



Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Inc.

752 Willow Street, Suite e
Lebanon, PA 17046

Newsletter

www.lebanonvalleyconservancy.org
717-273-6400

lvconserve@lebanonvalleyconservancy.org

Pocket Parks - Our Urban Oases by Kathryn "Kitty" Reist



Mention the words "pocket park" to anyone and you're liable to get a blank stare or a puzzled expression. Though the term has been familiar to urban planners for years, few people—even those who may have been using the areas—realize the tiny, city green spaces have a designation of their own. Typically, the area of the parks is one to two city blocks but some are as small as the footprint of a house that had occupied the area.

Savannah, Georgia's Downtown Squares, for which the city is noted, provides an example of pocket parks to the extreme. Cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Indianapolis and countless others, have restored blighted neighborhoods by clearing the rubble left from torn down homes and creating miniature "parks" with greenery, benches, trees and

flowers. Long-neglected and weed-filled lots have received the same treatment and nearby city residents can enjoy a taste of nature's beauty a few steps from their homes. Many of these pocket parks have been reclaimed by community groups working with their city to benefit a neighborhood and are maintained by local volunteer organizations.

In November of 2012, the city of London launched a funding program committed to establishing 100 pocket park areas by March, 2015, to fill the need for small relaxing refuges amid the bustle of city life. Lebanon has a few neighborhood parks and we hope to see more of them soon. As the asphalt and cement coverage of the planet increases, there is more and more need for these places of rest and relaxation where one can stop and "smell the roses."

Easy Way to **Support the Conservancy**

There are two convenient tools to use to benefit the Lebanon Valley Conservancy. First : Use **Goodsearch.com** as your search engine. It is easy to download their toolbar. Secondly, use **Goodshop.com** whenever

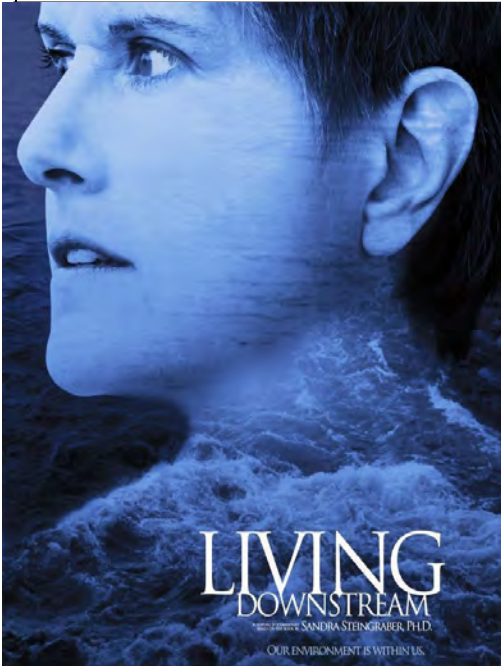
purchasing from one of the 600 affiliated merchants. Each time you use either tool, a percentage of your purchase goes to the Conservancy. This is one easy way to donate every time you research or shop.

2013 Annual Appeal

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy 2013 Annual Appeal Chairpersons are Barbara and Lee Moyer of Lebanon. The Moyer's have long supported the Conservancy 's vision and this year their efforts include the Annual Appeal and our mission encompassing advocacy for the cultural heritage of our Lebanon Valley.



Film Event in Support of Scholarships



Living Downstream is a cinematic feature length documentary based upon the acclaimed book by ecologist and cancer survivor, **Sandra Steingraber, Phd.**

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy offers a Scholarship Awards program each year to recognize students for significant contributions to the conservation of natural resources in the Lebanon Valley. In September, with the generous support of Skip Hicks and the Allen Theatre, we presented this informative and educational film to assist in raising funds to support our scholarship program.

Part scientific exploration and part personal journey, this moving and poetic film follows Sandra Steingraber during one pivotal year as she travels across North America, working to break the silence about cancer and its environmental links. The chemicals against which she is fighting are also on the move. We follow these invisible toxins as they migrate to some of the most beautiful places in North America. We see how these chemicals enter our bodies, and how, once inside, scientists believe they may be working to cause cancer.

We would like to hear your suggestions for our next scholarship fund raiser film.

“The insufferable arrogance of human beings, to think that Nature was made solely for their benefit, as if it was conceivable that the sun had been set afire merely to ripen men’s apples and head their cabbages.”

