaro rib that you gave me displayed prominently on my desk.

I collected a few increment bores in Limpopo, South Africa, from silver-cluster leaf (*Terminalia sericera*) – I am including a picture of the kids who materialized out of the bushes to help me. They thought I was completely mad, but they all tried turning the bore. You can think of them as your dendro grandkids. Thank you again for being a part of my education and the Great Journey.

With respect and affection,

Deanne Drake



DONALD A. FALK
Associate Professor

Some thoughts about Rex Adams:

There are two things about Rex that I always found extraordinary (besides his legendary sense of humor). First, in all my years as a graduate student, post-doc, and faculty member, I never knew Rex to decline to help anyone. This included offering to come out into the field in freezing weather to teach students elements of field dendrochronology, or showing Luddite faculty how to use or maintain an essential piece of laboratory equipment. Rex always said yes, and he always did so with grace, humor, and patience. How many of us can really say the same thing?

The other story concerns Rex's charisma, which I will illustrate from an episode from one of the first year's we taught the summer course in dendroecology. We had students from all over the world, and at the end of the class we held a raffle drawing for prizes. There were books, pictures, other odds and ends, but when the winners came up the item everyone wanted was one of Rex's LTRR t-shirts – used! No rock star ever had more demand for old t-shirts than Rex.

Rex, thank you for how you have enriched all of our lives.

Sincerely,



Don Falk

William Edward Wright
1234 Laymailhat Ismahome,
Imabad, Toothaboan

Rex,

To the one and only, the king of cackle, the professor of puns, the lord of the lame, the sultan of silly, and the maker of friends,

In the Fall of 1987 I started working in the University of Arizona Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. My supervisor was some guy who had decided being an archaeological dig bum was too hard, so he lowered his standards and started working on tree rings. Come to think of it, that was you, Rex. We had a small but dedicated group doing measurements in room 218-1, in the West Stadium: you, Barry Richards, Jim Parks, Rafeek and me. All was well until the next summer when the Big Boss over all of us, tried to BlackBall me in the tree ring lab (too long to recount here), and you stuck up for me. That allowed me to continue to work at the tree ring lab, where I gradually developed a chronic case of Dendroitis. I have never forgiven you for that.

Over the years I've had the honor to work with you on many occasions: sampling Giant Sequoias in the Sierra Nevada, going with the flow in El Malpais (photo below), Intro Dendro field trips to the Santa Catalina and Pinaleno Mts, collecting wood for classroom use with Chris Baisan, sampling bristlecone pine in the White Mountains, etc. etc. And we have also been party to a few non-academic shenanigans, which shall go untold for now as the truth has yet to be revealed to the recipients.

Knowing you has been a bright spot in my life. Though I hate to admit it, I have "enjoyed" your horrendous puns and lame jokes, and have added a few of my own on occasion. But more importantly, I have on many occasions been the recipient of your boundless generosity in both time and advice, and of the warmth of your camaraderie. And there was no better field person... ever.

May your feet always be stained and may you always wear your snowshoes. With much affection,



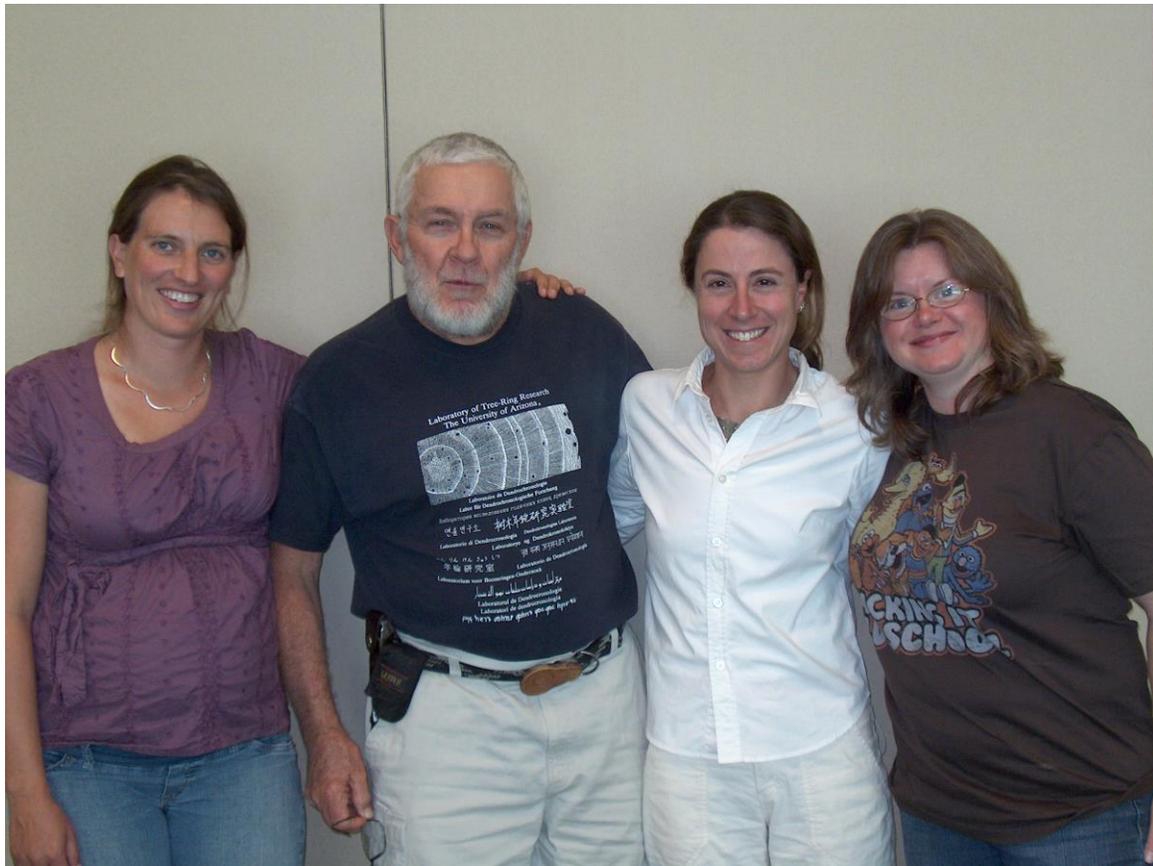
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. E. Wright'.

William Edward Wright

Dear Rex,

Thank you for your positive attitude, being generous with your time, always listening, and helping me around the lab. Your constant presence in the lab kept things together, and also helped many undergrads enjoy their jobs and continue working in the lab. We already miss having you here all the time, and I wish you the best for your retirement and your health.

Take care, Erica





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January 2, 2016

Rex Adams
Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
University of Arizona

Hi Buddy,

After a couple of years at the University of Arizona, I wandered over to Math-East to take the Intro to Dendrochronology class. Your enthusiasm as the lab instructor absolutely influenced my conversion to dendroclimatology. I can only imagine the number of people around the world who must have similar stories. But that was only the beginning! Then you found me a desk, kept me company, and gave me advice back when it was just me & you (and sometimes Troy) down in the basement all day. It would have been a lot tougher, and definitely not as fun, without you. In summary: you are the best!

Sincerely,

Erika Wise
Assistant Professor
Department of Geography
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Why is this person having so much fun in the basement of Math East?

Of course it's because of this guy.





