

# Maxwell P. Dunne Funeral Service

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## Owen Hopkins

(Died March 29, 2011)

Owen R. Hopkins passed away at home surrounded by his family on March 29, 2011. He was born on June 23, 1947, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and, as part of a heroic U.S. Air Force family, lived in 18 different places before he was 22 years of age.

After earning his BS degree in Geology at the University of Oklahoma in 1969, Owen worked with Chevron Oil Company in New Orleans. While there, he earned a Masters Degree in Geology from Tulane University. After moving to Corpus Christi in 1977, he worked for Holly Energy, Sexton Oil and Harkins & Company. In 1990, he helped form Suemaur Exploration and Production, LLC, working as partner and Chief Geologist and VP of Exploration. He remained a partner with Suemaur, but he retired from active management in 2005 in order to pursue his passion for volunteering to teach everyone that “Science is Fun!”



As President of the CC Geological Society, Owen spearheaded a three-part initiative called “Maps in Schools, Bones in Schools, and Boulders in Schools.” This project has placed 1,657 geologic maps in elementary schools nationwide, along with educating teachers to use the maps in their classes. The second phase of his project involved commissioning a mural of the Ice Age animals that lived in South Texas 13,230 years ago and then donating framed posters, activity books, and a bone sample to schools. The original mural is on display in the Northwest Library. The final phase will install boulders in schools to be incorporated into the landscapes where students gather. All of these projects are designed to plant the seeds of geologic curiosity in students.

Owen’s vision and energy are also responsible for numerous educational and community projects. He and Susan were the force behind the Solar System model that is permanently installed along the seawall in Corpus Christi. His enthusiasm for astronomy, including his mantra to “Look up,” was shared with curious minds during innumerable nights with his telescope. As a remembrance of his passion for educating others, the paleo-dig, which will be opened as part of the new Texas State Aquarium children’s play park, will be named in his honor this May.

Owen was an enthusiastic boater who loved the water. He never missed an opportunity to take a boat cruise or lead a guided tour of the Bay, often dragging kids behind him in tubes or writing Susan’s name in his wake – all while blasting his favorite Beach Boys songs and “Havin’ some fun!”

Owen is survived by his wife, Susan Hutchinson, and his children Geoffrey Hopkins (Jaime), Emily Hopkins, Whitney Cox (Ashley), and Mallory Cox (Jason), and his two precious grandchildren, Stella and Scarlett, after whom he named his most recent boats.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Col. James R. Hopkins and Jayne Hopkins. He is also survived by his sister Peg Hopkins, his brother James ("Skip") Hopkins and so many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family. He was a mentor and role model for so many others.

A Memorial Service in celebration of Owen's life will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at 2:00 at First United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations to continue Owen's visionary educational projects be made to the Owen Hopkins and Susan Hutchinson Fund at the Coastal Bend Community Foundation, 600 Leopard, Suite 1716, Corpus Christi 78401.

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