~
Cyrano De Bergerac

1656

LVC—Nominee



This year the Conservancy had the honor of being nominated for the 2013 Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year Award. SARCC, a well deserving organization, won the award this year. The Conservancy had the privilege of being in the company of very impressive organizations and the award process introduced us to our contemporaries. Ann Pinca, Tisha Walmer, Sheila Wartluft (pictured) and George Kaufman of our Board attended the Salute to Community Service Event held on October 22, 2013 at Alden Place in Cornwall.

We Need You !!!

The LVC is always interested in folks who would like to volunteer. If you have an interest in assisting with our tours & events and/or if you have a specific expertise you feel may benefit the efforts of

the Conservancy, please let us know. We are also interested in your ideas for field trips, programs, etc. **Give us a call.**

LVC Administrative Assistant at Telephone: 717-273-6400

Please, Sign Up For Membership !

We cannot do it without you !!! Take a stand for conservation. Memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. Our organization needs your support to increase the pace of land conservation in the Lebanon Valley.
~ **It's time to get involved !!!** ~
Become a member, or renew your membership today. Benefits of membership include a semi-annual Newsletter, notice of free field trips / programs and advance tickets at reduced price for Conservancy events.

Memberships are available at the following levels:

- Individual \$20
- Family \$40
- Partners in Stewardship \$100
- Lebanon Valley Leaders \$500
- Corporate Champions \$1,000

To renew now, clip and complete this Membership information block. Send the clip with your name, address, email address, type of membership, and payment to:

Lebanon Valley Conservancy
752 Willow Street, Suite e
Lebanon, PA 17046

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Check # _____

To donate by credit card, please go to our website and click on **DONATE**. Our site address is provided in the title area on Page 1.

Volunteer: Yes No



Appreciating the Vast Cultural Resources of Our Lebanon Valley by Kathryn Reist

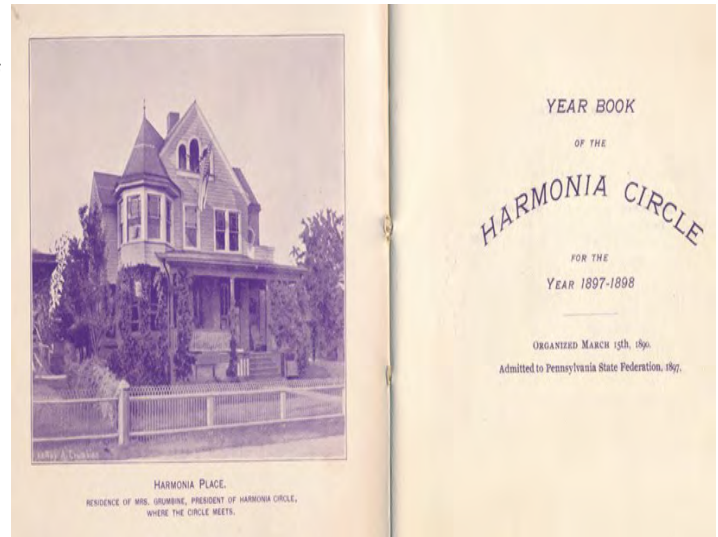
Lebanon County has a rich cultural background and the Conservancy is ever mindful of its mission to “promote and preserve” not only the historical and natural resources of our region, but the cultural heritage as well by our support of the arts in its many forms expressed by its citizens. History shows that the earliest settlers in the area, even though living in modest and sometimes crude conditions, made music and artistic expression a fundamental part of their lives. Beautiful quilts and woven fabrics, decorative writing (fraktur), decorated barns, folk art, intricate knitted and crocheted items -- all helped fill an often harsh life of survival, with beauty. The love of music, which was a part of their very character, was fostered in the home, the schools, and the churches. Lebanon was the home of a prominent manufacturer of organs in those days as the Miller Organ Company shipped its product throughout the region.

