



Martin Nagelkirk

October 8, 1953 - September 15, 2024

Martin Nagelkirk, 70, of Holland MI, formerly of Applegate, MI, peacefully passed away on Sunday, September 15, 2024, with his family by his side.

Martin was born October 8, 1953, to Preston “Pep” and Shirley (Albers) Nagelkirk. He graduated from Holland Christian High School in 1972, earned a bachelor’s degree in Agronomy from Michigan State University (MSU) and a master’s degree in Agronomy from Cornell University.

In 1979, he married Joan Mulder of Holland. Before they married, Martin worked on cattle/horse ranches in Wyoming and Montana, and sheep ranches in Australia.

Martin and Joan spent their first 8 years in Onondaga County, NY, where Martin was employed as an agricultural extension agent for Cornell. In 1987, they moved to Sanilac County, Michigan, where he worked for MSU as an agricultural extension agent and director of the local MSU Extension office. He retired in 2019. He was known by all who worked with him for his humor, broad knowledge base and strong desire to be a trustworthy resource and advocate for producers. Martin and Joan recently moved back to Holland to be near family after he received a cancer diagnosis in 2023.

Martin’s greatest loves were God’s gifts of family and the great outdoors. His

greatest joy was hunting with sons, nephews and good bird dogs, recently going to South Dakota for the hunting trip he had always dreamed of. Martin lived every day with a sense of wonder in nature and in return it gave him profound peace. He will be remembered for his generous spirit, wry humor and unassuming nature.

He was preceded in death by a niece, Audrey Meeuwsen, brother, Bob Nagelkirk, his parents, Pep and Shirley Nagelkirk, and his brother-in-law Steve Mulder.

Martin will be dearly missed by his wife of 45 years, Joan; their children and grandchildren, Paul Nagelkirk of Belfast, Maine, Ryan Nagelkirk of Temple, Texas, Grant (Camille) Nagelkirk (Mason, Lily, Owen) of Chelsea, Michigan; siblings, Dennis (Michele) Nagelkirk, Jill (Bill) Meeuwsen; in-laws, Carol Nagelkirk, Bruce and Debbie Mulder, Brent and Beth Mulder; and many nephews and nieces.

Visitation will be from 11am-12:45 pm Saturday, September 21, 2024, with Martin's funeral service to follow at 1 pm at Yntema Funeral Home, 251 South State Street, Zeeland. Memorial contributions may be made to Pheasants Forever. www.pheasantsforever.org

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 21. 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home
251 S State St
Zeeland , MI 49464
(616) 772-2173
info@yntemafh.com
<http://langelandsterenberg.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP 21. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home
251 S State St
Zeeland , MI 49464
(616) 772-2173
info@yntemafh.com
<http://langelandsterenberg.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Martin Nagelkirk funeral service in memory of Martin Nagelkirk*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - September 24, 2024 at 09:48 AM

MB

“ *My condolences Joan and family. Martin was such a meaningful mentor to me. He taught me so much about wheat, and I can't imagine doing the job I have now without all the knowledge he shared with me. He was a constant cheerleader for me and other young scientist, and I can't imagine my time at MSU without his help and support, not to mention his friendship.*

He made extension events and wheat conferences a blast no matter where in the country we were. I can still hear his memorable laugh, and loved trying new craft beers wherever we went. And of course he was kind and caring to everyone he met and a wonderful example of leadership in the agricultural community.

-Mikaela Breunig

Mikaela Breunig - September 29, 2024 at 08:01 PM

KR

“ What an honor to have interacted with Martin as Michigan Soybean Committee Research Director. Many soybean plot experiments were conducted for the benefit of Michigan soybean producers in cooperation with Martin! His professionalism and expertise were respected statewide. May knowing others had such a deep respect for Martin be of comfort to his family and friends.

Keith Reinholt - September 22, 2024 at 02:51 PM

JL

“ Julie L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Nagelkirk.

Julie L. - September 20, 2024 at 02:05 AM

BV

“ I was a year behind Marty at HCHS and during those years, we worked together part time at Howard Lanning's gladiola farm in Zeeland. Spent many hours weeding, picking the flowers, and taking roots off bulbs during the winter months. Probably helped spark his interest in agriculture. A young man of few words, usually deep in thought, and when he did speak---- it was usually about his thoughts and plans of kidnapping Joan, which apparently worked out well for him. Anyway--- lots of good memories!
Bob VandenBosch

Bob VandenBosch - September 19, 2024 at 09:00 PM

TF

“ THE WADSWORTH FAMILY'S planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Nagelkirk.

THE WADSWORTH FAMILY'S - September 19, 2024 at 01:33 PM

TF

“ THE WADSWORTH FAMILY'S purchased the Firey Lily and Rose for the family of Martin Nagelkirk.



THE WADSWORTH FAMILY'S - September 19, 2024 at 01:33 PM

MF

“ McKenzie Health System Foundation purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Martin Nagelkirk.



