A Simple Start Leads to 20 Years of Conservation

With just $100 in the bank and a small group of residents concerned about the future of Lebanon Valley County, the Lebanon Valley Conservancy (TLC) was formed in 1999. In the years since, the Conservancy has grown to include a membership of hundreds of individuals and families who are committed to preserving the natural beauty, cultural heritage, and economic vitality of the region.

Over the past 20 years, T/LC has been a leader in the conservation movement, working to protect and restore the land and waterways of Lebanon Valley County. We have helped to create and maintain more than 3,000 acres of nature preserves, and have also been instrumental in the development of a network of trails and greenways.

Early Projects Inspire 20 More Years

T/LC’s early projects included the development of the Lebanon Valley Conservation Trail, the creation of the Lebanon Valley Audubon Society, and the establishment of the Lebanon Valley Heritage Trust.

Small but Mighty. In June 1999, the annual Group of Conservators began their first meeting. The top of the agenda was “Our vision and the resources available to achieve it.” The group was small but mighty, holding their first meeting a month later. John E. Wismer was elected as the first board president. The group was able to develop a mission and plan for the future of the Lebanon Valley Conservancy (T/LC). Their vision was clear: to protect and preserve Lebanon Valley’s natural beauty, cultural heritage, and economic vitality.

The Lebanon Valley Audubon Society was founded in July 2000, with the goal of promoting the conservation of birds and their habitats. The Lebanon Valley Heritage Trust was formed in 2001, with the aim of preserving and protecting the region’s cultural heritage.

“Conserving the Lebanon Valley is a journey that we started with a small group of dedicated individuals, and we continue to grow and expand our reach every year,” says T/LC’s executive director, Timmane Williams. “We are proud of the work we have done over the past 20 years, and we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.”

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Lebanon Valley’s natural beauty, cultural heritage, and economic vitality. We work to protect and restore the land and waterways of Lebanon Valley County, and to create a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Together, we can continue to create a better future for Lebanon Valley County.”
The Conservation Trail

TLVC Adds Trees to the Lebanon Valley

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy planted more than 750 trees in Lebanon County watersheds this spring as part of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership. This brings our grand total to more than 3,000 trees over the last two years — thanks to everyone who has volunteered and helped us! Trees are important to our community because they help to provide clean water, mitigate runoff, and stabilize stream banks. They also improve air quality, provide shade, and offer a habitat for native wildlife. The Conservancy is committed to protecting these natural resources across the Lebanon Valley. View more photos on our Facebook page!

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy is pleased to announce Jamie Lynn Kantorczyk as the recipient of the 2020 Richard H. and Karen R. Light Memorial Scholarship! Jamie received a $2,500 scholarship to assist in her pursuit of education in the field of environmental sciences.

Jamie, a recent graduate of Palmyra Area High School (PAHS), is passionate about the environment. She was an active member of the Envirothon team, winning awards the last three years. She was also involved in STEM Club, National Honors Society, Key Club, and was a Technology Student Association team member.

“I was first sparked by the environmental field from my older sister and Envirothon!”

Jamie plans on pursuing her bachelor of science in biological engineering, with a focus on agricultural engineering. “After visiting local farms and learning about best management practices, I could see myself doing this in the future,” she added. Jamie plans to continue her studies at Penn State University.

Pete Conrad, English instructor at PAHS, recommended Jamie for the scholarship, noting that she is an exemplary student and member of the PAHS community. “She is an individual of great potential and will be a great asset to any school. Jamie exhibits a dedication to serving others and has shown some of the best leadership qualities in her class,” stated Conrad.

TLVC awards this scholarship, on an annual basis, in memory of Richard and Karen Light, prominent local residents who made a great impact on environmental conservation in the Lebanon Valley. Enrollment for the 2021 scholarship will begin in January. For more information, visit www.TLVC.org.

2020 Scholarship Recipient

Jamie Kantorczyk

Scholarship Committee:
Jennee Boitz - Karen Light’s sister
Tisha Walmer - Board Emeritus
Susan Verhoek - retired LVC professor

A Letter from Laurie

For many of us, our daily routines have changed significantly during the pandemic. Please join me in finding (and focusing) on the positive changes. Some of us have had the opportunity to slow down a bit, spend more time with our family, finish projects at home or reconnect with nature. Did you know that our “break” has also given nature a boost locally, as well as across the planet? Car emissions dropped in major cities and air quality has improved, water is cleaner with less traffic, wildlife is thriving as habitats are less disturbed, and sea turtles had empty beaches to lay their eggs! Nature is also helping those at home to cope with stress and improve their health through outdoor exercise.

Please continue to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors in Lebanon County and we will continue to work on the conservation and preservation of its cultural, historical and natural resources, for our benefit and for future generations. Want to help? Please consider volunteering, serving on the board or committee, becoming a member or making a donation to support our mission. Our collective impact will make a difference! —Laurie Crawford, Executive Director, TLVC