

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 129
Confluence, PA 15424
www.kta-hike.org



50th Anniversary, 1956-2006!

Spring 2006

KTA Celebrates 50th Anniversary in Wellsboro!!

KTA held a 50th birthday party and more than 275 members and friends showed up to celebrate the milestone.

Highlights of the Saturday evening general meeting were the introduction of past presidents and the awarding of KTA's first honorary memberships. A KTA history presentation, displays, unveiling of the 50th anniversary t-shirt, an address by Rick Carlson, and cake and ice cream rounded out the evening.

See pages 5 for coverage of the weekend's events.



Six KTA Past Presidents gathered for the 50th Anniversary celebration in Wellsboro. Standing in the back row are George Spring (1957-1965), David Raphael (1980-1983), Maurice Forrester, Jr. (1976-1979), and M. Virginia Musser (1986-1989). Kneeling in front are Hugh Downing (2000-2005) and Edward Beck (1994-1999). Each former president was presented with a 50th anniversary t-shirt, displayed by Downing and Beck.

Upcoming KTA Events

**Pennsylvania Hiking Week—May 27-
June 4**

Co-sponsored with DCNR. Check the DCNR web site www.dcnr.state.pa.us for the schedule of events and invite your friends on a hike.

Summer Trail Care and Crew
See page 2 for details.

**Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend—
July 21-23**

Co-sponsored with Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association & Sproul State Forest. A registration flyer will be mailed in early June.

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*Keystone Trails Association
Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths*

OFFICERS

President: William Dietrich, *Indiana, PA*
Vice-President: Carol Witzeman, *Camp Hill, PA*
Secretary: Charles Glanville, *West Chester, PA*
Treasurer: Thomas Kelliher, *Baltimore, MD*

DIRECTORS

Robert Davey, Jr., *Flemington, PA*
Norman Lacasse, *Harrisburg, PA*
Carl Lorence, *Harrisburg, PA*
Craig Mayer, *Warren, PA (ex-officio)*
Thyra Sperry, *Boiling Springs, PA*
Ronald Stanley, *Clearville, PA*
Barbara Wiemann, *Northampton, PA (ex-officio)*

REPRESENTATIVES-AT-LARGE

Joyce Appel, *East Brady, PA*
Kathryn Barker, *Carlisle, PA*
Carl Davis, *Wellsboro, PA*
Christopher Firme, *Blue Ridge Summit, PA*
Henry Frank, *Philadelphia, PA*
Wayne Gross, *Cresco, PA*
Michael Jackson, *Everett, PA*
John Motz, *Stroudsburg, PA*
Shethra Rigg, *King of Prussia, PA*
Paul Shaw, *Millersburg, PA*
Thomas Thwaites, *State College, PA*
Barbara Van Horn, *Duncannon, PA*

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation & Advocacy.....John Motz
Finance.....Vacant
Membership & Development...Charles Glanville
Nominations.....Thyra Sperry
Publications.....Wayne Gross
Trail Care.....Joe Healey
Trail Policies.....Robert Davey, Jr.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

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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 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 back page of this newsletter.

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Pamela Metzger, Administrator
Box 129, Confluence, PA 15424-0129
814-395-9696— info@kta-hike.org

www.kta-hike.org

2006 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.

May 12-14 - Donut Hole Trail

Camp at Hyner Lodge
Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

July 14-16 - Pinchot Trail

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

August 18-20 - Promised Land State Park

Camp in the park campground
Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

September 22-24 - Donut Hole/

Susquehannock Trail Bridge Project

Camp at a private campground across from the bridge
Leader: Dave McMillan, 717-299-3714

October 20-22 - Delaware State Forest

Camping to be announced
Leader: John Motz, 570-236-1462

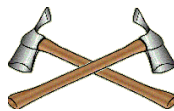
November 3-5 - Quehanna Trail

Camp at cabins in Parker Dam State Park
Leader: Ralph Seeley, 814-355-2933

2006 Trail Crew Schedule *Our Tenth Summer!*

Crews assemble on Tuesday evening for dinner and orientation and work full days 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 an application, contact Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702, 570-655-4979, jnlhealey@aol.com.



June 6-11 – Chuck Keiper Trail

Build bridges on the cross connector
Camp at a private campground
Leader: Rich Scanlon, 717-242-1644

June 13-18 – Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

Build new foot trail
Camp at Twin Streams Campground
Leader: Pete Fleszar, 717-583-2093

June 20-25 – Nature Conservancy, Woodbourne Forest, Susquehanna County

Build new foot trail
Camp at a private cottage at a beautiful lake
Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

Come Work Your Boots Off and Leave with a New Pair!

By Pete Fleszar

Wild Asaph Outfitters of Wellsboro has teamed up with Vasque (tm) footwear to offer a special prize to a lucky volunteer on the Tioga Region KTA Trail Crew.



From June 14 through June 17, each hour a volunteer works earns one chance in the drawing for a brand new pair of Vasque (tm) boots. The winner picks the size and style that suits them best, during normal business hours, from the stock at Wild Asaph Outfitters on Route 6 between Wellsboro and Mansfield. No purchase is necessary.

If you work all week, you could have 32 chances by the time this token of appreciation is awarded to one lucky person at the Mid State Trail Association meeting, Saturday night, June 17. Even if you come for a half day, that's still 4 chances on the new pair of boots!

PLUS, every volunteer who works at least a full day with the Crew will come away with another special token of appreciation from Wild Asaph Outfitters (570-724-5155, www.wildasaphoutfitters.org.)

Volunteers keep Pennsylvania's footpaths going, and now you might be able to keep going in a new pair of Vasque (tm) boots.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow hikers,

By the time you read this, the Keystone Trails Association Strategic Plan will be in the hands of representatives of member clubs and Council Members-at-Large. Please make sure that you get a chance to read and discuss it with your colleagues. The Board has opened a comment period until May 15 – please use it. The final draft of the plan will take your comments into consideration.

When you read the strategic plan, many of you will think: “What else is new?” It is important to put our vision of, and our aspirations for, our organization all down on paper. There is no better way to clarify one’s thoughts than writing them down. We benefit from a period of thought and review with a document in front of us.

Our strategic plan also serves to answer the ‘age old’ question that your non-hiker friends ask: “What does KTA do?” The mission statement in the strategic plan reads: *“Keystone Trails Association, a volunteer-directed, public service organization, is a federation of membership organizations and individuals dedicated to providing, preserving, protecting and promoting recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania, and to representing and advocating the interests and concerns of the Pennsylvania hiking community.”*

Tall order!

Remember, a strategic plan is just that – a plan. Like a trail map, it points the way. If KTA wants to speak more powerfully in Harrisburg as an advocate for trails, then the “map” should point in that direction. It also allows us to look back and see how far we have come – are we making progress? If we start onto a path that is counterproductive or marginal, we can always refer to the strategic plan to see whether our actions are pointing toward the goal.

Another way I like to think of the strategic plan is as a “work order”. And guess who the “workers” are? You guessed it – YOU are.

At present we are trying to fill the chair of the Finance Committee. And the new committee chair, in due course, will be looking for persons to serve – not sit – on their committees. In fact, we are looking for members of the above-named committee as well as the Membership and Development Committee and Conservation and Advocacy Committee. Additionally, we will be seeking individuals with special skills to help with projects. I ask all to take time to read the strategic plan and determine where you fit in. If you are contacted to serve on a committee, say “Yes”. If you are asked to undertake a specific task for KTA, say “Yes”.

Our organization is only as strong as the number of “Yes-sayers” make it.

One example of a “Yes-sayer” is our new webmaster **Mike Lipay**. He has already taken over from our long-time webmaster, Al Weimann. I want to publicly thank Al for his years of service to KTA and to welcome Mike – both are “yes-sayers”. Mike has already started to tidy up the current website and he participated in a meeting to get a redesign of the website going.

