

# NEWSLETTER

101 N. Front St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
[www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org)

*Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths*

November 2009



## First KTA Super Hike Is A Super Success

by Paul Shaw

Drenching rain and rising streams the day before, and a steady drizzle the day of the event failed to dampen the participants or their enthusiasm for KTA's first Susquehanna Super Hike, held September 12 in York and Lancaster counties. The 25-mile one-day trail challenge for hikers and trail runners showcased two of Pennsylvania's premier hiking trails, the Mason-Dixon and the Conestoga.

228 people registered for the Super Hike, and despite the inclement weather, 202 participated (131 men, 71 women) and 182 finished (117 men, 65 women). A slightly higher percentage of the women completed the challenge than the men. The average age of participants was 43, with the youngest person age 14 and the oldest 72.

### Hike Results

First to finish was trail runner James Rayburn from York, who completed the course in a remarkable time of 4:05:12, more than 33 minutes ahead of the second finisher. There was a tie for the first women to complete the course. Michaela Rayburn from York and Eve Campeau from Clifton, NJ, both finished in 4:53:26. The last person to finish was John Lyon from Dumfries, VA, who finished in a time of 11:11:42, still more than an hour ahead of the cut-off time. KTA Board Member Butch Davey was the 49<sup>th</sup> person to complete the Super Hike, in a time of 6:59:46. Complete results may be found on the Super Hike link on KTA's web site [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org).

A majority of participants came from Pennsylvania; Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey were well-represented, with others coming from New York, Michigan, Ohio, and Florida.

### Participants Pleased

Response from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Comments received on the Forum page of the Super Hike web site and from e-mails include the following:

- "I loved the misty, muddy day and the lush scenery and the in-
- (Continued on page 9)

## KTA Publishes 11th Edition Of PA Appalachian Trail Guide

by Wayne E. Gross

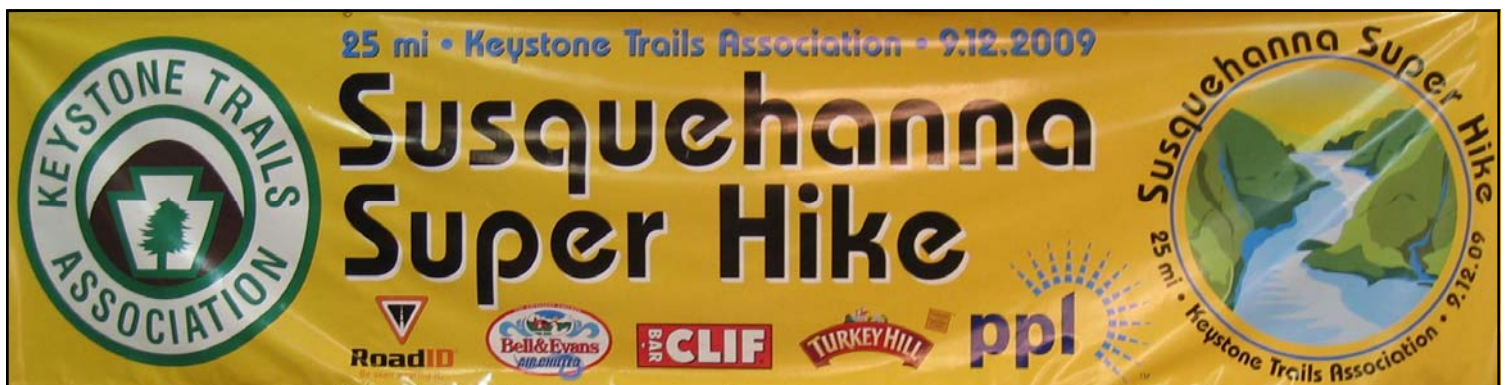
The eleventh edition of *The Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania* is now available. Volume five in the series of eleven guides that cover the entire Appalachian Trail, the Pennsylvania book covers all 229.7 miles of the AT in the state.

A beautiful photograph of Round Head, taken by Thomas Scully, adorns the cover of this popular hiking guide. Many volunteer hours went into field checks, updating trail descriptions, researching information, writing, reviewing, proof reading and formatting the new edition.

### Thank You

I would like to thank the field editors from the eleven Appalachian Trail maintaining clubs in Pennsylvania: Wilmington Trail Club: Mike Kintner and William Tinney; BATONA Hiking Club: Edward Schellhase, Paul Piechoski, and Allen Britton; Appalachian Mountain Club Delaware Valley Chapter: Daniel Schwartz; Philadelphia Trail Club: David Scheid; Allentown Hiking Club: Ed Ritter; Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club: Scott Birchman; Susquehanna A.T. Club: Thomas Scully; York Hiking Club: James Hooper; Mountain Club of Maryland: Paul Ives; Cumberland Valley A.T. Club: Frank Bohn and James Foster; and Potomac AT

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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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**Ed Lawrence is New Trail Care Chair**

KTA is pleased to announce that Ed Lawrence, of Orangeville, PA, has accepted the position of Chair of the Trail Care program. Ed has been an active volunteer with Trail Care since the late 1990s and maintains a section of the Mid State Trail south of Ravensburg State Park.

Ed is looking forward to continuing the mission of KTA's Trail Care program that was begun by Tom Thwaites and expanded and strengthened under the leadership of Joe Healey.

Ed notes, "I believe that the Trail Care program is an essential part of KTA's portfolio. Not only does it provide needed hands to help keep Pennsylvania's extensive network of hiking trails maintained and hikeable, it also shows the governmental agencies that oversee our public lands, and that we partner with, such as DCNR and the Game Commission, that we are willing and able to put boots on the ground to keep walking trails alive and viable. KTA not only talks the talk, but we walk the walk and dig side hill, brush-whack, lop and paint blazes along the way. Also, the trail care program allows KTA members to develop and express a deeper commitment and passion for the trails that take us into the heart of the outdoors and the hiking experience."