January 8, 2016

Dear Rex,

So, your special day has arrived and you *think* you're retiring from tree rings and from the lab, forever, but you and I know that we both bleed pinyon resin from our ponderosa arms protruding from our Doug-fir bodies supported by our juniper legs. I truly hope you enjoy your retirement and do whatever it is that you've always wanted to do but never had the time. I wish I was there to enjoy these upcoming times with you, Rex. If I still lived in Tucson, I would come visit you everyday so you and I could play with skeleton plots, trying to date wood from the malpais, and I could once again see the expression on your face when a plot aligns with the master. When this happened, I was always shouting and screaming at our good fortune, but you would just smile your big dendro and casually tell me "I knew you could do it."

I remember the time you and I were both called to duty by a production company from the United Kingdom to collect samples from beams at Tonto National Monument for a documentary. Remember how staged that was when they filmed you and I walking up the paved path over and over to get it just right? Then we cored the beam, took it back to the lab, and in front of the film crew, the skeleton plot aligned to our utter amazement, right in front of the camera, and returned a date of AD 1063. What were the chances of that happening??? Remember when the film crew was filming us in the Catalinas at the San Pedro Overlook and a thunderstorm rolled in that afternoon, and they filmed our feet crunching across incredibly large hailstones that fell from the storm?

You and I worked together on many, many field trips to collect wood, but my fondest memories are of you and I doing fieldwork at the malpais in New Mexico. You never turned down an opportunity to visit the malpais and you took four trips with me and other students in 1991, 1992, and 1993. I remember you serving as our camp cook when we camped near the lava "wall" and other places, or when you carried immensely heavy backpacks packed with dense wood across the lava flow and down the steep lava wall to our waiting vehicle, all while carrying a chain saw over your shoulder. My legs were always jittery on the unsteady lava like semi-cooked noodles, but you were supported by what I always thought were tree trunks for legs and you never faltered. Or when you pointed down to a log on the lava that we had been stepping across many times, thinking it didn't look that old, and you convinced me to sample it anyway, and it turned out to be the oldest sample ever collected from the lava flows, the now-famous "Bannister Tree" that hangs on my wall here at the University of Tennessee and at the visitor center in Grants, New Mexico. Maybe it even hangs still on a wall at the LTRR there! I hope so!

For many, many years, you were my constant lunch buddy! Remember that little burger place underneath the stands on the open end of the stadium, where we would grab a lunch then sit in the sun on a bleacher and eat? Sometimes James Riser or Robbie Heckman or Peter Brown would join us, but it was an everyday thing for us.

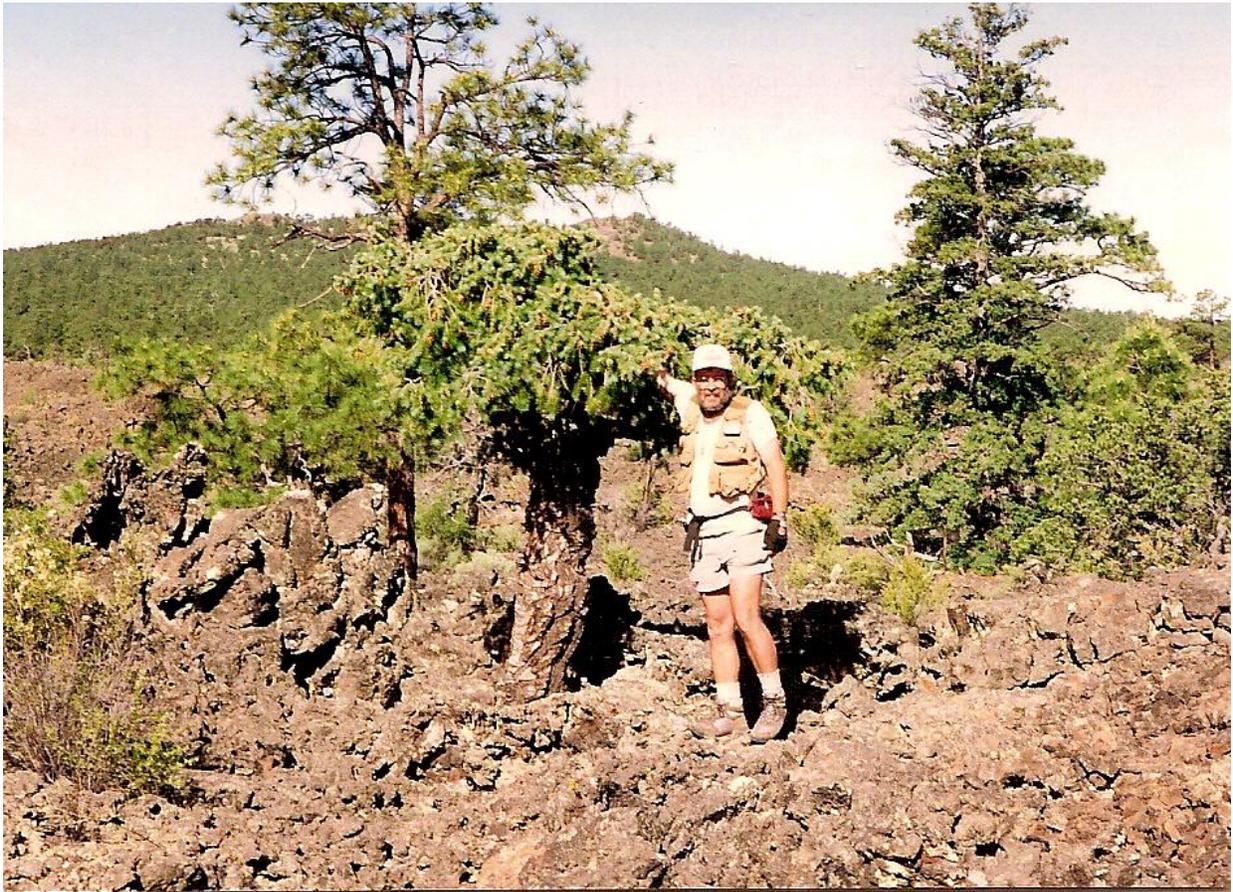
More importantly, you helped me learn dendrochronology from the very first day I arrived at the lab in 1988! I was a southern boy from Georgia with a terrible southern accent who had never been out of the Southeast and I was literally lost in 114 degree heat that summer in a place with Spanish language on the TV and billboards. What had I gotten myself into? Worse, I knew nothing about skeleton plots! Or measuring systems or RWL format or how to sand wood or anything dendro! Enter Rex. You and Tom Harlan were in charge of the 494 dendro lab and I remember my frustration making my first plots, only to have you explain how to improve them (“add more lines, increase your sensitivity, look for those really narrow rings”) and after a while I realized this really does work! Many people at the LTRR are responsible for my success today: Tom Harlan, Bob Lofgren, Jeff Dean, Malcolm Hughes, Chuck Stockton, Bryant “Bear” Bannister, Dave Meko, Lisa Graumlich, and Tom Swetnam – especially Tom Swetnam. They taught me many things about dendrochronology, but you taught me how to enjoy being a tree-ring scientist. You were my **best friend** for many, many years -- we delved into the wood archive many times, searching for wood for my many projects and you even got me interested in the history of dendrochronology and Andrew Ellicott Douglass. Leaving the LTRR in 1997 was the hardest thing I have ever had to do because it meant I was leaving behind many loved ones, and the one I would miss the most, and still do today, is **you**.

Enjoy your retirement, Rex. You’re leaving a mark and your legacy in dendrochronology that will last forever – how many of us have you trained over the years? Think about that! Expect a visit from me one day soon if I can ever convince the lab there to invite me in to give a talk!

Wear your snowshoes! Our feet are stained! Pasta Winnebago! Take care, Rex!

