

NEWSLETTER

101 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
www.kta-hike.org

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

February 2010



KTA Publishes New Hiking Map

Pennsylvania's three and a half million hikers love to get outdoors and enjoy our trails. But inevitably, every hiker asks some questions. What are the closest trails to where I live, work or visit? Who publishes the maps and guides I need? How do I get to the trailheads? Where can I park my car?

Keystone Trails Association has produced a Pennsylvania hiking map, *Guide to Hiking Trails in Pennsylvania*, which helps answer these and other common questions. The map also highlights 29 long distance hiking trails in the state, providing short trail descriptions and links to appropriate web sites.

The 24 by 36 inch full color maps, printed on both sides, fold to 3 by 8 inches.

Funding from a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant helped pay for printing the maps. The Peter Gould Center's Cartography Lab at Penn State University prepared the maps, using data from PennDOT, DCNR, the Game Commission, and KTA.

The Pennsylvania Hiking Map is a wonderful tool for introducing Pennsylvania's beautiful long distance hiking trails to novice and expert hikers alike. Order your copy on the KTA web site www.kta-hike.org, or see the Hikers' Market on page 15.



Closed Pedestrian Bridge Splits Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail

The closure of the pedestrian bridge over the Pennsylvania Turnpike (between trail mileposts 36 and 37) has severed the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail. The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources closed the bridge in Somerset County in December after an inspection revealed structural deterioration. The bridge was constructed in the 1970s.

Gates on the trail at the bridge have been closed, and temporary barricades will be placed in several spots to alert trail users to the closure. In addition to hikers, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers use the bridge.

Possible Detour Route Adds Six Miles

There is no easy option for crossing the turnpike. The Laurel Highlands Ultra race, a June trail run that uses the LHHT, has planned a detour which will add about six miles. Runners will leave the trail on a gravel road, cross the turnpike on a paved road, and then turn onto another gravel road to rejoin the trail.

New Bridge Needed

Mike Mumau, manager of the Laurel Hill State Park complex, believes the bridge will have to be replaced, but no firm timetable has been set. Local media has reported that the bridge could be replaced by 2015.

A new bridge would have to be wider and would have to be designed to accommodate the future widening of the turnpike planned for the area. The bridge design must take into account the fact that the area is prone to high winds and plumes of salt are kicked up from the highway for four to five months each year.

Hikers can contact the Laurel Hill State Park Complex at 814-445-7725 for further information and assistance.

The Laurel Highlands Trail is a Bureau of Forestry State Hiking Trails and is a component of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

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Joint Trail Work Day

KTA and Friends of Shikellamy State Park

March 27

See page 8 for details

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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, but reserve the right to edit material. You are encouraged to submit your material on disc or via e-mail.

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2010 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.

You must contact the trip leader in advance and register for Trail Care weekends.

March 19-21 - Mid State Trail, State College Region

Leader: Kevin Busko, 814-643-4238, kbusko@verizon.net
Camp: Rimmey Cabin at Seven Mountains Scout Camp (off US 322 on Sand Mountain Road)

March 27 - Shikellamy State Park
See page 8 for details

April 16-18 - Allegheny Front Trail

Leaders: Ed Lawrence, 570-925-5285, cathyed@nationi.net and Ralph Seeley
Camp: Black Moshannon State Park

May 14-16 - Thunder Swamp Trail

Leader: John Motz, 570-236-1462, trailbldr@hotmail.com
Camp: Promised Land State Park

July 9-11 - Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

Leader: Pete Fleszar, 717-583-2093, tioga@hike-mst.org
Camp: Ives Run overflow camping at

Hammond Lake

August 13-15 - Mid State Trail, Woolrich Region

Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979, jnlhealey@aol.com
Camp: Ravensburg State Park

September 24-26 - Loyalsock Trail

Leader: Jim Yannaccone. Contact Ruth Rode, 570-322-5878
Camp: Worlds End State Park

October 15-17 - Bear Run Nature Reserve

Leader: Jeff Rosier, 724-329-7803, jrosier@paconserve.org
Camp: Kirkpatrick House at Bear Run Nature Reserve (near Ohiopyle State Park)

November 5-7 - North Country Trail

Leader: Paul Henry, 724-347-3282 / 685-1077, phenry@choiceonemail.com
Camp: Bear Run Campground cabins (near McConnells Mill State Park)

2009 Trail 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.

You must pre-register by contacting Ed Lawrence, 216 Asbury Rd. Orangeville, PA, 570-925-5285, cathyed@nationi.net

Week #1: June 1-6 - Standing Stone Trail

Leader: Mel Cooper, 814-643-2641, lunchtime1@verizon.net
Camp: Narrows Gun Club near McConnellsburg

Week #3: June 15-20 - Chuck Keiper / Donut Hole Trails

Leader: Rich Scanlon, 717-994-6212, richards.dmd@verizon.net
Camp: Western Clinton Sportsmen Association near Hyner View State Park

Week #2: June 8-13 - North Country Trail

Leader: Paul Henry, 724-347-3282 / 724-685-1077, phenry@choiceonemail.com
Camp: Breakneck Campground near McConnells Mill State Park

Week #4: June 22-27 - Mid State Trail, Everett Region

Leader: Deb Dunkle, 814-652-2227, dhdunkle@embarqmail.com
Camp: Tenley Park in Everett

President's Message

Volunteerism is the life blood of the Keystone Trails Association. Pennsylvania's 3000 miles of beautiful long distance hiking trails are not entirely an act of nature. They are maintained and protected by volunteer men and women like you.

2010 brings us a new volunteer board member and Treasurer, Ernest "Ernie" Werstler, who is affiliated with the Mid-State Trail Association. Ernie replaces Rick Carlson, who has been elected to the Board of Advisors.

After more than ten years of service, Barb Wiemann will soon cease to be our Newsletter Editor. Barb is a goldmine of historical information which has been invaluable to me as President. Susan Charkes, who is affiliated with the Batona Hiking Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club Delaware Valley Chapter, will begin her new volunteer role as Editor this summer.

Joe Healey has retired as our "trail chief" and Ed Lawrence is now leading and coordinating the volunteer Trail Care weekends and Summer Crew week long programs. KTA club leaders have the 2010 program well organized and have added an extra week to the Summer Crew program.

KTA's transformation to a Board of Directors with an Executive Director has been the result of necessity and events, and the complexity of being a dynamic statewide organization. KTA made the decision to grow our effectiveness with paid staff. Our Executive Director, Curt Ashenfelter, fills the need as a full time professional interfacing with government agencies, conducting public programs, and managing a variety of complex trail projects. Our Program Administrator, Becky Schrieber, is a full time professional managing our membership, events, and merchandise.

Our member clubs vary greatly in size, but all of them, whether large or small, are volunteer based organizations. Each club has its own elected officers and actively recruits volunteers for trail related projects and the sustainability of their organization. KTA is thriving on the combination of a professional staff and dedicated volunteers. As a statewide organization, KTA has reached out to the state and federal government on a number of important issues concerning our hiking trails.

Member clubs are the major resource for statewide involvement in KTA's strategic planning goals. They bring trail knowledge and experience to the Board of Directors and the future of KTA. By accurately sharing member clubs needs and concerns with the state and federal government, KTA promotes hiking trails on a level usually reserved for the more lavishly funded snowmobile and ATV organizations.

As volunteers, we must raise funds to maintain our staff and grow our programs. It takes money to grow our membership and expand our influence. In Harrisburg, well funded organizations lobby constantly for their special needs in our state forests and along our hiking trails. For our hiking trails to continue into the 21st century as you know them today, your continued financial support is vital. Financial support is a keystone for expanding KTA's ability to preserve our trails.

In the meantime,
Get outdoors and protect your favorite trail

Tayra



Heritage Society Recognizes Members Who Plan For Future

To recognize individuals who have included KTA in their estate plans with a commitment of at least \$5,000, KTA has established the Heritage Society. Currently there are 12 thoughtful, concerned members

For more than fifty years, KTA has been the statewide advocate for hiking trails, working to protect, preserve and promote hiking trails and hiking opportunities. Our members support this mission by volunteering their time and talents, and contributing financially.

But what about the future? Hikers who would like to leave a continuing legacy and have the great satisfaction of knowing that, long after they are no longer here, a portion of their accumulated assets will continue to support the hiking trails that are so important to them, should consider including KTA in their estate plans. Some examples of vehicles that can be used include insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts, or bequests.

For more information about including KTA in your estate plans, contact Curt Ashenfelter (see page 2 for contact information).

Upcoming KTA Meetings and Events

April 23-25, 2010 — Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend, Wellsboro, Tioga County, PA.

May 29-June 6, 2010 — Pennsylvania Hiking Week, statewide. Co-sponsored with DCNR.

June 26, 2010 — Board Meeting, Harrisburg, PA

July 16-18, 2010 — Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend, Renovo, PA

September 11, 2010 — Susquehanna Super Hike, York and Lancaster Counties, PA

October 1-3, 2010 — Annual Meeting and Hiking Weekend, Milroy, PA

KTA - Your Hiking Advocate In Action

By Curt Ashenfelter

Keystone Trails Association is your advocate for providing, preserving, protecting, and promoting hiking trails in Pennsylvania. Below are just a few examples of our recent efforts.

