

# NEWSLETTER

101 N. Front St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
[www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org)



Serving Pennsylvania's Hikers Since 1956

February 2008

## Keystone Trails Association Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

### Endangered Hiking Trail Seminar To Be Held May 17

By Paul Shaw

KTA's first Endangered Hiking Trail Seminar will be held May 17 at the KTA office in Harrisburg. The objective of the seminar is to provide volunteers with the training, knowledge and support that will enable them to work with landowners to obtain more permanent access to hiking trails crossing their properties.

Topics of the seminar include the twelve types of agreements used to secure trails, proven effective ways to approach landowners, building relationships, and real life experiences.

Presenters include Melanie and Fred Wertz who worked extensively to secure the Appalachian Trail corridor through the Cumberland Valley; Jim Peterson, the Lands Manager for Potomac Appalachian Trail Club; Phil Paschall, Trail Land Acquisition Attorney for PATC; Chuck Sloan, the General Counsel for PATC; Andy Loza, Executive Director of PA Land Trust Association; and John Stein, a former Regional Trail Manager for the Mid State Trail.

Following the seminar, participants will begin the long process of building and strengthening landowner relationships along their trails. KTA volunteers and staff will provide ongoing support, additional training as needed, and recruit our next group of volunteers.

The seminar and program is free to KTA members and member clubs, supported by contributions to the Endangered Hiking Trail fund. Individuals from other organizations will be charged a \$50.00 registration fee.

To date, ten volunteers have stepped forward to form our first recruiting class. Others will be accepted up to May 1, the seminar cutoff date. Seminar participants will be traveling from all over the state, so we are seeking people in the Harrisburg area who would be willing to host overnight guests. If you wish to participate in the program (requiring a three year commitment), or if you are willing to host an attendee the weekend of May 17, please contact Kate Leventry at [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net) or call 717-238-7017.

### PA Hiking Week: May 24 – June 1

Last year, Keystone Trails Association, its member clubs, and DCNR organized a total of 134 hikes for Pennsylvania Hiking Week. Approximately 1100 people from around the state participated in the hikes.

Pennsylvania Hiking Week has proven to be a great opportunity to promote hiking, to promote Pennsylvania's hiking trails, and to promote local clubs and KTA. DCNR has been very helpful in promoting this event with media releases throughout the state. This year, scheduled hikes will be posted on both the KTA and DCNR websites.

All clubs are urged to schedule hikes in support of Pennsylvania Hiking Week and to forward details to [info@kta-hike.org](mailto:info@kta-hike.org) for website posting.

Any kind of hike is welcome — night hikes, day hikes, long and short hikes, urban hikes, wilderness hikes, handicapped-accessible hikes, hikes for young and old, etc.

Our goal is to exceed last year's totals and introduce even more people to the great pleasure of hiking on Pennsylvania's wonderful trails.

Contents	Along Our Trails.....page 6-7	Ecology.....page 12
Trail Crews.....page 2	My Favorite Trail.....page 9	Maintainers' Page.....page 13
President's Message.....page 3	Partners News.....page 10	Around the Clubs.....page 14-15
KTA News.....page 4-5, 8	ATV Update.....page 11	Membership Form.....page 16

**OFFICERS**

**President:** Thyra Sperry, *Boiling Springs, PA*  
**Vice-President & Treasurer:** Thomas Kelliher, *Baltimore, MD*  
**Secretary:** Charles Glanville, *West Chester, PA*

**DIRECTORS**

Robert Davey, Jr., *Flemington, PA*  
Rick Carlson, *Harrisburg, PA*  
Norman Lacasse, *Harrisburg, PA*  
Molly O'Brien, *Lewisburg, PA*  
Steve Stroman, *Harrisburg, PA*  
Barbara Wiemann, *Northampton, PA (ex-officio)*  
Mary Young, *Enola, PA*

**REPRESENTATIVES-AT-LARGE**

Joyce Appel, *East Brady, PA*  
Kathryn Barker, *Carlisle, PA*  
Carl Davis, *Wellsboro, PA*  
Linda Enders Roxberry, *Shillington, PA*  
Henry Frank, *Philadelphia, PA*  
Wayne Gross, *Cresco, PA*  
Michael Jackson, *Everett, PA*  
John Motz, *Stroudsburg, PA*  
Wanda Shirk, *Ulysses, PA*  
Debra Smith, *Landisburg, PA*  
Thomas Thwaites, *State College, PA*  
Barbara Van Horn, *Duncannon, PA*

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

Barbara & Al Wiemann  
4782 Sylvan Dr., Northampton, PA 18067  
610-262-6977  
[Bwiemann@verizon.net](mailto:Bwiemann@verizon.net)

This newsletter is published four times a year as a service to its members by Keystone Trails Association. Deadlines for submitting material are 1/1, 4/1, 7/1 and 10/1. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The Editors encourage submissions reflecting all viewpoints for publication, but reserve the right to edit for reasons of space or to prevent violent confrontation. You are encouraged to submit your material on disc or via e-mail.

New members are always welcome. A membership application is located on the page 16.

**KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

Paul E. Shaw, Executive Director  
101 N. Front St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717-238-7017 (phone)  
717-238-7019 (fax)  
[ktahike@verizon.net](mailto:ktahike@verizon.net)  
[www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org)

**2008 Trail Care Schedule**

Trail Care weekends begin Friday evening at the designated campsite. A full day of trail work on Saturday is followed by an evening of campfire sociability and possibly a meal out at a local restaurant (Dutch treat). After a morning of additional trail work, the weekend concludes about noon on Sunday. If you can't spare an entire weekend, you can join the group for whatever portion is convenient. No experience or special skills are required. Tools and work gloves will be provided.

**Contact the trip leader to register for Trail Care weekends.**

**March 28-30 – Raccoon Creek State Park**

Leader: Mark Christy – 724-695-5523  
Stay in cabins in the state park.

**April 11-13 – Chainsaw Safety Training**

Leader: John Motz – 570-236-1462  
Stay at Getty Ridge Camp, McAlvey's Fort, PA.  
Limited to 25 people.

**April 25-27 – Standing Stone Trail**

Leader: Mel Cooper – 814-599-1548  
Stay at Getty Ridge Camp, McAlvey's Fort, PA.

**May 9-11 – Chuck Keiper Trail**

Leader: Rich Scanlon – 717-994-6212  
Camp at Coon Run Road at the old CCC Camp.

**July 11-13 – Mid State Trail—State College**

Leader: Tom Thwaites – 814-237-7703  
Camp at Greenwood Furnace SP.

**August 15-17 – Baker Trail**

Leader: Patty Brunner – 724-325-3224  
Camp in Allegheny National Forest.

**Sept. 26-28 – Goat Hill in the Serpentine Barrens, Chester County**

Leader: Joe Healey – 570-655-4979  
Camp to be announced.

**Oct. 24-26 – Mid State Trail—Everett**

Leader: Deb Dunkle – 814-652-2227  
Camp at Tenley Park in Everett.

**Oct. 31-Nov. 2 – Quehanna Trail**

Leader: Ralph Seeley – 814-355-2933  
Camp at Parker Dam SP in cabins.

**2008 Summer Crew Schedule**

Crews assemble on Tuesday evening for dinner and orientation and work all day Wednesday thru Saturday, and a half-day on Sunday. KTA provides a place to camp, meals, tools, work gloves, safety equipment, and instruction by crew leaders. Volunteers are accepted for one day, a weekend, all week, or the entire crew season. There are tasks for everyone.

**For a crew application, contact Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702, phone 570-655-4979, or email [jnlhealey@aol.com](mailto:jnlhealey@aol.com).**

**Week 1**

**June 3-8 – Pinchot Trail**

Leader: Joe Healey – 570-655-4979  
Camp at Manny Gordon Picnic Area.

**Week 2**

**June 10-15 – Donut Hole Trail**

Leaders: Joe Healey - 570-655-4979 & Rich Scanlon – 717-994-6212  
Camp at Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association.

**Week 3**

**June 17-23 – Mid State Trail, Tioga Region**

Leader: Pete Fleszar – 717-583-2093  
Camp at Hills Creek State Park.

**Cook/Cooks Needed!**

We need a cook or cooks for the first and third weeks of the Summer Crew. The cook is responsible for planning the menus (sample menus from previous years available), purchasing groceries and supplies, and preparing five breakfasts and five dinners (Tuesday evening through Sunday breakfast) for approximately 20 people. Gourmet meals are not required; hungry trail workers appreciate the meals prepared for them and will eat anything (and everything). Cook for one week or both weeks. Contact Joe Healey at the address above for more details.



