

Who was Ashlev Schiff?

Ashley Schiff was a popular professor of political science at Stony Brook University in the 1960's. He was an early conservationist and was educated in the politics of forest management. When Professor Schiff learned that the tallest conifer tree on campus was going to be bulldozed, he chained himself to the tree, thereby becoming a campus legend. In the fall of 1969, after only a few short years at Stony Brook, Professor Schiff died tragically at the age of 37. His death dealt a crushing blow to the students of USB and a way to memorialize Professor Schiff was quickly devised.

Rather than naming a simple building in Professor Schiff's honor, an untouched piece of woodland on the campus of USB where Professor Schiff often walked, was dedicated in his name. This became the Ashley Schiff Preserve. Dedicated by former United States Secretary of the Interior, Stuart Udall, the Ashley Schiff Preserve will forever share Professor Schiff's love of nature with the students of Stony Brook University.