

NEWSLETTER

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

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

May 2010



Appalachian Trail Museum Dedication Set For June 5

The new Appalachian Trail Museum, under construction at the Old Grist Mill Building in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, will be dedicated on June 5 at 11 AM. The AT Museum is the world's only museum that focuses on hiking and hikers.

AT History on Display

The Museum will relate the almost 90 year story of the Appalachian Trail. To do this, the Museum has collected artifacts and documents that illustrate the trail's history. Equally as important, the Museum aims to capture the spirit and soul of the trail volunteers and hikers who have created the AT experience.



The Old Mill. Photo courtesy of Larry Luxenberg

Opening weekend activities will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, three days of hikes sponsored by local clubs, and interpretative programs aimed at children and families. For more information about activities to be held during the dedication weekend, see www.atmuseum.org.

Hike to History

Since there will be limited parking in the vicinity of the museum on dedication day, attendees may wish to "Hike to History" by walking six miles from the Kings Gap Environmental Education Center to the dedication. Participants, limited to the first 150 persons who sign up by May 28, will receive cold breakfast snacks and drinks at the start of the hike, preferred seating at the dedica-

tion ceremony, and a special edition AT Museum commemorative patch. Proceeds from the \$25 registration fee (\$35 after May 15) will benefit the museum.

For details about the planned weekend hikes, contact Karen Balaban at KMBalaban@BalabanLLC.com or 717-232-7308.

Museum Volunteers Needed

Volunteer greeters, also known as docents, are needed to help staff the museum, which will be open daily, noon to 4 PM, from the grand opening on June 5th through Labor Day, and weekends in September and October.

Greeters will be stationed inside the Mill to welcome guests and provide basic information in response to visitor's questions. Greeters provide a friendly presence – they are people who enjoy meeting visitors. Love of the outdoors is also helpful, but no special knowledge is required.

Training sessions will be held in May, and information needed to answer visitors' questions will be provided in a fact book. Everyone is welcome to volunteer—outdoor lovers, hikers, educators, history buffs; those under 18 years of age need to be accompanied and supervised by an adult while volunteering.

If interested, contact Volunteer Coordinator Margy Schmidt at atmuseumgreeters@gmail.com or 717-486-4083.

Upcoming KTA Events

Pennsylvania Hiking Week
May 29-June 6
See page 10

Summer Trail Crews
June 1-27
See page 2

Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend
July 16-18
See newsletter insert

Susquehanna Super Hike
September 11
See page 12

Annual Meeting and Hiking Weekend
Oct. 1-3, Milroy, PA

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

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2010 Trail Care Schedule

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

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

May 14-16 - Thunder Swamp Trail

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

July 9-11 - Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

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

August 13-15 - Mid State Trail, Wool-rich Region

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

September 24-26 - Loysock Trail

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

October 15-17 - Bear Run Nature Reserve

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

November 5-7 - North Country Trail

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

2010 Trail Crew Schedule

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

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

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

Leader: Mel Cooper, 814-643-2641,
lunchtime1@verizon.net
Camp: Narrows Gun Club near McConnellsburg. Cook: Wanda Shirk.
Work Plan: Construct 6.5 miles of new trail at southern end of trail (see page 7 for details)

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

Leader: Paul Henry, 724-347-3282 / 724-685-1077, phenry@choiceonemail.com
Camp: Breakneck Campground near McConnells Mill State Park.
Work plan: Rock work at McConnells Mill State Park, trail improvements at Moraine State Park.
Cook Needed. Contact Paul for more information.

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

Leader: Rich Scanlon, 717-994-6212,
richards.dmd@verizon.net
Camp: Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, Renovo. Cook: WCSA.
Work Plan: DHT maintenance from Hyner Run SP west toward Jericho; possibly build 2 bridges if permits approved. CKT maintenance.

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

Leader: Deb Dunkle, 814-652-2227,
dhdunkle@embarqmail.com
Camp: Tenley Park in Everett. Cook: Everett Church of the Brethren "church ladies".
Work Plan: Construct new trail around Everett (see page 7), install signs, trail maintenance.

President's Message

This winter, Dick and I missed the snow as we were camping, hiking, bird watching and admiring the geology at Death Valley, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave Desert and other fabulous sites in Southern California. Everywhere we went we were greeted by volunteers. These folks come from all over the country and spend the winter months volunteering at visitor centers, leading hikes and bird walks and even giving lectures about the flora and fauna and local history. We also traveled to Presidential Libraries where we were met by volunteer docents.

In the hiking community, we depend on volunteers for so many tasks: trail maintenance, newsletters, officers, board members, hike leaders and trainers. There is a tremendous amount of expertise and life experience that volunteers bring to KTA and member clubs. On our trip I was very thankful for the volunteers we encountered, as they made the trip so much more fun and it was a joy to meet them. I discovered that we had a lot in common. Where would we be without volunteers?

Two of our most dedicated and devoted KTA volunteers have resigned as Editors of the KTA Newsletter. For ten years Barb and Al Wiemann have prepared, edited, solved computer glitches and produced a quarterly newsletter that is informative to the hiking community, which we enjoy reading, and are very proud of. We just can't thank Al and Barb enough for the excellent quality of our quarterly newsletters over the last ten years.

Another thing that I noted while traveling was that our national parks and lands and state lands are facing some of the same issues that we face in Pennsylvania. There are those who would seek to use them for purposes that are not environmentally sound, and so many beautiful places will be destroyed unless we speak up and speak out to our legislators and call or write to let them know that this situation needs to be rectified. We cannot stand by and watch acres of trees destroyed and water contaminated. Please speak out for a moratorium on gas drilling until there is a guarantee that responsible drilling will take place and protect our valuable land, air, water, and hiking trails from damage. **Take a cue from Dr. Seuss, from *The Lorax* and "Speak for the Trees".**

In the meantime,
Get outdoors and protect your favorite trail

Thyra



Susan Charkes Named New KTA Newsletter Editor

Susan Charkes, of Narberth, has been named KTA's new newsletter editor. She will assume her new duties with the August issue.



A hiker since childhood, Susan is a writer on nature, the environment and sustainability, and works in the land conservation field. She is the author of the "Nature's Way" column published in the *Bucks County Herald*, and the "Because Nature Tells Me So" podcast. She is also the author of the recently published *AMC Guide to Best Day Hikes Near Philadelphia* (see page 9).

Susan is a hike leader with the AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, and an Appalachian Trail maintainer and boundary coordinator for the Batona Hiking Club. Among her many credentials, she is an ATC-certified sawyer, and is a certified Vermont Institute for Artisanal Cheese cheesemaker. In her spare time she plays the saxophone.

Contact Susan at 511 Homewood Ave, Narberth PA 19072, charkes@acm.org, 215-534-3537.

THANK YOU

Serving as KTA Newsletter Editors for the past ten years has been a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. We have had the pleasure of working with four KTA Presidents, two Executive Directors, four Administrative Assistants, and scores of committee chairs, Trail Care leaders, club officials, and KTA members. Thank you for sending information and articles for the newsletter. We hope that you will continue to provide Susan with great material.

A special thank you goes to KTA's two previous newsletter editors, **Maurice Forrester** (1971-1990) and **Hugh Downing** (1990-2000). They provided advice, encouragement, gentle criticism, and much appreciated wisdom.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of editing the newsletter has been reading the publications of KTA's member clubs. These newsletters reflect the role of volunteers — leading a dazzling variety of hikes and activities, constructing and maintaining hiking trails, and working for conservation of our natural resources. Keep up the good work!

Although we are retiring from the editorship of the KTA Newsletter, we plan to remain active in the hiking community. See you on the trail and Trail Crew!

