



Timothy Joseph Holschlag

May 6, 1949 - September 10, 2021

Timothy J. Holschlag, age 72, died Friday, Sept 10, 2021 at his home in Norway, Michigan. Tim was born on May 6, 1949 in New Hampton, Iowa, the son of Carl Holschlag and Maurine (Johnson) Holschlag. He grew up in New Hampton, attending school at St Joseph's Community School and graduating from New Hampton High School. He served in the U.S. Army infantry from 1968 to 1970, and was a member of the 82nd Airborne. Upon his discharge from the Army, Tim he returned to Iowa and studied at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Tim married Elizabeth Michael in 1972 at Iowa City. After attending college, they lived in Chicago, Illinois, for 2 years, then moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota. In Chicago and Minneapolis, Tim attended trade school and worked as a machinist. In 1984, Tim united with Lyn Verthein, living with her in Minneapolis, and they married in 1990. In 1989 they bought a home near the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, where they lived for the next 31 years until they moved to Michigan in 2020.

Throughout his life, Tim had a passionate love for the outdoors. As a youngster in Iowa, he spent every minute he could outdoors hunting or fishing (only interrupted by having to go to school or to work). In adult life, his free time was devoted to the outdoors, including frequent camping trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Working as a machinist, then a few

other jobs, he spent more and more time outdoors, until 1988, when he quit all other employment to become a full-time outdoor writer and fishing guide.

Tim Holschlag's first book, "Stream Smallmouth Fishing," was published in 1990, and became a much-loved classic on smallmouth bass fishing. He went on to write and publish several more books and produce DVDs. He wrote for outdoor and fishing magazines as well, with over 600 articles and hundreds of his photos published. He became a nationally recognized authority on smallmouth bass. Tim and his wife Lyn also established a business, Smallmouth Angler, to serve smallmouth bass fishers, with books and DVDs, guided fishing trips, seminars and speaking, smallmouth fishing schools, custom-tied flies and specialty tackle, at SmallmouthAngler.com

Tim loved to travel and explore new fishing waters. All of his vacations were fishing trips. He has caught smallmouth bass in practically every place that they can be found (even in Hawaii on a trip with his wife, and on a month-long trip to South Africa). All together, he fished more different waters than any known angler-- over 400 rivers and hundreds of lakes in the U.S., Canada, and South Africa.

Tim was also well-known as an avid conservationist. He co-founded The Smallmouth Alliance river conservation group in 1988, which has grown into multiple chapters in several states including Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Missouri. Smallmouth Alliance groups have been instrumental in getting new fishing regulations and Scenic River designations to protect many waters and their fish. Recognizing his conservation efforts, Tim received the Federation of Fly Fishers James Henshall Award. He was also given the Dr. Thomas F. Waters Stewardship Award for smallmouth bass conservation.

Since catching his first smallmouth bass at the age of 12, over 60 years of fishing, Tim Holschlag developed an encyclopedic knowledge of the fish and fishing techniques, which he loved to share with others. His passion, expertise, and enthusiasm made him an inspiration and a mentor for hundreds

of anglers and outdoorspeople across the U.S. Tim is currently a nominee for the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. (Inductees will be announced in October, 2021).

Although Tim suffered from kidney disease since being diagnosed with it in 2016, he continued to fish, explore, guide, teach and inspire until nearly his last days. In 2020 he moved to his favorite fishing area, the upper peninsula of Michigan. He lived in a unique underground house there, fishing with a variety of clients and friends who visited, many of them staying in “the underground” with him. Still fishing, guiding and instructing, Tim was out on the water nearly 30 days of his last summer, until just 3 weeks before his death.

Tim Holschlag is survived by his sister, Geraldine Brummond of New Hampton, Iowa; his wife Lyn Verthein of Norway, Michigan; his former wife Elizabeth Michael of Iowa; seven nieces and nephews: Becky Schoenfeld, Kathy Roethler, Randy Brummond, Cindy Kellogg, Dan Brummond, Brad Holschlag, and Craig Holschlag; and their children and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Tom Holschlag, brother-in-law LaVern Brummond, brother-in-law Bob Clasen, nephews Dick Brummond and Ryan Holschlag; step-nephew Miles, great-niece Mandy Brummond, and great-nephew Matthew Schoenfeld.

A memorial gathering for family and friends will be held in New Hampton Iowa (date and time to be announced on Tim Holschlag’s memorial web page with the funeral home). Tim was cremated, and a portion of his remains will be buried in New Hampton, Iowa. Portions of his remains will also go to rivers and lakes across the US and Canada where Tim loved to fish. Tim’s ashes will be taken to these waters by select fishing guides, anglers, conservationists, authors, magazine publishers and others who share Tim’s love of the outdoors.