Working With the Game Commission

Recently I traveled to Pennsylvania Game Commission Headquarters to meet Carl Roe, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

KTA and the Game Commission worked at length on the *Pennsylvania Outdoors The Keystone for Healthy Living 2009-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. Carl had spoken at the Governor's Home when the report was released to the public for the first time and I thought his remarks were supportive of the hiking community.

I reported to Carl that after the meeting at the Governor's Home that I had informed the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that the Game Commission and KTA had already accomplished two important goals of the report. The goals KTA and the Game Commission met were:

- Close Trail Gaps (two trail gaps were eliminated in 2009 by relocating trails off roads and onto Game Lands).
- Connect people to outdoor recreation and healthy lifestyles (Susquehanna Super Hike held in part on Game Land connected over 200 people, September 12, 2009).

Game Commission Supportive of Primitive Camping On Long Distance Trails

I shared with Carl the challenges backpackers face when traveling on trails that traverse long distances on State Game Lands. It is oftentimes difficult to cross ten or more miles of Game Land in one day. Hikers would appreciate the ability to primitive camp on State Game Lands. Carl expressed an openness to provide primitive camping on selected long distance hiking trails, similar to existing policy on the Appalachian Trail.

Camping and establishing campsites are prohibited on State Game Lands with some specific exceptions along the AT. One exception is Rausch Gap Shelter in Game Lands 211. Here, because there is extensive mileage in both directions on the Appalachian Trail within the boundaries of the Game Lands, a shelter was authorized for use by thru-hikers passing through St. Anthony's Wilderness.

The Game Commission also permits primitive camping along the Appalachian Trail, for long distance hikers only, as it traverses Game Lands. The rules for primitive camping are:

1. Camp within 200 feet of the Trail
2. Camp one night only at any given site.
3. Do not camp within 500 feet of a water source or public access
4. No open fires when the fire index rating used by DCNR is

high, very high or extreme

KTA will work with Carl and Game Commission staff on an as-needed basis for implementing primitive camping on Game Commission land where appropriate.

Sunday Hunting Is a Long Shot in Pennsylvania

I met and spoke with a number of State Senators, State Representatives and legislative staffers concerning Sunday hunting. Most legislators had heard from a vocal minority of hunters who favored Sunday hunting, but were inclined to support the status quo. I also learned that State Senator Richard Alloway II, Chair of the Game and Fisheries Committee, does not support Sunday hunting. I was told that it is unlikely that legislation supporting Sunday hunting would emerge from his committee any time in the near future.

DCNR/KTA Consolidated Grant

Six Clubs received over \$31,000 in Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Keystone Trail Association Grants in 2009.

The Standing Stone Trail Club, the Mid State Trail Club, the Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy, the Chester County Trail Club, the North Country Trail Association and the Allegheny Outdoor Club have all completed trail projects and received funding.

Of the six clubs that have applied and received Round 1 grant money, three have completed all of their projects. The Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy, the Standing Stone Trail Club, and the North Country Trail Association all plan to complete their remaining projects in 2010. The total value of the outstanding projects exceeds \$23,000.

Grant applications currently in the pipeline are moving forward and KTA continually works to obtain 50% of the next \$67,400 from DCNR in a timely manner despite bureaucratic slowdowns.

Clubs with trail funding needs in 2012 and 2013 should begin planning now. The approval process is lengthy, but long range needs should be evaluated, and funds requested accordingly. Shelter, bridge or trail projects planned for two or three years hence require applications now.

Outdoor Recreation Plan to Have Big Impact on Hiking Trails

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently released a new five year outdoor recreation plan. While it is near impossible to summarize a 112 page report in the confines of this newsletter, I would like to highlight a few items. A copy of the full report can be obtained from DCNR or viewed on their web site at www.dcnr.state.pa.us.

Every five years, states across the nation are required to produce a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to remain eligible to receive federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF).

The planning effort included a Trail Gap Survey that asked major trail organizations, including KTA, to identify critical gaps and areas of the state in need of trails, along with a survey of trail "experts" (including KTA) on key issues and priorities related to trail development.

(Continued on page 5)

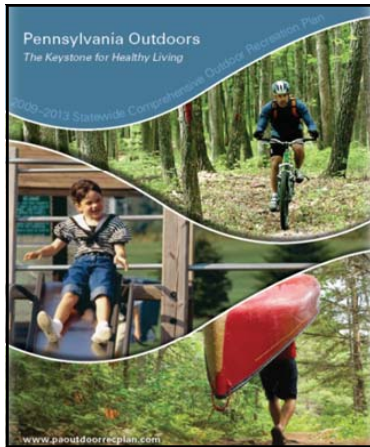


KTA News

(Continued from page 4)

The trail gap analysis study was intended to be the first step in a long-term process of shedding new light on the gaps in the statewide trail network and reveal attitudes that will help shape trail building strategies and funding policies over the next five years or more.

While the study's first phase was designed to identify physical locations of gaps on major trails, the second phase was designed to assess location-based priorities, social factors and organizational barriers to filling the gaps.



Trail group representatives documented a total of 107 gaps and voids in 41 counties. Spatial data has been recorded in DCNR's geographic information system.

It is important to note that the trail gaps uncovered in this study represent only a starting point in identifying trail gaps in Pennsylvania. As other gaps are revealed and described by other trail planning advocates and stakeholders, they will be added to DCNR's database in

an ongoing statewide trail gap management strategy, facilitating a more systematic approach to planning and completing the Commonwealth trail network.

The most important organizational issues related to trail development identified by one of the many surveys in the plan was securing trail rights-of-way that otherwise would be lost to development.

The report outlined four major goals. Each goal contained a series of recommendations and action steps. Again due to space considerations, the recommendations and action steps are not listed below, but KTA will work on those over the course of the five year plan.

- Goal 1. Strengthen Connections Between Outdoor Recreation, Healthy Lifestyle and Economic Benefits in Communities
- Goal 2. Reconnect People to the Outdoors and Develop a Stewardship Ethic Through Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Experiences
- Goal 3. Develop a Statewide Land and Water Trail Network to Facilitate Recreation, Transportation and Healthy Lifestyles
- Goal 4. Balance Outdoor Recreation Through Better State Agency Cooperation

I would encourage trail leaders to obtain a full copy of the report. The report will be helpful in advancing your trail agenda in any discussions with local, state and federal government officials.

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to Provide Advance Loan Funding

A new source of funding is now available for land trusts in Western Pennsylvania, for time-sensitive land conservation projects. The Colcom Revolving Fund for Local Land Trusts, a \$1 million revolving loan fund, allows crucial bridge funding.

Potential applicants should contact Jane Menchyk at 412-586-2333 or jmenchyk@paconserve.org.

New Board Member Appointed

In accordance with the provisions of the KTA bylaws, **Ernest Werstler** of Stevens, PA, has been appointed to fill the unexpired Board term of Rick Carlson. Werstler is a member of the Mid State Trail Association and an avid hiker and backpacker. He recently retired as business manager of a Berks County school district. He also has private sector experience in accounting, budgeting, and purchasing.

Werstler has also assumed the duties of KTA treasurer, taking over from Tom Kelliher, who stepped down due to an increased professional workload.

Two Elected As Advisors to Board

Rick Carlson and **Mary Young**, two former members of the Board of Directors, were elected as Advisors to the Directors at the Board's meeting in January. Advisors have valuable skills and expertise and are willing to contribute advice to the Board.

Pennsylvania Hiking Week
May 29-June 6

Encourage friends and relatives to get out and hike. Individuals and clubs may list hikes for this statewide event.

Contact Becky Schreiber, KTA Program Administrator, at www.ktaadmn.verizon.net or 717-238-7017 for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Nominating Committee Chair

This is an opportunity to play a role in the future of KTA. The five members of the Nominating Committee are charged with recruiting candidates for the Board of Directors and Representatives At Large. The Board is the governing body of KTA and serves as our ambassadors. Representatives at Large are elected in odd numbered years and are members of the KTA Council.

This year, the terms of office of three Board members will expire in September. Some are eligible to serve another term.

If you like to interact with fellow hikers and club members, this might be the volunteer position for you.

Membership Development Chair

The Membership Development Committee seeks to build strength in numbers and is responsible for all development and membership policy and program oversight. The goal is to increase the size of the membership and also inform KTA members about KTA programs, opportunities for volunteerism, and financial contributions. Stable sources of funding need to be secured to support the mission of KTA. The Committee will continue to raise the organizational image of KTA.

If you are interested in either of these positions or want more details about these committees, contact Thyra Sperry at hikesperry@aol.com or 717-497-5015.

Along Our Trails

Appalachian Trail

New Edition of PATC Map 4

PATC has released the 10th edition of its Map 4, which covers almost 18 miles of the AT in the Michaux State Forest. Printed on water and tear resistant synthetic stock in six colors, the map contains enlargements of the Chimney Rocks and Pen-Mar areas. New to this edition is the location of parking lots and GPS friendly UTM gridlines. Price is \$4.80 for PATC members, \$6.00 for non-members. Purchase from PATC at www.patc.us/store or from KTA (see page 15).

White Rocks Project

Congress recently approved \$1.82 million for about half the cost of the National Park Service (NPS) purchase of five tracts totaling about 1,000 acres around the White Rocks area in south-central Pennsylvania, where unbroken forest is threatened with plans for 274 residential lots on 277 of those acres. Matching state funds are being sought. The Conservation Alliance and a number of ATC-affiliated trail clubs have already provided funds for pre-acquisition expenses such as surveys.

