



## HERITAGE CIRCLE

## The Heritage Circle: Their Legacies



WPC recently protected 16 acres of forest, fields and wetlands in Venango Township and Greene Township, Erie County near Lake Pleasant.

Eight people made a significant and lasting impact on the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in 2011 — collectively contributing through their bequests more than \$900,000 towards our work. Whether the gift was a few thousand dollars or a few hundred thousand dollars, these donors cared enough about our work to make us a part of their “families” through bequests. We gratefully acknowledge their generosity and foresight. They have passed away, but their commitment to conserving Western Pennsylvania’s land, water, and life continues. We are pleased to honor their legacies through the following brief biographies:

**Barbara Armstrong, of Pittsburgh, Pa.,** first became a member of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in 1977. She had a varied career, with jobs including running a boarding home in the 1960s, checking coats for the Pittsburgh Playhouse, and holding several secretarial positions. Her last position was with Freid, Kane & Walters, where she retired at the age of 80. Following that, she enjoyed her retirement for another 17 years! *(No photo available.)*

**Caroline and Chester Davies, of Lancaster, Pa.**

(formerly of Kittanning, Pa.), were members of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy since 1988. WPC received a gift from their trust after they both passed away. According to their son Mike, they provided for the Conservancy in their estate plans because “they felt blessed to have achieved their level of success and thought they should share their bounty with others and give back to the system that allowed them to prosper. For years, both had strong feelings about preserving the environment and thought that this was a way in which they could fulfill both goals.” *(No photo available.)*

**Rachel Donaldson, of Oakmont, Pa.,**

lived there almost all of her 96 years. She graduated from Chatham University and received a Master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to her 1947 marriage, she taught English and Latin at local schools. During World War II, Mrs. Donaldson joined the Waves and accepted a variety of assignments, including teaching naval law and serving as a radar supply specialist. Mrs. Donaldson won numerous awards for her flower arrangements and enjoyed both the Garden Club and her book club. Mrs. Donaldson's first gift to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy was in 1965.



**Kenneth Cashdollar, of Bethel Park, Pa.,** worked for nearly 40 years as a research physicist for the U.S. Bureau of Mines in the Fires and Explosions research group in Pittsburgh. Mr. Cashdollar's brother Charles tells us that he had a passion for photography and for the outdoors. He filled numerous photo albums with pictures taken on his many hikes in the

mountains. He was a loyal Evergreen Circle member of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, with his first year of membership in 1980.

# Their Legacies *(continued)*



**Florence Jacob, of Carnegie, Pa.,** became a member of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in 1993. She lived 86 years and was preceded in death by her husband, Harry. A longtime resident of the Stanton Heights section of Pittsburgh before moving to Carnegie, she saw firsthand the value of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's community gardens. According to her

sister, Jane Lubic, she appreciated the Conservancy's efforts to beautify the city of Pittsburgh with flowers (there are 98 gardens in Allegheny County alone). She also enjoyed reading westerns and playing bridge.

**Gertrude Kneil, of McKees Rocks, Pa.,** was born in New York City, but moved to the Pittsburgh area as a child. She graduated from Winchester Thurston School and went on to Brynmawr College and Carnegie Tech (Carnegie Mellon) for further education. She enjoyed a long career as a librarian — serving both in Pittsburgh and an earlier stint in England. Gertrude was known for her world travel and photography. She especially loved to photograph the covered bridges in the eastern United States. She was very giving of her time as well through her involvement with many civic organizations and charities. She was a loyal Western Pennsylvania Conservancy member for 45 years. *(No photo available.)*

**Betty McCurdy, of Mt. Lebanon, Pa.,** was an avid photographer of nature and animals — and birds in particular. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed cross country skiing and travel across the United States and abroad. She also had a passion for writing. Betty retired from Westinghouse with over 35 years of service. She passed away at the age of 88. She was a member of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy since 1962. *(No photo available.)*



**Mary Louise Weber, of Mars, Pa.,** began supporting the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in 1964 and also volunteered on occasion for land stewardship clean up days. Mrs. Weber graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

Besides supporting the Conservancy, she was active in the Keystone Tall Tree Girl Scout Council and volunteered for many other organizations.

Together, these gifts contributed to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's ability to make a lasting impact on the region. We wish that we could have personally thanked them for their foresight and generosity.

