

**Obituary for Norman “Mick” Meader
June 17, 1951 – February 10, 2017**



Norman “Mick” Meader passed away in Tucson, Arizona on February 10, 2017 at the age of 65 after 5-month struggle with non-smoking-related lung cancer. Mr. Meader was born to Robert Daniel and Ruth Jeanette Meader on June 17, 1951 in the rural farming community of Eldora, Iowa. He was preceded in death by both of his parents, his two older sisters, Betty and Roberta, and his partner, Richard L. Holmes. He is survived by his younger sister Sally Meader-Roberts of Midland, Texas and several nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and nephews, who live in the Midwest.

Mr. Meader spent his childhood and teen years growing up in Eldora, where he spent much of his time hiking, boating and fishing around nearby Pine Lake and the Iowa River, often with his sister Sally. This endowed him with a deep appreciation of the out-of-doors, which he maintained throughout his life. He subsequently graduated from Estes Park High School in Colorado in 1969. His parents vacationed each year in nearby Rocky Mountain National Park and moved to Estes Park in 1968 in the hopes of retiring there. That dream was short lived, however, and the family returned to Iowa in 1969 following his graduation. He then attended the University of Northern Iowa, from which he obtained a B.A. in Geology in 1973.

Following graduation from the University of Northern Iowa Mr. Meader attended the University of Arizona, from which he received his M.S. in Geosciences in 1977. He graduated at a boom time in the oil industry and was hired out of graduate school by Oklahoma-based Cities Service Oil Company, for which he worked four years as an interpreter of reflection seismology records. Mr. Meader left Cities Service out of disenchantment with the oil industry in 1981 but returned a year later to work for Marathon Oil Company’s research center in Littleton, Colorado. That employment lasted for three years through 1985, when health issues forced him from his job.

Mr. Meader returned to Tucson in 1986 and worked for Mountain States Mineral Enterprises for a year before being hired into the Department of Geosciences at the University of Arizona as a staff member. There he worked for 23 years as an administrative assistant for the Geophysics Group, which had just begun a program in reflection seismology, his industry specialty. Mr. Meader enjoyed his many years of working with faculty and graduate students in the department. He was respected by the Geosciences Department as a personable, generous, dependable and resourceful colleague, equally conversant with helping members of the public identify their rock and mineral specimens, and with ensuring that research grant applications were submitted on time and in the correct manner.

Following retirement in 2010, Mr. Meader became very active in conservation of the middle and lower San Pedro River Valley, a place he had come to love deeply for its beauty and its unspoiled environment. As a property owner in Cascabel, he became a leader of the Cascabel community's efforts to save their valley from encroaching development and degradation. His contributions to environmental debate were invariably founded on thorough research. He was well known for his steadfast opposition to the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, and argued his case eloquently before the Arizona Corporation Commission. To his great disappointment, the Commission approved the project. He served as Co-Chair of the Cascabel Working Group, which opposed the project, and chaired the Conservation Committee of the Cascabel Conservation Association. He was also a founding board member of the Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance. Mr. Meader became Co-President of the Cascabel Conservation Association in 2012 and served as a board member until his death. He was also a long-time shareholder in the closely related Saguaro Juniper Corporation, a ranching-conservation enterprise founded by Jim Corbett of the Tucson-based sanctuary movement.

Mr. Meader was associated with Pima Friends Meeting of Tucson and was a 20+-year member of the Zen Desert Sangha, his principal spiritual home. In addition, he served as secretary of the Tucson chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays) and worked with the Rainbow Interfaith Community and Wingspan Multi-Faith Working Group, which sought to overcome the alienation between faith communities and the LGBT community. Mr. Meader helped organize the annual October Pride Service for several years.

Mr. Meader will be remembered for his gentle and open spirit, for his generosity, and for his quiet dignity and equanimity in the face of a terminal diagnosis. Donations in his honor can be made to the Cascabel Conservation Association, PFLAG Tucson, and the Zen Desert Sangha. A celebration of his life will take place at the Zen Desert Sangha on Saturday, April 1 at 11 a.m. On Saturday, March 18, another celebration will begin at 10 a.m. in Cascabel, where his ashes will be interred and scattered with those of his partner, Richard L. Holmes. A festive meal will follow in the afternoon at the Cascabel Community Center. Mr. Meader wants his life be celebrated with good cheer, good stories, good music and good wine.