Donations can be made to:

The Nature Conservancy

Attn: Treasury

4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100

Arlington, VA 22203 USA

Arrangements and a memorial web page are at Erickson-Rochon-Nash
Funeral Home in Iron Mountain, Michigan. (WWW.ernashfuneralhome.com).
More information is at SmallmouthAngler.com.

Tribute Wall

LV

“ From Lyn Verthein at SmallmouthAngler.com....

Wow, Tim Holschlag inspired so many people that I don't know and never heard of. I want to keep distributing his books and knowledge as widely as possible so that he can keep inspiring more anglers.... I just received this email from a customer who ordered flies the week that Tim died and waited longer to get them...

Hi Lyn,

I received my fly order. I appreciate the handwritten note. The substitutions you made are perfectly fine. Thanks for taking such care with my selections. Since we previously corresponded, I learned of Tim's passing. I'd like to offer my condolences. Tim and I never met, but his enthusiasm and dedication to the fishing craft - and smallmouth bass! - was inspiring. I also appreciated his honesty and integrity. I'll be making a donation to The Nature Conservancy.

*Thank you again,
Andy Sutthoff*

... A huge "Thank You" to Andy and everyone who is giving to the Nature Conservancy. This is a heroic group, and Tim donated several guided trips and other things to them over the years.

Lyn Verthein - October 01, 2021 at 10:17 PM

LV

“ From Lyn Verthein, Tim Holschlag’s wife...

For 36 years, Tim was my partner in life, love, and then in business. Shortly after meeting Tim in 1984 and dating him for a few months, he invited me along on a big trip through the western U.S., which he had been carefully planning for a long time. (This was a slow process back then—ordering paper maps by postal mail, then studying them, making phone calls on landlines to the forest service, etc.)

Well, I had never really been camping before. So he bought me a sleeping bag and a basic rain suit, then off we went—in a tiny car with no air conditioning, with his small tent to sleep in, a cheap aluminum cook kit, and lots of maps and enthusiasm. Tim had planned a month-long trip. But it was so fun and interesting that we stayed out for 2 months. We slept in our little tent everywhere, I think except for 3 nights at a friend’s house in Seattle, and the big trip included 3 different backpacking trips: up into the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming and in Colorado, and along a wild river in British Columbia.

This amazing trip sealed the deal, and we were together ever since. It was the first of many adventures together-- from the BWCAW, to canoe camping in the Everglades, and many places in between. Tim was the person who introduced me to the outdoors, and made me an outdoorsperson for life.

Here’s what I’ll say about Tim—He was the real thing. He sincerely loved the outdoors. He got a thrill out of every fish he caught, every river or lake, every trail in the woods, birdsongs, mushrooms, trees, flowers, and wildlife of every kind. He was just glad to be in nature, even portaging through mosquito-infested brush, slogging through mud and sweating with a 63-pound canoe on his shoulders.

Tim had an amazing mind, “like a steel trap.” Any bit of information he encountered went into his head and stuck there. And he was

always curious to learn more. He was not the type of gregarious guy that likes to make friendly small talk. But if you wanted to know something about almost anything, he was a font of information, and he had an opinion on it. Yet he was also empathetic and could understand others' point of view.

Tim Holschlag was kind-hearted, generous, honest, wise, skillful, hardworking, and physically fit. He was truly a world-class outdoorsman, companion and life partner. I was privileged to share a life with him.

Lyn Verthein - September 29, 2021 at 12:31 AM

JB

“*Tim was The Best! I will miss the joy and enthusiasm he derived from every single fish. He made each moment on the water an adventure and never lost his explorer spirit. When the SE MN smallmouth shut down Tim was always game for exploring new water, a dry fly mooneye competition, a creek chub tournament or trying to entice a carp with flies. He delighted in each and every hookup.*



Jay Bunke - September 21, 2021 at 07:06 PM

SB

“ 19 files added to the album Memories Album



Sheldon Bolstad - September 20, 2021 at 03:44 PM

SB

It was difficult to take the call from Dan to hear of Tim's passing. My sadness turned to fine memories going through the photos of fishing with Tim over our 35 year friendship. Most years I spent more time fishing with Tim after his guiding season was over. It made for very memorable outings as trophy smb were much more active during cooler water periods than smaller fish.

Pictured in the photo album I uploaded are a number of photos where we caught numerous smb in winter conditions in the Mississippi River in the reg section. One memorable day was on New Years Eve Day where we landed numerous smb fish between 18"-20". That particular day we chipped off the ice on our guides and guzzled coffee and soup to keep warm.

I still have the topwater fly (with the hook clipped off) hanging in my garage from 25 years ago when I tagged Tim in on his eyebrow. At first I thought the fly stung him in his forehead, until his favorite hat went overboard and he did not seem to be concerned. I jumped to the front of the boat & inspected that the fly hook had pierced the thin skin and protruded out a 1/2" away. Grabbing my needle nose pliers I cut the barb end of the hook and removed the fly. Phew! It missed his eye by an inch or so. We then proceeded to retrieve his favorite hat & fished the rest of the day until sunset!