For the latest news about the White Rocks Project, visit the blog at www.whiterocksproject.blogspot.com.

AT Distance Calculator

Want to know the approximate walking distance in miles between two points along the Appalachian Trail? Go to the web site at www.atdist.com and simply choose a selection from each of the list boxes, then click on the submit button. These distances are based on the Appalachian Trail Data Book for 2009, an Appalachian Trail Conservancy publication.

Mid Atlantic Crew

The **Appalachian Trail Conservancy Mid-Atlantic Crew** tackles large-scale projects such as trail relocations, rehabilitation and bridge and shelter construction. The eight week season runs from August to October. No previous trail experience is necessary - just a desire to work hard, live in the backcountry and have a great time among friends. For more information, call at 540-953-3571 or email crews@appalachiantrail.org.

Erie To Pittsburgh Trail

The Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, a network of organizations supporting the development of a 270-mile trail, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council have launched a new web site, www.eriepittsburghtrail.org, to inform users of their progress.

The various groups are working to connect their local trails into a system that will bring recreation, economic development, healthy exercise, and community character to the region. In Pittsburgh, this trail system will connect to the Great Allegheny Passage, which ends in Cumberland, MD. In turn, the Passage connects to the C & O Canal, which extends to Washington, DC.

Horse-Shoe Trail

Berks County Re-route

At mile 21.2-21.3, atop the ridge, the trail stays along the edge of the field for another one-tenth of a mile before turning into the woods on a broad, recently created forest road.

Berks County Feasibility Study

The Horse-Shoe Trail feasibility study for Berks County has been completed and approved by DCNR. Copies are available in

selected township offices and from the Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy, PO Box 2226, Southeastern, PA 19399. The Conservancy is beginning to work on the two suggested re-route areas.

Dauphin County Bridge



A new footbridge, built by Ian Lloyd and Boy Scout Troop 408, spans a boggy section of the recently re-routed trail in Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. Posted signs direct horses to travel along side the bridge. Photo courtesy of H-STC.

Mason-Dixon Trail

Western Section Relocations

The new relocation on Game Land 242 (Map 1, w-e mile 11.0) has been completed.

The new trail section between Klines Run Road and Klines Run Park (Map 4, w-e mile 1) is now open. It is marked by a dotted red line on the 2009 map.

National Scenic Trail Application

Preparation of the application for National Scenic Trail status for the portion of the M-DT from Wrightsville to the Norman Woods Bridge is in its final stages.

Eastern Section

There is a chain link fence across the trail on the west side of Red Toad Rd. The land owner suggests going around the fence to the north.

Mid State Trail

State College Region

For over 30 years the **Eagle Trail** has connected the Mid State on Long Mountain with Seven Mountains (Boy Scout) Camp. In recent years it became overgrown during nearby logging operations and the trailhead in Seven Mountains Camp vanished among evergreens. Last October a crew from the Orion operation at Penn State reopened the trail, which has been re-blazed yellow (in part). A trail sign was installed at the trail head along a camp road.

The **Poe Paddy** relocation was approved by the Bureau of Forestry in November. The John E. Fry Trail will be abandoned and the main MST will return to Dry Hollow Trail where the trail was originally located. This will add about 2400 feet of road walking to

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Along Our Trails

(Continued from page 6)

the trail and the trail register will be moved closer to Big Poe Road. The March 19-21 KTA Trail Care will work on this relocation.

Trail Care Builds Two Bridges

KTA's September Trail Care rebuilt two bridges—the second footbridge in Greens Valley in the Bald Eagle State Forest and a bridge in the Rothrock State Forest used by the Greenwood Spur in back of Camp Reynard. As a result of streambank erosion, the Greens Valley bridge has to be lengthened by four feet. The Greenwood Spur bridge had been damaged by a flood on Detweiler Run.

Home Depot Grant

The Mid State Trail Association applied for a grant to buy tools from the Home Depot's 2009 Building Healthy Communities Grant Program. Among the types of projects funded by the program are trails and greenways. The pay out is made in Home Depot gift cards.

North Country Trail

Re-route Ribbon Cutting

More than 60 people attended the Wampum Chapter ribbon cutting ceremony on October 18 to officially open the re-route on land owned by the Gateway Commerce Center, Inc., near Wampum, PA. The re-route offers hikers several scenic views of the Beaver River Valley. There were drawings for two NCT T-shirts. Following the ceremony, 39 attendees hiked from Wampum Bridge to Route 60. Snacks and hot beverages were served before the hike and at the three and a half mile stop.



Gateway Office Manager Ms. Deborah Sudano cuts the ribbon to officially open the Gateway Commerce Center, Inc. reroute. Photo by Bob Cody.

Struble Trail

Two popular Chester County destinations – Marsh Creek State Park and the Struble Trail – have been expanded and linked, thanks to the purchase by the Natural Lands Trust of the 27-acre Shryock Brothers property along the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek. The land owners had closed access to the Struble Trail where it entered the property. Under the terms of the purchase, ownership of 23 acres will be transferred to the state for addition to Marsh Creek State Park and four acres to Chester County to ensure access

to the Struble Trail. The deal also gives the County the ability to continue the trail northwest across a 5-acre private portion of the Shryock Brothers site, where it will link directly to the State Park.

Tuscarora Trail

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club is moving forward with the purchase of 160 acres of land in the Little Cove area of Franklin County. The property has a cabin and several nice shelter sites along the trail.

Publications for Hikers

Northeastern PA Trail Map

The *Trail Opportunity Map for Northeastern Pennsylvania* depicts hiking and bicycling paths in eleven counties, with information on locating trailheads and additional references for many trails, PennDOT District 4-0 office coordinated the production of the map. Copies are available at many visitor centers and other locations throughout the northeastern Pennsylvania region, and on-line at www.neparoads.com. Click on "Other Links."

Lancaster County Conservancy

The Lancaster County Conservancy has put their 60 page booklet *Visit the Natural Side of Lancaster County*, which describes the county's natural preserves and contains photos, trail info, and driving directions, online at www.lancasterconservancy.org/preserveguide.

USGS Topo Maps Going Digital

Last December, the US Geological Survey celebrated the 125th anniversary of its topographical quad maps. Unfortunately, the paper maps are generally updated only every 25 years.

That is changing with the latest digital US Topo maps. Users will be able to go to the USGS web site www.nationalmap.gov/ustopo, locate the map they want, view it in satellite, topo or hybrid mode (with or without a quad division overlay), and download the file for free. There will also be an option to order a paper map for \$8 per quad.

Arranged in the traditional 7.5-minute quadrangle format, US Topo digital maps are designed to look and feel like the traditional paper topographic maps. At the same time, the new maps provide modern technical advantages, including data layering, that support wider and faster public distribution and enable basic, on-screen geographic analysis for all users.

So far, these digital layers have been produced for 17 states. Maps for Pennsylvania are scheduled for 2010.

Participation in lower cost, back to nature, sports such as telemark skiing, snowshoeing, and backpacking, increased by double digits in 2008, according to an Outdoor Industry Association survey. The survey covered 114 sports, from adventure racing to softball.

The continuing recession may be fueling the upswing in self-powered recreation, as people look for ways to have fun and save money.

Maintainers Corner

Joe Healey's Last Trail Care as Leader

By Joyce Appel

It really was an honor to have Joe Healey's last trail work weekend as KTA Crew Leader be a weekend on the North Country Trail. On Saturday, we had 32 people working on the trail. In spite of rain Friday night, making it chilly and muddy in places, we got an unbelievable amount of work done. I was ecstatic! Work ranged from rock-work, steps, switchbacks, sidehill and fixing water drainage. Hikers coming by made comments about the noticeable work and couldn't believe the change.

On Saturday night we went to North Country Brewing, named after the trail. I couldn't wait to surprise Joe with a walking stick that has the NCT emblem on it. Then there was the cake, decorated with a woodsy scene and trail going through the woods with letters NCT on the trail. I made a standup hiker/worker carrying a daypack with NCT on the pack and a pulaski in his hand; his shirt said Joe.

On Sunday, about twenty people worked on the trail. It was a much nicer day and, again, we accomplished a lot of work.

Thank you KTA Crew for coming and thank you NCT and Butler Outdoor Club members who joined the crew. And a big thank you to Joe Healey for this weekend and for his past ten years of volunteer service as trail crew leader for KTA.



Joe Healey (holding his NCT walking stick) passes the sign-in clipboard to Ed Lawrence, new Trail Care leader. Photo by Joyce Appel.

Hiking Close Call Offers Warning For Maintainers

Dead snags are of great value to dozens of birds and wildlife species and a natural part of the regeneration of the forest, but the following tale is a good reminder to trail maintainers that dead snags close to the trail are dangerous, especially as they age and weaken at the roots.

Several Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club hikers were on a group hike in Vermont at the ATC Biennial last July. A hiker near the end of the group used a large, old, dead tree snag next to the trail as a crutch, reaching out to put her weight on it to ease her downhill climb. The rotted snag, between 18 and 24 inches in diameter, snapped off at the roots and toppled down the mountain, falling directly across the trail. The rear hikers shouted a warning and several downhill hikers barely had time to jump off the trail, avoiding the snag by nine inches or so.

