

# Katherine Walton "Kate" McFadden Ph.D.

1973 - 2014

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Katherine "Kate" Walton McFadden , Ph.D

Seneca

Katherine Walton McFadden passed away Monday, October 27th, 2014. She was born July 9th, 1973 in Atlanta, GA to Louisa Walton McFadden and Isaac Joseph

McFadden II. She graduated from Lakeside High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of California Santa Cruz. Kate earned her Masters of Science from Texas A&M University and her Doctorate of Ecology and Environmental Biology from Columbia University where she was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship. She was currently an Assistant Professor in Environmental Sciences at Clemson University and Assistant Unit Leader with the USGS SC Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit.

Kate's distinguished career spanned six continents where she conducted ecological field research contributing to the conservation of endangered species and ecosystems. Kate's passion and commitment to teaching went well beyond the classrooms she led. Whether it was her dedication to mentoring field researchers in Rwanda or tutoring students at Columbia University and Clemson University, Kate served as a role model to the next generation of environmental scientists.

Kate was a loving wife, an adoring aunt, a caring friend, and contributed selflessly to neighbors, friends, and even a few strays. It was her lovingly generous personality that infected so many, so far.

Kate made a tremendous impact on the lives of those she touched, but her contribution to science, terrific teaching and undeniable compassion will be felt by those who never met her.

Kate is survived by her husband Okan Demirmen, mother, Louisa Walton McFadden, of Atlanta, GA, father, Dr. Isaac Joseph McFadden II of Memphis, TN, step-mother The Rev. Senter H. Crook of Memphis, TN, sister, Elizabeth Tilghman McFadden of Memphis, TN, brother, Isaac Joseph McFadden III of Atlanta, GA, father-in-law Dr. Ferruh Demirmen and mother-in-law Tulin Demirmen of Houston, TX, sister-in-law, Sibel Demirmen, brother-in-law Scott Henry of San Rafael, CA, brother-in-law, Steven Allen Holdsworth of Memphis, TN and two nieces and two nephews.

A memorial service will be conducted at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 31, 2014 at Davenport Funeral Home, with visitation to follow.

Donations may be made to World Wildlife Fund at [www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org).

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Published in The Greenville News on Oct. 31, 2014.

## MEMORIAL EVENTS

No memorial events are currently scheduled. To offer your sympathy during this difficult time, you can now have memorial trees planted in a National Forest in memory of your loved one.

Funeral services provided by  
Davenport Funeral Home, Inc. - West Union

[311 South Carolina Hwy 11](#)  
[West Union, SC 29696](#)

[864-638-3611](#)

[Plant Memorial Trees](#)

## MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES

Not sure what to say?

**May God bless you and your...**

**As the days and weeks pass, and...**

**May your heart still be filled...**

**In the loving memory of a wonderful...**

**May the love of friends and...**

**Grief can be so hard, but...**

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**17 entries**

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January 26, 2015

My deepest condolences to Okan and Kate's family and everyone that loved Kate. She was an amazing woman and friend. I loved her dearly, and she will be missed.

**Gabriela Betancourt**

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January 17, 2015

We never had the chance to meet our friends Tulin and Ferruh Demirmen's son Okan and his dear wife Kate. Our deep condolences to McFadden and Demirmen families and friends on Kate's loss.

**Ilhan and Isik Sener**

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January 8, 2015

Though we had never met, as a friend of Tulin's since Okan attended the American School of the Hague, please accept my sincere sympathy. My thoughts and prayers are with all Kate's family and friends.

**Nancy Leveille**

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December 5, 2014

Condolences and peace to Kate's family and friends. Kate and I shared an office at Texas A&M in College Station during a semester of grad school and she was a kind and helpful mentor to me.

**Lara Hinderstein**

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November 12, 2014

Aloha Kate!....Aloha! Go in peace Ku'u ipo...to our Heavenly Akua.

**Gordon Olayvar**

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November 8, 2014

We are deeply saddened by the passing away of our dear friends Tulin and Ferruh's son Okan's dear wife Kate. We send our deepest condolences to the Demirmen and McFadden families and friends.

**Demir and Gulgun Karsan**

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November 5, 2014

SADI DEMIRMEN AILESI ...

**müğe Özer**

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November 4, 2014

We had the honor of meeting Kate a few times when she and Okan came to visit Scott & Sibel in NC. I was so impressed with her accomplishments, openness and generosity. She mentored our daughter throughout her college search process and gave her such great advice. We are so sad for her family, friends, and for the wildlife she worked hard to protect.

