

LARRY J. SCHWEIGER



Larry J. Schweiger is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, a leading regional conservation organization that has protected more than 280,000 acres in Pennsylvania. The Conservancy has acquired lands for five state parks and protected two important river corridors. It created and currently maintains more than 430 urban gardens and floral beds and is entrusted to preserve Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, America's most celebrated private residence. The American Institute Of Architects just recently named Fallingwater the Building of the Century

Schweiger was instrumental in permanently protecting WPC's first - and the Commonwealth's largest - private land conservation reserve: The 11,000-acre H.J. Crawford Reserve to Chagrin Land Limited Partnership. A conservation easement on the land ensures recreational rights to forever be held by WPC, thus allowing continued public access of the land. He also saw to the start of WPC's own Geographic Imaging System program, housed in WPC's downtown Pittsburgh office.

In conjunction with The Grable Foundation, WPC launched a school garden program for Pittsburgh's city school students. This year, 60 elementary, middle and high schools sport vegetable, flower, Japanese, or butterfly gardens that are maintained by students as outdoor classrooms. Schweiger shifted some of the Conservancy's attention to protecting rural lands from sprawl by encouraging the revitalization of urban spaces.

Schweiger directed that Fallingwater should have a state of the art zero-discharge sewage system to more efficiently handle the nearly 150,000 visitors it receives annually. Fallingwater is undergoing a substantial structural stabilization and preservation plan to further preserve architect Frank Lloyd Wright's work.

Prior to joining WPC, Schweiger was the 1st Vice President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, where he was responsible for the foundation's resource protection, land trust activities, and tri-state advocacy programs. Prior to his time at CBF, Schweiger was publisher of the National Wildlife Federation's four award-winning magazines with a combined circulation of about 3 million. Before becoming publisher, Schweiger served as the Senior Vice President for Constituent Development and Conservation Action and was Vice-President of NWF's Affiliate and Regional Programs Department.

Previously, Schweiger worked for the Pennsylvania General Assembly as the Executive Secretary of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control Conservation Committee. As staff member and later director for the bipartisan house/senate committee for nearly ten years, Schweiger was involved at varying levels in the passage of 28 conservation statutes.

Schweiger has served on more than 30 governing boards, commissions and committees. He currently serves as a trustee for Waynesburg College, and serves on the boards of Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Community Advisory Board for WQED.

Schweiger has been active in the environmental field since his teen years in western PA. At 13, he received the Pennsylvania Game Commission's "Wildlife Conservation Award" in 1964 and again in 1965. He received the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's "Conservation Award" in 1972, and was awarded the "Governors Conservationist of the Year," sponsored by Sears and Roebuck and Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation in 1985. He was also honored with the "Chesapeake Bay Award" from the Izaak Walton League of America in 1985 for his work on the Chesapeake Bay. He received the "Distinguished Service Award for special Conservation Achievement" from the National Wildlife Federation in June 1995. He also received the Conservation Service Award from the Christian Environmental Association in September 1995. In June 1998, Schweiger received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution National Conservation Committee and he was one of the "Pittsburghers of the Year for 1998." In addition, Schweiger received the Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award in 1999.

Schweiger is married to Clara Schweiger and has three daughters: Della, Carolyn and Lauren.

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