



Vale "Clive" Minton

1934-2019

Shorebird Scientist and Friend to All



Greetings!

It is with great dismay that I inform the membership of the passing of Clive Minton, a great friend of CU Maurice and the Delaware Bayshore. For many years,

echoing the great migration of shorebirds to the Delaware Bayshore for the horseshoe crab spawn, Clive migrated from Australia to join the efforts of the team studying the Red Knots. Not only did he come, but he also brought fellow Aussies to help with the International Shorebird Team studies

Sadly this past week, when I was in route from travels to Mexico, I learned of his death in a tragic automobile accident.

Clive was one the foremost authorities on shorebirds in the world. An expert in teaching cannon trapping and banding techniques, he was a mentor and inspiration to many shorebird scientists globally. For me, Clive was a renaissance man. Although his doctorate was in metallurgy, he had a lifelong interest in birds and a second career as an ornithologist.



Clive taught cannon netting techniques all over the globe



At his 80th Birthday Celebration CU gave Clive a horseshoe crab knocker for his door in Australia

He was one of the finest natural teachers I have ever met and was capable of displaying an infectious enthusiasm for his passion. Many conservation battles were won by his ability to describe to laypeople the plight of shorebirds and to convince others to share his concerns.

Most everyone will remember his description of shorebirds needing to fuel up to get to the arctic in time to lay their eggs. He would make analogies to cruise participants feasting on their voyage to shorebirds feasting on horseshoe crab eggs. He would often rub his belly and use superlatives to make his point. This ties in to the gallant efforts of our

International Shorebird Hosts who have been cooking for the International Shorebird Team since 2006. Our most enthusiastic diner was always Clive. He was the first to greet our CU Team members and always peppered the air with superlatives and accolades. "FANTASTIC. We will surely go home fatter than the Red Knots." Considering some birds would double their weight, this was quite the exclamation indeed. Clive made conservation and problem-solving fun.

Know this. At age 80 in 2019, he was still coming to the Delaware Bayshore as an integral member of the shorebird research team. In the absence of a formal obituary, I am attaching stories about Clive from his 80th Birthday celebrations and my remarks at that time. The remembrances of his life on his 80th birthday cover a great deal of who Clive was, his

contributions to shorebirds worldwide, and how he will remain in our hearts. Also [here is a link to Birdlife Australia's commemoration](#) of his life and achievements. These documents will give you insights into his beginnings and his contributions to the world's scientific wader (shorebird) community.

Peter and I had the pleasure of visiting Clive and his wife Pat in Australia. In our experience they were very much in love. This year marked their 60th year of marriage, and Clive still had a twinkle in his eye for Pat.

Clive's sister Angela Watts from Canada, another Shorebird Team member, wrote to tell us that Pat was seriously hurt in the accident and is in recovery. We send Pat best wishes for a good recovery. We also send our deepest condolences to her, their two sons Roger and Nigel, daughter-in-law Sonia, and four grandchildren Nick, Chris, Jess and Daniel.

I was directed by the family to their remembrances which can be read here.

Thank you Clive for your great friendship and for all you have done for the Delaware Bayshore.

Sincerely,



Jane Morton Galetto
CU Maurice River Board President



A young Pat and Clive relaxing together early in their relationship

(Minton family)



Clive with Dr. Larry Niles, one of the International Shorebird Team Leaders



Clive with Dr. Joanna Burger, always ready to be playful, but never forgetting the serious plight of shorebirds.

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