Barb and Al Wiemann

KTA—Your Hiking Advocate In Action

By Curt Ashenfelter

Primitive Camping on Game Lands One Step Closer

In the last KTA newsletter I described a meeting I had with Carl Roe, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and his support of primitive camping on long distance hiking trails (see page 4 of the February 2010 newsletter or visit www.kta-hike.com, click the About KTA tab and then the Newsletter tab).



Since that time the Game Commission has clarified the process they would like to follow for primitive camping requests. For those of you who have worked with the Game Commission on trail relocations, you will find the process to be very similar.

Local clubs need to fully document and justify requests with specific areas. Each request for a primitive camping site will be reviewed on its own merits and must be justified by a complete alternative analysis process to include other available trail link-ups, distance from other camp opportunities, water sources, etc., such that a user of the existing trail would have a critical need for an overnight stay.

I have been advised that local clubs would need to know upfront that no fires will be allowed, littering, etc. I think we can ask for fires per rules (again see page 4 of the February newsletter).

How to Request Camping

The process will work as follows:

1. Local club completes analysis as described above.
2. Local club submits analysis and primitive camping request to Local Land Manager and Keystone Trails Association. I will then notify Game Commission headquarters that a request has been made so that KTA can track the progress of requests.
3. Local Land Manager makes comments and submits the request to the Regional Land Management Supervisor, who reviews and forwards to the Regional Director.
4. Regional Director makes comments and submits to Game Commission Headquarters.
5. Request is approved or denied.

I would strongly advise that if you want primitive camping on your trails where it crosses Game Land that you begin the process as soon as possible, with a goal of June 1 for submittal to the Local Land Manager. The Local Land Manager will have to find time in their schedule to visit the proposed site. The Game Commission is extremely busy during hunting season and requests such as ours stand a better chance of being reviewed and acted on before hunting season begins in September.

Frequently Asked Questions

To date, I have received a few questions from local clubs concerning primitive camping sites. Below are answers from the Game Commission.

- *How many campsites should we be asking for? Should it be any place one might want to put up a tent or should the number be restricted?* The number should be restricted.
- *How will hikers know they have reached the approved camp site? Will the Game Commission be marking these or does the local club have to post?* The local club will post signs ap-

proved by the Game Commission.

- *Are we restricted to putting up a tent in the middle of the trail or should we move, say, 150 feet off trail?* Read the requirements for tenting on Game Land (see February newsletter, page 4)
- *Where the trail follows drivable but gated grassy roads, should we be proposing camp sites in the wide mowed areas, or only under the trees?* There is no camping on grassed roadways to avoid conflicts with administrative use/equipment access. Minimal disturbance to habitat and wildlife is the key, so not too far from the trail, and not in any sensitive areas or near water.
- *We note that the Appalachian Trail Conservancy suggests that formal campsites be more than 2 miles away from a road or ORV access area. Should we follow that guidance?* Much of ATC's other guidance is more apropos to higher use situations than other state hiking trails currently face. You want to be a minimum of two miles from a road or ORV access area.

Severance Tax on Gas Drilling

On March 15 KTA participated in a press conference during which a group of legislators and representatives from various organizations called for a moratorium on the lease of state forest land for gas drilling and a severance tax on natural gas extraction.



Above, one Marcellus shale site in the Pennsylvania Wilds, with a retention pond on the right and well area on the left. Below, a close up of the well area. Photos courtesy of the Forest Coalition.



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KTA—Your Hiking Advocate in Action

KTA Supports a Severance Tax on Gas Drilling

Remarks by Curt Ashenfelter at March 15 Press Conference

There are many challenges to extracting natural gas safely and not destroying our waters and the scenic value of Pennsylvania’s beautiful hiking trails.

The Marcellus Shale lying 6,000 feet beneath many hiking trails could become the most productive natural gas field in the country, capable of supplying the entire country’s needs for up to 20 years. The gas drillers are confident that their methods to extract the gas are safe and that they can reclaim the land after the drilling is completed. Others are not so sure. Pennsylvania has had previous experience with natural resource companies that have left our state’s waters and lands heavily polluted and barren. Over 100 years ago, the state was forced to buy and restore great tracts of land that had been destroyed.

Since gas drillers will have a substantial impact on the landscape, KTA is advocating that, as good corporate citizens, gas drillers should pay their fair share of the costs all Commonwealth citizens will bear.

Gas drillers in Texas have paid a severance tax on the extraction of natural gas of

between \$1.4 billion and \$2.7 billion annually for the last five years. In aggregate they have paid over \$10 billion in the last five years.

Pennsylvania needs a severance tax similar to Texas’ to pay for the downstream costs associated with gas drilling and the impact on our land and water supplies. Additionally, New York is so concerned with the risks associated with gas drilling to its drinking water that gas drilling has been banned. Consequently energy companies are now focusing their efforts on Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania has had previous experience with natural resource companies that have left our state’s waters and lands heavily polluted and barren.

Some gas drilling lobbyists will tell you that a severance tax will kill the infant industry. Exxon-Mobil’s recent purchase of one of the infant companies for \$31 billion suggests a far different fate for this infant industry. The gas industry is here to stay. There are huge energy reserves available and huge profits to be made. The only questions are: After the profits are gone, who will pay to clean up the pollution left behind?

Imagine hiking through a state forest where every third acre is a gas pad.

Who will pay to repair the broken infrastructure of roads and bridges? Who will pay for the remediation efforts from the unintended consequences of gas extraction? Will the gas drillers pay their fair share or will, once again, the average citizen be forced through paying their taxes to clean up the environment and repair the infrastructure after the fact?

Between 2005 and 2008, 120 well-drilling permits were issued in the state. In 2009, more than 1,700 permits were issued. In 2010, the sky is the limit. Fly over the state and you will see many gas pads similar to those in the photos on page 4. To understand the scale of the deforestation, each well site removed five acres of trees.

One in three acres of state forest land is currently available for gas drilling. Imagine hiking through a state forest where every third acre is a gas pad. Gas drillers will seek to expand that acreage in 2010. We say enough is enough. We are not advocating a no drill ban, as in New York, but we are advocating a moratorium on new state forest leases to properly address all the risks, and a severance tax to pay for those risks.

(Continued from page 4)

Meetings with State Legislators And Staff Members

I had a number of meetings with State Legislators and their staff members to discuss various issues of importance to KTA. Throughout my meetings, I heard a willingness on the part of most legislators to consider a severance tax on the extraction of natural gas. **I would encourage you to contact your State Senator and State Representative and voice your support for a severance tax.** Again this year, the budget process will include many new proposals to increase tax revenues. To not include a severance tax in 2010 is bad public policy.

Great Eastern Trail Signage Approved by DCNR

Representatives of the Mid State Trail asked KTA to expedite approval of the new Great Eastern Trail sign in State Forests and State Parks. I am pleased to report that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, after a thorough review with all the stakeholders, approved the signs in time for the spring hiking season.



Nominating Committee

KTA is seeking five members to serve on the Nominating Committee. If interested, contact President Sperry at hikesperry@aol.com or 717-497-5015.

In even numbered years, the Nominating Committee is responsible for presenting the KTA Council with a list of qualified candidates for three or four open seats on the Board of Directors and creating a slate of officers for the Association.

Board members are elected to three year terms at the Fall meeting. Officers, who serve one year terms, are selected from Board members.

Any KTA member who is interested in serving on the Board may self-nominate by sending a letter of interest to the Nominating Committee at the KTA office.

