



THE KEYSTONE HIKER

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

May 2011

AND THE WINNER IS.... THE KEYSTONE HIKER!

Congratulations to KTA member **Joan Drake**, whose Newsletter name suggestion, "*The Keystone Hiker*," was selected by over 75 percent of the 90 participants in our online poll! As the winner, Joan will receive a pair of Komperdell Northern Lights Trekking Poles, courtesy of KTA Board Member **Scott Adams**.

PROWL THE SPROUL



Close your eyes, and imagine this: campfires, wine and cheese, hot showers, pancakes, great company, *and* hiking through one of the most pristine, beautiful forests in PA. Sounds too good to be true? It's not—KTA's **8th Annual Prowl the Sproul** will offer all of this, and more, on the weekend of July 22! See p. 9-12 for details—including our newest challenge: The **Chuck Keiper Trail Slackpack**.

HOW TO BUILD A BENCH by Ed Lawrence



2010 Trail Care Volunteers ready to dig in!

The weeklong Trail Crews in June are an important part of KTA's trail care program. Last year, over half of the overall hours participants contributed to the program were logged during the four crew weeks. This year, the Trail Crew schedule has expanded to include a 5th week, giving volunteers yet another opportunity to walk the trail care walk helping to build and improve PA's system of hiking paths.

Because the weeklong crews include meals, however, there is a vital need to have a "bench" of volunteers who would be willing to serve as a crew cook. On some crews, there are individuals or groups that are connected with the local trail club that are willing to step into that role. In other instances, volunteers from KTA-at-large must step forward to keep both the program on track and the participants fed. This year, Wanda Shirk and Mary Pitzer

have generously volunteered to be "Cast Iron Chefs" on two of the crews. The Trail Care Program sincerely thanks these two "seasoned" cooks, and salutes their gusto and willingness to serve.

Looking ahead to the 2011 crew season means continuing to build a "bench" of crew cooks. Please contact me at cathyed@nationi.net to add your name to this important list. Visit p. 5 for upcoming Trail Care events.

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OFFICERS

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INTERIM NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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This newsletter is published four times each 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 Editor encourages submissions reflecting all viewpoints, but reserves the right to edit material. You are encouraged to submit your material via email.

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KTA—YOUR HIKING ADVOCATE IN ACTION

by Curt Ashenfelter, Executive Director



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

Proposed State Budget

Governor Corbett has introduced his 2010-2011 budget and it will have a significant impact on Pennsylvania's hiking trails.

The good news is that the proposed budget does not call for any new leasing of state forest land for gas drilling.

The bad news is that the proposed budget does not include a severance tax on natural gas drilling. However, the Governor has indicated that he could support an impact fee on natural gas drillers.

Senate Republicans are in the process of crafting legislation that would determine how such a fee would work and where the money would go. Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson, has said he would prefer a method that would keep the lion's share of the funding for local governments, which are reportedly dealing with strains to their infrastructure, government services, and emergency response

systems.

The Senator also supports boosting safety regulations on the industry and setting aside funding for environmental programs like Growing Greener. Growing Greener is a program that advocates for maintenance and protection of open space, farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other environmental initiatives.

Sunday Hunting

I would encourage you to visit your state senator and state representative and express your views on gas drilling fees and Sunday hunting.

Every new legislative session seems to begin with an assault on the current ban on Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania. PA shares with 11 other states a ban on Sunday hunting. This ban preserves the one day each week when the majority of Pennsylvanians can enjoy peace and quiet in the woods and on their favorite trail.

Proponents of Sunday hunting cite potential economic advantages to the state if Sunday hunting is allowed. However, it is hard to imagine how allowing hunting on Sunday for 8% of the population while depriving the other 92% of the population of peace and quiet will result in a net gain to the economy.

If hunters from in- and out-of-state go into the woods, and the in- and out-of-state hikers, birdwatchers, picnickers, and tourists leave the woods, how will Pennsylvania's economy benefit?

You will also hear that Sunday hunting will allow Saturday soccer play-

ADVOCATE continued on p. 13

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thyra Sperry, President



Spring finally arrived but the winter weather left many challenges for our Trail Care team. The March Trail Care on the Mid State Trail was chilly, but invigorating, for leader Kevin Busko and his 26 volunteers, who described the ridge tops as being sheathed with, and glistening in, ice.

Trail maintainer John Stevens has been appointed to KTA's Board of Directors. He replaces Tom Kelliher, past President of the Mid State Trail and avid trail maintainer, who resigned due to professional commitments. You may have met John at our spring and fall meetings and Prowl the Sproul. This fall, John will lead the October Trail Care weekend at Reeds Gap-Poe Paddy State

Park. A KTA Life Member, John's interests include trail design and maintenance, resources and trail access, effects of Marcellus shale drilling, and long-term KTA financing. Currently, John serves on the executive council of the Ridge and Valley Outing Club. See p. 6 for more detail.

We thank our volunteers who continue to serve as Committee Chairs: John Motz (Conservation & Advocacy), Ernest Werstler (Finance), Katie Barker (Grants & Loans), Janice Reich (Membership & Development), Wanda Shirk (Nominations), Wayne Gross (Publications), Ed Lawrence (Trail Care) and Butch Davey, (Trail Club Services). They bring a forest of experience to KTA.

This year's summer hiking challenge is at Prowl the Sproul (p. 9), and is made to fit the rugged hiker: a weekend to slackpack all 49.3 miles of the Chuck Keiper Trail, led by Board member, Paul Shaw, and Super Hike volunteer Todd Lange. This will get you toned up for the exhilarating and awesome fall Super Hike!

In the meantime, get out and protect your favorite trail!

Thyra

UPCOMING KTA EVENTS

May 28-June 5 - **PA Hiking Week.** Co-sponsored with DCNR (p. 17)

May 31- First 2011 Trail Crew Week (p. 5)

June 4 & 11, 2011 - Susquehanna Super Hike "Preview Hikes" (p.17)

July 22-24, 2011 - **Prowl the Sproul**, Renovo, Clinton Co. (p.9)

July 22-24, 2011 - **Chuck Keiper Trail Thru-Hike Slackpack** (p.9)

September 10, 2011 - **Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run**, York & Lancaster Co. (p.20)

September 30-October 2, 2011 - **Fall Meeting and Hiking Weekend**, Prospect, Butler County

ADVERTISING

The *Keystone Hiker* accepts paid advertisements from organizations and individuals who want to present messages consistent with the mission of KTA. For more information, contact KTA Executive Director Curt Ashenfelter at 717-238-7017 or kta-hike@verizon.net.

VOLUNTEER AWARD PROGRAM

KTA volunteers contribute so much to the PA hiking community! Their activities range from guiding hikes, to maintaining trails, to advocacy on the local and state levels, to community education, to leading local hiking clubs. Regardless of *what* they do, their actions have enabled individuals and families throughout PA to have continual access to safe and accessible hiking trails.

KTA is seeking the names of members who have made significant contributions as volunteers for at least 25 and 50 years. If you know of someone that has had such an impact, we encourage you to submit your written nomination to KTA, 101 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17101 or to ktaadmin@verizon.net. Please include a list of the member's volunteer activities.

