



Matthew Lloyd Strauser

August 29, 1981 - February 5, 2023

Matthew “Matt” Strauser, 41, passed away on February 5, 2023, near Cameron Pass in the Rocky Mountains west of Fort Collins, CO.

Matt was born in Denver, CO on August 29, 1981 to Garry and Patricia (Moore) Strauser, joining brother, Timothy (21 months)—as well as loving half-siblings, Amy (8) and Michael (5).

The family of four moved to Hot Springs, SD in 1987, and Matt graduated Hot Springs High School in 2000.

As a youngster, Matt had quick reflexes and loved adventure. He even constructed a live animal trap with his dad, which led to the unexpected—and memorable—capture of a skunk! Matt swam well and played baseball, basketball, and football through middle school—but he particularly loved soccer, skateboarding, and snowboarding. He loved reading and learning as much as he could about animals—all kinds of living creatures. Matt had a favorite parakeet and raised lots of zebra finches, but his dogs were very special to him throughout his life.

During summer break of middle school, Matt met Brandi Ruggieri, his “new best friend,” as she worked on the tech crew of the 50th Miss South Dakota Pageant. He was right! They became best friends for life—soul mates, and then husband and wife. And what a joyous May 23, 2009 it was, when family

and special friends traveled to Las Vegas to help them celebrate their wedding, with Red Rock Canyon—where they had rock climbed together—as the stunning backdrop.

After graduating from Montana State University with a B.S. in Biology, Ecology and Evolution in 2005, Matt worked as a wildlife biologist and environmental scientist, with over 15 years of research, field work, data analysis, and technical report preparation experience. Well-versed on the ecology of Rocky Mountain and Great Plains ecosystems, he was often sought after for guidance on habitat management planning and execution in these areas. His experience included a wide variety of environments and taxa, from Mississippi to Montana, from pikas to pumas—but he especially loved working with snowshoe hares and Canada lynx in the high country. Matt always found excitement and adventure in the great outdoors, and he was fortunate to be able to turn his passion for wildlife into an impressive career, most recently as an environmental scientist at Smith Environmental Consulting. He was smart, practical, and a fair-minded team leader.

Outside of work, Matt loved camping, snowboarding, rock climbing, hiking, birding, photographing wildlife, fishing, and supporting Colorado Avalanche Hockey. Besides his technical literature, Matt enjoyed reading Steinbeck and other classic American novels.

On November 13, 2011, beautiful Madilyn Jade was born, and little Alden Jay joined the family on September 26, 2015. Matt loved being a dad and cheered on Madi in gymnastics and Alden in hockey, and guided them on the ski slopes, challenged them in the Beyblade stadium, encouraged them in soccer and at the rock-climbing wall, and took them on searches for those elusive Pokemon. He attended their school activities, read to them, and encouraged them in their schoolwork. While he took time to pursue his own hobbies, he had a generous spirit and was there to celebrate accomplishments and share

in the special occasions of those he loved. A loving husband and son, Matt loved his sister and brothers and extended family and also thought the world of his many friends—some of whom were also truly lifelong “family.”

Although Matt had a great sense of humor, he was unapologetically frank, and always true to his own thoughts and opinions—which often could be translated as “brutally honest.” Matt was easy going, but he also liked things done right. He was a great cook and took delight in preparing delicious and beautiful meals—particularly at Christmastime and other special occasions.

Matt is survived by: wife, Brandi Strauser, Fort Collins, CO; daughter, Madilyn Strauser, Fort Collins, CO; son, Alden Strauser, Fort Collins, CO; parents, Garry and Patricia Strauser, Hot Springs, SD; father-in-law, Bill Ruggieri, Hot Springs, SD; mother-in-law, Jodi Ruggieri, Hot Springs, SD; sister, Amy VanDevender, Cottonwood, AZ; brothers, Michael (Gary) Strauser, Scottsdale, AZ, and Timothy (Tawnya) Strauser, Gothenburg, NE; as well as many special uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. He is predeceased by his grandparents, David and Iona Strauser, and Lloyd and Margaret Moore; his aunt, Bonnie Moore; and his cousin, Kelli Stiles.

Many thanks go to Eric Newkirk and the Good Samaritan hikers and members of Larimer County Search and Rescue, who faithfully attended Matt on Cameron Pass.