McKenzie Health System Foundation - September 19, 2024 at 07:03 AM

PS

“ Martin was my boss the MSUE during the summers when I was age 18-22. I was a crop & soil tech and the crew was all teen females. He was funny with us & didn't quite know how handle that many females. Once when I came into work a little late because a boy had just broken up with me. I can still remember riding in the truck in the way to the field and he didn't quite know what to say. Except he had his bundle of tootsie pops and just turned to me and said, "Do you want a sucker?" Best memory of him.

Pamela Szabo - September 18, 2024 at 07:35 PM

CA

“ Charlotte A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Nagelkirk.

Charlotte A. - September 18, 2024 at 07:23 PM

KS

“ I enjoyed working with Martin when he was with MSU Extension. He had a great sense of humor and I loved watching him present and interact with the farmers. Martin was a wealth of information when it came to all things agriculture. My deepest sympathy and prayers go to his family. Kris Swartzendruber

Kris Swartzendruber - September 18, 2024 at 05:37 PM

HA

“ My colleague Marty was a great example for me. He had a special way of getting information out, understated and effective. He was terrific. I just loved him.

*Hannah Stevens,
Retired Extension Educator
Macomb County Mi*

Hannah - September 18, 2024 at 05:06 PM

GJ

“ Our deepest sympathy from Clear Ideas, Inc. - Diane & Brad, Laura & Jamie, Melissa & Aaron, Nathan, Jordan, Kait, Julia, April, Luann, Cindy & Bill, and Gloria & Duane. Joan, our prayers are with you and the entire family as you go through this time.

Gloria Jerome - September 18, 2024 at 04:18 PM

CI

“ Clear I. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Nagelkirk.

Clear I. - September 18, 2024 at 04:10 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Martin Nagelkirk.



September 18, 2024 at 03:37 PM



“ MHS BOD & Leadership Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Martin Nagelkirk.



MHS BOD & Leadership Team - September 18, 2024 at 01:15 PM



“ MHS BOD & Leadership Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Nagelkirk.

MHS BOD & Leadership Team - September 18, 2024 at 01:15 PM



“ Joannie, Deep condolences on Marty's passing. Just heard of this today and brought back lots of memories. Sincere sympathy to you and your family.

Tom Volkema - September 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM

DN

“ Doug N. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Nagelkirk.

Doug N. - September 17, 2024 at 11:27 PM

CS

“ I met Martin through the Michigan Wheat Program. Any question about wheat whether simple or complex, he could answer it the same way--not making the questioner of the simple seem dumb or making you feel dumb by his extended knowledge when answering a complex question. Martin would go anywhere in the state to fulfill the mission. He came to Dowagiac on a very snowy day to a meeting I helped organize. The meeting was successful thanks to his dedication!

CARL SPARKS - September 17, 2024 at 08:36 PM

DV

“ Diane V. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Nagelkirk.

Diane V. - September 17, 2024 at 05:24 PM

DV

“ Diane V. purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Martin Nagelkirk.



Diane V. - September 17, 2024 at 05:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Martin Nagelkirk.*



September 17, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ *Ann B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Nagelkirk.*

Ann B. - September 17, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ *I had the opportunity to meet Martin when he first started as county extension director in Sanilac County. He and his young family were eager to begin their journey together in this new part of the state. One memory that stands out from Martin was that he had done some work in the pacific region working in a sheep farm. It stood out to me because that seemed so faraway from anything I had known at the time. I very much enjoyed his story and his enthusiasm for bird hunting but most importantly his enthusiasm for his dog and keen interest in training him this role in hunting. We went out a few times and throughly enjoyed our time in the outdoors, memories that last a lifetime. All the best to you Martin. Juan*

Juan Marinez - September 16, 2024 at 11:08 PM



So sorry for your loss Martin was a great leader in our community and just a wonderful person. Linda and I send our thoughts and prayers to the family

kent france - September 17, 2024 at 04:21 PM

AS

Martin was a great extension educator No one knew more about wheat than Martin. His meetings were always informative.! He always found pheasants during bird season even tho they were few to be found. Sanilac county lost a leader that has never been replaced!!

Al and Joan Stoutenburg - September 17, 2024 at 09:33 PM

CS

I enjoyed working with Mart as I interviewed him for agricultural articles for the Sanilac County News. He was such a nice guy, never patronizing. He was easy to quote because he was a slow speaker and I never had to ask him to slow down so I could catch up. I could always tell what sport his boys were in by the metaphors he used, like the corn crop is slow out of the block this spring.

Carol Seifferlein - September 17, 2024 at 09:54 PM

FF

“ From Marc and Pat Kreiner and family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Nagelkirk.

From Marc and Pat Kreiner and family. - September 16, 2024 at 07:32 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Martin Nagelkirk.



September 16, 2024 at 07:32 PM