

Passing of a giant: Genie Clark (4 May 1922–25 February 2015)

David L. G. Noakes

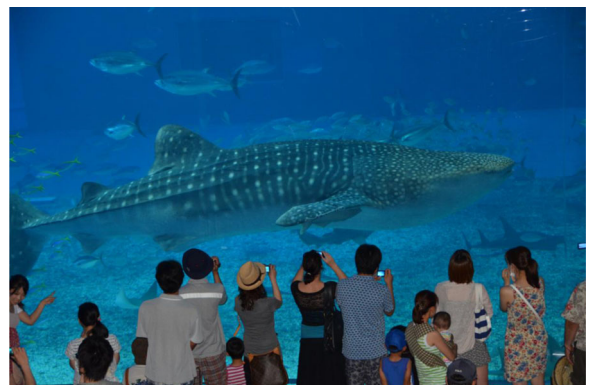
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Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) at the [Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium](#), Japan. Copies of her books and a personal note from Genie are key features of the informational display about sharks at the Aquarium. (photo by David L. G. Noakes)

Sometime no words are possible, sometimes no words are necessary.

As I completed the final edits on the obituary for Rosemary Lowe-McConnell (Stiassny 2015) the notice of Genie's death flashed on my computer screen. No words are necessary for readers of this journal to describe Genie and her contributions to subjects as diverse as simultaneous hermaphroditism in serranids, instrumental conditioning in sharks, courtship in poeciliids, live-bearing in whale sharks and shark repellants in flatfish (Clark 1959a, 1959b, Clark et al 1948, Clark & George 1979, Joung et al. 1996). Genie was one of the first Advisory Editors and a major contributor for this journal. Genie, Ro and ET were the focal individuals for our dedicated issue on women in ichthyology (Balon et al. 1994), and her achievements are presented there in some detail. Of course we must recognize that her scientific career continued for another 20 years after that recognition! Books, films, videos and electronic sources

document her remarkable career and scientific achievements. It is also worth noting Genie's extraordinary kindness, generosity and support to students of every age, her boundless enthusiasm displayed on the pages of National Geographic and her total devotion to her science. Remarkable among scientists for her ability to communicate her enthusiasm and knowledge to the general public, she was quite rightly recognized as "The Shark Lady" by everyone.



D. L. G. Noakes (✉)
Fisheries and Wildlife Department and Oregon Hatchery
Research Center, Oregon State University,
104 Nash Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-3803, USA
e-mail: david.noakes@oregonstate.edu

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