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## Obituary

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### Richard F. Fisher Jr. | [Visit Guest Book](#)

May 15, 1941 - May 5, 2012

Richard F. Fisher, Jr. succumbed to pancreatic cancer on May 5, 2012. He was born in Urbana, Illinois May 15, 1941. He graduated from Champaign (Central) High School in 1959. He received a B.Sc. in Forestry with a minor in the history and philosophy of science from the [University of Illinois](#) in 1964. He received a Ph.D. in Soil Science with minors in chemistry and geomorphology from Cornell University in 1968. He served as an Assistant Professor of forest soils at the University of Illinois from 1969 to 1972, and as an Associate Professor of forest soils at the University of Toronto from 1972-1977. From 1977 to 1982 he served as Professor of forest soils and Director of the Cooperative Research in Forest Fertilization program at the [University of Florida](#). From 1982-1990 he served as Professor and Head of the Department of Forest Science at Utah State University. In 1990 he became Head of the Forest Science Department at [Texas A&M University](#) where he later became Dean of the School of Renewable Natural Resources from which he retired in 1999. From 1999 to 2006 he was Director of research and development for Temple-Inland Forest Products Corporation in Diboll, Texas.

Dr. Fisher served as an instructor for the Organization for Tropical Studies field courses in Central America from 1970 until his retirement from Texas A&M in 1999. He is the author of over 100 refereed publications and co-author of several books including "Ecology and Management of Forest Soils".

Dr. Fisher served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee to study forestry research and chaired the National Academy of Sciences Committee to evaluate EPA's E-map Program. He served as President of the National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges. He belonged to the Soil Science Society of America and served as Chairman of the Forest, Range and Wildland Soils Division, SSSA Board, SSSA Journal Editorial Board, as well as a member of many other committees. He belonged to the Society of American Foresters for 36 years, served on several committees and was elected a Fellow in 1986. He was co-editor-in-chief of the international journal, Forest Ecology and Management, for almost 20 years.

He and his wife taught round dancing for 30 years, first in Utah, then in Texas, Colorado and Florida. He was a member of the International Association of Round Dance Teachers (Roundalab) and served as General Chairman from 1997-1999. He was a member of the International Choreographed Ballroom Association, Texas Round Dance Teachers Association, and Florida Round Dance Council.

His recent interests included photography, fly fishing, canoeing, and hiking as well as dancing. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Richard F. and Hannah E. Ponath Fisher. He leaves his wife of 52 years, Karen, sons William Forrest of Bryan, TX, Kevin Royden of Loveland, CO, daughter Marilu Campbell of Vancouver, WA, brother John Albert of Enumclaw, WA and four grandchildren.

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In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the World Forestry Center, 4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97221, any hospice, cancer research center, or [charity of choice](#). A celebration of his life will be held in Vancouver, WA, sometime this summer.

Published in The Bryan-College Station Eagle from May 11 to May 12, 2012

### Sign Guest Book

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*"Dick was my department head, my research colleague, and most of all, my friend. Without a doubt..."*  
- **Mike Messina** (State College, PA)

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