### **Susan Ferraro**

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November 2, 2014

Our condolences to Kate's and Okan's family and friends. Over the years we have heard so many positive memories about Kate from Demirmen family and finally had a chance to visit with her in April during Ferruh bey's 80th birthday celebration.

We are deeply saddened with her loss and we will have her in our thoughts. She will be missed and remembered.

### **Yildiz and Yildirim Bayazitoglu**

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November 1, 2014

I loved Kate so much. She was a dear friend and will be missed by so many. She will never be forgotten.

### **Margaret Warwick Rolo**

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November 1, 2014

To Kate's family and friends, so very sorry for your loss. In her short time in this world she accomplished so much and made such a contribution to wildlife conservation. May she rest in peace.



### **Jamison Smith**

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November 1, 2014

I grieve for Kate because she was my dear friend's daughter, because she was a brilliant woman, and because she was a dedicated teacher. Her loss is so devastating to her family, friends and students. I will keep her in my heart as I keep her mother in my thoughts and prayers.

### **Susan Watson**

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November 1, 2014

I am devastated by the loss of Kate. She was an amazing person who was not only a dear friend, but someone I greatly admired for her passionate and dedicated work in wildlife conservation. She contributed so much in her short life, and will be greatly missed by the many who loved her. I will miss her infectious laugh and wonderful enthusiasm. My thoughts are with her family, I hope you will find some peace in this terribly sad time.

### **Lucy Keith Diagne**

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October 31, 2014

To Kate's family, she was loved by so many. You raised a wonderful person. She will be missed. My sincere wishes for peace as you walk this difficult path. -

### **Jane Provanha**

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October 31, 2014

Very, very sorry to hear.

**Andrew Gross**

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October 30, 2014

My condolences to all Kate's beloved ones. She was a hard worker that truly loved her job as a biologist. I have nice memories of her when she was doing her PhD thesis at Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico. I remember her smiling and happy telling me about the pygmy raccoons she had captured or see. I'm sad to hear of your sudden loss. Warmest regards.

David Valenzuela-Galván

**David Valenzuela-Galván**

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October 30, 2014

Kate, you strode lightly upon the earth, but made a positive difference to everyone you met, and every place you visited. and you were a great friend, and companion.... love to you

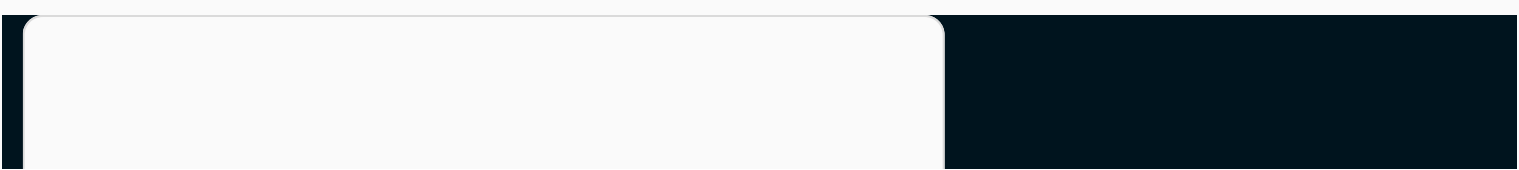
**Jonathan Stern**

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**INVITE OTHERS TO ADD MEMORIES**

Share to let others add their own memories and condolences

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## Thank You.

Please allow 24 hours for your entry to be reviewed for appropriate content.

Send your condolence as a [printed card](#) and it will be mailed to the family tomorrow.

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**Send Card**

or

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### Other ways to show your sympathy

#### Send Flowers

Send your deepest condolences with fresh flowers.

[View Bouquets](#) **Plant a Tree**

Plant a tree to honor the memory of your loved one.

[Plant Trees](#)

**INVITE OTHERS TO ADD  
MEMORIES**

**No thanks**

**ADVICE & SUPPORT**

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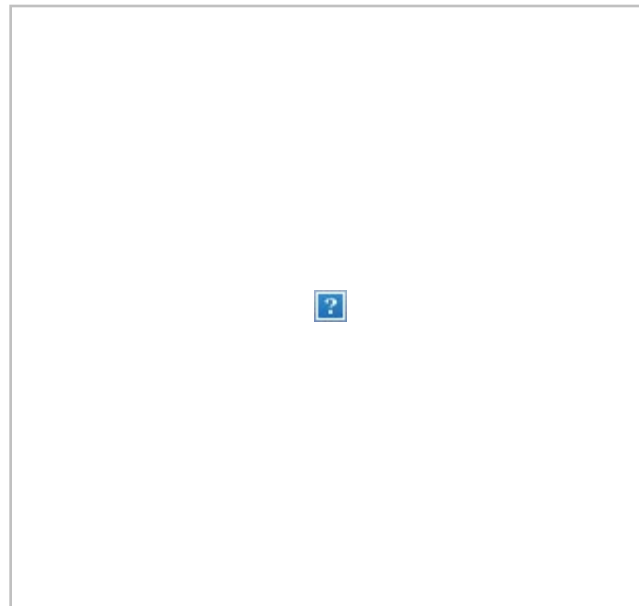
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## Kate McFadden (1973-2014)



