



## Wendover Neefus III

June 27, 1946 - July 17, 2022

Wendover Neefus III, age 76, passed away peacefully July 17, 2022, in Hudson, NY. He is survived by his wife Brenda and his sons Wendover IV (Cory), Dustin, Seth and Casey. Wendy is also survived by his two siblings, Chris, and Peter. “Wendy” was the oldest son of Wendover Neefus Jr., and Virginia (Ginny) [Witham] Neefus. Wendy was a well know professional photographer for 44 years, served as a member of the National and Catamount Ski Patrol for 40 years, but was truly passionate about fly-fishing. Wendy was also a renounced fly-fisherman who has taught and introduced many to the sport, which brought him great enjoyment. His family believes he is continuing to enjoy his many passions in the afterlife with streams teeming with trout to fish, and slopes of fresh pristine powder to ski. He was greatly loved and admired by all.

### Expanded Self- Written Eulogy

“Wendy” (Wendover), was a friendly, upbeat and very caring person by nature. He was a wonderful and loving husband, and father to four amazing boys. Wendy felt that all would agree, he was a “man’s-man” in the context of being out in nature either skiing, shooting or perhaps most notably, fly fishing. Wendy was always active and stayed in good physical, mental and health. “An outdoorsman with class” is how he described himself. Wendy was also well known for his 44 years as a photographer. As, the second generation in the Neefus Photography business, many in Columbia County recall have the

family, high school, or Weddings photographed by he or his father. It was very rewarding for him to hear from someone in a random encounter that he had taken their photo. It was also rewarding to have return customers as well as families that had their Neefus pictures taken generation after generation. Wendy chose elite sports that included upland bird hunting, skeet shooting, and downhill skiing, but his true passion was undoubtedly fly fishing. Wendy was a master fly fisherman, and life-long student of entomology (the study of stream insects). The flies he tied for fly fishing would imitate specific aquatic insect the trout fed on the streams he fished. He mastered the skill of determining which fly to use at which time based on the “hatch” the trout were feeding on that particular outing. There's no doubt he was the best fly fisherman Columbia County has ever see. If you were a fly fisherman, you would undoubtedly know his name or Wendy himself. Stream conservation was very important to him. He was an active member of Trout Unlimited for over 40 years. Between the two local chapters he has held every office at one point in time. He won the Trout Conservation award in 1983 from the Catskill Mountain Chapter and the same award from the Columbia-Greene chapter in 2007. Wendy never kept the fish he caught. He believed in catch and release angling, as he felt trout were too valuable or a resource and liked to believe he released so he could have the pleasure of catching many of the same fish more than once.

Wendy has taught hundreds of people the art of fly-fishing and fly-tying. He said, “these activities have given me so much enjoyment throughout my life, I just want to share the fun.” He felt that bonding with nature through fly-fishing and said it was meditative and cleansed the soul.

A professional photographer for 44 years, Wendy initially worked with his parents at Neefus Photographers for 23 years, after which he ran the family business with the help of his wife Brenda for another 21 years. Wendy photographed over 1,000 weddings and approximately 8,000 family groups and high school senior portraits. He said, "Even back in the film days, before

we all went digital, I rarely thought of my-self as an artist. I did feel I was a dam good craftsman with an artistic eye. I have captured a lot of good memories for people and made them happy with my work.

