



Celebrating the 50-year career of Dr. Orin Gelderloos and
the 20th Anniversary of the Environmental Interpretive Center



Dear Dr. Gelderloos,

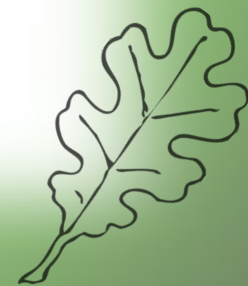
You were my favorite instructor at UMD, by far. I still remember my project of mapping wind patterns in what is now the Environmental Interpretive Center, for my Field Biology class with you. I loved biology and you made it even more fun and interesting. I got to know you a little better later in life while swimming at the Dearborn Racquet and Health Club. I enjoyed visiting with you when you came to the dental office that I shared with your dentist, Dr. Witt. I attended HFCC, UM Ann Arbor and graduated from UM Dearborn in December of 1974. My experiences at UMD were by far the best and your enthusiasm and dedication were an important part of that experience. Congratulations and best wishes always.


Michael F. Erdman, D.D.S.





Faith Forbush





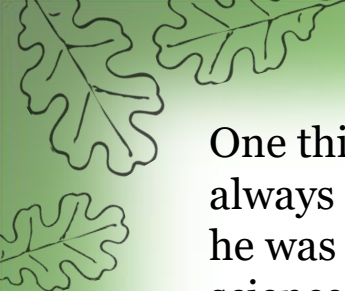
I would like to thank you Dr G for waking me up to the world around me. A walk has never been the same since I took you wonderful Field Biology Class. Thank you so much. Enjoy your retirement!

Julie Sweeny



Sharon Czapiewski





One thing I will always remember about Dr. Gelderloos—his lab and office were always open to students. He always had time for students. Because of his openness, he was always there to lend a hand. He was instrumental in launching me on a science career via an environmental science internship at Great Lakes Research Division at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in the late 1970s to 1980s. The Division no longer exists, but because of my experience there, I took my learned appreciation of our natural world to the freshwater systems of the Great Lakes and beyond.

Thank you, Dr. Gelderloos, for being who you are. You are the kind of person who will always have an impact on environmental science and studies and the lives of students who were fortunate to know you. You will always be special to me as a person who has influenced my love for the environment.

With my heartfelt well wishes for you, Dr. Gelderloos,

Janice Pappas





Glen Jocelyn





Dr. Gelderloos,

You won't remember us, of course, since we go way back, graduating in 1972, but my husband, Dennis Bachorik, and I certainly remember you as one of the most forward thinking, interesting, and respected young professors on campus.

