



Frederick Nevin Schroeder, Sr.

December 6, 2020

Frederick Nevin Schroeder, Sr. 'Fritz' 'Poppi' passed away peacefully in his sleep Sunday morning December 6, 2020 after battling cancer for many years. He was the son of the late Jay Nevin, Jr. and Katrina McGovern Falck Schroeder.

Fritz is survived by his son, Fritz Jr., and his wife, Mary, a grandson, Ezra, as well as his brothers, Robert L. Schroeder and Jay N. Schroeder. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Patricia Pollard Schroeder who died in September 2014.

Fritz was a graduate of Manheim Twp. High School before attending and graduating from Ambler College in 1961 with an associate degree in landscape design. He went on to graduate from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in horticulture and landscape design. In 1979, he formed Schroeder Gardens, Inc. a company he continued to run until his passing. Schroeder's restoration projects in the Lancaster area include the Demuth Foundation and Rock Ford Plantation. He was a long-time board member of the Tanger Arboretum at the Lancaster History campus.

Schroeder treated every landscape as a palette and took pride in hand-selecting and placing every plant, tree, or shrub to get the right mix of color, height and privacy. For over 20 years, Schroeder Gardens has provided street

and park trees to the City of Lancaster a point of particular pride for Fritz who was most at home outside in the garden or in his nursery.

Fritz loved to plan trips and travel, with the nickname Captain Kodak, no tour or walk was fast as every moment was caught on film. With his wife Pat they traversed Europe and traveled to the Galapagos Islands. With other fathers and sons, he hiked Mt. Washington and spent 10 days in the wilds of Canada. In the last ten years, he ventured to Tanzania to hike Kilimanjaro and capped off his travel with his son in Cuba soon after the travel ban was lifted.

Fritz always spent his travels asking lots of questions, endeared himself to local cultures and people, and could get lost easily in the moment. He worked himself in and out of many close calls that would inevitably become funny family stories. He was a longtime member of the Lancaster Country Club and the Pirates Club.

If you are inspired by Fritz's love of nature, please consider a gift in his memory to the Lancaster Conservancy. The family will be planning a springtime Celebration of Life event at the Tree Nursery. A private interment will be held in Woodward Hill Cemetery.

Tribute Wall



“ *Frederick Nevin Schroeder, Sr.*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Fritz was a dear and good friend to my Dad, Curt Zook. They had many fun hunting adventures together and great conversations at Ka-Vee Camp over the years. We have enjoyed knowing Fritz and are sorry to hear that he has passed. Our sincere sympathies for your loss.*

Lisa Zook Kuzdro

Lisa Kuzdro - December 14, 2020 at 12:20 PM



“ *Fritz introduced me to the beauty and grace of the natural world, and was truly the originator of my love of gardening --which has become a passion and a solace. It's hard to accept that he's not on the other side of the hill over at the nursery.*



Barbara May - December 11, 2020 at 05:55 PM



“ *My deep sympathy to all of the Schroeder family. Fritz will be long remembered for his service to the community and to the preservation of natural beauty in Lancaster County. He was good friend to many and always an example of the noblest aspirations of conservationists everywhere.*
Pamela McCollough Haver

Pamela McCollough Haver - December 11, 2020 at 10:12 AM

CR

“ I lived next door to Pat and Fritz for 5 years while tending his elderly neighbor. One afternoon there was a Great Blue Heron on the trellis over the gazebo in Fritz’s yard. I managed to get a pic of it. When Fritz came home that evening I showed him the pic, he dropped everything and ran into his back yard. Minutes later he came back and said, “That SOB Heron just cost me \$1500 bucks, there are 3 Koi missing, I had 9.” Several days later Fritz had a screen dome over his Koi Pond, hilarious! Carry on Fritz, I know you’re making everything beautiful!

Coby Regehr Salt Lake City, UT

Coby Regehr - December 10, 2020 at 10:14 PM

ES

“ Dear Fritz--you will be so missed by us, by many. Who else is going to send us lima beans at Christmas--(Don hates lima beans!) or a very worn sweater with holes (like the one you're wearing in the picture). Who else would have covered over their name outside their hospital room and put up a sign, "Wildman." Only you. It seems fitting there is a park right near our home that is called, "Wildman Park." It will reminds us that you are not far away. Forever in our hearts--our Wildman. With so much love for you and to you, and to Fritz, Mary, and Ezra--Libby, Don, and Rebecca

Elizabeth Steckler - December 10, 2020 at 08:06 PM

TM

“ Fritz was a pleasure to know as I would help him pick plants from Mountain Spring Nursery. He was great at putting on a gruff but you didn't have to look far for the twinkle in his eye and his passion for plants. He was a fighter and life tried to throw things at him but he kept getting back up with awesome determination. It was an honor to know him.

Travis Martin - December 10, 2020 at 04:56 PM

JW

“ We are so sorry to read about the death of Fritz. I have been a friend and business associate of Fritz for over 40 years. He was just a fun loving loyal friend who loved what he was doing. May you rest in peace my friend.
Jack Whalen

Jack and Bonnie Whalen - December 09, 2020 at 07:17 PM

CN

“ I've known Fritz almost all my life, having grown up in Lancaster County and gone to Manheim Township HS. I now do landscape design for myself in Colorado, and volunteer for my community. I owe much to Fritz for his talents, visions, and inspiration. What a wonderful person, and friend for many years.
Conrad Nelson
conradartist@gmail.com

Conrad W. Nelson - December 09, 2020 at 05:09 PM

JP

“ I knew Fritz as a fellow Michigan State University Landscape Architect. It was great to know someone who also went to MSU. He always helped me out with design review comments and plant selections. He was a kind and respected person. I remember the the time I sat with Fritz at Bob Hummer's eulogy and thought how great it was to know such leaders in our local industry. Sorry for the loss.

Jerome Przystup, ASLA, Emeritus
peasoup37@aol.com

jerome przystup - December 09, 2020 at 09:17 AM

LT

“ Childhood friend Pat and her husband Fritz warmly welcomed us when our son moved to Lancaster to work as a dairy vet. We so enjoyed spending time with them. Fritz's love for Lancaster was evident as, with twinkling eyes, he told us about his home and all it had to offer. He was a great ambassador and a great friend.
Linda and Warren Tillman
Fayetteville, NC

Linda Tillman - December 08, 2020 at 06:40 PM