



Lawrence Lee Gardner

February 26, 1958 - March 14, 2025

Lawrence Lee Gardner of Fort Collins passed away March 14th 2025 . He died riding his bike, something he loved to do. He is survived by his wife, Susan Wooldridge, and his four children Amanda Sheldon, Michael Gardner, Drew Gardner, and Zoe Gardner. He was a wonderful father and husband who loved his family as intensely as he loved life. No one in his inner circle doubted his commitment to them, and everyone seemed to be in his inner circle.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio to his father Warren H. Gardner and Lynn Amersbach. He was the 2nd oldest of four children. He spent much of his younger days in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. His active days began early on dirt bikes and swimming in pools. He learned to love music just like his mother and the pain of losing her at an early age has never left him. His father was in sales and influenced him in many ways as well.

Lee Gardner was an avid cyclist for much of his life and was involved in many activities, to include; Karate, Riding Horses, Running, Driving Fast Cars, Fixing Fast Cars and anything to do with a motorcycle. In fact, he had so many interests that it is hard to list him all here in the way that would do him justice.

Professionally Lee Gardner had a long career as a Licensed Clinical Social

Worker. He began in New Jersey working in Substance Abuse Counseling and quickly moved up the ranks to run halfway houses and Direct Programs. His natural leadership ability and intense passion for the work stood out wherever he was employed. At the end of his career he ran a private practice with his wife of 22 years who is also a therapist. She and him took on the world one human being in pain at a time. They loved working together, even though it was challenging at times. Their mission was clear from the day they met.

Early on in his life he was involved in the Survivors motorcycle club. This group of men were his early family and like Lee they embraced life and lived it to the fullest; as much as life would allow. Lee found meditation in his early 50s and was able to overcome much his physical pain, a remnant of living such an adventurous life.

Lee and his family moved to Colorado in 2018, a place he'd dreamed of living for most of his life, a place where he found his home, physically and spiritually. We lost him too soon, however, we all know he is just beginning some grand new adventure. Wish we could go with you Lee.....

Tribute Wall



“ *Bohlender Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Lawrence Lee Gardner*



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - June 04, 2025 at 12:32 PM

AH

“ *I just came across this....I am devastated. Lee had such an impact on my family. My son was diagnosed with autism at 9...Lee actually diagnosed him. We were seeking help for him for some anger issues. We met Lee and Usan when they had their practice in Stowe, Vt. Lee was an incredible therapist and person. He helped my son gain the tools to go on and join the baseball team, have a starring role as Captain Hook in his high school theater production and make life long friends, he just graduated from Boston University with a degree in mechanical engineering, something we could have never imagined before meeting Lee. An incredible person....rest in peace*
Hodgeman family, Vermont

Anita Hodgeman - June 08, 2025 at 08:06 PM

JS

“ Lee had a huge impact on everyone who encountered him. He was a surrogate father to me in my childhood, and one who truly saw me in ways my own father struggled to. Throughout my 35+ year friendship with Amanda, I saw how he guided her and loved his family fiercely, even possessively. He made it clear he believed in my goodness and potential, and made me feel welcomed and cherished. I will always treasure the memories of all the times his guitar playing and singing could be heard from my house 3 doors down, and all the times that his comings and goings were announced by the roar of his motorcycle. His life has challenged and blessed all of us, and we are better for it.

Jamie Smith - June 07, 2025 at 04:00 PM

SL

“ Rest in peace Lee, you will be missed my friend.

I had the privilege of being Lee's Karate instructor and friend, Lee was a dedicated hardworking student. He achieved his black belt and became a great instructor. He pushed himself very hard and encouraged others to do the same. He brought the entire family to train together, we went to tournaments, camps, seminars etc. I have so many fond memories of those times.

Lee was always looking for ways to improve himself, I remember the day he came to me and said " I just started Seal Team Training and I think you would love it". He was right, we started training together early in the mornings, we both loved it!