**Passing the Pulaski**



New Trail Care Chair Ed Lawrence (left) and retiring Chair Joe Healey display Trail Care T-shirts at the Fall Meeting.

Ed is currently working on next year's schedule and invites members and clubs who need assistance with trail work, or who would like to get involved in trail care, to contact him at [cathyed@nationi.net](mailto:cathyed@nationi.net), 570-925-5285 or 216 Asbury Rd., Orangeville, PA 17859.

**KTA Seeks Coordinator of Summer Trail Crew Program and Summer Trip Leaders**

With the retirement of Joe Healey, KTA is seeking one or more persons to assume leadership of the Summer Trail Crew program.

Duties for the **Coordinator of Summer Trail Crews** include selecting the trail projects for the Crew; setting the dates for the work weeks; appointing a Trip Leader for each week, reviewing volunteer applications and communicating with the Summer Trip Leader, arranging for tools and equipment to be delivered to the camping location, and reviewing the budget for each work trip.

The **Summer Trip Leader** is responsible for securing a camping location for that week, recruiting a cook or arranging for meals, assigning each day's work tasks to the volunteers, contacting volunteers, requesting tools and equipment from the Coordinator, preparing a budget for the event, and submitting a trip report.

Joe is willing to provide advice and assistance to the new Coordinator and Trip Leaders to make this a smooth leadership transition.

For more information, contact Curt Ashenfelter at [ktahike@verizon.net](mailto:ktahike@verizon.net) or 717-238-7017.



## President's Message

The Super Year continues! Our first 25 mile Super Hike was a tremendous success with 202 participants and 182 finishers. Our own Butch Davey came across the finish line 49<sup>th</sup> after hiking less than seven hours. The York Hiking Club, Mason Dixon Trail System, Lancaster Hiking Club, Susquehanna A.T. Club and Berks Community Hiking Club provided support and volunteers. The date in 2010 will be September 11<sup>th</sup>.

At the Fall Membership Meeting in Marienville, Forest County, over 120 hikers convened to hike and the Council elected Steve Stroman and Wanda Shirk to serve another term on the Board of Directors and elected Scott Adams to serve his first term on the Board. The Membership elected Cecil Dobbins and Diane Buscarini as new Representatives At Large, to join ten returnees.

By the time you read this, we'll know if the politicians succeeded in forcing DCNR to lease an additional 390,000 acres for Marcellus Gas drilling. If they do, hiking will not be pleasant. We have been contacting legislators to protest using funds that belong to state forests and parks for the general budget. It's up to Pennsylvania hikers and conservationists to protect state forests from devastating development by the natural gas companies. The growing network of new roads and well pads are fragmenting the land. The forests are starting to look like "ugly Wal-Mart parking lots" according to board member Butch Davey. KTA is fighting against this industrialization of our woodlands. The drilling presents serious problems for wildlife by disturbing sensitive habitats. Contact your legislators and request them to protect state forests from devastating development by the gas companies.

The KTA—Keep Trails Alive program is steadily catching on and it is a great opportunity for the membership to make a financial commitment to preserve trails and trail lands for hikers.. **We need your participation.** The monthly donor program can be automatic. Take this opportunity to keep the momentum going. Help make our dreams come alive. We are working for you. Please put KTA at the top of your holiday season gift list.

In the meantime,  
Get outdoors and protect your favorite trail

**Thyra.**



### Upcoming KTA Meetings and Events

- January 9, 2010 — Board Meeting, Harrisburg, PA**
- April 23-25, 2010 — Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend, Wellsboro, Tioga County, PA.**
- June 26, 2010 — Board Meeting, Harrisburg, PA**
- July 16-18, 2010 — Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend, Renovo, PA**
- September 11, 2010 — Susquehanna Super Hike, York and Lancaster Counties, PA**
- October 1-3, 2010 (tentative date) — Annual Meeting and Hiking Weekend, central PA**

### KTA Newsletter Accepting Ads

KTA accepts paid advertisements from profit and non-profit organizations and individuals who want to present their messages to our readers. Content and interests are focused on hiking, backpacking, outdoor recreation, nature, conservation, and environmental issues. KTA reserves the right to reject any ads that do not reflect KTA's mission and to limit the number of ads accepted for any issue.

For more information, contact Executive Director Curt Ashenfelter. See page 2 for contact information.

Unload your stress,  
pack your sense of adventure  
and **mount UP**

**UPSTATEPA**  
Northeast Pennsylvania Mountains Region

upstatepa.org

PA

## KTA - Your Hiking Advocate In Action

By Curt Ashenfelter

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

### Meetings with State Legislators

I continue to meet with State Senators, State Representatives and legislative staffers on a number of important issues. Three of the more pressing issues are the preservation of the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, a moratorium on leases of state forest land for gas drilling, and the enactment of a severance tax on natural gas. In the upcoming months I will continue to press forward on these important issues.

#### Oil and Gas Lease Fund

Created in 1955, this fund is used to finance conservation, recreation, dams and flood control projects, or to match any federal grants made for these purposes. Revenues are derived from rents and royalties from oil and gas leases of Commonwealth owned land with the exception of rents and royalties from land owned by either the Pennsylvania Game or Fish and Boat Commissions. There is pending legislation to abolish this fund. Revenues that come from our state forests have traditionally been returned to our state forests at the discretion of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In the future, those funds will be appropriated by the General Assembly to be spent as they see fit.

#### State Forest Acreage Leases



Preparation of a portion of a drilling site in Tioga County. Photo provided by DCNR.