KTA Volunteer Awards will be presented at the October 1, 2011 Fall meeting in Prospect, Butler County.

MAINTAINERS' CORNER

KTA CODE ORANGE

by Ed Lawrence

KTA Trail Care returned to Keystone State Park on April 2, flying under the banner of the Orange Newt, the Code Orange program's mascot. Volunteers awoke Saturday morning to a light covering of snow and *Wheaties*-sized flakes still falling.

Our mission was to improve the Spring House Trail, a short loop behind the center, utilized by young naturalists on school trips.

As the weather shifted from snow, to drizzle, to blue sky, we spent the morning clearing, widening and doing some targeted side-hill work to re-grade parts of the trail. The final step was to spread stone aggregate on the treadway of the newly-refurbished sections. The trail turned out to be too steep and spongy for our wheelbarrows, so we shifted tactics and went old-school with a bucket brigade that ferried the stone up the trail.

After a hearty lunch of chili and cornbread made by Pam and her cooking crew, we worked to finish drawing down the pile. The last shovel-full hit the bucket as a vociferous wind blew over the ridge, swaying the tulip trees like a legion of metronomes.

WEEKEND TRAILCARE

by Kevin Busko

The weekend of March 25-27 marked KTA's first 2011 Trail Care event, which was held on the Mid State Trail (State College region).

Volunteers bunked in Rimmey Lodge at Seven Mountains Boy Scout Camp. The ice-covered trees and freezing temperatures didn't prevent 26 volunteers—including some Boy Scouts—from showing up on Saturday to help out! Five crews headed out, each to complete a different job on a specific section of trail. Crews were in charge of lopping, brush trimming, chainsaw work, clearing trails, and replacing trail junction signs.

On Sunday, the crews cleared out the Big Valley Vista and finished lopping and brush cutting in Green's Valley, work that began in 2010.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to come out and gave us a hand, and to KTA for providing tools and manpower.

Several sections of trail are available for adoption by a caring maintainer. Contact Kevin Busko at kbusko@verizon.net or 814-643-4238 if interested.

Below: April 2 Trail Care Volunteers

SAWYER CERTIFICATION

Pennsylvania's DCNR Bureaus of Forestry and State Parks and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) place great emphasis on their approach to protecting volunteers on the AT.



In an effort to ensure consistency for AT management across jurisdictions, DCNR has endorsed ATC's Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Training and Certification Policy. DCNR now requires volunteers operating chainsaws on the AT on DCNR lands to be certified through ATC's training program.

The policy can be found on ATC's website, www.appalachiantrail.org. It authorizes ATC to equip and train AT workers through the ATC training program. Those workers must also register with DCNR's Conservation Volunteer program through their local State Forest or Park office.

The next Chainsaw & Crosscut Saw Training and Certification class will be held in Carlisle on May 14-15. Contact Bob Sickley at 717-258-5771 for more information.



MAINTAINERS' CORNER

2011 KTA TRAIL CARE SCHEDULE

REMINDER:



Volunteers who contribute at least 20 hours during the June weeklong Trail Crews will receive this "Blaze the Way" t-shirt!

The KTA Trail Care program offers interested volunteers 3 types of "hands-on" trail work opportunities. No prior experience necessary; tools and training are provided. Volunteers are responsible for bringing all personal camping gear.

Trail Crew: Weeklong events that begin on Tuesday evening and end the following Sunday at noon, with all meals provided. Participants can sign up for the entire week or by the day.

Trail Care: Work weekends begin Friday evening and end Sunday at noon. Participants provide their own meals. KTA member Tony Robbins has created a Trail Care Map that you can now access on www.kta-hike.org.

Code Orange: A one-day event.

Camping may be available and food is sometimes provided. New Code Orange work days may be scheduled throughout the year.

Volunteers should contact trip leaders to indicate their intent to participate and get up-to-the-minute information.

May 7: Code Orange 1-Day Trail Care, Gifford Pinchot State Park, with the Friends of Pinchot State Park*
Leader: Steve Stroman, 717-350-0437, stevestroman@hotmail.com
Camp: Camping will be available Friday and Saturday nights in group camping area. Friends group will host a Saturday night cookout.

May 20-22: Trail Care, Thomas Darling Nature Preserve*
Leader: Jennifer Case, 570-643-7922 x.20, jcase@tnc.org
Camp: Hauser Nature Ctr, Long Pond

May 31-June 5: Trail Crew Week #1, North Country Trail*
Leader: John Stehle, 724-256-0674, stehles@gmail.com
Camp: Davis Hollow Cabin

June 7-12: Trail Crew Week #2, Mid



Above: Standing Stone Trail/ Trail Care.
Photo courtesy of Trail Care Archives.

State Trail, Tioga Region*
Leader: Pete Fleszar, 717-583-2093, tioga@hike-mst.org
Camp: Private site, Arnot, Tioga Co.

June 14-19: Trail Crew Week #3, Chuck Keiper/Donut Hole Trails*
Leader: Carl Ganong, 484-550-9802, sails123man@yahoo.com
Camp: W. Clinton Sportsmen Assoc.

June 21-26: Trail Crew Week #4, Mid State Trail, Everett Region*
Leader: Deb Dunkle, 814-652-2227, dhdunkle@embarqmail.com
Camp: Tenley Park, Everett

June 28-July 3: Trail Crew Week #5, Standing Stone Trail*
Leader: Mel Cooper, 814-643-2641, lunchtime1@verizon.net
Camp: Narrows Gun Club

July 15-17: Trail Care, Allegheny Front Trail
Leader: Ed Lawrence, 570-925-5285, cathyed@nationi.net
Camp: Black Moshannon State Park

***For the complete 2011 Trail Care schedule and details about each event, visit www.kta-hike.org.**



KTA NEWS

STROUD TOWNSHIP UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS APPALACHIAN TRAIL PROTECTION ORDINANCE

By John Motz, KTA Representative-At-Large

At a special hearing held February 15, 2011, the supervisors of Stroud Township in Monroe County heard testimony and questions from about a dozen residents regarding a proposed conservation zone designed to protect the AT corridor. The ordinance was unanimously passed at the hearing and provides a 2000-foot buffer along approximately 4 miles of the AT's 2,178 mile corridor.

The ordinance is the result of the state's 2008 Appalachian Trail Act, which requires municipalities along the trail to protect the natural, scenic, cultural and historic values of the nation's first National Scenic Trail. The Georgia to Maine trail, with over 200 miles in PA, traverses the southern border of Monroe County in the easternmost section in the state.

The ordinance created an AT Overlay District, providing a two-tiered, 2000

-foot conservation zone along the trail as it runs through the Township.

Township Supervisor Daryl Eppley explained that the first 500 feet on either side of the footpath is designated as the primary conservation zone. Allowable uses in the zone include public or private trails, parkland, agriculture and timber harvesting. No structures are permitted within this zone.

A 1500-foot secondary conservation zone provides additional protection while allowing further use of the land, as long as the trail experience is protected. Structures within the secondary conservation zone require approval of the supervisors, and should be least visible from the trail. In this zone, lights are not permitted to project onto the trail, and the construction of parking lots, cellular towers, and wind towers are prohibited.