On October 28th, 2014, my PhD advisor, Dr. Katherine (Kate) McFadden passed away unexpectedly at the age of 41. From November 2011 - October 2014, Kate served as Assistant Unit Leader of the [South Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit](#), and as Assistant Professor at Clemson

University. Kate was the Principal Investigator on the grants that originally funded my project, in collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey. I am extremely fortunate to have had Kate as my advisor, if only for a brief period, as her mentoring, edits, and advice have no doubt influenced my trajectory as a scientist and wildlife professional. Kate had a full, adventurous life and a productive research program, which is both reflected in her [obituary](#).

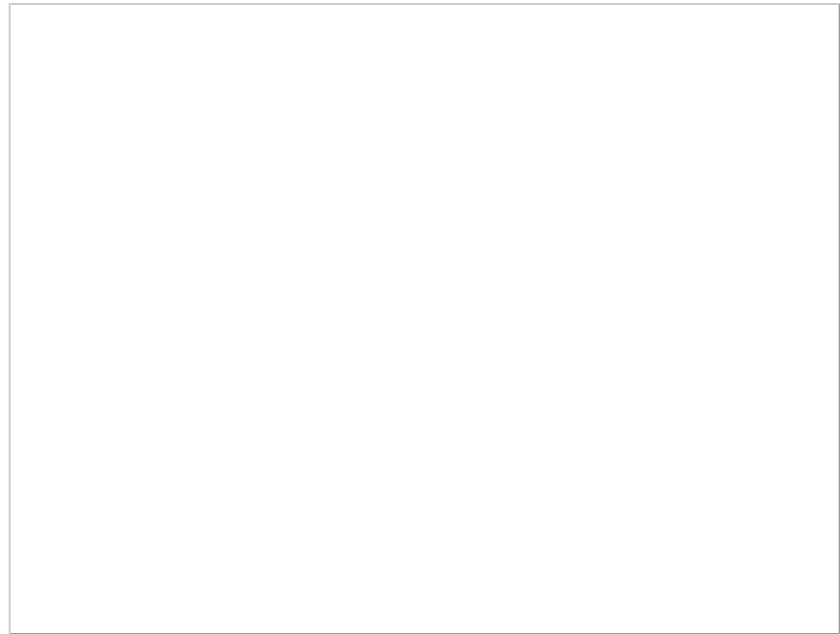
Kate's family requests that any donations in honor of Kate be directed to the [World Wildlife Fund](#). Lastly, below are some thoughts about Kate and how to honor her legacy, that I attempted to deliver at her wake:

"Kate surprised me every day. The first time being when she offered me a PhD position in her lab, allowing me to pursue my dream of becoming a research wildlife biologist. I was grateful for her mentoring from the very beginning, as she helped this lost Alaskan, find her footing on unfamiliar southern territory. The surprises kept coming, as I found that she would often pick up her phone when most people wouldn't answer. She would return e-mails a frightening pace. Most importantly, she was there to give me advice and guidance when I dropped into her office, often unannounced.

However, a predictable pattern quickly emerged from the surprises: Kate was the most dependable individual I have ever had the privilege of knowing. In the short time that we worked together, she fulfilled nearly every promise or commitment she ever made me-- from the menial to the important. She served as an example among our department, holding herself personally accountable to honor her professional and personal commitments to others. Many of us are left wondering how to best honor Kate and her legacy; and to you I suggest the following: hold yourselves accountable to others every day and follow through with your commitments. Whether it be remembering to forward a document over email, meeting a deadline, or simply transforming plans with friends into actions-- do it.

Perhaps most importantly, if you can't follow through, don't hide from those who are counting on you. In an electronic world, where we are more available than ever before, many of us have a tendency to shrink back from peers when we fear that we may disappoint them. If there is one thing that Kate taught me, it is always best to engage, not to hide. I think that the world would be a better place if we all adopted these qualities that Kate practiced every day."

*-Abby Lawson, October 31st, 2014, West Union, SC*



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