Hemi D. Guisino-Mayer





Rex with Yoda at El Malpais National Monument, July 1991. Rex is the one on the right! Sadly, Yoda is now dead due to the recent southwestern drought, but notice how well Yoda was producing cones when Rex's arms were snuggling him.



Rex with the oldest living Doug-fir we found on our first trip back in 1991, with an inner ring date of AD 1060, if I remember right. This tree is right next to Yoda and was still living in 2015 but was definitely feeling the effects of the current major drought.



Hoya de Cibola, El Malpais National Monument, July 1991. Rex Adams recording, Wolfgang Ortloff wrapping, and Tom Swetnam sawing! I remember Wolfgang, who was from Germany, pointing to what turned out to be the oldest tree on this trip and saying "Vot about dot von?" Notice (1) the sporty sunglasses, (2) the snazzy gloves, and (3) the pack full of wood that he just kept hauling across the lava flows, even when taking detailed notes!



El Malpais National Monument, New Mexico, Summer 1992. Yes, we freakin' collected the entire 40 pound stump you see there! It had 30+ fire scars on it! Me, Doug Henio (Zuni Res fire crew), and Rex Adams. I was always jealous of Rex's massive legs.



El Malpais National Monument, April 1993, the "Go with the Lava Flow" Team. (l-r) Linda Mutch, me, Kiyomi Morino, Gregg Garfin, Ed Wright, Ramzi Touchan, and Rex Adams. Best... field team... ever! Cerro Rendija in the background. The new graveled access road to the Big Tubes area now runs right over this site where we camped.



July 1993, El Malpais National Monument, New Mexico, near The Wall and Big Tubes area of the monument. Ramzi Touchan and Rex coring. We found a bunch of peeled ponderosas and cored them to find out when Native Americans had occupied this site. Ceramics and lithics were abundant here. I will never ever forget that red vest of Wrecks's! I remember he was the first one to show me how you could carry equipment or even cross sections in the big pocket on the back! Ramzi was also one of my best friends at the lab for many years and we shared many field trips together!



James, Rex, and me on the Sandstone Bluffs Overlook on the east side of the malpais on a very windy day! El Malpais National Monument, New Mexico, July 1993. James Riser and I competed for the most photogenic hair at the LTRR.



Alpine, Arizona, October 1991, at Helen's house (former and well-liked LTRR office person) for a class field trip collecting fire scarred samples at Castle Creek. Shown are (l-r), me, Tom Swetnam, Rex Adams, Malcolm Hughes, and Svenje Mehlert from Germany. LTRR people -- notice the "Hector and the Javelinas" t-shirt I'm wearing! I remember well those shoes that Rex wore and thought "This guy! Why doesn't he wear real hiking shoes like the ones I have one?" Everyone looks so young here.



Henri, Rex, and James at El Malpais National Monument, July 1993. This was sample CRE 195, a massive pinyon that we found in the middle of the Bandera lava Flow, quite unexpectedly while hiking with full packs on the way back to the vehicle.



Ed Wright, Rex, and Ramzi, El Malpais NM in New Mexico, April 1993, with Lost Woman cinder cone in the background, looking east from the Cerro Rendija East (CRE) site where we broke the BC barrier.



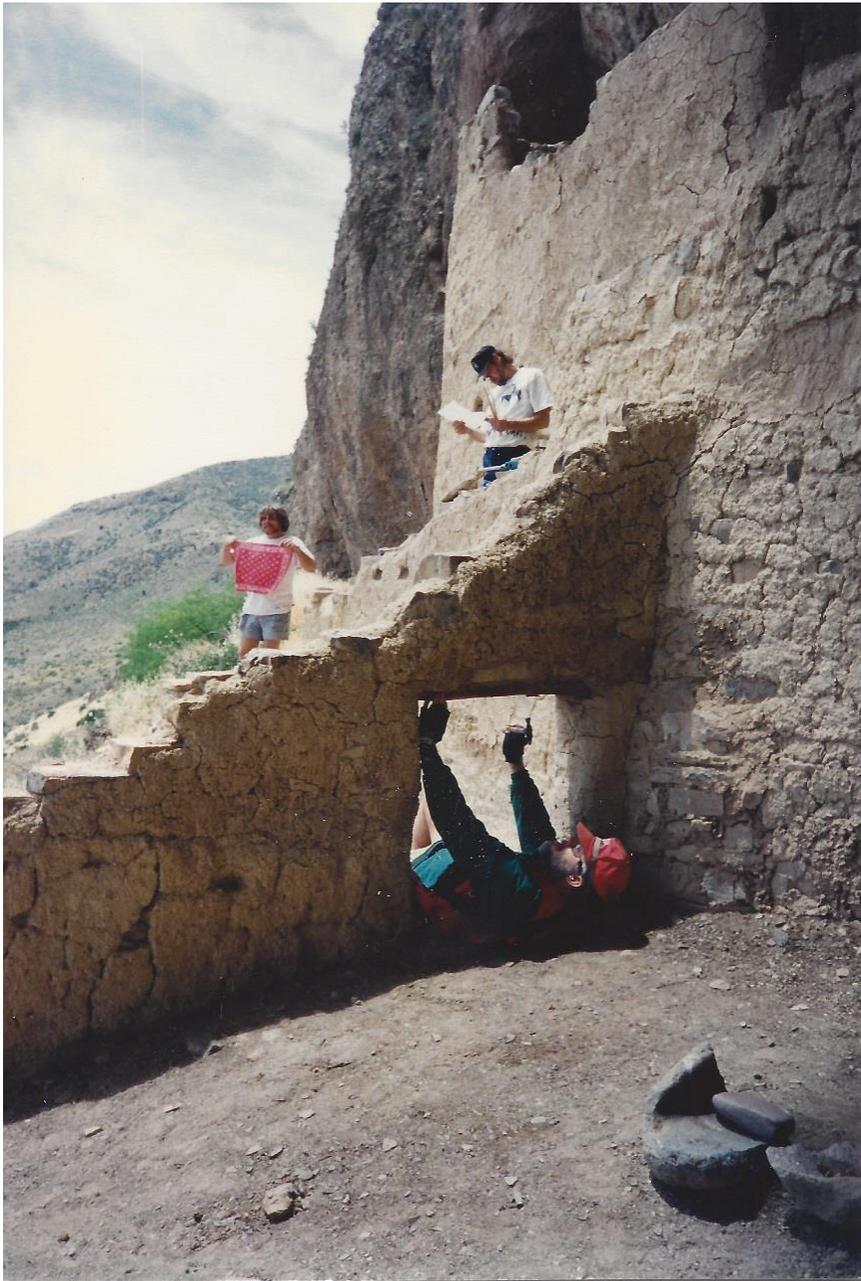
One of the rare photos with me and Rex, about July 1992, at the old tree that went back to AD 1063 that we discovered back in 1991.



Rex as we always knew him, with a 50 pound pack of 1000 year old wood, lugging a chain saw across the lava flows, back to the vehicle. This was an exceptionally hot day and we were very glad to get off the lava that day.



Rex conferring with Ron Towner about a beam to core at Tonto National Monument (Upper Ruin). May 1995.



Rex getting ready to core a beam in the best position he could find. Ron Towner in the background. May 1995.



Rex Adams, at the San Pedro Overlook, Santa Catalina Mountains, filming for the production crew from the UK. Notice the hail on the ground. About May 1995.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Dear Rex,

You may not know but you had a profound impact on my development both as a scientist and a human being. You always saw the best in me from the moment we met back in 1993. All my questions you could answer. You've always been a fun guy at any parties; even the vegetable ones. We wish you a happy and fulfilling retirement.

