



# Richard Turk Poole Jr.

JUN 16, 1931 - SEP 22, 2021



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## **Richard Turk Poole Jr.**

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**R**ichard Poole was born in 1931 in Memphis, Tennessee. After spending his youth in Memphis during the '30s, he went on to marry his college sweetheart, Margaret Johnson, with whom he had four amazing children, who then had ten awesome grandchildren, and currently four delightful great-grandchildren. Richard earned his PhD in Botany while living in Gainesville, Florida. After a brief stop in Hawaii, the family settled in Apopka, Florida where Richard spent his entire career performing research in horticulture for the University of Florida. During his career, he traveled extensively helping the international nursery industry improve their growing techniques. After retirement, he continued his travels but enjoyed shifting his focus to his life-long love of birding and nature. In these travels, he had a second chance at love when he met and married a fellow world-traveling nature lover, Christine Brown.

Richard lived a full life with many wonderful or at least interesting, experiences which are summed up in his own words below.

“Life was good, no, great. Yes, there were some hiccups. If anybody told that skinny kid in Memphis that just flunked tenth grade the things he would do, people he would meet, places he would go. No way! He has four kids he can brag about. Kicked Orlando Gun Club out of Magnolia Park, one of his favorites. 1984 Service to Mankind Award from Sertoma, one of the most surprising. The people he would meet. Chief of African tribe in Ghana, lunch with county commissioner, only a few. Places he would visit. Six continents, forty countries and fifty states. Yes, many great memories! Far exceeded expectations.”

For those intrigued to hear more, Richard used his professional writing skills to capture the most interesting tales in written stories in a book titled, *The Adventures and Misadventures of Richard Poole*. The book is available on Amazon.



## Obituary

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A gathering of family and friends for Richard is scheduled for Thursday, September 30th at 10:30 AM at Brooksville Cemetery, 1275 Olmes Road, Brooksville, FL.

A little ditty Richard shared with his family to express his philosophy on life.

I'm going to live til I die,

I'm going to laugh til I cry.

I'm going to fill my cup until my number's up.

I'm going to live, live, live until I die.




## Events


**Richard Turk Poole Jr.**

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### Burial

 **Thursday**, September 30, 2021

 10:30 AM ET

 **Brooksvile Cemetery**  
Brooksville FL



## Tribute Wall

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BW

**Barbara Whittier** posted:

Richard was always helpful in our native plant propagation events and engaged with young people teaching about the importance of bird life and native plants. He would explain plant differences and the role natives played in the environment. He had a warm heart for helping others and sharing his many propagated plants. His encouragement led to many younger members becoming native plant propagators and in turn continued to educate others of the importance of natives in a healthy community. Thank you Richard for the time you gave to us. Barbara Whittier

October 1 at 12:19 PM

KH

**Karen Homan** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

We were so sorry to hear about Richard, he was a great friend to us when we stayed with him in Apopka and during our many adventures in Australia. Please accept our sincere condolences. With much love from the Hrstich and Maccarone families (Australia).



October 1 at 12:12 AM

NB

**Neta Villalobos-Bell** posted:

Knowing Richard for only 20 years, within his full 90 years, is such a short time. But, he filled my life with so many memories of a unique person who was interesting, a research enthusiast, multi-activities participant, kind to animals, and generous to all he knew. He took me to Toastmasters and his writers' group. With Christine, I was introduced to birdbanding and we traveled together. He leaves an empty spot in my heart. But I will have these memories though of a man who enriched my life.

September 30 at 4:55 AM

ME

**Meagan** shared an album called **FL Keys**.



September 29 at 10:00 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Richard Turk Poole Jr.**

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ME

**Meagan** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



September 29 at 9:53 AM

CF

**Chris Fooshee** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



September 28 at 12:50 PM

TR

**Teddy Rodriguez** posted:

My family and I are deeply saddened by your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you. He will be missed!!Rodriguez family

September 28 at 11:24 AM

SG

**Shelley Gage** posted:

I am so glad I visited Richard and Christine in Florida two years ago. Richard was a dear colleague and friend to my late husband and myself. We got to know him on his many visits to Queensland and we enjoyed showing him some of our favourite places. He brought Trent with him when he came to help me with the farm when my husband became terminally ill. I often recount the story when at Lake Poona and he decided to swim around the lake. We lost sight of him for some time and we worried that we had been negligent in looking after a valued visitor. Of course he couldn't see what the fuss was about. He is one of those people who will live forever. Lots of love to all the family. Shelley Gage in Australia.

September 28 at 7:16 AM



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**Jana** posted:

Doc was one of the many great things that Diane shared with me. He was a kind and gentle man whose pursuits not only fulfilled our responsibility to care for the living things on our planet but were also inspirational, leading others to do more to protect our natural world, myself included. I'll always cherish the day that I toured the area with Doc and Christine visiting homes with native plants in the yard. It introduced me to so many previously unknown garden choices! He was a great man whose legacy will live on in the people, plants and animals he cared for.

September 28 at 6:51 AM



## Media

**Richard Turk Poole Jr.**

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Karen Homan shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 1 at 12:12 AM



Richard outside "Red Paw" Highlands NC. October 1989.



# Media

**Richard Turk Poole Jr.**

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Meagan shared a photo to the **FL Keys** album.

September 29 at 10:00 AM



Family Time in the Keys



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Meagan shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

September 29 at 9:53 AM



Family Time in the Keys



## Media

**Richard Turk Poole Jr.**

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**Chris Fooshee** shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

September 28 at 12:50 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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