

## Karl Edward Havens (1957–2019)

Erik Jeppesen  · Charles F. Sidman · Gaohua Ji · Koen Martens 

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Karl E. Havens, Director of the Florida Sea Grant and associate editor of *Hydrobiologia* since 2009, passed away unexpectedly on 26 April 2019 at an age of 61 following a pulmonary embolism. Karl will be sadly

missed by the aquatic sciences community at large and the “shallow lakers” in particular, but of course even more so by his beloved wife Pamela (Pam) and his son Andrew (Andy) for whom he cared so much.

Karl was an engaged, highly productive, highly collaborative, open-minded, stimulating, and well-liked scientist and manager. He gave generously of his time to fellow scientists, managers and students. He was always enthusiastic and ready to discuss, to give insightful comments on complex scientific questions of the present time, and to provide management solutions to key environmental problems. As a leader, he was outstanding—kind and inclusive. He valued a team approach and created an atmosphere where coming to work was fun. His modesty and collegiality allowed him to communicate really well with a wide range of stakeholders from society, ranging from fishermen, oyster producers, students, fellow

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E. Jeppesen (✉)  
Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Silkeborg,  
Denmark  
e-mail: ej@bios.au.dk

C. F. Sidman  
Florida Sea Grant, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL,  
USA  
e-mail: csidman@ufl.edu

G. Ji  
Shanghai Ocean University, Nanhui New City, Shanghai,  
People's Republic of China  
e-mail: ghji@shou.edu.cn

K. Martens  
Operational Directorate Natural Environment, Royal  
Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium  
e-mail: martens@naturalsciences.be

K. Martens  
Department Biology, University of Ghent, Ghent,  
Belgium

researchers, managers, politicians, other decision-makers and the public at large.

Karl got his bachelor's degree in biology (1979) from the State University of New York at Buffalo and his master's (1981) and doctorate degrees (1984) in biology from the West Virginia University, followed by an immediate appointment as assistant professor at the same university, prior to accepting a faculty position at Bloomsburg University, Pennsylvania and later at Kent State University. In 1993, Karl became Chief Environmental Scientist with the South Florida Water Management District, and 11 years later he returned to academia (2004) becoming a Professor and Chair of the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Department in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. He was then elected as Director of the Florida Sea Grant College Program in 2007, while retaining his faculty appointment at the University.

Karl's main interest was shallow lakes, focusing on the plankton, notably, zooplankton and their role in transferring carbon and energy from phytoplankton, bacteria, and protozoa to higher trophic levels. He was also engaged in the research and management related to eutrophication and restoration, effects of invasive species, and in recent years also the effects of climate variability and change on harmful algal blooms in both freshwater and coastal areas, including the effect of hurricanes, on Lake Okeechobee, the adjacent Everglades, and downstream coastal waters. He also dealt with numerous other topics such as effects of oil spills and oyster recovery, showing his wide interest and broad expertise. His studies on Lake Okeechobee and the South Florida aquatic environment gained high international recognition and led to many invitations around the globe for collaborations and joint authorships. Karl was the main author or co-author of several key papers and books and proceedings on shallow lakes written together with colleagues on several continents. At the last Shallow Lakes Conference in Mexico in 2017, he was a plenary speaker, focusing on the dynamics of cyanobacteria blooms of shallow Florida lakes, related to hydrology and possible impacts of climate change. The resulting paper was published in the proceedings of the Shallow Lakes Conference in volume 829 of *Hydrobiologia* in 2019, a mere 2 months before his untimely death.

Karl published more than 160 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, editorials, and commentaries on these (and other) subjects (a selected list is given

below). Karl received the Edward Deevey, Jr. Award from the Florida Lake Management Society for his research dealing with Florida lakes in 2010. He was an inspiring teacher and served as a mentor to numerous students and postdocs.

At the time of his passing, Karl was engaged in numerous projects. He was a member of the Executive Board of the Florida Ocean Alliance, a non-partisan organization dedicated to bringing together government, academic, and private sectors in Florida to protect and enhance the coastal and ocean resources, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Institute of Oceanography. At the University of Florida, he served as Chair of the UF Oil Spill Task Force, the UF Oyster Recovery Team, and the UF/IFAS Toxic Algae Task Force. He was further appointed to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee that evaluates progress on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. As part of the latter job, he gave an inspiring talk for researchers gathered at the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Research conference just the day before he passed away. His great insight, powerful, and humoristic voice and his excellent management skills will now be missed in all these projects and elsewhere.



Photo credit: Karl Havens' Facebook page

Besides being a family oriented person, Karl was an enthusiastic amateur photographer, shooting (often together with his son Andy) interesting pictures (many in black-white) with old-school cameras from nature, concerts, and daily life in Florida and around the

globe, and posted them on Facebook almost daily. He was the founder of the “Photography with Classic Lenses”, a Facebook group now with nearly 12,000 members, and several other online photography groups. He also organized a local photography group in Gainesville. Through those, he had thousands of fans and worldwide friends. He had an insightful artistic vision and professional technical knowledge of adapting classic film lenses to digital photography.

We—the authors of this obituary—are very happy that we had the opportunity to work with Karl in various settings. He enriched our life considerably, both as scientists and as human beings. We will sadly miss him, but his publications and legacy are still among us. Our thoughts are with Pam and Andy.

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Researchgate/net/profile/Karl\_Havens.