We are grateful to learn about our donors' bequest intentions before their passing because it gives us an opportunity to thank them and to hear more about what they wish to accomplish with their ultimate gifts. We are pleased to be able to acknowledge our current 94 Heritage Circle members in the listing on page 3.

If you have included the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in your estate plans, we hope that you'll let us know. We'd be honored to recognize your commitment to our work now (or keep your intentions anonymous if you prefer). Heritage Circle members receive special communications about our work along with invitations for events and outings planned especially for our closest donors. ○

---

***If you would like to be a member of our Heritage Circle or to receive more information on including WPC in your will, please contact Carey Scheide Miller, director of development, at 412-586-2356 or [cmiller@paconserve.org](mailto:cmiller@paconserve.org).***



Watch in May for the community garden near you to come into bloom!



# Thank you to our Heritage Circle members

We are delighted to welcome eight new Heritage Circle members. Denoted with an asterisk, they notified WPC of their bequest intentions over the last year. We are deeply grateful for each of our 94 Heritage Circle members' intended legacy gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Abraham\*  
Ms. Ann Lee Alexander  
Saralynn and Alan Allaire  
The Bernard C. Artman Family Fund  
Francis J. Barilar  
Mr. and Mrs. Brooks M. Bartlett  
Dr. and Mrs. E. Peter Benzing  
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Blackstone, Jr.  
Jean L. Bloom, Ph.D.  
Mr. Michael F. Butler  
Dr. Patricia A. Canfield and  
Mr. Thomas N. Canfield  
Mrs. Verna O. Canova  
Sara M. Carn  
Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis B. Cecil  
Barbara A. Chambers, Ed. D.  
Audrey R. Clement, Ph.D.  
Edith Cole  
Dr. Andrew Dekker  
David G. DeLong  
Joyce Lewis DeYoung and  
Larry A. DeYoung  
William and Cora Lee Dice  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Erny  
Ms. Karen D. Fennell  
Linda R. Finley  
Richard D. Flinn  
Suzanne Flood  
Adrienne Geddes  
Ms. Linda J. Getts

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Giles  
Caryle and Mark Glosser\*  
Christine Gregory\*  
Lisa E. Griffin  
Masataka Hatae  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale E. Hockenberry  
Elizabeth B. Hoeldtke  
Laura L. and Michael B. Jackson\*  
Mrs. Esther G. Jacovitz  
Charles and Marjorie Johnston  
Mary Ann Kalman  
Jeanne G. Kaufmann  
Mr. Lewis Leidwinger  
Ms. Doris L. Litman\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Matchey  
Hannah P. Matthews  
Cynthia A. McClain  
Dr. Pamela Meadowcroft and  
Dr. James G. Holland\*  
Ruth C. Miller  
Becky Mitruski  
Mrs. Wayne C. Montgomery  
(Caroline)  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Alan Mooney  
Moore Family Trust Fund  
Dr. James F. Nist  
Dr. Thomas K. Oliver and  
Mrs. Lois Oliver  
William M. Paul and Nancy J. Paul  
Ms. Suzanne Powell

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Presnar  
Mr. Ramen A. Raak and  
Mrs. Martha Raak  
Ian and Lucile Rawson  
Paul F. Rizza and Carolyn C. Rizza  
Sue Sahli  
Allan Scaggs and  
Beth Fabiani Scaggs  
Mr. and Mrs. Ellis L. Schmidlapp\*  
Gary L. Schnelle and  
Denise L. Schelle\*  
Nancy F. Seabol  
Gary and Janet SeGall  
J. Edmund Shott, III  
Dr. David B. Shryock  
Mr. Paul A. Skuta  
Mr. Marc G. Stauffer and Mr.  
Steven W. Patterson  
Dr. Chauncey H. Steele, Jr.  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Ulsh  
Lynda and Tom Waggoner  
Philip F. Warner  
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Watters  
Mrs. Virginia L. White  
Rick and Mindy Williams  
Mark M. Wilson and  
Mary Hart Wilson  
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice S. Yeiser  
S. J. Zoerb  
Anonymous (15)

## 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

\* New members between Jan. 1, 2011 – Feb. 23, 2012

For more information on including WPC in your estate plans, please fill out the form below and return to:

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

Your calls and emails are always welcome. The Development Department can also be reached via telephone at **412-586-2336**, toll-free at **866-564-6972 ext. 2336** or by email at **development@paconserve.org**.