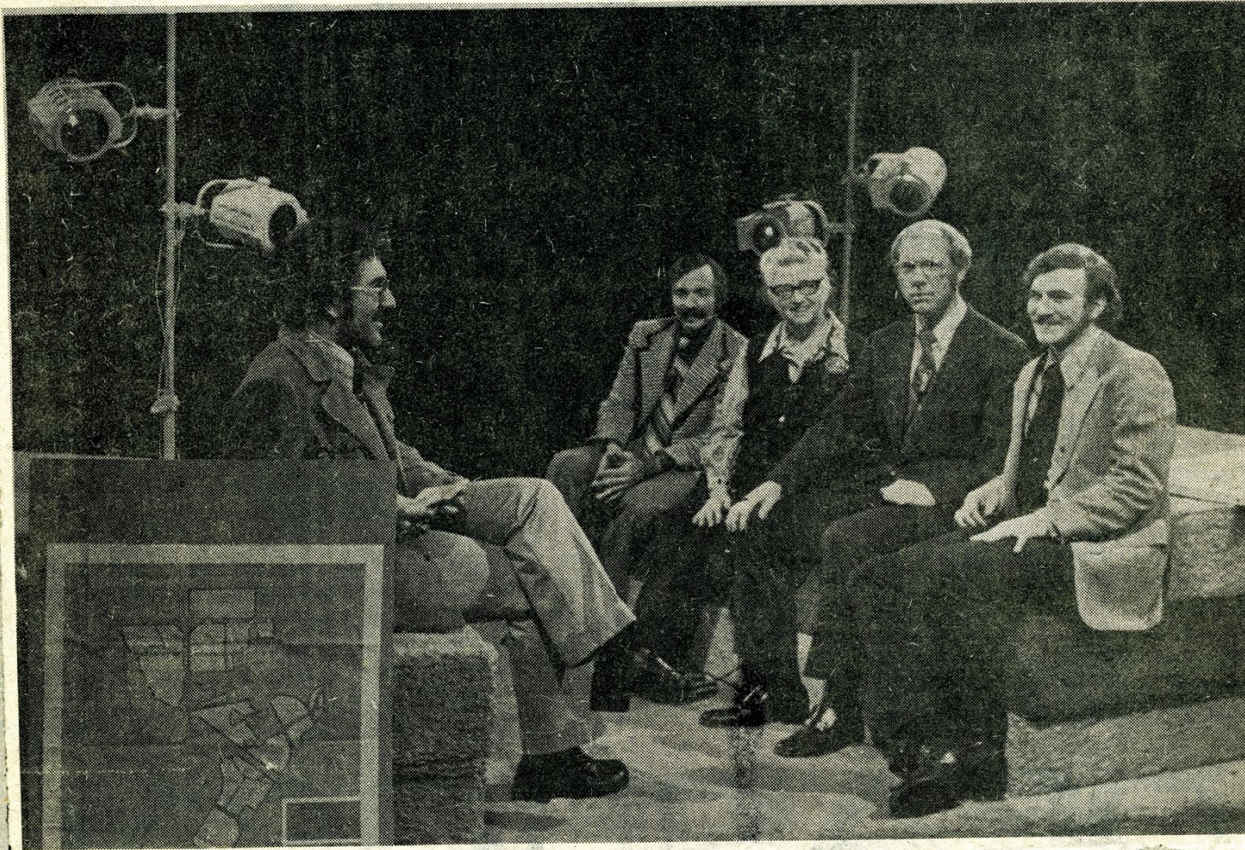
Through articles in the Dearborn Press and Guide and in the alumni publications we've followed your career and applauded your efforts at UofM. Your impact on us has lasted all these years, and we are still active in the conservancy efforts in Alger County where we live and in the Keweenaw Peninsula where we regularly visit.

Thank you for your dedication, and congratulations on this 20th Anniversary of the EIC. We're looking forward to watching your legacy lecture.

This is us our senior year in the library where we spent most of our time. Yes, we actually studied. :)

Marilynn Bachorik





Ronnie Tront

Caption from photo: "It's Your Turn, a WTWS (PBS) Channel 56 public service program, will feature a one half hour program on the Henry Ford Wildlife Preserve in Dearborn. It will spotlight efforts of the Citizens for Henry Ford's Wildlife Preserve and the Attorney General to protect the Preserve from destruction by the Ford Motor Land Development Corporation and the Wayne County Road Commission. Guests on the program are: David L. Malhalab, (left side) moderator and chairman of the Fairlane Property Owners Association of Dearborn Heights; Chuck Alpert, (right side left) Assistant Attorney General; Iris Becker, Educator Dearborn Public Schools; Dr. Orin G. Gelderloos, Associate Professor & Director of Natural Areas for University of Michigan-Dearborn and Jack Smiley, Vice Chairman for Henry Ford's Wildlife Preserve.




Dear Dr. Gelderloos,

My wife and I would like to thank you and everyone involved with the Environmental Interpretive Center at U of M Dearborn. My wife and I met in 1983 while students at U of M Dearborn and immediately began enjoying the nature areas that would become part of the EIC. Whether through classes initially with you and others in the biology department, or through extra credit activities such as bird banding, or through additional community programs, we became lifelong fans and supporters of the EIC. Even now, 38 years after you showed us so many great things about biology and nature, we still regularly visit the EIC for spring birding migrations, walks, relaxation, and appreciation of such a great nature area in the heart of a busy city. Dr. Gelderloos, you have played a big part in our family's life, including us passing our love of the outdoors and the environment to our two grown sons who often accompanied us to the EIC over the years. Thank you for all you have done, and know that you've had a very positive impact on so many!

Very Sincerely,

Todd and Diana Williams





There are two people who I credit for my following my dream of teaching others about nature. The first was my mother. The second was Dr. Orin Gelderloos. After taking Field Biology with Dr. G., I knew I had to get kids and adults excited about bugs and plants, be able to mimic bird calls, and share enthusiasm for the natural world with many, many people.

