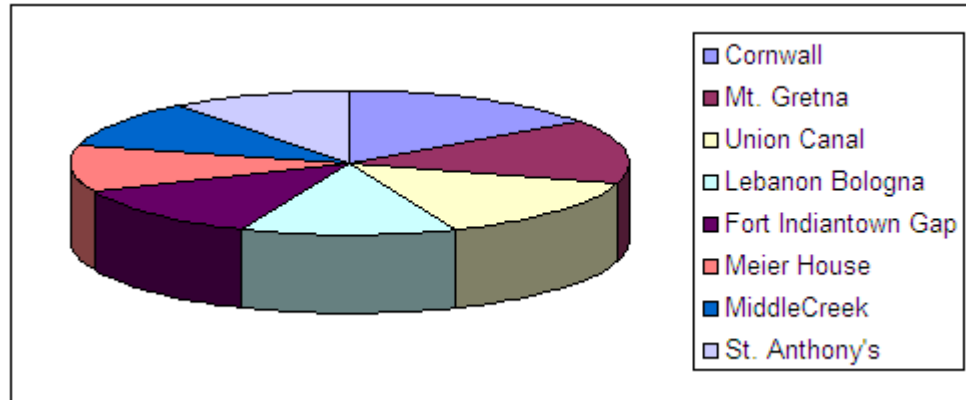




7 Wonders of Lebanon County





By Jo Ellen Litz with nominations and votes by the people of Lebanon County



Middle Creek Wildlife Refuge and St. Anthony's Wilderness were tied for 7th place.

Special thanks to the **Patriot News** for running an article on the 7 Wonders of the Mid State. This article started the wheels turning for creating the 7 Wonders of Lebanon County as well as "The List" that follows.

"The List" of Nominations and honorable mentions:



1. A navigable river on maps since the 1700's, the Swatara Creek: Water source, recreation, geology, history, scenic beauty. The Swatara is now a Water Trail recognized both statewide and nationally. Appalachian Trail Bridge, a lenticular structure span. 
2. Annville just gets prettier and prettier, while in downtown ____ it ain't not. Allen Theatre, Victorian mansions, churches, Kettering's Corner, florist, Batdorf, Brandt's Flour Mill in Annville has been in operation since the 1800's.... The Annville train station.
3. Area behind "Pa's Place" in Jonestown, had something to do with the Under Ground Railroad
4. Bed and Breakfast Inns: Strawberry Patch, Swatara Creek Inn, Tulpehocken Manor...
5. Bethlehem Steel--Babe Ruth lived and played here
6. Blue Mountain: a bird flyway, fossils, hunting
7. Bordner cabin & Aycrigg's Falls in Swatara State Park 
8. Brazenhill, the former Worrilow Mansion
9. Camp Bashore Boy Scout Camp; "Old Black Joe's" hut (now a replica) is the site where this runaway slave lived alone on Camp Bashore property (then the Fahler farm) until the ripe old age of 112.
10. Chow chow, Corn pie, Dippy eggs, Hot Dogs from the William Penn
11. Coleman's Park: Glider swings, Music in the Park, tennis courts, mini golf, baseball, fireworks, envirothons, picnics, swimming pool.... 
12. **Cornwall: Iron Furnace, Open Pit, Miner's Village, Alden Place....**
13. Downtown Lebanon architecture such as the Samler Building; Stoy Museum, Cumberland St.--home of the Historical Society; Washington Tavern.... People travel to Europe to see the kind of architecture that we have downtown. 
14. Farmer's Market: Buy Fresh, Buy Local, restaurants....
15. Farms--Century farms, preserved farms, Rich soil





