

NEWSLETTER

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



Serving Pennsylvania's Hikers Since 1956

Spring 2007

Keystone Trails Association Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

Update on ATV Trail Proposals

By Paul Shaw

In the last KTA newsletter, two major ATV proposals involving public lands were detailed. One proposal would create a 792-mile network of ATV trails in Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter counties, including more than 100 miles on state forestlands. An outpouring of opposition was registered at a public meeting in Ridgway in December and in subsequent letters to the sponsor of the report, the North Central Regional Planning and Development Commission. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which funded the study, is requiring a rewrite to delete all references to potential ATV trails on public lands, stating that the original scope of the project was limited to private lands. There does not seem to be enough support from private landowners to sustain an extensive trail network through private lands.

The second proposal, presented to DCNR by the Central Pennsylvania ATV Association, would connect the Bloody Skillet ATV area in the Sproul State Forest with the town of Renovo by creating a 24-mile ATV corridor through Sproul State Forest. In a letter dated January 10, 2007, DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis rejected the

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Pennsylvania Hiking Week

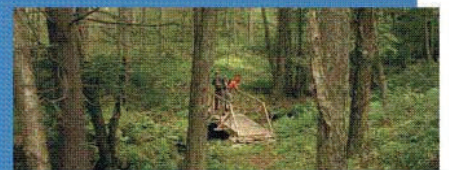
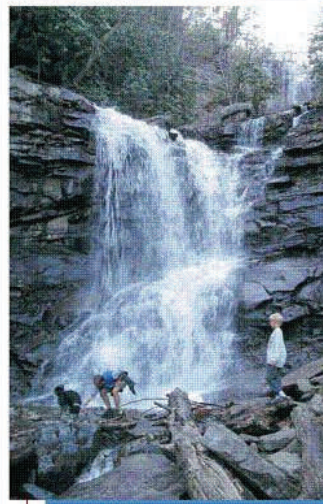
Support Pennsylvania Hiking Week...

Invite friends and neighbors to come along on a hike...

Check the DCNR web site for the list of events...

www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Poster courtesy of DCNR. Photos by Heidi Johnson and Barb Wiemann



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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.

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2007 Trail Care

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 — Basic Wilderness First Aid Training

Held at ATC Scott Farm near Carlisle.
See page 8 for details.
Leaders: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979,
jnlhealey@aol.com or Carl Lorence, 717-234-1524, pastumbler@aol.com

May 18-20 — Donut Hole Trail

Camp at Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association.
Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

July 27-29 — Mid State Trail, State College Region

Camp at Poe Paddy State Park
Leader: Tom Thwaites, 814-237-7703

August 10-12 — Quehanna Trail

Camp location: contact leader by August 4 for location.

Leader: Ralph Seeley, 814-355-2933,
rsbb219@pennswoods.net

September 14-16 — Salt Springs State Park

Camp at Salt Springs State Park
Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

October 5-7 — Delaware State Forest

Camp at Promised Land State Park
Leader: John Motz, 570-236-1462

November 2-4 — Mid State Trail, Everett Region

Camp Location: contact leader
Leader: John Stein, 717 571-4939
steinhike@cs.com

2007 Summer Trail Crew

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, phone 570-655-4979, or email jnlhealey@aol.com.

June 5-10 — Chuck Keiper Trail

Leader: Rich Scanlon, 717-242-1644
Build two bridges, one over Middle Branch on the Cross Connector on the Chuck Keiper Trail and one bridge over Huff Run on the Garby Trail which connects the Donut Hole Trail to the Chuck Keiper.
Camp at a private camp off Coon Road in Sproul State Forest

Build a new seven mile section of the Pinchot Trail on recently acquired land in the Watres Water Shed.
Camp at the Manny Gordon Picnic Area

June 19-24 — Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

Leader: Pete Fleszar, 717-583-2093
Crew will be working their way toward the New York border building new trail.
Camp at Twin Streams Campground, Morris, PA

June 12-17 — Pinchot Trail

Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

New Organizational Members

Forest Coalition

c/o Richard Martin, 740 Oak Hill Road,
Boiling Springs, PA 17007
forestcoalition@aol.com
717-258-5261

Sierra Club—Pennsylvania Chapter

c/o Benjamin W. Cramer, 411 Waupelani Drive, #B-117, State College, PA 16801
pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org
717-232-0101
www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Connecting the next generation to the outdoors . . .
by Thyra Sperry*

When I was a school age kid, I lived in a residential suburb on the edge of New York City in the borough of Queens. After school, all of the kids in the neighborhood would be out on the street playing tag, kick the can, stoop ball and roller skating, dreaming up all kinds of outdoor games until we were called in to supper. In the summer, I was lucky to be able to spend time outdoors with my grandfather on his rural property in Connecticut.

I learned at the Governor's Conference in State College, that too many kids today are spending more time indoors at the computer, with their I-Pods and video games, cell phones and television. In other words, kids growing up today are losing their connection with nature. This is not only an issue in Pennsylvania but across the nation. These issues have the potential to impact children's health, the vitality of our rural areas, quality of life and connection to nature and the outdoors. Some families feel that it is not safe to be outdoors in the city, town or rural areas.

This is a real wake up call to us to be more innovative in engaging youth in our hiking activities and the stewardship of natural resources.

Complex forces are affecting the public's relationship to the outdoors. Changing user participation, leisure time preferences, shifting demographics and development and land use trends are affecting our connection to nature.

The impacts will be on public health and childhood development, environmental protection, public access to open space and the protection of our outdoor heritage.

Future generations hold the key to maintaining and managing our precious resources. We will need to explore ways to reach out to and involve young people in the outdoors in a manner that they will understand and relate to. There is a need to convince people to step outside and experience our outdoors. How is the best way to reach our audience and actively engage them in hiking and the outdoors? New ideas are being explored to help deepen connections to the outdoors among inactive users. People need safe access to outdoor resources and recreation in their own areas. We need to encourage collaborative approaches on public and private lands. There is a need to carefully manage and protect our natural resources and outdoor recreation for future use and enjoyment. If our youth are not actively engaged in the outdoors and educated about the value of our land and waters while they are young. We risk not building a generation of stewards. We are living in a world of technology and information overload.

Future generations hold the key to maintaining our outdoor heritage and precious resources.

As a follow up to this innovative conference, meetings will be held throughout the state to take the findings from the conference to meetings in Erie, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton to gather additional ideas. You can bet that I will attend at least one of these meetings.

You may want to check your library for the book entitled *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv.

“We only save what we love and we only love what we know” / Larry Schweiger

Thyra Sperry

[Ed. Note: The web site for follow-up information and post-conference proceedings from the Governor's Outdoor Conference is www.connectoutdoors.state.pa.us.]

KTA News

Spring Council Update

The KTA Spring Council meeting was held March 31 at the Kings Gap Environmental Center. About 40 members were in attendance.

President Sperry opened the meeting by outlining KTA's accomplishments during the past six months and the progress made toward meeting the goals of KTA's strategic plan. **Treasurer Kelliher** reported that KTA has now transferred its investments to "green" funds.

Council approved three amendments to the Bylaws:

- Changing the name of the Trails Policy Committee to the Trail Club Services Committee. The new name better describes the function and purpose of the committee.
- Establishing a procedure for filling Representatives-at-Large vacancies. The Nominating Committee will propose candidate(s) for any un-expired term(s) and then Council will vote upon the nominee at a regular or special meeting or by mail or email.
- Authorizing the possible expansion of the Board of Directors. The Board will now consist of at least nine, but not more than fifteen members, serving staggered three year terms with at least three but not more than five members elected each year.

Following these amendment changes, the Council unanimously approved **Linda Enders Roxberry** to fill the un-expired Representative at Large term of **Chris Firme**, who had resigned his At Large seat to accept a Board position.