KTA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER JOHN STEVENS



KTA welcomes member John Stevens to the KTA Board of Directors. John is retired

from the U.S. Army and has been a Management and Logistics faculty member at both Lehigh University and the Smeal College of Business at Penn State University. He currently focuses his retirement on working on a WWI research project and being an early childhood development advocate with Mission: Readiness.

John has over 40 years experience leading and managing in volunteer nonprofit, university, military and business organizations, and comes to KTA with a wealth of knowledge and experience in nonprofit management and development.

An active trail maintainer and hiker with Ridge and Valley Outdoor Club and Sierra Club (Otzinachson and Moshannon groups), John was initially drawn to KTA in 2006 by its "mission and the wonderfully diverse group of hikers and hiking groups whose time, energy, and money accomplish the mission."

John is enthusiastically looking forward to serving on KTA's Board for the coming term.



KTA NEWS

NEW DCNR SECRETARY

Rick Allan from Camp Hill, Cumberland Co., was nominated on March 24 by Gov. Corbett to be DCNR's Secretary. Rick, who is educated as an environmental scientist and biologist, has spent his career in the recycling and energy industries. He's a founding member of the North Branch Land Trust and Back Mountain Recreation, and a member of the LACAWAC Sanctuary Foundation. His time on the boards of the PA Environmental and Resources Councils has familiarized him with conservation advocacy and citizen action. Rick is also an avid birdwatcher and a 20-year member of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Let's all help him learn about our work to conserve and protect our natural resources and inspire citizens to experience the outdoors.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Duties include writing, gathering, and editing articles, laying out the issue, submitting it to the printer and checking the proof. *The Keystone Hiker* editor is also an ex-officio member of the KTA Board of Directors.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

KTA strives to develop a network of knowledgeable and dedicated speakers who are able to give presentations on topics of interest to the hiking community, such as travelogues with slideshows, backpacking and hiking topics, trail building/maintenance, advocacy, environment and conservation issues, natural history, wildlife, volunteerism and outreach, etc.

VOLUNTEER SAAC REPRESENTATIVE

The Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee (SAAC) advises the Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on matters concerning the use and operation of snowmobiles and ATVs on public land. SAAC requires two representatives from the non-motorized community, including the KTA.

The SAAC committee meets at least once per year; most meetings are held in downtown Harrisburg but sometimes occur in other locations throughout the state. The designated KTA representative would attend scheduled SAAC committee meetings and file a brief report at the KTA spring and fall council meetings.

WANTED: GPS-SAVVY HIKER

Wanted: Volunteer(s) with a GPS who can take waypoints along the 28.4 mile Super Hike course in Lancaster/York Counties, so participants and volunteers can utilize their GPSs and reduce their chance of getting lost while navigating the trail.

Please contact Curt Ashenfelter at kta-hike@verizon.net for more information about volunteer opportunities with KTA.

FRIENDS IMPROVEMENT AWARD: TOM SCULLY



The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) **Friends Improvement Award**, sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, is given to recognize outstanding volunteer efforts by organizations or individuals at state parks and forests.

KTA Member Thomas Scully, of Mechanicsburg, PA, is this year's award recipient. Tom has been chosen to receive this award in recognition of his extensive volunteer services to the PA hiking trail community.

Tom has spent 15 years working with the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC) and as a trail maintainer for the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club (CVATC).

ABOVE: Tom Scully, laying out the foundation piers for a shelter on the Standing Stone Trail, March 2011. Photo courtesy of Tom Scully.

In coordination with SATC, Tom worked on a major redesign and reconstruction of a mile-long section of the AT. Tom redesigned and published full-color AT maps for PA, replacing a nearly unusable black and white series. He also resurrected the Darlington Trail which runs from Marysville along the Cumberland/Perry Co. line west to the A.T. Tom led the crews who built and opened the trail and coordinated approval of the work with the Game Commission. Another major accomplishment is his involvement in the complete redesign of the 72+ mile Link Trail, now named the Standing Stone Trail.

Tom also works on trails in Pinchot State Park in York County and the Boyd Big Tree and Ibberson Conservation Areas in Dauphin County. These are but a few examples of the exemplary volunteer leadership that Tom has undertaken to help maintain and enhance our hiking trail system. KTA and PPFF commend Tom for his work to improve and enhance our hiking trails!

KTA NEWS

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED JANUARY-MARCH 2011

Many thanks to all the individuals and organizations who contribute to the Keystone Trails Association and support our efforts to preserve Pennsylvania's footpaths.

Gold Circle \$250-\$2,499

George & Miriam Martin Foundation
Alpine Club of Williamsport
Carol Eibling
Edward Lawrence +
Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
John Stevens +

Silver Circle \$100-\$249

A Friend (2)
Jean Aron +
Mark Christy +
Melvin Cooper
John Dulik +
Michael C. Finn +
Donald H. Kirkland +
David Lester
Michael Lockhart
John H. Shissler +
Kathleen Sieminski
David Singer +
Susquehannock Trail Club

Bronze Circle \$50-\$99

A Friend
Peter Abessinio
Christopher Anderson
Harold Croxton +
John Gale
William Gray
Keith Groff
William Hardam
George Henry
Cass Janco +
A. Anthony Kilkuskie +
Paul Kutish
Evelyn Kritchevsky
Norman Lacasse

William Long
Joseph Schimansky
Paul Shaw +
David Speranza +
Katherine St. John
Mike Stasik
Herman Tease
George Van Rossum

Other Contributors

A Friend
Lois Brooks
Mary Jo Brown
Steve Cohen
Chelsea Dunkle
Richard Hackman +
Donna Keeler
Nancy Ellen Kiernan
Roy Kleinle
Kathy Kosko
Larry McCauley
Michael Mehlmann
Tanya Nitterhouse +
William Pearson
Shelby Radcliffe
Judith Tanner
Stuart Thompson +
Ellen Wright

+ LIFE MEMBER

KEEPING TRAILS ALIVE

KTA's Keep Trails Alive monthly donor program consists of individuals who commit themselves to giving a regular monthly contribution to sustain our work.

Giving to KTA is easy with a monthly automatic bank withdrawal! Please contact ktaadmin@verizon.net for additional information.

Many thanks to the following individuals who are a part of our **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor program:

Keystoner \$1,200-\$2,499

A Friend +
Thyra Sperry +

Trustee

\$600 - \$1,199
Dave Dalpezzo
Ernest Werstler

Advocate \$240 - \$599

Curt Ashenfelter
Henry Frank +
Charles Glanville & Elizabeth Brecht
Marshall Hamilton
Phil Keener
Ed Lawrence +
Richard Martin +
Wanda Shirk +
Phil Williams

Additional Keep Trails Alive Donors \$100 - \$239

A Friend
Cindy Bower
Steve Stroman & Judie Howrylak
Nicholas Tonelli

The **Keystone Trails Association** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

To make a contribution, renew your membership, or join the **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor program, please visit www.kta-hike.org or call 717-238-7017.