I stated in an earlier note to you that this is an important time in the life of KTA. Some have seen the transition to a Board of Directors, as directed by the new bylaws, as a watershed event in their own service to KTA and seek to explore other avenues of service. We thank and honor them for their years, and sometime decades, of service. Now, more than ever, we are in need of your volunteer service. Just because we have a Board doesn’t mean Board members can, or will (or even want to) do it all. Quite plainly, there is more to do. If you have not been active before, now is the time to step up. Remember, the more volunteers we have, the less each volunteer will be asked to do. Yes, we need new blood, all associations need new blood; but we also need the help of those who have been long-time KTA volunteers who will work to keep KTA’s traditions alive.

Keep on amblin’,
Bill

KTA Granted Sales Tax Exemption

By Pam Metzger

Last December, KTA filed the Department of Revenue's Form 72 seeking exemption from paying Pennsylvania's 6% sales tax. Lo and behold, this March the application was granted.

What this means is that KTA will no longer need to collect and pay sales tax on its publications sales (check out the new sales flyer included with this newsletter), nor will we have to pay sales tax on purchases of supplies and services. This will result in a savings of several hundred dollars each year—sales tax adds about \$200 to the cost of printing four annual issues of the newsletter and we pay about \$150 each year on our publications sales. Add in tax on small printing and copying jobs and the cost of paper clips and bond paper and we just might save \$500 or so.

How much better to redirect this money to the care and feeding of hiking trails!



Member Death

John Rogers, *Lancaster, PA*
(member since 1976)

New Organizational Members

Sierra Club, Otzinachson Group, *Orangeville, PA*
Wilderness Safety Council, *Alexandria, Virginia*
Woodbourne Forest & Wildlife Preserve, *Montrose, PA*

Anniversary Appeal Update

As of April 1, 2006, the 50th Anniversary appeal has raised \$6,588 to support KTA's work to preserve Pennsylvania's footpaths. Donors from January 1 to April 1 are:

Kathryn H. Barker; Derry Bernath; Howard P. Bernd; Larien G. Bieber; Barbara Bish; David K. Bock and Linda E. Bock; Nicholas C. Bolgiano; Michael H. Borovicka; Paul Brechbiel; Gary T. Bulas; Wayne A. Campbell; Robert F. Davey; Carl Davis and Bonnie Davis; Hugh S. Downing; John A. Dulik; Craig C. Dunn and Cynthia A. Dunn; George E. Farley; John C. Gale; Charles A. Glanville; Wayne E. Gross and Shirley E. Gross; Richard L. Hackman; Ruth R. Hailperin; Marshall Hamilton; William M. Hardam; Mary M. Heinlein; Paul H. Heintzelman; Richard H. Hiemenz; Horace R. Hosbach; Gene H. Huston; Paul D. Kutish; Richard E. Littlefield; David D. Maxwell; James Merlino and Kathleen Litzner; Pamela D. Metzger; Lucinda A. Miller; Edward P. Moran; Beth Ann Morgan; Marci J. Mowery; Joan M. Moyer; M. Virginia Musser; Lawrence E. Partch; William R. Pearson; John Rogers; Joseph R. Romanosky; Karen E. Roseberry; Jeffrey S. Rosenblum; Suzanne S. Schoenfeld; David Schwille; John B. Seville; William D. Shaffer; Karl C. Smith; Thyra C. Sperry; John E. Springman; Katherine M. St. John; Chris Stabley; Barbara N. Terry; Robert P. Thomas; Thomas T. Thwaites; Jay S. Updyke; Barbara Van Horn; Hank Velkoff and Cheryl Velkoff; Rudy P. Visser and Annelies C. Visser; Ernest W. Werstler and Jane Huston; Gary Willing; David P. Young; Paul L. Zeigler

KTA Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates for Board of Directors Deadline for Applications is June 1

By Thyra Sperry

As directed by the KTA Bylaws, President Bill Dietrich has appointed a Nominating Committee. Nominating committee members are Thyra Sperry, Chair, Boiling Springs; Carl Davis, Wellsboro; Lorraine Healey, Laflin; David McMillan, Landisville; and Thomas Thwaites, State College.

The Committee is responsible for presenting KTA Council with a list of qualified candidates for open seats on the Board of Directors, creating a slate of officers for the Association and, in odd numbered years, preparing a slate of candidates for representatives-at-large for the KTA council.

At this time, the Nominating Committee is actively seeking candidates for the Association's Board of Directors. All nominations should be sent to the Committee by June 1. The new Directors will be elected on October 7 at Camp Swatara, Bethel, PA.

Candidates for the Board of Directors should be enthusiastic about the Keystone Trails Association mission and be willing to serve as its ambassadors. The Board will continue to focus on strategic direction for the Association, broad organizational operations, financial stability, and recruitment of an executive director. Directors represent all the members of the Association, rather than any particular club or organization.

The Bylaws require that the nine members of the Board serve staggered three-year terms. In the first election held last year, Directors were elected to one, two or three year terms of office. This year three Directors will be elected to a three year term of office.

The slate of Board members and officers recommended by the Nominating Committee will be published in the summer issue of the KTA Newsletter.

President Dietrich hopes that all individual and organizational members will give serious thought to the nominations and join in this process. Interested individuals may nominate themselves.

Nomination forms are available on the KTA web site at www.kta-hike.org or by mail from Thyra Sperry, 740 Oak Hill Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9624. Please submit nominations by mail to the Boiling Springs address or as an email attachment to hikesperry@aol.com.

Volunteer Opportunities – Get Involved!

Budgetmaster

KTA needs a volunteer who will put together the KTA annual budget, presented at the fall meeting, in consultation with committee chairs and the Board of Directors and taking into consideration previous budgets. The volunteer will also work with Pam Metzger, our administrator, who does the day-to-day accounting and the Auditor who reviews our books annually. Contact Pam Metzger.

Newsletter Layout

Do you have a graphic arts background or an eye for design? KTA is looking for someone to lay out the newsletter. The time commitment is during the first two weeks of January, April, July, and October. Preference is for someone who can use Quark. Contact Barb Wiemann.

Contact information is on page 2.

Spring Meeting Highlights

Wayne and Shirley Gross contributed a beautifully decorated and delicious cake for the anniversary celebration.

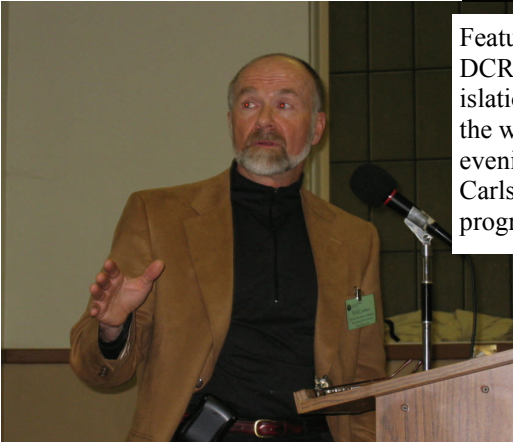


George Spring and Maurice Forrester display their Honorary Membership certificates. Other recipients were **Mel Brinton, Sr., Mildred Forrester, Nancy Heller, and Merritt Zimmerman**. The KTA Bylaws approved in November 2004 allow the Board of Directors to award honorary memberships for conspicuous long-term service to KTA.



Trail Care Chair **Joe Healey** accepts \$1,245, the proceeds of **Carol Witzeman's** "pass-the-hat" effort at the meeting. The funds will be used to purchase materials for the Donut Hole/Susquehannock Trail hiker bridge to be built in September. KTA contributed \$1700 toward the \$5000 cost.

Featured speaker **Rick Carlson**, DCRN Director of Policy and Legislation, relates his enthusiasm for the work of KTA at the Saturday evening program. A life member, Carlson is active in the Trail Care program.



Linda Enders Roxberry and Wayne Gross, first and second place winners of the t-shirt contest, happily model the new shirt. Over 30 designs were submitted.



Spring Council News

KTA President Bill Dietrich has appointed Chairs for all but one of the Standing Committees authorized by the Bylaws. The list of committee chairs is on page 2. A Chair is still needed for the Finance committee (see page 4). Most committees have openings and members are encouraged to volunteer.

Mike Lipay of Plum has accepted the position of web master. The web site is currently undergoing a re-design by graduate students at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Check for the new look in late May.

Copies of the draft KTA Strategic Plan, under development by the Board of Directors since last December, were distributed to Council members. The document has been posted on the KTA web site. Comments from organizational and individual members will be accepted until May 15, and the Board will examine these comments at its June 24th meeting.