Along Our Trails

Appalachian Trail

Ironmaster's Hostel Closed

The Ironmaster's Hostel, which served Appalachian Trail hikers at Pine Grove State Park for 26 years, closed on April 30. The Delaware Valley Council of American Youth Hostels, which operated the hostel, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which owns the building, were unable to agree on a new lease agreement.

DCNR was concerned about the ability of the Council to address the continuing maintenance requirements of a structure built in the 1820s. According to the Council, hostels do not make much money, and it was unable to afford more repairs.



While the hostel doors will be closed this year, a new hostel operator may emerge. The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, whose mission is to conserve natural resources and open space in eight central Pennsylvania counties, is exploring the feasibility of moving its headquarters to the mansion, which would also be used as an educational center. The CPC would operate a hostel in the building, although with fewer beds.

Lehigh Gap Trail Alert

The National Park Service will use American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding to stabilize the rocks on the east side of Lehigh Gap. The gap and nearby PA 248 have been menaced by falling rock from the cliffs above. Brugge fencing and other measures installed in late 1980s provided some control of the rock; however the proposed new measures will seek to either remove, or capture in place, the remaining, unstable rock features. This will be accomplished via controlled "scaling" of loose boulders and the installation of wire mesh/fencing and other devices. Work on the project is scheduled to begin in June and be completed by April, 2011.

The construction staging area will be in the east side of the AT parking area. There will be a temporary, short detour of the AT around the staging area, but the parking area will remain open. The former railroad bed and the entire Winter Trail will be closed during the project.

Conestoga Trail

East Lampeter Tree Planting

In East Lampeter Township, east of US 30 and north of Pitney Rd., the CT has been relocated around the perimeter of the 16.8-acre Country Club Apartments property. The apartments are clustered in the center of the parcel and most of the rest is grass. To the north of the trail route is the right of way for the future location of PA 23.

To build a buffer against the future PA 23 and provide a shaded walking path, the Lancaster Hiking club will plant 120 trees each year for the next three years. This year's species include maples, oaks, sycamores, tulip poplars, white pines, blue spruce and Douglas firs.

Holtwood Dam Re-Route

Due to PPL construction at Holtwood Dam, the Conestoga Trail between PA 372 and Old Holtwood Road is closed. The trail has been posted with "No Trespassing" signs and re-route directions. At PA 372, northbound hikers should take PA 372 east for about one mile, turn left on Crystal Drive for seven-tenths of a mile to Holtwood Pak and then pick up the orange trail blazes leading north past the restrooms. At Old Holtwood Road, southbound hikers should cross Old Holtwood Rd. and walk south on Crystal Drive to PA 372, turning right on PA 372 to connect back up with the CT. Construction will conclude in 2013.

Horse-Shoe Trail

Berks County – New Parking Areas

Boy Scout Jerid Cullum is overseeing the construction of a blue-blazed link trail from behind the Brecknock Township Building on Alleghenyville Rd. to the H-ST. The township is earmarking a section of its parking lot for H-ST parking; signs for this lot and two other township designated trail parking areas will be in place by this fall.

Berks County – Adamstown Relocation

The trail has been moved off Old Lancaster Pike (mile 27.6-28.2). The trail now switch-backs up through stony, wooded terrain to a power line along which the trail passes just on the edge of tall trees. It then follows a combination of driveways, a short stretch of yard, and a gravel cart path, leading to an open field and finally the old trail as it winds up Adamsville Ridge.

Lebanon County - Governor Dick Relocation

As a result of the reclassification of some park trails as "foot traffic only", the HST has been re-routed between mile 7.0 and mile 10.2, and no longer climbs to the summit of Governor Dick Hill. At mile 7.0, stay on Trail #5. In 0.3 mile, bear left at the yellow gate, and in another 0.3 mile, cross Trail #9. After 0.4 mile, go between houses. Turn left on gravel Oak Rd., and head uphill for 0.15 mile, around yellow gate. Turn right on Trail #5. Within 0.2 mile, turn right on Trail #6 and then soon bear left before the yellow gate. Within 0.1 mile, cross an old rail bed onto a former logging road, following it for 0.4 mile, where the relocation rejoins the former route at guidebook mile 10.2. The new relocation is approximately 1.5 miles shorter than the guidebook mileage.

Mason-Dixon Trail

Western Section

In Game Land 242 (map 1, west to east mile 12.3), the first planned relocation has been completed. The second planned re-route has been submitted to the Game Commission for approval.

The trail from Kline's Run to Bank Hill Rd. is now open.

M-DTS President Jim Hooper attended a ceremony celebrating the preservation of Susquehanna Indian archaeological sites. He was presented a blanket from the Native Americans as an expression of their appreciation for his work in preserving these sites.

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Along Our Trails

(Continued from page 6)

Mid State Trail

Everett Region Relocation

The Game Commission has approved a route through Game Land 73 from Tussey Ridge to the access parking lot. This new route will provide a safer hiking experience. The KTA Summer Trail Crew will construct about six-tenth of a mile of the new trail, eliminating about 165 feet of very dangerous road walking on busy US 30 (with its high speed trucks). According to John W. Stein, former Everett regional manager, this new route is another example of the growing cooperation and partnership between the Commission, MSTA, and KTA.

Eventually, when the balance of the re-route is finished, about three miles of road walking will be eliminated.

State College Region Trail Alerts

The US 22 bridge over the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River is being rebuilt. To reach the north end of the Lower Trail, hikers should follow the detour signs.

The Poe Paddy relocation of the Mid State Trail has been completed, returning the MST to its location of 30 years ago. Follow Dry Hollow Trail from the height of land to Big Poe Road and then walk 800 meters on this road to Poe Paddy Park.

North County Trail

Shuttle Service at Moraine State Park

The Moraine Preservation Fund's *Nautical Nature*, a 45 passenger enclosed pontoon boat, will provide summer shuttle service for hikers between the Route 528 and McDanel's launches on Saturdays and Sundays. Hikers can ride the boat one way and then hike the North Country Trail 9.5 miles back at their leisure. On May 22, the first day of service, all hikers will receive a \$1 discount on the usual shuttle rate of \$3 per person. Reservations are required. The MPF gift shop at McDanel's will feature a new NCT corner with NCT logo merchandise, trail maps, and hand-made walking sticks.

ANF Trail Relocation

The Allegheny National Forest Chapter will relocate 1.2 miles of trail off PA 666, a dangerous road with no shoulder, into the woods on June 5. The new terrain is gentle with no hills or switchbacks. Boy Scout Troop 93 of Ridgeway will construct a bridge at the approximate midpoint of the re-route. Free camping for volunteers will be available at Kelletville Campground, courtesy of the Tionesta Corps of Engineers. Contact Keith Klos at nct001@verizon.net for more details.

Game Land 285 Re-Route

Last summer, KTA consolidated grant money was used to fund a Student Conservation Crew for ten days to help the Wampum Chapter build a new section of trail on Game Land 285. The chapter officially finished that project late last year, installing foot bridges, signing, and painting blue NCT blazes along the two mile length. With the help of those hard-working students, another segment of trail has been moved off a road and into the woods along the North Fork of Little Beaver Creek.

The Wampum Chapter has also received a PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development grant through State Representative Jaret Gibbon. This money was used to purchase materials for footbridges and highway signs at major road crossings to promote awareness of the North Country Trail.



Wampum Chapter members Dennis Garrett, Eleanor Fairbanks, Lee Fairbanks, and Doug Turner on a newly installed bridge on Game Land 285. Photo by Dave Brewer.

Quehanna Trail

After meeting with Bob Merrill of the Moshannon State Forest, the Quehanna Area Trails Club will be eliminating blue trail markings. Blue will be replaced with red on trails that allow horses and bikes (except for where otherwise marked) and yellow for foot travel only. The Quehanna Trail will remain orange.