# *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

## **Our Members speak out!**

### **When you think of KTA, what springs to mind?**

Well, our membership says that it is hiking, trails, trail care, spring/fall meetings, umbrella group, advocates, conservation, preservation, maps, guides, mountains, dedication, protection, volunteers, information, camaraderie, a resource, nature, working together, hiking clubs, friendship and Where can I hike this month? These are some of the 298 member responses from the October Membership Survey.

Members were passionate in their written comments in ranking **core KTA activities**. Protection of trails and promoting hiking and hiking trails drew the most comments as being most important to the vitality of the organization.

“Protect trails; no other group in PA is doing this important function”

“If trails are not protected then the rest doesn't matter”

“Without advocacy to insure continued access, all others are for naught”

“Who else can speak on big issues and with a statewide voice?”

“We need to generate and maintain interest in hiking and trails and gain new members”

Trails are fragile things, and we are the statewide organization that can be counted on to provide consistent support over time. KTA can provide both on the ground support as well as advocating for trail and trail protection with government bodies.

### **What are the values that KTA embodies?**

Members wrote: A healthy lifestyle and exercise, wholesome activities, nature, volunteering, stewardship, open space, dedication, gritty discipline, pride, wildlife, appreciation, advocacy, belonging, grass roots. Love of hiking and fellowship.

### **What do we need to do?**

Responses included: expand the website, increase the membership, create a state-wide hiking trail master plan, and create a hiking culture in Pennsylvania as a premier outdoor activity. Improve existing trails and cater to needs of hikers and promote, advertise and market trails. Aggressively cover legislative issues that affect trails.

Members hunger for more trail related information and not just energy bars. More specific information about trails, trailheads, access, terrain and trail topography and the amenities. KTA needs to be a clearing house for all PA maps and guides, and more specific information on trails and hiking.

Directly influencing decision makers on trail issues and trail building and maintenance were very important. Supporting clubs in their growth and offer them leadership. Bring groups together of all types, work with others for solutions. Get more people out hiking and attract a younger generation.

### **What it's like being a member of KTA?**

Members build friendships, have a sense of belonging, know that someone is taking care of hiking trails, providing information. We feel good about supporting an effective organization that promotes the outdoor experience and has knowledge of statewide issues. We appreciate an organization that is actively protecting, monitoring and maintaining hiking trails.

Over a 100 of our members that responded to the survey agreed to consider leaving a gift to KTA in their will to protect and help people enjoy Pennsylvania's trails in perpetuity.

Thank you for your participation in the survey. It was an inspiration to learn about your thoughts and ideas. Your comments are invaluable to the Board and staff as we embark on a plan of action for 2008 and beyond.

Get outdoors and promote hiking,

*Thyra Sperry*

*(See page 4 for more survey information)*

## KTA News

### Two Upcoming KTA Hiking Events... Mark Your Calendar

#### *Prowl the Sproul: July 18-20*

The popular and growing Prowl the Sproul hiking weekend is scheduled for July 18-20. More than ten hikes are being planned, including half-day hikes on Friday afternoon and Sunday morning and a wide variety of hikes, from easy to very strenuous on Saturday.

Last year, more than 100 people participated. Whether you are a hiking veteran or hiking novice, join the fun and fellowship of other hikers and hiker families as we explore some of the best hiking trails in Sproul State Forest.

#### *Susquehanna Megahike: September 6*

Keystone Trails Association will sponsor a 26-mile megahike September 6 in York and Lancaster counties. Tentatively called the Susquehanna Megahike, this very strenuous fundraising event promises to challenge even the most avid long-distance hikers.

The route will begin on the Mason-Dixon Trail near the Otter Creek Campground and head south, crossing the Susquehanna River at the Norman Woods Bridge. It will continue north on the Conestoga Trail, ending near the village of Pequea. Holtwood Recreation Area will be the megahike headquarters and site of the after-hike picnic. Buses will shuttle hikers to the starting point and take them back to the picnic area as they finish.

Highlights of the hike include many vistas overlooking the Susquehanna River, numerous ups and downs, and Kelly's Run. Pre-registration is required. Many volunteers will be needed. If interested, contact Kate Leventry at [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net) or call 717-238-7017.

Check the May newsletter for more details on these two events.

### KTA Hires Office Manager



Kate Leventry of Holtwood, PA, a recent graduate of Millersville University, is KTA's new office administrator. Kate will organize special events and meetings, maintain membership records, handle merchandise sales, and answer inquiries.

Kate worked as a volunteer at Kachemak Bay State Park in Alaska, where she maintained hiking trails and learned to use a chainsaw. Last summer she volunteered for the US Forest Service at Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area in Virginia, performing trail maintenance, educating the public about Leave No Trace, and assisting visitors to the Creeper Trail.

Kate began work last November.

### Two Members Win Cedar Run Certificates For Returning Member Surveys

Greg Strine of Greencastle, PA, and Jane Huston from Stevens, PA, are the winners of the random drawing for gift certificates to the historic Cedar Run Inn along Pine Creek in northern Lycoming County. The certificates were anonymously donated to encourage KTA members to return the recent Membership Survey.

The Cedar Run Inn certificates were a great inducement, as 298 surveys were returned, an astounding 29% return rate.

The Cedar Run Inn is perfectly located for hiking on the nearby Mid State, Golden Eagle, Black Forest, and West Rim trails, or for bike riding on the Pine Creek Rail Trail, right outside the door. Information about the inn is available at [www.pavisnet.com/cedarruninn](http://www.pavisnet.com/cedarruninn).

**Congratulations Greg and Jane!**

### KTA Membership Survey

The results of the Keystone Trails Association's recent Membership Survey have been compiled and analyzed. No surprise, KTA members are passionate about hiking and backpacking and place the highest priority on protecting and preserving our existing network of hiking trails.

The President's Message on page 3 highlights survey results. A more detailed summary of the survey may be obtained by contacting [info@kta-hike.org](mailto:info@kta-hike.org).

The largest number of respondents first heard about KTA through local hiking clubs, followed by a friend telling them about KTA. Surprisingly, relatively few people first heard about KTA through the newsletter or website. 40% of respondents don't belong to any hiking club. 60% of those who answered the age question are between 46 and 65 years old. 29% are 66 years of age or older, while only 11% are 45 and younger.

Information from the survey will help board and staff identify and prioritize future programs. A huge THANK YOU goes to all who returned the survey and especially to Carl and Erika Lorence and Thyra Sperry for the many hours spent compiling and analyzing the survey results.

### Website Update

As many of you have noticed, the KTA website, while minimally functioning, has had a number of problems. Content was missing from some of the pages, forms could not be downloaded, and key information was missing.

Scott Adams of Spring Mills has volunteered to fix the flaws in the website and make it the valuable resource we all expect. Scott is webmaster for [pahikes.com](http://pahikes.com) and [thehikingspot.com](http://thehikingspot.com) and also publishes the "Go Take a Hike Calendar", available from his websites. (\$5.00 from the sale of each calendar is donated to KTA).

The "new and improved" KTA website was launched in January. Thanks for your patience!

Go to [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) and check it out.

## KTA News

### RAL Election Results

The following persons have been elected to serve two-year terms as Representatives-at-Large on the KTA Council:

**Joyce Appel**, *East Brady, PA*  
**Kathryn Barker**, *Carlisle, PA*  
**Carl Davis**, *Wellsboro, PA*  
**Linda Enders Roxberry**, *Shillington, PA*  
**Henry Frank**, *Philadelphia, PA*  
**Wayne Gross**, *Canadensis, PA*  
**Michael Jackson**, *Everett, PA*  
**John Motz**, *Reeders, PA*  
**Wanda Shirk**, *Ulysses, PA*  
**Debra Smith**, *Landisburg, PA*  
**Tom Thwaites**, *State College, PA*  
**Barbara Van Horn**, *Duncannon, PA*

Their terms began on January 1. A committee consisting of Kate Leventry, Paul Shaw, and Mary Young counted the votes and verified the election results. 212 ballots were received.



