



Stephen Robert Field

July 6, 2025, Age 82



Dear Friend,

Stephen Field was one of the kindest, sweetest people I have ever met. I did not know he had passed away until months later.

He loved trees and all things in nature. I'll never forget asking journalist Jean Jones about Steve, almost inquiring if he was "real," simply because he was nice beyond words. She chuckled and said anyone who would rehabilitate a turkey vulture was the sweetest person alive, reminding me that they vomit when frightened.

Later I got to know Steve better, and his love for all things living.

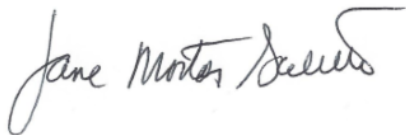
Things I recall about Steve – His car was covered in bumper stickers. His jacket was full of patches. His front door was covered in duct tape. He knew the location of all the record trees in Southern New Jersey. People called him Johnny Appleseed. He bent over when he spoke to you, because of his height, intensity, and confiding nature. He always carried a book. He used a cane forever. His voice was high-pitched and memorable – he was engaged.

He was just plain different from most people; he took time to love the planet. We could have learned a lot from Steve about what was important. I appreciated his uniqueness, his generosity, and his benevolence.

He was kind at a time when the world needed just that.

My condolences go to his wife and daughters, whom I have been unable to reach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jane Morton Galetto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jane" being the most prominent.

Jane Morton Galetto
CU Maurice River Board President

Stephen Robert Field

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Stephen Robert Field, 82, of Milmay, NJ, passed away unexpectedly on July 6th, 2025, in an automobile accident.

Stephen was born on May 11th, 1943, in Bryn Mawr, PA, the son of the late Robert Field and Sadie (Bidwell) Field. He was a longtime resident of Vineland, NJ, and still spent much of his time there until his passing. His greatest accomplishment in life was becoming a father.

Throughout his life, Stephen embodied the Golden Rule, always treating others with kindness. As a vegan for 35 years, he loved all living creatures, big or small. Over the years, he rescued and rehabilitated many animals, from dogs and cats to pigeons and chickens. He extended this compassion to every person he met, and was a lifelong advocate for those in need.

Stephen was a devout pantheist and felt happiest being outdoors. A lifelong learner, he could always be found at the park reading a book while sipping on a cup of black coffee. His love of nature took him on many happy adventures, always eager to see the unique beauty in the places he visited. Some of his most memorable trips included his visits to Texas, Florida, and Costa Rica.

For most of his career, Stephen worked as a cemeterian and landscaper. He was known affectionately as “Johnny Appleseed” by locals for his work donating and planting street trees throughout South Jersey. For over 15 years, he devoted countless hours to volunteer gardening at Our Lady of Pompeii Church and Saint Mary’s Church in Vineland.

He is survived by his daughter, Angelica Filippi-Field, and son-in-law, Rudy Hernandez, of Milmay; daughter, Sarah Filippi-Field, of Philadelphia; wife of 52 years, Adele Filippi, of Milmay; and beloved animal companions, Maddie and Aleister. He was predeceased by his son, Robert Field; sister, Laura Field; and parents, Robert and Sadie Field.

Stephen passed away doing what he loved, taking care of his pollinator garden at St. Padre Pio Parish. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation in memory of Stephen Field.

CU ON THE RIVER

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Citizens United To Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries | P.O. Box 474 | Millville, NJ 08332 US

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