Future KTA Meetings

June 24, 2006 - Board Of Directors Meeting

October 6-8, 2006 - Fall Meeting
Camp Swatara, *Bethel, PA*

January 6, 2007 - Board of Directors Meeting

March 30-April 1, 2007 - Spring Meeting
Yesterday's, *Renovo, PA*

Sept. 28-30, 2007 - Annual Meeting
Blue Knob Ski Resort, *Claysburg, PA*

We're always looking for suitable meeting sites. If you know of a facility anywhere in the state that can accommodate 150-200 folks, contact Carol Witzeman, 832 Yverdon Ave., Camp Hill, PA 17001, 717-763-9276, Cwitzeman@aol.com.

Along Our Trails

Appalachian Trail

Parking and Trail Access Web Site

Detailed information locating AT road crossings and parking areas is available at www.appalachiantrail.rohland.org. Arranged by state and trail sections, entries includes GPS data, driving directions, parking lot size, comments, and the source of the information. Users can submit updated information.

Lehigh Gap Parking Lot

The **Philadelphia Trail Club** and the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy** have reduced the size of the parking lot on the east side of Lehigh Gap to try to prevent misuse of the lot, particularly throwing debris down from the lot onto local properties and PA 248, and ATV use on the hillside above the lot. Two information kiosks have been installed in the blocked off portion of the lot.

Kirkridge Shelter

The **Wilmington Trail Club** matched an L.L Bean grant to

replace the 58-year old Kirkridge Shelter located east of Fox Gap. The new shelter, which uses the stone walls of the previous shelter, features a

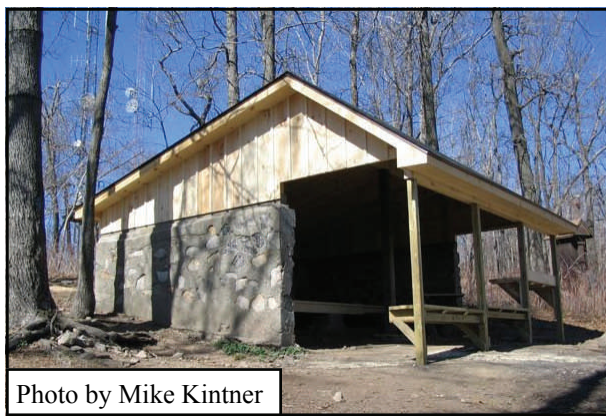


Photo by Mike Kintner

covered area for cooking and sitting.

Wind Farm in Clarks Valley?

The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club** is keeping a watchful eye on a wind farm study to be conducted by the City of Harrisburg on the ridges above DeHart Dam in Clarks Valley. If the study proves it is economically feasible, the City proposes erecting between 12 and 30 windmills on or near the crests of Peters and Stony Mountains and constructing a new transmission line to carry the electricity seven miles to the nearest grid.

Trail to Every Classroom Program

In July, teams of teachers from Boiling Springs and the Delaware/Lehigh/Schuylkill heritage area will be trained to use the AT as a classroom teaching resource, with the hope that this will help to involve children with the AT. The session is for curriculum building that will match state education standards.

Port Clinton

The only unprotected section of trail in Pennsylvania is located at the railroad tracks in Port Clinton. The owner allows hikers to cross the working tracks, but the crossing is hazardous. The Bartram Rail Trail also passes through the area and a pedestrian bridge (at a possible cost of \$1 million) is needed to take both trails over the tracks. The two groups hope to work together for a possible DCNR grant, but matching funds will be needed.

Great Allegheny Passage

The opening celebration for the Great Allegheny Passage in Somerset County will be held May 27. When completed, GAP

will stretch 150 miles from the C&O Canal at Cumberland, MD to Pittsburgh. The Passage is one segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. Visit the Allegheny Trail Alliance web site at www.atatrail.org for details.

Great Eastern Trail

On May 27, Mid Atlantic Foot Trail Coalition members will meet in Blacksburg, VA, with their counterparts from the South East Foot Trails Coalition to further develop plans for the Great Eastern Trail, which will stretch between the Florida National Scenic Trail and North Country NST in New York State. While the official route in Pennsylvania has not been finalized, the trail will utilize all or parts of the Tuscarora, Link and Mid State Trails. Except for approximately 30 miles of trail between Blackwell and the New York State line, all of the Keystone State trail mileage is marked and open for hiking. The KTA Summer Trail Crew will be working on this unfinished section in June (see page 2).

Horse-Shoe Trail

The 31st annual Horse-Shoe Trail Ride, sponsored by Circle T Trail Riders, will be held June 17-24.

Two homeowners who have permitted the H-ST to cross their Charlestown Township, Chester County, property for the past 15 years have signed an easement that protects the trail route across their land. Charlestown's Open Space Committee has a Horse-Shoe Trail subcommittee and is encouraging other residents to protect the trail with similar trail easements.

Mid State Trail

The Mid State Trail Association has just issued Map 303/304 (replacing old map 215 & 216) for portions of Bedford and Blair Counties in southern Pennsylvania. This printing was required by relocations made last year.

This is the first of the 300 series maps, designed to replace the confusing non-sequential former map numbers. Map 301 will start at the Mason Dixon line and the series will march north in back to back pairs to the New York border. Each map will contain both the old and new numbers, just like exits on I-80. This protracted confusion should persist for the next 15 to 20 years.

A copy of map 303/304 can be obtained by sending a stamped self addressed envelope and \$2 to MSTA at PO Box 167, Boalsburg, PA 16823.

MSTA has submitted two grant proposals in hopes of securing funds to build a bridge over Yellow Creek near Loysburg.

MSTA reports over 2,000 volunteer hours in the State College and Everett regions last year.

Tuscarora Trail

Tuscarora hikers reportedly have harassed local property owners on their own lands, and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club plans to have signs posted admonishing hikers to respect any private property they hike on. The Tuscarora Trail is critically dependent on the cooperation of local property owners.

Warrior Trail

New Warrior Trail guides are available from the Warrior Trail Association, PO Box 103, Waynesburg, PA 15370-0103. Price is \$10, plus \$2.50 for postage and \$.75 PA state tax if sent to an in-state address.

Hiker Alerts

Delaware Water Gap

Although additional work is still needed, the **Dunfield Creek Trail** is now passable. The trail was closed after flooding washed out bridges and destroyed the footpath.

Horse-Shoe Trail

Berks County Mile 26.9

Thanks to a local landowner, the H-ST has been relocated from the road at Furlow Road and Old Lancaster Pike in Adamstown. The trail turns right along the edge of the field paralleling PA 568, then follows the road for 0.3 mile through the underpass across the access ramp for US 222 to the cul-de-sac on Adams Rd. Continue straight on Adams Rd. to Furlow Dr., turn right on Furlow for 0.2 mile, then right across the field to Old Lancaster Pike. Turn right on Old Lancaster for 0.6 mile and rejoin the old trail, turning left at mailbox 2117, proceeding uphill between two houses.

Lebanon County Mile 5.0

The trail has been relocated through Governor Dick to reduce erosion in a wetland. Follow the blazes.

Mason-Dixon Trail

Wrightstown Area Relocation

The M-DT has been relocated off PA 624 south of Wrightstown, onto land owned by Safe Harbor Water Power Corp. and County Line Quarry. Description for map 3, east to west:

0.8 turn left onto PA 624

1.0 turn right on private Murphy's Hollow Rd

1.1 turn left on trail, descend to cross stream, climb up hill, pass around to riverside of hill, descend via switchbacks to Lockwood Rd.; turn left on Lockwood Rd.

2.0 turn right on PA 624; go past quarry and into Wrightsville

Principio Business Park Development

Land is being cleared for the new business park at map 7, west to east mile 6.00. The business park plans include a trail relocation; at this point, hiking through the area is not recommended.

Mid State Trail



Photo by Dana Harlan

The bridge over Little Poe Creek in Bald Eagle Forest was destroyed by a dead tree falling on it last winter. This bridge was built by Trail Care in May 1991. It may be months or even a year before a crew can be organized to rebuild this bridge.