**Tom Thwaites, displays the routed sign he made to identify KTA's new office in Harrisburg.**

### Life Members

#282 **Janet Goloub**, *Treichlers*  
 #283 **Eleanor Neukirch**, *Reading*  
 #284 **Tony Delserone**, *Wexford*  
 #285 **Douglas Turner**, *Bradfordwoods*  
 #286 **Cathy Sausser**, *Schuylkill Haven*  
 #290 **Steven Hanes**, *Westfield*  
 #291 **Charles Rinear**, *Woodbury*  
 #292 **James Jordan**, *State College*

### Don't Forget! Renew Your Membership!

KTA memberships for individuals and clubs expire each year on September 30. Our members are the driving force of KTA. If you haven't done so already, please renew today! Or purchase a life membership! See page 16 for a renewal form.

### KTA Comments On State Forest Resource Management Plan Update

On behalf of the state's hikers, KTA Executive Directory Paul Shaw offered written comments last October on proposed changes to the Bureau of Forestry's Resource Management Plan Update.

Three areas are of concern to hikers. Quotes from those comments are printed below.

#### Lifting the Moratorium on Shallow Gas Well Leasing

"In 2003, DCNR determined that the potential negative impacts of shallow gas well leasing warranted a moratorium on new leases. The most significant potential impact is the further fragmentation of our state forests from well sites and access roads. This impact is no less of a concern today than it was in 2003. KTA strongly supports continuation of the moratorium on shallow gas well leasing on all state forest lands."



#### Expanded ATV Use on State Forest Lands

"In July, DCNR announced approval of five ATV connector trails on state forest lands that will add 29 miles of new trails and expand riding terrain by 333 miles. We are concerned this sets a precedent for future additional connector trails. Year to date, there have been 306 reported ATV accidents in Pennsylvania resulting in 323 injuries and 21 fatalities. As more opportunities for ATVs are provided in state forest lands, we can expect a concurrent increase in injuries and fatalities, along with the environmental degradation that accompanies ATV use. A survey of ATV riders conducted by Utah State University in 2000 found that half of the respondents preferred riding off established trails. An unintended consequence of connector trails will be providing access to thousands more acres of state forest for ATV riders who go off trail. At the least, DCNR must step up enforcement efforts to keep riders on designated trails. KTA is opposed to further expansion of ATV connector trails in the state forests."

[Ed. Note: For more information about ATV usage on state forest land and public roads, see page 11]

#### Expansion of Wild Areas, Natural Areas and Other Special Use Areas

"Our state forests include numerous pristine tracts with high quality watersheds, rare and endangered species, and other exceptional values worthy of greater protection than currently afforded. KTA supports the expansion of Wild Areas, Natural Areas and other special use areas such as Wild Plant Sanctuaries as a means of providing greater protection for the benefit of future generations. Accordingly, we support the natural area designations of Bruce Lake and Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens and the expansion of the Bucktail Natural Area. We urge the acceptance of the Penns Creek, M.K. Goddard and Quehanna wild area proposals and the ongoing investigation of additional areas for potential natural and wild area designation."

**Protect Hiking Trails and Trail Lands for Future Generations**  
 Contact KTA at [ktahike@verizon.com](mailto:ktahike@verizon.com) or 717-238-7017 for information on how to name KTA in your will or join the Heritage Society.

## Along Our Trails

### Allegheny National Forest

#### Big Bend Bird Viewing Area and Nature Trail

The Allegheny Outdoor Club (AOC), in partnership with the U.S. Corps of Engineers and Penn Soil Resource Conservation & Development Corp., has received a donation of \$20,000 from FirstEnergy Corp. for a trail-building project at Kinzua Dam. The Big Bend Bird Viewing Area and Nature Trail in Mead Township, Warren County, will feature a weather-resistant bird-viewing platform overlooking the Allegheny River, as well as a four-tenth-mile accessible trail, interpretive panels, picnic benches, and "Watchable Wildlife" trail blazes.

In addition to the First Energy donation, the partners have been awarded a Corp of Engineers Handshake Challenge Partnership Award of \$5,770 and a \$25,000 grant announced by DCNR in December.

The Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir are two of the most visited places in northwestern Pennsylvania. The dam and reservoir are home to several American bald eagles, and the bird-viewing platform will enhance the visitor experience.

AOC has been clearing the site of brush and trees for the past year in preparation for construction in 2008.

### Appalachian Trail

#### Blind Hiker To Tackle Trail

Michael Hanson, a blind 42-year old attorney from St. Louis Park, MN, has announced his plan to thru hike the Appalachian Trail this year, solo and unsupported, to demonstrate the independence of people with disabilities. Hanson does not have a guide dog and will feel his way along by tapping his cane to avoid roots and rocks. He will use a voice-enabled GPS system that he has pre-programmed with thousands of points along the trail to keep himself on course. His website [www.blindhiker.com](http://www.blindhiker.com) will record his progress.

#### AT Museum



The Appalachian Trail Museum Society is planning to create an AT Museum in Harpers Ferry. The Susquehanna AT Club has expressed interest in dismantling the old Earl Shaffer Shelter on Peters Mountain and having it reconstructed at the future museum site. Other clubs or individuals who have old tools, signs,

gear, documents, or photos that they are willing to donate to the museum should contact Larry Luxenberg at [luxenberg@lexingtonave.com](mailto:luxenberg@lexingtonave.com).

#### Ridgerunner Funding From DCNR

DCNR has allocated \$76,900 to help fund the AT Ridgerunner program in the state. Ridgerunners are trained seasonal employees who hike designated sections of trail, educating and assisting trail users and performing routine trail maintenance.

#### AT Protection Bill

The PA House of Representatives passed HB1281, legislation that would require municipalities that border the Appalachian Trail to adopt, implement and enforce zoning ordinances as part of their responsibility to protect the trail.

P.L. 78 No. 41, enacted in 1978, requires municipalities that border the trail to protect it as a state scenic, historic and esthetic treasure, but municipalities were not required to enact ordinances to do so.

The legislation was suggested by Easton environmental attorney Charles Elliot and was the result of the threat posed by a proposed car driving course in Monroe County. Since Eldred Township, where this development was being proposed, had no zoning in place, there was little that could be done to block the inappropriate use.

HB1281 must be approved by the state Senate and signed by the governor to become law.

#### Peters Mt. Wind Farm

The city of Harrisburg has decided not to develop a wind energy site on city-owned land on Peters Mountain. A feasibility study found that a city owned wind farm would not be profitable since municipalities are not eligible for tax breaks



associated with wind power development. A private developer may find the site profitable and the city will investigate this option. There is space for 13 wind turbines.

This site, above DeHart Reservoir, would be visible from the Appalachian Trail during the winter, and the noise would be audible from the AT. New roads and power lines would be required to service the development.

### Black Forest Trail

The Tiadaghton State Forest has been awarded a \$150,000 DCNR grant to cover the costs to design, purchase, and install a 300-foot cable-type pedestrian suspension bridge over Slate Run.

### Conestoga & Mason-Dixon Trails

#### Conservancy Acquires Trail Lands

PPL Corporation will transfer about 3,500 acres of company-owned land along Pennsylvania's Susquehanna River to the Lancaster County Conservancy for \$5 million, then donate the \$5 million to the Conservancy as part of a sustainable endowment fund that will be used to maintain and enhance the land for public enjoyment. PPL also will provide additional ongoing support to the endowment fund.

The majority of the money being paid to PPL for the land will come from the Community Conservation Partnerships grant program administered by the DCNR.

The land is in Lancaster and York counties near PPL's Holtwood hydroelectric plant. The Conestoga Trail is located on the Lancaster County land, while the Mason-Dixon Trail utilizes the York County section.

### Highlands Trail

DCNR has awarded the Appalachian Mountain Club a \$100,000 grant to implement the local outreach strategy of the PA Highlands Strategic Plan. AMC will obtain support of the 13 counties located in the Highlands; develop an action plan for PA Highlands Trail Network Project, including a field analysis for a

## Along Our Trails

trail trunk route and possible loop and spurs; and provide GIS support to the PA Highlands Trail Network Project and South Mountain Highland effort.

### Horse-Shoe Trail

#### Feasibility Study and Strategic Plan

The Horse-Shoe Trail Club has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from DCNR to prepare a feasibility study and strategic plan for the preservation of an existing 29-mile section of the Horse-Shoe Trail in Berks County. The feasibility study will determine the best way to move the H-ST off roads in the target area. H-STC will use the consulting services of the Nonprofit Center of LaSalle College to develop its strategic plan.