France and Jacques

Howdy Rex,

35 years isn't long for a tree!

To this day, I clearly remember meeting you on the first field trip I ever went on with the Tree-Ring Lab, to the El Malpais and northern New Mexico. Must have been the summer of 1991. From that day, through many other field trips, stadium lunches, and, great discussions I got to know a remarkable man. You were always a bright point on any field trip and we could always rely on you to put a smile on our faces with one of your great anecdotes or turns of phrase: "I spent time as a pilot for the phone company. Pile it here, pile it there."

On that first field trip in New Mexico, I remember that I didn't have a tent. This wasn't much of an issue as I enjoyed sleeping out under the stars. However, it became an issue one night when it started to rain. You kindly let me in to share your tent, and I repaid this favor by promptly falling asleep and wiggling my feet all night, keeping you awake!

Your passion for tree rings and flair for education has been the germination of dozens of dendrochronologists. So many of today's researchers carry on your legacy of service to tree rings and education. You were always so willing to share your knowledge and you always had a kind word for everyone. It was a true pleasure working with you for all those years and I still frequently find myself remembering one of your silly sayings or thinking, "What would Rex do?"

Congratulations on an amazing career and thank you so much for all of the great times!

Our feet are stained, James Riser



A scraggly Rex coring some scraggly limber pines on the South Dakota/North Dakota state line, August 1995.

Rex Has His Day

by Jim Parks

I once introduced Rex to my family as my colleague, my supervisor, and my friend. He is no longer my supervisor, which he is probably glad of, but he is still my colleague and most of all my friend. My first job at the Lab was in 1987, working for Don Graybill as a student assistant, and Rex was my immediate supervisor. Rex had his office over at the old White House across from the stadium, and I had my work area over there next to his. We were dating and measuring material for the Central Arizona Dendroclimatology project, and Rex was a great resource to consult about various problems I had in the analysis of our tree-ring samples. I was learning the skeleton-plot method of dating, while Rex had learned the date-list method from his days working for Richard Holmes. Although we always say how important it is to go back to the wood concerning any dating problems, Rex's style was the most visual and immediate of any researchers I had encountered. It's the wood, dummy. Rex didn't say that – but I just did.

Other lessons I learned from him were to be prepared in the field, to take careful notes and exercise great care of the collecting equipment. Along with Alex McCord, Rex was my greatest mentor in the field. Rex was a tinkerer and he improvised many tools for use in the field, tools that weren't commercially available because they were so specialized. Rex

haunted thrift stores like Goodwill and Value Village, and accumulated material for collecting tubes, borer-cleaning equipment, specialized pack straps and other rigging gear, and a host of other items that made field collection easier. In addition, Rex always packed more food on backpacking trips than most people did – he was a beast of burden and often generous with his provender. I rarely brought enough, and used to hang out by his tent after the day was over, seeing what he might have.

My first long field trip was a five-week sojourn along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. After five weeks together with only a few days off, tempers can grow short, but Rex exhibited a great deal of patience. He didn't strangle me once. It was a great trip that instilled in me an abiding passion for the basic work of dendrochronology. Rex and Alex McCord were co-leaders of the trip, and I saw more tree species and micro-environments on that one excursion than I have ever seen since. From pinyon-and ponderosa-studded foothills, to spruces and firs near tree line. One day they let me collect a limber-pine site with living and remnant trees as a sort of personal project -- because I kept begging them to let me do it whenever we drove by it on the way up to other sites. In addition, I was put in charge of our visitor from China, Mr. Ni, who had interesting ideas about safety and danger. I guess I had marginally more sense than he did.

In following years, Rex and I had other adventures, including caring for Steve Nash after he became the only person to ever be cored by a tree. Rex had a calm demeanor which I tried to emulate when we found Steve with a chunk of tree lodged

between his scalp and skull -- less than a millimeter, we would find out later, from the artery in his temple. Rex said I turned an odd shade of green when I first saw it. In the 2000s Rex and I helped Matt Salzer collect bristlecone pines from near Flagstaff and from Great Basin sites over several seasons. From his folksy nonsense, to his calm in the face of adversity, to his ingenuity and resourcefulness, he's the guy you want to be in the field with.

On that first field trip I was in my twenties and Rex must have been in his forties. We were both going up a slope to core some likely looking trees one day, and it turned into a race. I think he might have beaten me, but I'm going to call it a tie. On the bristlecone trips, Rex in his 60s was still carrying more and going faster than I was. Today? Rex might still beat me up a slope. I've become a lard-ass lately.

In addition to our tree-ring relationship – Brothers of the Ring perhaps? – Rex has been my personal friend as well. He always had Christmas and birthday presents for my kids when they were young, and he often attended their birthday parties, wearing silly-pointy hats with the rest of us. Rex always has a facetious comment, an old poem, or a folksy witticism at the ready. And some of his stories from his youth and early days I may remember better than he does. Ask him about Candy Scroggins sometime.

In conclusion I wish Rex the happiest of retirements, with the proviso that he visit us often at the Lab. I am running out of old guys to give a hard time to.

Dear Wrecks,

I can't believe that it has been 21 years since you were teaching me how to be a dendrochronologist! I took Tom Swetnam's dendrochronology class in 1994 and you and Tom Harlan helped train me in the lab. From there Henri Grissino-Mayer hired me to measure some of his dissertation samples which led me to asking you endless questions about the appropriate techniques in the sanding shop, measuring room, and behind the microscope. I most appreciate our time in the field together working on a variety of projects throughout Arizona and New Mexico. I remember your eclectic taste in music during the long van rides and now I strive to provide a similar experience to my students as we take long car rides around the US.

My most memorable fieldtrip with you was in the Huachuca Mountains with JJ Shinker and Shelley Danzer among others, when for some reason, we needed to take a long ridgeline hike to gather samples from a remote spot. You and I took off hiking down the ridgeline for a day of sampling. I remember there was an injured knee involved, but overall it was a good day spent with you.

I have appreciated how you and Karen provided an example of how a dendrochronologist and paleoethnobotanist could make a great couple. I will always appreciate your energy, excitement, and humor as a great example of how a professional dendrochronologist should behave.



Dr. James H. Speer
Senior Scholar of the Institute for Community Sustainability (ICS)
Director of the North American Dendroecological Fieldweek (NADEF)
Professor of Geography and Geology
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, IN 47809



Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia
January 2, 2016

Rex Adams
Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
University of Arizona,

Dear Rex,

It was in August, 2010 when I had the great chance to visit the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research while also visiting a colleague of mine, Raul Sánchez Salguero, who had already been working with your team for some time. I was being introduced into a new world of studying trees...a new world of seeing the world itself: dendrochronology. I was told that dendrochronology is not all about counting tree rings...Then I had the pleasure of meeting some of the people at LTRR who kindly shared their experiences and knowledge about this subject. I clearly remember when I was introduced to you and while walking to the class room (class had already finished) I could notice how much you enjoyed talking about tree rings and sharing your knowledge. I also remember when you took a piece of chalk, mashed it and put it over a tree disc...how cool it was to see tree rings in that way! Participating in your class and Tom's was the best way to be introduced to tree rings. That experience was certainly unique and unforgettable in such a way that I also ended up seeing tree rings with the same passion and curiosity with which I have been taught. Rex, how interesting, challenging and beautiful was it to see tree rings from a new perspective. This was my feeling when you shared your knowledge to me and I really appreciate it! Thank you very much!

Wish you a joyful retirement and may this new season of life be full of wonderful moments with your family and loved ones.