Keystone Trails Association Hosts
8TH ANNUAL PROWL THE SPROUL HIKING WEEKEND
JULY 22-24, 2011
RENOVO, CLINTON COUNTY

**A NEW CHALLENGE:
CHUCK KEIPER SLACKPACK**

New for 2011! In addition to the terrific schedule of day hikes already offered at Prowl the Sproul, experienced and fit hikers will have the opportunity to complete the entire **Chuck Keiper Trail**, a 49.3-mile long-distance hiking trail, during the three-day weekend.

Hikers will “**slackpack**” a different section of the rugged and scenic Chuck Keiper Trail each day. By leaving behind heavy multi-day backpacks, hikers carry only what they need for a typical day hike, which enables them to cover longer distances. At the end of each day, transportation will be coordinated back to the WCSA clubhouse for hot showers and hearty meals!

The Chuck Keiper Slackpack will be led by Paul Shaw and Todd Lange of **Treks & Trails International**.

Participation is limited to 20 hikers. Hikers will stay together as a group and maintain a brisk pace of more than 2 miles per hour over long distances and challenging terrain. The hike begins on Friday, July 22, at 10:00 AM.

For more details, contact KTA at ktaadmin@verizon.net or 717-238-7017.

REMINDERS:

- **April 17: Registration opens for Prowl the Sproul 10K**
- **May 15: Deadline for “choose your own adventure” survey**
- **July 7: Deadline for Prowl the Sproul registration**



WEEKEND SCHEDULE*

Friday, July 22

10:00 AM: Chuck Keiper Slackpack meeting & departure

11:00 AM-6:00 PM: Registration and hike sign-ups

1:00 PM: Hiking

6:00 PM: Wine & Cheese Social and WCSA cookout

Saturday, July 23

7:30 AM: Breakfast

8:30 AM-4:30 PM: Hiking (bagged lunches)

8:30-9:45 AM: 10K Registration

10:00 AM: 10K starts

5:30 PM: Picnic Dinner

Sunday, July 24

7:30 AM: Breakfast (bagged lunches)

8:30 AM-1:00 PM: Hiking

*Weekend schedule subject to change. Please check www.kta-hike.org for up-to-date information and hike schedule.

WEEKEND OVERVIEW

The Keystone Trails Association will host the 8th annual **Prowl the Sproul** hiking weekend on July 22 to July 24, 2011 in the Sproul State Forest of western Clinton County. Hikers will be able to explore new and exciting parts of the Sproul that are only seen when hiking with a DCNR guide.

The “Sproul” contains some of the most rugged and remote forestland in Pennsylvania. Guided hikes organized by KTA and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources are scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

DCNR guides will share their insider

WEEKEND OVERVIEW continued on p. 11

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

by Ted Ligenza, DCNR

We are trying something new this year! There is a survey of over 30 hikes on www.kta-hike.org, and we are asking YOU—the hiker! - to choose your own adventure, by selecting the hikes YOU would most like to see offered at the 8th annual Prowl the Sproul.

Just a few of the potential hikes include the Donut Hole Trail, Chuck Keiper Trail, and the Jack Paulhamus/Garby Trail. The selection of hikes range in difficulty from moderate to very strenuous—there truly is something for everyone!

The survey results will help us determine which hikes to offer on Friday,

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE continued on p. 11

PROWL THE SPROUL

Additional Lodging

Hyner Run State Park

86 Hyner Park Road
Hyner, PA 17738
570-923-6000

Keystone Hotel

400 Erie Avenue
Renovo, PA 17764
570-923-1899

North Bend Bed & Breakfast

11890 Renovo Road
North Bend, PA 17760
570-923-2927

Sportsman's Hotel & Restaurant

12700 Renovo Road
Renovo, PA 17764
570-923-0755
www.sportsmanshotel.com

Summerson's Four Season Motel

11917 Renovo Road
Renovo, PA 17764
570-923-1398

Yesterday's Restaurant & Hotel

100 3rd Street
Renovo, PA 17764
570-923-2642

Web Resources

Clinton Co. Economic Partnership

www.clintoncountyinfo.com

Hyner View Trail Challenge

www.hikerun.com

Pennsylvania Wilds

www.pawilds.com

Sproul State Forest

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/
stateforests/sproul.aspx

Prowl the Sproul 10K

The Prowl the Sproul 10K is back for its fourth year! Hosted by the PA Trail Dogs, the race will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, July 23, at the WCSA Headquarters.

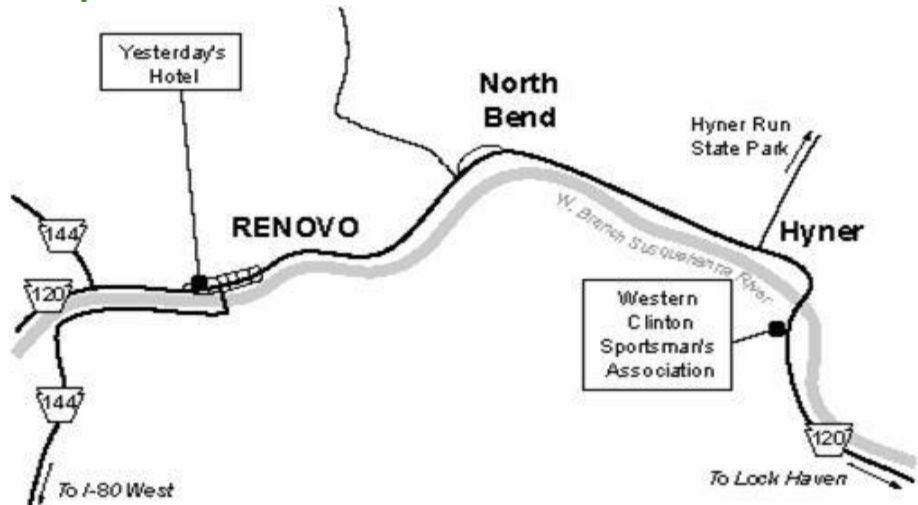
The course features three grueling miles uphill to the top of McCloskey Mountain followed by three and a half miles of blistering downhill. The "baby sister" of the Hyner View Trail Challenge, the trail includes vistas, stream crossings and technical single track and is one of the most challenging 10Ks around. Over 120 individuals participated in last year's race.

Registration is \$25; forms are available at www.hikerun.com. You can also register the day of the race. Registration includes a race t-shirt (guaranteed for those that register before July 1) and pizza at the end of the race. On July 23, registration opens at 8:30 AM and closes at 9:45 AM.

Visit www.hikerun.com for more information. Any questions, please contact Craig Fleming at patraildogs@yahoo.com.



Map & Directions to the WCSA



The WCSA is located about 20 miles west of Lock Haven on Rte. 120. You will see a sign on the left for the "Nature and Environmental Center," just before the bridge. Arrows will direct you to the WCSA clubhouse.

Travelers from the east follow I-80 to Route 220 (Exit 178) to Lock Haven. In Lock Haven, take Route 120-W for about 20 miles. Travelers from the west can either exit I-80 at Route 144 (Exit 147) and go north to Renovo or stay on I-80 to Exit 178 and proceed as outlined above. Cell service is limited so please plan your route carefully in advance.

