



Robert Joseph Schwob

October 19, 1940 - April 5, 2026

Robert "Bob" Schwob, age 85, passed away on April 5, 2026, at home in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, with family by his side.

Born in St. Peter, Minnesota, Bob grew up in neighboring Le Sueur, where his lifelong fascination with the natural world first took root. He graduated from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, in 1962 with a degree in Biology and Natural Sciences. He later earned a master's degree from Bemidji State University.

Bob met Margaret "Peg" Connelly while both were teaching in Minneapolis, and they married in 1964. Their partnership was one of deep loyalty, shared curiosity, and a mutual love of learning and exploration. They raised three sons, Christopher, Mark, and David, in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Bob shared his love of nature with his family by organizing hiking, canoeing, and skiing trips in northern Minnesota and summer road trips to national parks and monuments across the United States and Canada. He and Peg later traveled extensively, enjoying extended hiking adventures in Europe and New Zealand. On camping trips with his sons and eight grandkids, Papa Bob entertained with stories of trips past and gave advice on everything from knot tying to camp etiquette.

An educator at heart, Bob brought the natural world to life for generations of learners. For 34 years, he taught biology, anatomy, and earth sciences at Itasca Community College (now Minnesota North College - Itasca Campus) in Grand Rapids. He initiated and volunteered with community education programs for youth through seniors. Outside the classroom, Bob was still educating; he delighted in revealing the hidden details of everyday plants, highlighting geological features others might overlook, and pointing out constellations in the night sky.

Bob was deeply engaged in the Grand Rapids community, serving on the library board, contributing to numerous church committees, and participating in the local theater community. He had many long-standing friends, with whom he enjoyed hiking trips in Glacier National Park, fishing excursions, and gourmet dinner club gatherings.

Having fun was important to Bob. He had an impish sense of humor (delightfully inappropriate on occasion) and a gift for a well-timed joke. At home, he was known for the satisfaction he took in skunking someone in a game of cribbage and for his participation in family roughhousing - both instigating and refereeing.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Ruth Schwob, and brothers John and Thomas. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Peg; sons Christopher (Amy), Mark (Judy), and David (Lynn); grandchildren Alena, Abbey, Vaughan, Aidan, Henry, Connor, Mara, and Andrew; and sister Mary Jo Shaver.

The family extends their gratitude to those who provided care to Bob on his journey: Dr. John Seng and the staff at Minnesota Oncology, and the staff of Our Lady of Peace Hospice & Home Health Care. Their expertise, support, and compassion were a comfort to Bob and his family.

Please join us in celebrating his life on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2914 W. 44th Street, Minneapolis. Livestream begins at 10:55 a.m. at <https://www.stthomasmpls.org/funerals/>.

Memorials may be directed to:

St. John's Abbey Woodworking - Attn: Fr. Lew Grobe, O.S.B., 2900 Abbey Plaza, Collegeville, MN 56321

Our Lady of Peace Hospice & Home Health Care, <https://ourladyofpeacemn.org/donate/>

A charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of St. Thomas the Apostle (Mpls)
2914 West 44th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Church of St. Thomas the Apostle (Mpls)
2914 West 44th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Tribute Wall



“ Love Nick and Jason purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Robert Joseph Schwob.



Love Nick and Jason - April 29 at 11:16 PM



“ Love Nick and Jason planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Joseph Schwob.

Love Nick and Jason - April 29 at 11:16 PM

GR

“ Gene and Gregg were fortunate to experience many of these moments with Bob. We knew him as someone who valued deep, long standing friendships and truly loved sharing experiences with the people around him.

Gene and Bob hiked together in Glacier National Park and gathered for gourmet dinner club evenings filled with great food, meaningful conversation, and plenty of laughter. His wonderful sense of humor was always present, bringing warmth and lightness to every gathering.

Some of our most cherished memories are fishing trips to the Boundary Waters, where Bob patiently taught us about being present and appreciating the beauty around us. At night, he would help us understand the stars above us, turning the sky into a source of wonder and learning.

Our lives are better because we knew Bob, learned from him, and shared in his generosity, curiosity, humor, and friendship.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and loved ones, with heartfelt condolences from the entire Radecki family.

Gregg Radecki - April 29 at 12:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Joseph Schwob.

April 23 at 11:29 AM

MC

“ As a little sister of Peg&Bob, I remember traveling by car and Peg and Bob and Frida were in the front seat and I was in the backseat and Frida was in a Styrofoam box that was taped, but she parentheses

Marianne Connelly - April 18 at 10:37 AM

MC

*As a little sister of Peg & Bob, I remember traveling by car and Peg and Bob and Frida were in the front seat and I was in the backseat and Frida was in a Styrofoam box that was taped, but she decided to join us. Frida was a snake! Bob was great teaser and a lot of fun and he calmly put Friday back in her box. I will miss him immensely 📖🙏
Marianne Connelly*

Marianne Connelly - April 18 at 10:42 AM

ML

“ We will be planting an evergreen tree in memory of Bob here in the Northwoods in honor of his legacy as a biologist and love of nature that he shared with all of us. Peace and All Good, Marianne Connelly and Mary Bridget Lawson 🙏💙🌲

Mary Bridget Lawson - April 18 at 10:34 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Schwob.



April 15 at 01:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Schwob.



April 14 at 03:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Joseph Schwob.

April 14 at 03:38 PM