

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Lehigh Gap Nature Center
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Kittatinny Ridge Ecological & Science Network (2012)

SUMMARY

A successful undertaking in 2012, Lehigh Gap Nature Center sought funding to plan and host the second *Eastern PA Kittatinny Science and Research Summit* in 2013. This event brings together members of the Kittatinny Coalition to present what research is being done in the region and identify gaps and priorities. All of 2012 *Summit* presenters and researchers were invited back, as well as additional professors, professionals, and citizen scientists.



CHALLENGE

The Kittatinny Ridge is a vital natural resource, but lies on the edge of political boundaries and is subsequently an afterthought in planning decisions. Conservation of the ridge has often fallen short due to a need for crisis reaction rather than proactive conservation work. In order to work proactively, up to date and accurate ecological information is needed. The *Eastern PA Kittatinny Science and Research Summit* aims to bring together researchers who are currently or were previously engaged in research regarding this corridor in order to promote sharing of data and compilation of that data for dissemination. The Summit also works to analyze research to identify gaps in research data, as well as create working partnership links between researchers to promote collaboration. By prioritizing this resource sharing, researchers focusing on the Kittatinny Ridge can work towards more efficient and important goals.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$3,000

Match:
\$3,000

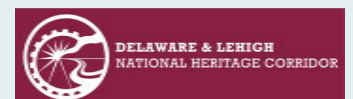
Total Project Cost:
\$6,000

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Audubon PA

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Moravian College



SOLUTION

The *Eastern PA Kittatinny Science and Research Summit* recruited amateur, student, and professional researchers to participate in a series of presentations, breakout sessions, and final results analysis regarding their research into the ecological state of the Kittatinny Ridge. Through these collaborations, priorities and next steps were identified in order to create a unified front of research and conservation strategies.

RESULTS

- Six presentations from local scientists, researchers, and professionals on ecological research topics
- 3 breakout sessions focused on planning 2013 bird survey, pilot monitoring projects, and herp surveys
- Engaged 63 attendees on various ecological conservation and research topics

Contact



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