The Brecknock Board of Supervisors (Berks County) is using their Park and Recreation fee, as well as grant monies and some reparation monies, to purchase trail easements along the Horse-Shoe Trail. The township will hold the easements and give permission to the Horse-Shoe Trail to use them. The first easement, for 25 acres at \$2000 per acre, has been completed. Three other township residents have begun the process of selling easements, and another two landowners have expressed interest.

### Mason Dixon Trail

#### Iron Hill Park Closure

Iron Hill Park in New Castle County, DE, is scheduled to be closed until April while improvements are made. A mile and a half of the MDT passes thru the park (Map 9, west to east mile 2.6-4.2). The temporary reroute instructions are on the MDTS web site at [www.masondixontrail.org](http://www.masondixontrail.org).

The Trail Dawgs, a trail running group, has sponsored a Longest Day 100 Kilometer Mason-Dixon Trail Run for the past two years. The 2007 event utilized the section from Havre de Grace to Wrightsville.

### Mid State Trail

#### Garmin Donates GPS Receivers to MSTA



The MSTA has received a generous gift of four Garmin GPSMAP 60CSx GPS receivers from Garmin International, a leading manufacturer of GPS receivers. This Garmin model is widely recognized as the best consumer-grade GPS receiver available today and the MSTA is extremely grateful to have received these versatile tools.

MSTA is forging ahead on the development of our GIS data set and the four donated GPS receivers have been distributed to the MSTA regions where the club has the greatest need for recording GIS data. MSTA is seeking volunteers to walk

the MST, recording trail coordinates on these GPS receivers. If you would like to assist in this mapping project, contact Peter Fleszar at [tioga@hike-mst.org](mailto:tioga@hike-mst.org) or 717-583-2093.

#### US 22 Bridge Rehabilitation

MSTA has approved PennDOT plans to relocate the trail by rehabilitating a creek crossing using US 22. The changes will make crossing US 22 much safer by providing longer sight distances and removing the temptation to cross at other places.

#### Yellow Creek Bridge Project Update

At the November Mid State Trail Association meeting, a task force was charged with completing the Yellow Creek bridge project. Members of the task force include Ralph Seeley (chair), Deb Dunkle, Kirk Bucynski, Peter Fleszar, and Tom Kelliher.



The MSTA's new decal features a map of Pennsylvania with the route of the trail highlighted. The raccoon was selected to represent the wild nature of the MST.

The original Bedford County bridge, near Loysburg in South Woodbury Township, is an old hunter's bridge providing access to the adjacent State Game Land. It has become rather unsafe in recent years and is thought to have been the cause of at least one flood, when debris hung-up on the bridge. Ross, Mildred, Randall, and Gloria Smith generously donated an easement in perpetuity to MSTA for a trail corridor through their property and for siting a much-improved bridge in the vicinity of the unsafe bridge.

MSTA applied to DCNR for a \$70,933 grant to help cover the costs of the project in October 2005. In July 2006, MSTA received word from DCNR that they had been awarded \$51,400, with the difference to be made up by MSTA as a match. MSTA received a "go ahead" letter in April 2007.

Earlier this year, MSTA studied the feasibility of recycling a historic bridge in Armstrong County for the Yellow Creek crossing. Ultimately, Armstrong County decided to reuse the bridge themselves. At the same time, the ongoing maintenance costs associated with the historic bridge appeared to be too much of a burden to MSTA.

Several individuals and one business have already made donations toward the match. If you are interested in helping with the project, please contact Tom Kelliher at [kelliher@hike-mst.org](mailto:kelliher@hike-mst.org). If you would like to make a donation toward the match, checks made out to MSTA should be sent to MSTA at PO Box 167, Boalsburg, PA 16827.

### North Country Trail

The Wampum Chapter is thrilled to report that they now have a Pro Model DR Brush Hog that they "bought" from the National Park Service with 500 trail maintenance hours.

### Standing Stone Trail

The SST has a new patch. The winning design represents the mountains, farms, forest and standing stone to be found along the trail route. The patch is for sale through the club web site at [www.hike-sst.org](http://www.hike-sst.org) for \$3.00.



**Trail Views**...by Paul Shaw, Executive Director

**The Pathway to Health and Fitness**

I've always been impressed at KTA events with how fit and healthy nearly everyone appears. People in their 70s look too young to be retired. People in their 60s look fifty. People in their 50s look forty. People in their 20s look...young. It's obvious that the hiking lifestyle is a pathway to health, fitness and longevity, worthy of more participation by the general public for this reason alone.

Our hiking clubs are key entry points to this hiking lifestyle. I recently received an e-mail from a Chester County Trail Club member who forwarded a report of the accomplishments of CCTC in the past year. This report is always presented at CCTC's annual banquet where, I am told, it is eagerly anticipated.

At 500 members, CCTC is one of our larger clubs, and one of our more active. For the seventh time in eight years, Malcolm Wise won the Trailmaster Award, having hiked 1,253 miles in the past year. The Trailmaster retains the prestigious Trailmaster Walking Stick, which carries small plaques with the name, mileage and year of all previous winners. (Reminds me of the Stanley Cup). The first year a Trailmaster was recognized (1971), the recipient had hiked a total of 127 miles.

Two other members, Elizabeth Brecht and Charles Glanville, exceeded 1000 miles last year, and 19 others exceeded 500 miles. Twelve members completed the Brandywine Trail end-to-end in one day (34.6 miles), and the aforementioned Malcolm Wise led an amazing 50 hikes for the club. 143 members participated in at least 5 hikes.

Accumulated mileage since 1970 is also noted. Elizabeth Brecht has hiked 17,445 miles in that time, the equivalent of hiking 2/3 the circumference of the earth. I'm betting Elizabeth finishes the other third.

CCTC also gives back to the trails its members hike. 205 trail maintenance work hours are noted for last year, as are 84 hours for roadside cleanup.

These accomplishments are duplicated by some of our other clubs, and perhaps to be emulated by others. By any measure, CCTC and all our hiking clubs provide the means to an active, healthy lifestyle that many people seek, but too few find. See you on the trail!

*Paul*



**PA Supreme Court Upholds Land Preservation Rights**

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned a lower court decision allowing the Ephrata Area School District to build a road on farmland preserved with a conservation easement.

"Pennsylvania is a national leader in farmland preservation," said Matthew Royer, Pennsylvania staff attorney for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "The Supreme Court's ruling bolsters this status by giving holders of open space easements the clear right to ensure that land is permanently protected. The court affirmed that an easement holder cannot be left without a say in whether construction may occur on preserved farmland. Without this decision we could have seen an open season on preserved farms and open space throughout Pennsylvania.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation filed an amicus brief in the case, along with the Lancaster Farmland Trust, Lancaster County Conservancy, PA Farmland Preservation Association, Lancaster County Coalition for Smart Growth, Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, County Commissioners Association of PA, and the Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

**Griggs Hiking Memoirs On Line**

*Incident-al Adventures Outdoors Across 80 Years, or Hiking and Mountains – an 80-Year Odyssey*, a copiously illustrated 186-page reminiscence by longtime KTA member Thurston Griggs, is available on the web at <http://userpages.umbc.edu/~tgriggs/Incident-alAdventures.pdf>. Griggs' adventures span the globe and make fascinating reading

**Keystone Trails Association  
Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets  
Income Tax Basis  
September 30, 2007 and 2006**

ASSETS	2007	2006
Current Assets		
Cash	224,835	151,335
Investments	55,944	32,559
Accounts receivable	4,571	3,722
Inventory	<u>20,006</u>	<u>30,558</u>
Total current assets	305,356	218,174
Property an equipment	<u>10,434</u>	<u>14,093</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>315,790</b>	<b>232,267</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Current liabilities		
Payroll tax liabilities	1,635	-----
Accrued payroll	<u>2,383</u>	-----
Total current liabilities	4,018	-----
Net Assets		
Temporarily restricted	2,586	2,515
Unrestricted	<u>309,186</u>	<u>229,752</u>
	311,772	232,267
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>315,790</b>	<b>232,267</b>



## My Favorite Hike ....

### Broad Mountain

By Gerry Rowan

As you leave the valley of the Nesquehoning Creek, PA 93 rises steeply as you climb Broad Mountain. On top, there are two parking areas on the right side of the road to provide access for State Game Lands 141. I usually park in the first area to begin my hike on the mountain.