Sincerely,

Kathelyn Paredes Villanueva
Laboratorio de Anatomía y Dendrocronología
Facultad de Ciencias Agrícolas
Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno
Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Dear Rex,

I don't have any slides of you in the field or the lab or chatting with Douglass in his office (!) Nor do I have snapshots of every adorable cow knick-knack, cow mug, cow keychain, or floatpen you've charmed me with through the years, but what I do have is a heart full of memories of your kindness, thoughtfulness, and endless generosity with your time and friendship in the many years we've been together in the Lab.

Thank you—especially—for the incredible contribution you have made to science education! Because of the wood kits you put together for my "Introduction to Global Change" gen ed class over a decade ago, tree rings are now introduced to hundreds of freshman at the UA each year and have become an essential hands-on component of my class. The students have loved them, as have every group I've given outreach talks to through the years, either at parishes or other venues, using specimens and materials you've provided.

Most special to me of all is the wonderful, dated BCP specimen with the BC/AD boundary marked on it — a gift that touches not only my heart, but my very soul. Thank you, Dear Rex, for who you are and all the ways you've blessed me and the Lab. I've always felt that you have been the "heartbeat" of the Lab. Please know that your heartbeat resonates still, and always will, even if you are not walking the halls of the Bannister Building these days.

*Love always,
Katie Hirschboeck*



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Department of Geography, Environment and Society
College of Liberal Arts*

*414 Social Sciences Building
267 - 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455*

*Office: 612-625-6080
Fax: 612-624-1044*

January 11, 2016 (Current temperature in Minneapolis: -6°F. Rex would still be wearing shorts)

Dear Rex,

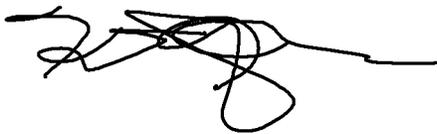
I am writing to congratulate you on your retirement from the Laboratory of Tree Ring Research. The LTRR will be less humorous (perhaps) without you greeting visitors, faculty, staff, and students with a bad joke, limerick, rhyme, or poem. It will also be much harder for people to find things, get borers sharpened, or tap your immense knowledge base regarding all things dendro. The LTRR and the tree ring community owes you a deep debt of gratitude for introducing the world of tree rings to so many people over the years and representing the community so well!

I greatly appreciate the time you took to help carefully pass along your crossdating wisdom to me while a graduate student at the LTRR. Without your patient tutoring along the way, I would lack the necessary skills required to tackle a diverse array of species, or appreciate the nuances of the art and science of dendrochronology. You provided helpful advice and encouragement throughout my time at the LTRR.

Within my own lab group, your name comes up rather frequently. Usually in reference to some new invention (as in, "That looks like something Rex would devise"), befuddling challenge (e.g., "...if anyone has crossdated it, Rex probably has"), or in reference to a less than perfect borer (e.g., "I wish I could sharpen borers as well as Rex"). I would guess that there are many around the world that have adopted straw tubes similar in structure to the Rex Adam Pill Bottle model. From a personal standpoint, I have adopted both the coring vest and coring gloves based on my 1997 Introduction to Dendrochronology field trip experience.

Thank you for all that you have done for dendrochronology. You have made an important impact on dendrochronology and my own practice of the art and science of tree rings and I wish you all the best in your retirement!

Sincerely,



Kurt F. Kipfmueller
Associate Professor
Center for Dendrochronology
Geography, Society and Environment
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN



January 10, 2016

Dear Rex,

I write as one of the hundreds of people whose professional and personal lives you have touched as dendrochronology's most passionate and dedicated ambassador. I have fond memories of my first encounter with tree rings in the Spring of 1979 when you and Tom Harlan led a short course for Kathy Hansen and Debbie Elliot (U Colorado) and me (U Wisconsin). You were kind and patient but, at the same time, expected precision and perseverance from us as fledgling dendrochronologists. The experience changed my life and set me up for a career that has been rewarding beyond my wildest dreams.

As a University of Arizona faculty member, I came to appreciate the tremendous service you provided to the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. You were always there to solve problems and provide guidance to our students and visiting scholars. Your outreach to K12 students and the general public enhanced the scientific literacy of scores of people. This effort was critically important at a time when science, and tree-ring science specifically, was being met with skepticism in some circles. Your effort helped stem that tide and we are all grateful.

I trust that you will bring the same enthusiasm and joy to retirement that you brought to your career. I wish you all the best.

With great respect and deep fondness,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Graumlich".

Lisa J. Graumlich
Dean, College of the Environment
Virginia and Prentice Bloedel Professor

January 11, 2016

Dear Rex,

All the very best wishes for your retirement! Kudos and thanks for all your work for the Lab, from fundamental field work on Hal's California/Oregon project, through work with Don Graybill and many others, to your role as a mentor of hundreds of tree-ring novices. Things looked a little dodgy in the late 1980s, given the company you took up with (see picture below from July 1988). Fortunately, you came through that unscathed!

I hope you will be able to continue your role as Punster-in-Chief, now Emeritus.

Cheers,



Malcolm K Hughes
Regents' Professor of Dendrochronology



Rex, the very Best, Warmest and Heartfelt wishes - Always!

You've played a crucial role in not only my tree ring training and experiences, but also through your example of how to be a great person and positive influence on all - and for that you will always be cherished.

Of all your help and guidance, I particularly enjoy recalling your increment bore sharpening instruction and demonstration. Testimony to its value are the innumerable cores I've taken and the many more cores taken by others, indirectly (via me) infused with your enthusiasm in this regard. (As we all know, an elegant straight core beats steaming a twisted one coming from a dull bit, anytime!)

May you always be feeling "Finer than frog's hair split 18 ways with a broadaxe!" (Thanks for that one, too!)

Mark Losleben



Dear Rex,

It seems unbelievable that you are retiring! As well as sharing some memories this is a chance to say thank you for the incredible honour of having had the chance to work alongside you. You, along with Tom and the White Mountains crew, introduced me to the Whites, their remarkable trees and stunning landscapes. Those days are always what I think of when someone asks me to describe fieldwork.

I learned so much from you; about fieldwork, about forests and, probably most importantly, about how to enjoy and treasure time in the field. (Thanks to you I also know the importance of a cool V8 at the end of the day and that you can mend just about any bit of field gear with duct tape).

You are actually quite famous at Swansea, and amongst my friends and family, for having taken the above 'Mary up a tree' photo. This image adorned the pages of the Swansea Geography undergraduate brochure for years, and comes out whenever I am asked to talk about life as a scientist.

I am genuinely proud to be part of the generation of tree ring scientists you helped train and educate.

I wish you all the very best for your retirement.

With love and very best wishes from Swansea,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Gagen'.

Dr Mary Gagen

From the Desk of Richard L. Holmes

3443 E. Lee Street
Tucson, AZ 85716
December 9, 2015

Dear Rex,

On behalf of Richard and myself, I wish you, Karen and family a wonderful retirement. From the first time I met Richard, he would always say, "The best thing I ever did for the Tree-Ring Lab was to hire Rex." He would tell me that over and over. While all of those other tree-ringers had their Ph.Ds, it was Rex who held the show together. They'd all be in trouble without you, which may be where this is headed.

Richard would tell me about those trips to California and Oregon with you to collect those first tree rings for dendrochronology studies. He would calculate that Palmer Drought Severity Index from what you found. Some good work there. Richard had great fun with you on those trips. He was a seasoned outdoorsman who was always a pleasure to be out with. He would roll with the weather and always adapt.

Richard is still watching you, so be careful. He always loved to repeat that favorite phrase of yours, "Any day above ground is a good day." May you have many more good days above ground. Some day you'll be able to sit back and once again have a scotch with Richard (surely you must have done that), but that can wait for now.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mick".