DCNR has leased 74,023 acres for the exploration and extraction of natural gas from state forest lands located within the Marcellus Shale formation. Proposals in the state legislature are calling for dramatically increasing the number of acres for lease in 2010 and 2011. Legislation calling for \$60 million to be raised in 2010 and 180 million to be raised in 2011 has been proposed. Efforts to balance the budget on the back

of state forests raises serious questions for the health of our forests and our commonwealth.

#### Severance Tax

Natural gas severed in the Commonwealth is currently not taxed. The severance tax rate plan would be based on the value of the natural gas when severed. One proposed tax rate based on West Virginia's existing law includes two components as follows:

- five percent of the value of the natural gas at the well head; and
- 4.7 cents per thousand cubic feet of gas severed

Revenues accruing from the proposed tax are estimated at

\$107.2 million and \$236 million for fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively. Although prospects for a severance tax in 2009-2010 appear dim, the next budget is less than eight months away. Call or write your State Senator and State Representative and ask them why the legislature chose not to enact a severance tax in 2009 and encourage them to enact one in 2010. There are numerous good reasons for a severance tax in Pennsylvania, but perhaps the most compelling one is the question of fairness. Pennsylvanians are subsidizing citizens in other states who have a severance tax. Of the 40 states that extract gas, only two do not have a severance tax, New York and Pennsylvania. Why should our common wealth be converted to private wealth? You will hear that the 40 plus energy companies that make up the "infant" gas drilling industry in Pennsylvania cannot afford a severance tax. If that were true, one would question how the CEO of one gas drilling company in Pennsylvania earned \$112 million last year.

### Mason Dixon Trail

Jim Hooper, President of the Mason Dixon Trail System, and I met recently with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to discuss two issues. The first issue involved the possible relocation of the Mason Dixon Trail off a road and onto State Game Land southeast of Dillsburg in York County. At the conclusion of the meeting we were told that our plans were approved.



The second issue involved the designation of the Mason Dixon Trail as a National Trail. All land owners of a hiking trail must write in support of the National Trail designation and, as of the date of our meeting, the Game Commission was the only landowner who had not responded. After answering a number of questions concerning the request, we were told that the Game Commission would support the designation.

### DCNR Grants Rounds 1, 2 and 3

#### Round 1

On September 21, Keystone Trails Association received \$30,100 from DCNR for the Round 1 grants. To date, KTA has disbursed approximately \$17,000 to six clubs. Those clubs include the Standing Stone Trail Club, the Mid State Trail Association, the Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy, the Chester County Trail Club, the North-Country Trail Association and the Allegheny Outdoor Club. The \$30,100 represents 40 percent of the total grant. KTA will move forward disbursing the additional monies to those clubs who have met the grant guidelines.

#### Round 2 and 3

Round 2 grants are slowly gaining traction and we would hope to have 50% of the \$67,400 from DCNR shortly.

Round 3 grants are also moving forward, although it is too early to speculate when we might receive the monies.

I would encourage all of the clubs to think hard about their trail funding needs in 2011 and 2012. As you know, the approval process is a long one, but with three to five year planning, we should be able to identify long range needs and request funds accordingly. If you have a big shelter, bridge or trail project planned for two or three years from now, next spring is the time to apply for funding.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## KTA News

### Hiking Advocate

(Continued from page 4)

#### 2009-2013 SCORP

Every five years, Pennsylvania produces a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) that provides citizens, policymakers and recreation professionals with a snapshot of current trends and issues in outdoor recreation. The plan helps set the agenda for state recreation policy, planning, funding and implementation for the future.

Over the past 18 months I have participated in a number of planning meetings for the 2009-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to advance the interests of hikers and hiking trails. One of the recommendations and action steps that KTA will be working on with DCNR is developing social support networks to engage new and diverse audiences in outdoor recreation.

DCNR will work with outdoor recreation-focused clubs such as KTA to package and coordinate current offerings; address membership needs; and develop partnerships with outdoor recreation needs.

To review the complete list of 99 action items, visit the DCNR web site at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us).

#### [www.ExplorePATrails.com](http://www.ExplorePATrails.com)

Previously I have reported to you KTA's work on DCNR's Pennsylvania Trails Hiking Project. Volunteers were recruited to provide geographic positioning system data on ten trails. Although data collection is a work in progress, you can visit [www.ExplorePATrails.com](http://www.ExplorePATrails.com) to see the results of our efforts to date. If your trail is not accurately portrayed on the website and you would like to participate in KTA's GPS efforts, please email, mail, or call me. General procedures for collecting GPS data and forwarding them to DCNR are available online at [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org).



### ExplorePATrails.com

powered by you.

**ExplorePATrails.com:**  
A Community Resource for Trail Users

ExplorePATrails.com is an easy-to-use website, created by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to centralize and share trails information across the Commonwealth.

The website features an interactive map to search and get driving directions to trails, a forum for updating trails information, and a place where people can upload reviews and share stories about their favorite trails.

Help us help you. Start promoting your trails today. Upload your information to **ExplorePATrails.com** and use it to promote your website and trails.

Get started today at **[www.ExplorePATrails.com](http://www.ExplorePATrails.com)**.  
Simply click on "Connect & Share."




### Board, Officer, and Representative Elections

The KTA Council elected **Scott Adams**, **Wanda Shirk**, and **Steve Stroman** to three year terms on the KTA Board of Directors. Officers elected to one year terms were **Thyra Sperry**, President, **Wanda Shirk**, Vice-President; **Norman Lacasse**, Secretary, and **Thomas Kelliher**, Treasurer.

At the Annual Membership meeting, KTA members elected twelve Representatives-At-Large to serve two year terms.

The complete list of Directors and Representatives is on page 2.

