



Leonard Roy Roath

November 4, 1949 - August 20, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of L. Roy Roath on August 20, 2025, suddenly at his home in Ft. Collins, Colorado. He was born in Cody, Wyoming, to Ernest and Grace Lucille (Thayer) Roath on November 4, 1949. According to his wishes he will be buried in Luther, Montana, a place of strong and fond memories where he lived and attended school at a formative period of his life. He was a devoted spouse and leaves behind his cherished wife, Nancy, and a combined family of two children, Dan Roath and Erin Grantham; three step-children, Shawna Sands, Chris Doron, and Amy Arnold; many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren; along with siblings H. Lee Roath, Sherrill Busche, and Carolyn Ginnaty.

A dedicated range steward and educator whose career spanned five decades, he spent it pioneering and disseminating land-use grazing management techniques throughout Colorado and across the West, as well as in South America and Australia, that enhanced ecosystems to this day. He worked with the Colorado Integrated Resource Management program from its inception in the mid 80s until he retired. A lifetime member of the Society for Range Management, he was recently awarded its highest honor, The Frederic G. Renner award, in recognition of his years of service to the art of Range Management and the education of many professionals employed in that field today. He will be remembered and missed by his graduate students who continue his legacy, and by the numerous livestock producers and land

management agency people – present and retired – that he worked with throughout his career.

Roy had a passion for fishing, hunting, and woodworking. He was also an avid Colorado State University sports fan, holding season tickets to both football and basketball for decades. His family will miss his stories, his laughter, and his willingness to share time with his grandchildren pursuing those pastimes.

A Funeral Service will be held 1pm, Monday, August 25, 2025 at Bohlender Funeral Chapel. Interment will be held at Tony Cemetery in Luther, Montana.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: the Leonard Roy Roath Memorial Range Science Chair/fund #94551 using this link. <http://www.msuaaf.org/roath> or by mailing donations to MSU Alumni Foundation, PO Box 172750, Bozeman, MT 59717; or the Wyoming wild Sheep Association, <http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/product/donations/>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

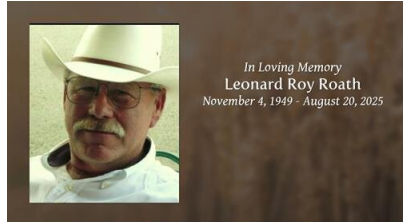
AUG **25**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall



“ *Bohlender Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Leonard Roy Roath* ”



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - August 26, 2025 at 05:22 PM



“ *Bohlender Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Leonard Roy Roath* ”



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - August 25, 2025 at 09:32 AM

DR

“ I’ve a few thoughts to share, mainly they’re my memories of my dad. Dad didn’t throw the ball with me in the yard. I played across three yards by myself batting the ball over and then hopping fences to retrieve it. Because by the time I was wantin’ to throw ball, my parents had split. But Dad did take me fishing.. He’d wake me well before dawn to get on the road, Most nights before, I’d spent nearly sleepless’ because of my excitement. He’d bring hot coffee, his old hand crank ice cutter, and neoprene gloves. And grumble at the other guys using powered augers next to us who drove out into the ice with their pickups. He may have been disappointed that I was a poor fisherman, but I spent a lot of time peering down into the lake watching fish swim by, or havin’ him show me stream eddies and underhangs where fish like to be, and I learned a lot about ecology that way, directly observing nature. And I treasure those memories. We spent bitter cold days on windy Laramie lakes. And listened to the ice pop and groan as it cracked in the sunshine up at red-feather. And he’d often work a fishing afternoon into any range consultation trip he’d taken me on over in Craig, or in Walden.

And Dad took me Hiking, and Hunting, and on endless summer Range tours, where we would bounce in old Forest Service green Suburbans over the sagebrush prairies of Southern Colorado. To this day the scent of crushed sagebrush takes me back to those wide open Western meadows. And all those kind and interested BLM, NRCS, Forest Service and bright eyed college kids in the field, learning Range.

And he would name trees and grasses as we hiked up in the Colorado Rockies. I developed a love of the natural world on those hikes, which I’ve passed on to my girls. But as far as camp food goes, I’ll never not see a can of Vienna tinned sausages and not remember my dad. GROSS!. There’s prolly a six year old can in his truck box to this day (they were always an emergency staple of his). If you can still buy Vienna sausages 🐷🍷♂...

He loved taking us to Colorado State football games. I can still hear him yelling "go! GO!" In my ears. He passed that love on.. to the Granthams mostly. GO RAMS! 🖊️

And also he would shout in the house in support of the broncos!... so loud they prolly heard him in Denver. And so sudden we'd all jump. he'd slap his hand, and whoop, and come bouncing halfway out of his seat...

I liked those football games, but I'm not a Ram..

I went up to MSU, where Dad started his professional path. It kind of felt like homecoming for me, Dad's parents were from there, my Moms parents were from there. It's a special place I've grown to love. He's shared many special memories of Montana with me as he'd often came up to visit, sometimes to teach, sometimes to consult (but mostly to see Clayton, if I'm honest). He'd often grumble about how Bozeman has grown, and share memories of what it was like in his college days. They put a dance floor up in the second story of the old cow barn at MSU, called it the SOB. "Save our Barn" in his telling he was a driving force behind that project, and that barn's still there today, surrounded by modern student dorms.. tho nobody dances there anymore.

