

# MICHAEL CANNING



A light went out in Eugene on May 14, 2017 when our beloved Michael Canning passed away unexpectedly from complications of pneumonia. He had just been diagnosed and succumbed to the pneumonia the next day.

Michael was the embodiment of compassion and was a gentle, kind, and thoughtful teacher of many things. His smiling face and warm, resonant voice will always be remembered. Michael was best known as the music director at KLCC Public Radio for 35 years, where he mentored and befriended hundreds of radio hosts, station volunteers and musicians of all types.

He and Cheryle were married in 1980 and throughout their life together (40 years or so) they got involved with groups that evolved into lifetime friendships. From the KLCC softball team "The Killerwatts" to "Tour Oregon" - a loosely formed group of golf-nuts - to the Lane County Dahlia Society and the many dahlia shows – Michael connected with many, many people.

Above all, the game that Michael loved the most was raising dahlias, and the surprises that revealed themselves each summer. He and Cheryle began growing dahlias in 2003 in their sun-drenched backyard, bordered by many trees and bushes. They were always a dynamic duo in growing and showing their dahlias, thoroughly enjoying the fellowship of growers they met at all the dahlia shows. It was apparent they truly loved to be together and enjoyed the camaraderie of a shared hobby.

He was thrilled to be involved with the Lane County Dahlia Society, exchanging ideas and swapping tubers with friends. He served as the Judging Chair for the Lane County Dahlia Society's dahlia show, and was Vice-President for many years. Aside from growing dahlias, his other favorite hobby was photographing dahlias and then 'tweaking' them in Photoshop. Along the way he enjoyed meeting and educating new dahlia growers whose thirst for knowledge equaled his.

He is survived by his wife Cheryle Hawkins, his mother, Shirley Canning, brother Doug Canning (Kathy) and their daughters, Nicole and Emily; his sister Chris Spurlock (Alan), his nephew Jeremy Dice and family. A Celebration of Life was held July 1st at the McDonald Theater in downtown Eugene and nearly 325 friends and peers attended. More about Michael can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/michael.canning.982> Condolences can be sent by email to his wife, Cheryle Hawkins at [icehawk@q.com](mailto:icehawk@q.com)