PROWL THE SPOUL

Camping & Meals

CAMPING

The Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association will provide a warm welcome to weekend campers. Enjoy the friendly and laid-back atmosphere and use of all WCSA facilities including comfortable campsites, hot showers (indoors and outdoors), and an evening campfire. Enjoy the horseshoe pits or visit the swimming pool at the Hyner Run State Park to cool off after a long day on the trail. Tent sites are only \$10/night (\$5/night for WCSA members). Pop-up campers are also welcome.

MEALS

Hikers who arrive on Friday evening will be able to enjoy grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas for a nominal fee. A delicious pancake breakfast will be served on Saturday morning, along with a hearty bag lunch for hikers to bring along. The Saturday picnic dinner is always a highlight and will provide a great opportunity to socialize with fellow hikers and share stories about your day in the Sproul. A continental breakfast will be available on Sunday morning, including coffee, pastries, and cold cereal. A bag lunch will also be provided on Sunday for hikers hitting the trail or heading home. See p. 12 for prices.

Visit www.wcsarenovo.org for more information about the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association. Questions about WCSA can be directed to Ray Werts at rwerts11060@comcast.net.

Wine & Cheese Social

A popular feature of the Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend is the Friday evening wine and cheese social held at the WCSA's clubhouse at 6:00 PM. Bring your favorite wine, beer and cheese to share with new and old hiking pals alike. The wine and cheese social is a great opportunity to share tales from the trail and learn about hiking opportunities in the Sproul State Forest and elsewhere. Plan your weekend hike selections while enjoying the company of your fellow hikers. Hope to see you there!



Spectacular views: West branch of the Susquehanna River from Hyner View State Park

Weekend Overview

(Continued from p. 9)

knowledge of the trails while they lead hikers off the beaten path to explore the hidden jewels of the Sproul State Forest.

The Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association will be our host for the weekend with camping and meal packages available. Enjoy a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere in close proximity to the area's many trails.

Hike for the day or join us for this family-oriented hiking weekend. Questions? Contact KTA at 717-238-7017 or by email at ktaadmin@verizon.net.

Visit www.kta-hike.org for more information on Prowl the Sproul.

Choose Your Adventure

(Continued from p. 9)

Saturday, and Sunday.

In order to accommodate the Bureau of Forestry personnel's work efforts, the survey will end on **May 15**, so please cast your vote soon.

Miss your chance to take the survey? There will still be a few new hikes offered, even if most of them will be chosen from survey results!

Not coming to this year's Sproul? We'd still like to hear from you!

Also, should anyone have any specific ideas about whom to contact concerning advertising this event, please share them with me at tligenza@state.pa.us.

PROWL THE SPROUL HIKING WEEKEND REGISTRATION

July 22-24, 2011

Name: _____

Club Affiliation (if any): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please note the names of all individuals covered by this reservation (including children under the age of 18): _____

KTA Member? YES Renewing Now Joining Now Not a KTA Member

	Price	# Persons	Total
New Membership Individual/			
Family	\$15/ \$20	x _____	_____
Membership Renewal Individual/			
Family	\$25/\$30	x _____	_____

Meals: The meal package includes **five meals** including breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday (see page 11 for meal details).

Vegetarian Meals: Yes _____ # Persons

	Price	# Persons	Total
Meal Package (5 meals)	\$47	x _____ =	_____
Saturday dinner only	\$17	x _____ =	_____

Camping: Camp at the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association and enjoy a friendly atmosphere and the use of all WCSA facilities (see p. 11 for details). **Fee is \$10 per night/per site** (WCSA Members are entitled to a special camping rate of \$5/ night!)

Friday Night Saturday Night Both

	# Nights (1 or 2)	#Tent Site(s)	Total
\$10	x _____	x _____ =	_____

NEW THIS YEAR: All-Inclusive 3-day Chuck Keiper Trail "SlackPackage": Limited to 20 participants! Includes: **Six meals** (lunch on Friday, breakfast/ lunch/ dinner on Saturday, and breakfast/ lunch on Sunday), Fri/Sat night **tent site** reservations, Prowl the Sproul **Registration Fee**, and exclusive **t-shirt!**

KTA Member	\$125	x _____	T-shirt size: _____
Non-Member	\$135	x _____	T-shirt size: _____

REGISTRATION FEE: Must be included to complete the registration for Prowl the Sproul participants. *Fee is waived for children less than 18-years-old. Fee is included in "SlackPackage."*

Please circle option:	Per Day	OR	Weekend	# Persons	Total
KTA Member	\$10		\$15	x _____ =	_____
Non-Member	\$15		\$20	x _____ =	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____



Please mail completed form with your check or money order by **JULY 7** to:

Keystone Trails Association
101 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER JULY 11.

Reservation requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Questions? Contact KTA at ktaadmin@verizon.net or 717-238-7017

TRAIL MIX By Curt Ashenfelter, Executive Director

The Best Members in the World

I would like to thank all of the individuals who contributed to KTA's monthly **Keep Trails Alive** donor program and our February appeal. Without your generous support, KTA could not work on your behalf on our numerous trails throughout PA and in Harrisburg on issues of importance to hiking trails. KTA has the greatest members and you are a joy to work for, day in and day out.

Two great ways to have fun on a hiking trail with KTA

The most delightful six days in June often occur deep in the wilderness with your new or existing KTA hiking buddies. Work at your own pace and build a bridge, relocate a trail, erect a sign, chainsaw blow-downs, trim trees, cut ground cover or just blaze a tree and the trail will say thank you. You can love back the trails that have provided you with so much joy at five great locations this June. See p. 5 for **Trail Crew** details.

The most surprising three days in July often occur far off the beaten path in Clinton County. Hike to a gas well, put in big miles or just enjoy beautiful, leisurely hikes: **Prowl the Sproul** (p.9) has it all!

Wellness Programs

Recently I was contacted by a corporation to participate in a wellness program for their employees. Phoenix Contact asked KTA to provide an introduction to hiking for their employees, and to discuss hiking's benefits with regards to mental and physical well-being.

In preparation for the "**Lunch and Learn**" I traveled to Middletown the week before the lunch and erected the 8-foot-long KTA marketing display booth.

Over 100 Phoenix Contact employ-

ees attended the Lunch and Learn, nine decided to join KTA!

If your corporation offers a wellness program and you would like KTA to lead a Lunch and Learn or Brown Bag Lunch, please contact me to discuss details.

Advertising in KTA's Newsletter

On p. 18 of *The Keystone Hiker* you will see an advertisement for **Wilderness First Aid**. Advertising revenues are a growing contribution to the funding of our newsletter. Newsletters are typically read for long periods of time from front to back. Readers spend a significant amount of time with the newsletter, undistracted by pop-ups and other annoying forms of Internet or televised clutter. Newsletters also linger in the home for weeks after their delivery and find additional readers beyond the member and the member family. Advertising in the newsletter can provide significant benefits to hiker-focused enterprises. If you or your company would like to advertise in *The Keystone Hiker*, please contact me at 717-238-7017.

GPS Data Collection

KTA is collecting Geographic Positioning System (GPS) data on hiking trails for the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Visit www.ExplorePATrails.com to see the results of our ongoing efforts. If your favorite trail is not accurately portrayed on the website and you would like to participate in KTA's GPS efforts, please contact me.