Board Actions

The KTA Board also met at Kings Gap on March 31. The Board approved changing the name of the Fund for Keystone Trail Lands to the Land Easement and Acquisition Fund (LEAF). The new name reflects the expected uses of the fund. LEAF will also serve as a source of loan funds. See page 11 for details.

The Board authorized Publications Chair **Wayne Gross** to explore the possibility of publishing a guide to the Allegheny Front Trail.

Publications Committee

Cramer New PHT Editor

Ben Cramer has accepted the volunteer position of General Editor of the 13th edition of Pennsylvania Hiking Trails, KTA's comprehensive guide to more than 3000 miles of hiking trails in the state. He anticipates that the new edition will be ready for sale next February.

A native of northwestern Pennsylvania, Cramer is now a resident of State College and is a PhD candidate. He credits Tom Thwaites' *50 Hikes* books for inspiring him to turn a natural interest in hiking and backpacking into a lasting hobby. He has completed the Bucktail, Quehanna, Loyalsock, Susquehanna, Donut Hole, Black Forest, West Rim, and Chuck Keiper trails, most of then in both directions. He has also hiked much of the Mid State and Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. To date he has hiked nearly 2600 miles on Pennsylvania's hiking trails.

Regional Editors working with Cramer are **Henry Frank**, Philadelphia, Regions 1 and 2.; **Tom Thwaites**, State College, Region 3; **Mike Lipay**, Plum, Region 4; **Jerry Hoffman**, Evans

New Trail Ahead - Make a Gift From Your IRA

By Thyra Sperry

If you have an IRA and want to support hiking and trails in Pennsylvania, you can make a charitable rollover gift to Keystone Trails Association. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 contains legislation helping charities and donors.

This newly enacted law will allow individuals age 70 1/2 and above to make current gifts from their IRA accounts directly to charity. Effective as of August 3, 2006 until the end of 2007, these individuals may be able to rollover tax-free up to \$100,000 annually of IRA assets directly to KTA. There will be no tax due on the withdrawal from the IRA and correspondingly, no charitable deduction.

This is a landmark way to protect our Pennsylvania hiking trails. As KTA does not provide tax or legal advice, please check with your tax advisor.

City, Region 5; **Jim Ritchie**, Pittsburgh, Region 6; **Ralph Seeley and Cramer**, State College, Region 7; **Lorraine and Joe Healey**, Laflin, Region 8; and **Wayne Gross**, Cresco, Region 9.

Photos Needed By June 15

The Publications Committee is searching for slides or digital photos of hiking trails throughout Pennsylvania for the next editions of *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails* and the *Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Guide*. The photographs should show the special places of Pennsylvania's hiking trails. Photographers will be credited. Please indicate location of photo and name of trail where taken. **Photographs for Pennsylvania Hiking Trails should be submitted by June 15, 2007.** Send photographs to Publications Committee Chair, Wayne E. Gross, P.O. Box 42, Cresco, PA 18326. Email questions to wegseg@msn.com.

New Nominating Chair Appointed

Ed Lawrence, a resident of Orangeville, has been appointed Chair of the KTA Nominating Committee. Very active in KTA's Trail Care program, Ed is Vice-President of the Mid State Trail Association and maintains a section of that trail. He represents the interests of non-motorized users for the Sierra Club on DCNR's Snowmobile and ATV Advisory committee.

Carl Davis, of Wellsboro, and **Lorraine Healey**, of Laflin, will continue to serve on the Committee.

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.

The Committee is soliciting nominations for the above positions. See page 13 for complete details.

KTA Name Review

By Thyra Sperry

Consistent with our strategic plan adopted by the Council and Board of Directors, we are considering an important change in the name of this organization to better position the organization for success in the years ahead. We are seeking a name which would be a much better fit with our responsibility to protect and promote hiking trail lands in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We possibly have outgrown the name Keystone Trails Association which

.....
We have earned the right to proudly declare that we ... are focused on preserving Pennsylvania's premier hiking experience forever.
.....

originated in 1956 when the organization was primarily a coordinator of clubs. We have earned the right to proudly declare that we—all of us who work tirelessly to maintain our hiking trails — are focused on preserving Pennsylvania's premier hiking experience forever.

We believe a name change is not only a clear signal to others of our roles as maintainers of the Pennsylvania hiking experience, but it also gives us a better platform for securing

more partnerships, recruiting new volunteers and members, and maintaining the financial independence as we work with an array of partners. Reality, unfortunately, finds us at a critical juncture.

Many trail users do not see a reason to join an organization, that if they knew about it at all, exists only to coordinate the "real work" done by others. If KTA is going to survive well into the 22nd century, we must lay the groundwork now for raising our profile and growing our membership base. Without a higher public profile and broader public support,

.....
We need to be able to fend off threats such as loss of land to hiking trails.
.....

we will be unable to provide the trail member clubs and affiliates with the financial and other support that they have identified as an essential need. We need to be able to fend off threats such as loss of land to hiking trails. It may be necessary and overdue, a natural step forward from our role as protector of trails and as advocate for protection of hiking trail and trail lands. Today, I want to help ensure that our children and grandchildren maintain their connection to nature and can enjoy the hiking trails and lands in Pennsylvania.

To achieve our vision of enduring, protected trails and special hiking places we must consider this new chapter of the association's strong history.

The hiking trails in the commonwealth have been made spectacular over the years by the love and hard work of hundreds of people such as you. With your continued help and support, we will keep it that way.

Serving on the Name Review Committee are Chair **Charles Glanville, M. Virginia Musser, John Stein, Steve Stroman, Barb Wiemann and Mary Young.**

Please direct your comments to me at hikesperry@aol.com.

In Memorium:

Mel Brinton 1916-2007

By Maurice J. Forrester, Jr.

Milford J. Brinton, who served KTA as its secretary for the first 18 years of the organization's existence, died on January 11, 2007, at the age of 90. Mel -- as he was known to all his KTA friends -- was the last surviving member of the quartet who got together in Catoctin, Maryland, in the fall of 1955 and conceived the idea of forming a statewide Pennsylvania hiking federation. It was this new group that formally became Keystone Trails Association at a meeting in Harrisburg in January 1956. The other members of the 'founding four' were Earl Shaffer, Fred Blackburn, and Dick Roessler.



Mel Brinton wearing his Brandywine Valley Outing Club windbreaker. Photo by Karen Lutz.

For many years Mel was a scoutmaster, and he and his Boy Scout Troop maintained a section of the AT in Pennsylvania in the Saint Anthony's Wilderness area. In addition, back in the days when the KTA Annual Meeting was held at Camp Michaux each year, Mel and his troop would take charge of the kitchen, preparing and serving each meal, as well as doing all the clean-up afterwards.

Perhaps Mel's most important KTA role was that of the driving force that kept the group functioning and moving ahead during the trying and uncertain early years. Mel was surely one of the two most important figures at the beginning of KTA. The other is George Spring who served as president of KTA from 1957 through 1966. Neither has ever received the level of recognition they deserved, although both did receive KTA's Citation Award, George in 1966, and Mel the following year.

I recall an incident that occurred at a KTA Annual Meeting a year or two after I replaced Mel as secretary. A longtime KTA member approached me to inquire about something related to the meeting and she called me 'Mel.' I took that as a compliment.