As the population of the County increased, the cultural presentations became more sophisticated and organized. In 1890, Mrs. Lee L. Grumbine organized the Harmonia Circle (now the Harmonia Music Association) to foster and develop music in the county. At the present time the Club is a part of the National Federation of Music Clubs and awards annual scholarships to students planning to major in music in college. Members present a variety of concerts throughout the year, featuring talented local and professional artists. The main focus of the Club is on the presentation of classical music but, realizing the varied tastes of the listening public, there have been concerts of varied genre. Jessica Weidman, a classically trained lyric soprano with local roots has performed in concert for the Harmonia Club and with local orchestras, and has traveled to Scotland to appear several times as a guest artist. Elena Lebedeva Millar, who was born in Moldova but now lives in our area, has appeared as a guest pianist several times in the concert series. As an example of the caliber of the artists and their varying talents, the list shows harpist Gloria Galante (who has appeared with such notable names as Jose Feliciano, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Luther Vandross, and the Frank Sinatra, Jr. Orchestra), and The Wong-Chen Duo on violin/organ, who have been acclaimed as “America’s premier violin-organ ensemble”.

The Lebanon Valley Community Concert Association, which was founded in 1934, brought such famous names to Lebanon as the Trapp Family Singers, the Longine Symphonettes, the Vienna Boys Choir and opera singer Helen Traubel. Each season consists of 3 to 5 programs, featuring professional artists covering a wide range of talent.

There is “music in the air” in the Lebanon Valley. Just a partial list of musical organizations we are able to enjoy, in addition to those mentioned above, notes the Lebanon Choral Society, the Maennerchor Chorus, the Cicada Festival at Mount Gretna, Music in the Park, Lebanon Community Concert Band, Lebanon Senior Singers, concerts at Lebanon Valley College, and Voices of Palmyra. One of our local graduates, Anita Patton, gained national attention as she represented Pennsylvania in the Miss America Pageant and she is a frequent entertainer even at the present time as she appears several times a year locally in addition to her performances as a vocalist and keyboardist throughout the United States.

Continued on next page ...



Judy Williams Henry, dancer, actor, choreographer, director and mentor has been an inspiration and her school a success for the last 40 years. The Movement Laboratory & Youth Ensemble is internationally acclaimed as a school with outstanding dance. Attention to personal development and high Professional dance training are their most valued priorities. Located on Cumberland Street, Lebanon.

Photo and information from the Movement Laboratory website.



Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Inc.

Arts , Music, Literature

Continued from the previous page ...

Many local musicians have gained prominence in their fields, both, statewide and nationally.--- Fred Erdman, as a revered teacher of trumpet and cornet, and his three sons who served as soloists in the United States Marine Band, Tom Strohman, Karl Wolf, Jr., William Fairlamb, Rodney Miller, and many others provide testimony to the strength of the musical culture in our area. One little known fact concerning famous musical Lebanon Countians is that the Trix Sisters (Helen and Josephine Yeisir), born in Newmanstown in the late 1890's, went on to become the toasts of Broadway and the darlings of European royalty.

While the county was enjoying this abundance of musical largesse, the educational side of its day-to-day life was not being ignored. By the early 1800's the Lebanon Academy and the Lebanon Female Academy had been established, and Palatinate College and Albright Collegiate Institute in Myerstown were sponsoring County Institute Lectures featuring speakers of national renown. The Opera House in Lebanon and the Lebanon County Court House also presented speakers and musical artists such as Horace Greeley, John Philip Sousa, Susan B. Anthony, Ole Bull and violinist Blind Tom. Most of the presenters were renowned in the nation at that time though forgotten by now. Lacking the radio and television programs on which we rely, these lecture series and concerts were well attended and enjoyed by all as they informed the public of current events and trends in society. Lebanon's Beth Israel Synagogue is keeping this tradition of presenting world renowned speakers by its annual lecture series, which is open to the public.

Lebanon Valley College, founded in 1866, is today ranked as one of the top 10 regional four-year private liberal arts colleges in the North, and is a highly respected music school. Many of its graduates are well-known in the country. As a matter of fact, the current Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, calls Lebanon Valley College his alma mater. In addition to its presentations of free concerts, recitals, and plays which are open to the public, the college is home to the Suzanne H. Arnold Art Gallery, also open to the public, which features exhibitions by local artists and by masters.