Skiing was a big part of Wendy's life. He took he's kids skiing every winter weekend. In the Neefus family, it was just a way of life. He was a ski racer in high school and captain of the ski team for 4 years at New Hampshire College. He became a Catamount ski racing coach for 4 year taking juniors to races around the tri-state area. As a volunteer he served the National Ski Patrol and the Catamount Ski Patrol for over 40years. Wendy has been awarded 2 purple stars for saving a life on two occasions. "We are EMT's on skis," he used say. He's splinted a lot of fractures and brought many an injured skier and snowboarder down the mountain in a sled. Wendy was not a formal leader, but he led by example. He was not one to speak out. He believed, talk is cheap, only action counted. Being an Outdoor Emergency Care Instructor and both a regional and divisional Ski and Toboggan Trainer/Evaluator, he earned his National Appointment #7561 in 1992. Wendy felt his biggest accomplishment in skiing was passing the certified patroller exam. A certified Ski Patroller is the highest rank in the National Ski Patrol holds. His certified number is 351. To date, there are only 922 certified ski patrollers in the country out of 23,000 national members. This test has a 3 year window to complete and is mentally and physically grueling. Wendy said, being Certified is a "Life Style", you stay in shape because that who you are. I couldn't be good to anyone else if I didn't take care of myself." Wendy was dedicated to staying healthy as worked out at the gym 2-3 days a week for a good number or years of his adult life. He recently shared with his family that he felt balance in his life, between work and play. Despite all his hobbies and accomplishments, he said "I would like to be remembered mostly as a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather."

List of Accomplishments:

Wendy had written down his accomplishments over the years, and prefaced

the list with: I can't do computers but, I am good at other things.”

- 1970 Level I Ski Racing Coach.
- Skiing Level 9.5 out of 10.
- Fly-Fisherman Level 9.5 out of 10.
- Certified Ski Patroller #351 out of 922 in the country of roughly 60,000 Patrollers.
- Captain of the New Hampshire College Ski Race team 1964-1968
- #2 Overall Best NEISC of 13 Colleges in 1968.
- Guitarist and Vocalist 6 out of 10.
- Fly-Tying skill 8 out of 10.
- Landlord 9 out of 10.
- Wedding and Portrait Photography 8 out of 10.
- Business ownership 8 out of 10.
- Husband extraordinaire 8.5 out of 10.
- Father of 4 great kids 8 out of 10.
- Grandfather to 7 grandchildren.
- Lover 8 out of 10.
- Received Bachelors of Science in Business. Ranked 179 out of 297 in class.
- Eagle Scout (3rd to receive in Claverack's Troop 121)
- All around nice guy 10 out of 10.
- Outdoor woodsman, bird-hunter and skeet shooter 8 out of 10.
- Dale Carnegie School graduate 1971.
- Ski Patrol OEC and S&T trainer, and Divisional Level Trainer / Evaluator retired.
- Fly-fishing Guide #4532 9 out of 10.
- Teacher first-aid, skiing, and fly-fishing 8 out of 10
- Aquatic entomologist 8 out of 10
- Handy-Man 6 out of 10.
- Trout Unlimited CMC Conservation award 1987 and 2007.
- Served multiple positions on both chapters of the Trout Unlimited over the years.



# Previous Events

## Visitation Hours

JUL **21**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler  
110 Green Street  
Hudson, NY 12534  
(518) 828-3371  
<http://batesandersonredmondkeeler.com>

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ Wendy was among the most genuine, and the nicest, people I remember from high school. Condolences to his family. I'm sure there are many good memories.

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**Carol (Corapi) Houlihan** - January 31, 2023 at 05:25 PM

CS

“ I just heard of Wendy's passing. Over the years I spent many hours discussing fishing and TU matters with my friend. I remember spending some time with him at his shop in Hudson . To say he was a great guy and a wonderful person would be an understatement. Rest in peace and I hope there are large trout for you to fish for.  
Cliff Schwark

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**Cliff Schwark** - September 20, 2022 at 02:22 PM



“ Condolences to the Neefus family! Wendy has been a friend of mine for many years. His parents were also our favorites. They were our wedding photographer, family photographer and event photographer. You have been blessed with four wonderful boys, one I believe, we were hospital roommates. Kathy and Michael Bucholsky

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**Kathleen Bucholsky** - July 19, 2022 at 05:44 PM

LD

“ I am so very sorry. Wendy was the photographer at my wedding in 1971. Coincidentally during my first pregnancy I had a dream about the wedding and Wendy. When I awoke I thought of the dream and the name and then named my first born daughter, Wendy. He was also a classmate at Hudson High although ahead of me by a few years. Please accept my sympathies. You have many wonderful memories. May you find peace.

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**Linda LeSawyer Dousharm** - July 19, 2022 at 06:34 AM