Contributors to Annual Fund Appeal

(Jan. 6 thru March 20)

Individuals: **Kathryn H. Barker, Thomas R. Brecht, Robert F. Davey, Jr., John A. Dulik, George E. Farley, Yvonne-Denise Gisler, Julie T. Glanville, Richard H. Hiemenz, James Jordan, Thomas P. Kelliher, A. Anthony Kilkuskie, C. Fred Liming, Richard E. Littlefield, Helen Marquard, George E. Martin, Ferrell C. Moultrie, M. Virginia Musser, Joan R. Paswell, Ralph & Colina Jordan-Seeley, John B. Seville, Daniel .F. Styer, Robert P. Thomas, Marlise Wise**

Clubs: **Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club, Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club**

Along Our Trails

Appalachian Trail

PA 944 Underpass

A Harrisburg firm has begun the survey and design work for a hiker tunnel under PA 944 in Cumberland County. The engineering, permitting and bid construction specifications should be completed this fall, with construction commencing in early 2008. Hopefully, hikers will be using the underpass by the summer of 2008. The underpass will be about 70 feet long and not visible by motorists. Design and engineering funding is coming from DCNR's Bureau of Conservation and Recreation, with construction costs covered by PennDOT.

AT License Plate

Pennsylvania State Representative Mike Carroll (D-118, Luzerne, Monroe, and Northampton Counties) has agreed to introduce a bill to authorize a state AT plate. If enacted, ATC would receive \$15 for each tag sold. Any funds generated by the sale of these plates would stay in Pennsylvania to support state AT projects, programs and partners.

Biennial Conference

The ATC Biennial Conference will be held at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ July 13-20. Online registration is at www.ramapo2007.org.

Horse-Shoe Trail

The Superintendent of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site in Berks County has invited the Horse-Shoe Trail Club to re-route the trail through Hopewell Village. The Club plans to use existing trails. In keeping with the historical nature of the site, trail turns will be marked with yellow painted horse shoes (this was the way the trail was originally marked). Hikers will not be charged an admission fee unless they wish to see the exhibits.

Charlestown Township, Chester County, held a brunch in April to recognize and thank landowners who permit the H-ST to cross their property. Brecknock Township, Berks County, is planning a First Volkswalk on the the trail; the event is a celebration of the landowners in the township who allow the trail on their land.

Mason-Dixon Trail

A private landowner, Richard Lund, constructed a new foot-bridge that services the trail on his property. The M-DTS thanks Mr. Lund for his support of the trail.

Also thanks to two landowners, County Line Quarry and the Water Street Rescue Mission, a dangerous road walk on PA 624 has been eliminated (see Hiker Alerts on page 9 for the new trail description).

North Country Trail

All four chapters of the North Country Trail Association (Wampum, Butler County, Clarion County, and Allegheny National Forest) have been busy improving and extending the NCT in the state.

The Wampum Chapter has reassembled a 12-foot long bridge near Tony Dytko Road. Ron Rice has a 16-foot long bridge with railings awaiting installations over Snake Run. When it is in place, the Chapter will be able to finish trail construction through the Ce-

mex property. This will add five miles of new trail to the NCT. In addition, the Chapter has received permission from landowners Dennis and Cathy Garret to cross their property. This will allow the Chapter to build another two miles of new trail.

The Allegheny National Forest Chapter and the Baker Trail have built a 16-foot long bridge over Coon Creek and have erected



Helen Coyne and Dave Galbreath, NCT, and Doug Turner and Bill McILroy, Baker Trail, with the newly installed sign. Ron Rice (NCT) made the sign and took the photo.

a new signpost at the juncture of the Baker Trail and the North Country Trail in the ANF.

Dan Mourer of the Butler Chapter constructed the sections of the 48-foot long Bear's Mouth Bridge that crosses the North Branch of Bear Creek near Parker. Installation was scheduled for last month.

The Clarion Chapter and the Baker Trail have started trail work on the NC trail relocation between Gravel Lick Road and Cooks Forest in Game Lands 283.

Quehanna Trail

The Quehanna Area Trails Club is undertaking an ambitious trail-blazing project this year, painting all trail sections and side trails that were not painted last year. QATC, in cooperation with the Bureau of Forestry, will supply maintainers with latex boundary paint.

Standing Stone Trail

The Standing Stone Trail Club ("the trail club formerly known as Link") is implementing its trail master plan, including developing trail towns and planning for the trail's first shelter in the Rothrock State Forest. The Club is building graphic files to prepare new improved trail maps. For more information about club activities and trail updates visit the club's new web site www.hike-sst.org

(Continued on page 7)

Along Our Trails

My Favorite Trail ... *Sand Run Falls Trail*

By Liz Berkowitz

The sun's up and promises to warm the banks of Sand Run before noon. It's May in Tioga County and I can barely wait to get outside and be a part of it! My fingers stumble in excitement as I rush to lace up my new hiking boots. I reach for my day pack and go over the checklist in my head. Water, snacks, first aid kit, headlamp and of course my dog-eared guide to wild flowers. A beautiful, twenty minute drive later I'm at the trail head to Sand Run Falls and ready to go. I walk into the woods and everything slows down. This is the perfect time of year to shake off that winter slump and start hiking again! Temperatures are cool and comfortable. No bugs, no undergrowth and lots of wildflowers waking up and rising out of last year's leaves.

Now is the time to be a hiker. Who is a hiker? What is it that hikers do that make them feel they can, well, call themselves hikers? To be a hiker you need only to have a desire to walk in the woods and then go do it. People ask me all the time, "What do I need to go hiking?" New boots, a pack, rain jacket? Maybe. Hiking equipment will allow certain freedoms and comforts, such as staying dry on a rainy day. But all you really need is a sense of adventure. The desire to know what's around the bend in the trail or wondering if a waterfall is just another half a mile up the creek. You might find yourself craving dried fruit and Snickers bars. Nothing has ever tasted as good as water or a plain bagel with peanut butter smeared over it! Stopping to watch a bird build its nest or sitting on a mossy, wet log at level with spring beauty and hepatica so thick and brilliant white you forget it's not snow but spring flowers. These are the little things that a hiker craves. These are the little things that make Tioga County one of the most beautiful places in the Mid-Atlantic States and this is the reason you should lace up your boots and be a hiker.



If you'd like to hike Sand Run Falls Trail it can be found just outside of Arnot, PA. A seven mile circuit hike consisting of easy ups and downs, the trail is rocky in places and wet through most of the year, especially springtime. You'll find a rewarding waterfall at Sand Run as well as a good selection of wild flowers throughout spring and summer. If you're still wanting for more, try wandering up the streams that meet at Sand Run Falls. You'll find many other waterfalls and a true feeling of solitude. For more information about this hike or wildflower books visit Wild Asaph Outfitters of Wellsboro, PA, or email the author at dothemountain@yahoo.com.

Photo by Liz Berkowitz

[Ed. Note: We are looking for more trails to feature in this column. Send your nomination to Barb Wiemann (address on page 2)]

(Continued from page 6)



Tuscarora Trail

PATC's Silberman Trail Center, located on Aughwick Creek north of Cowans Gap in Fulton County, will be dedicated on May 6. The rental cabin sleeps 10-12 persons in two bunkrooms and features an elevated front porch with a splendid view of the valley.

Warrior Trail

The West Greene Community Development Agency will be installing a "Memory Medallion" containing information about the Warrior Trail at the Moninger Shelter. The Agency is placing these markers at sites throughout the community.

Mosquito Creek Bridge on Quehanna Trail

Nine Boy Scouts and Scouters representing the Order of the Arrow repaired the undermined pier with stone and then installed a stone filled gabion basket in front of the pier to prevent further erosion. Photo by George Lockey.

Maintainers Corner

Use latex paint!

The Bureau of Forestry has noticed that the continued use of oil-based paint damages the cambium layer of trees and has started to kill a number of trees. Therefore, latex boundary paint is the preferred paint type for blazing; however, quality exterior satin or semi-gloss may be used. A quart of paint should be sufficient to paint 2-3 miles of trail.

Photo shows a damaged tree blazed with oil-based paint.