Trail Care and Friends of Shikellamy Sponsoring Trail Work Day

By Ed Lawrence

The Friends of Shikellamy State Park and KTA are joining forces on March 27 for a trail work day and Spring Fest. This first of its kind event will target the trail system in the park's historic and scenic Overlook section with its unique geologic formations and beautiful views of the confluence of the West and North branches of the Susquehanna River.

Registration will begin at 8:30 AM, work at 9 AM. KTA will provide the tools and trail maintaining experience, while the Friends group will provide sign-in beverages, a hot lunch and, after work wraps up at 4 PM, more delicious eats, live music and a bonfire. There will be tasks suitable for all ages and abilities, including general trail maintenance, blaze painting and setting new trail signage posts.

This will be a family friendly community event focused on hiking trails, enjoying the outdoors, and having a great time. Contact leader Ed Lawrence, 570-925-5285, cathyed@nationi.net.

KTA Collecting 2009 Volunteer Trail Maintenance Hours

By Lorraine Healey

The 2009 Volunteer Maintenance Hours Request Forms have been e-mailed or snail mailed to all of our organizational members that do trail maintenance. I will pester those persons in each club who have been assigned the thankless job of gathering the volunteer maintenance hours for their club to return the forms to me in a timely manner. So all of you maintainers, it is up to you to come through and submit your hours to your club.

For those folks who don't have an organization to which you report your trail maintenance hours, you should send those maintenance hours (and don't forget travel time) directly to me at 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702 or jnlhealey@aol.com. With our hectic lives, it's just a matter of taking the time to submit the information.

In the meantime, a big thank you to all maintainers for all your hard work. Hikers really appreciate it. I hear it all the time.

Giant Hogweed Invading State



Giant Hogweed, a noxious, invasive weed that can cause blistering and scarring on the skin, was found in Forward Township, Butler County. The area was identified and marked with Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture signage and treated with an herbicide.

A native of Asia, hogweed was introduced as an ornamental. It can grow 15-20 feet tall and often colonizes roadsides, rights of way, and streams.

Citizens and property owners with suspected sightings of the weed are asked to report it to the Giant Hogweed Hotline at 1-877-464-9333.

My Favorite Hike

By Jeff Mitchell

Deep in State Game Land 13 is a place of remarkable beauty - the Waterfall Wonderland. Here, Heberly Run and Sullivan Branch have carved deep gorges in the plateau, creating numerous waterfalls and cascades across scoured bedrock. The Waterfall Wonderland has begun to attract the interest of intrepid hikers, looking for a challenging bushwhack.

There are no official trails, blazes, or bridges. Although this region is just west of Ricketts Glen State Park, and just as beautiful, it does not have any of the amenities. I usually begin by hiking up Heberly Run, crossing over the plateau, and then going down Sullivan Branch to create a loop.

Heberly Run has carved a deep gorge and features three main waterfalls - Big Falls, Twin Falls, and Lewis Falls. Big Falls may be the most impressive, as it is in a grotto with towering cliffs and cascading springs; it plummets into a deep aquamarine pool. Above the falls, the creek has carved chutes, slides and potholes into the bedrock. Between Big and Twin Falls there are some ledges and small cascades. Twin Falls features two waterfalls and is quite scenic. Heading up to Lewis Falls, the creek babbles over cobbles, but as the cliffs rise on both sides, you will soon see this remarkable falls.

Crossing over the plateau isn't as difficult as it used to be; there is a faint footpath to guide your way. However, it is very helpful to have a GPS and you should have good navigation skills. The plateau features fern meadows and a ledge with a thick hemlock forest. The path leads down into Sullivan Branch, passing waterfalls and offering some superb streamside hiking. To see all that Sullivan Branch has to offer, you must leave the path and descend along the creek.

This creek is remarkably beautiful with countless cascades and waterfalls encased in grottos and cliffs. Because the bedrock often has good traction, you can actually walk down some of the stairstep cascades in low water, but expect many slippery spots. The creek has deep pools and waterslides over bedrock. The beauty culminates at impressive Sullivan Falls and its massive pool. Walk the road back to your car.

If you go, please treat this special place with respect and make sure you have the skill and ability to tackle one of the finest waterfall treks in not only Pennsylvania, but the country.

Directions: Proceed west along PA 118 from Red Rock for 4.5 miles; turn right at a sign for Jamison City and Central Park Hotel. Follow this road to Central. After passing the hotel, make a right to Jamison City. Travel through Jamison City (really a village) and into the State Game Lands. Stop at the large parking area along Sullivan Branch; the road is gated here. The parking area is about a mile from Jamison City. Central is 20 miles east of Hughesville on PA 118.

Maps: Game Land 13 map or USGS Red Rock topo map.

[Editor's Note: Do you have a favorite hike to share with other hikers? We are looking for hikes. Send your write-up to the Editors (see page 2 for contact information.)]



Big Falls

Winter Hiking Offers Identification Opportunities

By Carl Lorence

Now that winter has set in, hiking takes on a new dimension as we trek through the pristine blanket of a newly fallen snow. The existence of animals we would never suspect becomes apparent when there are visible tracks. Then the question arises: what kind of animal was it that came through here before me? "Reading" tracks is as old as mankind, but there are some tricks to the trade.

First off are the terms used: PRINT - the impression made by one foot; TRACK - a series of prints; STRADDLE - the width of the track; STRIDE - the distance between prints of a walking animal; LEAP - the distance between sets of four prints made by a hopping or bounding animal. You can probably guess that weasels "bound" whereas rabbits, hares and some rodents "hop" or bound.

If you are interested in animals such as the big cats, there is a way to pick out their track. The first division is a Perfect Walker, such as canines, felines and hoofed animals. These animals place the hind foot almost exactly in the print made by the front foot. The other division is the Imperfect Walker, such as raccoons, bears, and skunks. They place the hind foot on the "palm" of the front print or in a new spot all together. So if you spot a Perfect Walker with a straddle of about 12 cm, stride of 23-36 cm and front print of about 5 cm long with the hind print slightly smaller and a nice oval palm with four evenly spaced toes radiating out - you have identified the *lynx rufus* or bobcat.



There is much more to identification, with classifications such as Hoofed, Long-heeled, Long-toed and more. I suggest you pick up a book at your library or acquire the PA Game Commission pamphlets and hone your skill with study. To be able to positively ID a coyote or bobcat or fisher - wouldn't that be something!

Now you have another reason to get outdoors and hike this winter.

KTA Trail Mix

By Curt Ashenfelter

I hope you had a pleasant January with numerous good winter hikes. Many of those hikes may have been near your home. Now is the time to plan future hikes and think of nearby counties with new trails to explore.

Fourteen great Pennsylvania trail hikes to consider for spring, summer and fall are:

- **Tioga County - West Rim Trail** (Consider hiking with KTA in April at the 2010 Annual Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend in Wellsboro.)
- **Clinton County - Donut Hole Trail** from Hyner Run State Park south (Consider hiking with KTA in July at Prowl the Sprout before gas drillers ruin the views. Gas leases were made available in January near the southern terminus of this trail.)
- **Lancaster County - Conestoga Trail** near PA 324 at Pequea south along Susquehanna River (Consider hiking with KTA in September during the Susquehanna Super Hike.)
- **Allegheny County - Rachel Carson Trail** west from PA 28
- **Centre County - Mid-State Trail** near PA 322 north to Poe Paddy State Park (Consider hiking with KTA in October at the 2010 Annual Fall Meeting and Hiking Weekend in Milroy.)
- **Lackawanna County - Pinchot Trail** north of PA 115 (Site of excellent television coverage of KTA Trail Care efforts in 2009 by WNEP Channel 16 Northeastern Pennsylvania. If you are interested in participating in Trail Care weekends this year, see the schedule on page 2. To view the television clip, visit KTA's website at www.kta-hike.org, select About KTA, then Trail News, then at the very bottom scroll down and select KTA Featured on Pennsylvania Outdoor Life.)
- **Clarion County - North Country Trail** from Cook Forest State Park south to Clarion River (KTA members enjoyed this hike during the 2009 Annual Fall Meeting and Hiking Weekend.)
- **Potter County - Susquehannock Trail** north to Patterson State Park (KTA members enjoyed this hike during the 2009 Annual Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend.)
- **Greene County - Warrior Trail** west from Greensboro passing PA 88
- **Perry County - Tuscarora Trail** south of PA 74 (Trail relocation set to open spring of 2010. KTA played a significant role in relocating the trail off of valley roads and onto the ridge top. See May 2009 newsletter for complete story. If you do not keep back issues of the newsletter, visit the KTA website at www.kta-hike.org, select About KTA and then Newsletter.)
- **Pike County - Thunder Swamp Trail** from PA 402 to Pennel Run Natural Area
- **Armstrong County - Baker Trail** north to Crooked Creek State Park
- **York County - Mason-Dixon Trail** south through Gifford Pinchot State Park (Consider hiking this trail further south with KTA in September during the Susquehanna Super Hike.)
- **Cumberland County - Appalachian Trail** from Boiling Springs south to Pine Grove Furnace State Park

For more information on these trails and others located in your county or nearby counties, consider purchasing the recently published *Guide to Hiking Trails in Pennsylvania* map and the *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails* book. Order form is available on page 15 or buy online at www.kta-hike.org/shop.