Dr. G., you are truly one of the most amazing people I've known. Your energy, passion for the environment, and ability to recognize former students years after they graduate is unmatched.

Thank you for all your years of teaching and bringing nature into the lives of so many. I am incredibly grateful for having learned so much from you. Best wishes to you!

Jennifer Panek





The first time Dr. Gelderloos asked me questions about fungi I was completely floored. I didn't feel like I had any right to teach someone with his expertise, someone who helped shape my education, yet he eagerly wanted to know all I could tell him and more. To approach someone with far less overall experience as an equal and as someone to learn from is absolutely refreshing. May we all remember to be just as humble throughout our lives, no matter how much we come to know.

– Laura/Zeke Walker





The Walker/Robichaud Family

Dr. G,

You are a legend, and a beloved member of the Walker and Robichaud family. Congratulations on a decades long career! May your retirement be as enriching as the knowledge you have instilled in so many lives. The seeds of your intelligence will forever grow in all of us. – Liz Robichaud

Dr. Gelderloos is a very conscientious person with a good sense of humor!

– Evalyn Walker

Doc G,

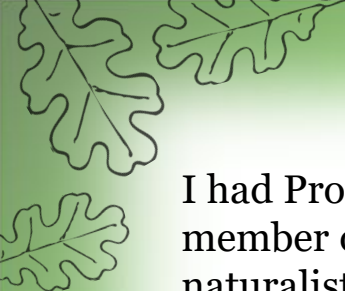
You are an inspiration for us all, period!

– Joe Walker



Patricia Gillis





I had Professor Gelderloos for environmental studies in the early 1970s when I was a member of the first freshman class of 1972. I also had an opportunity to work as a naturalist guide in the environmental studies area long before the Center was created.

Not long ago, many years after graduation, I quietly witnessed and walked by Orin and his field biology class. Much to my surprise, Orin recalled my name and stopped me to introduce me to his class as a former student of his. More recently, we also had the pleasure to serve together on the host committee for the international meeting of the Air & Waste Management Association in Cobo Hall.

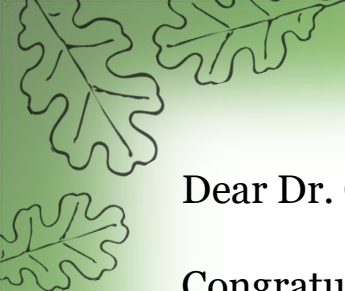
Orin will always be one of my favorite professors and teachers ever, including time I. my Master's program at SNR and law school. He is an inspiration and mentor to many, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to Orin for giving me the opportunity to learn and work with him!

Thomas Wilczak



Greg Norwood





Dear Dr. Gelderloos,

Congratulations on your retirement, the tremendous impact you have made on the environmental program at the University of Michigan – Dearborn, and the lasting impression that you have made on many students at the UM – Dearborn that may have been their first true awareness of the importance of environment stewardship. I was one of these students and due to a bump in my path at UM – Ann Arbor was fortunate enough to experience a year of environmental courses taught by you prior to returning to Ann Arbor for graduation. My original plan of being a dentist was replaced by a desire to work in the environmental field. I used this desire and knowledge obtained through environmental coursework to begin and develop a career of over 30 years in Solid Waste Management. I am grateful to have crossed your path at a young age and I wish you all the best in your next journey in life.

Sincerely,

Dave Herberholz



Hi Orin: Congratulations and best wishes on your retirement! I will always cherish the opportunity I had to work with you and experience your remarkable creativity in the 1970s. Here are a few of my favorite memories from MEL—a truly inspired and inspiring undertaking. Best, David



David Sokoloff

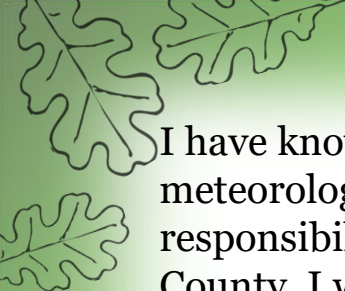
Dear Orin:

Thanks for the memories – all good! You are a gentleman's gentleman who has been on the side of the angels on environmental issues from day 1.