Blazing and Brushing Guidelines

George Lockey of the Quehanna Area Trails Club has compiled a concise and informative illustrated three page guide for blazing and brushing a hiking trail. He will email a copy to anyone who contacts him at george1@penn.com.

Basic Wilderness First Aid Course

KTA and the Standing Stone Trail Club will conduct a Basic Wilderness First Aid Course on May 12 at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Scott Farm near Carlisle. The eight-hour course will be taught by John Buburchuck from Windbar under the auspices of the Bucks County Community College. The course is free, thanks to DCNR's Matt Beaver, who provided funding for the course. There is a small bunkhouse and both tenting and car camping are available for those who travel a distance to attend. A light lunch will be provided for a free will offering. Pre-registration is required and the group is limited to 25 students. See page 2 for registration information.

Exotic Invasive Plant Identification Workshop

The Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club is sponsoring an exotic invasive plant workshop on June 3 at the Arboretum in Bernville. Betsy Lyman from the National Park Service is the instructor. The all day session includes classroom and hands-on trail work. Pre-registration is required. Contact Linda Enders Roxberry at 610-775-3004, lenders1@yahoo.com.

Trail Care Report

Keystone State Park

By Joe Healey

It was another wet and muddy weekend in Keystone State Park. We had a good turn out even though it was wet and muddy. Eleven KTA and eight Raphael House of Adelphei Village volunteers showed up to play in the mud.

We installed two make shift bridges and dug about a half mile of sidehill. Sunday turned out a lot better and we put in some drainage pipes and planted a sign. We logged 216 volunteer hours.

Attendees: **Tom Bastian, Claudia Boenner, Bill Dietrich, Gil Gilson, Brenden Hart, Joe Healey, Josh Kiss, Ed Lawrence, Jack Leshner, Derick Long, Dave Maxwell, Catherine McGlauhnan, John Pedraza, Mary Pitzer, Ryan Roth, Tom Thwaites, Turner Ulvy, Tom Washko.**

Trail Crew Opportunities

For those avid maintainers who enjoy their trail work in longer doses, these KTA member clubs and affiliated groups offer volunteers more opportunities to get dirty for a good cause (membership may be required).

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club sponsors 10 weeks of trail crews in the Shenandoah National Park and George Washington/Thomas Jefferson National Forest. The crew weeks are great opportunities to learn new skills, meet new friends, and accomplish some great work. Housing and meals are provided. Complete details are available at http://patc.net/volunteer/trails/files/Volunteer_crew07.pdf.

The **ATC Mid Atlantic Crew** tackles larger projects on the Appalachian Trail from the New York-Connecticut line to Rockfish Gap in Virginia. The crew season runs for eight weeks in September and October. For details go to www.appalachiantrail.org and choose "Volunteer".

The **American Hiking Society** offers over 100 Volunteer Vacations, one or two week trail work trips at varied locations in some of America's most remote wild places. For details go to www.americanhiking.org/events.

Conservation Easement Stories

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association's *In Their Own Words: Fifteen Stories of Conservation and Inspiration* relates the experiences and reflections of individuals and families who have made the choice to protect their land by donating it or entering into conservation easements.

A conservation easement, an agreement between the landowner and a private land trust or government, allows the owner to retain control and ownership, but limits certain uses on part or all of a property. The easement binds present and future owners.

Most conservation easements are donated to protect the unspoiled character of the land. Other easements may be sold at fair market value or bargain prices; bargain sales and donations that meet IRS requirements can result in federal tax benefits.

These short first person stories are meant to inspire and motivate other landowners to conserve their land and the booklet can be used when discussing easements with landowners.

Anyone interested in receiving a copy of *In Their Own Words* may contact a local land trust; if you are unsure of which organizations work in your community, visit www.conserveland.org and use the "Find a Land Trust" feature or contact PALTA at 105 Locust Street, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17101, 717-230-8560. An online version of *In Their Own Words* is also available at <http://conserveland.org/information/ITOW/index>.



"To be effective and to make a difference, each of us must be willing to widen our views, even if only slightly. We must move outside of our comfort zones. If you are a trail maintainer, consider writing at least one letter per year about an issue. If you've never worked on a trail, think about joining one work outing a year."—Jane Daniels, NYNJTC Trail Walker.

Hiker Products

Rite in the Rain

Do you want to protect your hiking journal from rain or an unexpected dunking in a stream? The J. L. Darling Company produces "Rite in the Rain" all-weather writing paper and offers it in a variety of journals to meet the needs of many types of users, including hikers and backpackers. The company's web site at www.riteintherain.com details various products, contains "cool stories," (testimonials from satisfied customers who have used the paper in extreme conditions), and lists dealers and retail outlets.



Bungee Backpack

A new backpack design that uses elastic cords to minimize the pack's vertical motion could lessen bodily strain on wearers and reduce the effort required to carry a load, according to its inventor, professor Lawrence Rome of the University of Pennsylvania.

Walking and especially running with a conventional backpack puts strain on joints and muscles because, with each footfall, the wearer must reverse the downward momentum of both body and load. "When you run with a normal pack, it bounces up and down, and the wearer repeatedly gets squeezed in the vise between the load and the ground," Rome says.

In the new pack, a bungee cord suspends the load from an external frame. While the frame straps firmly to the wearer's back, the load rises and falls very little with each step. In walking trials, the peak vertical force exerted by a 27-kilogram, suspended-load backpack was just one-sixth that exerted by a conventional, fixed backpack.

The new pack also saves the wearer effort. Carrying a 27-kg suspended load required no more metabolic power than carrying a 21.7-kg conventional load, the experiments showed. Rome and his colleagues describe their innovations in the Dec. 21/28, 2006, issue of *Nature*.

Rome previously designed a backpack that converts energy from the wearer's steps into electricity and has created a company to commercialize both products.

Hiker Health

Tick Talk

Diane Paxson of the Susquehanna Trailers reports that a friend who found a deer tick on her body became very ill and was diagnosed with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. She acquired the tick in Berks County.



Diane urges everyone who discovers a tick to get a blood test that checks for Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. RMSF is more prevalent in the Mid-Atlantic States than in the Rockies, and is more damaging and deadly than the more highly publicized Lyme disease. The same antibiotic treats both RMSF and ehrlichiosis.

Hikers can apply repellents to discourage tick attachment. Repellents containing permethrin can be sprayed on boots and clothing, and will last for several days. Repellents containing DEET (n, n-diethyl-m-toluamide) can be applied to the skin, but will last

only a few hours before re-application is necessary. Application of large amounts of DEET on children has been associated with adverse reactions.

To learn more about RMSF, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rmsf/index.htm.

Hiker Alerts

Mason-Dixon Trail

Map 3, east to west (Murphy's Hollow/Grace Plateau Relocation)

County High Point Park will soon provide parking just beyond the intersection.

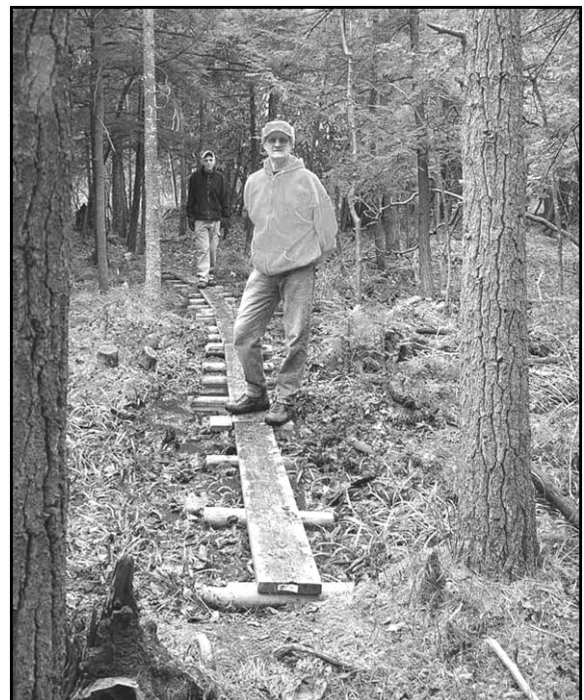
0.4 Turn left on a paved private drive; pass through the iron gate and soon turn right down to a small wet area before climbing to the top of the hill. This is private property – stay on the trail! Descend by large switchbacks to Murphy's Hollow Stream.

