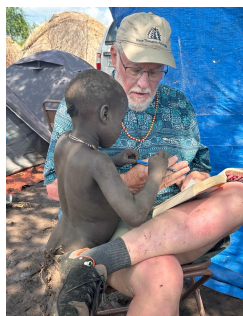


## Kim Steiner (2022)



*May 10, 2023: The Penn State Arboretum*

I grew up in the rural countryside of southern Illinois, along the Mississippi River. My father was a house builder, and my mother a well-liked and respected real estate broker. At age 11 or 12, I began working summers, weekends, and after school, first as a “go-fer” on my father’s building projects and later as a carpenter, painter, hotel bell hop, farm worker, and steel mill employee. The last named soured me as a union worker when I discovered I could not relieve long hours of boredom on the midnight shift by helping do someone else’s job. This is when I learned to hate rules that stupidly or selfishly interfere with getting things done.

My future wife and I began dating as freshmen at Colorado State University, where I was one of two students in a tiny degree program called forest biology. After our graduations, Susie and I spent our first summer of married life living in a tent in northwestern Wyoming, where I had a job with the U. S. Forest Service. That fall I began the first of two graduate degree programs on an NSF fellowship at Michigan State University. During these years, I picked up an Army commission as second lieutenant, which led to a short and uneventful “career” in the Army Reserves. Susie and I are still married and have three sons and seven grandchildren.

We came to State College in 1974 when I joined the Penn State faculty as a young assistant professor. After 47 years on the faculty, I retired as an emeritus professor in 2021. Along the way I supervised the degree programs of three dozen graduate students, taught several graduate and undergraduate courses, published some 180 research papers, filled in briefly as director of the School of Forest Resources, and served as member or chair of a number of scientific and professional committees at the regional, national, and international levels. I have great affection for Penn State, more even than my own alma maters. My most personally rewarding service as a faculty member was the 16 years I served on the Faculty Senate, including a term as chair, and my work from 1995 until retirement to build The Arboretum at Penn State.

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