I am also deeply indebted to your advice on growing environmental friendly lawns and laws. My attached picture says it all!

Donald Anderson



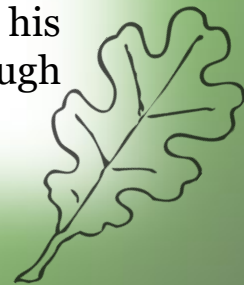


I have known Dr. Gelderloos since the early 1970s. At that time, I was the staff meteorologist for the Wayne County Air Pollution Control Division. One of my responsibilities was placing air monitoring trailers in representative locations around the County. I wanted to place a monitor near the center of the County and generally upwind of the heavy industrial area to the south and east. The University of Michigan Dearborn Campus was perfect. I was put in touch with Dr. Gelderloos. We met one spring day and, and I remember walking in a field that was to be the new entrance to the expanded campus near Evergreen Rd. Suddenly, Dr. Gelderloos stopped and pointed down to a pair of grasshoppers mating. “Wow, look at that,” he exclaimed. I was amazed as the row homes of northeast Philadelphia had flies and sparrows, but mating grasshoppers! I had never seen something like that. I definitely wanted to hang with this guy.

Ultimately, we found a location on campus for the air monitoring trailer, and it remained there for many years.

We stayed in contact over the years through the various changes in my job. We would see each other at an air pollution conference and at a Master Gardeners meeting. We took his River Rouge boat tour a few years ago. For a few years, my wife and I would walk through the Dearborn woods on Mother's Day and send him a photograph.

Alan Greenberg



Dr. G (aka Opa) has inspired and educated our family through the years!
We still have a lot to learn...



Mary Gelderloos





We are forever grateful to Dr. Gelderloos for helping create the Parkhurst Natural Areas Fellowship at The University of Michigan-Dearborn.

It aptly memorializes our parents' legacy: Ken's loyalty to the University of Michigan and commitment to helping others, Marion's love of nature and education.

Letters received over the years from Fellowship recipients like Steve Locke, Kimberly Daly, Katherine Evans, Deirdre Devlin, Dana Wloch, Raymond Sullivan, Mary Fastiggi, Sara Whitaker, Emily Johnson, and Griffin Bray are treasured reminders of this legacy.

Thank you, Dr. G., for protecting the environment, teaching with passion and creativity, and inspiring our mother to establish this endowment.

Sincerely,

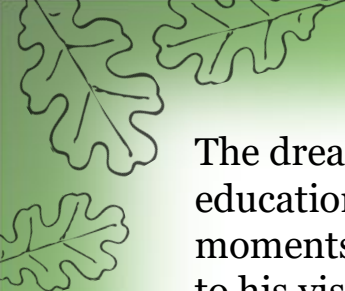
Todd Parkhurst and Prindle Parkhurst LaBarge





Jessie Snow





The dream of Dr. Gelderloos to build an Environmental Interpretive Center to expand the educational mission of UM-D was surely ambitious. I have no doubt that there were moments of discouragement along the way. Let us all applaud him for remaining dedicated to his vision.

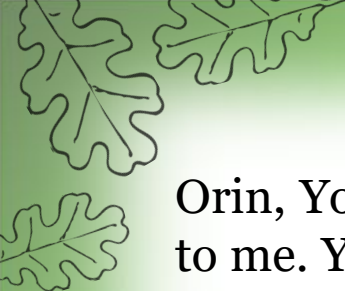
It was a joy to be present at the opening of this extraordinary facility, and that joy returned every time that I came back to it. The entry wall of delightful tiles painted by children must bring a smile to the face of everyone who arrives. Besides being a charming depiction of the plants and animals that the visitors may soon be seeing, it may give us hope that children—as well as adults—can learn lessons at the Center, grow in their appreciation of nature, and resolve to become good stewards of the environment.

In closing, let me say, thank you, Orin, from the little girl who walked in the woods, the woman who learned so much for programs, and the faculty member who is proud to have had you as a colleague. I wish you all the best as you continue your journey.