### KTA Seeking Treasurer

KTA's recently elected treasurer will be stepping down due to an increased professional workload, and KTA is seeking a replacement.

The KTA treasurer is a member of the Board and an officer. Duties include managing KTA's financial resources, overseeing investment policy, and providing budgeting oversight and long term financial planning.

The KTA Board of Directors meets four times a year -- January and June at the-Harrisburg office and at the Spring and Fall Meetings. Meetings are scheduled for two hours. Occasionally, Board members may participate in meetings via conference call. Free lodging is available for the January and June meetings.

If you have an interest in serving KTA in this capacity or if you can recommend a candidate for this position, contact Thyra Sperry at [hikesperry@aol.com](mailto:hikesperry@aol.com).

### Hikers Explore PA Wilds During Prowl The Sproul

By Becky Schreiber

KTA, the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association (WCSA), and the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Prowl the Sproul hiking weekend on July 17-19.

Ted Ligenza, Sproul State Forest Assistant District Forester, organized a hike schedule that took more than 60 hikers to some of the most rugged and remote forestland in Pennsylvania.

WCSA welcomed hikers to their clubhouse on Friday with a wine and cheese party. Hikers enjoyed comfortable campsites, hot showers, and an evening fire provided by WCSA. Alice Tarr and her volunteers prepared delicious and hearty meals for Saturday and Sunday; hikers especially enjoyed the Saturday evening picnic barbecue served up from the WCSA deck.

The weekend event also included the PA Trail Dogs 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Prowl the Sproul 10K. Over 120 runners raced through the mountains of the Sproul State Forest (including Ray Werts, WCSA president and Becky Schreiber, KTA administrator). The trail for the race utilized a 6-mile section from the Hyner View Trail Challenge.

Hikers also had the option to get off the trail and onto a river with a Susquehanna kayak trip led by Rick Henrich of Rock River & Trail Outfitters in Lock Haven, PA.

At the conclusion of the weekend, the Jack Paulhamus/Garby Trail was dedicated. See page 7 for details.

## Along Our Trails

### Appalachian Trail

#### Red Run Bridge



The Potomac AT Club North Chapter Yankee Clippers trail crew replaced the log bridge over Red Run near PA 16. The old bridge, which was a challenge to cross with snow and/or ice on it, is shown to the right of the new bridge, which will also provide a safer crossing during spring high water conditions. Pete Brown, PATC North Chapter President (standing in front of the bridge), writes that the Chapter has a lot of fun with bridges. Photo by Bob Wise.

#### New PATC Map

PATC has just published the 11<sup>th</sup> (2009) edition of their Appalachian Trail Map 2-3, which covers the 30 miles from PA 94 to US 30 (sections 2 and 3 in KTA's *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania*). It is printed on water- and tear-resistant synthetic stock in six colors, is GPS compatible, and includes detailed enlargements covering Caledonia and Pine Grove State Parks and Kings Gap Environmental Center. Order from PATC at [www.patc.us/store](http://www.patc.us/store) or KTA (see page 15).

#### AT Mid Point Sign

The worn and weather beaten sign near Pine Grove Furnace that identified the location of the mid-point of the AT has been removed and will be placed in the new AT Museum. PATC is creating a new sign.

#### AT Information Online

Online information on AT access points and parking areas is available on the web at [http://rohland.homedns.org/at/at\\_menu.aspx](http://rohland.homedns.org/at/at_menu.aspx).

#### White Rocks Challenge

As a result of development plans for private land in the White Rocks area of Monroe and South Middleton Townships, Cumberland County, local groups have challenged each other to raise funds to cover administrative costs associated with the purchase of critical parcels. So far over \$15,000 has been contributed.

The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club** is "standing tall", having raised \$5,803. Also competing in the challenge are the **Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club** and the **Mountain Club of Maryland**.

### Darlington Trail

A grandson and two great grandsons of James Henry Darlington, for whom the Darlington Trail is named, enjoyed their first hike on the Darlington Trail with Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club President Karen Balaban. Darlington (1856-1930) was the first bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Harrisburg, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Alpine Club, and maintained the trail along the ridge of Blue Mountain in its early years.

### Horse-Shoe Trail

#### Blue Blazes

The Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy has begun to mark access trails from parking areas to the main H-ST with blue blazes.

#### Hiking to College

Hikers generally use hiking trails for recreation and relaxation, not to actually get somewhere. Ben Ahlswede, an experienced backpacker and freshman at Shippensburg University, mapped out a series of footpaths that connect his home in Philadelphia to the university, and walked to college. His route included the entire H-ST. Ben reports that he did not have any negative experiences, and received encouragement and help from locals he met along the way. Ben is planning an Appalachian Trail thru-hike, and this was a good trial run.

### Mason-Dixon Trail

The new set of Mason-Dixon Trail maps is now available. The ten-map set covers the entire 210-mile trail. GPS data has enabled more accurate delineation of the M-DT. Side trails and park trails are shown as dotted red lines. Each map, printed on water-proof paper, is 20 x 8.5 inches and folds to a 4 x 8.5 inch format. Detailed trail descriptions, both west to east and east to west, are printed on the reverse side of each map. The sets are available from the M-DTS web site [www.masondixontrail.org](http://www.masondixontrail.org) or from KTA (see page 15).

### Mid State Trail

The Mid State Trail received national recognition when it was the featured trail in the Summer issue of *American Hiker*, the magazine of the American Hiking Society. The article featured text by Scott Adams, a map by Pete Fleszar, and photos.

#### Everett Region

The one mile Wildcat Run relocation, between Martin Hill Summit (the highest point on the MST) and Beans Cove Rd. in Southampton Township, Bedford County, was completed this summer. It has been designated the **Carl Cessna Trail** as a memorial to Cessna, an outdoorsman who often hiked the area of the Martin Hill Wild Area. The relocation passes through a pine plantation and a laurel thicket, and includes a spring at the headwaters of Wildcat Run. Nearby is Deb's Throne, a large lunch rock. Views to the southwest open from the laurel thicket. This new route replaces a dusty road walk.