Quehanna Trail

Relocation at Marion Brooks Natural Area

Two miles of the QT in Elk County, from Mud Lick Rd. to near Deible Run Vista, was relocated last October. The new trail is parallel to and north of Deible Rd., going west to a gas well road, and then angling southwest to meet the former QT near the vista. The old trail route through the Marion Brooks Natural Area has been abandoned. The Mosquito Creek Trail will also be relocated onto Deible Rd for a short distance and then follow the old QT northwest to the intersection with the new trail.

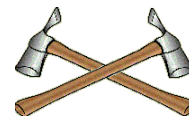
Ah'Tic Lodge #139 of the Order of the Arrow, Bucktail Council, Boy Scouts, participated in the relocation. A sign denoting the OA contribution was installed at the midpoint of the new QT section.

Timber Harvest at Western Cross Connector

Moshannon State Forest will conduct a shelterwood harvest near the Western Cross-Connector between Caledonia Pike and Wallace Mines Rd. this fall. There will be a 25-foot no cut buffer on both sides of the trail. The Trail, which is on a 1950s haul road, will be temporarily used to haul timber to Caledonia Pike and, upon completion of the work, the trail will be seeded with native grasses.

Multi-Use Trail

The Elk State Forest, in conjunction with the Moshannon State Forest, has developed a non-motorized, multi-use trail that includes a section of the Orange Trail that is mostly on old roads. The multi-use trail is on the QT starting at Hoover Rd. at mile 43.5 west toward Little Fork Vista, past Arch Spring and then south to mile 45.9 where it meets the Sanders Trail. The multi-use trail is a 25-30 mile loop. Efforts are underway to contact equestrian groups to assist with the additional maintenance that will be needed. Club maintainers will report problems to the appropriate Forest District and the Quehanna Area Trails Club.



Trail Care at Keystone State Park

By Joe Healey

The first TrailCare of 2006, March 17 through 19, was very cold but sunny. Temperature was in the low 30s in the western part of the state. 24 brave souls showed up, dressed warmly and hit the trails at Keystone State Park.

The crews built over 16 water bars, dug sidehill, lopped and did some painting. Everything that was planned for the weekend was accomplished. Leader Jack Leasher did a great job getting all the work divvied up.

Best of all, Jack managed to get heated cabins for us. Electricity, showers, microwave, the works!! In addition, the park personnel provided coffee and donuts for us on Saturday morning and hot homemade chili and fixings for lunch. We are starting to get spoiled!

A big thank you from the crew goes out to Jack for all of his efforts and the park personnel for the goodies.

The picture of the Mid State Trail bridge at Ramsey (Fall issue, page 11) was taken by Mike Cosgrove. The photographer's credit was omitted.

KTA's Fourth Decade: 1986-1995

By Maurice J. Forrester, Jr.

The fourth decade of KTA's existence was a notably productive one. The highlight of the decade, of course, was the Appalachian Trail Conference's 1989 biennial general meeting at East Stroudsburg, PA, with KTA as host. In addition though, there were other notable accomplishments relating to the Appalachian Trail and other trails in the state. There were also significant developments involving KTA's organizational arrangements.

Organization

Keystone Trails Association Officers: 1986-1995

	President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Membership Secretary
1986	M. Virginia Musser	Bob Epps	Mildred Forrester	L. Potteiger	Wilma Flaig
1987				P. Johnson	
1988					
1989					
1990	Ben Sinclair	Ed Beck	Kenneth Scott		Barbara Wiemann
1991					
1992					
1993	Ed Beck	Tom Thwaites			
1994					
1995					

Future of KTA. In the fall of 1994, an ad hoc Committee on the Future of KTA presented its report which included a number of recommendations, including:

- Emphasizing KTA's function as an umbrella group to provide information to member organizations and individuals;
- Re-establishing the Legislative Liaison Committee;
- Treating trail work and maintenance as a top priority, and expanding TrailCare;
- Expanding fund-raising activities by Newsletter and other targeted appeals.

Other suggestions covered the possible adoption of an "Adopt A Trail" program; urging KTA's organizational members to encourage their own individual members to become individual members of KTA; promoting more regional gatherings; and increasing dues income, whether by increased dues or the establishment of special dues categories.

Trust for Keystone Trail Lands. In the spring of 1992, the KTA Council authorized the creation of a Trust for Keystone Trail Lands. This was intended to provide a vehicle for receiving gifts dedicated to the purchase of available land for the protection of Pennsylvania hiking trails.

Trail Use Compatibility Position Statement. In the fall of 1990 the KTA Council adopted a position statement concerning compatible uses of hiking trails. The statement made four principal points: (1) trails on public lands should be posted as to the type

of permitted uses; (2) motorized vehicles should not be permitted on trails intended for pedestrians; (3) riding and pack animals, bicycles, and mountain bikes should be allowed only on trails where it is determined that such use will neither damage the trail nor diminish the hiking experience; and (4) on trails designed for handicapped usage only pedestrian usage should be allowed in addition to the specific use for which the trail is intended.

Liability Insurance. After a review of all the pertinent issues, including both cost and risk, KTA's Legal Chair did not recommend that the organization seek to acquire liability insurance.

Annual Memorial Service. By 1990, KTA had been in existence for 34 years and it was noted by many that the number of deaths of longtime members was slowly but steadily increasing. At the 1990 meeting, following the deaths of Dick Kimmel and Wilma Flaig, two KTA stalwarts, there was held the first Annual Memorial Service, a brief rite of remembrance. This service has been repeated at every subsequent KTA Annual Meeting.

ESU-89

The most noteworthy event of this fourth KTA decade was unquestionably the hosting by KTA of the 1989 edition of the Appalachian Trail Conference's biennial general meeting, which was held in Pennsylvania on the campus of East Stroudsburg State University. Extending from June 16 to 23, it was the largest ATC General Meeting up to that time. The final registration count was 1,226.

During the week there were more than 70 workshops and six different panel discussions. An exhibit area held some 50 displays by clubs, government agencies and commercial exhibitors. Per-



haps the most impressive statistic of all is the monumental schedule of more than 100 hikes that was offered. Evening entertainment was provided by Walkin' Jim Stoltz and Susie Crate, among others. And, of course, everything was planned and organized by KTA volunteers.

ESU-89 was entirely self-funded, and ultimately produced a cash profit for KTA of \$9,000.

KTA Leadership



Ben Sinclair



M. Virginia Musser

Photos by Hugh Downing

Appalachian Trail

Cumberland Valley. In 1986 the National Park Service finally settled on a new (presumably permanent) route for the Appalachian Trail across Pennsylvania's Cumberland Valley, thereby bringing to an end the long, difficult and sometimes painful process of negotiating with all of the many interests involved. The crossing of this hurdle triggered a number of other developments related to the AT in the Valley.

Over the next few years the new footway itself was laid out and put in place, with a dedication in 1990. Also in 1990 a new footbridge to take the AT across the busy, multi-laned U.S. Route 11 was opened. Appropriate dedication ceremonies were held on July 28, 1990. The building of this bridge was the result of an exemplary cooperative effort involving the National Park Service, PennDOT, and KTA.

Another major development in the Cumberland Valley -- also involving PennDOT -- was the addition of a separate pedestrian walkway along the Bernheisel Bridge.

Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Maps. Throughout this ten-year period steady progress was made in improving the quality of the maps available to AT hikers in Pennsylvania, as KTA sharpened its map-making sophistication and skills. The first step involved the production by KTA of black-and-white maps for the entire portion of the AT in Pennsylvania. Subsequently the move to color maps was successfully implemented.

Murders on the Trail. On September 13, 1990, two hikers, Geoffrey Hood and Molly LaRue, were killed at the Thelma Marks Shelter on the Appalachian Trail in Perry County, PA. According to documents of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, "LaRue was bound, raped, and stabbed. She died approximately 15 minutes after receiving a knife wound to the neck. Hood, her boyfriend died five to eight minutes after being shot three times with a revolver." A week after the killings, Paul D. Crews was arrested

and charged with the killings. He was subsequently tried and convicted.