Sincerely,

Linda Rapp

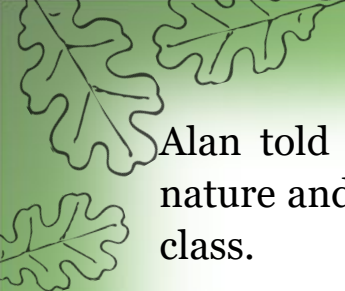




Orin, You were and are of the special group of colleagues that matter most to me. You were always sympathetic to issues I might have/had and shared joy in the feelings toward the natural world and to people living their lives in their ways. I was so proud that you actually cared about me and my family. It was fun to share about the books I knew about that are worth special attention, teaching in a way that got the students out into the field to expose them to the wonder of seeing and feeling and smelling and hearing, and allowing the students to be more independent in their research. I could go on and on, but just know that you are in my heart as one of the true real people I know. Have a continuing wonderful life of meaning!!!

Judith Heady





Alan told me about Dr. Gelderloos' field biology class, and because I was interested in nature and wildflowers, Dr. Gelderloos allowed me to take the class. It remains my favorite class.

I was impressed that years later, I met people who were as much as twenty years younger than me who mentioned the field biology class. For example, at least 30 years after I took his class, I was helping lead a tour for the City of Novi of a natural area where a group of volunteers had planted wildflowers rescued from another area where a school was to be built. During the tour, my co-leader, a young man who worked in the Parks and Recreation Department, warned the tour participants to not eat any of the vegetation in the woods. He then reached up, picked a leaf from a Basswood tree and shoved it in his mouth. I tried not to laugh because I had seen that before. I suspected that I knew where he learned that move - from Dr. Gelderloos. As we continued the tour, I went up to him and whispered, "Hmm, Dr. Gelderloos?" He said "Yes, it was the best class I had ever taken."

Happy retirement, Dr. Gelderloos

Barbara Greenberg



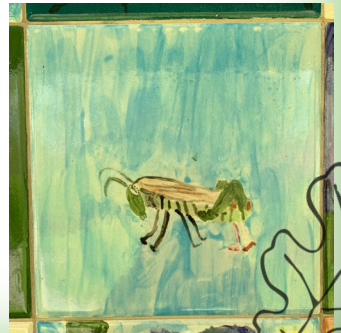


**EIC Tile Wall Artists
20 years later**



Spending afternoons at the EIC and natural areas with my dad gave me an appreciation for quiet nature walks, an ability to notice subtleties like a turtle head poking out of the water, and an admiration for the screw that holds the world together. I hope that students of the future see the tadpole and grasshopper I painted on the tile wall out front, peek at the serenity of the rain garden, and are able to bring with them even an ounce of memories and meaning that I hold in connection to the Environmental Interpretive Center.

Jessica Briscoe (Perrin)



Being a part of the Young Naturalists program 20 years ago was one of the things that inspired my love for the outdoors that I still feel to this day.

Andrew Furton





I wasn't much of a nature-lover in third grade when I made my tile for the EIC wall. Did my initial visit to the EIC, when it first opened, spark my admiration of nature? It's impossible to say. But I'm honored to have been a part of the inauguration 20 years ago. Here's to many more years of educating our community, and instilling a love and appreciation of the natural world!

Mary Getschmann





My time as a Young Naturalist had a huge impact on me, so much so that I still have vivid memories of various lessons. As previously quoted in the most recent EIC newsletter, "I'm a piece of this building" and I am so proud to have contributed to a place where future children have been able to learn to appreciate nature just like I did so many years ago.

Kathryn Gonsior





My 3 sons and I all made tiles in 1997. I remember going out into the woods with Rick Simek and him telling everyone to “think small,” to look closely at nature and draw something detailed.

I often walk the trails in all seasons, alone or with friends and enjoy the wildlife. I see something new every time I visit. Thank you for preserving and maintaining this property for future generations.

Emily Nietering





The EIC was an important part of my experience growing up in Dearborn. It was a connection to nature for someone who grew up very much in the city. It helped me appreciate the dappled shade of the tree canopy and the ecological diversity that was so close to my home. I'm so happy it has flourished for 20 years and hope this education will continue for many more to come!

Nathan Nietering





I am an alumni of U of M and my Daughter Anna (who is also an Alumni) were some of the group who made tiles for the wall of the EIC. While she has been married and moved away to Virginia, I still live here in Dearborn. I remember very well which tiles are mine and Anna's. I look at them almost every time I come to visit the EIC.

Carol Allie

