



## Gordon Grender

August 23, 2020

Gordon Grender, 90, died August 23, leaving wife Evelyn, sister Jan Heiser with husband Arlan and son Jay; children Andy and Ian, Cindy, David, and Diane, nine grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Born in the upper midwest, died in the Appalachians, Gordon said in the meantime he did a lot of things, enjoyed many of them, had a wonderful family, and a good life. He was an award-winning professor of geology at Virginia Tech for many years. Gordon is warmly remembered for the books he recorded for his grandchildren's delight and for the native plants and wildlife habitat he nurtured in the backyard. He recommended to all planting a native shrub, and a long walk with someone you love.

# Tribute Wall

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Grender was the reason I went into geology in 1972. He was a fabulous educator and a great person who focused on students as well as research. At 70 years old I look back on my successful geoscience career and can still hear his words in my head. The world is a better place because he was in it!  
Gordon Matheson (VT class of 1974)

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**gordon** - April 03, 2023 at 01:41 PM

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“ I owe my entire professional career and all that it has brought to me to Dr. Grender. He taught the first class I attended (800 AM Monday morning) as a freshman. I arrived at Tech as an English major, unsure of what I wanted to do in life. At the end of 9 weeks, I knew I wanted to be a geologist. When it came time to form my thesis committee for my MS, I asked him to be on mine, remarking that “you got me into this, you might as well help me get out”. His good-natured concern and wry sense of humor were truly a gift.

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**Noel Simmons ('81)** - April 03, 2023 at 08:44 AM

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“ One of the Geology Giants from the 1960s. He made a mark on all of us that had the pleasure of his instruction.

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**Cletus Lee** - September 20, 2020 at 10:32 AM