MSU was foundational to his career path, which he took great pleasure In being dedicated to.

When I went with him this last year to accept his lifetime Society For Range Management award, he only spoke for a minute. And he didn't talk about himself, he shared encouragement for the next generation of range management professionals and recalled how his career was touched by those who came before him, those special professors that he had at MSU.

Gene Payne, Don Ryerson, and Jack Taylor. They gave dad lifelong aspirations, and foundational knowledge.

I hope you too, will consider his wishes and help him to establish an endowed chair in their honor. At MSU. In the Department of Animal and Range Sciences. It's what he wanted..

My dad was kind; I remember he once pulled an emergency wool blanket out of his truck box to help a woman in shock that we

encountered after a traffic accident, and I don't think he ever worried about getting it back.

And over the past few days I've been touched to hear how much me meant to you all.

He's given me aspirations, knowledge, and wonder. He didn't play ball when I wanted him to, he may not have even come to any of my games, But:

I've got fond memories of my dad, I am who I am largely as a reflection of what I saw in him that I liked, his intellect, his drive, his craftsmanship.. and I imagine he helped improve your world as well.

Thanks for being here to celebrate his contribution to our lives.

Miss you DAD.

<http://www.msuaf.org/roath>.

Donors can also send checks or cash with a note to designate the funds to the Leonard Roy Roath Memorial Range Science Chair/fund #94551 to MSU Alumni Foundation PO Box 172750, Bozeman MT 59717.



d roath - August 27, 2025 at 06:36 AM

SP

“ *Very saddened to learn of Roy's passing. Roy was a dedicated champion of range science, rangelands and rangeland stewardship and had a passion for sharing his expertise with many western livestock producers, students and range professionals.*

Steve Parr

Steve Parr - August 26, 2025 at 12:51 PM

GW

“ Roy made the lives of his friends and colleagues richer and more interesting.

We miss him already. We send thoughts and condolences to Roy's family, George Wallace

george wallace - August 24, 2025 at 02:52 PM

VW

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of my friend and cousin in Christ, Roy Roath. He was a man of integrity, Christian warmth, and steady encouragement—someone I respected and admired greatly. To me, Roy was a dynamic academic, a devoted family man, a loyal friend, and a person of unique style whose presence left a lasting impression.

I will always treasure the spiritual support he offered through his thoughtful weekly words—whether a short prayer, a meaningful Christian reflection, or a photo of nature that carried with it a quiet message of hope. His mission in life seemed to be the gift of encouragement, and he lived it out faithfully.

I often felt God's glory in the way Roy connected faith and nature: the smell of the soil, the wind moving through the trees, the miracle of growth and harvest, and the joys of each season. Roy could embrace these sacred gifts of creation while also excelling in the academic world, using his knowledge to help many in need of answers, insight, and encouragement.

That was Roy to me—steadfast, wise, and uplifting—and I am certain he was even more to his family and many friends. He will be remembered always as a great man, and his life will continue to inspire.

vaughn Woods - August 25, 2025 at 11:07 PM

SW

“ Roy was the first range professional I ever met when I was 25 and started volunteering in Walden CO. Since that time he became my professor at CSU and has been a wonderful friend and mentor throughout my 31 year range career. He was always teaching and mentoring until the end. His memory is in my home through gifts from his wood shop. And his laughter will always be in my heart. Goodbye Roy.

Scott Woodall - August 23, 2025 at 07:44 PM



Amen 🙏!

Lee Roath - August 24, 2025 at 09:35 AM

CV

“ I knew Roy for over 30 years; as professor, mentor, and ultimately, friend. He was a passionate, kind, and curious being. Roy, I will miss going toe to toe with you. And I'm going to miss you heartily laughing at your own jokes...that made me laugh even more, and it brings a smile as I write this. You, my friend, made life more brilliant. The colors of the world are much dimmer today.

Cindy Villa - August 23, 2025 at 12:48 PM



Amen

Lee Roath - August 24, 2025 at 09:34 AM

JG

“ I worked with Roy at CSU 30 years ago. When Ronnie and I left Colorado State Roy made me the most beautifully crafted wooden cutting board. I use it every day and will continue to think of Roy's dedication and kindness every time I use it. My sympathies to all who loved Roy.

Jane Green - August 23, 2025 at 07:51 AM



Thanks for the memories!

Lee Roath - August 24, 2025 at 09:34 AM

TD

“ Roy was a tribute to his profession of range management and education
Mentor to many
Regrettably unable to attend service
Farewell Friend
T Wright Dickinson

T. Wright Dickinson - August 21, 2025 at 09:53 PM

DF

“ Roy was our next door neighbor for 36 years.
What a delightful, caring man! He will be sadly missed. Sincerely
Diana and Shoni French

diana french - August 21, 2025 at 07:47 PM