Arrangements have been placed in the care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive Street, Fort Collins, CO. Private visitation will be followed by interment at Grandview Cemetery; and a celebration of life will be held at the Bohlender Funeral Chapel, Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 1:00 pm, with Chaplain Peter Streng officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to any of the following:

- The Access Fund (<https://www.accessfund.org/>)
- The Nature Conservancy (<https://www.nature.org/en-us/>)
- The Humane Society of Larimer County (<https://www.larimerhumane.org/>)
- Plant a Tree in Matt's Honor (<https://shop.alivingtribute.org/products/colorado-memorial-trees>)

Please share your memories, photos and videos with us through any of the following channels:

o Email: mattstrausermemories@gmail.com

o Private Facebook Group: [@mattstrauserfamilyandfriends](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mattstrauserfamilyandfriends) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mattstrauserfamilyandfriends>

o Private Instagram Channel: [@mattstrauserfamilyandfriends](https://www.instagram.com/mattstrauserfamilyandfriends/) <https://www.instagram.com/mattstrauserfamilyandfriends/>

Submissions will be used to create a printed keepsake for Brandi and the kids.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 12. 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 Webcast in memory of Matthew Lloyd Strauser*



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - February 12, 2023 at 01:47 PM

LG

“ *I worked with Matt on the I25 North construction project. He was a great manager and leader and was responsible for a fantastic group of people. To the family, I know you don't know me, but I've heard about all of you and how much Matt loved you. Words cannot describe how horrible your loss is. I hope you take comfort in knowing he touched many people's lives in the best way and that he was a great man. He is greatly missed by all who knew him.*

Lauren Gentile - March 12, 2023 at 11:51 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - February 12, 2023 at 02:19 PM

PS

“ I always loved talking with Matt, whether it was professional or personal. His smile, warmth, enthusiasm for life, and communication skills we're amazing and I always felt so blessed to be his fellow staff member. I will miss you and love you, Matt, always.

Peter L. Smith - February 12, 2023 at 12:20 PM

PS

“ While the pandemic had many inconveniences and irritations, one of the delights during that period was coming down to Matt's office and seeing Maddie and/or Alden studying on their laptop in his office and his occasional comment to them about getting their work done. I remember one time when I stopped to talk to Maddie, she kept her nose buried in her laptop seemingly ignoring me. Matt quickly reminded her to look at me because I was talking to her. I thought what a wonderful word of encouragement to his daughter to remember that when people are talking to you that's the most important thing and to give them your full attention. I always felt listened to and heard when I talked with Matt, and he was passing those skills on to his daughter.

Peter L. Smith - February 12, 2023 at 12:15 PM

PS

“ Many times at the office I would come down to talk with Matt in his office about one work related thing or another and our conversations would invariably be sidetracked onto some of the birds outside his window. Matt had bird feeders outside his window that attracted a variety of birds. He loved birds and they were a special part of God's creation to him. Lancia and I loved our birds and bird feeders at our house and we're constantly coming up with questions about birds that we knew Matt could answer. And when I asked Matt those questions, he always had an answer. His knowledge was vast when it came to birds and it was always a delight to chat with him about one aspect or another of the numerous birds that inhabit the Colorado Front Range.

Peter L. Smith - February 12, 2023 at 12:07 PM

LS

“ Lancia Smith lit a candle in memory of Matthew Lloyd Strauser



Lancia Smith - February 12, 2023 at 11:47 AM

OM

“ Owen & Jean Meadows lit a candle in memory of Matthew Lloyd Strauser



Owen & Jean Meadows - February 11, 2023 at 10:12 AM

SK

“ Steve & Cheryl Keller lit a candle in memory of Matthew Lloyd Strauser



Steve & Cheryl Keller - February 10, 2023 at 10:34 PM

TS

“ Tom and Maridell Standish purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Matthew Lloyd Strauser.



Tom and Maridell Standish - February 10, 2023 at 11:22 AM

GA

“ Gail lit a candle in memory of Matthew Lloyd Strauser



Gail - February 10, 2023 at 01:10 AM

AA

“ Alan & Theresa, Josh, Mia & Addy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Matthew Lloyd Strauser.



Alan & Theresa, Josh, Mia & Addy - February 09, 2023 at 03:40 PM

JS

“ *Jan Speirs lit a candle in memory of Matthew Lloyd Strauser*



Jan Speirs - February 09, 2023 at 03:39 PM

YW

“ *Yohanna Wallace lit a candle in memory of Matthew Lloyd Strauser*



Yohanna Wallace - February 09, 2023 at 01:45 PM

PF

“ *Pam and James Forbord purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Matthew Lloyd Strauser.*



Pam and James Forbord - February 09, 2023 at 12:46 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Matthew Lloyd Strauser.*



February 09, 2023 at 11:12 AM

UO

“ *United Churches Orchestra purchased the County Basket Blooms for the family of Matthew Lloyd Strauser.*



United Churches Orchestra - February 09, 2023 at 11:12 AM

FS

“ *From Pat D, Jan and Cora from Hot Spring purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Matthew Lloyd Strauser.*



From Pat D, Jan and Cora from Hot Spring - February 08, 2023 at 10:07 PM