Broad Mountain is a flat plateau sunken slightly in the middle to accommodate Hughes Swamp. Hiking east from the parking area on Game Land roads, you will encounter two runs that drain the swamp. The first is Jeans Run; a great catch and release wild trout stream that offers a challenging bushwacking hike as it tumbles down to join Nesquehoning Creek. The second is the infamous Glen Onoko Run. Most hikers are familiar with Glen Onoko as a hike from the valley of the Lehigh River Gorge. Glen Onoko can be challenging in either direction and downright dangerous in icy winter weather.



Dick Snyder admiring the view from the rim of the Lehigh River Gorge. Photo by Barb Wiemann

The reward for me in hiking is the final destination - the rim of the Lehigh River Gorge. From nearly 1000 feet above the Lehigh River, the view can be breathtaking.

Once you arrive at the rim of the gorge, you turn left and hike north. The trail hugs the rim tightly for another mile or two, offering multiple overlooks and a view of ant-like bicyclers on the Lehigh Gorge State Park trails below.

The Broad Mountain hike may not be the most challenging, but the spectacular view is well worth adding this one to your short list of day hikes. Hiking the rim of the Lehigh River Gorge is best done when the leaves are off the trees. From late October until late April the view is unobstructed. I've spent many pleasant hours sitting on outcroppings at the gorge's rim in summer. Warm air rising the steep gorge wall makes even hot summer days pleasant there. This hike is about 3-4 miles each way for a total of 6-8 miles.

[Ed. Note: To reach the start of this hike from Jim Thorpe, head toward Nesquehoning on US 209. Turn right onto PA 93. A map of Game Land 141 showing the parking areas and trails is available on the PA Game Lands web site at <http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/pgc/lib/pgc/counties/maps/141a.pdf>. The USGS topographic map covering this area is the Weatherly quadrangle.]



Winter view at Jeans Run. Photo by Gerry Rowan

## AT Ornament on White House Tree

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service, First Lady Laura Bush asked National Park superintendents to select an artist to decorate a tree ornament representing their park. These ornaments adorned the Christmas tree in the Blue Room of the White House.

Sheila Brannan, a stained-glass artist from Shepherdstown, WV, designed the Appalachian Trail National Scenic Trail ornament. The White House supplied a gold ball to each artist.

The completed ornament shows the trail leading into the woods with the familiar white blaze shown on the trees. To create boulders and trees on the ball, Brannan crumpled a piece of a brown paper bag and painted it.

The AT ornament, along with 346 from other National Park units, is now a part of the permanent White House collection.



## FAW Wilderness Campaign

The Friends of Allegheny Wilderness has produced a new four-page full color pamphlet summarizing the key points in the group's campaign to protect the remaining wild areas of the Allegheny National Forest. Since wilderness designation requires Congressional action, FAW hopes that supporters of more wilderness areas will use the "talking points" in the brochure and contact their federal legislators. The brochure includes the names and addresses of the entire Pennsylvania Congressional delegation.

FAW will send copies to anyone who is interested in either contacting their Congressman or informing friends and community groups about the effort. To obtain the pamphlet, contact John Bartlett, 304 Mayer St., Oil City, PA 16301, [jbartlett@pawild.org](mailto:jbartlett@pawild.org), 814-676-4474

## National Trails System Celebrates 40th Anniversary

2008 marks the 40th anniversary of the passage of the National Trails System Act, which created a network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails. Pennsylvania boasts three scenic trails and 49 recreation trails. For information about recreation trails and a list, see [www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails](http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails).

## News from Our State Partners

### DCNR News

#### Increased Fees for State Park Facilities

For the first time since 2001, fees for overnight accommodations, boating and picnic pavilions have been increased to help maintain the quality of State Parks and support their operation and maintenance. The price changes took effect on January 1.

In general, prices have increased about ten percent, with the exception of camping, where the base price has increased by \$3 per night. In 2009, prices will increase about 10 percent over the 2008 prices with a camping base increase of \$2 per night.

“Since 2002, we have invested more than \$175 million in state park facilities by upgrading bathhouses and restrooms; improving marinas; repairing and replacing dams that create lakes; improving environmental education centers; adding trails and other recreational opportunities; and working to eliminate a backlog of maintenance,” DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. “All of the money collected through state park fees is used for their operation and maintenance, and we will use this price increase to continue that work.”

No entrance fees will be charged to visit a state park.



#### State Parks Completing Phase-in of Open Swimming Policy for Lakes

With the exception of Presque Isle State Park in Erie, all swimming beaches at lakes in state parks will implement an open swim policy this year. Lifeguards are not provided at open swim beaches and swimmers enter the water at their own risk. Instructions and regulations on swimming are posted at all beaches. The use of lifeguards will continue at swimming pools.

Open swim beaches will generally be available from before Memorial Day to after Labor Day. Exact dates vary at each park.

#### Publications Available from DCNR

DCNR, in cooperation with other recreational, parks, and conservation organizations, has posted more than 20 handbooks and publications on its web site at [www.dcnr.state.pa/brc/publications](http://www.dcnr.state.pa/brc/publications). A sample of the titles available for download: a Bureau of Recreation and Conservation brochure on its grant programs and services; the PA Recreation Plan; Public Finance for Open Space; and Using Conservation Easements to Preserve Open Space: A Guide for PA Municipalities.

To receive a hard copy of these publications, contact the Planning, Outreach & Technical Support Division, PO Box 8475, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8475, 717-787-7672,

#### New Conservation Website

DCNR has launched a new website [www.iConservePA.org](http://www.iConservePA.org) aimed specifically at helping Pennsylvanians gain a greater understanding of the Commonwealth's precious natural resources, and encouraging citizens to get involved and make a difference. Site pages cover topics such as Why Conserve, Living Green, Getting Involved, and Getting Outdoors. There is also an online events calendar.

### South Central PA Land Acquisition Adds 3,500 Acres to State Forests, Park

A broad-based coalition of private and public partners has protected more than 3,500 acres of forestland across Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, Cumberland and York counties.

The Conservation Fund (TCF), a national non-profit land and water conservation organization, purchased the properties for \$9 million from Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company. The company is in the process of selling more than 20,000 acres of land throughout southern Pennsylvania. TCF worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the counties and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) to identify parcels that were the highest conservation priorities.

The purchased 3,500 acres form nine tracts of land. All but one parcel will be transferred to DCNR's Bureau of Forestry as additions to existing state forests. The remaining parcel, consisting of 150-plus acres along the lower Susquehanna River, will be owned by York County to expand Apollo County Park. (The Mason-Dixon Trail goes through this park).

Funding for the acquisition was supported by a mix of private and public sources. TCF raised more than \$3 million in private funds, more than half of which came from the Pittsburgh-based Richard King Mellon Foundation. Pennsylvania DCNR contributed more than \$5.5 million. Additional funding came from York County, Cumberland County and WPC.



### Larry Williamson Named CPC Conservationist of Year

Larry G. Williamson is the recipient of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy's 2007 Conservationist of the Year Award. Williamson has worked in conservation for more than 35 years, serving most recently as DCNR Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Technical Services. Under his leadership, the Bureau funded over 8,000 park, recreation, greenways, heritage preservation, rivers conservation and open space protection projects totaling close to half a billion dollars. He is one of the founding fathers of Pennsylvania's Greenways plan and program.

### Jim Thorpe Named to "Best Mountain" Towns List

Jim Thorpe was the only Pennsylvania town to make the National Geographic Adventure magazine's "Best Towns" listing. Jim Thorpe was named in the mountain towns category. Other categories were best wilderness towns, small towns, waterfront towns, and urban areas.

## DCNR Plans to Link ATV Trails Using Roads

### Expect More ATV Accidents and Trespass

By Dick Martin, PA Forest Coalition

Pennsylvania holds the dubious distinction of being first in the nation in the number of ATV-related deaths, with 357 fatalities between 1982 and 2004.

These accidents did not occur on DCNR's legal ATV trails, located in seven of our 20 State Forests. Those trails are well designed, with safety in mind. Only 2.6% of ATV accidents were on legal DCNR trails (2001-2006). Most accidents took place when the ATVs were trespassing – on public roads, private land, and forestry roads.

Despite 1,208 on-roadway ATV accidents and 111 ATV deaths reported by PennDOT (2000-2006), DCNR has announced plans to construct exit corridors from the safe, legal ATV trails onto public roadways. These connections are legal only if a township has designated the township roads as dual-use, for ATVs and cars.

