



HERITAGE CIRCLE

Doris and Alan Litman: *Their Legacies*

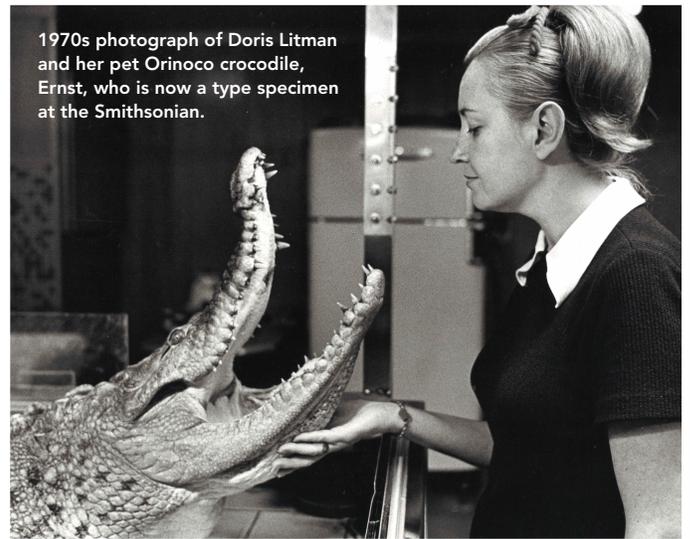
"There's no telling what you will see if you just take the time to look," Doris Litman explained to me during a recent visit to her home. For two scientists with a love of the outdoors, observation certainly comes naturally. Doris and her late husband, Alan, were avid adventurers who believed that with patience, they could experience incredible parts of nature. In the Everglades, they watched a Florida panther stroll by; in Alaska, a nearby moose cow meandered about calmly eating grasses; and closer to home in Ligonier, they often enjoyed relaxing on a boulder overlooking a stream — observing the unique Pennsylvania wildlife. Their love of Western Pennsylvania's nature and their desire to protect and make it accessible prompted the Litmans to support the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in 1996 and later, to make it a beneficiary of their ultimate estate.

Doris is a retired science educator. She started her career as a science teacher at Pittsburgh Allderdice High School and later served as director of sciences for Pittsburgh Public Schools. She taught her students to experience nature by utilizing all of their senses. Instead of simply memorizing textbooks and dissecting rigid frogs in formaldehyde, she helped students to respect nature and life through real-world experiences. Once when asked to teach an Earth Sciences class, she checked the school's stockroom and realized that the school was severely lacking in samples of minerals. Deciding it was not adequate to inspire and inform her class, she researched and personally purchased mineral specimens to give her students first-person exposure to how science works in nature. Her mineral collection, which she proudly displays in her home in Pittsburgh, has now grown to hundreds and has become a lifelong hobby.

Her style of teaching led many of her students to careers in the sciences. Many went on to become research scientists, medical professionals, and naturalists.

Alan put his knowledge as a young physicist to work as an inventor. His breakthrough came when he developed chemical mace to help women protect themselves after one of Doris's fellow teachers was mugged outside of her Pittsburgh home. Doris reminisced that "Alan loved innovation wherever he found it." And he found it often: in the reinvented form of Stravinsky's ballets, the dramatic designs of Frank Lloyd Wright and particularly in his own work.

Upon reading a recent Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article about the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's need for community garden funding, Doris called WPC to offer support for a



1970s photograph of Doris Litman and her pet Orinoco crocodile, Ernst, who is now a type specimen at the Smithsonian.

local garden as a tribute to her beloved husband. When she learned that the garden at Pittsburgh Allderdice High School was in need of a sponsor, she jumped at the opportunity. Soon, the garden sign at that location will prominently bear their names. Doris also plans to endow the garden in perpetuity through her estate. Doris has long touted the benefits of the Conservancy's community gardens because they provide access to nature for people living and working in the city. And, it's an ideal way for her to pay tribute to Alan and Allderdice.

Doris truly appreciates the energy the Conservancy pours into providing meaningful opportunities for people to experience nature. And as I sat with Doris in her sunroom that doubles as a quilting studio, I was repeatedly struck by the boundless energy that she and Alan brought to their everyday lives and their work as scientists. To Alan and Doris, there was no other way to live and no greater legacy to leave. After all, as Doris quipped, "passion is what makes life interesting." 

Editors note: This article was written by Dan Cody, WPC development officer. We are grateful that Mrs. Litman allowed us to share her story in this publication.

If you would like to share your story with WPC, we would love to hear it. Please call Carey Scheide Miller, senior director of development at 412-586-2356 or email cmiller@paconserve.org.

With Gratitude for Our Heritage Circle Members

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is fortunate to have 125 Heritage Circle members — people who have informed the Conservancy of their intentions to support its mission through their estate plans. Their foresight helps to ensure WPC's ability to protect Western Pennsylvania's best natural features into the future.

