

ENCOUNTERING AWE

Heritage Circle Member Doug Deremer

Doug Deremer, a Pennsylvania native and lifelong Frank Lloyd Wright advocate, first learned of Wright's masterpiece, Fallingwater, while studying American Art in college. Years later, Doug traveled to Pittsburgh for his work as an auditor. Once he realized Fallingwater was just a short drive from the city, he planned an extra day to visit. Upon arrival at Fallingwater, he was immediately taken with the site, saying "...the setting, the physical structure's interplay with the landscape, the beauty..." - he was overwhelmed by it all.



As someone deeply invested in all of the arts, Doug is familiar with being emotionally moved while experiencing works of art; yet he describes the awe he felt in being at Fallingwater for the first time as on par with studying Hopper's "Nighthawks" or Van Gogh's "Starry Night" and then finally standing in front of the actual works. The awe eventually makes way for understanding the incredible impact these pieces and artists had on their disciplines.

Doug feels that, if given the chance, these artistic masterpieces will live on and on because they are like no other. UNESCO agreed when they inscribed Fallingwater

as a World Heritage Site based on its "outstanding universal value." He recalled his Fallingwater guide saying that maintaining the house in this condition bears a significant ongoing cost. These thoughts were on his mind when he first sat down to think through the legacy he hoped to create through his estate plans. He chose to leave a bequest to Fallingwater to preserve the genius of this incredible site. Even more than that, he hopes his bequest will help preserve the beautiful experience of visiting Fallingwater through well-curated and diverse educational tours. Doug put it best

when he said, "I could support all kinds of different organizations, but I'd rather protect something that people can appreciate for its beauty and inspiration."

For Doug, the decision ultimately comes back to the simple and sincere feelings that overwhelmed his senses when he first put eyes on Fallingwater. Doug will continue to support Fallingwater, and he hopes that "people really will seriously consider adding Fallingwater to their wills" to ensure the opportunity to experience Fallingwater for generations to come. 🌿

Fallingwater Lends a Hand to the Local Community

Fallingwater naturally supports the local community by drawing a worldwide audience to the Laurel Highlands and providing a range of work opportunities for local residents. This year, as more people experienced challenges resulting from the pandemic, we were able to expand our impact by partnering with 412 Food Rescue, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit, to make Fallingwater available as a distribution location for those in need of fresh produce, dairy and milk. Fayette County, where Fallingwater is situated, has the highest rural poverty rate in Pennsylvania, and through the USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program, we were able to help 412 Food Rescue distribute fresh foods from Western Pennsylvania to anyone in need three times this year. 🌿

Your Virtual Conservancy

Much of this year has been about improvising. We have all had to look for new ways to do normal things. One of our biggest changes (*and disappointments*) was not being able to meet with our members in person, but the ability to offer virtual programs has opened a new dimension of communication. WPC staff enjoys sharing their work projects, research and expertise, and were able to do so through Zoom webinars, which were recorded and are now available on our website. If you missed any of these webinars, visit WaterLandLife.org/webinars to view presentations on a range of program topics such as community forestry and conservation science.

Fallingwater also offers a host of things to do at Fallingwater.org/fallingwater-from-home. There are activities for children and families, recipes from Fallingwater chef Tom Shuttlesworth, music by cellist Mike Block and unique views of the site and the art and furniture collection. Visit Fallingwater.org/webinars for free webinars on Fallingwater-related topics by professional artists, art conservators and the structural engineer from the team that restored Fallingwater's cantilevers. Register for the upcoming live Zoom webinar "70 Years of Good Design: Edgar Kaufmann jr. & MoMA" to be held on December 14. A global mini-symposium "New Conceptions of Sustainable Organic Architecture" will air on January 16 at 1 p.m., and on February 11, Rick Darke, a horticulturalist, conservationist and photographer, will present "Fallingwater's Landscape and the Art of Observation."

Each Wednesday, Fallingwater offers a "A Closer Look," a live, behind-the-scenes view of parts of the house, collection or grounds. These sessions offer in-depth information that is not usually included on tours. The \$15 per session fee supports Fallingwater, and you must register in advance. 🌿

Fake it 'til you make it

Whether you're working from home or paying virtual visits to friends and family this holiday season, consider how fun it would be to appear that you are in the living room at Fallingwater or at a stunning outlook in the forest. Download one of our free Conservancy video backgrounds at WaterLandLife.org/virtual-backgrounds. 🌿



Head Outside — Even in Winter

At some point, everyone needs to escape their screens. Even though we are heading into the colder months of the year, there is no reason to stay indoors. Landscapes often reveal themselves best in the starkness of winter when vistas appear through the bare trees. Of the nearly 50 properties the Conservancy owns and are open to the public, there are 13 properties totaling 10,000 acres that have trails, signage and parking access that are especially ideal for family excursions. If you are interested in finding a place to explore, visit WaterLandLife.org/land-conservation/explore-our-properties for information and maps. Snap a photo during your outing and tag us on social media or share it with us by emailing development@paconserve.org. 🌿