This rape and double murder was the worst crime ever recorded on the AT in Pennsylvania. The reaction among both the public and the hiking community was universal outrage. Suggestions for an appropriate response from the Trail community, however, were widely varied. Some suggested that essentially nothing had changed and that the Trail remained far safer than the nation's cities, with no new safety measures being called for. Others advocated a variety of enhanced security measures, many of which would have altered forever the widely treasured "trail experience." KTA played a lead role in seeking a balanced response between these two extremes.

Other Trails

State Forest Hiking Trails. In September, 1987, a directive was issued to all Pennsylvania State Forest Districts by Richard R. Thorpe, the Director of the Bureau of Forestry requiring that future timber sales incorporate a no-cut buffer zone of 100 feet on each side of the trail for certain hiking trails on State Forest land. This policy not only doubled the size of the previous buffer zone, but also changed the earlier limited-cut policy to a no-cut rule.

The trails covered by the new policy were: Baker, Black Forest, Bucktail Path, Chuck Keiper, Donut Hole, Golden Eagle, John P. Saylor, Lost Turkey, Loyalsock, Mid State, Old Loggers Path, Pinchot, Quehanna, Rocky Knob, Susquehannock, Thunder Swamp, Tiadaghton, Tuscarora, and West Rim. In those cases where a trail is only partially on State Forest land, the new rule applied only to the portion actually on State Forest land.

The Appalachian Trail and the North Country Trail were not covered by the new policy since their designations as National Scenic Trails provided them with even stronger protection.

Medix Run Bridge. In November 1994, a KTA volunteer crew installed a 48-foot bridge over Medix Run on the Quehanna Trail. The new bridge replaced one that had been in place for 14 years until it had to be removed in 1991 because of extreme deterioration.



Wilma Flaig and Ken Scott, membership secretary and secretary, collecting dues and checking in attendees at a fall meeting. Photo by Hugh Downing.

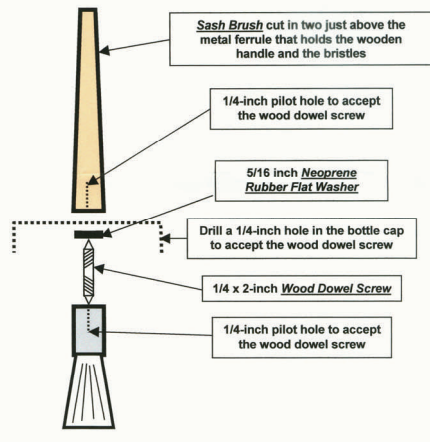
Maintainers Corner

MST Maintenance Manual

The latest edition of the *Manual for the Maintenance of the Mid State Trail* is available on the club web site <http://phoenix.goucher.edu/MSTA> as a 190 KB PDF file. If you don't have a PCF viewer program, it can be downloaded from the Adobe web site.

Paint Blazing

The "Blazing Made Easy" article in the Winter issue (p. 13) inspired William Shaffer of Groton, CT, to share his painting equipment setup. Shaffer uses a one-pint nalgene water bottle that he modifies to hold his "sash" brush. The brush is round with a handle about 3/4 inch in diameter. The container keeps the brush wet so that the paint does not dry out, and when the brush is installed in the bottle, it is spill proof. Shaffer carries extra



paint in an old detergent bottle with a pour spout.

Trail Signage

Patricia Winter, a research social scientists with the US Forest Service, tested how hikers reacted to different wording on signs on four popular hiking trails. Her findings: messages telling people what not to do are most effective at preventing unwanted behavior. Conversely, according to Winter, people are more likely to do something if they think it is commonly done by others. Further information is available at www.psychologymatters.org/environment.html. The study, titled *An analysis of normative messages in signs at recreation settings*, was published in the Journal of Interpretation Research, v. 3, p. 39-47.

Bear Mountain (N.Y.) Workshops

Upcoming sessions include a Rigging Workshop on May 13 and 14, a Cribbing Apprenticeship on May 26-28, and a stone pinning workshop on June 11. To register, contact eddiewalsh@nynjtc.org, call 201-512-9348, ex. 22, or register online at www.nynjtc.org/workshops/bearmt/index.html.

Maintainers Wanted in ANF

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) sponsors trail crews in the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area of the Allegheny National Forest. A major project for this year is trail hardening near Coon Run. Participants will embed large rocks along a hiking trail through a wet riparian zone. The June 23-25 weekend trip involves backpacking into the wilderness. Meals will be provided. No experience is necessary. Contact FAW, 220 Center Street, Warren, PA 16365, 814-723-0620, alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net.

Trailcare Virgin

By Susan VanRiper

My first trailcare experience happened on Saturday, September 24th, 2005 at Big Pocono State Park. I was scheduled to work on a section of the South Trail cutting back overgrown tree branches. This is something that I have had a lot of experience and enjoy doing, not on trails, but in my backyard. It's even more fun out on the trail.

I got to work and soon it was just me on the trail with the beauty of Big Pocono surrounding me. The sun was warm and after a few minutes of work I no longer noticed the autumn chill in the air. It was nice to spend some time in just one section of the trail and really get to know it. I could hear birds chirping, the wind blowing through the trees and not much else. The view was amazing. Delaware Water Gap, although a bit hazy, was visible to the south.

My first trailcare had me worried if I could keep up and know what to do. However, with the helpful instruction and motivation from POC Trailcrew leader John Motz, everything went smoothly. This is definitely something I would encourage everyone to try. I was able to get some exercise, breathe in some fresh air and spend a fun day on the mountain. See you next time.

[From the Pocono Outdoor Club Quarterly, Fall 2005]

Hiker Products

No More Stinky Feet

To eliminate the odors emanating from your hiking boots, try rejuvenating them with No More Stinky Feet. The manufacturer claims that the shoe spray works instantly and inhibits the spread of germs that are the cause of odors. The environmentally friendly spray is safe for all fabrics and works on tents and sleeping bags. See www.nomorestinkyfeet.com.

OtterBoxes

If you absolutely need to protect your cell phone, digital camera, iPod, GPS, or even your keys and wallet when you roam, try Otterbox waterproof containers, which are designed for backpackers, skiers, paddlers, and other outdoors adventurers. Contact Otter Products, LLC, 1 Old Town Square, Suite 303, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 888.695.8820, or www.otterbox.com.

Ultralight Flashlight

Pak-lite, possibly the world's smallest, lightest flashlight (really, its an attachment to a battery) may be just the thing for ultra lightweight devotees. See www.9voltage.com for details.

Voltaic Backpack

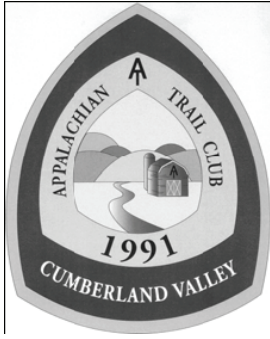
This standard looking pack has three solar panels embedded on the back of the bag. They generate up to four watts of power that can be stored in the internal lithium-ion battery pack. That's usually enough to charge a cell phone, digital camera, GPS, or MP3 player. There is also a day pack version. See www.voltaisystems.com.



Who looks out for the Trail?

By Melanie Wertz

Those of you who have hiked the Appalachian Trail (AT) north of Route 11 or even driven under the AT Bridge on Route 11, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, could not have missed the enormous warehouse being built on a 100 acre lot directly adjoining the AT corridor. Unfortunately, the warehouse is highly visible from the trail, especially when there are no leaves on the trees. It is also unfortunate that this is the narrowest piece of National Park Service (NPS) corridor in the Cumberland Valley.



Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club (CVATC) has been expressing our concerns to the township by way of reviewing development plans, attending meetings, writing letters and providing testimonies at hearings since 2000. So you can imagine our shock to learn in the newspaper that there had been a “discrepancy” in the construction of the building and that the northwest corner of the building had been “shifted” and constructed 30 feet closer to the AT than what had been approved by Silver Spring Township. The township had issued a “Stop Work Order,” and the township and Mark DiSanto, chief executive for Triple Crown Corporation, the developer, were in negotiations about what to do about the violation. The township was quoted to be “willing to consider a \$500,000 payment for damages to the township.”

