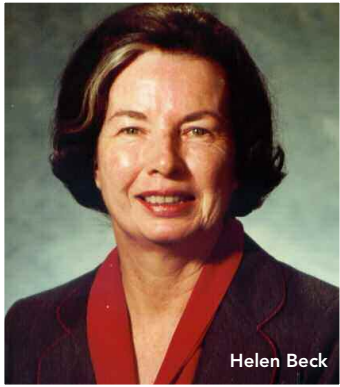




HERITAGE CIRCLE

Helen Beck: *Her Legacy*

By Carey Scheide Miller, Senior Director, Development



Helen Beck

Rattlesnakes can unnerve many — even an avid nature lover — but not Helen Beck. Her appreciation for the small, timid Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, sometimes visible at Jennings Nature Reserve, is emblematic for the way she lived her life, enjoying nature to the fullest.

Mrs. Beck's love of nature was formed while growing up on her family farm in Greene County. She loved hiking, horseback riding and riding her bicycle through the countryside. Later in her adult life, she relished mornings in her wildflower garden, wearing a big straw hat, recalls her daughter, Billie Moser. She loved feeding the birds each day — including a chickadee that was so comfortable with her that it would eat from her hand. Mrs. Beck's desire to see nature took her and her late husband, Richard, all around the world; however, even after all these adventures, Western Pennsylvania remained most dear to her.

She particularly enjoyed hiking at WPC's Wolf Creek Narrows, Jennings Nature Reserve, Moraine State Park and McConnells Mill. In fact, for nearly her 90 years, Mrs. Beck rarely missed a chance to experience nature each day. Given her affinity for these WPC-conserved natural areas, it was no surprise that she called the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy her favorite charity — one that she faithfully supported since 1962.

A mother of two daughters, stepmother to a son, grandmother of five grandkids, and great-grandmother to another 10 children, Mrs. Beck passed her love of nature to many of her descendants. Billie shares her mother's passion for nature, particularly wildflowers and birds — and has a goal of visiting the 59 national parks in the United States (with 33 visited already).

I had the privilege to get to know Mrs. Beck in her golden years — often over a hike at Wolf Creek Narrows. I was impressed with her knowledge of the many wildflowers there — learned over years of observation and study of her field guide — and I really felt privileged to be a part of her hiking adventures — even in her late 80s!

In 2010, Mrs. Beck shared that she had included the Conservancy in her estate plans. This gave us the opportunity to acknowledge her ultimate support while she was living. I was saddened to learn of her passing in late 2011 at the age of 90. I think of her every time I visit one of her favorite places.

Some of Mrs. Beck's bequest will support a site improvement at Wolf Creek Narrows, the addition of a railing that will make it easier for people to access the hiking trail. It's a fitting, lasting tribute to a woman whose adventurous spirit touched so many.

Is WPC in your will, or would you consider including it? We hope you will let us know by filling out the form in the enclosed envelope.



Jennings Nature Reserve

With Gratitude for Our Heritage Circle Members

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is grateful to the 114 Heritage Circle members who have given notice of their intentions to support WPC through their estate plans. They have made a significant and lasting impact on the Conservancy's future without affecting their current standards of living.

If you have included the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy as a beneficiary of your will, trust, life insurance policy or retirement account, we hope that you will take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed envelope to let us know. By allowing us to express our appreciation for your foresight and commitment now, you will help us to also demonstrate how your ultimate gift will be appreciated and stewarded.

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Abraham
Ms. Ann Lee Alexander
Saralynn J. and Alan T. Allaire
The Bernard C. Artman Family Fund
Mr. Francis A. Balog and Dr. Paula B. Bonino
Francis J. Barilar
Mr. and Mrs. Brooks M. Bartlett
Richard N. Bartlett
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Dr. Patricia A. Canfield and
Mr. Thomas N. Canfield
Mrs. Verna O. Canova
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Allan Scaggs and Beth Fabiani Scaggs
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Mr. Steven W. Patterson
Dr. Chauncey H. Steele, Jr.
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Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Ulsh
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Philip F. Warner
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Watters
Mrs. Virginia L. White
Ruth Wilder*
Rick and Mindy Williams
Mark M. Wilson and Mary Hart Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice S. Yeiser
Burton L. Ziskind
S. J. Zoerb
Anonymous (19)

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Heritage Circle

You can provide for the future of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy without sacrificing your current income streams — and possibly receive favorable tax benefits in the process. Members of the Heritage Circle support WPC by:

- Adding WPC as a beneficiary of their current wills with a simple codicil;
- Making WPC a beneficiary of their IRA or retirement fund;
- Creating a charitable gift annuity through WPC;
- Including WPC as a beneficiary of their charitable remainder or charitable lead trusts;
- Naming WPC the owner and beneficiary of an insurance policy.