Fallingwater Winter Walks

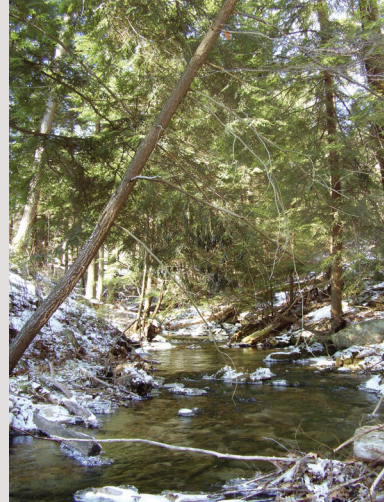
Fallingwater is beautiful in every season, but winter allows different views of the house that foliage otherwise obscures. This year the grounds will be open for year-round visitation. Guided landscape tours will be available for the first time on Saturdays throughout December, and the museum store will also be open on these days. You will be able to purchase a grounds pass for self-guided tours in January and February. Reservations are required. Purchase tickets online or call Visitor Services at **724-329-8501**. 🌿

In order to stay up-to-date in these fast-moving times, please make sure that we have your current email address. Please note that if you unsubscribe from one email, you will unsubscribe from all digital communication from WPC. Contact Kathy Patrignani at kpatrignani@paconserve.org to share your email address.

With Gratitude for Our Heritage Circle Members

Our Heritage Circle is a group of nearly 160 households that have included the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy or Fallingwater in their estate plans. Members can designate specific work close to their heart, such as preserving Fallingwater, protecting forests, planting trees or supporting a community garden in perpetuity. These legacy gifts advance our mission through thick and thin and provide the Conservancy with a solid foundation of support.

To share our appreciation, Heritage Circle members are invited to special events and receive insider communications about our work throughout the year. If you have already included WPC in your estate plans, please let us know by returning the enclosed envelope or contacting Julie Holmes at 412-586-2312 or jholmes@paconserve.org.



Many thanks to the following Heritage Circle members — and welcome to our newest members who notified us of their plans between March and November 2020 (indicated by an asterisk).

Francine Abraham
Joan and Siamak Adibi
Saralynn and Alan Allaire
Fran Balog and Paula Bonino
Francis J. Barilar
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Mr. Michael F. Butler



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The Late Ronald and Karen Delmonico
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George and Roseann Erny
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Ultimate Legacies

We are deeply grateful to the following donors whose legacies will support the Conservancy's mission and work well into the future.

Bernard C. Artman
John and Ethel Bail
Ethel Belcher
Sherry Malone
Mark Perrott
Virginia White
Hugh Young

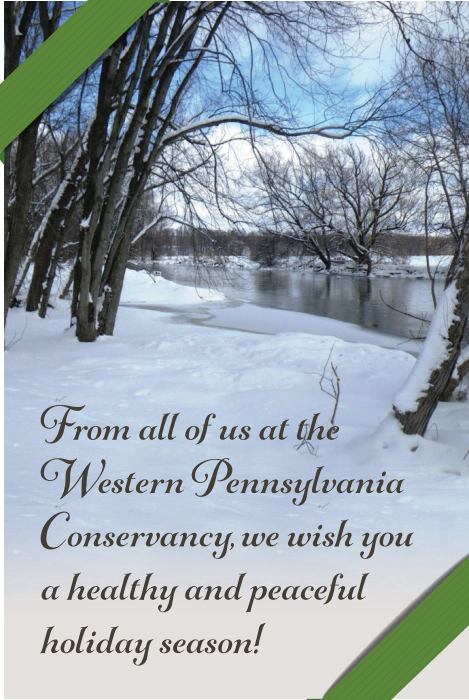
WPC received bequests from these donors between March and November 2020.

Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy



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*From all of us at the
Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy, we wish you
a healthy and peaceful
holiday season!*

Consider a Legacy Gift

In remarkably challenging times like these, the support of current and past generations of donors, including legacy gifts, has been essential in keeping our organization strong and stable.

While new challenges are inevitable, legacy gifts fill a critical need. Estate gifts have allowed us to purchase crucial properties under short notice, undertake essential preservation work at Fallingwater and underwrite community gardens in perpetuity for all to enjoy.

A common misconception is that only wealthy people can create a legacy through their estate plans. In truth, estate giving is a great option for everyone because you can designate a gift of any amount or percentage in your will or trust. Each year, the Conservancy receives bequests of all sizes, and together, these legacy gifts allow us to undertake important work. A wise donor once said that she sees her will as her autobiography. It reveals what is important to her in her life, and giving through a bequest will allow her to give more than she could during her lifetime. 🌿

If you are interested in naming the Conservancy as a beneficiary in your will or trust, or seeing how a gift to the Conservancy can be financially beneficial to you right now, contact Julie Holmes, director of development, at **412-586-2312** or jholmes@paconserve.org.



Mission Statement: The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy protects and restores exceptional places to provide our region with clean waters and healthy forests, wildlife and natural areas for the benefit of present and future generations. The Conservancy creates green spaces and gardens, contributing to the vitality of our cities and towns, and preserves Fallingwater, a symbol of people living in harmony with nature.