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, I know how much you all loved Lee.

Steve Little - June 06, 2025 at 07:53 PM

PM

“ Rip my Dear friend
Many years ago we found a friendship that would last a lifetime. So many memories of laughs and sorrow's I will miss you but I will not say good bye because I know God put us together one time so I know we see each other once again in his Kingdom I hope your journey home was swift and are now with your Mom ❤️🙏



Patricia Manderson - June 06, 2025 at 05:28 PM

JS

“ R.I.P. Lee! Keep on riding, the road is long and never ends.

Jerry Skidmore - April 28, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ Share so many memories going back to junior high school. There would be too many to even begin. Sharing college experience, working and friendships brought so many things full circle. The world will vibrate differently my friend. Loving prayers and thoughts to your wife and family my Lee.

Cynthia Nigro - April 27, 2025 at 11:38 PM

GP

“ Rest in Peace Lee! You were quite the character, always larger than life! Many great memories of riding with you in Survivors MC.
Parts

George Gother aka Parts - April 09, 2025 at 12:06 PM

AR

“ Hi there,

My name is Alex and I had the amazing pleasure to be one of Lee's clients for the last 7 years. When I met Lee back in 2018, my life was a mess. I struggled with anger and abusive tendencies, I had chronic back pain from a rugby injury, and I had turned to drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism. A majority of my relationships both with friends and family were shallow and the few deep connections I had were a struggle.

Lee had an exceptional way of making me feel heard, of finding parallels between his own life and mine, of being fully present to help me navigate the toughest parts of change/growth. Our 1-hour weekly sessions quickly turned into my favorite part of each week. Over the course of 7 years, Lee helped me curb my alcohol and drug crutches. He enlightened me to the benefits of meditation. He taught me how to shift my perspective from a need to be controlling/angry to a need to be curious, thoughtful, understanding. He helped me navigate the death of my grandmother, who was the only person in my life that completely understood/cared for me. He encouraged me to and helped me gain the confidence to pursue the opportunity to move across the country for an internship while I was in school at CSU. He stood by my side while I navigated a serious depression that resulted from my college girlfriend breaking up with me. He helped me find ways to massage my relationships and put time and work into deepening my connections with the people I love. And most recently, Lee was helping me adjust to becoming a father to a beautiful baby boy.

I know that our relationship was strictly professional, but I felt like Lee was a part of my family. I grew to love him. In many of our sessions, he would even open up to me about his life, struggles, regrets, triumphs, etc. I can confidently say that Lee saved my life, more than once. With his help, he turned an angsty, pissed off, drunk, drugged child into a family man.

I only found out of his passing yesterday. I had cancelled our last appointment due to a scheduling conflict with a community service event. I am still processing the loss of a truly wonderful man that had an outstanding impact on my life. And I'm sure he has touched

many, many more lives with his work. It is a bit of a shock, just knowing how well he took care of himself.

My condolences go out to his wife and kids. I can only imagine how much of an impact he had on his family, if he was able to make such a large impact on mine with 1-hour therapy sessions.

Rest easy, Lee. I hope to see that beautiful bald head, one day!

Alex Reed - March 25, 2025 at 10:23 AM

AS

Alex, thank you so much for sharing your story with us. It means so much to hear how he positively impacted your life. We are feeling this shock and loss with you. Thank you for witnessing him these past 7 years.

With love, Amanda (his oldest daughter)

Amanda Sheldon - April 27, 2025 at 01:43 PM

SK

Sorry to hear you've moved on bud. I was shocked. You will be greatly missed. I remember thinking that you and I would surely have to fight when we first met over 40 years ago. One weekend at Kittatinny Kampground we took a ride and raced up and down a mountain- me on my new FXR and you on your raked out shovelhead. I won and you were pissed off but we were friends ever since. You were a good friend, there for me when I needed a friend. I will miss you my friend.

Skip - June 06, 2025 at 11:19 PM