#### State College Region Alert

Hikers on the Greenwood Spur need to be aware of some difficult stream crossings. Within the Alan Seeger Natural Area, hikers should avoid the longest bridge over Stone Creek. A new design is under engineering review.

(Continued on page 7)



## Along Our Trails

(Continued from page 6)

The second bridge north of Stone Creek Road is not passable. Recent reports indicate that hikers can use a large log spanning Detweiler Run for this crossing.

### Tioga Region

Revised guide sections for the PA 6 crossing (north end of section 18 and south end of section 19) are now posted on the Mid State web site [www.hike-mst.org](http://www.hike-mst.org). This information supplements temporary maps T-18 and T-19 which are also available on the web site.

### Jack Paulhamus/Garby Trail

The Jack Paulhamus/Garby Trail, which links two major long distance hiking trails in the Sproul State Forest, was dedicated at the conclusion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Prowl the Sproul hiking weekend in July. This trail commemorates the career of District Forester Jack Paulhamus and the many volunteers who make hiking trails possible.

GARBY signifies the first letter of the first names of Lock Haven University students who planned, explored, and prepared a written report for the Sproul State Forest staff on a route for a foot trail connecting the Chuck Keiper Trail and the Donut Hole Trail. These two designated hiking trail systems were built during the tenure of Jack Paulhamus, who was the District Forester for over 20 years. Jack was an ambassador for outdoor recreation and he always encouraged tourism and vigorous outdoor activities in a natural setting.

Now these trails are connected and an appropriate routed sign proclaims this jointure. It is fitting that the sign is located on the Snodgrass Environmental Center of the Western Clinton County Sportsman's Association, a hub for environmental education and outdoor fun in Western Clinton County.



Jack Paulhamus' daughter Ruth Ishida (who flew in from Minnesota) and her family at the Jack Paulhamus/Garby dedication. Photo courtesy of Ted Ligenza.

### Standing Stone Trail

Pete Fleszar reports that a new version of Standing Stone Trail Map 4 is now available on the Standing Stone Trail Club web site [www.hike-sst.org](http://www.hike-sst.org). This updated map includes the relocation that takes the trail off of a portion of US 522.

### North Country Trail

#### KTA Consolidated Grant

Thanks to funds received from the KTA DCNR Consolidated Grant and the assistance of Moraine State Park, two successful certification trainings for nearly 30 volunteers were held at Davis Hollow in August. Dave Krueger from SOLO was the wilderness first aid and CPR instructor, and Jerry Dixon and Sheldon Winters from Allegheny National Forest were chainsaw instructors.

#### Student Conservation Crew

Consolidated Grant funds were used to support a 21 day Student Conservation Crew that worked on State Game Lands 285 and 95 in Beaver and Butler Counties. Local NCTA volunteers from the Wampum and Butler Chapters stepped up to host, orient, and work alongside the crew as they built new trail and rerouted trail to improve the footpath.

### Tuscarora Trail

PATC has published a new edition of its Map K covering the Tuscarora Trail from PA 641 to the Potomac River at Hancock, MD. Order from PATC at [www.patc.us/store](http://www.patc.us/store) or from KTA (see page 15).

#### Reineman Relocation

Work on the twelve mile relocation through the Florence Jones Reineman Wildlife Sanctuary and the Audubon Hawk Watch on Blue Mountain just north of Carlisle is proceeding. Flagging the route was completed with the help of **Lee Shull**, sanctuary manager, and his son **Jarrold**. Jarrold also took GPS data for the route, which will assist PATC in updating the trail map.

As part of the agreement to locate the trail onto Audubon lands, PATC agreed to help Audubon build new trails at the hawk watch. That work has been completed. The Yankee Clippers trail crew also completed some stone steps for the new Tuscarora Trail. Additional work has started south of Waggoners Gap, clearing brush, blowdowns, and moving rocks. The focus is on opening a rough trail first and then refining the tread later.

#### Logging Alert

Logging is expected to occur in the Tuscarora State Forest in the area of the shelter near Fowler Run. Dead and dying trees will be salvaged, and herbicide applied to kill striped maple and witch hazel, allowing the regeneration of more desirable species.

Another logging operation will occur on about a hundred acres south of Cowans Gap State Park between the Gyer and the Logslide trails. Finally, a salvage timber operation planned near the Wagon Wheel Shelter will only affect a short section of the Tuscarora Trail.

#### New Shelter

PATC has received permission from DCNR to construct a new trail shelter in the Buchanan State Forest north of the Silberman Trail Center, near the Tuscarora Trail crossing of Burd Run.

### Warrior Trail

Trail maintaining organizations are accustomed to fielding informational requests from hikers and backpackers seeking that perfect section of trail for their outing. Llew Williams received this type of request with an unusual twist – the caller asked Llew to suggest a location to fulfill one of her uncle's last wishes to have his ashes scattered on the Warrior Trail.

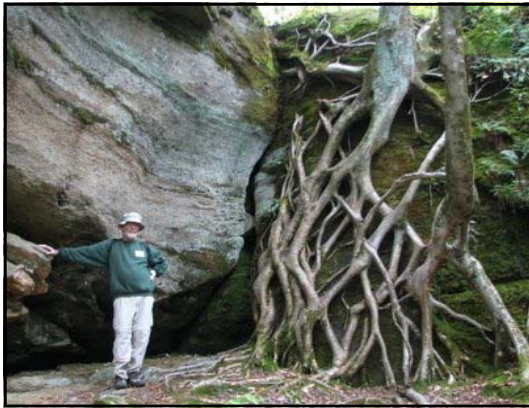
## KTA Fall Meeting News

### Hikers Explore the Northwest

More than 120 hikers attended KTA's 2009 Annual Meeting and Hiking Weekend September 25-27 in Marienville, Forest County.