Procedures for collecting and reporting GPS data are available online at www.kta-hike.org.

ADVOCATE

(Continued from p.2)

ers to hunt on Sunday. I don't know about you, but when my children played soccer, practices and games were held on both Saturday and Sunday.

As you visit with your state Senator and state Representative, share with them your thoughts on Sunday hunting. If you cannot visit them in person, call, e-mail, or write a letter to your Senator or Representative. They want to hear from their constituents on these matters. Your visit or phone call is important and valuable as they make their decision which will have a direct impact on your enjoyment of hiking trails in PA.

Additionally, call or write me and let me know which state senator or state representative you spoke with. I would like to be able to cite your contact if appropriate.

Primitive Camping

Last year (February, 2010, p. 4) I wrote a story about primitive camping in game lands.

In it, I described a meeting I had with Carl Roe, Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and his support of primitive camping on long-distance hiking trails.

You can imagine my disappointment when I learned that at a recent club meeting a person asked about primitive camping on state game land and no one at the local club knew of KTA's work with the Game Commission on this issue.

If your club would like to identify locations for primitive camping on state game lands, please contact me.

ADVOCATE continued on p. 18

AROUND THE CLUBS



Above: Stream crossing at Cherry Pike Hike

BUTLER CHAPTER NCT

Sixteen hikers turned out for the 20th Stage of the Tour de NCT (North Country Trail) of PA on a beautiful, brisk day on March 20 as we ended our winter break to resume our march across the state.

The hike began at Highland Road. We followed a road which became a trail which began a long descent to the Clarion River. The trail led back up to the ridge, about 400 feet above the river, 3

times, once to Galbreath overlook, once to Scurry Overlook, and finally to the fire tower in Cook Forest. The trail was in perfect shape, thanks to the Clarion Chapter's efforts!

There are several benches situated high on the ridge and along the river where you can stop and renew your strength, both physically and spiritually.

If you would like to join us on our next hike, contact John Stehle at stehles@gmail.com or 724-256-0674.

CUMBERLAND VALLEY ATC

The Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club (CVATC) and the Meetup.com group Day Hikers of Central PA (Day Hikers) have agreed to affiliate with each other. CVATC maintains and manages 17 miles of the world-famous AT in the Cumberland Valley of PA. Day Hikers is an online community group of almost 300 people who share an interest in hiking and the outdoors. Both CVATC and Day Hikers are looking forward to working together to promote hiking and the trails they love to hike on.

NEW RECORD FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE HOURS

By Lorraine Healey

Finally, all the prodding and coaxing paid off for all those tireless people in charge of gathering the volunteer maintenance hours from the volunteers. The total amount of maintenance hours for 2010 is **37,365.8**, along with a total of **6,907.35** hours of round trip travel, adding up to a very impressive figure of **44,273.35** volunteer hours, up from a previous high of **42,677** in 2001.

I'm certain every club does at least some maintenance every year but getting that information from the volunteers who are doing the maintenance was taxing, to say the least. Three cheers for those volunteers who were in charge of reporting this information! I certainly appreciate your efforts.

Most of the organizations who do lots of maintenance did turn in a report this year. However, there is at least one organization who did not report hours yet. As I hope to have those hard-worked hours submitted to me by the time the spring KTA meeting rolls around, I'll tack on another 1,000 volunteer hours for good measure. That will boost the figure to over **45,000** hours of volunteer trail maintenance, at the very least. Pretty impressive, huh?

All the volunteer trail maintainers who put in all those hard-worked hours deserve the biggest kudos of all. Thanks so much!!! All you do for trails is appreciated and because of all your efforts, Pennsylvania has the greatest hiking trails. Hikers from PA and beyond can certainly attest to that.

BUTLER OUTDOOR CLUB

The **2011 Cherry Pie Hike** hosted more hikers than ever with 152 RSVP's and staff. The weather was perfect, being an appropriate 32 degrees and sunny.

The trail also was covered with several inches of crunchy snow, just right for a winter hike commemorating our founding President's trip through the area.

With so many hikers, it took a great deal of work by many people. Thanks to everyone for making it a great success!

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

Has your club conducted an unusual hike? Offered an outstanding program? Held a community service project? Celebrated a milestone event? Please let KTA know so that we can share your news!

All organizational members should send copies of their publications, either in print or electronically, to *The Keystone Hiker's* editor (see p.2)

ALONG OUR TRAILS

APPALACHIAN TRAIL

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, in cooperation with the National Park Service, will oversee use of aircraft to plant grass and other vegetation on a 500-acre section of the Palmerton Zinc Superfund site near Lehigh Gap along the AT, at the top of Blue Mountain. This project will help repair environmental damage caused by emissions from zinc smelting operations in Palmerton.

DELAWARE & LEHIGH TRAIL

Work has begun on the 2.9-mile section of the D&L Trail from the Lehigh/Carbon County line to the East Penn Boat Launch. Along this section of the trail, drain pipes will be added and replaced to reestablish drainage swales. The trail will receive a ten-foot-wide crushed limestone surface. Completion is expected by June.

By early 2012, the D&L Trail will be 18 miles longer, with new sections in Lehigh, Carbon and Luzerne Counties, helping the concourse inch closer to its goal of 165 miles.

Construction is taking place now on a 6.5-mi. stretch between Laury's Station and Slatington in Lehigh Co., a key segment that will add to the 2.7 mi. that opened between Laury's Station and Cementon in 2010. D&L Stewardship and Trail Manager Scott Everett says construction crews should have the trail ready by National Trails Day on June 4.

LAUREL HIGHLANDS TRAIL

Thank you to Mike Mumau, Park Operations Manager of the Laurel Hill State Park Complex, who noticed an error in KTA's February Newslet-

ter. On p. 12 it indicated that the new Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail bridge that crosses the Turnpike will be completed in the spring of 2011. Actually, construction of the replacement bridge will *begin* in the spring of 2011. Projected completion is for the winter of 2011-2012.

MASON-DIXON TRAIL

Elk Neck State Forest: A bridge has washed out, and the trail has been relocated at that point.

Central section: There is a movement to resurvey the area around the bridge over Muddy Creek at the M-DT to determine land ownership.

Western Section: Transfer of land from PPL to DCNR and Lancaster Conservancy is still in progress.

Trail damage at **Grace Plateau**—a logger inadvertently tore up a section of the trail at the top of the hill. The trail is being remediated.

Sawmill Run Bridge reconstruction: ongoing work to rebuild this bridge. A stream-level crossing is in place.

Below: Sawmill Run Bridge—Trail Care



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

KTA is seeking five members to serve on the Nominating Committee. If interested, contact Wanda Shirk, Chair, at wshirk@pennswoods.net

In odd-numbered years, the Nominating Committee is responsible for presenting the KTA Council with the names of three to five qualified candidates for three-year terms on the Board of Directors, a slate of officers, and a list of 12 persons to serve two-year terms as Representatives-At-Large.

Individuals interested in serving on the Board may send a letter of interest to ktaadmin@verizon.net.

STATE GAME LANDS

A KTA-affiliated hiking club was recently fined by the PA Game Commission for leading a hike with more than 10 persons on State Game Lands. The group had violated the State Game Lands Use Regulation, enacted in 2002, that states that without a permit no one may participate in an organized activity on State Game Lands involving more than 10 persons, except for hunting or trapping, without a permit.