Best wishes for a pleasant hike and I hope to see you on a trail soon. Don't laugh! One day I called a KTA member and the next day I saw him on the trail. I hope to add your name to my list of "trail sightings".



Marcellus Shale Leases

Since 1947, DCNR has held 74 lease sales, the last of which was in January (for 31,967 acres). Currently, about 692,000 acres of state forest are under lease for gas production (about one-third of all state forest land), with about 750 wells in production.

64 new Marcellus Shale natural gas wells were started in the state during the first two weeks of November. This was more than double the number started during the entire month of October.

Tioga State Forest: Fortuna Energy Inc. Permit #117-20285 (5,648 acres). Impoundment #2 (14,841,128 gallons). Arrow points to pickup truck. Water for this site will be withdrawn from the Fallbrook and Fellows Creeks. Drainage from the site is to the same two creeks, then to the Tioga River. A 40-foot right-of-way for Fortuna Mt. Ridge Pipeline, which will export the gas, will extend about 4,500 to 5,000 feet to another pipeline.

KTA News

Keep Trails Alive Monthly Donor Program

KTA is the statewide voice of Pennsylvania's hikers. We are a small organization with a big mission; as such, we need to find 500 trail people who will commit themselves to giving a regular, once-a-month contribution to keep KTA on a stable and sustainable financial foundation.

We have recently initiated the **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor program to sustain our work of preserving Pennsylvania's footpaths. Giving to KTA is easy with a monthly automatic bank withdrawal. We encourage our donors to enroll in automatic monthly contributions to eliminate the need to write a check or make multiple mailings.

KTA needs to grow to compete with other statewide organizations that work to the detriment of hiking trails. If peace and solitude on your hiking trails are important to you, please consider joining the **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor program. An on-going list of Keystoner, Trustee and Advocate Club members will be published regularly in the KTA Newsletter and on our website.

Member Death

John Petraskie
Athens, PA

New Life Members

James Foster, #299
Mechanicsburg, PA

Debby & Paul Meade, #300
Lewisburg, PA

Keystone Trails Association Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets Income Tax Basis September 30, 2009 and 2008

Assets	2009	2008
Current Assets		
Cash	200,308	171,018
Investments	28,592	59,105
Accounts Receivable	7,646	1,053
Inventory	30,484	20,263
Total Current Assets	267,030	251,439
Property and Equipment	2,770	7,402
Total Assets	269,800	258,841
 Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	5,128	-----
Payroll Tax Liabilities	1,761	2,357
Accrued Payroll	4,751	4,684
Deferred Revenue	53,828	-----
Sales Tax Payable	76	19
Total Current Liabilities	65,544	7,060
 Net Assets		
Temporarily Restricted	-----	444
Unrestricted	204,256	251,337
	204,256	251,781
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	269,800	258,841

Contributions Received October-December 2009

Keystoner

\$1,200 +

A Friend *

Thyra Sperry * +

Trustee

\$600 - \$1,199

Dave Dalpezzo *

Advocate

\$240 - \$599

Curt Ashenfelter *

Paul Burns +

Henry Frank * +

Charles Glanville *

Marshall Hamilton *

Phil Keener *

Richard Martin * +

Bruce Moffatt

PA Forest Coalition

Ralph Seeley +

Thomas Thwaites +

Ernest Werstler

Phil Williams *

John & Pat Zinn

Anonymous (1)

Additional Keep Trails

Alive Donors

\$100 - \$239

Jean Aron +

Jennifer Berlin

Michael Borovicka

Mark Christy +

Jeffrey Clarke +

Michael Finn +

Peter Fleszar

John & Anne Gale

Glenn Hoskins

Peter Kaufman

Perry Landon

David Lester

Laurence Miller +

Jeffrey Mitchell

Philadelphia Trail Club

Thomas Ruppel

Jeanette Russell +

Ronald Schwartz

Robert Steeneck +

Thomas Stott +

Steven Stroman *

Nicholas Tonelli *

Kent Weymouth

Anonymous (1)

Other Contributors

George & Frances

Alderson

Martha Bergsten

Robert Best

Robert Boettger

W. Franklin Bohn

Paul Brooks

Ronald & Carol Bungay

Marian Crossman

Tom Dancer

Hugh Downing

John Dulik +

Chelsea Dunkle

Chris Dunlap

Faith Drummond

George & Sally Farley

Harry Fenton

George Finney

Daniel Grabenstein

Marie & Jim Gregorchik

Keith Groff

Patricia Gussey

Jerry & Marian Haag

Violet Helenthal

William & Leslie Hooks

Cass Janco +

Peter Jarrett

Jon Kapecki +

Edward Kenna +

Roy Kleinle

Norman Lacasse

Erin Monn

James Morawski

Claus Petersen

Mary Pitzer +

Janice Pruch

Joseph Romanosky +

Karen Roseberry

Jeffrey Rosenblum

Evan Sandt

Paul Sanford

Harold Sausser

Michael Sausser +

John & Rosemarie

Schieber +

Judith Shabrach

Edward Smelko

David Speranza +

Kathleen Stahley

Michael Sullivan

Mike Teeter

James Verno +

Daryl Warren

Thomas Yannaccone

Anonymous (5)

* Monthly Donor
+ Life Member

For Hikers

Combating Nature Deficit: Involving Youth Children and Nature Network

If you share the conviction that hiking with children and teens and involving them in trail building and maintenance is a critical challenge, visit the Children and Nature Network web site www.childrenandnature.org. The Network, chaired by Richard Louv, is an outgrowth of his book *Last Child in the Woods*. While there, you can sign up for the C&NN Newsletter, which contains news and resources supporting efforts to get kids outdoors and combat nature deficit disorder.

AMC Programs For Families

As part of its effort to get families and children outdoors, the Appalachian Mountain Club offers a family section on its web site (www.outdoors.org/recreation/family). Sections cover how-to tips, gear, food, and safety issues. Recently added are two PDF presentations. "Staying Safe and Found" focuses on how to pack, stay together, and avoid getting lost in the woods. "Hiking As a Family" discusses common concerns that parents have about sending their children outdoors.

2010 Wildlife Leadership Academy

The Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education will hold two Wildlife Leadership Academies for young people ages 14 to 17. The June 22-26 week will focus on ruffed grouse and the July 6-10 program on deer. In addition to intensive field experiences in wildlife biology, this program will help develop important leadership skills, such as public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork. Audubon PA, Kutztown University, the Game Commission, Penn State University, the Ruffed Grouse Society, Quality Deer Management Association, and other partners provide instruction and support. For more information, registration and scholarship

materials, see www.picweb.org/p_2007camps.htm.

Outdoor Adventures

Outdoor Adventures is accepting registrations from elementary school teachers for students to attend a free, day-long outdoor education experience May 6 or 7 at Quemahoning Lake in Somerset County. The program aligns with Pennsylvania academic standards for Environment & Ecology and Science & Technology, and is a joint project of the Kiski-Conemaugh Street Team and Natural Biodiversity. The deadline for registration is March 1. For details, see www.ohmonth.com and choose Outdoor Adventures.

Drying Wet Electronic Equipment

If you drop it in a stream, is your camera a total loss? Perhaps not, if you have a Bheestie Bag. Place your cell phone, iPod, Walkman, or camera in the bag, seal it, and in 24 to 72 hours, the bag will remove moisture from personal electronic devices.



The bags are useful for drying out items affected by sweat, rain, spills, and humidity.

Developed by two sisters from Oregon, the bag is named after a Bheestie, a servant who draws and carries water. A Bheestie Bag can be reused and last up to a year, depending on usage.

For more details, see the web site www.bheestie.com.

The "Complete Hiker"

By Carl Lorence

You belong to a club that has several hikes a month and you even dream up and lead some of them. You deserve our highest praise for keeping alive the hiking community, and I hope you can entice others to be a part of what you do for recreation. Everyone realizes we must continually backfill the hiking community with younger participants to replace the dropout of our older members. So I ask you to work hard at selling the "hiking product" to others – we need their time and treasure to make sure there is a trail to hike.

I would like to project an idea that belonging to a hiking club and leading hikes and recruiting membership in the club are merely the first of three marks of the "complete hiker." There are yet two levels of participation needed to reach the top; to be the "complete hiker."

The second mark is participation in trail care. For some, not members of a trail maintaining club, it means searching out ways to get involved. KTA schedules trail cares most months of the year. Clubs that maintain the Appalachian and North Country National Scenic Trails have regular trail cares to maintain the high standards of maintenance expected of them. And then there are local Pennsylvania trail maintaining clubs, such as the Standing Stone Trail Club, that have volunteer section maintainers and scheduled trail cares to keep the physical trail open and "hikeable". There are exceptions, but the majority of foot trails in Pennsylvania are constructed and maintained by volunteers – those hikers who are at the second mark. They give of their time and treasure to do what must be done if trails are to be sustained.

The third mark is stewardship of the organizations that offer hikes and maintain foot trails. At this level, you achieve the final mark by actively participating in the leadership of a trail related organization. How else could clubs survive without volunteers to take on the offices of a club; who would buy the chainsaws and tools and equipment; who would schedule the hikes and trail cares?