The **Allegheny Outdoor Club**, with help from the **Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country Trail Association**, organized the weekend hike schedule. Twenty hikes were offered throughout Cook Forest, the North Country National Scenic Trail and the Allegheny National Forest. Popular hikes included the Loleta Trail, Minister Creek, and the Forest Cathedral in Cook Forest, home to the tallest tree in Pennsylvania.

**Jodie Vanselow**, Deputy District Ranger with the Allegheny National Forest, was the featured speaker at the Saturday evening membership meeting.



**Hiker Bob Ross** pauses along the **Minister Creek-Trail** near the overlook to admire the roots of an unusual tree. Photo by **Di-anne Franco**.

### Joe Healey Honored

Joe Healey, retiring Chair of KTA's Trail Care and Trail Crew program, was honored at the Annual Membership Meeting with a song, a gift, and a standing ovation. The musical tribute was composed by Wanda Shirk and performed by a chorus of Trail Care volunteers. The audience joined it on the chorus. Rich Carlson presented Joe with an appropriate and fitting gift—a walking stick crafted from laurel, a plant that often frustrates maintainers attempting to keep a trail open.

In a short speech, Joe thanked the volunteers who have participated with Trail Care/Crew, and KTA for entrusting the program to him and allowing him to “run with it”.



#### The Joe Healey Song

By Wanda Shirk

*Chorus (sung after each verse):*

Joseph “Trailcare” Healey—that our hero’s name!  
And Joe will live forever in the Hiker’s Hall of Fame!

Joe has been the leader of the volunteers  
Who’ve kept our hiking trails alive for several dozen years.  
Building brand new footpaths, fixing up the old  
Clearing trails with beads of sweat or freezing in the cold.  
Lining up the campsites, setting up the tarps  
Working with DCNR in Forestry and Parks,  
With his great assistants—Tom and Tom and Tom,  
And Rich and Pete and Woody too, the Trail Care work went on.  
Truck attached to trailer, Joe would haul the gear  
Getting the equipment for the Trail Care volunteers.  
Filling his garage—and other people’s too —  
With all the tools they needed for the weekend workers crew.

Joe would pass out loppers, sharpen saws and chains,  
And take good care of ‘whackers too for clearing of the lanes.  
He could carve a vista, open up a view —  
Everything looked brighter when Joe Healey’s work was through.

Sitting ‘round the campfire, Joe would lead the jokes.  
On those ‘enchanted evenings’ there were lots of smiling folks!  
Joe was at the heart of the crew’s camaraderie,  
And always ready with a laugh and witty repartee.

If there wasn’t hockey, Lorraine would be there too,  
Adding up the hours as a Trail Care wife should do,  
Passing out the cookies for a Trail Care snack,  
And making people welcome so the gang would all come back!

(Sing to the tune of Puff the Magic Dragon,  
composed by Peter Yarrow)

### KTA Hiking Awards

- Neil Campbell, Dillsburg, PA** – Appalachian Trail Award
- Jeff Fylstra, Etters, PA** – Appalachian Trail Award
- Dillon Kerstetter, Middleburg, PA** – Young Hiker Award
- Tim Knight, Shrewsbury, MA** – Appalachian Trail Award
- John Potter, Montoursville, PA** – Merit II Award
- John Romine, Narberth, PA** – Young Hiker Award
- Jacob Schultz, Bernville, PA** – Appalachian Trail Award
- Kim Shultz, Bernville, PA** – Appalachian Trail Award
- Douglas Turner, Bradfordwoods, PA** – Western Award, Merit I Award

Hiking awards are presented each year at the Annual Meeting. For details on earning these awards, see the KTA web site or contact Becky at the KTA office.

### Trail Care Awards

- Attended at least 5 weekends
- Tom Bastian**
  - Joe Clark**
  - Jeff Clarke**
  - Joe Healey**
  - Ed Lawrence**
  - Elwood Loudenslager**
  - Ginny Musser**

- Attended 3 or 4 weekends
- Pete Fleszar**
  - Wayne Gross**
  - Lorraine Healey**
  - Carl Lorence**
  - Mary Pitzer**
  - Rich Scanlon**
  - John Stein**
  - Tom Thwaites**
  - Dave Walp**



## KTA News

### Super Hike

(Continued from page 1)

credible challenges the course provided. Lord willing, I'll be back again next year. Congratulations to all who made this a reality---it's a gem!"

- "This was my first trail run so I don't have anything to compare to but I thought it was awesome!! You all did a great job preparing for this event and it showed. I just wanted to take the time to let you know that your hard work was sincerely appreciated!"
- "The first Super Hike sponsored and run by KTA was a huge success in my opinion. It was a splendid effort and as a contestant I thought the Super Hike was interesting, challenging, tiring, but most of all fun. It was obvious to me the trail clubs working on the Mason-Dixon and Conestoga Trails have done excellent work. This was my first trip to eastern York and western Lancaster counties. Up here in Clinton County we refer to folks from these counties as flatlanders, but I'll have to reconsider this."

The event raised almost \$4500 for KTA. Since the registration fee included a one year membership in KTA, 220 new members were added to the rolls.

### Thank You

Special thanks go to the sponsors of the Super Hike: **PPL** (our Silver Sponsor and landowner for 90% of the course), **Bell & Evans** (who donated the chicken burgers), **Clif Bar**, **Road ID**, and **Turkey Hill** (who donated iced tea). Timing services were provided by Ron Horn of **Pretzel City Sports** in Reading PA.