With advance (2 weeks) notice, it's possible to obtain a permit that enables larger groups to hike on State Game Lands. All hiking clubs that plan to lead a hike with over ten people should request a permit from their regional Game Commission Office, so that they may hike safely and avoid a fine. During hunting season it's advisable to avoid weekday conflicts with hunters and request the permit for Sunday hikes.

EVENTS

THE IRON RUN & 5K



ABOVE: Pine Grove Furnace State Park

To celebrate the June 11th National Get Outdoors Day, the **Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park** will host the Iron Run half-marathon and the Charcoal Challenge 5K.

The **Iron Run** will take place in Pine Grove Furnace State Park and the surrounding Michaux State Forest. The race begins at 8:00 AM and will include a challenging variety of trails, creek crossings and elevation changes to test each runner's ability to navigate the forest floor. Registration is \$35 before May 20.

The **Charcoal Challenge** begins at 8:45 AM and takes place within the park and showcases some of the parks finest trails and roads. Registration fee for the Charcoal Challenge is \$20.00.

All proceeds raised from these events will benefit park improvement projects. For details, visit www.pinegrovefriends.org

OUTDOOR EXTRAVAGANZA

The **Butler Outdoor Club** is hosting its 15th Annual Outdoor Extravaganza on Memorial Day weekend, May 27 to 30, at Breakneck Campground. The weekend consists of a ton of outdoor activities: trail, road & mountain biking, canoeing/ kayaking on lakes and streams, rafting, rock climbing, sailing, horseback riding, nature walks, flea markets, hikes, and historical excursions.

Workshops on disc golf, Birding, survival, emergency first-aid, building your own sailboat, backpacking, and

BELOW: 2010 Extravaganza participants



glass blowing will be available. Kids workshops, evening entertainment, storytelling, and other family activities will be included in the weekend. To register, visit www.outdoorextravaganza.org.

IRONMASTER'S CHALLENGE

The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC)** and **Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC)** are co-sponsoring the Ironmaster's Challenge, a 26.6-mile hike, on Saturday, May 21. The Ironmasters Mansion

will be selling lunch as a fundraiser for \$7 per person. For details, visit: www.ironmasterschallenge.com.

MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN

Join the **Friends of Kings Gap** on the Kings Gap Mansion lawn for an evening of bluegrass. Concerts are scheduled for Sunday, June 5 and Sunday, August 7 from 4:00-8:30 P.M. This is great music everyone will enjoy, so invite your family and friends! The concert is free, but donations are kindly accepted.

Visit www.friendsofkingsgap.org for complete details about this event.

OPOSSUM LAKE KID HIKE

On May 8, 2011, at 1 PM, join 4-, 7- and 8-year-old **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club** hike leaders and their parents to hike part of the AT around (empty) Opossum Lake near Carlisle, PA and see what's being done to replace the leaky dam.

The forested path includes hills, a bridged stream crossing or two and could be wet in places. This will be an in-and-out hike with options for longer or shorter distances. A re-



ABOVE: Construction on Opossum Lake
sponsible adult must supervise each child. Others willing to travel at a

EVENTS

child's pace are welcome. Bring water and snacks. For more information, contact Kelly Barker, 717-249-6727.

TRAIL MAGIC DAYS

KTA member **Bob Fromme, Jr.** will be sponsoring the second annual "Trail Magic Days" in Clark's Valley.

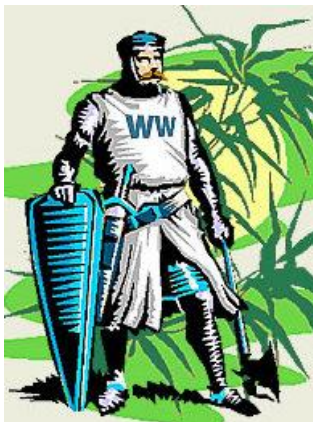
WHERE: At the parking lot crossover of the Appalachian Trail and Route 325, just below the Clark's valley Dam.

WHEN: Every Wednesday for the month of July. 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

Come out and enjoy a pleasant day by the cool waters of Clark's Creek, and meet some interesting people. No need to bring anything—your enthusiasm is all we need! Contact Bob at frolb46@gmail.com or 717-453-7805 for details.

WEED WARRIORS

Are you a plant lover? If so, then come out and join the **Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club** this spring for some hands-on trail work pulling/killing weeds! We've selected a site along the trail where we would like to concentrate our efforts to control invasive weeds. It is an area which we planted in seedlings about 12 years ago, at the foot of the South Mountain. We are looking for individuals with an interest in coming out for a full or half day to help get rid of those nasty plants that are taking over our native plants and trees.



The AT is a rich resource in our own backyard. For a chance to enjoy it, come out and help us. You can help make a difference, meet new people and volunteer for a worthy cause. If you'd like to join us, please email melhike@yahoo.com or visit www.cvatclub.org.

AT HALL OF FAME

The **Appalachian Trail Museum Society** Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on June 17, 2011 at 6 PM, at the Allenberry Resort Inn & Playhouse in Boiling Springs. The event will include music by the South Mountain Ramblers, a silent auc-



ABOVE: Appalachian Trail Museum

tion, and presentation of the first AT Museum Hall of Fame Awards.

The Banquet is the kickoff event of the first **Appalachian Trail Festival** in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, and costs \$40 per person. Visit athalloffame.eventbrite.com.

VIRGINIA JOURNEYS 2011

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 38th Biennial Conference is scheduled for July 1-8 at Emory & Henry College in VA. Register at www.appalachiantrail.org.

2011 PA HIKING WEEK

KTA and DCNR are proud to sponsor the tenth annual **Pennsylvania Hiking Week** from **May 28 through June 5**. The statewide event promotes Pennsylvania's amazing network of hiking trails in state parks, state forests and communities throughout the commonwealth. The nine-day event typically features more than 100 organized hikes and walks throughout PA.

If your hiking group would like to schedule a hike (or three!) on your local trails during this week-long event, please contact ktaadmin@verizon.net for details. This is a great opportunity to help people learn more about your favorite trails, your local club, and about the benefits of hiking!

KTA PREVIEW HIKES

Two preview hikes will be held prior to the 3rd Annual **Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run**. These are hikes at a normal pace to familiarize prospective participants with the course and its challenges. Hikes are rain or shine; bring water, lunch, and dress appropriately. Dogs not allowed.

Hike 1: Saturday, June 4, 2011, 9:00 AM: Otter Creek Campground to Lock 12, 14.8 miles

Hike 2: Saturday, June 11, 2011, 9:00 AM: East side of Norman Wood Bridge to Pequea Creek Campground, 11.8 miles.

For more information or to register, contact Paul Shaw, hike leader, at pshaw@ptd.net or 717-215-8339.