#### Trespass Problems

Legal doesn't mean smart. Allowing unlicensed, un-inspected ATVs to mix with other vehicular traffic is a recipe for disaster. It also facilitates increased trespass on our farms and other privately owned land. A previous DCNR study, dated July 11, 2000, showed that allowing legal ATV trails resulted in increased trespass.

A few vocal ATV groups want town-to-town ATV routes. However, DCNR data indicate that 40.1% of reported ATV accidents were on roads and 7.6% of all ATV accidents involved drugs and/or alcohol (figures for 2001-2006).

#### PennDOT Statistics

According to PennDOT, there were 310 reported ATV accidents on roads from 2001-2003. ATV accidents on roadways more than doubled to 708 accidents in the next three-year period (2004-2006). From 2000-2006, there were 111 ATV fatalities resulting from ATV accidents on Pennsylvania roads. PennDOT reports that 10% of on roadway accidents involved drugs/alcohol. Allowing legal access to public roads will lead to an even greater increase of ATV accidents.

Another concern is that almost 28% of the drivers killed or injured in highway ATV accidents were children under the age of 16. These are kids, without driver's licenses, operating unlicensed and un-inspected motor vehicles on Pennsylvania roadways. DCNR had not mentioned any plans for increased enforcement as part of their ATV connectors to public roads.

#### Enforcement Problems

"Pennsylvania needs to address enforcement issues first," according to retired Clinton County Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officer John Wasserman. "Many townships with roads open to ATVs do not have a local police force. State police officers seldom travel backcountry roads. DCNR rangers don't patrol township roads and Game Commission wildlife conservation officers have no authority to stop ATVs on township roadways outside of state game lands."

Wasserman adds, "In my former patrol area, one of the township roads open to ATV use is paved. All ATV manufacturers warn operators against use on public roads or paved roadways. ATVs have low pressure tires which are not suitable for use on paved or hard surfaces. I can't understand why Pennsylvania would allow townships to open paved roadways to ATVs when all ATV manufacturers state that this can cause an accident due to a loss of control or being unable to avoid other vehicles."

#### OSHA Evaluation

OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) agrees with Wasserman. A report dated August 3, 2006 states, "ATVs are specifically designed for off-road use, and are not intended to be driven on concrete or paved roads. Injuries and fatalities can occur as a result of collisions with other vehicles and as a result of the difficulty of controlling an ATV on pavement."

The present Pennsylvania ATV law provides that ATV registrations fund enforcement. A new survey is presently underway, specifically investigating the ATV problems of District Foresters and if present enforcement efforts are adequate to control ATV trespass (estimated at 2,535 miles of illegal trails in a July, 2000 DCNR survey).

#### Legislative Bills Introduced

Stopping the rising accident and trespass rates is largely up to our legislators. There are two bills that give hope to farmers and other landowners. Senate Bill 1096 would increase the penalties for motorized trespass. House Bill 2043 would revise the present ATV law (Act 68 of 2001). The Forest Coalition supports these two bills if they will prohibit ATVs on all public roadways and include forfeiture of the vehicles, rather than simply increase fines. A third bill, HB 1950, would allow DCNR Rangers to arrest or cite ATVs outside of state park or forest lands. DCNR has not commented on that bill.

[Ed. Note: The author is a former ATV and motorcycle safety instructor.]



Hikers negotiate a section of the Rachel Carson trail rutted and eroded by ATVs.

## Ecology

### WatchList 2007 for Imperiled Birds

Six species found in Pennsylvania have the dubious distinction of making WatchList 2007, a joint effort of Audubon and American Bird Conservancy to identify America's most imperiled birds. The listed birds are the goldenwinged warbler, Henslow's sparrow, the semipalmated sandpiper, the short-eared owl, the wood-thrush, and the cerulean warbler.



Cerulean warbler

WatchList 2007 reflects a comprehensive analysis of population size and trends, distribution, and threats for 700 bird species in the U.S. It reveals those in greatest need of immediate conservation help simply to survive amid a convergence of environmental challenges, including habitat loss, invasive species and global warming.

The complete list and more information about the 217 species on the list is at [www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/science/watchlist/photopage.html](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/science/watchlist/photopage.html)

### Bird Breeding Atlas

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, a five-year endeavor to document avian nesting and breeding activities in the Commonwealth, is entering its fifth and final year. Anyone who encounters a breeding bird is encouraged to report this activity by calling 1-888-PA BIRD1 and providing the date, exact location, species, and observed behavior. Individuals who wish to report more than five observations should use a field card available online at [www.pabirdatlas.org](http://www.pabirdatlas.org) or from the PBBA office, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Powdermill Nature Reserve, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677.

### Lyme Disease Update

The PA Department of Health reports that the incidence of Lyme disease, carried by deer ticks, has increased dramatically as a result of the growth in the deer population and development encroaching into forested areas of the state, especially outer suburbs encroaching into forested areas.

In 1990, a total of 685 cases were reported statewide, 50-percent in the southeast corner of the state. By 1999, that number had increased to 2,813 cases, with 86-percent of the cases in the southeast.

Pat Smith of the Lyme Disease Association notes that only 43,454 cases of the disease have been reported in Pennsylvania in the last 16 years, but according the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the estimates for Pennsylvania should be in the range of 434,540.

Lyme disease, if left untreated, can result in bouts of arthritis with severe joint pain and swelling, chronic neurological complaints such as shooting pains, numbness, tingling in the hands or feet and problems with concentration and short term memory. Even with treatment, Lyme disease symptoms can



last months to years after treatment with antibiotics.

The first sign of the infection is usually a circular rash called erythema migrans that occurs from 3-30 days after a tick bites. A distinctive feature of the rash is that it gradually expands over a period of several days and can result in a bull's-eye type appearance.

Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellent, removing ticks promptly and taking steps like integrated pest management around the home.

For more information, visit the PA Department of Health's Lyme disease webpage at [www.dsf.health.state.pa.us](http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us) and type Lyme disease in the search box on the site.

### New Firewood Quarantine In PA

To prevent the spread of exotic invasive pests like the Asian longhorned beetle, Emerald ash borer, Sirex wood wasp and Bark beetles, Pennsylvania has banned the importation of out-of-state firewood.

The movement of all firewood types and species into Pennsylvania is prohibited. Firewood includes all wood, processed or unprocessed, coniferous or hardwood, meant for use in a campfire or other outdoor or indoor fire.

Kiln-dried, packaged firewood clearly marked with the producer's name and address and labeled as "kiln dried" and/or "USDA Certified" are exempt from the quarantine.



The new quarantine is in addition to the existing four-county quarantine in western Pennsylvania – Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Lawrence counties – that was issued following the recent detection of Emerald ash borer.

The Emerald ash borer quarantine restricts the movement from the quarantine area of ash nursery stock, green lumber and any other ash material, including logs, stumps, roots and branches and, due to the difficulty in distinguishing between species of hardwood firewood, all hardwood wood chips and firewood. Currently, there are no simple ways to get rid of the Emerald ash borer other than removing and destroying infested trees. There is no effective insecticidal spray program, preventative treatments or natural enemies to suppress populations of the insects.

For more information about the firewood quarantine, call 717-772-5205. Information about the emerald ash borer is available on the PA Dept of Agriculture website.

### CWD In Deer

Chronic wasting disease (CWD), a contagious, neurological disease of deer and elk, has hit deer in West Virginia. Thought to be caused by prions that attack the brain, CWD infected animals become emaciated and display abnormal behavior; invariably, the animal dies.

There is no known treatment for this disease, which belongs to the disease family that includes mad cow disease. CWD was first identified in 1967 and is found mostly in Western states.

Pennsylvania is carefully monitoring deer for any signs of infection.

## Maintainers' Corner

### Trail Care Reports

By Joe Healey

October Trail Care was held at Promised Land State Park. The crew worked on trails in Delaware State Forest's Bruce Lake Natural Area in Monroe County.. Attendees were **Tom Bastian, Diane Busgarini, Jack Bushey, Ann Griffin, Carl Griffin, Joe Healey, Roy Kleinle, Elwood Loudenslager, John Motz, Ginny Owen, Jim Owen, Kathy Sieminski, George Singlemann, Dave Walp, Barb Wiemann, and Judy Zarach.**

In November, Trail Care traveled to Everett in Bedford County to work on the southern region of the Mid State Trail. The new southern regional manager, Deb Dunkle, did a great job in hosting trail care in Tenley Park and I want to thank her. Attendees were **Tom Bastian, Robert Best, Kirk Bucynski, Joe Clark, Deb Dunkle, Pete Fleszar, Joe Healey, Tom Kelliher, Ed Lawrence, Carl Lorence, Dick Martin, Harold Schneider, Thyra Sperry, and John Stein.**

I want to thank all the volunteers who came out to Trail Care events in 2007 and hope to see you in 2008. Bring a friend!