The Super Hike Crew consisted of myself (coordinator) and **Thyra Sperry**, **Curt Ashenfelder** and **Becky Schreiber**. The Super Hike would not have succeeded without the wonderful help from our volunteers including the **York Hiking Club** and **Mason-Dixon Trail System** who got the Mason-Dixon Trail in tip-top shape, allowed the use of the York Hiking Club Cabin as headquarters, prepared a delicious pasta dinner for us on Friday evening, and helped with check-in and setup on Friday evening and Saturday morning; the **Lancaster Hiking Club**



**KTA Board Member Bob Davey, Jr. crosses the finish line.**

who rebled the whole section of the Conestoga Trail and likewise prepared the trail for the event; the **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club** for providing refreshments and staffing for Checkpoint 1; the **Berks Community Hiking Club** for providing staffing for Checkpoint 2; the **Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy** and **PA Trail Dogs** for all their helpful advice and encouragement; the **Red Rose Repeaters** from Lancaster whose ham radio operators provided invaluable communications during the event; the **Conestoga Ambulance Corps** who were prepared to provide emergency assistance, and the dozens of other volunteers who provided assistance.

Mark your calendars for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Susquehanna Super Hike: September 11, 2010.

### PA AT Guide

(Continued from page 1)

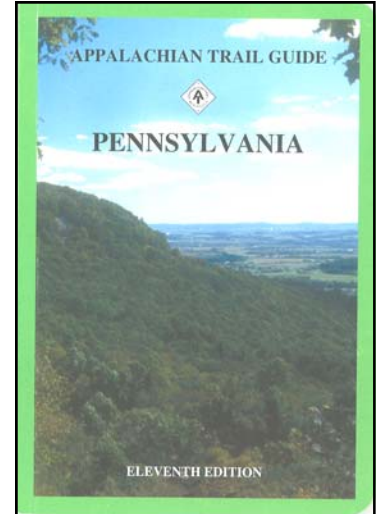
Club North Chapter: James Stauch, Jr.

This edition is dedicated to the hard working members of these eleven clubs who maintain their sections of the Appalachian Trail through Pennsylvania.

In addition, thanks are extended to the staff at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, representatives from our Commonwealth agencies, Barbara Wiemann, Shirley Gross, Richard Martin, Mary Linkevich, Frank Allen, and the many others who assisted in developing this edition.

A special thanks is extended to the following who volunteered the use of their photographs for this project: Allen Britton, James Foster, Wayne E. Gross, Jeff Mitchell, Charles Olge, Lorrie Preston, David Scheid, Thomas Scully, James Stauch, Jr., and Ernest Yeagley.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AT's completion will be in 2012. The publications committee will be looking for an even larger selection of photographs for the next edition. So be sure to take your camera along on hikes, trail work trips, and outings to capture scenes of the AT in all four seasons. As you take photos, you can email them to me at [wegseg@msn.com](mailto:wegseg@msn.com). If you would like to volunteer to help with the next edition, contact Curt Ashenfelter or Becky Schreiber at [ktaadim@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadim@verizon.net) or 717-238-7017.



## Education Influences Environmental Attitudes

Fifteen-year-olds who are the best informed about environmental science and the geosciences are also the most realistic about the environmental challenges facing the world in the next twenty years. Meanwhile, students who are least informed in these areas are the most wildly optimistic that things will improve.

These attitudes are among the results presented in *Green at Fifteen?*, a study by sociologist David Baker and colleagues at Pennsylvania State University, in collaboration with researchers at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Seventeen percent of American students demonstrated the highest level of proficiency (Level A), indicating that they could consistently identify, explain and apply scientific knowledge to a variety of environmental topics. They also demonstrated the ability to link different information sources and explanations and use evidence from those sources to justify decisions about environmental issues. At the other end of the spectrum, 42 percent of American students performed at or below Level D.

In another finding, 55 percent of participating U.S. schools had a specific course in environmental science, compared with 21 percent of such courses other nations.

*Green at Fifteen?* can be ordered or downloaded from [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org).

## My Favorite Hike

### Superfund Site Offers Diverse Hiking Opportunities

By Jim Gabovitz

That is a SCARY headline!

“Superfund” creates all sorts of mental images. But Lehigh Gap and the surrounding area was not a mental image—it was a real, disastrous moonscape, devoid of vegetation, devastated by zinc smelting operations that began in 1898.

In 2002 a group of visionaries purchased 750 acres of some of the most devastated land on Blue Mountain (Kittatinny Ridge) in the southern most part of Carbon County. What has happened over the past few years at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC) is a miracle. The restoration process, mainly through the planting of native warm season grasses, has resulted in a ground cover on previously barren rocks and some interesting hiking opportunities.

LGNC is uniquely located between two long distance hiking paths. To the south is the **Appalachian Trail** (AT). To the north is the **Delaware and Lehigh Trail** (D&L). Both trails abut LGNC property. LGNC has constructed new trails, each having a unique personality and intersecting each other at crucial locations.

The **Prairie Grass Trail** goes through what was once the worst part of the former moonscape devastation. This makes a nice arching hike and can be used to access the Charcoal Trail, the Chestnut Oak Trail or loop back to the **LNE Trail**, an abandoned rail bed that runs the length of the LGNC property. The recovery grasses are now growing so vigorously on the Prairie Grass Trail that it is necessary to cut the grass to see where the trail passes.

The **Chestnut Oak Trail** passes through the western part of the LGNC property. Since this area was upwind of the smelters, only minimal damage occurred to this section. This gives the hiker the opportunity for hiking through mid-growth forest dominated by Chestnut Oak trees.