1.3 Pass under PA 624 through large culvert. In about 300 ft. a yellow blazed trail leads to Murphy Hollow Rd. where there is parking. (The entrance to Murphy Hollow Rd. states "Private Property – Keep Out", but hikers have permission to park here.) Climb hill with excellent winter views of the river. Descend by switchbacks to Lockwood Rd., turn left 100 ft. to PA 624.

2.2 Turn right onto PA 624 and cross Kreutz Creek.

2.5 Pass parking area on right down at the river. Join up with old trail and add 0.4 miles to rest of mileages on map.

A map of the relocation is available on the M-DTS web site at www.masondixontrail.org/images/Maps/Waterstreet_Relocation.jpg.



One of the projects during the November KTA Trail Care on the Quehanna Trail was construction of a bog bridge in Laurel Swamp near the old Three Runs Fire Tower. Pictured are Ed Rakowsky (front) and Leo Boyer (rear). Photo by George Lockey.

Partner News

DCNR News

Grace Named Deputy Secretary

James Grace, State Forester since 1994, has been named Department of Conservation and Natural Resources deputy secretary for State Parks and State Forests. He will be responsible for the direction of both Bureaus and the Bureau of Facility Design and Construction.

3,000 Acres Added to Tioga State Forest

3,000 acres of land have been added to the Tioga State Forest, thanks to a donation from the Bob and Marion Jones family. The forested tract is located near Morris Run in Hamilton, Ward and Union Townships in Tioga County. Much of the property is younger northern hardwood stands, which will help the Tioga State Forest to achieve its management goal of balancing the age class of its forest. Under DCNR's Forest Stewardship Council's certified management, this new addition will provide recreation, watershed protection, wildlife habitat and quality forest products.

Lyman Run State Park

Construction of the new dam at Lyman Run State Park in Potter County is nearing completion, and the park lake should be available for fishing and limited boating by late spring or early summer. The \$17 million project was begun in 2000.

\$22.6 Million for Recreation, Conservation Projects

DCNR has awarded 183 grants worth \$22.6 million to fund a variety of recreation and conservation projects across the state. While many grants will pay for swimming pools, playgrounds, ball fields, and skateboard parks, several will fund recreational trails.

One million dollars of this total will fund continuing development of the **Great Allegheny Passage Trail**, which is scheduled to be completed in time for Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary in 2008. The new nine-mile section will run from McKeesport to Glenwood Bridge in Pittsburgh.

Two grants totaling almost \$390,000 will fund construction of sections of the **D & L Trail** in Carbon and Luzerne Counties. Included is the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Lehigh River at Jim Thorpe, the development of the trail on the former Lehigh Valley Railroad between Middleburg Road in Dennison Township and Tubbs County Park in Plains Township, and construction between the Lehigh Gap Nature Center and Lizard Creek in Carbon County.

In Venango County, \$200,000 will further development of a 1.8 mile segment of the **Oil Creek Trail** from Rynd Farm to McClintock Well #1. In York County, \$40,000 will prepare a trail plan that will serve as a guidebook for development of trails and trail linkages across York County. And in Westmoreland County, \$35,000 will pay for further development of approximately 3.3 miles of the **Coal and Coke Trail**.

Funding for the grants comes from Growing Greener II, a voter-approved, \$625 million bond issue, and Keystone 93, a DCNR fund generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax.

DCNR received 403 applications looking for more than \$62.5 million in assistance for these types of projects. For a complete list of grants by county, visit the DCNR Web site at www.dcnr.state.pa.us and click on "Grants."

ANF Releases New Forest Plan

FAW To Continue Fight for More Wilderness

The Allegheny National Forest's new Forest Plan, released in March, recommends that Congress authorize two new wilderness areas - Chestnut Ridge and Minister Valley - totaling about 13,000 acres.

Six other areas (about 40,000 acres) proposed for wilderness designation in the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness' *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest* were not recommended in the FS plan.

Since only Congress can set aside wilderness areas, FAW will continue to ask members of Congress to protect all eight places. "We urge everyone to take the time to read and digest the entire management plan and environmental impact statement, and bear in mind the needs and demands of all users of the Allegheny National Forest, including the vast majority who desire more wilderness," according to John Bartlett, FAW Field Representative.

21 local, regional, and national organizations, with a combined membership of more than 400,000, have formally moved to endorse the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal*.

Lehigh Gap Nature Center



The Wildlife Information Center, located on the Kittatinny Ridge at Lehigh Gap, has changed its name to the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. The Center's 750-acre wildlife refuge is adjacent to the Appalachian Trail corridor, and the 160-mile D & L Trail passes through the Refuge. The Center's nature and hiking trails are open to the public. A trail map and guide is available online at www.lgnc.org/LGWR%20Guide.htm.

Susquehanna Water Gap Coalition

The Susquehanna Water Gap Coalition was formed in January to protect the Gap and surrounding waters and lands. The Coalition wants to protect the beauty and natural resources of the Gap, serve as a clearinghouse/communication network for information on threats to the Gap, and help citizens and governments act to protect the Gap. Special attention is being given to the Kittatinny Ridge and proposed mountain slope developments north of Harrisburg.

To join the group's listserv, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swgcpa> and join at the upper left of the page (if you are not a Yahoo groups member, you must first join). For more information contact Cliff Dillmann at 717-645-3696, egret@comcast.net.

Hunters harvested an estimated 361,560 deer during the 2006-07 hunting season. With a state land area of 44,820 sq miles, that's the equivalent of about 8 deer for each square mile.

Trail Views

By Paul Shaw, KTA Executive Director

If you're like me, you're always looking forward to your next hiking adventure. It doesn't matter so much if the adventure is near or far, a day hike or a two week backpack. We love them all. Let me tell you about my all-time favorite adventure.

In August 2003, a small group of friends and I went to Iceland to experience the 5-day Landmannalaugar to Skogar trek, described by *Lonely Planet* as one of the great walks of the world. We flew into Reykjavik and spent two very enjoyable days exploring the capital and environs, retiring in the evening to the Ugly Duckling Hotel, with better accommodations than it sounds. While in Reykjavik, we were treated to the national delicacy "hakarl" which is putrified shark meat that has been buried in sand for three to six months to ensure sufficient decomposition. Gagging is guaranteed! Fortunately, we were provided the local antidote, brennivin, a type of schnapps made from potatoes and flavored with caraway. Also known as Black Death, one swig of brennivin immediately kills the taste of rotten shark.

On the third day, we took a bus to the start of our trek at Landmannalaugar, a hot spring nestled among a range of bare multi-colored rhyolite mountains. After a refreshing swim in the hot spring, we hoisted our packs and began our trek. Immediately we entered a netherworld of lava flows and steaming vents spouting sulfurous fumes. We passed numerous boiling springs, and at one point had to hop over a boiling stream. Not a place to fall in! Near the trail was a roaring hole loudly spewing forth boiling water. In folklore, this hole was considered to be a gateway to hell. By the end of the day, we reached a cold, desolate, windswept campsite surrounded by patches of snow. It was starkly beautiful.

