

MARIA LEDERGERBER

STORY: Maria Ledergerber (1937-2024) emigrated from Switzerland to the Yukon in 1964. She lived in Beaver Creek for 14 years before moving to Dawson City where she lived the rest of her days. Maria was a lifelong learner, enrolling in correspondence courses and patiently observing the environment around her. In this way she came to know the trees, birds, flowers and berries of her Yukon home.



Maria loved being in nature. She was an avid skier, birdwatcher, and naturalist. She hiked extensively in the Ogilvie Mountains and spent part of her later years working as an interpreter at the original Tombstone

Interpretive Centre. She also passionately advocated for the preservation of special places including the Peel watershed and the “Nature Trail” on Dawson City’s Midnight Dome.

Maria's love for the living world extended to her garden where she nurtured a bountiful harvest of vegetables and stunning array of flowers, all watered by hand from her rain barrels. The vibrant garden she created and shared each year was an oasis of food, flowers, and songbirds.



Maria was always one to slow down and look closely at the abundant life around her, whether that be a flower in the high alpine or a songbird out her kitchen window. Her family hopes this scholarship will support a new generation of Yukon naturalists to carry on her legacy.