

Alumni and Friends Rally to Support Tom Simpson

33 Alumni and Other Friends Reach Out During His Recovery from Strokes

By David Dunagan

Tom Simpson, a friend to many of us across the US, suffered two strokes last fall and is recovering in Nashville, Tennessee. Tom's been such a brilliant leader as a biologist and Senior Vice President at CH2M HILL and as President of the Georgia Nature Photographers Association several years ago.



Tom in Atlanta, Fall 2022

Tom's been having a tough time, with stays in both a hospital and a rehab facility. A couple of photographer friends (Tracey and Marcia) and I decided to drive up and see if we could lift his spirits. We spent over 4 hours at the rehab facility on Monday, June 12, with Tom

and 2 of his 3 daughters: Shannon and Kim. He's lost quite a lot of weight, but he's sharp and alert. In fact, the old Simpson wit and charm still shine through!

After a brief visit in Tom's room, we moved to a conference room and watched a 21-



Marcia, Kim, Tom, and David enjoying a Video.

minute video called "Messages for Tom" on the big TV screen. In the video, 33 of Tom's friends with smiling faces expressed their feelings for Tom, recalling good times together and wishing him a return to full health. Tom, Kim, and Shannon were clearly moved by the outpouring of affection and the flood of memories.

The video includes messages from 11 CHAA members: Doug Baughman, Jim Bays, John Caldwell, David Dunagan, Steve Gong, Don and Lee Holmes, Bill Kreutzberger, Regina McClintock, Mike Mynhier, and Ronald Vaughn. Here's a [link](#) to a Google folder containing the video, along with more photos taken during our visit.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FMV6IUTi9CUmW6oPGHB3SGaywg9Hbq02?usp=sharing>

While we were still in the conference room, we enjoyed a shorter, humorous video [\[link\]](#) called “That Wascally Wabbit!” That video shows a rabbit and some of its wildlife friends that are eager to see Tom back in Atlanta. It was great to see Tom laugh again, especially since I made this video in the whimsical Simpson style! (It’s at the same [link](#).)



Shannon, Kim, Tom in Courtyard

The six of us then moved to the courtyard and sat reminiscing about Tom's long career as a CH2M HILL biologist and relived some good times. He brought back vivid memories of his work, especially in the areas of pollution prevention and regulatory compliance projects. As usual, he told his stories with humor and enthusiasm. Tom’s wife Cindy could not make the trip but is eagerly looking forward to welcoming him back soon.

I’m glad to report that Tom’s still the inspiring champion so many of us love and admire.