



## Phillip Peter Schutz

July 9, 1960 - February 15, 2021

Phillip Peter Schutz, age 60, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, February 15, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born July 9, 1960, in Waukegan, the son of Robert Ludwig and Anita Helen (Hitzman) Schutz. Phil married Elizabeth Leigh Robey on October 4, 2003 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Phil retired in March 2016 from Exelon Nuclear after 29 years. He worked as an Environmental Chemist at the Braidwood Station and as a Nuclear Plant Operator at the Zion Station where he was known as "Big Fish". He was an outdoor enthusiast, a proficient scuba diver, a master fisher and hunter, and a lifelong Green Bay Packers fan. Phil's hobbies revolved around his creative talents and renowned problem solving skills. He could literally fix anything. He greatly enjoyed tinkering on projects with his son, was the family grill master, and loved to travel the world with his wife and friends.

Phil is survived by his wife; son, Duane of Trevor, Wisconsin; brother, William; grandson, Nicholas Spiers of Kenosha, Wisconsin, as well as nieces, nephews, and cousins. Phil had a special bond with the cherished Gade-Audetat and Robey families; confidant Bess Little; longtime friends and farm partners, Renn Gade and Sherm Fields, and his many Exelon friends.

Phil is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Robert and Christopher Schutz; William A. Gade his cherished friend and mentor.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. until the 5:00 p.m. funeral service at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais.

Reverend Karl Koeppen will officiate. Please wear a face mask and follow social distancing guidelines.

Anyone who is unable to attend funeral services may participate in the online live-stream at:

[https://youtu.be/W\\_p\\_Zf8wWKo](https://youtu.be/W_p_Zf8wWKo)

Burial is Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Cemetery, Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

Arrangements are by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais.

Memorials can be made to Aldo Leopold Foundation, [www.aldoleopold.org/teach-learn/fellows-program/](http://www.aldoleopold.org/teach-learn/fellows-program/) or Baraboo Range Preservation Association, [www.baraboorange.org](http://www.baraboorange.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

FEB **21**. 5:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Burial

FEB **23**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Greenwood Cemetery  
1000 Myrtle Street  
Reedsburg, WI 53959

# Tribute Wall

VC

“ *Heaven will be a little more interesting with Phil there. My sincere condolences to his family that he loved so much.*

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**Vinnie Corwith** - February 21, 2021 at 10:05 PM

ES

“ *I was privileged to work with Phil both on and off shift at Braidwood. He was always easy going and willing to help find the right answer to any issue. Phil will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences to Phil's family.*

*Edward Stefan*

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**Edward Stefan** - February 21, 2021 at 09:18 AM

JP

“ *All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*

*Edmund Burke*

*I was surprised to hear of Phil Schutz passing. I always thought of him as someone who would live forever. Every time he was injured or not feeling well, Phil would fight back until he was healthy. I worked with him at Braidwood. Phil had the perfect combination of skills to work at a nuclear powerplant. He never let pressure get in the way of sound judgement. As a coworker, he was always there when you needed him. In the nuclear industry, success is celebrated with little fanfare. Companies do not publicly recognize triumphs and individuals celebrate in private. In any other technical field, Phil would have won endless performance awards or become a multimillionaire.*

*In conclusion, one piece of career advice for individuals is to decide if you want to be a Big Fish in a small pond or a small fish in a big pond. In my pond, Phil will always be a Big Fish.*

*My condolences to the Schutz family,  
J. Paul Georgiou  
Senior Environmental Chemist/Engineer*

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**JP** - February 20, 2021 at 09:38 PM

EH

“ *i worked with Phil for many years at Braidwood Station. He was truly a great guy. Condolences to Liz and his entire family.*

*Eric Hendrix*

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**Eric Hendrix** - February 20, 2021 at 08:08 PM

MB

“ Here is the LiveStream link for the Funeral Service.

[https://youtu.be/W\\_p\\_Zf8wWKo](https://youtu.be/W_p_Zf8wWKo)

Michael Berger - February 20, 2021 at 03:29 PM



“ 109 files added to the album LifeTributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - February 20, 2021 at 10:19 AM

JW

“ Phil was one of the Good Guys at Zion. He always level-headed, had something positive to say and was willing to teach others what he knew. And that smile... My deepest condolences to Phil's family.

Joe Waligora - February 19, 2021 at 10:41 PM

CG

“ I was privileged to work with Big Fish on shift at Zion and with him at Braidwood. He was always easy going and willing to help. My condolences to the family

Craig Greaves - February 19, 2021 at 05:12 PM



“ *Liz, I am so sorry to hear of Phil's passing. I always remembered him as a kind and thoughtful man. I will keep you all in my prayers.*

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**John Kelleher** - February 19, 2021 at 04:04 PM



“ *Phil was a really good guy with whom I always enjoyed working at Braidwood Station. He always had a smile and we had many great conversations. I know he will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. My thoughts and prayers for strength go out to you all during this difficult time.*

*Ed Wrigley*

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**Ed Wrigley** - February 19, 2021 at 03:09 PM