



Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest.

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FAW OBSERVES PASSING OF HOWARD ZAHNISER SIBLING Memorial Service to be Held in Tionesta

Tionesta – Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW), a Warren-based non-profit wilderness advocacy organization, is recognizing the end of an important chapter in the history of America's wilderness movement.

Helen Zahniser Snyder, 87, died on May 14 at her home in Philadelphia. She was the wife for over 50 years of Lee L. Snyder, emeritus professor at Philadelphia University.

Helen Zahniser was the daughter of the Rev. A.H.M. Zahniser and Bertha Newton Zahniser. She grew up in Tionesta, which she always regarded as her hometown. She was also the younger sister of Howard Zahniser, whose pioneering work for national wilderness preservation is now recognized in a historical marker on Route 62 just north of Tionesta.

Howard Zahniser, leader of The Wilderness Society from 1945 through 1964 and primary author of the Wilderness Act of 1964, is buried in the Tionesta Riverside Cemetery overlooking the Allegheny River, which he greatly loved.

Helen, a graduate of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work of Washington University in Saint Louis, moved to Philadelphia in 1950, to be a clinical social worker for Family Service of Philadelphia. She retired in 1984 from her position as director of professional services.

Helen and Lee attended the August 13, 2001 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker dedication in Tionesta for Howard sponsored by FAW, making a special trip all the way from Philadelphia. Helen was very proud of her older brother's lifelong work for wilderness preservation in his role with The Wilderness Society.

"Helen took great interest in the honoring of Howard. I spent many phone calls with her going over the details of Howard's life and the ceremony. She wanted everything to be just right, and I greatly appreciated her support and direction," notes Kirk Johnson, FAW's executive director. "She will be missed."

Friends are welcome to attend memorial graveside services at the Riverside Cemetery on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at 2:30 pm. Those who wish may send memorial contributions to The Wilderness Society, 1615 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20036.

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