Susquehannock Trail

The Susquehannock Trail System has recognized its 1000th Circuit Hiker, Dakota Buckingham of York. The Circuit Hiker award was established in 1972.

One of STS' planned projects is to post signs at backcountry locations. More than 40 years ago, several locust posts were stored for later use. Out of curiosity, Bill Boyd weighed the posts, finding that they ranged from a "light" 47 pounds to over 80 pounds. Boyd notes that locust posts can last 30 years or more, making it worth the effort to transport them to their designated "planting" locations.

Standing Stone Trail

Southern End Relocation

The Standing Stone Trail Club continues to make strides implementing its master plan.

At the southern end of the trail, Cowans Gap State Park has approved the relocation of the trailhead down to the west end of the dam. The SST will go through the Park to the gated Knobsville Road and follow it to the crest of Cove Mountain. Buchanan State Forest and three private landowners have granted permissions that will enable the relocation of the SST between the Narrows/Todd Trail on Cove Mountain and Sheepskin Hollow Road.

After crossing US 522, the trail will cross Little Aughwick Creek on a private bridge and follow the western boundary of a private landowner, climbing Blacklog Mountain to Game Land 81. The route will intersect the Ramsey Path just short of the turn at Monument Rock. This entire relocation will eliminate about one mile of road walk on US 522 and more than three miles on Sino-que Road.

The KTA Summer Crew will be constructing about 6.5 miles of

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Maintainers Corner

Mid State Trail Care

Leader Kevin Busko reports a successful weekend March 19-21 in the State College Region of the Mid State Trail. The crew blazed the new relocation at Poe Paddy, browned out the old trail markings, and installed a new trail register. In addition, the volunteers weed whacked, lopped and chainsawed Green Valley between Stillhouse Hollow and the Sieglerville/Manheim Pike and weed whacked and chainsawed the section from PA 322 to (and including some of) the Eagle Trail leading to the Seven Mountains Boy Scout Camp.

Volunteers were **Curt Ashenfelter, Tom Bastian, Kevin Busko, Betty Clark, Joe Clark, Peter Fleszar, Ed Lawrence, Woody Loudenslager, John Potter, Leona Smith, Paul Smith, and Tom Thwaites.**



Sandra Ashenfelter (front) and Catherine McLaughlin working on one of the step projects. Photo by Curt Ashenfelter.

Shikellamy State Park Trail Care

By Ed Lawrence

The joint trail care with the Friends of Shikellamy State Park on March 27 was very successful. Much to everyone's astonishment, we accomplished everything that we had talked about doing.

The crew dug the holes and set 5 posts for signage, cleared trail near the overlook, removed and replaced old railroad tie steps with new steps (three crews on different sections of trail), and stacked the old steps to be removed by park staff.

KTA provided the tools, crew leaders, and know how to get the work done. The Friends group provided coffee, orange juice, fruit and scones for morning sign in and two kinds of soup for lunch. We quit work at 4 PM, got cleaned up and lined up for a fabulous dinner of chicken and dumplings, curried vegetables with rice or cous cous, fresh baked bread, and carrot cake, again provided by the Friends. It was very good eating! After dinner, we sat around a big fire, a fellow from the Friends group played guitar and sang, and we occasionally sang along. The 35 participants worked hard, ate well, and went home happy.

KTA volunteers were **Curt Ashenfelter, Sandra Ashenfelter, Dave Barsky, Bob Boettger, Diane Buscarini, Catherine McLaughlin, Ed Lawrence, Ginny Musser, Wanda Shirk, and Dave Walp**

New Conservation Resources at ConservationTools.org

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association has launched a new web site that contains conservation tools such as model land acquisition easements, donation agreements, and development threat analysis documents. The publications can be downloaded free. The site also contains contact information and references for 200 people who can advise and help with implementation of conservation projects, as well as information about land trusts, agricultural preservation boards, and other groups that support land conservation in Pennsylvania.

PALTA is developing model language and guidance for implementing stewardship fees as part of conservation easement projects. As a first step, PALTA has published "Stewardship Fees: Binding Future Owners to Present Promises" at www.conservationtools.org/tools/general/show/45. This document presents a variety of alternate approaches to securing stewardship fees from future landowners, examines enforceability issues, and describes legal risks and other considerations.

Also on the site is the second edition of the Trail Easement Agreement and Commentary and PA Land Choices, a collection of activities that teach students and adults the importance of civic involvement and land use planning.

Along Our Trails

(Continued from page 7)

trail for this relocation during the first week in June. Work will include blowdown removal, trail clearing, switchback construction and rockwork.

Accommodations will be at the Narrows Gun Club in a restored farm house, with beds for 45 people and showers. The Gun Club is one of the private landowners whose permission has enabled the reroute. Wanda Shirk will be cooking for the crew.

New Shelter on Jacks Mountain

Using a cedar log kit, the SSTC expects to construct a shelter in Rothrock State Forest on Jacks Mountain near Butler Knob this year. Volunteers will be accepted; contact Carl Lorence at pas-tumber@aol.com or 717-234-1521.

Tuesday Trail Crew

SSTC is organizing a trail work event on the second Tuesday of each month. Retirees, homemakers, the unemployed, or anyone with a free day is invited to participate. Contact Carl Lorence for the meeting location and directions. Tools and safety equipment will be provided.

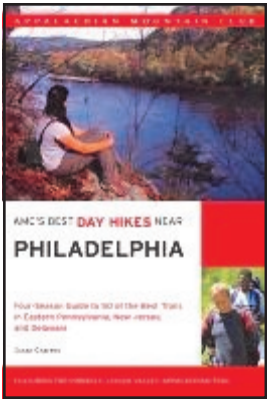
Tuscarora Trail

New Shelter

The PATC North Chapter Yankee Clippers trail crew is constructing another shelter in Buchanan State Forest near McConnellsburg. The new Burd Run Shelter, eight miles north of the Big Mountain Shelter, will be another link in PATC's growing chain of Tuscarora Trail shelters. The new shelter uses the same design as Big Mountain, and will feature a ten by ten foot covered porch. A spring is located about a quarter mile away.

For Hikers

Publications for Hikers



AMC's Best Day Hikes Near Philadelphia: Four-Season Guide to 50 of the Best Trails in Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, by Susan Charkes. Appalachian Mountain Club, 2010. 281 p., 51 maps. \$18.95

Whether you are just beginning to explore the wealth of trails in the Philadelphia region, have hiked there for years, or want to introduce children to the joys of hiking, this guidebook has a trail to entice you to lace up your boots and get outdoors.

The trails are grouped into three regions: southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware (26 hikes); central and southern New Jersey (10 hikes); and the Lehigh Valley (14 hikes). Of course, well-known favorites such as the Appalachian Trail and Valley Forge National Historical Park are included. But other areas, such as Walking Purchase Park and Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary, may be new-to-you.

Preceding the individual hike descriptions is a handy At-A-Glance Trip Planner chart that lists the difficulty, distance, elevation change, estimated hiking time, and fees, as well as whether the hike is suitable for kids, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, if dogs are allowed, whether public transportation is available, and highlights of the hike.

Each individual hike description contains driving directions, trailhead GPS coordinates, trail description, and a trail map, as well as public transportation details, amenities (such as restrooms), and information about the landowner and published maps and guides.