Volunteering for a club office and trail care are quite satisfying activities; you meet the finest of people – outdoors people – hikers! Simply, the fellowship and good feeling are most rewarding when interacting with others in the same frame of mind.

So, to be the "complete hiker" we have to consider the three marks: HIKE – MAINTAIN - LEAD. I'll bet if you look around you'll be able to point out many who are at this level and they welcome you to jump in to do the same.

Partner News

PA State Parks Win National Gold Medal Award ...

The Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks has been awarded the National Gold Medal Award, presented by the American Academy of Park and Recreation Management in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association. The Gold Medal Award, presented every two years, is the highest honor a park system can receive within the industry.



Winners are determined by a panel of parks and recreation professionals that evaluates application materials with an emphasis on excellence in long-range planning, resource management, citizen support systems, environmental stewardship, program and professional development and agency recognition. Emphasis is given to addressing the needs of those served, using the collective energies of citizens, staff, and elected officials.

Some of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' new and innovative state park programs cited by the judges include: Get Outdoors PA, Adventure Camp, a "green" parks initiative, and volunteer and Friends programs.

... But DCNR Faces Severe Budget Cuts

The award comes on the heels of the largest cut ever made in state funding for DCNR and the Bureau of State Parks. DCNR's fiscal 2009-10 budget, as enacted, reduces DCNR's General Fund authorization by \$21 million, or 19 percent, below the already reduced levels of the final available budget from the previous fiscal year.

Because of their importance to local economies and providing accessible outdoor recreation, Governor Rendell has directed that all 117 state parks remain open for this fiscal year. The department was able to use some unanticipated revenue in the Oil and Gas Lease Fund to reduce the DCNR budget shortfall by enough to keep all state parks open. Under the current budget, however, DCNR will move from a state park system that provides services year round toward a seasonal park system where smaller parks provide services for only part of a year.

DCNR Increases Fees ...

DCNR has increased some fees for use of State Park and State Forest facilities. The new schedule includes a new pricing structure for State Parks Nature Inns, along with some changes to utility prices for campgrounds and organized group cabin camps. A comparison of old and new fees is posted on the DCNR web site; choose 'Find A Park' and then "Prices".

.... And Offers Gift Cards

The Bureau of State Parks offers gift cards, in any dollar amount, that recipients can use to pay for campsites, cabins and pavilions in any of the state's 117 state parks. To order a gift card, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us, choose "Parks," then "Reservations," then "Gift Cards."

Game Commission Strategic Plan on Web

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has posted its new strategic plan on its website. To read the document, go to www.pgc.state.pa.us and click on "Resources," then select "Reports and Minutes," then choose "2009-2014 Strategic Plan."

This strategic plan will be used to guide the agency and its operations for the next five years. It is divided into seven goals that are further expanded through strategic and operational objectives and a set of strategic outcome and output measurements.

Pennsylvania Game News

Thanks to a federal Pittman-Robertson grant, the Game Commission is once again able to provide school and public libraries with complimentary subscriptions to Pennsylvania Game News, the agency's official monthly publication. The agency was forced to terminate nearly all complimentary Game News subscriptions in 2005, as part of a major cost-cutting effort to bring agency expenditures in line with revenue.

Subscriptions to the Game News are available by calling 1-888-888-1019 or from the Game Commission's web site www.pgc.state.pa.us; click on "The Outdoor Shop," choose "PA Game Commission Outdoor Shop," select "Subscriptions" and complete the application.

Anyone with Internet access can access at least one year of archived issues on the Commission web site.

Fishing License Sales On Upward Trend

The PA Fish & Boat Commission reports that fishing license sales through Aug. 18 were up five percent and overall stamp sales are up four percent over the same period from 2008, reinforcing thinking by many that people have returned to fishing as an affordable, family-oriented activity in tough economic times.

The 855,013 licenses sold eclipsed the total yearly sales for each of the last four years and represents the largest one-year percentage increase since 1980. This year's sales are the highest since 2004, when more than 909,000 licenses were sold. In 2005, the cost of a license was increased from \$16.25 to \$21.



Clean Creek Products: Pottery From Water Pollutant Minerals

In a continuing effort to help market abandoned mine treatment technologies, particularly iron and manganese removal, the Jennings Environmental Education Center in Butler County and its partners have formed Clean Creek Products (CCP). The company produces and sells pottery glazed with water pollutant minerals extracted from passive treatment systems. The money raised goes to help build and maintain treatment systems. See www.cleancreek.org.



For Hikers

Mud Season: Hiking with X-Ray Vision

by Peter Fleszar

Pennsylvania hikers cherish the wildflowers of May, the clear weather of September, October's flaming foliage, and January's sparkle of winter. Few are afoot in the woods during the weeks between the melting snows and the bloom of ephemeral wildflowers. In fact, up in Vermont, the Green Mountain Club requests hikers stay off trails during "mud season," to avoid damaging the treadway.

Yet the bones of our landscape are never clearer than late March in the south, or mid-April in the Northern Tier. For when the leaves are matted down, but before the buds break, the sylvan public domain of Pennsylvania shows secrets otherwise hidden under green, orange, or white. Walkers seeking solitude will have little company at this time, when even hunters have no legal quarry.

What to Look For

The Allegheny High Plateau, wearing its last traces of melting snow, reveals on the hillsides the hundred year old traces of log slides and tram grades that were never known to the maker of USGS 7.5" topo maps. Newly molten snow sings down millions of cascades. Foundations and fences of past generations of loggers, miners, and farmers reveal themselves briefly.

The clear vision of mud season is no secret to surveyors who scurry to find property corners well hidden eleven months of the year.

Where To Go

The ghost mining town of Landrus is but one example of places to explore in the PA Wilds. See Sarah Nevin's site <http://landrus.blogspot.com> and the Mid State Trail's Temporary Map T18 at www.hike-mst.org/guide.html to start getting lost in this remote northern corner of Tioga State Forest. Closer to many of us, places such as St. Anthony's Wilderness in State Game Land 211 open layers of human history to the careful, and we hope not careless or despoiling, observer. Annette Logan's website <http://seesaw.smugmug.com> shows many sites between the lines shown on the KTA Appalachian Trail Map No. 7 & 8, Susquehanna River to Swatara Gap.

How to Act

Like Superman avoiding Kryptonite, hikers seeking X-ray views of our landscape should bear a few things in mind. While not so much a concern in the Tiltrock Country of the Ridge-and-Valley Appalachians, many footpaths in the valleys, Piedmont, or plateau regions of PA can't stand excess traffic any better than those in the Green Mountain State. So reward yourself during mud season with the discoveries of bushwhacking, not the shame of mud tracking.

Precautions to Take

Mud will be inevitable, so consider quality gaiters to spare your ankles a refrigerated spa treatment and to ease your passage through the headwater brooks that appear as sizable creeks. Take only pictures, allow future generations to re-make your small discoveries, and leave no others memory of your passage. Lastly, confine your bushwhacking to public lands open to dispersed travel, such as State Forest and State Game Lands, and to private land where both you and the landowner's son, who might point a shotgun at an unaccustomed sound, know you have permission to be there.

While March Madness envelops your television set, embark on your own personal voyage of quiet discovery in Penn's Woods during mud season!



The trail maintainer combats mud. Photo by Joan March.

Recycling Your Shoes

If you are a hiker, walker, runner or other active outdoor recreationist, you might find yourself grinding down boots and athletic shoes at an amazing rate. Many of these boots and shoes lose their support and tread, but still are in good shape when they are retired.

So why toss them in the trash? Next time, donate your footwear to someone who will continue to wear them until they really do fall apart, or will take the materials from the shoes and recycle them into something else.



Try these reuse sites for information on donating your used shoes: www.nikereuseashoe.com/# or www.soles4souls.org/about/locations.cgi. For a more comprehensive list of options see www.runnersworld.com/article/0,7120,s6-240-323--10041-0,00.html.

Live the Greenlife

GreenlifePA is a Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources supported television series that showcases people, places, and events around the state. Typical segments cover topics such as the Bureau of Forestry's Penn Nursery, the return of life to the superfund site at Lehigh Gap, an organic farm at Dickinson College, the Great Allegheny Passage, and Trout in the Classroom.

Episodes are available on the web at www.greenlifepenn.org.

Maintenance Costs

What does multi-use trail maintenance cost? According to figures in the PA Recreation & Park Society's *Trails to You*, annual maintenance of multi-use trails costs \$1500 to \$2500 per mile. But, according to one study, this cost drops to about \$700 per mile when substantially all volunteer labor is used.

Ecology

Climate Change Action Plan: Reduce Greenhouse Emissions

Pennsylvania could slash greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2020 by following the recommendations contained in the state's recently released Climate Change Action Plan. In combination with other state and federal environmental initiatives, the 52 recommendations could reduce emissions by more than 40 percent. The Climate Change Advisory Committee estimates the plan could result in the net creation of 65,000 new full-time jobs and add more than six billion dollars to the state's economy.

The recommendations include: a "Re-Light Pennsylvania" program that encourages residential and commercial use of more efficient lighting systems; an Eco-Driving program that offers fuel-saving tips and incentives to drive less; and an urban forestry program that increases carbon storage in trees while reducing a buildings' heating and cooling demands.

The plan, based upon the most current scientific data available, was opened for public comment in October, and DEP accepted a record number of comments, approximately 23,000. About 99 percent of those who commented were strongly in favor of a public policy to address climate change. For more information and a copy of the final report, visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword "Climate Change," or call 717-783-2300.