16. **Fort Indiantown Gap: Since 1930. One of 15 air to ground bombing & gunnery ranges in US & the Army's only artillery range in PA. PA National Guard Military Museum. National Cemetery and amphitheater. Regal Frittalary butterfly habitat, largest habitat east of the Mississippi. Civil War re-enactment**
17. 4H Fair at the EXPO each July: Animals, rodeo, tractors, demolition derby, hot air balloons, acrobats, food, music, rides....
18. Fredericksburg--Eggs, Wings, and Chicken Things at the Hinklefest; Since the early 1930's, beginning with Cobel Grimes, then Senator Clarence Manbeck, the cut-up chicken capital of the world.
19. GLRA, in addition to a landfill, an educational campus demonstrating wind, solar, and methane energy; recycling; composting; pioneering wetlands to treat effluent; a walking path along the Union Canal tow path, complete with a lock; wildlife; farm land; run by a board representing each municipality in Lebanon County; GLRA has won environmental awards from EPA and the PA Governor's Environmental Excellence program.
20. Harper's Tavern, a former stagecoach stop; ghost tales.
21. Heisey's Diner: The smell of bacon wafting over the fields
22. Historic churches: St. Luke's Church, 22 South 6th; Tabor UCC, 124 S 10th; Salem Lutheran Church, 119 N 8th; St. Mark's UCC, 426 N. 8th; Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's) at 8th & Cumberland...and their stained glass windows. Bindnagle's in Palmyra, built in 1803/04 with a congregation dating to 1745.
23. Historic Schaefferstown / Fountain Park: firepans unearthed by archaeology for stills in the basement of the Alexander Schaeffer farm that predate the stills found in Mt. Vernon; Wooden (oak) water pipes, Thomas R. Brendle Museum, Gemberling-Rex House from the 1750's, Michters Distillery, Krall Log Barn (being dismantled/preserved)
24. Hole # 1 on Monroe Valley golf course, the view through the mountain gap is simply beautiful.
25. Hole #10 at Iron Valley Golf Course, looking out over the Lebanon Valley is awesome.
26. Home of Opera Fudge; Wertz's appeared on "Dirtiest Jobs." Where else can you watch them make caramel corn in the window every day, and have handmade chocolates made in the back room? Jean's chocolate art. (Van Winkle's makes opera fudge too.) Lebanon used to have an opera house, really, and on the way, people would stop by the local candy store to buy fudge to eat at the opera. So, they started to call it opera fudge.
27. John Worriow, a walking talking history book. Former Mayor of the City of Lebanon.
28. Kleinfeltersville, which is the longest spelling of a Post Office in the Country
29. **Lebanon Bologna made by Weaver's, Seltzer's, Baum's and Kutztown Bologna! Lee Laudermilch also makes his own brand of Lebanon Bologna. Steph Zimmerer makes a "Crock of Bologna," which is also for sale.**
30. **Lebanon Community Theatre** - an all-volunteer community theater producing six locally produced live theatrical productions each year, plus holding a one-act play writing contest, and offering \$1,000 scholarships to young college students who have been active with LCT. See their web site at www.lct.cc. LCT remains a viable live theater in tough times when many live theaters are failing.
31. Lebanon Valley College founded in 1866, Suzanne Arnold Art Gallery.
32. LV Rail Trail ---- 20 + miles connect to the Conewago trail in Lancaster. Bridges, spurs to the "Jigger shop," Governor Dick, Horse Shoe Trail.
33. Legend of the Blue-Eyed Six--the first case where someone was murdered for life insurance; a movie by the Kreider Brothers is out on DVD.
34. Light's Fort at 11th and Maple streets--the oldest standing house (1742) in Lebanon County
35. Limestone Springs Trout Hatchery. Take the kids, or grandkids, and catch a big one.
36. Log House on Chestnut St, in Lebanon
37. **Meier House, original in EVERY way, from the 1600's!! In Myerstown.**
38. **MiddleCreek Wildlife Refuge--part of Project 70. Try to visit when the snow geese rest on their migration; Tundra Swans.** One mile south of Kleinfeltersville on 5000 acres of land.



39. Miller's Restaurant, Jonestown--Home of the 5-cent cup of coffee
40. **Mt. Gretna: The bucolic century old hillside resort**, a truly unique example of a whole community of cottage architecture in a wooded setting, **a hot spot in the county since 1892! The history & how it adds spice & uniqueness to our community. The Lake, Jigger Shop, Chautauqua Play House, Timbers, hard-wood forest, Dinosaur rock, Governor Dick & tower...** 
41. Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting-an amphitheater for a chapel/tabernacle+guest cottages (N 7th St., Lebanon)
42. One time largest outdoor swimming pool in the state at the Gibble property
43. Pig stomach; Pork and Sauerkraut; Potato filling, Potpie
44. Lick Memorial, Cedar Hill Cemetery
45. Limestone Quarries: Calcite, Avon Heights; Richland's Millardsville Quarry; Annville's Millard Quarry; Smith's Quarry
46. Railroad Stations--Cornwall; Lebanon, Reading--on North 8th Street and Chestnut Street; Annville; Palmyra on North Railroad Street.
47. Rhine of the Tulpehocken
48. Richland: the only town in the country that has a Railroad crossing that cuts it's town in half and intersects the town square. Listed in Ripley's Believe It or Not books and it was also a Jeopardy question.
49. **Roadside vegetable stands** - few visitors can believe that people leave their produce unprotected on the side of the road and trust buyers to put their money in the coffee can.
50. Route 419 Scenic Byway-rolling farms, Ft. Zeller in Newmanstown
51. **St. Anthony's Wilderness (one of the largest gameland areas in the state), once a railroad, and runs eastward 20 miles from the Susquehanna River, Dauphin County, to the Lebanon Reservoir, Schuylkill County. Also called Stony Creek Trail. On the western Lebanon County boundary shared with Dauphin County is Yellow Spring tower, and the eastern boundary shared with Schuylkill County contains Box Car Rocks, or Chinese Wall, also known as Point of Rocks. Drive through once each year--when the leaves turn color.** 
52. Schwalm's in Cleona
53. Shoofly pie
54. Shuey's pretzels with their brick oven, a great little place at 7th Avenue and East Lehman Street
55. The caring people of Lebanon County.
56. The language is also a wonder for people who are not native to the county.
57. Twin Grove Park, antique carousel and other amusement rides, arcade, camp grounds, swimming.
58. **Union Canal remnants, from the Tunnel to locks, Stover's Dam, Ebenezer Lake, and Water Works.**
59. YMCA, 105 years strong



What do we share with our neighbors in south-central PA? National Rankings for Living in the Midstate (Patriot News):

- Best cities for retirees: Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine;
- Top overall cities by Boomtowns, Inc., magazine;
- Top 50 Smart Places to Live: Kiplinger's;
- Best Mid-size City in the East for Entrepreneurs: www.Entrepreneur.com ;
- Ultimate Hockey Experiences in North America: www.ESPN.com ;
- Best Cities for relocating families: www.CareerJournal.com ;
- Least Stressful Place to Live in the Nation: Sperling's www.BestPlaces.net .

Additional nominations welcome. Email Litz@mbcomp.com .
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