Also in the realm of art, the annual Mt. Gretna Art Show is a nationally ranked exhibition which features not only juried presentations but local arts and crafts, and draws visitors from far and wide. The Mt. Gretna area also is home to the Gretna Theatre, which features stage shows of Broadway caliber every summer season, presenting professional actors who may or may not go on to fame and glory. Two of the actors who "made it" are Charleton Heston and Bernadette Peters, both of whom credited Mt. Gretna as a stepping stone in their professional careers. Right down the road from the Gretna Theater is the Chautauqua Society, founded in 1892, to "promote a program of the arts, religion, culture and recreation", which presents an entire summer-long program of arts, crafts, and concerts. Across the road and up the hill we find the Timbers Dinner Theater, where aspiring musical theater stars perform each summer in a musical revue, honing their skills for their dreamed-of Broadway openings. There is dining and live music at the Quentin Riding Club and don't forget MJ's Café in Annville for jazz and various enjoyable events.

Back in the City of Lebanon, the Lebanon Valley Council on the Arts presents its First Friday Art Walk from 5 to 8 in various venues in the city, where a leisurely stroll allows the viewer to inspect works exhibited by local artists and to enjoy music played by local artists. The Art Gallery, at 734 Willow Street, allows local artists in any medium to display their work. The Gallery at La Cigalle on Rte 117, Le Sorelle, on Pinch Road, and Penn Realty at Rt 117 and Pinch Road, all in Mt. Gretna, are now included in the Art Walk on First Friday. Lebanon Picture Frame and Fine Art Gallery, in the Lebanon Farmers Market, also displays the work of various artists in many different mediums.

If "the play's the thing" in your world, the Lebanon Community Theater is the place to go--or travel a few minutes and visit Hershey Playhouse. The Lebanon property recently celebrated 50 years of operation and is currently renovating its "Old Barn" by Stoever's Dam on East Maple Street in Lebanon. Both of these playhouses feature mostly local talent in tried and true dramas and musical productions.

All of the information set forth in the foregoing paragraphs represents just a fraction of what is available to the residents of Lebanon County and does not even touch on the venues that are only minutes or a few hours from our homes. In short, Lebanon supports a rather vibrant, lively society which can be enjoyed by people of wide-ranging tastes. We are fortunate in the diversity of choices. If you are bored ... shame on you !

Special acknowledgement and appreciation are extended to the Lebanon Historical Society for their archive photo of Harmonia Circle.

Kathryn Reist, the writer of this article and the "Pocket Parks-Our Urban Oases" is a new volunteer with the Lebanon Valley Conservancy this year. She has great perspective and does a wonderful job in researching her articles. We all look forward to more of her great work. Thank you, Kathryn.



County Commissioner Bob Phillips & Lee Moyer performed "Lebanon County is Made for You & Me" at the Lebanon Farmers Market on September 13. Commissioner Phillips wrote the new lyrics and presented for your enjoyment - Newsletter back page.

Board Member Profile ~ Ned Gible

I am a native of Lebanon County and was raised in Palmyra, surrounded by open farmland. My Uncle Phares sparked my interests in nature through fishing, hiking, bird watching, observing wild life, and understanding of the natural environment. I still spend a lot of time in natural settings today backpacking, hiking, cross country skiing and trail running. I chose my vocational pursuits based on these interests and received a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering with undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering. At the present time, I have a consulting business that works on engineering and construction projects such as Bio-fuel and Bio-waste to energy processes.

Being a board member of the Lebanon Valley Conservancy fits well with my background. I feel good about being part of team that helps preserve our natural resources including farm and forested lands. I am currently

servicing as the organization's treasurer based on the past financial experience I gained as President and COO of McClure Company, Harrisburg.

For my wife Pat and I, belonging to the Lebanon Valley Conservancy is an important way to give back to our local community and aligns well with both our career interests and goals. Pat is a professional archaeologist, educator, and historic preservation specialist. She appreciates LVC's mission to not only preserve open lands and the natural environment of our area, but also its focus on educating the public about the region's cultural history and heritage places. As a youngster from our backyard looking east there were only farmlands all the way to Annville. There were the Heisey, Grubb, Bucher and Smith Farms. Now only the Robert Smith Farm is intact. The other farm properties have become the Brethren Home Complex and Community, Wheatstone and Stoneway. Although we need development and places for people to live, at the same time we need to



preserve some of our heritage for future generations. That is what I like about the work we do at the Conservancy; we help those who wish to preserve their land by providing expertise so they can obtain easements that many times have financial incentives for the land owner.

Our mission is to promote the conservation and preservation of the unique cultural, historical and natural resources of our region for the benefit of present and future generations. If you believe that this is important to you, too, please help us by volunteering and/or providing financial support for our efforts.