Norm "Mick" Meader

Oriol Bosch
Alendo, s/n
25595 Farrera
Catalunya (Spain)

My Dear Rex,

I recently knew about your retirement... It seems to me that it was a few months ago when I arrived from Barcelona for the first time at the LTRR and I met you, and you showed me the whole Lab and introduced me to all staff and faculty members... But it was in the early 1990's, just some 25 years ago!

And it seems it was a few months ago because you were so kind and so friendly with me, and so patient (at that time my English was so poor that I even had some difficulties to understand many things I was told), that it impacted me, it gave me the feeling of being so welcome, so well taken in, so well treated,... So I had from the very beginning a feeling of closeness and gratefulness that it still lasts today, even after a long time without contact with you. You are one of those people you meet that go directly to a special corner of your heart and of your memory, so when you remember them a subtle smile comes automatically to your face and good feelings come to your soul.

Furthermore, I remember that in my first days in the Lab I came in with a bag full of wood samples that I needed to cut and sand. You told me that you would cut them in the bandsaw, so I said "oh, don't worry, I can do it myself, they're my samples and I wouldn't like you to lose a finger in the bandsaw for my samples!". And you quickly replied me "No, I'll do that, I don't want you to lose a finger in my bandsaw!". So, who knows, maybe I still have my 10 fingers thanks to you!

I really wish you the best in this new "stage", I really wish that you enjoy it at least as much as you enjoyed your job in the LTRR – at least this is the impression you gave me. And, if you decide to take some time to travel across Europe, Spain,... I would like it very much if you visit me or we meet again.

Thanks a lot for being there and for being this way.

Hugs and love from



Oriol

Farrera (the Pyrenees), January 11th, 2016

January 12, 2016

King Rex Adams
Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
University of Arizona

Dear Rex,

A joy for me coming to work every day at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research was knowing I'd bump into you, Rex, and swap a pun, go head to head on a corny joke, or out-brag each other about kids and grandkids. I also counted on you for actual tree-ring advice, as well as for the fact that you have every gadget and device every invented for solving problems and conundrums in the lab or the field. You always had the right tool. You were especially good at power sanding (see below).

More than that, though, in all my travels internationally, foreign colleagues always made sure to tell me to say hi to Rex and pass along their regards. By that evidence, your generous contributions of time and expertise spent on and given to our international visitors was influential on them and an important part of LTRR's outreach. Thanks so much for being that happy and useful face of LTRR to the world dendro community.

Congrats on retiring, and may you and Karen have a long and happy retirement traveling, doting on young ones, and barking out puns mercilessly.

Sincerely,

Paul R Sheppard

Paul R. Sheppard, Associate Professor



*A brief history of Rex K. Adams'
LONG history in Tree-Ring Research...*



Everyone at the Tree-Ring Lab is, of course, familiar with this photo of A.E. in the stadium, but have you ever seen the next shot on the role?



*Rex Adams was
INSTRUMENTAL
in Douglass' original
formulation of
crossdating... A
little known fact!*

Another extremely important event in tree-ring history, the discovery of HH-39 by the young Emil Haury and the “bridging of the gap”; again, though, how many of you have seen the next frame on the role?



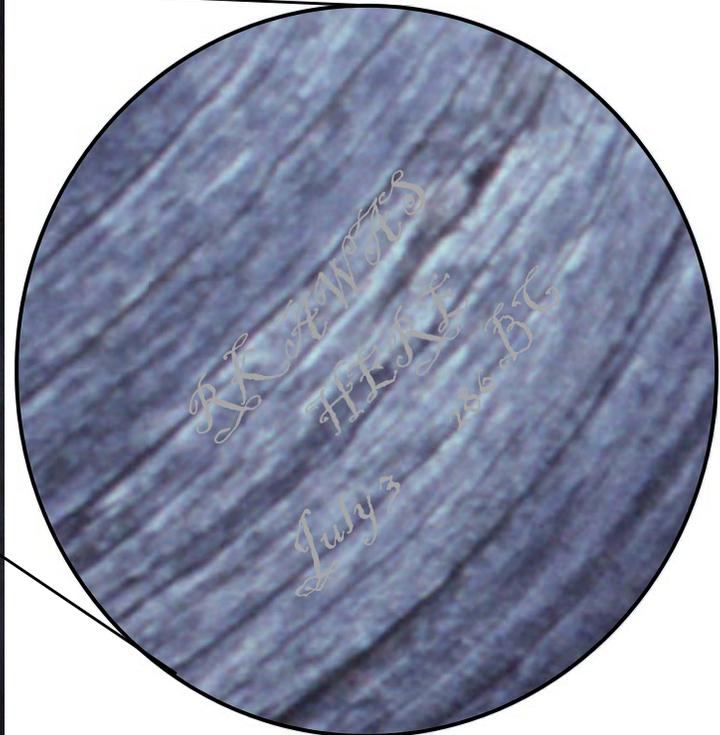
*Yep, there was our hero, Rex Adams,
right in the thick of tree-ring history again!*