## DCNR Releases New Guidelines For Marking Recreational Trails

DCNR has released the final version of its "Guidelines for Marking Recreational Trails", dated December 2007. The goal of the 18-page document is to provide trail marking consistency for trail users who are visiting and crossing between various state parks and state forests.

The guidelines acknowledge that state forest trails are open to all non-motorized user groups unless posted closed, while state parks are open only to the posted individual uses. According to the guidelines, either method of posting is acceptable. Specific trail use, whether permitting or omitting user groups, must be clearly marked at trailheads. Currently, many trailheads, including those on designated state hiking trails, lack posting resulting in user conflicts.

Electronic copies of the guidelines are available by contacting Keystone Trails Association at [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net).

## Trail Towns Guide

The Allegheny Trail Alliance has published a 51-page guide titled *Trail Towns: Capturing Trail-Based Tourism, A Guide for Communities in Pennsylvania*. The guide is available on the web at [www.atatrail.org/pdf/1TTManual.pdf](http://www.atatrail.org/pdf/1TTManual.pdf).



## Trail Sign Auction

What do you do with weathered or out-of-date trail signs? The Appalachian Mountain Club considers these relicts as collectors' items and held a trail sign auction on eBay, with proceeds supporting trail maintenance and stewardship programs.

## Kudzu Now In 17 Counties

The PA Department of Agriculture is working to eradicate kudzu, an invasive species, in 17 counties across the Commonwealth. Kudzu became a Pennsylvania Noxious Weed in 1989. Currently infested sites are most often roadside banks, forest-edges, quarries, slag mine deposits, homeowner property boundaries and rarely open space locations such as pipelines.



As of October 2007, 121 properties consisting of 80 spatially distinct populations of kudzu are known in Pennsylvania.

Due to the complexity of control options and the expansiveness of kudzu growth, most property owners are not equipped to manage kudzu eradication without technical assistance. The Department of Agriculture began assisting property owners in 2000 and these efforts have evolved into the statewide Pilot Kudzu Eradication Program. Thirty-four spatially distinct populations in 13 counties are now enrolled in the eradication program.

For more information, visit the PA Dept. of Agriculture's weed program webpage at [www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=128404](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=128404).

## Educational Opportunities

### Hike Leader Training – March 1

The Cumberland Valley AT Club and the Susquehanna AT Club will conduct a joint hike leader training workshop on March 1. Contact Frank Bohn, 717-234-5169 or Pat Zinn, 717-697-0648, [pzinn@comcast.net](mailto:pzinn@comcast.net).

### Wilderness First Aid

The Wilderness Safety Council will be offering its 18-hour Wilderness First Aid courses at various locations in Pennsylvania this year – March 8-9 (Harrisburg); June 14-15 (Bucks County); June 21-22 (Harrisburg); October 25-26 (Pittsburgh); and November 1-2 (Harrisburg). The cost is \$200. Phone 703-836-8905 or go to <http://wfa.net> for a complete list of offerings and registration.



The Mohican Outdoor Center near Delaware Water Gap is offering a SOLO Wilderness First Aid course March 14-16. WFA is a 16-hour course that teaches how to deal with common medical incidents and accidents in the backcountry. Cost is \$215 (\$239 for nonmembers), which covers two nights lodging, meals, instruction and certification. CPR certification is also available for \$35. Contact the Center at 908-362-5670.

### Outdoor Leadership Training – March 28-30

The Delaware Valley Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club will offer Outdoor Leadership Training March 28-30 at Nockamixon State Park. Inexpensive overnight accommodations are available at the Weisel Hostel.

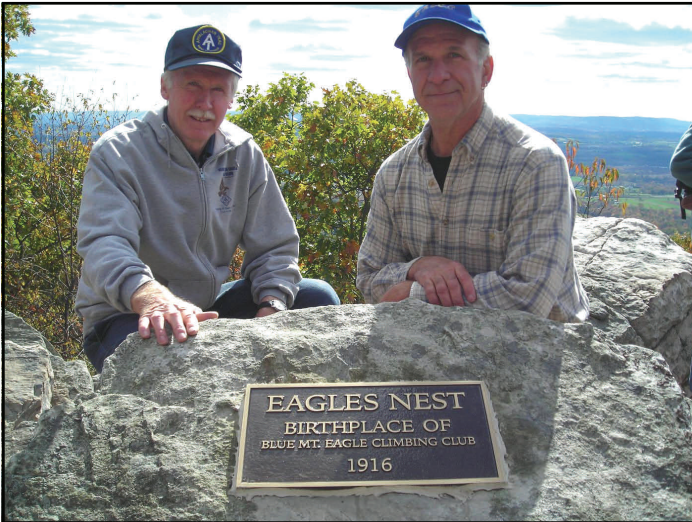
Participants will learn the skills needed to lead outdoor events, including planning, group dynamics, accident management, map and compass skills. New leaders will develop the confidence and skills needed to conduct events, and experienced leaders can improve their skills. Contact Dwayne Henne at 215-679-0513 or [thehennes@verizon.net](mailto:thehennes@verizon.net) for more information.

## Around The Clubs

### Cumberland Valley AT Club/Susquehanna AT Club

CVATC and SATC, both located in the greater Harrisburg area, have authorized the development of a proposal to combine hiking programs. The two clubs hope that a combined program will increase interest in hiking and result in more hikers on club outings. The proposal will be studied by each club this winter.

### Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club



George Shollenberger and Al Shrom installed this new plaque commemorating the Eagles Nest, where BMECC holds its club initiations. Photo by Linda Enders Roxberry.

BMECC will be in the cooperative spirit this year, sponsoring joint hikes with the Pocono Outdoor Club in January and April, the York Hiking Club in March, and the Horse-Shoe Trail Club in May.

In April, the club will hike to the Eagle's Nest Shelter and Privy to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how to care for a composting privy.

BMECC volunteers contributed 2,849 hours of labor last year on trails that the club maintains.

### Butler Outdoor Club

Joyce Appel received BOC's 2007 Outstanding Contribution Award for service to the club and other organizations. Joyce was presented with a plaque and monetary award. Among Joyce's accomplishments: planning and organizing all eleven BOC Annual Memorial Day Weekend Extravanzas; serving on the North Country Trail Association Board and chairing the annual Conference when it was held in Pennsylvania two years ago; serving as a KTA Representative-at-Large; trip and hike leader; trail maintainer.



### Philadelphia Trail Club

PTC has agreed to undertake maintenance of the area around Polly's Bench in Wissahickon Park in Philadelphia. The park has 57 miles of trails used by up to one million persons each year. This user pressure has resulted in the need to rebuild many of the trails. Friends of the Wissahickon plans to re-establish a network of trained volunteers who would act as docents to assist park visitors.

### Pocono Outdoor Club

In 2007, the POC Trail Crew accumulated over 500 hours of volunteer labor on trails in the Delaware State Forest, Hickory Run State Park, Big Pocono State Park, and Promised Land State Park.

### Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

PATC has re-activated its Conservation Committee, with the mission to monitor conservation issues that affect PATC trails and surrounding lands. The goal is to have committee members in every county in PATC's four-state operating area, so that there are members to monitor issues and enable the club to effectively participate in local developments.

Dorothy Walker, a PATC member (since 1929) who met her husband on a hiking trip to Mt. Katahdin in 1934, died in September twelve days short of her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday. She served as PATC Headquarters Staff Chair for six years, recruiting and organizing office volunteers in a time before PATC had paid staff.

With the advent of online cabin rental information, PATC reports that rentals have doubled since 2004. Three more cabins, including Dawson in Pennsylvania, have been added to the non-member list.

### Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club

Continuing their successful Appalachian Trail series hikes, eight SATC members completed Maryland and West Virginia. Another ten members expect to make up a missed section soon and complete these states.

SATC now sponsors a "Kid Hikers" email group for folks who have car-seat age kids and want to connect with other kids and their adult friends for group hiking outings.

### Venture Outdoors

Venture Outdoors has expanded its office space from the corner of Wood Street and Forbes Avenue to an adjacent space at 306 Forbes Avenue. The new office space is more visible to passers-by. Public and private programming departments will be moving into the new space, making VO the downtown Pittsburgh center for information on hiking and biking, area parks, paddling, and more.

