

January 8, 2021

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you that two members of our community have passed away, Dr. Nick Lauter and Dr. Don Auger.



**Dr. Nick Lauter** passed away unexpectedly on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Nick was an active member of the maize genetics community for over 20 years and his absence will be felt by all who had the privilege to know him. We extend our condolences to his family, particularly his wife Adrienne and their children Cofax, Quinton, and Ashton.

Dr. Lauter received his PhD from the University of Minnesota under the tutelage of Dr. John Doebley. He conducted post-doctoral research in Dr. Steve Moose's lab at the University of Illinois. For the last fifteen years, Nick has been a USDA-ARS Research Geneticist and Faculty Affiliate at Iowa State

University in Ames, Iowa, focusing on maize genetics and genomics, quantitative genetics of disease and pest resistance, plant development, and more. Nick will be remembered by his friends and colleagues not only for his scientific expertise in maize genetics, genomics and plant pathology, but also for his adventurous spirit and wonderful sense of humor.



**Dr. Don Auger** passed away on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Don was a beloved fixture at the Maize Meeting, having attended more than thirty meetings. We offer our sincere condolences to Don's wife, Cindy.

Dr. Auger received his Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota advised by Dr. William Sheridan and did his postdoc at the University of Missouri, Columbia with Dr. James Birchler. For the past two-decades, he served as a Professor at South Dakota State University. Over his career, Dr. Auger imparted his love of maize genetics to thousands of undergraduate and

graduate students through his genetics courses and has been recognized numerous times at the university and national level for teaching and mentoring. As part of the maize community, Dr. Auger contributed towards the understanding of perennialism in *Zea diploperennis*, the effect of gene dosage on heterosis and polyploidy, and of mutations that affect the gametophyte generation in maize.

Prior to his passing, the Board of Directors and MGAC unanimously supported awarding Don with the R. Emerson Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals for their extraordinary lifetime achievements in maize genetics. Recipients of this award are leaders in the maize community who have made critical contributions to creating the next generation of maize geneticists and its community.