Conservancy Activities & Projects



Board Member, Ralph Duquette with guests at the 2013 Annual Appeal Kick-Off Event

- In August, the Conservancy initiated the 2013 Annual Appeal at the Quentin Riding Club. Barbara and Lee Moyer, as Chair Persons for the Annual Appeal this year were our hosts and Lee and accompanist provided wonderful music for everyone's enjoyment. The event offered an opportunity to get acquainted with the Conservancy and our many projects and gave us the chance to thank everyone who attended for their continuing support over the years.

- The Historic Resources Committee is beginning the next phase of development of the Heritage Trail walking trail brochures. This phase is focusing on

the communities of Myerstown, Mt. Gretna and Schaefferstown. We have three volunteers to assist with the development of the walking trail maps so far and if you are interested in history and the promotion of awareness of our Lebanon Valley heritage, please let us know. Volunteers are always welcome!

- The Middle Creek Initiative is currently working with Heidelberg Township to increase awareness of Agricultural Security Areas (ASA) and how this will help to conserve farm feeding grounds around the Middle Creek Wildlife Mgt. Area for migratory birds and in particular the Tundra Swans.

- The Lebanon School District requested the Lebanon Valley Conservancy to participate, through title of support, for a grant program they are working toward. This is an aggressive project to assist the schools with expansion of classes in science and technology with the goal to better educate our students. Whether the District receives the grant or not, the Conservancy supports their efforts and will assist with any expertise we are able to offer to enhance the educational experience for the students.

- We are currently working on the last phase of development of our new website. We are working with a local company, Cramer Design of Lebanon. Keep checking, the website should be available in December. Cramer Design has provided great options for us to directly update the site with current / relevant information. George Gress of the Nature Conservancy and of our Advisory Board has provided many of the great photographs that appear on the site. We know you will enjoy browsing through the pages. Check it out!

- Activities are still in development for 2014. If you have ideas on what you would like us to offer, please let us know. Speaking events, field trip ideas ... options are open!

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.

Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

~ ~ ~

The Pennsylvania Constitution

Article 1, Section 27

E-Mail Addresses, Please!

Please send in your email address with any correspondence. Thank You!

Watch for Us on Facebook & Twitter!

Don't blow it. Good planets are hard to find!
Quoted in **Time**

Lebanon County Was Made for You and Me - Sing to the music of "This Land Is Your Land"

*This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land
Since 1813 we've enjoyed this grand land
Rich in agriculture and German Heritage
Lebanon County is made for you and me.*

*200 years ago, we became a county
Known as Lebanon, formerly called Steitztown
From Union Canal ways to modern highways
Lebanon County is made for you and me.*

*While we were walking the Appalachian Trail
We viewed our valley with its fertile farmland
And the dairy farmers with their green pasture land
Lebanon County was made for you and me.*

*While I was biking from Cornwall to Jonestown
I passed thru Colebrook and thru Cleona
Then to Ebenezer and down Grace Avenue
Lebanon County is made for you and me.*

*Then I went paddling on the Tulpehochen
I passed thru Myerstown and on to Jackson Twp
Then to Deep Run Creek and on to Old Mt Zion
Lebanon County is made for you and me.*

*If you like camping or golf or hiking
Try Rails to Trails and the Snitz and Swattie
Rich hardwood forests and preserved farmland
Lebanon County was made for you and me.*

*A remarkable history of iron ore mining
From the rich South Mt we built famous foundries
Take time to study our proud ancestry
Lebanon County was made for you and me.*

*When you complete your tour we know
you will agree -
Lebanon County was made for you and me.*



**Lyrics by:
Lebanon County Commissioner
Robert J. Phillips**

Funding for the Lebanon Valley Conservancy

comes from people like you through memberships, donations, sponsorships and bequests. These funds make it possible for us to further our mission ... "the preservation of the unique cultural, historical, and environmental heritage of our region for the benefit of present and future generations." Your continued support enables the field trips, annual film presentations, development of the Lebanon County Heritage Trail map brochures of our communities. It provides for preservation of our farms and natural lands, ensures migratory birds and waterfowl have seasonal feeding grounds, scholarship awards program, and educational projects to keep us informed on the latest methods of conservation, green building and business methods, and maintenance of our fragile environment. Thank you all !

**Stewards of 2013
The Lebanon Valley Conservancy
would like to thank our
generous sponsors !!!**

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Hershey
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