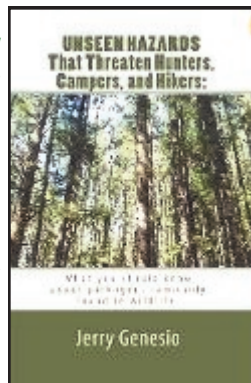
An appealing feature of the guide is a series of seventeen Nature Essays interspersed throughout the book. They cover topics ranging from deer ecology to Wissahickon schist to the Pennsylvania Highlands.

"To Ensure Permanency": Expanding and Protecting Hiking Opportunities in Twentieth-Century Pennsylvania, by Silas Chamberlin. *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies*, v. 77, no. 2, p. 193-216.

Focused on the Horse-Shoe Trail, this article explores the formation of early state hiking clubs and efforts to ensure permanent protection for hiking trails in the state.

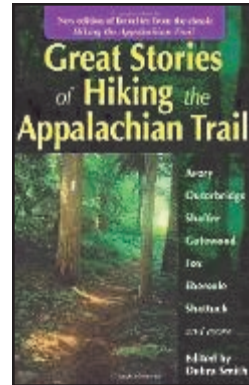
Unseen Hazards That Threaten Hunters, Campers, and Hikers: What You Should Know About Pathogens Commonly Found in Wildlife, by Jerry Genesio. 86 pages, \$7.95 plus shipping and handling, online through Amazon.com, or at www.createspace.com/3387093.

This book discusses symptoms, treatment, history, carriers, geographical risk areas, significant incidence reports, and how to avoid illnesses you could contract after contact with wildlife.



Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, & Pennsylvania, 8th ed. Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 2010. 116 pages, 26 maps; \$9 (\$7.20 for PATC members) at www.patc.net.

This guide to 41 circuit hikes of varying difficulties and lengths includes descriptions of the trail routes, easy-to-follow topographic maps for each hike, phone and web site contact information for each venue, and flora, fauna, and history information.



Great Stories of Hiking the Appalachian Trail, edited by Debra Smith. Stackpole, 2010. 244 pages, \$19.95.

Thirty-five years ago, Rodale Press published *Hiking the Appalachian Trail*, a monumental two-volume set of books that contained the stories of early end-to-end hikers. Sadly, this set is out-of-print and hard to find second hand. But a new generation of hikers can thrill to the exploits of these AT pioneers, since this abridgement reprints some of their inspiring and entertaining accounts.

PATC Tick Key

The tick key uses natural forward leverage to remove the entire tick without squishing it. Made of high-strength anodized aluminum, the flat key is 99.9% effective on all sizes and types of ticks. The tick key is available in seven bright colors from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for \$5.95 (\$4.76 for members). See www.patc.us/store to order.



Education and Training Opportunities

SOLO Wilderness First Aid — May 21-23

This 16-hour course teaches students how to deal with common medical incidents and accidents in the backcountry. It stresses safety, preparation, crisis avoidance, and the treatment of problems such as blisters, sprains, hypothermia, heat disorders, protection from the elements and more. With advance notice, CPR certification can be obtained for \$35.00 during the course. The course will be held at Mohican Outdoor Center. Cost is \$237 for AMC members, \$261 for non-members, and includes two nights lodging, meals starting Saturday breakfast, instruction and certification. Contact the Center at mohican@mindspring.com.

Leave No Trace Trainer Course — June 19-20

Using both classroom and backpacking segments, experienced campers and backpackers will learn the concepts of LNT, practice low-impact skills, and learn how to teach these important skills to others. The course is limited to 8 students and will be held in Shenandoah National Park. Cost is \$45 for PATC members, \$65 for non-members. Contact Cindy Kelly at TPLNT@patc.net or 410-939-5029 to reserve a space.

KTA Trail Mix

By Curt Ashenfelter

Hi-Tec Boots

One hundred and eighteen Keystone Trails Association members volunteered their time and talents in 2009 to work with KTA Trail Care or Trail Crew. Their efforts and over 3,000 hours went a long way to help build and maintain Pennsylvania's 3,000 miles of hiking trails.

Recently I was speaking with a representative of Hi-Tec Boots and learned of a novel opportunity. Hi-Tec Sports has volunteered to donate Hi-Tec Boots to Keystone Trails Association Trail Care and Trail Crew volunteers as a way to assist us in our trail maintenance efforts.

Eighty-eight Keystone Trails Association volunteers sent their hiking boot size to KTA. We forwarded those sizes on to Hi-Tech Sports and 88 pairs of new hiking boots will arrive in our offices for distribution to 2009 Trail Care and Trail Crew volunteers.

Hi-Tec Sports is supporting Keystone Trails Association's Trail Care and Trail Crew volunteers with a pair of new hiking boots. Why? Because Hi-Tec Sports reckons they're one of the most passionate footwear companies around, obsessed with building instantly comfortable lightweight footwear for the outdoors, golf, and court sport activities.



Why? Because our leisure time (or in this case our volunteer time) is too precious to walk around feeling uncomfortable in our shoes.

Hi-Tec almost singularly focuses on developing attractive, comfortable, lightweight high-quality shoes at a fair "true value" price. Hi-Tec Sports applies high technology build processes and leverages innovative materials to ensure the ultimate in comfort, whether your needs are performance-oriented, or more leisure wear centric.

Trail Care

The Keystone Trails Association hopes that you will volunteer for a Trail Care Weekend or Trail Crew Week. For a complete list of Trail Care Weekends and Trail Crew weeks, see page 2.

Pennsylvania Hiking Week

The ninth annual Pennsylvania Hiking Week, co-sponsored by KTA and the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, will be held May 29 thru June 6. This celebration is the perfect opportunity to promote our trails and publicize the activities of KTA member clubs.

Every club should submit hikes to KTA to be included on the PHW schedule of activities, which will be posted on the DCNR website. Information needed is: location (state forest, state park, trail, etc.); name of hike; county; mileage; difficulty (easy, easy/moderate, moderate, moderate/strenuous, strenuous); hike description; meeting place and time; notes; and contact information (name, phone, email).

This year, PHW coincides with Memorial Day weekend and National Trails Day (June 5), so there should be lots of hikes from which to choose.

Introduce your family, friends, and colleagues to the pleasures of hiking in Penn's Woods!

Recently I had the opportunity to help build hillside steps at the Keystone Trails Association Trail Care Day at Shikellamy State Park with Ed Lawrence, Keystone Trails Association's new Trail Care Leader, and 31 other volunteers. For pictures of the day visit the Keystone Trails Association website or Facebook page.



Here are two emails expressing thanks for Keystone Trails Association trail building efforts.

Everyone

I can't thank all of you enough for all your efforts, from the planning of the event, to the hard work performed on the trails to the meals that were just great. And what a great cohesive group of volunteers, It always gives me a moment of pause to see folks coming out to volunteer their time and energy, and I'm really impressed at the distances some have traveled from and the volume of work accomplished on Saturday. It was a hard day's work but was a very pleasant and enjoyable day's work and that is a testament to all of you and everyone that volunteered. I think we have a really nice trail system now and my hope is to build on the work you have accomplished and see school groups and the general public start to really use the Overlook area. I learned a lot on Saturday, thank you all very much.

Ed, please forward my thanks to all the KTA volunteers, very much appreciated.

Frank Nanna

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Shikellamy State Park

Ed and Catherine,

I personally and professionally owe the two of you a huge expression of appreciation.

You helped achieve one of the goals that has been on the table for the past four years. The Friends of Shikellamy State Park simply did not have the capacity and skills to undertake the restoration of the trails.

Your offer to have the Keystone Trail Association bring their talent and tools were a gift that fell from the sky!

Thanks again!

