

Remembering Friends

Melissa Leasia. May 3, 2021 :



Evergreen Audubon was saddened to learn that two of our long-time members, Helen Swem and Lee Hart, have recently passed away.

Helen and her late husband, Ted, were active early members of Evergreen Audubon, with Ted having served on the Board at one point. They participated in the Christmas Bird Count for decades, and for many years they would also call in their interesting sightings to be reported in the Dipper birding reports. Helen was also an early and enthusiastic volunteer at Evergreen Nature Center. A Kansas native, Helen was especially proud of her Swedish heritage. She was an ardent Democrat who could talk politics for hours, according to Sylvia Robertson. Helen moved from Evergreen to Highlands Ranch in 2008 but kept in touch with her many close friends in Evergreen Audubon up until just a few weeks ago. She was 94.

Lee Hart was also a Kansas native and an ardent Democrat. Lee and her husband, Gary, moved to Kittredge in the mid-1980s and Lee could often be found hiking and birding in the foothills in and around Evergreen. Marilyn Rhodes shares that the Harts have been loyal Evergreen Audubon wreath customers for as long as we have been selling them. Lee would pick up her wreaths (she always bought several) and chat with Marilyn at length, mostly about politics, in Marilyn's driveway, no matter the weather. A longer, more detailed obituary was published in the April 11 Denver Post. Lee was 85.

Evergreen Audubon is especially grateful for the gifts we have received in the last few weeks in Helen and Lee's memory. These gifts not only pay tribute to Helen and Lee, they truly make a difference as we work to foster contagious enthusiasm for nature and the environment. They also remind us that everything we do today rests on the foundation built by the founders, members, and friends of Evergreen Audubon over the years. Thank you.

Barbara Jean Gard, Marilyn Rhodes, Sylvia Robertson and Ruth Salter shared memories for this article.