* We are pleased to welcome seven new Heritage Circle members, of which two would like to remain anonymous. These members notified us of their plans between January-August 2013. New members are annotated with an asterisk.

Explore Gift Planning from Your Armchair

Would you like to know more about how a charitable gift annuity would work for you? Interested in finding out the true cost of making an outright gift to the Conservancy after factoring in potential tax savings? You can log onto our website at www.WaterLandLife.org/60 and click on the "Explore the Gift Plan" link to research the giving options — outright or deferred — that are right for you.

Of course, your calls are always welcome toll free at **1-866-564-6972**.

Current Charitable Gift Annuity Rates*

Age	Rate	Charitable Deduction for a \$10,000 one-life annuity	Annual Payment for a \$10,000 one-life annuity
60	4.4	\$2,045	\$440
65	4.7	\$2,811	\$470
70	5.1	\$3,582	\$510
75	5.8	\$4,186	\$580
80	6.8	\$4,731	\$680
85	7.8	\$5,461	\$780
90+	9.0	\$6,163	\$900

* As of August 2013. Assumes IRS discount rate of 1.4% and a cash gift. Subject to change.



Fallingwater at dusk

For more information, please contact Carey Scheide Miller, senior director, development at **412-586-2356**, toll-free at **866-564-6972 ext. 2356**, or cmiller@paconserve.org.

You can also visit www.WaterLandLife.org/60 or fill out the form in the enclosed envelope and return it to:

Development Department
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
800 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Donations made through wills, trusts, and life insurance are a crucial part of WPC's future. Our vision for Western Pennsylvania's water, land and life would not be achievable without the foresight and commitment by so many loyal donors. We are deeply grateful for the following donors' generosity.* Their ultimate legacies are supporting WPC's work:

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



- Mrs. Helen G. Beck, Butler, Pa. — member since 1962
- Mr. Gibson P. Buchanan, Verona, Pa. — member since 1969
- Mr. George D. Bungard, Jr., Washington, Pa. — member since 1964
- Mr. Stanley F. Collis, Cranberry Twp., Pa. — member since 1983
- Mr. Robert C. Cooper, Butler, Pa. — new donor through bequest
- Dr. William G. and Mrs. Elizabeth L. Everett, Cranberry Twp., Pa. — members since 1968
- Ms. Lorraine M. Gross, McKees Rocks, Pa. — member since 1985
- Ms. Laura L. Harper, Warren, Pa. — member since 1996
- Ms. Florence M. Knoll – Montclair, Ca. — member since 1996
- Mr. Charles F. Nichol, New Castle, Pa. — member since 1967
- Ms. Elizabeth E. Quashnock, DuBois, Pa. — new donor through bequest
- Ms. Sue A. Rotharmel, Washington, DC — member since 1992
- Mr. George H. Rowley, Tennille, Ga. — member since 1964
- Mrs. Marion M. Schnurer, Pittsburgh, Pa. — member since 1987
- Mrs. Nina J. Whitney, Bethel Park, Pa. — member since 1963
- Mr. Rufus J. Wysor, Pittsburgh, Pa. — member since 1968

* WPC received bequests from these donors' estates between January 2012 – August 2013



Learn more about WPC's goals for this decade at WaterLandLife.org/Legacy



Community Garden in Pittsburgh's West End neighborhood

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.

Program Updates

- This summer, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy reached a land conservation milestone when it completed a conservation easement on a family farm in Donegal Township. All told, the organization has permanently protected more than 10,000 acres in the Ligonier Valley through voluntary conservation easements since the 1970s.
- Fallingwater recently made the house and surrounding areas more accessible for all visitors. Adding to a new ADA-accessible shuttle that runs between the house and the Visitors' Center, staff constructed a trail that provides all visitors with the opportunity to view Fallingwater from the Birdseye Overlook.
- Bates Street, a busy corridor connecting the Oakland section of Pittsburgh with the South Side of Pittsburgh, is getting a significant "green makeover." Thanks to the initial vision of Dr. Eugene Myers, the Conservancy is removing invasive species and vines and replacing them with native flowering trees and shrubs, taking a once-neglected area and making it new, native and green.
- Over the summer, watershed conservation scientists surveyed four creeks for the Eastern Hellbender salamander, catching and tagging 72 animals over 8.5 days. Besides tracking Hellbenders in their usual places of Little Mahoning Creek, Tubmill Creek, and the Allegheny National Forest, scientists were pleased to find them in Buffalo Creek for the first time. Hellbenders are an excellent indicator of high water quality and can live for up to 30 years.
- The Our Shared Legacy campaign for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has raised more than \$30 million toward its \$40 million goal. Nearly \$2 million came from realized bequests and an additional \$2.2 million is counted from intended future bequests. These legacy gifts have made a significant impact on WPC — now and in the future.



Hellbender salamander, French Creek