Julia Marano

Keystone Trails Association volunteers put in 142 hours of work time and 35 hours of travel time. If you have never volunteered for a Trail Care Weekend or Trail Crew week, I would encourage you to do so. We recently ran a poll on our website and learned that many of you would volunteer for a Trail Care Weekend, but due to time constraints only have one free day. That's OK -- one day volunteers are always welcome at Trail Care weekends or Trail Crew weeks. See you there.

KTA News

KTA Receives Bequest From John Petraskie

John "Jack" Petraskie, 69, of Athens, PA, who died unexpectedly last November, willed KTA a generous gift to help KTA fulfill its mission to provide, preserve, protect and promote recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania.

His widow Patricia Brown-Petraskie told KTA that Jack loved the outdoors and hiked all over Pennsylvania and New York. She added, "He was usually accompanied by his dog, and after we met, I was right beside him. Those were times I will



always treasure. The trails always brought back the feeling of peace that we all need."

Jack was a twenty-year member of KTA, a maintainer on the Mid State Trail for a number of years, an active outdoorsman with memberships in several gun clubs, and a supporter of the Nova Scotia Duck Toller Rescue group. He was the owner/operator of Petraskie Electric for many years before retiring in 2004.

Thank you, Jack, for your contribution to KTA. We will use your gift wisely to support hiking trails in Penn's Woods.

If you would like to receive information about including KTA in your estate plans, contact Curt Ashenfelter at ktahike@verizon.net or 717-238-7017.

Member Death

Steve Peters
Manchester, PA

Contributions Received January-March 2010

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

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

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

FEBRUARY APPEAL

President's Circle
\$2,500+
Thyra Sperry *+

Gold Club
\$250 - \$2,499
Cecil Dobbins +
Richard Hiemenz
Wanda Shirk *+
Thomas Thwaites +

Silver Club
\$100 - \$249
Richard Cressman +
Erik Eskin
John Gale
Peter Jarrett +
Donald Kirkland +
John H. Shissler +
Kent Weymouth

Bronze Club
\$50 - \$99
Chris Bartleson-Lentz
Harry Fenton
Jeffrey Goldman
Daniel & Gloria
Grabenstein
Janice Reich
Thomas Ruppel
Rob Shaw
Karl Smith
Kenneth Trimble
Anonymous (2)

Additional
Bill Gregonis
George Farley
Edward Lewkowicz
Stuart Thompson +
John Vaughn
Anonymous (1)

**KEEP TRAILS
ALIVE**
Keystoner
\$1,200+
A Friend *

Trustee
\$600 - \$1,199
Dave Dalpezzo *
Thyra Sperry *+
Ernest Werstler *

Advocate
\$240 - \$599
Alpine Club of
Williamsport
Curt Ashenfelter *
Scott Brown +
J. Frederic Cox III
Henry Frank *+
Charles Glanville *
Marshall Hamilton *

Phil Keener *
Ed Lawrence *+
Recreational Equipment
Inc.
Richard Martin *+
Wanda Shirk *+
Phil Williams *
Anonymous (1)

**Additional Keep Trails
Alive Donors**
\$100 - \$239
Cindy Bower *
George Gardner +
Andrea Knox
George Schubert
Steve Stroman *
Nicholas Tonelli *
Anonymous (1)

Other Contributors
Thomas Clayton
John Dulik +
Chelsea Dunkle
Wayne Gross +
John Jakoby
Kathy Kosko
William Pearson
Martha Quigley
J.P. Smith
John Stevens
Katherine St. John
Mike Teeter
George Van Rossum
Anonymous (1)

BEQUESTS
John Petraskie

* Monthly Donor
+ Life Member

KTA News

Get Ready For Second Annual Susquehanna Super Hike!

By Paul Shaw

Reserve the date. Building on the success of KTA's inaugural Susquehanna Super Hike, the 2nd Annual Susquehanna Super Hike and Ultra Trail Run will be held Saturday, September 11.

Changes to Route

This year's event is 28.4 miles, more than three miles longer than last year, and again follows two of Pennsylvania's premier hiking trails, the Mason-Dixon Trail in York County and the Conestoga Trail in Lancaster County. The Super Hike will start at the Otter Creek Campground near Airville in York County and follow a new route through State Game Land before linking up with the Mason-Dixon Trail and descending to gorgeous Otter Creek. The route then steeply climbs away from the creek and connects with last year's route at the Urey Overlook. Another route change follows a detour around the Face Rock Overlook on the east side of the river to avoid new construction on the Holtwood Dam. After the detour, the route continues up and down the Conestoga Trail before finishing at Pequea Creek Campground in Lancaster County.

Terrain Not Flat

Contrary to misconceptions that this area is flat farmland, the route traverses the River Hills of the Susquehanna River with numerous steep climbs and descents. Some consider this one of the



A hiker negotiates the
Lemon Squeezer

most challenging hikes in the mid-Atlantic region. Those who finish will have climbed 4373 feet and descended 4353 feet for a total elevation change of 8726 feet! With the extra length, the Super Hike now qualifies as an Ultra Trail Run for those who enjoy trail running.

Participants have twelve hours to complete the hike, from 7 AM to 7 PM. As last year, there will be three checkpoints, each about 7-8 miles apart, where snacks and beverages will be provided. For their safety, participants must reach each checkpoint by a certain time or they will not be allowed to continue.

Bus transportation will be provided early in the morning to take participants from Pequea Creek Campground to the starting point at Otter Creek.

Partners and Sponsors

Last year, the Lancaster Hiking Club, Mason-Dixon Trail System, and York Hiking Club did a superb job getting the trails in tip-top shape and they are working hard to replicate their efforts. This year, the Lancaster County Conservancy has given us permission to use their section of trails. The Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club has agreed to staff Checkpoint 1 and other hiking clubs have tentatively agreed to staff the other checkpoints. Super Hike sponsors include PPL and Turkey Hill. Pretzel City Sports will again

provide timing services.

We are actively seeking other sponsors.

Volunteers Needed

Is a 28-mile hike more than you can handle? Then please consider volunteering to help with the event. Volunteers are needed for check-in and registration, for the checkpoints, for parking and traffic control and first aid. More than 100 volunteers are needed. If you are willing to help, please contact Becky Schreiber at ktaadmin@verizon.net or call 717-238-7017.



Scenic View from the route of the Super Hike

Training Hikes

All are invited to join two training hikes for the Super Hike. The first is scheduled for Sunday, July 11, and will follow the route from the start at Otter Creek Campground to Lock 12 near the Norman Wood Bridge, a total of 14.8 very strenuous miles. Participants will meet at the Lock 12 parking lot on Rt. 372, just west of the bridge, at 10 AM.

The second training hike is scheduled for Sunday, August 22, and will follow the Conestoga Trail from the east side of the Norman Wood Bridge to the Pequea Creek Campground. Distance is 11.8 very strenuous miles. Participants will meet at the Pequea Creek parking lot along PA 324, between Martic Forge and the village of Pequea (campground is across creek) at 10 AM. Both hikes are rain or shine. Bring water and lunch. The leader is Paul Shaw, pshaw@ptd.net or 717-215-8339.

More information about the Super Hike, including registration, is available at www.kta-hike.org. All proceeds benefit KTA.

Whether you are a hiker, trail runner, or volunteer, we hope to see you there!

Economic Impacts of Walkers/Hikers

A recent University of Minnesota study documenting and comparing the economic impacts of different trail users found that walkers/hikers in Minnesota spent 4.4 times the money and created more than 4.8 times the number of jobs than all motorized users combined. The full report *Economic Impact of Recreational Trail Use in Different Regions of Minnesota* (November 2009) is available online at www.tourism.umn.edu; search for Recreational Trail Use.