NAME	TELEPHONE	
ADDRESS	EMAIL	
CITY	STATE	ZIP

- ( ) I have included WPC in my estate plans.
- ( ) I would like to include WPC in my will. Please send me sample language that I can share with my attorney.
- ( ) I would like a personal illustration to show the benefits of having a gift annuity with WPC.

Use the amount checked for my illustration:\_\_\_ \$250,000 \_\_\_ \$100,000 \_\_\_ \$50,000 \_\_\_ \$25,000 \_\_\_ \$10,000

### Please prepare an illustration for:

( ) me, my birth date is \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

( ) also include a second individual whose birth date is \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

- ( ) I am interested in learning more about other planned giving vehicles, such as insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts, or charitable lead trusts.



# Program Updates

For five consecutive years, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has received a four-star rating out of a possible four stars from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities. Rated exceptional for financial health, accountability and transparency, this recent ranking places the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in the top 4% of all charities that Charity Navigator ranks.



Hardwood Trails, a 1,600 acre property on Evitts Mountain, Bedford County that WPC protected in December 2011.

In one year (2011), WPC enhanced more than 220 miles of streams and rivers — equivalent to the driving distance between Pittsburgh and York, Pa. By reducing pollutants and sediment in the streams, we are improving the health of our vital water resources.

.....  
TreeVitalize Pittsburgh, for which WPC is the lead partner, planted nearly 4,000 street trees in Greater Pittsburgh in 2011. Over the last three years, we've partnered with communities and volunteers to put 12,500 trees in the ground.

.....  
Our 135 community gardens across 20 counties encouraged volunteers — from school-age to senior citizens — to dig in the earth and create something beautiful. The gardens gave a dose of nature and displayed beautiful flowering colors for hundreds of thousands of commuters each day.



Students planting at Weil Elementary

In 2011, WPC conserved more than 2,800 acres of natural lands for future generations to enjoy.

.....  
Fallingwater, which celebrated 75 years of art in nature in 2011, engaged more than 160,000 visitors in 2011 alone. This icon of organic architecture encourages visitors to pause, reflect, and marvel at a house situated over a roaring stream.

**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.

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



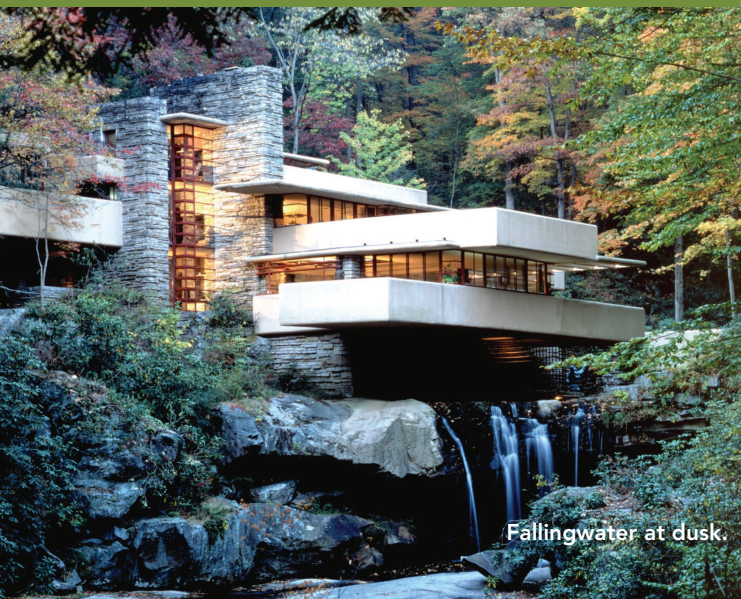
800 WATERFRONT DRIVE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY IS MEMBER SUPPORTED. JOIN TODAY AT: [WWW.WATERLANDLIFE.ORG](http://WWW.WATERLANDLIFE.ORG)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH PA  
PERMIT NO 5450

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

**Members Day — Saturday, May 5, 2012** at The Barn at Fallingwater located on the spectacular Bear Run Nature Reserve in Mill Run, Pennsylvania. For more information, log onto [www.WaterLandLife.org](http://www.WaterLandLife.org) or call 412-288-2777.



Fallingwater at dusk.