

David Canny touched so many lives...it truly boggles the mind.

I never knew the David Canny many of you did. Thus I cannot speak to his role as a family member, optometrist, business associate, realtor, or fishing buddy; although I am confident the impression he left on you, as he touched your lives, will last forever.

I am truly fortunate that David played many important roles in my life. David was a great mentor, a tireless motivator, an infinite source of inspiration, and one of my dearest friends. I first met David 9 years ago when Angie and I moved to Platteville. It seemed like no-time before David had taken both of us under his wing and got us involved with the Friends of the Rountree Branch. Shortly thereafter David helped convince the local chapter of Trout Unlimited that this young and impressionable biology professor at UWP might be able to use his students to conduct research of interest to the chapter. Then before I knew it, I was helping David create some new organization called the Platteville Community Arboretum. And so it went for the past 9 years...

I think one thing we can all agree on was that David was never short on ideas. I used to tell people that they needed to be aware of the 'David Vortex'. Getting whisked away in one of David's idea-generating frenzies was an awesome, and yet, often overwhelming experience. Curiously, if no-one questioned or challenged an idea, David would simply take it and run with it until it crashed or blossomed. Perhaps one of the reasons David and I got along so well, was that I would allow him to brainstorm a hurricane and then help him filter the potential crashes. But in the end, regardless of the outcome, David's positive attitude would persist and a new idea would pop in his head. Amazingly, every one of those ideas would have to do with helping someone else or benefiting the community. Amazing.

Actually, I think what made David such a wonderful and exceptional person, was his unique combination of traits. David had the tenacity of a pit bull, the vision of an oracle, the stubbornness of an ox, the patience of a saint...well...sometimes, the mind of a hard-drive, the heart of a giant, and a genuine love for life. Surely we are all unique combinations in our own right, but David was clearly special. Somehow his blend of traits allowed him to play all the roles he did in all of our lives. Somehow his blend of traits allowed him to touch each and every one of us. Somehow his blend of traits allowed him to make us all better people.

Ultimately, one thing is clear...David Canny loved life.

And so today, and from this point forward, may we celebrate and honor David's life and the love he shared.

Thank you David.

We love you.

-Kristopher Wright