Partner News

Luzerne County Tract Protected

With the help of a \$1.4 million Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant, the North Branch Land Trust has preserved nearly 1,900 forested acres in Luzerne County. The easement protects Bear Creek Camp property which contains the headwaters for Little Bear Creek and Bear Creek, tributaries of the Lehigh River. The land is nestled between state Game Lands.

Conserving this large forested tract protects critical habitat and open space. The property has significant recreational value with its fishing, hiking, wildlife watching and cross country skiing opportunities—all of which will remain available to the public thanks to this preservation work.

Lackawanna Forest Office Moves

The Lackawanna State Forest District has moved to the Environmental Learning Center at Lackawanna State Park, near the intersections of PA 407 and 524. Among DCNR's growing list of recently constructed "green buildings," the Learning Center and office complex are designed to achieve a silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. Incorporated into its design and function are geothermal heating and cooling systems, natural ventilation, recycled materials and other energy-efficient materials and construction methods.

The shared office facility also houses the officials overseeing Lackawanna, Salt Spring, Archbald Pothole, and Prompton State Parks. The new address is RR1 Box 230, Dalton, PA 18414, 570-945-7133.

State Parks to Get Solar Panels

The Bureau of State Parks' goal to reduce the carbon footprint of its 117 state parks by 20 percent over the next five years took a large step forward in late 2009 when bids were awarded for installation of solar panels at Gifford Pinchot and Yellow Creek State Parks, the last two of six parks targeted to receive the power-generating systems.

The solar panels are an integral part of a "green" parks initiative DCNR launched in 2007 to address climate change and energy consumption in Pennsylvania's parks. Although the panels' primary function is educational, all six parks will realize energy cost savings and rely less on regional power grids for electricity.

Solar systems have already been installed at Prince Gallitzin, Cambria County; Codorus, York County; French Creek, Berks County; and Lackawanna, Lackawanna County. Interpretive programs and displays are being designed and developed at these six parks to educate visitors on energy production alternatives.

Hunting Reminder!! Spring Turkey Season—May 1-31



Do not wear red, blue, black or white, as these are the head colors of male wild turkeys. Avoid red and blue handkerchiefs and blue jeans.

Be safe—wear florescent orange.

Moraine State Park Bridges Closed

Three bridges on West Park Road are closed for structural repairs and deck replacement. The resulting detours will be in effect this summer and add travel time entering and exiting the North Shore of Moraine State Park.

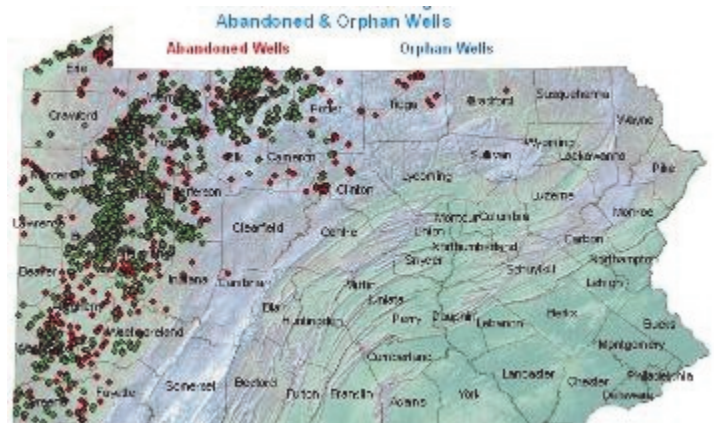
Capping Abandoned Wells

The Department of Environmental Protection plugged 259 abandoned oil and gas wells in the western and north-central regions of the state in 2009. Many were leaking oil, acid mine drainage, or natural gas. These wells are not related to current oil and natural gas drilling.

Current regulations require that wells be cased during use and sealed when taken out of service. But in the past, wells were simply abandoned; DEP has documented more than 8,600. Pennsylvania has the highest number of abandoned wells in the Appalachian region and is one of the top five states nationally.

Well-plugging costs vary depending of terrain, age of the well and its depth. After removing old well casings and clearing the bore, the old well is filled with grout, cement or other fill materials.

Since the first commercial oil well was drilled in Pennsylvania in 1859, as many as 350,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled in the state.



Map prepared by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Oil and Gas Management.

Landscaping for Wildlife Booklet

Landscaping for Wildlife in Pennsylvania will assist landowners in developing backyard habitats beneficial to wildlife. The 160-page book, written by Marcus Schneck, uses drawings and photos to describe ideal habitats for a variety of species, from hummingbirds to bats, and includes construction plans for a number of wildlife nesting boxes.

The book also contains a chapter on nuisance wildlife and steps to address potential problems, as well as information on the importance of planting native species and a listing of recommended plants.

To order the book, which costs \$10 (plus shipping and handling), visit the Game Commission's online Outdoor Shop at www.pgc.state.pa.us.

Around the Clubs

Allentown Hiking Club

AHC received the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor's Commandant Award in recognition of the club's years of dedication and commitment to enhancing and maintaining the D&L Trail.

Clarion Chapter, NCTA

The Clarion Chapter is selling made-to-order walking sticks crafted from tree branches found along the North Country Trail. The wood is salvaged from storm debris, timbering tree tops and trail maintenance activities. Wood choices include maple, oak, elm, crab apple, birch, witch hazel, black cherry, ironwood and sassafras. Sizes range from 36 to 66 inches, with either a glossy or satin clear polyurethane finish over the natural wood. Cost is \$25. Contact **Ed Scurry** at 814-437-1168 or edsdc85@yahoo.com. All sales support the Chapter's activities.

Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy

HSTC is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

The PA Highlands Committee has awarded the Conservancy a \$5500 grant, which will be used for trail protections. To earn the grant, the Conservancy is presenting a program about the Pennsylvania Highland to five municipalities and asking them to sign a resolution of support.

Lancaster Hiking Club

Last year, 127 club members and 129 guests hiked 11,743 miles on 137 club hikes.

Mountain Club of Maryland

MCM is a new participant in Patapsco Valley State Park's Adopt-A-Trail program. The twelve club volunteers perform monthly monitoring and maintenance on the Valley View Trail.

The club hopes to adopt more trails or a longer trail in the future.

As part of a very successful 75th anniversary celebration last fall, 67 members and friends recreated the club's original hike at Gathland. **Connie (Heard) Waxter**, who at age 13 accompanied her father on the original hike, was accompanied on the anniversary hike by her son and grandson. Also hiking were twelve current and past club presidents (one from the 1950s).

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

PATC has completed a five-year stream monitoring program, taking samples of insect larvae from the bottoms of nine streams. Identifying insect families assists scientists who need to make sound conclusions about water quality. To see the complete list of all of the animals found and details of the monitoring process, go to www.patc.net and click on Volunteer.

In 2009 PATC members amassed over 103,000 volunteer hours.

Standing Stone Trail Club

After 21 years, **Mike Sausser** has retired as editor of the Linkster, SSTC's newsletter. Sausser wrote and mailed the first issue to 15 people in April 1989.

Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club

The club is pleased to announce that it has reached a new mile stone – the club has surpassed 500 members.

Susquehannock Trail Club

Wil and Betty Ahn were presented with a trail sign in recognition of their many years of service to the STC.

STC mourns the death of **Janette Baker**, 95, one of the club's oldest long-time members. She was Susquehannock Trail Circuit Hiker #2, having completed the trail with her husband Lewis and daughter Lois (Baker) Morey.

What Would You Do With \$250 Million?

This fiscal year, Pennsylvania's executive and legislative branches of government spent months wrangling over the state budget. Where should the state spend our tax dollars? What should our priorities be?