Over 27,000 people "got outside" with VO in 2007. 2008 offerings include a Blooms and Brews Hike, Irish Ale Trail Hike, Marvelous Merlot Hike, Soup of the Month Hike, a New Year's Resolution Hike and an Urban Fitness Hikes Series. The VO schedule is now online at [www.ventureoutdoors.org/adventuretimeswinter2008.pdf](http://www.ventureoutdoors.org/adventuretimeswinter2008.pdf)

### Wilmington Trail Club

49 hikers completed the Hike Across Delaware! on a hot, sunny day.

## Around The Clubs

### Upcoming Events

#### BMECC Outdoor Book Discussion

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club continues its Book Discussion series with *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer on Feb. 9. The featured book on March 8<sup>th</sup> is *High Infatuation* by Steph Davis. Both events will be held at the Muhlenberg Library from 1-3 PM. If you want to take part, call 610-373-6967.

#### PA Association of Environmental Education Conference

LEEAP IN! (Linking Environmental Education and Play in Nature) is the theme of the 2008 conference, to be held Feb. 28-March 2 near Ligonier. For more information, see the Association web site [www.paee.net](http://www.paee.net).

#### Banff Film Festival in PA

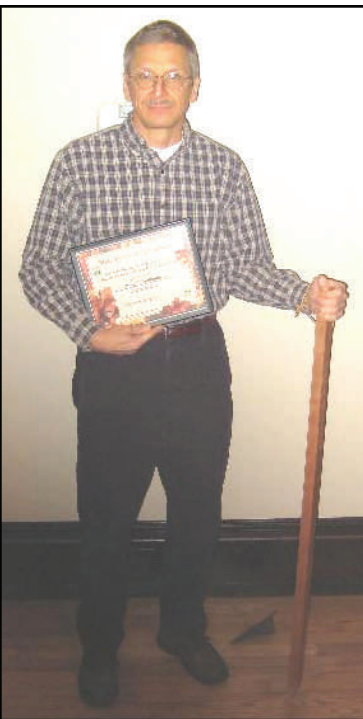
The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will be making four stops in Pennsylvania: Phoenixville on February 29 and March 1, Allentown on March 2, Pittsburgh on April 4-5, and State College on April 27-28. Information about the tour is available at [www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/tour](http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/tour).

#### Land Conservation Conference—April 3-5

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference will be held April 3-5 in Malvern. Seminar subjects range from deer management, nature photography, and staying safe in the great outdoors to winning land conservation ballot measures and fund raising. A complete list of workshops and roundtable descriptions are available at [www.conserveland.org](http://www.conserveland.org).

#### Brandywine Trail End-to-End Hike—April 12

The 36 mile Brandywine Trail End-to-End Hike will be held April 12. Warm up hikes will be offered on March 29 and April 5. Registration information is available on the Wilmington Trail Club web site at [www.wilmingtontrailclub.org](http://www.wilmingtontrailclub.org).



**Jeffrey C. Brethauer, of Lancaster, PA, a recipient of the DCNR/KTA State Forest Trails Award, was unable to attend the Fall Meeting. So he came to the KTA office in Harrisburg to accept his certificate and hand-crafted walking stick.**

### Inexpensive Web Hosting Offer for KTA Clubs and Members

by Tom Kelliher

As a service to KTA clubs and members, I am offering web hosting space at cost.

I have acquired a reseller web hosting account with Host Gator, a prominent web hosting company. I have split my account into "slices," which I can offer to others. Each slice consists of 600 megabytes of storage and 6.25 gigabytes of data transfer per month and costs \$7.50 per year.

As a comparison, Host Gator offers individuals a hosting plan at \$4.95 per month if you commit to three years with them, working out to \$59.40 per year. True, the Host Gator plan includes 350,000 MB of storage and 3,000 GB of data transfer per month, but how many of us actually need that much storage or transfer bandwidth? It would be nearly impossible to use that much storage or transfer bandwidth without running afoul of provisions within Host Gator's use agreement. As an illustration, the Mid State Trail Association's web site uses 55 MB of storage and has used at most 1.0 GB of data transfer in a single month, for the eight months of records I have. If you do need more storage or transfer bandwidth, you can purchase additional slices and they will be consolidated into a single "super slice" for you.



The domain name you currently own can be transferred to this service. If you're not happy with your current domain name, or don't own one, I can offer subdomains of [hikepa.org](http://hikepa.org) for \$1.00 per year. (As an example, [TomKelliher.hikepa.org](http://TomKelliher.hikepa.org) and [msta.hikepa.org](http://msta.hikepa.org) are subdomains of [hikepa.org](http://hikepa.org).)

For further information, contact Tom Kelliher at [kelliher@hike-mst.org](mailto:kelliher@hike-mst.org).

### PATC High School Internships Get Youth Involved in Trail Work

PATC has embarked on a new endeavor designed to inspire teens to develop a passion for hiking trails and embrace environmental stewardship. Using a \$5,000 grant from REI, the club has partnered with Northwood High School in Silver Springs, MD, to create year long internships for eight juniors and seniors.

The internships provide a comprehensive trail experience. Students will become Leave No Trace trainers and educate others. They will also construct and maintain trails, and study plants and animals impacted by human usage of trails. Emphasis is placed on having the students observe, experience, feel, and question everything that surrounds them.

PATC will continue the internship program at Northwood during the 2008-2009 school year and looks to expand this pilot program to other schools.

For more information about this program, contact Jennifer Chambers at [exect@starpower.net](mailto:exect@starpower.net).

## Pennsylvania Leads Nation in Deer-Car Collisions

Pennsylvania leads all other states in the number of insurance claims submitted as a result of deer-car collisions and the most overall collisions, 98,313 in 2006, according to State Farm Insurance.

Based upon claims information collected and analyzed by Erie Insurance since 1999, about one in every 100 drivers in the state is likely to have a collision with a deer. The first two weeks in November have more claims than any other two-week period during the year.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety there are an estimated 1.5 million deer-vehicle collisions annually in the United States, causing more than 150 fatalities and \$1.1 billion in property damage. Property damage attributed to collisions in Pennsylvania is over \$78 million.



While research has revealed several innovative ways to deter deer from entering the roadways and alerting drivers to the dangers of deer in the area, there will always remain a constant danger of deer-vehicle collisions," said Melissa Miles, senior research analyst for State Farm . "Undoubtedly, the best way to avoid deer-vehicle collisions is through attentive driving behavior."

search analyst for State Farm . "Undoubtedly, the best way to avoid deer-vehicle collisions is through attentive driving behavior."

**"The best way to avoid deer-vehicle collisions is through attentive driving behavior"**

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION  
101 North Front St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Harrisburg, PA  
Permit #891

## Upcoming KTA Meetings and Events

- April 18-20 — Spring Meeting, Wellsboro, PA
- May 17 — Endangered Hiking Trail Seminar, Harrisburg, PA
- May 24-June 1 — PA Hiking Week
- June 28 — Board Meeting, Harrisburg, PA
- July 18-20 — Prowl the Sproul, Hyner, PA
- September 6 — Susquehanna Megahike, Holtwood, PA
- September 26-28 — Annual Meeting, Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingman's Ferry, PA
- September 28-30 Greenways and Trails Summit, Inn at Pocono Manor , Pocono Manor, PA (KTA is a sponsor)

For the dates of 2008 Trail Care/Crew events, see page 2

## KTA Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliations (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Receive newsletter in full color via e-mail by 1st of issue month instead of by postal mail and save KTA paper and mailing costs

Member organizations are welcome and should forward the name and contact information for the group's designated KTA representative along with appropriate dues: \$50 per year for clubs; \$100 for commercial enterprises; \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All dues payments and correspondence should be mailed to: 101 North Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17101.

\*KTA is an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Basic Membership (New Member Only)	
Individual—\$15	
Family—\$20	
Basic Membership (Renewal)	\$
Individual—\$25	
Family—\$30	
Brush Cutter Membership	\$
Individual—\$35	
Family—\$45	
Blaze Painter Membership	\$
Individual—\$50	
Family—\$75	
Trail Builder Membership	\$
Individual—\$100	
Family—\$125	
Life Membership	\$
Individual—\$500	
Family—\$750	
Youth Membership	
Individual—\$5.00	
Additional contribution	\$
In memory of/in honor of	
_____	
Total Enclosed	\$