Natural Diversity Launches New Online Newsletter

Natural Diversity, a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the native diversity of plants and animals in Pennsylvania, has announced the publication of a new online newsletter -- the *Leaflet*.

Natural Diversity has pioneered the development of holistic habitat management techniques for the control of invasive and non-native plants, such as Japanese knotweed, and the restoration of native plants in the Kiski-Conemaugh and upper Juniata watersheds.

The *Leaflet* newsletter seeks to not only inform people about what the organization is doing, but also educate the public about invasive and non-native plants. The newsletter is available at www.naturaldiversity.org; choose "News & Events" and "Leaflet". To get on the email list for the newsletter, send email to: NBD_Staff@naturalbiodiversity.org.

Earth Day 40

Commemorate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day by participating in the iConservePA Earth Day 40 Personal Challenge from April 22 (Earth Day) to June 1. Schedule a home energy audit or hook up a rain barrel. Take a spin on public transportation or skip the spring lawn fertilization. Help study songbirds or join a local land conservancy. From buying eco-friendly coffee to greening up your spring camping trip, consider adopting these and 32 other actions.

iConservePA invites everyone to register their participation and

download a special coupon as a small reward for taking the time to care. Individuals who send iConservePA their checklist will be recognized on a roll of Earth Day heroes.

In addition to individuals, iConservePA has Earth Day 40 programs for groups and schools. See www.iconservepa.org/earthday40 for details.

Penn State Marcellus Shale Programs Webinars

Penn State's ongoing series of monthly, web-based seminars addressing issues surrounding Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale natural gas boom will continue through the winter. Sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Cooperative Extension, upcoming webinars will be held at 1 PM on February 18 and March 18.

Online participants have the opportunity to ask the speaker questions during the free webinars. Previous webinars, which covered topics such as water use and quality, gas leasing considerations for landowners, workforce issues and implications for local communities, can be viewed online.

For more information, visit www.naturalgas.extension.psu.edu or contact Joann Kowalski, extension educator in Susquehanna County, 570-278-1158 or jmk20@psu.edu.

Informational Meetings

Penn State Cooperative Extension is also sponsoring a series of live, in-person informational meetings at various locations around the state on issues related to Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling. Upcoming dates at the University of Pitt Bradford Campus are February 16 and March 24. Contact University of Pitt-Bradford Campus Outreach Services at 814-362-5078 to register.

A complete list of events is available at the web site listed above.

Wells Information System Update

The Wells Information System (WIS) is a comprehensive database, created by the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, that houses details associated with drilled oil and gas wells, along with undrilled, canceled, void, or expired drilling permits. Brought online in 1995, WIS provides data to help DCNR, DEP, industry, and other organizations manage oil and gas resources efficiently and responsibly. It also provides the public with a source of oil and gas well information and production data in Pennsylvania.

Operators submit data to DEP as wells are permitted, drilled, produced, and eventually plugged. This data is then provided to the Survey for public access. Due to the Survey's commitment to geologic carbon sequestration research, loss of staff, and increased drilling activity associated with the Marcellus shale play, a backlog of oil and gas well records has developed over the past year. Staff is working diligently on data entry in an effort to bring the database up to date in the first half of 2010.

More information is available at www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/oilandgas/wis_home.aspx

The PA Dept. of Environmental Protection reported that it issued 1,984 drilling permits in 2009, and the industry expects to apply for 5,200 permits during 2010. DEP issued 195 Marcellus permits in 2008. DEP said 763 wells were actually drilling during 2009.



Plants and Animals

Emerald Ash Borer in Juniata County; Quarantine Expanded

Emerald Ash Borer beetles have been found in Milford Township, Juniata County, bringing to eleven the number of Pennsylvania counties where the ash tree-destroying pest has been identified. A state-imposed quarantine, which requires residents and visitors to use only locally harvested firewood, burn all firewood on site, and not carry wood to new locations, is being expanded to include Juniata County.

Due to the difficulty in distinguishing between species of hardwood firewood, all hardwood firewood and wood chips—including ash, oak, maple and hickory—are considered quarantined.

The Juniata County infestation was discovered along Route 333 near the Mifflin County border when entomologists noticed extensive tree damage due to woodpeckers. Woodpecker injury is a key indicator that trees may be infected with Emerald Ash Borer as the birds injure the trees while attempting to eat the beetle larvae.

The invasive beetle was first detected in Pennsylvania in the summer of 2007 in Butler County, and subsequently was found in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Mifflin,



Washington and Westmoreland counties. Emerald Ash Borer is a wood-boring beetle native to China and eastern Asia. The pest likely arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship consumer and other goods. It was first detected in July 2002 in southeastern Michigan and neighboring Windsor, Ontario, Canada. In addition to Pennsylvania, the beetle is attacking ash trees in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin, and is responsible for the death and decline of more than 40 million trees.

Typically, the beetles will kill an ash tree within three years of the initial infestation. Adults are dark green, one-half inch in length and one-eighth inch wide, and fly only from early May until September. Larvae spend the rest of the year beneath the bark of ash trees. When they emerge as adults, they leave D-shaped holes in the bark about one-eighth inch wide.

There is no known practical control for this wood-boring pest other than destroying infested trees. People who suspect they have seen Emerald Ash Borer should call the toll-free pest hotline at 866-253-7189.

i-Tree Software for Urban Forest Management

i-Tree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. The i-Tree Tools help communities of all sizes strengthen their urban forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying the structure of community trees and the environmental services that trees provide.

Since the initial release of the i-Tree Tools in August 2006, numerous communities, non-profit organizations, consultants, volun-

teers and students have used i-Tree to report on individual trees, parcels, neighborhoods, cities, and even entire states. By understanding the local, tangible ecosystem services that trees provide, i-Tree users can link urban forest management activities with environmental quality and community livability.

Whether studying a single tree or an entire forest, i-Tree provides baseline data that can be used to demonstrate value and set priorities for more effective decision-making

i-Tree Tools are in the public domain and are freely accessible. See www.itreetools.org.

White-Nose Syndrome in Bats; Hibernating Bats Continue to Die

Pennsylvania reported its first case of white-nose syndrome in Mifflin County in December 2008. Today it is known to exist in eleven locations in Bucks, Centre, Mifflin, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. It affects all six species of cave bats found in Pennsylvania: little brown bat, big brown bat, Indiana bat (federally endangered), eastern pipistrelle; small-footed bat (state threatened) and northern long-eared bat. The disorder has killed 750,000 to a million bats in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia since 2006.

The cause and source of spread have been the greatest mysteries of WNS since it first appeared in New York. Evidence is mounting that WNS is caused by a cold-loving *Geomyces* fungus. Scientists recently named this fungus *Geomyces destructans*, given its destructive effect on bat populations. The National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) reported that *Geomyces destructans* infection of skin causes epidermal erosions and ulcers that can progress to invade underlying connective tissue. This fungus could arouse a hibernating bat, which would quickly burn through its fat reserves and die.



Preliminary data from WNS infection studies conducted at NWHC indicate *Geomyces destructans* can be transmitted from bat-to-bat in a controlled environment. This finding suggests that WNS transmission may occur during the fall bat swarm, as well as during hibernation. Once WNS appears in hibernacula, whether it got there on an infected bat or hitchhiking on a human, it passes through a hibernating bat colony quickly.

The Game Commission expects a majority of the bat hibernation sites in eastern Pennsylvania to have WNS by the end of April. WNS has not appeared west of the Route I-99 corridor, where some of the state's largest bat populations hibernate.

If anyone observes flying or dying bats in western Pennsylvania this winter, the Game Commission wants to hear about it. Reports from areas west of Centre and Mifflin counties will be treated as extremely high priority. A reporting form is on the Game Commission web site www.pgc.state.pa.us (choose Wildlife, then Bats)

To learn more about WNS, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's web site at www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html.

Around the Clubs

The **Allentown Hiking Club** will have co-presidents in 2010. The December election resulted in a tie vote for the two presidential candidates, and the membership decided not to flip a coin to break the tie.

The **Butler Outdoor Club** appointed co-vice presidents at its December board meeting. Is there a trend here?

The **Delaware Valley Chapter of AMC** presented its 2009 Appie Awards to **Anne Murphy** and **Pete Jarrett**.

The **Pocono Outdoor Club** reports that, although several events were rained out, club volunteers accomplished many trail projects last year, including installing signage at Big Pocono State Park, reopening a majority of the Big Bear Swamp Loop on the Thunder Swamp Trail, working on the Hawk Falls Creek side trail, and clearing vistas on both the South and Indian Trails at Big Pocono. This year, POC is planning to hold volunteer training sessions emphasizing job safety and preparation.

The **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club** notes the death of **Paula Strain**, 93, a past president, avid hiker, and trail maintainer. Strain served on the ATC Board of Managers, chaired the ATC Biennial Conference in 1977, and was a founder and president of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference.

The **Wilmington Trail Club** reports the death of **Lawrence Auspos**, 92, who hiked 2059 miles on club hikes in one year (that's equivalent to more than five and a half miles each and every day) and served nine years as club treasurer. He was renowned for his treasurer's report, made year after year at the club's annual banquet – "We had some money, we got some money, we spent some money, and we still have some money."