If you had \$250 million to appropriate, would you:

Permanently secure 90,000 acres of forested land for public recreation, water quality protection, sustainable timber harvest and wildlife habitat?

[DCNR's three most recent major forest purchases averaged \$2,750 per acre]

OR

Build 86% of a new sports arena?

[Taxpayers are footing roughly 80% of the bill for the new Pittsburgh Penguins hockey arena, which will cost \$290 million]

Establish over 2,000 miles of bicycle and pedestrian trails connecting communities across the state?

[Based on DCNR-funded rail to trail projects]

OR

Construct 7 miles of rural limited access highway?

[Allocations of tax dollars to the Turnpike Commission funded 31 miles of the Mon/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway toll roads]

Protect 80,000 acres of farmland?

[The average cost of protecting farmland under the state and county Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program is \$3,073 per acre]

OR

Give each of Pennsylvania's 12.5 million citizens a check for \$20?

You Are Invited

Appalachian Trail Program — May 25

Lorrie Preston will present a free program *"The Appalachian Trail - A Footpath for Those Who Seek Fellowship with the Wilderness."* at the Olewine Nature Center, Wildwood Park on May 25th at 7 PM. Lorrie began section hiking the AT in 2006 and has completed nearly 1,000 miles of the trail. She will present images of trailside wildflowers through the seasons, birds, and other jewels of nature, as well as vistas and trail highlights from eight states, including the rugged White Mountains of New Hampshire. For more information, see www.wildwoodlake.org or mitandpak@aol.com.



Outdoor Extravaganza — May 28-31

The Butler Outdoor Club's 14th Outdoor Extravaganza will be held during Memorial Day weekend at Breakneck Campground near McConnells Mill and Moraine State Parks. Participants can choose from a smorgasbord of activities – trail, road and mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, rock climbing, rafting, caving, horseback riding, and, of course, hiking – as well as excursions and workshops. Evenings feature campfires, programs, and s'mores. Details and registration information is available at www.outdoorextravaganza.org.

Great Gear Exchange/Flea Market — May 28-30

The Gear Exchange/Flea Market will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from afternoon to dusk at Breakneck Campground near McConnells Mill State Park. Individuals, dealers, and businesses are invited to bring new and used items to sell. For a donation, sellers can set up a table in a large covered carport or bring a gazebo for the entire weekend. Donations will be given to the North Country Trail Butler Chapter to support trail maintenance and construction. Contact joyceappel@windstream.net or 724-526-5407 for more information.

Allegheny 100 – June 18-20

The Allegheny National Forest Chapter will host three long distance challenge hikes in June. The Allegheny 100 will be held on the North Country National Scenic Trail from the New York border to SR 66 south of Marienville PA, beginning Friday, June 18 at 6 PM and ending Sunday, June 20 at 8 PM. Participants must hike, not bike or run. This is an endurance challenge and is not a race.

For those not prepared for a 100-mile challenge, 25 and 50 mile hikes are also available. All entrants will receive a t-shirt and a one-year North Country Trail Association membership for the \$30 fee; all proceeds will benefit the NCTA. For details and registration information contact Bert Nemcik at nct001@verizon.net, bnemcik@yahoo.com or 814-927-8303.



KTA Hikers' Market

KTA Member? YES NO JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price: Member Non-Member Total

Appalachian Trail Guidebook & Maps			
Pennsylvania AT Guide (2009)	\$8.00	\$10.00	
PA AT Map Sec. 1-6: Delaware Water Gap to Swatara Gap	\$10.80	\$12.00	
PA AT Map Sec. 7-8: Swatara Gap to Susquehanna River	\$5.40	\$6.00	
PA AT Map Sec. 9-11: Susquehanna River to PA Route 94	\$5.79	\$6.45	
PA AT Map Sec. 12-13: PA Route 94 to US Route 30	\$5.79	\$6.45	
PA AT Map Sec. 14: US Route 30 to the Maryland line	\$5.79	\$6.45	
Complete AT set of maps and guidebook	\$38.00	\$44.00	

Other Publications			
NEW! Pennsylvania Hiking Map	\$4.95	\$5.95	
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails (2008)	\$8.99	\$9.99	
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails Book & Map Set	\$12.25	\$14.25	
Mid State Trail Guide	\$34.20	\$38.00	
Mason-Dixon Trail Maps	\$11.65	\$12.95	
Standing Stone Trail Guide	\$7.00	\$10.00	
Guide to the Horse-Shoe Trail	\$11.00	\$12.75	
Hiker's Guide to the Bucktail Path	\$4.95	\$5.50	
Loyalsock Trail Guide	\$10.35	\$11.15	
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the North Half in MD & PA (3 rd Edition)	\$8.00	\$10.00	
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South Half in WV & VA (3 rd Edition)	\$8.00	\$10.00	
Tuscarora Trail Map J (AT Junction in PA to PA Route 641)	\$4.50	\$9.00	
Tuscarora Trail Map K (PA Route 641 to Hancock, MD)	\$4.50	\$9.00	
Walks, Hikes & Overnights in Raccoon Creek State Park	\$11.50	\$13.50	

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

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

Subtotal:

Pennsylvania residents add 6% tax:

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

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

Finding The Elusive Eastern Coyote

The eastern coyote is found in every Pennsylvania county. Next to the black bear, it is Pennsylvania's largest wild predator, typically weighing in at 35-55 pounds.

Coyotes are intelligent opportunists, masters at using cover, rarely missing a chance for easy meals. They are fond of ground-hogs and mice, and will eat venison, mostly from hunter gut-piles and highway kills, rather than predation. Coyotes also eat wild grapes, field corn, apples, grasshoppers and even acorns.



Despite their widespread distribution, most people have never seen a coyote. The best way to locate coyotes is to go to a remote area, cup your hands around your mouth and howl. Nearby coyotes will normally respond by either howling back or possibly coming to investigate. Calling during daylight is best.

Another way to locate coyotes would be to look for signs such as scat and tracks. Coyote tracks are oval or oblong, about 2.5 to 3 inches long, and the middle toenails point inward. Fox and dog tracks are more rounded.

Historians and furbearer biologists who have studied the eastern coyotes often disagree about their origin. Most biologists believe that eastern coyotes are a result of crossbreeding between western coyotes and wolves and established themselves in Pennsylvania over the past 100 years. Historians argue that our coyotes are the "wolves" that were here when colonists arrived. In 1991, Robert Wayne of the University of California and Niles Lehman of the Scripps Research Institute of California showed through DNA analysis that eastern coyotes have wolf genes. Recent research has reaffirmed this.

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Lawn Mowers and Air Pollution

The air pollution from cutting grass for an hour with a gasoline powered lawn mower is about the same as that from a 100 mile automobile ride, according to a study funded by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Equipping mowers with catalytic converters can cut emissions more than 80 percent, according to author Roger Westerholm.

Each year, the 54 million Americans who mow their lawns use 800 million gallons of gas. A typical push type lawn mower is run for an average of 25 hours per year, according to the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute.

KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliations (if any): _____

_____ Receive newsletter in full color via email by 1st of issue month instead of by postal mail and save KTA paper and mailing costs

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

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

Basic Membership (New Member Only) Individual - \$15 Family - \$20	\$
Basic Membership (Renewal) Individual - \$25 Family - \$30	\$
Brush Cutter Membership Individual - \$35 Family - \$45	\$
Blaze Painter Membership Individual - \$50 Family - \$75	\$
Trail Builder Membership Individual - \$100 Family - \$125	\$
Life Membership Individual - \$500 Family - \$750	\$
Youth Membership Individual - \$5	\$
Additional Contribution In Memory Of/In Honor Of _____	\$
Total Enclosed	\$