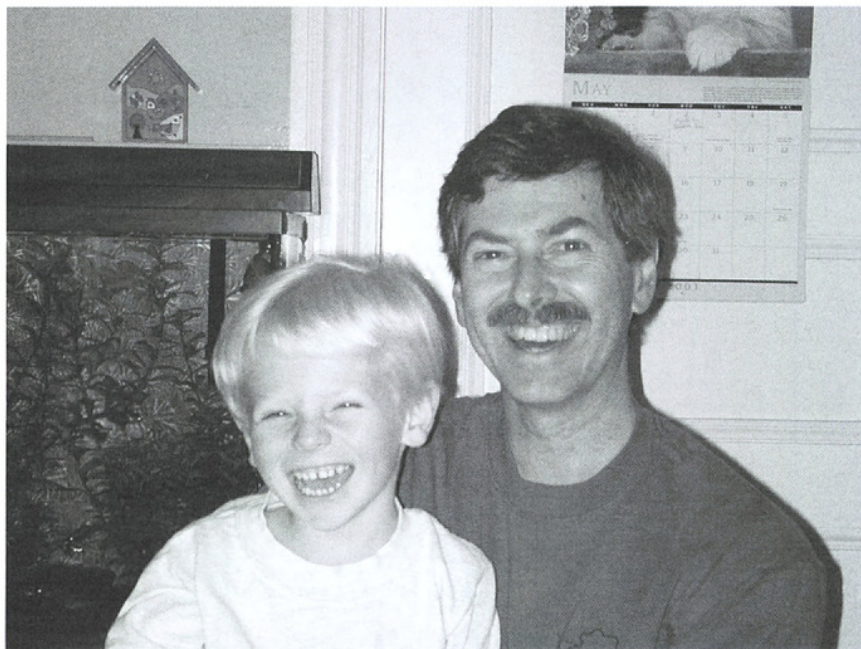


IN MEMORIAM

CRAIG WILLIAM GREENE
1949–2003



Craig William Greene, the Elizabeth Battles Newlin Chair in Botany at the College of the Atlantic (COA) in Bar Harbor, Maine, died on 2 October 2003 following a long struggle with pancreatic cancer. He is missed by family, friends, students, and colleagues for his enthusiasm, professional accomplishments, and friendship.

Craig was born in Geneva, New York and earned a B.S. from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, majoring in Forest Botany. He received an M.Sc. in Plant Taxonomy from the University of Alberta, where he worked on the taxonomy of *Smelowskia calycina* (Cruciferae) in North America under the guidance of John G. Packer. His Ph.D. was in Biology from Harvard University, his major advisor was Reed C. Rollins, and his dissertation was “The Systematics of *Calamagrostis* (Gramineae) in eastern North America.”

After completing his Ph.D. in 1980, Craig went to COA where he was a revered teacher and active in many other parts of the institution. Craig’s teaching gift came from his broad understanding of the natural world, clarity of expression, and compassion for students. In Alberta, in Cambridge, and at COA, he taught a wide range of courses. In more

than two decades at COA, he offered courses in Biology, Economic Botany, Introductory Botany, Genetics, Morphology and Diversity of Plants, Natural History, Plant Taxonomy, Plant Systematics, Population and Community Ecology, and Woody Plants. He especially enjoyed field courses and took students to many wonderful sites on Mount Desert Island (MDI). He chaired several committees at COA and, starting in 1996 was Associate Dean of Advanced Studies with administrative responsibility for the Masters of Philosophy in Human Ecology.

Craig's research focused on agamic complexes and the coastal flora of Maine. His work on high polyploidy, facultative agamospermy, and complex patterns of morphology in *Calamagrostis* (Poaceae) was a significant contribution to our knowledge of evolution in agamic complexes. His interest in *Calamagrostis* also included floristic treatments, such as *The Jepson Manual* (California), *Vascular Plants of British Columbia*, and *Flora of North America* (his treatment is in press). Craig's expertise in agamic complexes easily translated to *Amelanchier* (Rosaceae), which was particularly attractive because coastal Maine is a center of diversity of the genus. Craig got COA students involved in getting chromosome counts, carrying out experimental pollinations, and assessing patterns of population variability in populations of MDI shadbushes. Craig held high standards in his research and publications. His science was founded on rigorous methodology and lead to prudent conclusions that were succinctly presented and illustrated with high-quality graphics.

Not long after moving to Maine, Craig began working on its coastal flora, especially on MDI and in Acadia National Park. With students and collaborators, he carried out surveys of endangered plant species and freshwater aquatic vegetation. He worked for many years on the flora of the park, and a publication on this flora is in preparation. He was an ecological consultant for Acadia National Park starting in 1985 and a member of the Maine Endangered Plant Technical Advisory Committee (later called the Botanical Advisory Group) starting in 1987.

Craig balanced his commitment to his profession with devotion to family and friends. He also sustained passionate interests in fly-fishing, home-brewing, bicycling, and nature photography. He had a life-long love of fishing mountain brooks, especially those near the Adirondack cabin built by his great grandfather and grandfather in 1911. Many friends delighted in his high-quality home brews, which were also home-labeled with names such as Otter Ale and Badger Beer. His beer-brewing log records a total of 1535 gallons, with production extending

into the last year of his life. In the late 1980s Craig took up bicycling. He helped organize and rode in the annual Tour de Cure fund-raising ride on MDI every year that it was held, including 2003. Except for that year, he always rode the 100-kilometer option in the tour, a beautiful ride near the shores of MDI. During his many botanical field trips, Craig took pictures. In the past couple of years he developed some of his favorites, and they reflect his love of the natural world and his creativity. There was a show of his photographs at COA in 2002.

The high esteem held for Craig was clearly evident on 21 May 2003 when the Botany Lab at COA was dedicated to him. The event packed an auditorium with COA faculty and staff, current and former students, and family, as well as many professional colleagues and friends from near and far. For almost three hours, there was heart-felt gratitude, fond recollections, and praise for all Craig did for so many people. The words on the bronze plaque outside the Botany Lab summarize his stature: "His knowledge, excellence in teaching, and enthusiasm for the role of plants in human affairs have inspired two decades of students and beautified the landscape of our campus."

Craig was supported throughout his illness by family and many friends, and he died at home among them.

—Christopher S. Campbell, Department of Biological Sciences,
University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5722.



Campbell, Christopher S. 2004. "Craig William Greene 1949—2003." *Rhodora* 106, 77–79.

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