This brought about another series of phone calls and letters from CVATC, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the National Park Service (NPS), requesting the NPS or some Trail representative be included as a partner to the negotiations. We also provided more testimonies to the township Zoning Board. We were very disappointed to learn, again from the newspaper, that the township had settled with Mark DiSanto for \$200,000. To rub salt in the wound, the money would be used to install traffic light and road improvements on the “Carlisle Pike near the site.”

Frank Bohn and I recently attended yet another supervisors meeting to ask questions about why we weren't included and specifically asked the township to try to rectify this permanent degradation to the Trail by committing \$10,000, (a mere 5% of the settlement) to plant 125 6-foot high white pines along the impacted borders. This too was denied.

This whole ordeal has been a direct hit to the AT and a horrendously frustrating experience. But even more appalling is the fact that we have developers all along the AT corridor that want to develop every inch of land there is and the fact that we have a prized natural resource, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, means nothing. Add to that the townships and zoning, or lack of, which usually does nothing to protect the Trail, and what are we left with - a trail that we love which is totally unprotected outside of our often narrow NPS corridor. So, who looks out for the Trail?



The racetrack in the Poconos, which will impact the Trail, is another example of the Trail recently losing out to developers and townships. I say, this is unacceptable! We must work with our townships NOW to incorporate ordinances and protective zoning for the AT. When we try to get involved in existing situations such as these, it is already too late. No, it's not as fun as a day on the Trail, but it is essential that we do it. With township supervisors making backroom deals and bulldozers racing across the valley everywhere we look, time is of the essence!

An Overt Walk on Some Stealth Trails

By Tom Thwaites

It was a bright day in January and December's snows had melted save for widely scattered patches. Some of the trails in this part of Penns Woods were wide and well used. They followed old roads or, in one place, a logging railroad grade. A month earlier I had skied them. Others were narrow and twisting. Too narrow for skis and used mostly by mountain bikes and dog walkers. None of these trails are marked, blazed or signed because they are probably not sanctioned by the land managers and are defined only by the beaten footway.

There was no trace of brush cutting but some logs had been sawed, apparently with hand, not chain saws. Hand saws are quieter. On other trails the logs were left where they fell and one had to step over. Some of these logs were converted into "jumps" for mountain bikes by piling smaller logs next to them. Such jumps are liability concerns to land managers as mountain bikers may be injured, even paralyzed, in using them. The newer trails seem to wind randomly through the woods with no destination in mind, sometimes returning to the trail from which they started but other times connecting with a different trail. I doubt if these trails appear on any map and one would simply have to follow them all to find out where they go. Trying to reach a landmark or other destination would be a challenge.

Yet these trails have a real charm. In places the trailside was lined with trailing arbutus and elsewhere the trail passed through thickets of wild azalea. The large hardwoods swayed gently in the wind creating an illusion of remoteness when we were only a few hundred meters from a paved road.

It dawned on me that I was walking on stealth trails. As bureaucratic barriers to organized trails continue to increase, such trails will be the response. Unplanned, unmarked, unmapped, unsanctioned and virtually unmaintained. Land managers would have to build fences like those on the border with Mexico to keep people out. People are still going to walk, hunt, ski and exercise their dogs in the woods and such trails will arise spontaneously simply from being used.

The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. Travel too fast and you miss all you are traveling for — Louis L'Amour.

[From Susquehanna Trailers]

DCNR News

On-line State Park Reservations

Reservations for State Park campsites, cabins, and pavilions are now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through the Internet at www.visitPAparks.com. Reservations are accepted up to 11 months prior to the planned arrival date.

The toll free reservation number 1-888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757) will continue to be available Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day for those who wish to utilize that option.

Internet reservations for backpacking camping will be available in 2007.

Get Outdoors PA web site

Always wanted to kayak, but never knew how to get started? Prefer the safety and conversation of a group setting on a long hike? Interested in learning more about the natural world around you? Then check the activities listed on the Get Outdoors PA web site at www.dcnr.state.pa.us/getoutdoorspa/index.aspx. There are adventures for all ages and skill levels, with opportunities to learn new skills and explore state parks and forests. Events are led by experienced trip leaders.

Commemorative Pins to Benefit State Parks and Forests



The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is selling commemorative pins to generate revenue and raise awareness of the Commonwealth's 117 state parks and 20 state forests. A watercolor view of the furnace in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, created and donated by Harrisburg area artist **David Lenker**, is featured on the pins.

The pins will be available for sale at state parks and state forests, and through conservation groups in central Pennsylvania. A portion of the money raised will be used for improvements and other projects in state parks and forests.

PPFF hopes to unveil at least four new pins featuring original artwork each year, with possible commemorative pins to highlight special events. For details on the Pennsylvania parks and forest pin program, visit www.PaParksAndForests.org.

Allegheny National Forest

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Forest Plan revision of the Allegheny National Forest will be released in mid May and will be posted on the ANF web site at www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny. The DEIS will contain four alternative different potential versions of the revised Forest Plan.

After release, the public has 90 days to provide comments. During the first month, the ANF will hold a series of open houses to introduce the DEIS. The schedule will be posted in the calendar section of the www.pawild.org web site.

Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness, which is seeking to expand the number of wilderness areas in the ANF, urges all citizens to become actively involved in the public comment period since the final plan will guide Forest Service decisions for the next 10-15 years.

Game Commission News

Record Bear Harvest

Pennsylvania's hunters crushed the Commonwealth's all-time black bear harvest total when they took 4,164 bruins in 2005. The previous record of 3,075 was set in 2000. Since 1999, more than 20,000 black bears have been killed in Pennsylvania. To place the count in perspective, the statewide bear harvest in 1969 was 295.

Bears were taken in 52 counties.

The largest bear was a 733-pound male. In all, 17 bears weighed 600 pounds or more. Five factors that increased the total kill were an extended hunting season, high bear populations, more hunters, a tremendous mast crop, and good weather.



24/7 Hunting

Game Commission Executive Director Carl Roe reminds everyone that, "A properly-licensed Pennsylvania hunter can hunt coyotes year round, from July 1 to June 30, including Sundays, with either a general hunting or furtaker license, 24-hours-a-day, and the bag limit is unlimited. ...the Board of Game Commissioners recently finalized a regulatory change to permit hunters to use up to #4 buckshot to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their shotgun loads."

Increasing the Number of Young Hunters

Pennsylvania is the first state in the nation to authorize a mentored youth hunting program, which will allow youth to try the sport without having to take hunter education training. As long as the child is with a licensed hunter, youngsters can venture into the woods with just an apprentice-hunting license.

According to Gov. Rendell, "We need this law because for every 100 hunters who retire, only 62 take up the sport. If this trend continues, our ability to manage wildlife will be severely affected and Pennsylvania's economy will suffer."

Bald Eagle Status Changed

The Board of Game Commissioners moved the bald eagle from an endangered to a threatened species, based on its continued recovery in the Commonwealth. It is a first time the eagle has received this sort of management consideration in more than a quarter century.



Reusing Trees

Giving a second life to old trees is the mission of CitiLog, a New Jersey company that reuses trees that need to be removed due to disease, age, damage, or development. The company collects unwanted wood and delivers it to mills in central Pennsylvania, where Amish woodworkers transform it into furniture, doors, flooring, park benches, or perhaps a coffee table. The company removes trees with minimal impact, even going so far as to use horses to remove trees in sensitive areas that might be damaged by heavy machinery. For more information, contact CitiLog, PO Box 365, 370 Pittstown Rd., Pittstown, N.J. 08867, 1-877-CITY LOG, www.citilog.com.

A Recreational Strategy for PA Wilds

By Ben Cramer

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) hosted a "recreational stakeholders" meeting on February 15 in Lock Haven, to discuss a recreational strategy for the public lands that have been given the name Pennsylvania Wilds. The meeting was attended by representatives of several environmental and outdoor recreation groups, plus personnel from several different state agencies.

North-Central Pennsylvania contains over two million acres of public lands, mostly contained within State Forests, and also within State Parks and State Game Lands. This is an area larger than Yellowstone National Park. The region extends from approximately I-80 to the New York border, and from roughly Allegheny National Forest in the west to Tioga and Lycoming Counties in the east. Included in this region are 49% of the public lands and 65% of the natural areas in Pennsylvania, all within just 12 counties and one-fourth of the state's geographic area.