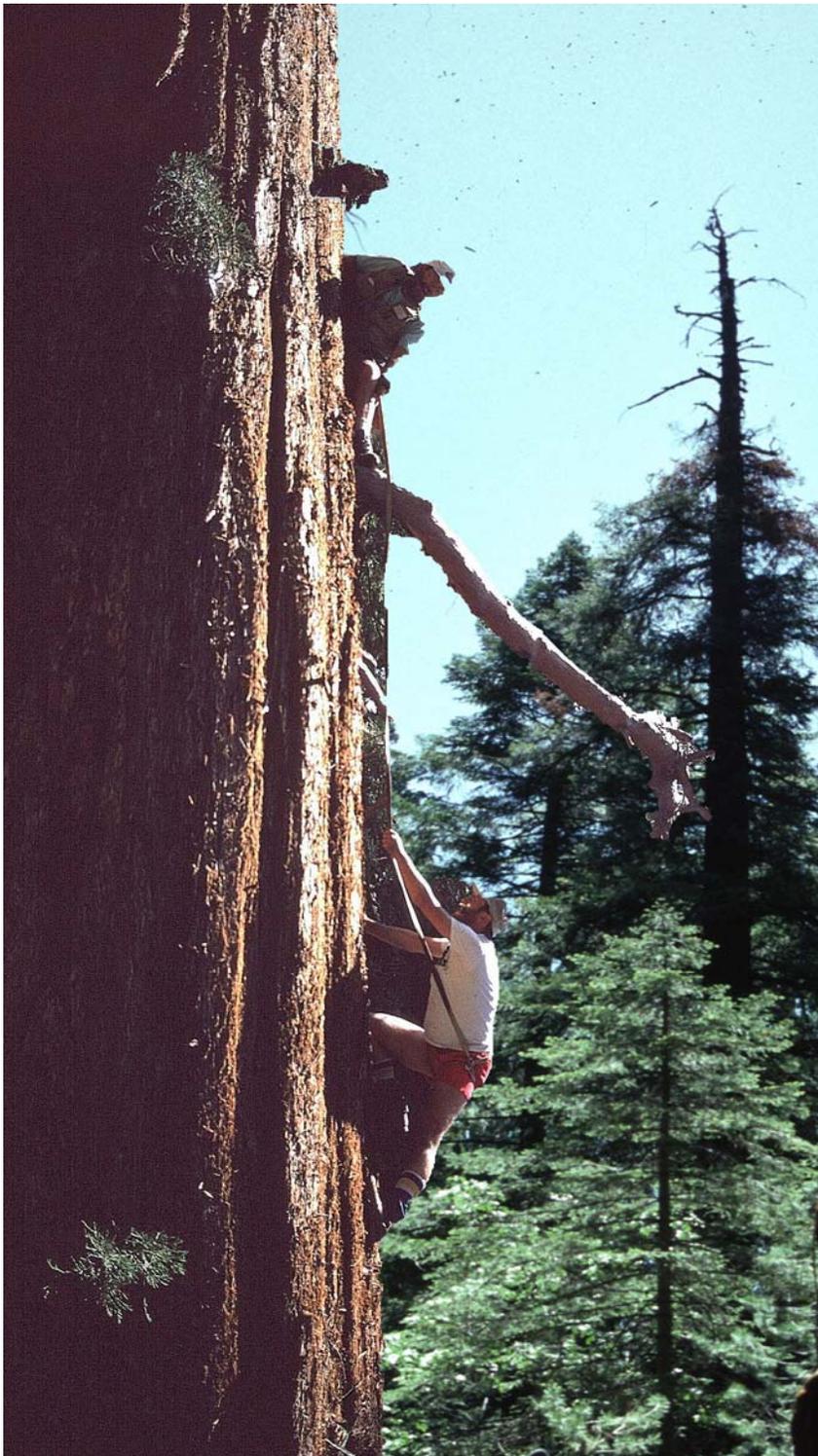


*And in case there was ever any question about
Rex K. Adams' place in Tree-Ring History...*



...A heavily faded, barely readable inscription recently found on an ancient tree in the Methuselah Grove that proves once and for all that Ed Schulman wasn't the first person to discover the true age of the bristlecone pine!





Rex K. Adams has always been one to go to great heights for tree-ring research, and for his friends. (Here he is helping Gregg Garfin get above the butt flare on a giant sequoia to get a proper core. Steve Sillett got the idea from Rex to climb these trees to actually see what's in the canopies...)

Rex, I am proud to have been able to call you a friend, and a colleague, all these years. I'm sure I speak for many, many people around the world. Best of luck in your retirement and sorry to miss the party!

Peter Brown



Institute of Botany
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Addr: 20 Nanxincun, Xiangshan
Haidian District, Beijing
100093, China
Dec. 10, 2015

Dear Rex,

This is Qi-Bin from Beijing to say Hello. Learning that you will soon relax from crossdating woods after 35 years of counting rings, two images came up to my mind. One is in the end of 1994 and the other is in the end of 2006, both at the LTRR where you showed me the art of tree-ring crossdating.

For the first visit, I was a grad student from UVic of Canada. I practiced drawing skeleton plot in your lab. I enjoyed your teaching in a slow, clear and standard English (English is my second language), and enjoyed the beauty of tree-ring crossdating. For the second visit, I had started my dendro-career in China for five years. You showed me the treasures in your lab and I enjoyed your love of tree rings and enjoyed your friendship. This time I was glad to take a picture with you.



Now, I send my best wishes.

Welcome to see the wood in my lab if you have a chance to visit Beijing.

Yours sincerely

Qi-Bin Zhang

Email: qbzhang@ibcas.ac.cn

I know Rex Adams since 1988. We did many fieldtrips together, such as the Jemez Mountains and El Malpais in New Mexico and Giant Sequoia in California. He was one of the most prepared people for fieldwork I ever met. He used to carry to the field his famous and signature cooking box. The box contained every kind of spices, plates, cups, etc. His vest was equipped with every fieldwork tool that you will ever think about. For example, once Rex, Ed Wright, and I was helping Henri Grissino-Mayer in his fieldwork in El Malpais in New Mexico. We were hiking on the lava flow looking for old juniper stumps and logs. We stood in front an old spiral log and Henri said I wish I have a hand saw to take a sample of the log; Rex right away pulled a small hand saw from one of the vests hidden pockets.

Rex, you will be in my heart and memory forever. Enjoy your retirement.

Ramzi Touchan



15 January 2016

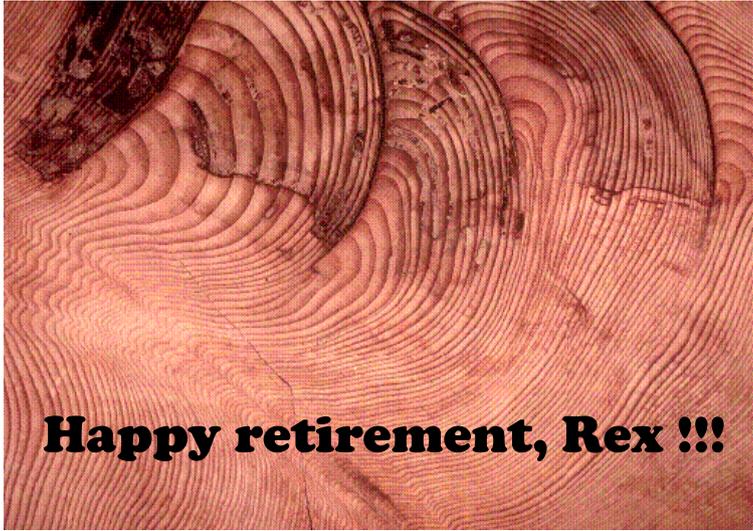
Dear Rex,

My time in the lab has not been long, but it is plain to see the impact you have made here. I started here in the summer of 2012, and between being hidden behind the glass door in the stadium and the scorching desert sun, this fair-skinned Midwestern boy realized just how far away from home he really was. I remember being in the stadium for almost three weeks before really talking to anyone. It wasn't until I needed something from math east that I realized there were other people around at all. You told me (in full "fungi" regalia) to come over and work in the classroom. Something so small as, "Ross don't be silly and work alone", can make all the difference in the world, and make a concrete stadium feel homey and welcoming.

Your legacy in this lab is unquestionable, and I hope that those who have been here longer than I realize how fortunate they and the Lab are to have you here sharing the good news about dendro. You have brought humanity and warmth to a place that could be so unfeeling and cold if we let it. It seems odd to thank a person for just being themselves, but it seems appropriate here. Thank you "Wrecks" for just being you, and for being the heart of this lab.

Sincerely,

Ross Alexander



Happy retirement, Rex !!!



**Black pine...
...our oldest tree in Austria!**



**Treering work in
the Alps...in the 1990ies**



Wishing you
“good vibrations”
in your new
phase of life!



Dear Rex, I had the privilege to meet you during my few visits in Tucson
back in the 1990ies. Your legendary name accompanied my years as a
dendrochronologist !

With Greetings from Austria

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Rupert Wimmer





January 12, 2016

Mr. Rex Adams
Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
University of Arizona

Dear Rex,

On behalf of members and guests of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, I'd like to congratulate you on your long career at the Tree-Ring Laboratory of the University of Arizona. Dendrochronology plays an important role in forestry generally, and you and your lab have played a particularly large role in the Southern Arizona Chapter of SAF by being active members or guests. We've always enjoyed seeing you at our luncheon meetings, talking forestry and over eating once every few months.

Retiring from work doesn't mean you have to retire from our luncheon meetings. Feel free to keep attending, to talk forestry and to enjoy the famous chocolate volcano.

Best wishes to you and your family on enjoying a long and happy retirement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Duane', is written over a white background.

Duane A. Bennett
Chair, Southern Arizona Chapter





UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

Mr. Rex Adams
Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
University of Arizona
Tucson, USA

January 10, 2016

Dear Rex,

Congratulations on reaching this latest waypost in your career as educator, researcher, and mentor to our community of tree-ring aficionados.