The second day of our trek took us across a black sand desert notorious for wind storms. Fortunately for us, it was a calm, sunny day. After several hours of hiking in the barren desert, we crested a ridge and looked down upon an amazing scene which we called our Oz moment. Instead of black sand and sulfurous vents, we looked down on the pristine green Alftavatn Valley which leads to a large lake. To the left, we had our first views of a huge glacier while straight ahead loomed pointed volcanic peaks. That night we camped in a meadow where, during the brief darkness, we witnessed the aurora borealis.

Highlights of the next two days included crossing several ice cold glacial streams, passing through Dr. Seuss landscapes, and walking through one of the few Icelandic forests, where the tallest trees are 12 feet high and six inches in diameter. After leaving the forest, we began our crossing of the mountains that would lead us to our destination, the coastal village of Skogar. These mountains have a reputation for having the worst weather in Iceland, a reputation we quickly confirmed. Whereas the forested valley of Porsmark was sunny and 60°F., the temperature quickly dropped and the skies darkened as we climbed. We came to a knife edge where the path narrowed to five feet wide with a sheer drop of hundreds of feet on either side. In the middle of the knife edge is a rock step to increase the challenge and throw you off balance.

Higher up the trail, I looked back on the mountain valley we had just left and counted three spectacular waterfalls. Continuing our ascent, steel cables were bolted into the mountain side to keep hikers from falling off the trail. Near the top, it began to sleet as we crossed a small glacier heading to a hut described in the guidebook as "Paradise in the Mountains." Cold, exhausted, we were dismayed to find the dirty, decrepit hut fully occupied by a group of backpackers from Lithuania, just beginning a coast-to-coast trek. Just as we began to set up our tents in the sleet, the only English speaker implored us to come in and share the hut. Despite the tight accommodations, we spent a memorable evening with our Eastern European friends, listening to their folk singing, and joining in with Beatles songs which everyone knew.

At trail's end, we knew we had completed the trip of a lifetime. The Icelandic landscape is like none other on earth, and dramatically changes from one day to the next. Though challenging, the trail is well-marked and well-maintained. If you ever want an extreme break from the lush mountains and forests of Pennsylvania, I highly recommend Iceland.

See you on the trail!

Paul



Board Approves Loan Fund for Clubs

By Paul Shaw

Funding for KTA's consolidated grant application is expected by late summer. At that time, participating clubs will receive 50% of their requested funds up front, with the balance received at later benchmarks. To assist clubs with purchases of tools and materials when only 50% of the funds are in hand, the KTA Board of Directors at its March 31 meeting approved making up to \$12,000 available as loans to clubs through the renamed Land Easement and Acquisition Fund (LEAF). Only clubs that are part of the current consolidated grant application are eligible.

Loan applications, available on the KTA website, must be submitted to KTA's Grants and Loans Committee for consideration by a date to be determined. The Grants and Loans Committee, chaired by Katie Barker, also includes Representatives-at-Large Linda Enders Roxberry and Mike Jackson.

Loans are capped at \$5000 and must be repaid when the balance of funds is received from DCNR. A nominal 2% interest rate will be charged for each loan to help cover administrative costs. Repaid loans will be reinvested in the LEAF fund.

The KTA consolidated grant program, coupled with the LEAF loans, dramatically increases the funds available to member clubs for the maintenance and construction of hiking trails throughout Pennsylvania. It is anticipated that this will become an annual program with KTA again soliciting proposals from clubs next fall.

Plants and Animals

Bald Eagles Nesting In Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Game Commission officials have confirmed the first known bald eagle nest in Philadelphia County in more than 200 years. The confirmation of an eagle nest within the Philadelphia City limits demonstrates the resilience of this species and its apparent growing tolerance to human activity, according to the Commission.

Officials will not reveal the exact location of the nest site to avoid drawing unnecessary attention and possible disturbance to the nest.

Last year, Game Commission biologists were able to confirm 116 active nests that produced at least 134 young, which marked a new record for bald eagles in Pennsylvania. So far, the agency has received reports of at least nine new eagle nests this year. Bald eagles are nesting in at least 31 of the state's 67 counties.

The state's largest concentrations of bald eagles are found in three geographic areas: Crawford, Mercer and Erie counties; along the lower Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Chester, Lancaster and York counties; and the Poconos and Upper Delaware River region.

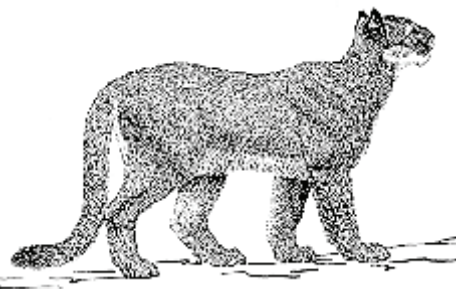
To learn more about bald eagles, visit the Game Commission's website at www.pgc.state.pa.us, click on "Wildlife" in the left column, then select "Endangered and Threatened Species," and choose "Bald Eagle."



Mountain Lions in PA?

Status Review Underway

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is beginning a review of scientific and commercial information to determine the status of the endangered eastern cougar, the first review the Service has done since publishing a recovery plan in 1982. The eastern cougar is also known as a puma, panther, painter, catamount, or mountain lion.



The USFWS placed the eastern cougar on the Endangered and Threatened Wildlife List in 1973. The last known Pennsylvania native mountain lion was killed in Berks County in 1874.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working to compile and evaluate scientific evidence to understand the status of the eastern cougar and to determine what future actions the Service should take. Lacking definitive evidence of the species' existence, the Service has presumed the eastern cougar to be extinct. According to the USFWS, it is improbable that a small cougar population persisted in the eastern states for over a century.

Most of the confirmed cougar records since 1950 (animals killed, good quality photos/videos, genetic evidence) are known to

be escapes of captive origin. There may be thousands of captive cougars in the eastern United States.

"An important part of the Service's review will be to compile the best available scientific evidence and objectively assess whether the eastern cougar is truly extinct," said Mark McCollough, endangered species biologist in the Service's Northeast Region.

The Endangered Species Act requires a review every five years of all protected species. However, limited resources and higher priorities have postponed the review for the Eastern cougar until now. For additional information on the eastern cougar, see www.fws.gov/northeast/ECougar. Information on the USFWS' endangered species program may be found at www.fws.gov/endangered.

The USFWS has requested that anyone wishing to submit information regarding the eastern cougar may do so by writing to: Eastern Cougar, Northeast Regional Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035. Comments also may be submitted via e-mail to EasternCougar@fws.gov.

DCNR Study Uncovers Trouble: Deer Taking Heavy Toll on Vegetation

Preliminary findings from extensive state forest studies of the effect of white-tailed deer populations on woodland regeneration show habitat damage is found throughout the Commonwealth, but is heaviest in the north central and Pocono Mountains areas of the state, according to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Like past surveys from the air, this unprecedented ground study of what deer eat, or browse, is proving to be an invaluable tool in understanding deer densities and distribution in state forestlands, and it will guide future DCNR efforts to ensure forest regeneration and healthy habitat, according to DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis.

These browse-study findings are a snapshot in time and do not document whether forest habitat health is improving or declining. They will, however, provide a meaningful baseline for future trend analyses.

The browse studies were conducted last year and covered almost 90 percent of the state forest system. Across the entire state forest system, less than 25 percent of the 41,650 plots showed desirable regeneration, and almost 45 percent of the plots lacked any new, woody growth. The problem is more acute in the state's north central 'big woods' section where almost 50 percent of the study plots show no woody regeneration and only about 20 percent desirable regeneration. The Pocono Mountains are the next most impacted region.

Across the state, the proportion of plots with desirable regeneration (24.45 percent) and lack of woody regeneration (44.45 percent) indicate browsing has not been suppressed long enough for a widespread regeneration response.



(Continued on page 13)

Plants and Animals

(Continued from page 12)

DCNR will use this detailed vegetation analysis in conjunction with past aerial surveys to help guide management decisions and steer hunters to certain state forest areas in the 2007-2008 hunting season.