These natural lands have been grouped into the Pennsylvania Wilds program, which was created in 2004 so local citizens in the designated areas could interact with a single governmental entity for the promotion of recreation and proper stewardship of the land. PA Wilds has been constructed as a cross-bureau and multi-agency strategy for both recreation and interpretation of the region's natural offerings. Some funding has been secured through the Growing Greener initiative, and DCNR wishes to connect citizens in a "visceral" fashion to the program's conservation ethic. Early efforts to implement the PA Wilds strategy have already been initiated at Pine Creek Gorge, Cherry Springs State Park, and Cook Forest State Park.

The environmental consulting firm Fermata was hired to assess and inventory all the recreational resources to be found in the State Forests, Parks, and Game Lands in the PA Wilds region. A spokesman for the firm, Ted Eubanks, described in detail the very complex patterns of recreational usage, governmental infrastructure, and social trends in the area.

For example, the firm has recognized hiking and camping as "legacy" activities with long-term popularity, though the growth in these hobbies is rather sluggish. Fermata reports that between 1996 and 2004, hiking was up 37% and backpacking was up 23%, over the similar previous period, but that both are growing out of a relatively small population of enthusiasts. Other low-impact activities

such as biking and kayaking are growing more strongly, as are high-impact sports like all-terrain vehicles and horseback riding. Automobile-based sightseeing and tourism are also gaining in popularity throughout the region.

In order for recreation in PA Wilds to grow at a sustainable rate, both to increase appreciation for the area's natural resources and to invigorate local economies, the program is being advertised to a "market area" encompassing five surrounding states, with non-traditional and uninitiated recreationalists in urban areas being targeted. However, Fermata is concerned about inadequate staffing at State Parks and State Forests. The State Parks in particular are well-maintained and designed in comparison to those in other states, but limited personnel will restrict greater use by the public.



Fermata has also recommended to DCNR that recreational staff and infrastructure be added to State Forests.

The consulting firm also discussed hiking trails at the meeting, and recommends that extra effort be made to maintain those trails that will be most useful in providing access to natural areas by the public. This includes relocating such trails off of forest roads, reducing erosion and damage to fragile areas that

are visited by the trails, and adding improved signage.

The Longfellow Trail at Cook Forest State Park (Clarion and Forest Counties), which visits the park's famous stand of old-growth trees, has been chosen as a model for this new breed of interactive hiking trail, to test the PA Wilds plan for trail maintenance and stewardship. However, no mention was made of whether this program would benefit the longer state forest hiking trails, rather than just the tourist-oriented trails in easily accessible areas. There was also no discussion of whether the PA Wilds program is compatible with Bureau of Forestry or Game Commission policies toward the long-distance trails.

More information on the Pennsylvania Wilds program can be found on the DCNR website at www.dcnr.state.pa.us, and the agency is collecting public comments from citizens and recreational groups.

[Ben Cramer, a lifetime member of KTA, lives in State College.]

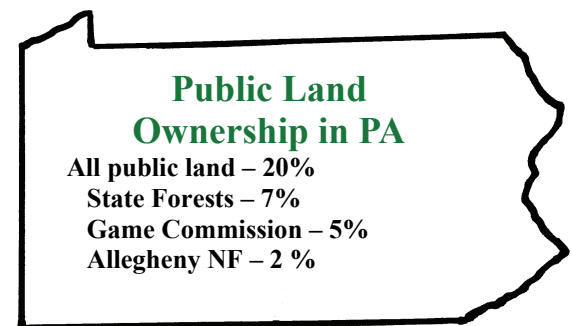
Pennsylvania's Urban Sprawl

Conservation groups have decried the "mansionsionization" of rural areas, and Pennsylvania may be one of the worst offenders. In the fifteen years ending in 1997, our state's population grew just 2.5 percent, while our urbanized footprint jumped 47 percent, in what the Brookings Institution called "one of the nation's most radical patterns of sprawl and (urban) abandonment."



The price paid by wildlife and wild lands has been especially steep. Between 1990 and 2000, the state lost a million acres of land to development - four hundred acres per day,

mostly farm and forest habitat - while our road system, already 120,000 miles long, grew another 3000 miles of paved highway.



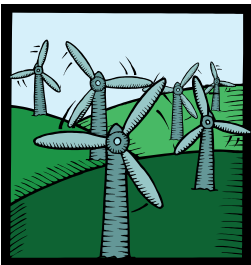
Around the Clubs

Allegheny Outdoor Club

AOC, founded in 1968, has grown to more than 100 members. The club maintains nearly 20 miles of trails in the Allegheny National Forest, including Toms Run, Tanbark, and Ironwood Trails. The successful annual spring maintenance weekend attracts 20-30 club members.

Delaware Valley Chapter, AMC Wind Power Fundraiser

Members of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club are being offered the opportunity to help reduce air and water pollution, rein in global warming, and generate income for the Chapter. In a special promotion, club members who are served by PECO electric utility can sign up for wind power and earn \$10 for DVAMC from the Sustainable Development Fund.



According to DVAMC, buying wind power costs a little more, but the cost pales in comparison to the costs associated with burning coal. Half of our electricity comes from coal, a major cause of smog, acid rain, mercury poisoning, global warming, and mountaintop removal. Pennsylvania creates more global warming pollution than 105 developing nations combined, and is the third worst state (behind Texas and

California). The environmental benefit of buying 200-kilowatt hours of wind power each month is like not driving 8,000 miles each year.

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club

BMECC is raffling off two items to raise funds to purchase a permanent plaque at Eagle's Nest, the club's birthplace – a hand carved walking stick made and donated by Cliff Weinhold and a queen sized commemorative patchwork and appliquéd quilt in the delectable mountains star pattern. Drawings will be held at the club's annual banquet on November 12.

On Mother's Day, May 14, BMECC will plant memorial trees at the club's Rentschler Arboretum in Bernville. Club members and friends can honor or memorialize a loved one; the afternoon program will include a program, blessing, readings, and refreshments.

Mid State Trail Association

The MSTA has a new three-color patch, available at a bargain price of \$2.00. The design is a replica of a traditional design. Order from MSTA, PO Box 167, Boalsburg, PA 16827 and specify "MST" patch.



Mountain Club of Maryland

Every five years the MCM celebrates its birthday by hiking from Gathland State Park to Weverton Cliffs, a re-creation of its first hike in 1933. Among those in attendance at the October 2005 event was Connie Waxter, whose husband participated in the first hike.

MCM presented an award of \$2500 to the Broadcreek Memorial Boy Scout Reservation to help save an exceptional stand of hemlock trees under attack by the woolly adelgid (see Fall 2005, p.6).

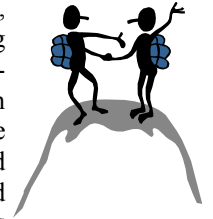
Funds came from the Miles Memorial Fund, established with a bequest by Lester Miles for the conservation of woodlands and foot trails. MCM notes that the club is allowed to hike at the Reservation and members relish the sight of the towering trees.

Pocono Outdoor Club

POC is holding a "Favorite Pocono Trail" essay contest, inviting anyone to submit a one-page entry describing his or her favorite trail. The winning essay will be printed in the club newsletter and the author will have the honor of leading a hike on "their" trail.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

In the spirit of inter-club co-operation, PATC has generously offered the Link Hiking Trail Association and the Mid State Trail Association access to its Dawson and Silberman Cabins in the south-central region as base camps for trail work. PATC, LHTA, and MSTA are all members of the newly formed Mid Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition, which is creating the northern segment of the Great Eastern Trail.



In December, PATC signed a two-year lease agreement with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to manage the Bears Den Trail Center near the AT in northern Virginia. The stone mansion, named after a unique rock formation, is protected by a National Park Service easement that requires that the facility be used for hikers.

Potential renters of PATC's cabins can now go to <http://cabins.patc.net> to see a chart listing open dates for every cabin. The chart is updated each day. A future goal is an interactive, real-time reservation system.

Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club

SATC members helped operate a PA Dept. of Health booth at the Farm Show in Harrisburg. They promoted healthy living through walking and hiking.

Susquehannock Trail Club

Bob Knowles, who recently discontinued his local column and STC news reporting in the Potter Leader Enterprise and handled record keeping of club activities and history, was awarded a "Citation for Outstanding Service" for service to the club and the public.

Venture Outdoors

VO's Members Winter Party at Ohiopyle State Park on Feb. 12 featured a camp stove cook-off and a snow creature-making competition.

Warrior Trail Association

Of the WTA's 101 charter members in 1966, four are still members. Many early members were amateur archeologists, and, by 1970, the club was working three digs with Carnegie Museum oversight. Some of the artifacts they discovered are now at WTA headquarters, an old schoolhouse obtained from Greene County.

"All truly great thoughts are conceived while walking."
- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

Multi-Club Events – Everyone Invited

Venture Outdoors Festival – May 20 at Pittsburgh's North Shore near Heinz Field; try canoeing, kayaking, biking, dragon boats, rock climbing, inline skating, fishing and more; exhibits from over 90 organizations; kids' activities; event is free, parking \$5; information, 412-255-0564

Potter County 5K Run/Hike – May 21 at Denton Hill, hosted by Susquehannock Trail Club, in conjunction with other Potter County community groups and volunteers; cost. is \$15 by May 12, \$20 on May 21; T-shirts to first 100 pre-registered; finishers medal, snacks. Information, www.bealink.com or STC, PO Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915

9th Annual Outdoor Extravaganza – May 27-30 at Breakneck Campground; hosted by Butler Outdoor Club; activities include biking, boating, caving, rock climbing, rappelling, horseback riding, hiking; workshops on geocaching, birding, llama hiking, GPS; Kids Extravaganza Group, evening entertainment; meals available. Information, www.butleroutdoorclub.com or Joyce Appel at 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@arm-tek.net.

BMECC Hiking/Camping Weekend – June 2-4 at Rentschler Arboretum, Bernville, PA; hiking, camping, evening campfires, Saturday dinner provided. pre-register by May 20 with Martyann Gutierrez, 610-777-1442, martyann9@yahoo.com

Educational Opportunities

Wild Resource Festival – May 20 at French Creek State Park; activities include guided nature walks; hands-on activities; displays; mushroom and wild edible plant cooking; bird banding; live birds, turtles, snakes; wildlife tracking with telemetry equipment; event is free; information, www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf/festival/index.html

Wilderness First Aid

Wilderness Safety Council – June 10-11, Philadelphia; June 17-18, Harrisburg; cost \$160; information 703-836-8905 or www.wfa.net

Venture Outdoors – June 3-4, Crooked Creek State Park; accommodations available at park; 412-255-0563 or www.ventureoutdoors.org

Appalachian Mountain Club – June 9-11 or Sep. 29-Oct. 1, Mohican Outdoor Center; cost \$195 members, \$217 NM includes lodging, meals; 908-362-5670, www.outdoors.org/education/top-workshops.cfm

AMC Mohican Outdoor Center, DWG

Backpacking for Beginners – June 8-11 or Sep. 21-24
Cost - \$150 members, \$165 NM for lodging, meals, instruction

Map and Compass Navigation – May 19-21 or July 14-16
Cost- \$150 members, \$165 NM for lodging, meals, instruction

Walking Conservation Lectures

When – June 24, black bears; July 22, wild roots; August 26, geology

Cost - \$6 members, \$8 NM includes lunch

Yoga or Massage and Hiking

When – Yoga, June 16-18 or Aug. 11-13; Massage, July 7-9
Cost - \$185 members, \$205 NM for lodging, meals, instruction
Information – 908-362-5670, www.outdoors.org/education/top-workshops.cfm

Letter to the Editor

Editor,

As a KTA member, I wish to respond to the letter written in the Fall KTA newsletter by Bob Steiner of Cooperstown, PA. Mr. Steiner writes, "there has never been one hiker shot in mistake for game," in the woods of Pennsylvania. He is wrong.

I can speak from direct experience that while hiking in the woods of Pennsylvania approximately 20 years ago, while technically I was not shot, I was most definitely shot at. Instead of hitting me, the bullet struck a small pine tree less than three feet away. I have no doubt that my movement was what made me the intended target. The bullet impacted the tree at body level.



Following the shot, I made wild gestures with my arms and shouted out to the still unseen hunter who fortunately for me, saw no need to fire a second round. By the way, I was not hiking in a Gamelands area.

I like to draw a distinction between "hunters" and "gunners." Hunters are for the most part, responsible parties who shoot from distances and angles that permit a clear and unobstructed view of a target they know to be a legitimate target. "Gunners," on the other hand, tend to shoot at anything that moves, with little consideration for the legitimacy of the target or the precision of the shot.

If Bob Steiner continues to maintain his membership in KTA, I hope he would offer up an apology for his mean-spirited remarks regarding the testimony made by former KTA President Hugh Downing.

Jim Denny
Catonsville, MD

CPR Training in 25 Minutes

A new study has shown that just 25 minutes of instruction in defibrillator use and CPR instruction is as effective as the standard four-hour course in teaching people to perform the life-saving procedure. Dr. Ahamed Idris, professor of emergency medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, found that people who took the short course did as well or better than those who received the standard training. When retested six months later, both groups had similar retention rates for the skills learned.

The shorter training course could encourage more people to sign up for instruction. Currently, about eight million people are certified each year and the American Heart Association wants to double that number.



Public Notice

For Sale: Backpacks, Lowe mens L and womens M, \$30 each; Therma-Rests, \$15 each; Boots, Merrill womens 7.5M, \$20; Vasque mens 10.5M & womens 7.5M, \$25 each. Contact Paul Seaver, pseaver@fandm.edu.

Barn Owl Conservation Initiative

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is expanding its Barn Owl Conservation Initiative into its Southwest Region, seeking information about active and historic barn owl nest sites in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington or Westmoreland counties. Information from other counties is welcome as well.

The primary objective of this program is to help reverse the population decline of this species by locating and monitoring barn owl nest sites and distributing nest boxes to interested landowners.



Barn owls are medium-sized owls with a white face surrounded by a heart-shaped border. They typically have a white belly and a darker, tawny back. In Pennsylvania, barn owls primarily are associated with open grasslands such as meadows, hayfields, and fallow croplands. Open grassland habitat is essential for barn owls because meadow voles make up about 70 percent of their diet. Barn owls also eat other rodents such as mice, rats, and shrews. In rare instances, when rodents are

locally rare, barn owls may occasionally take small birds that roost in open habitats. Because a typical family of barn owls will eat about 3,000 rodents over the course of the breeding and nesting season, barn owls are exceptionally valuable to farmers.

Two indicators of barn owl presence are regurgitated owl pellets, of undigested fur and bone about one to two inches long and, after dark, long hissing shrieks, which are very different from the typical "hoots" of most owls.

Contact Tammy Colt at 724-238-9523 or 4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923.

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Oral Rabies Vaccination Program

In an effort to control rabies in raccoons, the National Park Service began implementation of an oral rabies vaccination program last summer. Small packets, containing a pouch of liquid oral vaccine in the center of fishmeal bait, are air-dropped over target areas. About 75 of the one ounce packets are dropped in each square kilometer.

The program is underway from Maine to Florida on federal, state, and some private land, including national parks and the Appalachian Trail. An environmental assessment is available at www.nps.gov/nero/science/rabies.



KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliation (if any): _____

Basic Individual Membership One Year—\$15	\$
Youth Membership (Under Age 18) One Year—\$5	\$
Brush Cutter Membership One Year—\$20	\$
Blaze Painter Membership One Year—\$30	\$
Trail Builder Membership One Year—\$50	\$
Life Membership One-Time Payment—\$375	\$
Additional contribution*	\$
Total Enclosed	\$

PLEASE NOTE: Organizational members are welcome and should forward the name and contact information for the group's designated KTA representative along with appropriate dues of \$25 per year for clubs and commercial enterprises and \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All dues payments and correspondence should be mailed to: P.O. Box 129, Confluence, PA 15424.

*KTA is certified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. As such contributions are deductible to the extent per-