If you have included the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy as a beneficiary of your will, trust, life insurance policy or retirement account, please let us know by filling out and returning the enclosed envelope. By allowing us to express our appreciation for your commitment now, you will help us to better plan for the future — and demonstrate how your ultimate gift will be appreciated and stewarded. As a Heritage Circle member, you will receive closer access to our work through special mailings, lectures and outings designed just for our closest supporters like you.

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A view of Fallingwater in spring



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Ultimate Legacies

Our vision would not be achievable without the foresight and commitment by so many loyal donors. We are deeply grateful for the support of the following donors, whose estates have been completed with their passing. Their ultimate legacies are supporting WPC's mission.

Hildagarde D. Papuga, Pittsburgh, Pa.
– member since 1992

Charles F. Nichol, New Castle, Pa.
– member since 1967

Edith Cole, Pittsburgh, Pa.
– member since 1991

Jeannette Widom, Pittsburgh, Pa.
– member since 2000

William E. Hood, Mars, Pa.
– member since 1973

* We are pleased to welcome 18 new Heritage Circle members, of whom four would like to remain anonymous. These members notified us of their plans between February 2014 and February 2015. New members are annotated with an asterisk.

WPC received bequests from these donors' estates between February 2014 and February 2015.



Enjoying spring at Raccoon Creek State Park

Seeking Your Feedback

Members and volunteers are the heart of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Without your ongoing support, our work would not be possible. This year, we want to learn what you think of our work, member activities and how we communicate with you.

You will have the chance to win a visit to Fallingwater, lodging included, by simply filling out our online survey. **The grand prize winner will receive an overnight stay for up to four people at the Log Cabin in Bear Run Nature Reserve near Fallingwater — typically not available to the public — along with four tickets to Fallingwater.** One runner-up will receive an REI Flash Sport pack, generously donated by REI. All participants who complete the survey by April 15 will be entered into the drawing.

Please take five minutes to complete our ten-question survey at <http://bit.ly/wpcsurvey>.

If you are unable to access the survey online, please contact Nicole Walsh, donor stewardship manager, at 412-586-2322 or nwalsh@paconserve.org to receive a paper copy.



You can also scan the QR code to the left with your smart phone to access the survey.

Explore Making a Deferred Gift from Home

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 gift illustrator website at www.WaterLandLife.org/339 and explore the giving options — outright or deferred — that are right for you.

A charitable gift annuity is established through a simple contract between WPC and the donor(s). In exchange for an irrevocable gift of \$10,000 or more, the Conservancy agrees to pay the donor and/or his/her spouse a fixed income for life. The donor receives an immediate charitable deduction and enjoys a dependable income for life. Sample rates are below:

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	\$2,749	\$440
65	4.7	\$3,363	\$470
70	5.1	\$4,002	\$510
75	5.8	\$4,502	\$580
80	6.8	\$4,965	\$680
85	7.8	\$5,622	\$780
90+	9.0	\$6,269	\$900

* As of March 2015. Assumes 2.2% IRS discount rate. For illustrative purposes only.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Heritage Circle

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

- Adding WPC as a beneficiary of their current will 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 trust;
- Naming WPC as owner and beneficiary of an insurance policy.

For more information, please contact Carey Scheide Miller, senior director of development at **412-586-2356**, toll-free at **1-866-564-6972 ext. 2356** or by email at cmiller@paconserve.org.

You can also visit www.WaterLandLife.org/60 or fill out the form on the enclosed envelope and return it to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.



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Seeking volunteers!

We have opportunities across the region, both outdoors and indoors. Visit WaterLandLife.org/64/become-a-volunteer or call 412-288-2777.

Encouraging the next generation during a tree planting



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.

Upcoming Events

Join us for a hike, talk or a unique experience where you can learn more about the work that your support makes possible. Look for invitations prior to these events, and others to come.

Visit WaterLandLife.org to learn more or register online.

If you have questions, please contact Nicole Walsh, donor stewardship manager, at 412-586-2322 or nwalsh@paconserve.org.

Earth Day, April 22

**Wolf Creek Narrows/North Country Brewing, Slippery Rock
Wolf Creek Narrows Hike and Ryeperian Rye Pale Ale Launch**

Members and their guests are invited to a 3:00 p.m. hike at the beautiful Wolf Creek Narrows Natural Area, known for its spectacular wildflowers and serene setting. The hike will be followed by a happy hour, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at North Country Brewing. At this public event, we will celebrate the launch of Ryeperian Pale Ale, a custom craft beer created by North Country Brewing to benefit the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's watershed conservation work. Sale proceeds from the happy hour will support WPC's riparian tree plantings at Wolf Creek Narrows.

Saturday, May 2

The Barn at Fallingwater, Mill Run Members' Day and Annual Meeting

Join in a full day of outdoor fun. Bring your family and enjoy guided hikes at Bear Run Nature Reserve, free tours of Fallingwater, informational sessions, a barbecue lunch and more.