Details on the 2006 state forest deer browse study, as well as DCNR's aerial surveys and other information on deer, can be found online at www.dcnr.state.pa.us and select "State Forests."

PGC Deer Research

Researchers from the Game Commission and Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State University have completed the second year of a female white-tailed deer study that focuses on deer survival, and the behavior of deer and hunters during hunting seasons.

The study was designed to assist the Game Commission by improving tracking of deer populations and adjusting the number of antlerless deer licenses issued. Since the spring of 2005, field crews have captured and placed radio collars on more than 250 deer in both north central counties (Wildlife Management Unit 2G) and south central Pennsylvania (WMU 4B). During the firearms hunting season, researchers take to the air and conduct aerial surveys of hunter distribution and densities.

Preliminary results indicate non-hunting survival rates exceed 80 percent. In 2006 hunters killed 17 of the 141 deer being monitored at that time.

The same preliminary results show that on the opening morning of rifle season, WMU-2G had as many as 6.5 hunters per square mile. Hunters hunted closer to roads and in areas with less slope than randomly distributed points. However, the density of radio collared deer increased with steeper terrain, although distance to the nearest road did not appear to affect deer locations.

...on the opening morning of rifle season, WMU-2G had as many as 6.5 hunters per square mile

Compact Fluorescent Bulbs...

A Bright Idea

A group of organizations and individuals committed to energy efficiency has launched a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the benefits of switching to compact fluorescent lamps. Consisting of companies, government entities, non-governmental organizations, religious groups and academic institutions, the "18Seconds" movement emphasizes that the small action of replacing conventional incandescent bulbs with Energy Star compact fluorescent light bulbs can dramatically cut energy use, benefit the environment - and takes just 18 seconds to accomplish. If every U.S. household swapped just one bulb for a CFL, it would collectively prevent the burning of 30 billion pounds of coal and keep two million cars worth of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere. See <http://green.yahoo.com>.



KTA Nominating Committee

KTA's Nominating Committee is actively seeking candidates for the Board of Directors and twelve Representative-at-Large positions. President Thyra Sperry hopes that all individual and organizational members will give serious thought to the nominations and join in this process. Interested individuals may nominate themselves.

Board of Directors

Deadline for Applications is June 1

Candidates for the Board of Directors should be enthusiastic about KTA's mission and be willing to serve as its ambassadors. The Board focuses on strategic direction for the Association, broad organizational operations, and financial stability. Directors represent all members of the Association, rather than any particular club or organization.

The Bylaws require that nine to fifteen members of the Board serve staggered three-year terms. The slate of Board members and officers recommended by the Nominating Committee will be published in the summer issue of the KTA newsletter.

The new Directors will be elected on September 29, at the Council's Annual Meeting at Blue Knob Ski Resort, Claysburg.

Representatives-At-Large

Deadline for Applications is October 1

Representatives-at-Large serve two-year terms and take office on January 1, 2008. Representatives-at-Large are members of the KTA Council, which is responsible for electing the Association's officers, approving the KTA budget, and advising the Board of Directors. Candidates for Representative-at-Large should be enthusiastic about the KTA mission and be willing to serve on a committee. Representative-at-Large must be an individual member of the Association.

All nominations should be sent to the Committee by October 1. The slate of Committee-recommended Representatives-at-Large will be published in the Fall issue of the KTA newsletter and on the web site. The new representatives will be elected by the KTA membership in a mail ballot in November.

Submitting a Nomination

Nomination forms are available on KTA's web site www.kta-hike.org and may be emailed to cathyed@nationi.net. Or you can request forms by mail from Ed Lawrence, 216 Asbury Road, Orangeville, PA 17859-9625.

ATV Update *(Continued from page 1)*

proposal, primarily on safety grounds. However, he also held open "...the possibility of creating connections to legal trails on and off state lands that would result in additional riding opportunities." In its response dated January 30, the disappointed ATV group stated, "We feel that with the amount of money the ATVs bring into the DCNR Budget, more and better riding opportunities are justified."

Continuing pressure from ATV groups, coupled with support from several key legislators, means that this issue is not going away. To those who wrote letters to their legislators and DCNR, KTA thanks you. Stay tuned for future developments.

Around the Clubs

The **Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club** and XL Corp. volunteers are joining forces to tackle several maintenance projects on the Appalachian Trail this month. On the agenda are repairs to Shubert's Gap dam breast and planting 1000 donated trees in the area. BMECC also held a "Ladies Day on the Trail", offering a female trail maintenance event.

The **Chester County Trail Club** is offering a challenging 19-day hiking adventure to China this fall.

Former newsman and avid outdoorsman John Bartlett of Oil City has joined the **Friends of Allegheny Wilderness** as a field representative. An Erie Times-News reporter for more than 30 years, Bartlett concentrated on environmental and conservation issues as well as regional news.

The **Mid State Trail Association** has a new web address at www.hike-mst.org and an account with PayPal so that they can accept credit card payments for maps, guides, and other merchandise through the web site. The MSTTA thanks Pete Fleszar for his hard work on the new site.

The **Pocono Outdoor Club** has just kicked off a membership drive designed to recruit 208 members by 2008. Members will be placing updated club brochures in public locations, attending community events, and contacting lapsed members.

The **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club** notes the passing of Darwin Lambert, a widely known naturalist, historian, author, con-

servationist, and a PATC honorary life member.

Pete Brown of the **North Chapter of PATC** reports that the Yankee Clippers trail crew maintains 182 miles of trails and 16 bridges in the Pennsylvania District.

To celebrate the club's 40th anniversary, the **Susquehannock Trail Club** planted trees in an open area of State Forest. Paul Lilja, a forester and STC member, directed the effort and children were invited to join in so that they could learn to how to plant trees.

Venture Outdoors helped celebrate Women's History Month in March by offering a Women of Pittsburgh Walk. The guided walk took participants to historical locations related to prominent city women.

The **Warrior Trail Association** is saddened to report the death of long time member and past President Ewing Miller, who died in March.

The **Wilmington Trail Club** held its 5th Annual Sadie Hawkins Night in March. All participants contributed a food item, and after a brisk evening hike, the men donned aprons and served the pot-luck meal.

WTC member Fred Kirch has completed hiking the Eastern Continental Trail, 4,400 miles from Key West, FL to Cap Gaspe, Quebec. He reports that he hiked through waist deep water in the alligator-infested Big Cypress Swamp and walked with the last remaining wild caribou on the Chic Choc Mountains.

Letters to the Editor

KTA?

I was talking to some friends at a recent party and in the course of conversation mentioned KTA. I quickly sensed a failure of communication and asked my friends what did the initials stand for. "Why, Kuwait Transportation Authority" was the reply. They were so certain of this that I went home and googled Kuwait Transportation Authority. I'm not sure I found the right site but I did learn about transportation in Kuwait. There are over 4000 kilometers of highways, most of them paved. There are 8 airports, 4 with paved runways. There are a bunch of ports but the Arabic names tend to run together and there are no railroads.

And we thought we knew what KTA stands for!

Tom Thwaites,
State College

Hey Hikers!

Interested in Fame and Fortune?

Well, here is your chance. I am the Information & Education Coordinator for The Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association and the producer of the video *Flowing Free*. Some of you may have seen the video at a previous Prowl The Sproul event. WCSA, in cooperation with KTA, is working on the production of a DVD featuring all the hiking and water adventures available in the Sproul Forest. While *Flowing Free* will provide us with most of

the water aspects of the DVD, we need your help with producing the "hiking" portion of the DVD.