I will always be grateful for the encouragement and support you extended to me during my time in Tucson. From Day One, you made me feel like I was member of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, and not just a indigent graduate student passing through as a temporary visitor. I remember the Lab as a warm, supportive community, and that feeling is largely due to your limitless enthusiasm and generosity.

Of course, I am indebted to you for those countless occasions when you either pointed me in the right direction or (more often) took my hand and led me there yourself. But I also remember the afternoon you spent with my mom during her first visit to Tucson. These years later, she still talks about the time she received her own personal tour of the Tree-Ring Lab. As you know, peering at tree rings is not exactly the basis for a normal career path. I feel very thankful that you were willing to help someone who is a very important person to me be able to understand my life's work a little more clearly.

Rex, I wish you all the best, and good luck in the next stage of your journey. And it goes without saying (I hope), that should you ever get the itch to visit the lab's northern satellite office, you and Karen will always be very welcome here in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott St. George".

Scott St. George, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Geography, Society and Environment
University of Minnesota

15 January 2016

TO: **Ignacio Mundo**, Organizer AmeriDendro Mendoza (iamundo@mendoza-conicet.gob.ar) & **Elaine Kennedy Sutherland**, Tree-Ring Society President (President@treeringsociety.org)

FROM: **Steven W. Leavitt**, Acting Director and Professor, Lab. of Tree-Ring Research

RE: Nomination of **Rex Adams** for The Richard L. Holmes Award for Outstanding Service to Dendrochronology

I am pleased to nominate Mr. Rex Adams for the Holmes Award for Outstanding Service to Dendrochronology. Rex has recently retired from his staff position at the University of Arizona, but I would say he supremely embodies the concept of ‘outstanding service to dendrochronology’ as a result of more than 30 productive, interactive, and enriching years at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research (LTRR). His understated CV belies the expansive contribution he has made to the field within and outside our walls.

Rex arrived at the Tree-Ring Lab in Tucson in the early 1980s and worked on research projects and classes over the years with many of the faculty here and with numerous students. These interactions have variously taken place in the field on research projects and class trips, in the shop, in the classroom, and in the dry laboratory, and they have involved training in the principles and methods of sampling of tree rings, preparation of sample surfaces to make rings visible, and measuring and crossdating tree rings, the latter being especially important to the instructional support of those learning dendrochronology, whether they be students in the laboratory of our introduction dendrochronology class or novice visitors seeking to learn ‘everything’ about dendrochronology in a day’s visit. Rex also served a major role in our efforts at archiving the many existing and incoming samples by constructing the shelving systems to accommodate them and assigning spaces where we could store our samples. This has smoothed the way for the professional archiving and storage that is underway now with our Curator and archive building.

The ripples of Rex’s service reach around the world. The lead faculty of many tree-ring labs at other colleges at some point interacted and learned from Rex, including labs in Indiana, Colorado, Minnesota, and Tennessee. Elsewhere, many scientists in Europe, Asia and the Southern Hemisphere benefited from Rex’s help when they were students or visitors here.

Rex is a fount of information about dendrochronology of western trees accrued from all of his experiences and is therefore an excellent “sounding board” in regard to developing student, faculty and visitor projects in the West (and elsewhere). He has provided a multitude of thoughtful and helpful questions and suggestions to those here planning dendro-projects as well as those speaking at our departmental seminar series.

Rex has also served as the LTRR outreach “point man” for many years. This includes providing background and tours for thousands of people from school and service groups at LTRR or at their home base. His work has also resulted in development of tree-ring sample study sets for schools and the manufacture of numerous dendro-cookie souvenirs for visitors and VIPs.

To me, Rex has been like the “ACE helpful hardware man”, but he is really the “helpful dendro man”. Rex does indeed have vests (although I don’t think any of them are red) for all of the precious little dendro tidbits that could be needed at any time in the field or lab, but as anyone who has interacted with Rex knows, he is the world’s master of T-shirts related to all manner of tree, tree-ring, national park and botany themes. He has so many that he could probably wear a different one every day for 6 months!

I wholeheartedly support Rex Adams as the next recipient of the Richard L. Holmes Award for Outstanding Service to Dendrochronology.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Leavitt
Acting Director



Mr. Rex Adams
Dendrochronologist Extraordinaire
Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
University of Arizona
Tucson AZ 85721

28 December 2015

Dear Rex,

I can't believe its come to the time when you'd be retiring, but life moves in ways that often defy credulity, and I fear we are at one of those moments.

A few thoughts about our interactions over the years. First, I well remember the fact that you were present when I ignominiously became the first dendrochronologist-ever-to-be-cored-by-a-tree. If memory serves, it was July 10, 1991. After I fell, I remember Jim Parks looking at me, turning white, and saying "Rex, you'd better get over here." You remained calm, cool, and collected, and took care of the situation. It may be too much, or too dramatic, to say that you saved my life, but I was in a world of hurt and made it out safely. I'm more than happy for you to take that credit. You can send me the bill for your services anytime!

I also remember well the many labs that we had in the Intro dendro course. For whatever reason, and largely due to the fact that I was a 25-year-old impetuous young man, the only thing I ever wanted to do in those labs was to get finished with the task and get out, probably to happy hour somewhere. I remember well your patient advice and sage counsel. Even through the happy hours, I remember thinking "Dang, I'd like to be as patient and cheerful as Rex when I grow up." That somehow never happened, but you are still an example to me.

Finally, as a student of the history of dendrochronology in particular and science in general, I know all too well that the world is full of "invisible technicians." These are the folks who go about their work with quiet grace and without receiving the accolades they truly deserve, for reasons that have more to do with stodgy (if not discriminatory) affairs and traditions of the academy than it does the individual involved. These are the folks without whom an institution will just seize up and fail to operate. You fall in that category, along with folks like Lyndon Hargrave and John Rinaldo, neither of whom got the props they deserve, but both of whom are fellows I've have been honored to call colleagues. At least I can claim "Wrecks" as a friend and collaborator! Carmen just walked up and said, "Rex is a good soul." Indeed!

All the best,



Steve Nash, Chair, Dept. of Anthropology

2001 Colorado Blvd.
Denver, CO 80205-5798
P 303.322.7009
F 303.331.6492

www.dmns.org

December 17, 2015

Dear Rex,

Hearty congratulations on your “retirement”! I put that in quotations because I know you, and I know you will still be doing many of the things you have always done – that is, being a great friend of the Tree-Ring Lab.

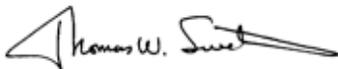
It is not possible to say in words how much I appreciate and value our long-time friendship, and especially all that you have done for me, our students, our colleagues, and the Lab. Truly, you have been one of the most positive, helpful, and enjoyable colleagues I have worked with over the past 3 decades! It would take a book to list all of the many tasks, large and small, that you have done for us, and to list all of the many thousands of people you have educated and entertained -- at the same time! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Rex, I especially enjoyed the many times we were together in the field, especially when I was in need of that one special and odd tool, and you would reach into your backpack and pull it out! You had EVERYTHING in there.

We were a great team for many years in teaching the Intro-Dendro course. You know what students over those years typically said was the best part of the course on the end of year course evaluation? The lab sessions. We all know why: Because you are such a generous, fun and caring person, AND with a great passion and love of tree rings. You had a huge positive impact on so many students, colleagues and visitors --- they literally number in the thousands!

All best wishes and hugs to you my friend and to Karen too.

Very Sincerely,



Thomas W. Swetnam
Regents' Professor of Dendrochronology, Emeritus

