



Thomas Morse Trimble

July 9, 1940 - April 15, 2026

Barneveld – Thomas Morse Trimble, age 85, died on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at his home in rural Barneveld.

Tom was born in Boonville, Missouri on July 9, 1940, Tom spent his first four years living on a farm before his family moved to Madison. He attended West High School and later graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Forest Ecology, a field that reflected his lifelong love of nature and the outdoors.

Known as both “Happy Tom” and “Old Man” he was given these affectionate names by friends throughout different stages of his life. Tom lived his life with a free spirit, an open heart, and a genuine appreciation for simple joys. He made his home on forty secluded acres he cherished, where he found peace, purpose, and a close connection to the land. His life was rooted in independence and nature, shaped by the things that mattered most to him.

In his youth, Tom participated in the Wisconsin Soap Box Derby and marched with the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, an experience that reflected his energy and spirit. Tom enjoyed the companionship of numerous cats throughout his life and at one time proudly showed them.

As a young adult, Tom bowled at Schwoegler Lanes in Madison, where many

of the area's best bowlers gathered. Bowling became a lifelong passion, and he continued enjoying the sport at local bowling alleys for years to come. He was especially proud of winning the "Super Bowl Punisher," an endurance bowling event in which he bowled 30 games in a single day.

Tom dedicated himself to beekeeping and founded Adamsville Apiary. His work reflected patience, independence and a deep respect for nature. He sold his honey in local stores and farmers markets, with his products reaching customers from Hollandale to Chicago. For a period, he also raised pigs at his farm embracing the hard work and simple way of life he valued.

When weather allowed, he found peace on his three-season porch, spending hours watching wildlife and listening to birds while taking in the quiet beauty of his surroundings.

Tom is survived by his sister, Susannah Wilson and brother-in-law, John Erickson of Pennsylvania. Tom is also survived by a nephew, Brian Wilson; two nieces, Jennifer Vanderhoof and Elise Wilson; and two grand-nieces, Sasha and Sofia Wilson. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends from all walks of life.

Among beekeepers, a favorite saying is "They never die, they just simply buzz off".

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the HOLLANDALE VILLAGE HALL / AMERICAN LEGION, corner of 5th Ave. and Commerce Street, Hollandale where family and friends are welcome to gather and share memories.

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 27. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Hollandale American Legion Hall
200 5th Avenue
Hollandale, WI 53544