Multi-Club Events—You Are Invited

Cherry Pie Hike

The **NCTA Butler Chapter** and **Butler Outdoor Club** will team up again on February 20 to sponsor their annual Cherry Pie



Hike to commemorate George Washington's birthday and his expedition through Butler County. The day includes a history presentation, choice of hikes on the old Venango Trail, now part of the North Country Trail, and cherry pie. There is an optional dinner afterwards at the North Country Brewery. Pre-registration required. Contact John Stehle, 724-283-0674, or Dan Mourer, 724-445-331.

Brandywine Trail End-to-End Hike

The 2010 Brandywine Trail End-to-End Hike will be held March 27. The 35-mile supported trek is sponsored by the **Wilmington Trail Club**. Two warm up hikes of 22 and 13 miles, covering the entire trail, will be held March 13 and 20. Registration information is available in the Brandywine Trail section of the WTC web site www.wilmingtontrailclub.org.

Appalachian Trail Film Showing



The **Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club** is planning a free public showing of the National Geographic film *Wild Spaces: The Appalachian Trail* on March 29 at 7 PM at the Camp Hill United Methodist Church, 417 S 22nd St., Camp Hill, PA. This acclaimed film features breathtaking views of the entire 2,175 mile trail, follows hikers as they tackle the trail, and honors the many volunteers who maintain it. The screening will be part of an Appalachian Trail Open House. Partnering organizations, including KTA, will offer displays and information.

The venue seats 400 people and has excellent multimedia capabilities. Although the event is free, online reservations are encouraged at www.atopenhouse.eventbrite.com.

Pocono Heritage Land Trust Hikes

The Pocono Heritage Land Trust offers hikes on newly acquired properties that are being preserved for public use. There is usually one hike a month on a Sunday afternoon. The hikes are conducted at an easy pace and are very informative. To see the schedule, go to the Trust's web site www.phlt.org and click on "Events".



Outdoor Leadership Workshop

The **Delaware Valley Chapter of AMC** will hold an AMC Outdoor Leadership Training Workshop on April 16-18 at Nockamixon State Park. The weekend sessions will cover activity planning, leadership styles, group dynamics, liability issues, decision-making, accident management, conservation and minimum impact, and map and compass skills.

The workshop is intended for both new leaders and experienced leaders who want to improve their skills. For additional information, contact Lennie Steinmetz at leadership@amcdv.org. For anyone who would prefer to stay nearby rather than commute, overnight lodging will be available at the Weiser Hostel for \$24 for the weekend.

AT Caretaker Position

The Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club Corridor Management Committee is seeking a live-in caretaker for the Route 501 Shelter near Pine Grove, PA. The caretaker must have long distance AT hiking experience and knowledge of general maintenance and trail work. Good communication skills and ability to maintain good public relations with the local hiking club, thru hikers, day hikers, local community, and law enforcement officials is essential. Duties include maintaining caretaker house, hiker shelter, cutting grass, picking up trash, monitoring the area, etc. Contact Larry Kramer, kramer@ihs2000.com, 101 South College St., Myerstown, PA 17067, 717-269-4367.

Clubs

New Partner Members

Countryside Conservancy
 PO Box 55
 LaPlume, PA 18440
 570-945-6995, cconserve@epix.net
www.countrysideconservancy.org

French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust
 511 Cameron Rd
 Phoenixville, PA 19460
 610-933-7577, office@frenchandpickering.org
www.frenchandpickering.org

Scott Conservancy
 PO Box 13067
 Pittsburgh, PA 15243
 412-221-5321, scottconservancy@yahoo.com
www.scottconservancy.org

Willistown Conservation Trust
 925 Providence Rd
 Newtown Square, PA 19073
 610-353-2562, land@wctrust.org
www.wctrust.org

Attracting New Volunteers Through Days of Service

Many clubs plan an event on National Trails Day (NTD), hoping to attract new members and volunteers. However, there are other national days and weeks of service dedicated to encouraging volunteerism.

While not specifically dedicated to trail work, clubs can take advantage of these national events by scheduling and tailoring events that match the aims of these volunteer days and weeks. Many will provide help planning and promoting projects.

Here are some opportunities:

- [National Volunteer Week](#), April 18–24, 2010
- [Earth Day](#), April 22, 2010
- [Global Youth Service Day](#), April 23–25, 2010
- [Join Hands Day](#), May 1
- [National Trails Day](#), June 5, 2010
- [National Public Lands Day](#), September 25, 2010
- [Make a Difference Day](#), October 23, 2010
- [National Family Volunteer Day](#), November 20, 2010

From the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Register, January 2010.

Hiker Humor

A hiker comes to a river crossing and wants to get across. He sees another hiker on the other side and yells "How do I get to the other side?" The other hiker looks up and down the river and yells "You are on the other side!" - Pocono Outdoor Club Quarterly, Fall 2009.

KTA Hikers' Market

KTA Member? YES NO JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price:	Member	Non-Member	Total
Appalachian Trail Guidebook & Maps			
NEW! Pennsylvania AT Guide	\$8.00	\$10.00	
PA AT Map Sec. 1-6: Delaware Water Gap to Swatara Gap	\$10.80	\$12.00	
PA AT Map Sec. 7-8: Swatara Gap to Susquehanna River	\$5.40	\$6.00	
PA AT Map Sec. 9-11: Susquehanna River to PA Route 94	\$5.79	\$6.45	
PA AT Map Sec. 12-13: PA Route 94 to US Route 30	\$5.79	\$6.45	
PA AT Map Sec. 14: US Route 30 to the Maryland line	\$5.79	\$6.45	
Complete AT set of maps and guidebook	\$38.00	\$44.00	
Other Publications			
NEW! Pennsylvania Hiking Map	\$4.95	\$5.95	
NEW! Pennsylvania Hiking Trails	\$11.50	\$16.95	
NEW! Mid State Trail Guide	\$34.20	\$38.00	
NEW! Mason-Dixon Trail Maps	\$11.65	\$12.95	
SALE! Standing Stone Trail Guide	\$7.00	\$10.00	
Guide to the Horse-Shoe Trail	\$11.00	\$12.75	
Hiker's Guide to the Bucktail Path	\$4.95	\$5.50	
Hikers Guide to the Warrior Trail	\$13.00	\$16.00	
Loyalsock Trail Guide	\$10.35	\$11.15	
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the North Half in MD & PA (3 rd Edition)	\$8.00	\$10.00	
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South Half in WV & VA (3 rd Edition)	\$8.00	\$10.00	
Tuscarora Trail Map J (AT Junction in PA to PA Route 641)	\$4.50	\$9.00	
Tuscarora Trail Map K (PA Route 641 to Hancock, MD)	\$4.50	\$9.00	
Walks, Hikes & Overnights in Raccoon Creek State Park	\$11.50	\$13.50	

Patches

KTA Logo Patch	\$1.58	\$1.75	
Old Logger's Path Patch	\$2.70	\$3.00	

Shipping: (\$3.50/first item, \$1.00/each additional item)

Subtotal:

Pennsylvania residents add 6% tax:

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

Ship to:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Make check or money order payable to Keystone Trails Association and mail to: 101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 717.238.7017. (Prices are subject to change)

Order online at www.kta-hike.org/shop

Wanted: Citizen Scientists

Most of the research that we read about is performed by professional scientists. However, there aren't enough scientists or enough funding to do all of the research that is needed to monitor impacts on our natural systems. Detecting shifts in migration patterns, population size and distribution, and the timing of natural cycles will be critical if we are to help species and habitats adjust to new conditions.

That's where the citizen-scientist comes in. There are many monitoring projects that rely on local observations collected by non-scientists. A hiker led program is:

- **Appalachian Trail Conservancy MEGA-Transect**

(www.appalachiantrail.org; choose Conservancy, Conservation, MEGA-Transect) monitors plants, wildlife, water, and air quality.

Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Fund suggests these:

- **USA National Phenology Network** (www.usanpn.org) collects information on the timing of plant life-cycle events, such as leaf emergence, flowering and fruit development, for 200 different plant species.
- **Project BudBurst** (http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst) uses citizen scientists to collect observations of plant life cycles to learn how plant species are responding to climatic changes.
- **Frogwatch USA** (www.nwf.org/frogwatchusa) participants monitor frog and toad species at their local wetland or pond during the breeding season.
- **Journey North** (www.learner.org/jnorth) is a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal changes, designed specifically for students. Students enter their local observations,

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which are then incorporated into a global database, and they can then track the migration of animals ranging from monarch butterflies to gray whales.

- **North American Bird Phenology Program**

(www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/index.cfm) contains (on scanned note cards) nearly all of the bird migration data collected from the late nineteenth century up until World War. II. Volunteers, working on their home computer, are needed to enter the scanned data so that it can be used to compare historical trends with current migration patterns and timing.

You don't need any formal scientific training to contribute to these projects; they provide all the training you need. So if you've ever wanted to participate in a scientific study or put your powers of observation and love of nature to good use, here's your chance - become a citizen scientist.

KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliations (if any): _____

_____ Receive newsletter in full color via email 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 membership contribution: \$50 per year for clubs; \$100 for commercial enterprises; \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All member contributions 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	\$
Additional Contribution In Memory Of/In Honor Of _____	\$
Total Enclosed	\$