

**BEE-LIEVE
WE CAN
EVENT**

JULY 21, 2017

**THANKS TO ALL
WHO ATTENDED**



**HONEY BEE
STATIONS HOSTED
BY LANCASTER
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION**



**CRAFTS, FOOD AND
AN OUTDOOR
MOVIE**



**TREE AND NATIVE
PLANT TALKS
THANKS FOR OUR
VOLUNTEERS**



Lebanon Valley Conservancy's 2017 Strategic Plan

The new 2017 Strategic Plan for The Lebanon Valley Conservancy was just approved at the August Board Meeting. The Plan includes goals to identify, protect and connect open lands and natural resources, foster public understanding and cooperation for sustainable land use, maintain a dynamic Board and staff to further our work, and promote and evolve the Heritage Trail map for tourism in our community.

POPULATION GROWTH HEIGHTENS NEED TO PROTECT THE KITTATINNY by Charles Wertz

Wherever you may stand on the politically sensitive subject of population growth, there is still little argument that more people need more land to live on and more employment growth to support their lives.

Pennsylvania is a tale of two states in this arena. Overall, Pennsylvania lost 7,000 people in a recent census. Most lost from counties west of a line running from Wayne County in the northeast to Franklin County on the Maryland border. Two thirds of the state has stagnant to less population growth. Meanwhile the southeast/southcentral counties have growing populations and the land preservation challenges that go with it.

Little Lebanon County had a population of 90,000 people in 1960. Today we are the third fastest growing county in Pennsylvania with a population pushing 140,000. So where did we put 50,000 new residents in the last 5 decades? The answer is pretty simple when you consider Lebanon City, the county seat, has been holding at a population of 25,000 for years. The answer is, they are spread out all over the county's remaining suburban and rural municipalities. A pretty good argument for the County of Lebanon to continue supporting the Agricultural Land Preservation Program and other land conservation initiatives including The Lebanon Valley Conservancy's (TLVC) efforts in the Kittatinny and Middle Creek areas.

We also know the average woman of child-bearing age in Lebanon County does not have enough children to account for this population growth. So what is happening? Lebanon County is part beneficiary and part victim of people escaping the crowded, expensive eastern megalopolis of metropolitan New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore/

Washington. In other words, Pennsylvania's population growth in the eastern part of the commonwealth is fueled by a literal translocation of the population from one part of the northeastern U.S. to another part. Immigrants to our county account for a minor part of this growth.

This brings us full circle to part of the mission of TLVC. Protecting our natural heritage for current and future generations. TLVC land protection initiatives currently in the greater Middle Creek Wildlife Conservation Area and the Kittatinny Mts. of the northern part of the Lebanon Valley seek to do just this. Help people who want to protect their land for the present and future. If you want to explore how to protect your land or donate to our land preservation efforts call TLVC now.



Spring Monitoring of Conservation Easements

In July, the Land and Resources Committee, held annual inspections of the Conservation Easement properties held by The Lebanon Valley Conservancy. Each property was walked or driven by a volunteer who ensured that the property was maintained according to the easement, no invasive species present, good land management and strong riparian buffers evident to protect the waterways. Our landowners continue to be strong stewards of the land in the Lebanon Valley. TLVC has preserved 781 acres in the Lebanon Valley. If you are interested in preserving your land and learning more about Conservation Easements, please contact the Conservancy.



In case you missed it, the Lung Association issued their most recent State of the Air Report in Spring 2017

The report found continued improvement in air quality in 2013-2015 in ozone and year-round particle pollution, but an relentless increase in dangerous spikes in particle pollution. These trends demonstrate the continued need to support and enforce the Clean Air Act to protect the nation from unhealthy air. The "State of the Air 2017" report shows that cleaning up pollution continues successfully in much of the nation. In the 25 cities with the worst ozone and year-round particle pollution, the majority saw improvements from last year. So how did Lebanon measure up? Long story short - not well. We received an **F** for ozone, **F** for particle pollution 24 hour measurement and the Annual Particle Pollution measurement was **Incomplete**. We rely on the government for many things but keeping the air clean is a task for us all. We're the ones who win or lose depending on how we treat our own environment.

For more on the report, go to www.lung.org and follow the links to the PA report. Photo taken somewhere in Lebanon County on a beautiful, blue sky day in June 2017.

Upcoming Events for the Conservancy

Kittatinny Ridge Easement Event

Sunday, October 1st, 2017

This event is for current and future landowners interested in learning more about Conservation Easements and their impact on our region. The Logans will share history of the Cold Spring Hotel site.



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