Here is what we are asking you to do. Take and share your photographs, new and old, that could be included in this new DVD. Think creatively, We want happy, serious, funny, scenic, camping, and backpacking photographs that illustrate the joys of hiking, the blisters, and all the rest of that stuff.

If your submissions are used in the DVD, you will be credited, and you just might appear in the DVD! So what if you never made it on American Idol? Don't give up, I am giving you one last shot at your 15 minutes of fame!



And here is another incentive: Pam Metzger has said she never has much luck when she asks for pictures. So here is your chance to not only be famous, but also put Pam in her place! Bring the photos to the next Prowl the Sproul event July 20-22, or send them to Jim Nevins, c/o Western Sportsmen's Assn., PO Box 1, Renovo, PA 17764. All photographs will be returned to you. If you wish to send them to me via computer: jnevins00093@earthlink.net.

As a special treat at the next PTS event, I will be showing one of the most outstanding DVDs I have ever seen dealing with an outdoor adventure: It is titled "Return to Balance." It will take your breath away. See you at the next PTS!

Jim Nevins
WCSA

Multi-Club Events

Outdoor Extravaganza – May 25-28

The Butler Outdoor Club is sponsoring its 11th annual Outdoor Extravaganza on Memorial Day weekend, May 25-28, at Breakneck Campground near McConnell's Mill and Moraine State Parks. Participants will have their choice of outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, rafting, rock climbing, caving, and horseback riding. For those who wish to pursue less strenuous activities, there will be kite flying, Frisbee golf, prospecting for gold, and historical tours.

Camping is optional. Catered meals are available. Evening entertainment is provided. A gear exchange/flea market will be set up. For more details and registration, contact joyceappel@windstream.net, 724-526-5407, or www.butleroutdoorclub.com.

Rachel Carson Trail Challenge – June 23

The 11th annual Rachel Carson Trail Challenge will take place on Saturday June 23, 2007, the Saturday nearest the summer solstice. The Challenge is a 34-mile long, one-day, sunrise to sunset endurance hike on nearly the entire Rachel Carson Trail. Unlike a footrace, the "challenge" is not to "come in first" or "win", but to endure, to finish the hike in one day. The Challenge starts in North Park at sunrise, 5:50 AM, and ends in Harrison Hills County Park. The deadline for finishing is sunset, 8:54 PM.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rachel Carson's birth, two new events have been added. The first is the Homestead Challenge, a 19-mile hike to the Rachel Carson Homestead. The second is an 8-mile Family Challenge from Emmerling Park, also ending at the Homestead.

The Challenge is sponsored by the Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy, which maintains the Baker and Rachel Carson Trails. Complete details and registration information is online at www.rachelcarsontrails.com.

Top of Tioga Hiking Weekend – July 4-8

The Susquehanna AT Club, Mid State Trail Association and the Three Rivers Outing Club of Corning, NY, invite hikers to a long weekend hiking event July 4-8, day hiking portions of the Mid State Trail and other footpaths in and near northern Tioga County (all associated with the developing Great Eastern Trail). Base of operations will be RV's Mt. Top Campground, located right on the Mid State Trail. Details are available at www.fleszar.org/topoftioga07.htm or contact Pete Fleszar at 717-583-2093.

The Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, "Let's Pick it Up, PA," a statewide effort to remove litter and trash from roadways, parks, riverbanks and open spaces, runs from March 1 through May 31. For more information and a list of events, go to www.greatpacleanup.org.



Bald Eagle Mtn. Megatransect – Sept. 29

The Bald Eagle Mountain Megatransect, a 24.9-mile endurance hike/trail run, will be held Sept. 29, 2007, in Lock Haven. The course will take entrants up and over Bald Eagle Mountain four times for an elevation gain of more than 5,000 feet. A maximum of 11 1/2 hours will be allowed to complete the route. Although timed, the Megatransect is considered more of a personal challenge rather than a race. Registration information is available at www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1383234.

Member Club Profile

Asaph Trail Club

The Asaph Trail Club, founded in 2005, is located in Wellsboro, PA, and operates out of Wild Asaph Outfitters, also in Wellsboro. The club currently has about 85 members and meets monthly.

The ATC hikes at least once a month, if not more, and relies on club members as volunteers to lead hikes. Most hikes take place in Tioga, Potter and Lycoming Counties. Non-members are invited to participate in club activities. Some special events are full moon hikes, which take place every month, and full moon paddles during the summer months.

To learn more or join an activity, contact Liz Berkowitz, dohthemountain@yahoo.com, or www.wildasaphoutfitters.com/asaphtrailclub.html or 570-724-5155.

Educational Opportunities

A **Wilderness First Responder** course will be held the weekends of Sep. 28-30, Oct. 19-21, and Nov. 9-11 at the Weisel Hostel in Lake Nockamixon State Park by SOLO. For more details, contact Jeff Alpert, 609-865-4191, mid-jersey@amcdv.org.

The **AMC Mohican Outdoor Center** in the Delaware Water Gap NRA will host several weekend events. Contact the Center at 908-362-5670 to register.

- **Couples and Hiking**, May 18-20, will coach couples who enjoy the outdoors and each other to find greater enjoyment in the outdoors. Cost is \$95 for members, \$105 non-members.
- **Wilderness First Aid**, May 25-27, is a 16-hour course taught by SOLO that results in certification. Cost is \$195/members, \$217/non-members. Optional CPR certification is \$35.
- **Beginner Backpacking**, May 31-June 3, will teach you to travel and live comfortably in the outdoors. Includes a two-night backpack. Cost is \$185/M, \$205/NM.

PATC is offering a **Lighter Weight Backpacking** workshop on June 9 to acquaint backpackers with the importance of weight considerations when choosing equipment. This workshop will not advocate an ultra-light philosophy. Cost is \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. Pre-registration is required; contact John Bridges, 703-726-0188, tpbackpack@patc.net.

AT Mega-Transect: Monitoring the Trail Corridor's Environmental Health

As part of the Appalachian Trail Mega-Transect, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club volunteers have begun a pilot study to monitor predator mammal species along the Appalachian Trail in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland. The survey will use infra-red trip cameras to photograph wildlife at specific points along the trail.

Volunteers will set up and move the digital cameras from one location to another on a monthly basis from April to November. With a goal of 50 cameras monitored for seven months, the total sample could include 350 field sites.

This project is a joint venture by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, and the Smithsonian Institution and is part of the Appalachian Trail Mega-Transect, an initiative utilizing both volunteers and professionals to provide long-term monitoring of the AT's environmental health. Specifically, the Mega-Transect has four purposes:

- Understand changes in air and water quality and the health of plants and animals within the public lands associated with the AT
- More effectively protect the natural resources of the AT lands
- Foster public appreciation for nature generally and conservation of the AT specifically
- Inform visitors, trail neighbors, and the public about the health of AT lands

Definition of A Mosquito:

an insect that makes you like flies better

(from the Susquehanna Trailers Newsletter, May/June 2006)

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2007/2008 KTA Meetings & Hiking Events

May 25-June 3 — PA Hiking Week

June 2 — Hickory Run State Park Hiking Day

June 9 — Oil Creek State Park Outdoors Day

July 7 — Board of Directors Meeting, Harrisburg

July 20-22 — Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend

Sept. 15 — Absorb the Forbes II Hiking Day

Sept. 28-30 — Annual Meeting, Blue Knob Ski Area

Jan. 5, 2008 – Board of Directors Meeting, Harrisburg

April 18-20, 2008 — Spring Meeting, Wellsboro

See page 2 for KTA Trail Care/Crew schedules

KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliations (if any): _____

Organizational members are welcome and should forward the name and contact information for the group's designated KTA representative along with appropriate dues: \$50 per year for clubs; \$100 for commercial enterprises; \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All dues payments and correspondence should be mailed to: P.O. Box 129, Confluence, PA 15424.

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

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