Tim was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge of warm water fisheries. I learned a great deal about smb fisheries and their habitat. It prompted me to read all I could find to attempt to keep up with Tim. I recall fishing an urban dam in Minneapolis with Tim and he identified 13 species of fish that we caught that day. My gosh! Who ever heard of a quill back carp sucker? Tim did and I will forever remember that day. We both came up with other rough fish nicknames: Sheep head were lavender bass, or Iowa trout etc....(both Tim and I grew up in Iowa) There was no end of laughs fishing with Tim!

One of my favorite tactics during quiet periods of travel back to town from fishing was to "pull his chain" over a current event story - which would lead to 15-30 minutes of non-stop "enthusiastic" verbiage on the subject. It was easy to flush out his opinion on nearly every subject. Haha

Tim was on a first name basis with most warm water stream fisheries managers across the country and led the organizing efforts to develop quality fishing regulations across the country. I hope that he will be awarded membership into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in October.

In my mind Tim was a world class character and valued friend. I will

miss Tim greatly, but I have my photos and a few videos to remember him by.

It will be an honor to help scatter his ashes in one or more of his favorite waters.

RIP Tim

Sheldon Bolstad

Sheldon Bolstad - September 27, 2021 at 11:10 AM

RP

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Rich P - September 20, 2021 at 12:17 PM

RP

This was our last guide trip with Tim on July 26, 2021 on the Menominee River. Tim was in his element and we loved every minute of it. RIP.

Rich P - September 20, 2021 at 12:21 PM

ER

“ Here are some photos of Tim on the water.



Eric - September 19, 2021 at 09:53 PM

EH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Edward Hoffman - September 18, 2021 at 04:58 PM

EH

This is the last photo I took of Tim on June 5th, 2021. Jerry and I had been in Norway fishing with Tim and Dan for that entire week, and we took Tim out to dinner every evening after whatever the activities were that day. I have many stories about Tim and will try to gather my thoughts about this remarkable person.

Edward Hoffman - September 18, 2021 at 05:01 PM

“ Stories....Tim could tell some GREAT stories.

Like his nickname in Vietnam: Headshot. But not why you might think.....

Tim told me he'd go out on patrol w/ his platoon for various missions that would take them away from the base camp for several day in a row. What they had to eat was carried on their backs, typical Army rations at the time; canned everything.

Now as you know, Tim was a seasoned hunter since he could first pick up a rifle, and Tim hunted everything back home in Iowa; if there was a season for it, Tim would hunt. And consume what he harvested; he told me about squirrels and how to dress and cook them when I inquired while on the phone with him and seeing a few squirrels in the yard.

So here's Tim, been hunting all his life, out on patrol in S.E. Asia, Vietnam war era, with nothing but Army rations to eat. Looking for an alternative, Tim discovers what he described as a pheasant-like bird that were fairly abundant. And being the crack shot that he is, Tim can easily bag these birds with a single shot to the head from his Army issued M-16 rifle, which makes it easier to clean and consume the bird. Hence, Headshot.

Well..... time to cook the feast. How to do that in the middle of the Vietnam jungle? Simple; disassemble a Claymore mine, and use very small pieces of C4 plastic explosive to fuel a soup pot. After cooking the bird ostensibly by boiling in some liquid, add a variety of Army canned rations for a true rainforest feast.

Sounds rather innocuous, right? Until you learn a bit about Claymore mines and C4 plastic explosive. Taking apart the Claymore wasn't the hazard since the detonation systems could be safely disconnected and C4 plastic explosive is like putty; soft, easily moldable, needs specific ignition source to detonate. It's the

igniting just enough plastic explosive with a Zippo lighter for the C4 to burn steadily, but doesn't realize it's intended purpose; detonation.

That Vietnam pheasant must've awfully tasty to risk blowing your head off to cook it.

Headshot....

*Greg Kozak
Lansing, Michigan*

Greg Kozak - September 15, 2021 at 04:11 PM

LV

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Lyn Verthein - September 14, 2021 at 07:39 PM

LV

This is Tim Holschlag with Dan Johnson, ready to go fishing, on August 23, 2021, at Tim's underground house in Michigan.

Lyn Verthein - September 14, 2021 at 08:22 PM

CG

Tim was a great guy to be around to talk to and of course to fish with. A Hall of Fame angler to be sure. I learned a great deal about Smallmouth Bass from Tim and met many friends through The Smallmouth Alliance founded by Tim. I am shocked and saddened to hear of his passing. He used some of my photos in his books which made me feel good . I will think of him the next time a catch a Smallmouth Bass. He was a pioneer in SM conservation , a visionary a Vet, and a very knowledge person. The angling world will miss him!
Clare Grendler, Circle Pines,Mn.

Clare Grendler - September 20, 2021 at 09:06 PM