



Mr. Douglas Sigler

March 10, 1941 - April 11, 2018

A significant figure in the world of woodworking, the Penland Community and far beyond has died at the age of 77. Douglas Sigler passed away on April 11, 2018 surrounded by family and friends after suffering a stroke and heart attack. Doug Sigler's philosophy was "Don't Talk About It, Do It" and he demonstrated that through a life of building, creating and teaching.

He was born in Red Hook, NY, and began his formal education in wood at The School for American Craftsmen, that later became known as the Rochester Institute of Technology. Sigler would go on to teach at RIT for 25 years, later named Professor Emeritus. Doug taught side by side with colleague Bill Keyser, another outstanding designer craftsman. Their unique friendship forged the way for many of the student's achievements who worked through the SAC program. Earlier this year Penland School of Crafts named Doug Sigler Outstanding Educator of the Year for 2018. A celebration of Doug's life will be held this summer in conjunction with acceptance of this award and the Penland Auction.

A renowned furniture maker, his work has been shown nationally and internationally. He is also known for the many homes he built, each most designed by long time friend and former student, Bob Leverich. The homes are filled with a remarkable sense of space and function and his signature style cabinetry, his work combined beauty and function in daily life. Doug first

taught at Penland School in 1964 and by 1978 began building his home near there. After many years of dividing his time between Rochester and his Penland area home, he retired from teaching at RIT in 2000. He was now able to spend all his time in NC where he continued to create his personally styled furnishings, build distinctive craft-driven homes and teach workshops. Doug with partner and wife Kathie created a home and studio that was a hub of activity and a gracious gathering place for woodworkers and craftsmen from around the world. Doug maintained relationships with many of his former students and was always interested in providing support, networking, advice, humor and sharing of craft and life experiences.

Along with his beloved wife and partner Kathie Sigler, there are numerous family members, and countless friends, students and collectors who will long share the cherished memories, stories, and works in wood he leaves behind. Also important in Doug and Kathie's home life over the years were their beloved canine "kids" Sneakers, Sorta, Ebony, Beau and now Happy.

Memorial donations can be made to the Sigler Scholarship at Penland School of Crafts or designated to the Penland School Wood Shop.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Douglas Sigler*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Doug was one of the best woodworking instructors I ever had. Last time he gave me a critique of a bench made out of pine heart. It was little short for him and I have since figured out that I would be better served from what he told me to changing it into a porch glider. Doug was always so kind to have critiqued the design at the time. I am glad someone said below his motto below, "Don't talk about it, just do it." That was Doug alright. Signed, Adam Thomson, RIT SAC Student*

Adam Thomson - April 25, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ *I worked in the houses Doug built doing his drywall work. As an amateur woodworker, I gained a wealth of knowledge from him. Most days we spent drinking coke (from the always stocked job site fridge) sitting around talking about my hatred for the Red Sox, and his for the Yankees. His work was amazing, his mind was amazing. I recall on the last job we were on together, I had asked him about my desire to get better at hand cutting dovetails. He said I have the best thing for that, and left in the old van with beau at his side. He comes back with a woodworking order catalogue, open to a page with a dovetail router jig. I kind of laughed, and said yeah right. He responded, kid, you'll have less headaches, and more time to drink beer. That was Doug.*

Shannon Hughes - January 29, 2019 at 08:31 PM

TR

“*Doug and I were classmates at RIT and went on to become colleagues at RIT, as well. I always respected Doug and his dry sense of humor, and have many fond memories of our times together. The one that immediately comes to mind is how generously he invited loads of people to his pig roasts. He never skimmed on anything and always made sure we all had a bottle of beer in our hands and a plate of pork from the roast (and encouraged everyone to stay until there was nothing left but the bones). I will miss him a great deal but also be grateful for the many memories we shared.*

Tom Raco

Tom Raco - August 19, 2018 at 04:25 PM

HH

“*Herb Hook lit a candle in memory of Mr. Douglas Sigler*



Herb Hook - April 22, 2018 at 02:19 PM

Jo
Allison

“*Doug laughed, created impressive work, dedicated himself to students, loved Kathy, was a great friend, helped whenever anyone needed him, Doug and I first met when he helped create the Kenan Craft Show in 1968.*

We remained friends for all these years. Joanne Allison

Jo Allison - April 20, 2018 at 06:10 PM