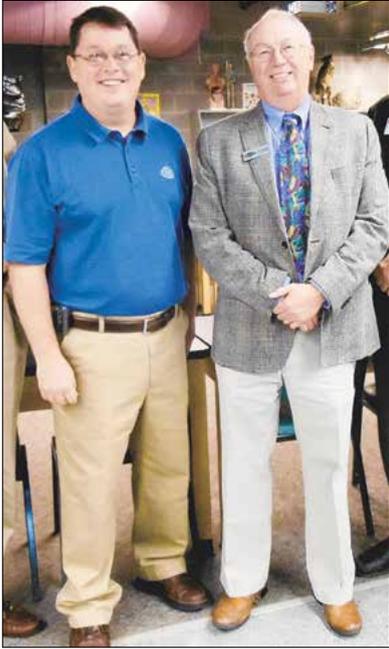


Words of recognition, thanks for Bill Wabbersen



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jim Walther, left, and Bill Wabbersen.

It gives me profound pleasure and it is a distinct honor to be asked to write these words of recognition about an important individual in the nuclear community. William "Bill" Wabbersen has been a leader in the nuclear field for his entire career.

His service at Savannah River Site as well as his leadership within the American Nuclear Society serve as indicators and reminders of a life lived in service to excellence and dedicated to the safety of our nation.

But Bill's contribution is also found in places not necessarily associated with the technical work of SRS and its important missions. You can see Bill's impact by connecting with many students and teachers who have been inspired by his careful and patient explanation of nuclear science.

Students and educators in Georgia and South Carolina, across the mid-south and indeed our nation, have participated in Bill's programs and can attest to his capability in teaching. It is not an easy thing to do. For one thing, the topics are complex. Secondly, a teacher has to know the content well, and also be comfortable relating it and making it interesting. And, of course, it can be intimidating to speak clearly of these concepts to students that are bright and engaged because they can truly question the way science works.

Bill is an innovator in his teaching role, and in fact, it might be his favorite. He created the content that lead to one-of-a-kind interactive science exhibits found at the Ruth Patrick Science Center in Aiken.

He developed a fascinating and highly versatile interactive teaching tool and program that depicts and presents the complex behavior of isotopes during radioactive decay. This program communicates to high-school students how the chart of the nuclides works, and I will tell you that it is not an easy subject

to make understandable.

Yet, Bill's work lead to the American Nuclear Society commissioning an educational program based on his ground-breaking demonstration, now known as "The Isotope Discovery." This unique teaching unit is now found in numerous schools and museums and is instrumental in reaching out to young scientists that want to really understand nuclear science. We are proud to use that very unit here at the National Museum.

Bill and his education program were featured as a main component on Nuclear Science Week's national BIG event in the United States when the event was hosted by the many organizations in and around the Aiken area in 2013. It was here in the greater Aiken area that Bill made his home, and his impact.

Bill is retiring from a long-held position in the nuclear industry. This gives reason to pause and appreciate his legacy of outreach and education. He has pioneered new ways to thrill and engage kids and adults in the beauty and importance of nuclear science. Our understanding of the atomic world is better for Bill's great contributions in this world.

As the International Steering Committee chair for Nuclear Science Week, I have been able to learn from Bill as well, and knowing him and watching him work with students has had a profound effect on how I approach the subject. Bill, we all thank you for and celebrate your commitment to community service and education, and we appreciate your superb career and partnership.

Jim Walther

Executive Director, The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History
Chair, Nuclear Science Week



NUCLEAR LEADERSHIP



Manufacturing

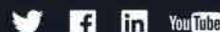
Science & Technology

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