FOR HIKERS

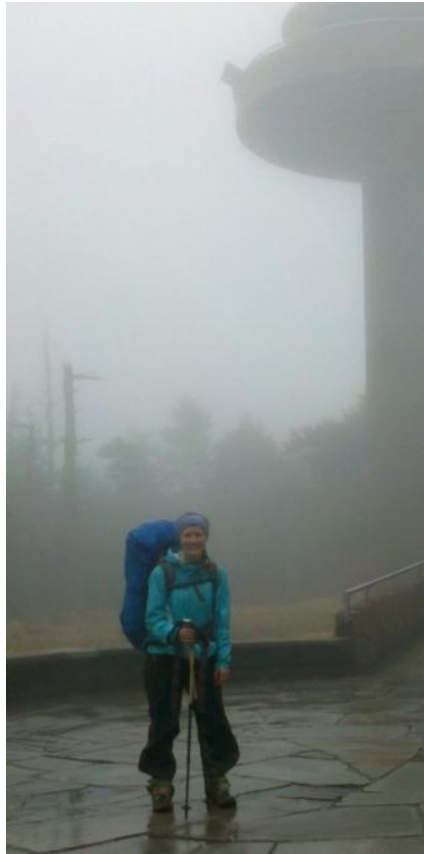
ADVOCATE (Continued from p.13)

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 users of the existing trail complex would have a critical need for an overnight stay. The complete approval process is described fully in the February, 2010 issue of the *Keystone Hiker*, which may be accessed on our website, www.kta-hike.org, under "About KTA/ Newsletter Archives."

I advise that if you want primitive camping on your trails where it crosses State Game Land, 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.

If you would like to increase your support of KTA's advocacy efforts and learn more about our **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor program, please call me at 717-238-7017.

THE LONG CRUISE



ABOVE: Becky at Clingmans Dome

As you likely already know, Becky Schreiber left KTA as Program Administrator in order to pursue her dream of thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail. She hit the trails on March 9 at Springer Mountain, and in the first week encountered both downpours and snow-showers!

On March 27, she wrote: "Life on the trail has been great! We've hit a few more milestones - we've hiked into our third state (TN), we have less than 2,000 miles to Katahdin (whew!), we climbed the highest point (Clingmans Dome) and we visited our first trail side brewery...."

"We're still averaging about 12-13 miles a day, but are getting closer to our goal average of 15 miles. The trail has definitely been challenging with lots of climbing and descents, but everyday we are getting closer to finding our 'trail legs.'"

For those of you who want to follow Becky on her thru-hike adventure, you can visit her blog at: www.thelongcruise.tumblr.com.

Happy Trails, Becky!



Wilderness First Aid

a program of the Wilderness Safety Council

Call or visit our website for class dates:
Harrisburg • Philadelphia • Baltimore

wfa.net

(703) 836.8905

HERITAGE SOCIETY

Are you concerned about preserving Pennsylvania's footpaths in perpetuity? Individuals who include KTA in their estate plans find that they receive a sense of satisfaction in knowing that a portion of their accumulated assets will continue to aid KTA in accomplishing its mission of protecting and promoting hiking trails in PA. KTA's **Heritage Society** recognizes persons who have named KTA in their estate plans with a commitment of at least \$5,000. If you would like to receive information about joining the **Heritage Society** and including KTA in your estate plans, please contact Curt Ashenfelter at ktahike@verizon.net or 717-238-7017.

PROTECTING OUR TRAILS

SEGWAYS® ON THE AT?



On March 15, the Department of Justice's (DOJ) revised rule under the Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA) went into effect. It applies to state and local governments and to businesses open to the public, requiring them to accommodate "other power-driven mobility devices" (OPDMDs) used by individuals with mobility disabilities on their lands. The new rule applies to the Appalachian Trail across approximately 400 miles of state parks, forests, game lands, and watershed lands.

An OPDMD is "any mobility device powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines—whether or not designed primarily for use by individuals with mobility disabilities—that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of locomotion... but that does not meet the legal definition of a wheelchair." OPDMDs may include golf carts, ATVs, motorcycles, or Segways®.

A public entity "shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless it can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity."

Inappropriate motorized vehicle use could damage its natural and cultural resources, impact the safety of hikers, and violate the core value of the AT as America's only national scenic trail that is designated as a "footpath" under the National Trails System Act. More information about this rule can be found on the American Trails website, at <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/power-mobility-questions-answers.html>

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 (2010)	\$10.80	\$12.00	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 7-8: Swatara Gap to Susquehanna River (2004)	\$5.40	\$6.00	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 9-11: Susquehanna River to PA Route 94 (2009)	\$5.79	\$6.45	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 12-13: PA Route 94 to US Route 30 (2009)	\$5.79	\$6.45	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 14: US Route 30 to the Maryland line (2009)	\$5.79	\$6.45	_____
Complete AT set of maps and guidebook	\$38.00	\$44.00	_____

Other Publications

Pennsylvania Hiking Map (2009)	\$4.95	\$5.95	_____
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails (2008)	\$8.99	\$9.99	_____
PA Hiking Trails Book & Map Set	\$12.25	\$14.25	_____
Mason-Dixon Trail Maps (2009)	\$13.50	\$15.00	_____
Standing Stone Trail Guide (2006)	\$7.00	\$10.00	_____
Guide to the Horse-Shoe Trail (2006)	\$13.00	\$14.30	_____
Guide to Pennsylvania Mid State Trail (2010)	\$34.20	\$38.00	_____
Hiker's Guide to the Bucktail Path (1998)	\$4.95	\$5.50	_____
Loyalsock Trail Guide (2008)	\$10.45	\$11.30	_____
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the North Half in MD & PA (1997)	\$8.00	\$10.00	_____
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South Half in WV & VA (1997)	\$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) (1997)	\$4.50	\$9.00	_____

Patches

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

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

Subtotal: _____

Pennsylvania residents add 6% tax: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Ship to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Make check or money order payable to Keystone Trails Association and mail to: 101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 717.238.7017. Prices are subject to change. **Order online at www.kta-hike.org/shop**

SUPER HIKE: GET READY, GET SET..

...GO! It may seem far away, but we at KTA have already hit the ground running, gearing up for the **2011 Susquehanna Super Hike!** The third annual challenge event will be held on Saturday, September 10, starting at 7 AM.

We expect **500 participants** this year, and registrations are pouring in! The registration fee is \$60 (before Aug. 21) and includes a short-sleeved Super Hike Tech shirt, snacks and water on the trail, and a celebratory picnic at the finish line. Visit kta-hike.org to complete your registration online or to download and return your registration form.

Not the thrill-seeking type? We would still love for you to be a part of this exciting day! We have space for over **100 volunteers** (Friday and Saturday) to help in a variety of capacities. All volunteers will receive an exclusive Super Hike Volunteer t-shirt! Visit kta-hike.org to download the Volunteer Registration Form, or call KTA at 717-238-7017 for more details.



KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION
101 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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- **Volunteer with KTA!** Check out the **Trail Care and Trail Crew** schedule on **Page 5.**
- 10th Annual **PA Hiking Week**
- 3rd Annual **Susquehanna Super Hike**, Sept. 10, 2011



KTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Club Affiliations (if any): _____

Receive the *KEYSTONE HIKER* 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 contribution: \$50 per year for clubs; \$100 per year for commercial enterprises; \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All member contributions and correspondence should be mailed to: 101 N. 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	\$