At the west end of LGNC property is the **Double G Trail**. This trail consists of a loop that was a former access road for construction of the Pennsylvania Turnpike tunnel through Blue Mountain. This trail also goes through mid growth forest and is suitable for youngsters and new hikers.

The **Charcoal Trail** starts at the highest point of the Prairie Grass Trail and continues up the mountain. This trail comes within a few feet of the Blue (North) Trail of the AT. As the name implies, this trail uses a very old road that passes nine former charcoal pits (butts). In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, charcoal was made on the mountain to supply nearby iron furnaces.

The **Prairie Warbler Trail** is a short looping self educating trail near the Osprey House, LGNC’s headquarters. This trail provides a nice introduction to some of the local plant growth and some species are placarded.

The **Woodpecker Trail** is not on LGNC property, but on Pennsylvania Game Commission property. It links the Prairie Warbler Trail to the AT.

The **3 Ponds Trail** is a loop trail that connects the LNE Trail and the D&L trail at the western end of LGNC property. This trail passes through bottomland wetlands, and as the name implies, meanders past three ponds.

The **Bobolink Trail** is used as a connector trail and connects the LNE and D&L trail at the east end of the LGNC property.

This brings me to my favorite hike in the area. Although about half of this hike is not on LGNC property, it utilizes many of the opportunities available in this area. I start at Osprey House (parking available) and make a loop hike that returns to my starting point after about a five mile hike. My preference is to start up the mountain immediately. After hiking about a quarter of a mile using the Woodpecker Trail, I am on the AT. Although the section to be hiked on the AT is short, it gives me a true Pennsylvania AT experience: ROCKS! This section of the AT goes by a spring and the Outerbridge Shelter. Shortly after passing the shelter, a blue trail intersects the AT. I take this trail until, at the next intersection of the Blue Trail, I bear right. Shortly, I am at the top of the Blue Mountain, and am now rewarded with two vista opportunities. Stepping on the Charcoal Trail, I am back on LGNC property. Most of this trail offers open views of the valley and the opportunity to see old charcoal butts. Arriving at the Prairie Grass Trail, I am almost back down the mountain. This was the area of the worst devastation and my opportunity to marvel at the restoration miracle on the mountain. On the LNE Trail, an old rail bed, I have one mile to complete my loop hike. The views from the LNE Trail are outstanding.

All LGNC trails are open to the public. See the Lehigh Gap Nature Center web site at [www.lgnc.org](http://www.lgnc.org) for a trail map, more information, and directions.



Hikers on the Charcoal Trail walk through warm season grasses. The site of the former west plant of NJ Zinc Company is visible in the valley.

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Studies show that the longer a trail is, the farther people will travel to use it. And people who come from out of town will spend four times as much as local users. Those who stay overnight will spend even more.

– *Trails to You*, PA Recreation and Parks Society, Spring 2009, p. 3.



## Ecology News

### Palmerton Superfund Settlement

Five companies will pay \$21.4 million in cash and property to compensate the United States and Pennsylvania for resource damages resulting from decades of zinc smelting in Palmerton. Over ninety years of smelting operations by the former New Jersey Zinc Co., emitted hazardous materials including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, manganese and zinc into the surrounding environment through air emissions and the release of solid wastes. The settlement is the largest natural resource damage settlement in Pennsylvania.

The companies will pay \$9.875 million to the Dept. of Interior's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Trust Fund to be used to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources damaged as a result of the release of hazardous substances. In addition, 1200 acres of forested land in Monroe County, valued at \$8.72 million, will be transferred to the Game Commission. Finally, the companies will pay \$2.5 million for damage assessment costs and to discharge a mortgage at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center (see page 10).

The National Park Service owns and maintains approximately 800 acres of land that has been acquired to protect the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in this area.

### Walkable Neighborhoods

You can find out how walkable your neighborhood is by logging on to [www.walkscore.com](http://www.walkscore.com) and typing in an address. A special algorithm is used to assign a "walk score" from 1-100, based on the availability of stores, parks, restaurants, schools and other amenities within a mile of the given address. Higher scores are given to places that are closer.

A separate feature ranks the 40 largest US cities. Philadelphia ranks fifth for the title of "most walkable city."

### Plastics Use

Earth 911 challenges everyone to step up to the next level and do more than just put plastic bottles in the recycling bin. Check out the article on "8 Ways and Whys to Reduce Plastic" at <http://tiny.cc/ZQmes>. The Earth 911 web site at [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) also enables users to locate recycling centers and features information on environmental issues.

### Do It For The Birds

Audubon At Home now has over 2,000 acres enrolled in the Bird Habitat Recognition program — more than 200 properties in 32 counties across Pennsylvania. Audubon is working to get 1,000 homes enrolled by December.

The program recognizes homeowners for taking certain steps in their backyards, such as planting native species, to promote habitat for birds. To find out how your yard rates and whether you qualify for the program, log on to <http://pa.audubon.org/habitat/index.html> and click on the "residential" link (step 2) on the right.



### Hawk Mountain Turns 75

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September. In 1934, when Rosalie Edge leased over 1300 acres on top of Blue Mountain to prevent marksmen from shooting raptors along the flyway near Eckville, she created the world's first refuge for birds of prey. Today Hawk Mountain is a world leader in the conservation of birds of prey, providing a facility for observation, research, and education.

This fall, the Association is expanding its Raptor Challenge classroom program. Previous visits to third graders included a classroom visit by a live raptor. Fifth grade presentations will feature an anatomically correct, live size bald eagle model with a barely detectable removable breast plate, so that students can learn of the bird's internal structures; there is even a removable egg.

In conjunction with its anniversary, Hawk Mountain is selling two new publications: *Rosalie Edge: Hawk Of Mercy, the activist who saved nature from the conservationists* by Dyana Furmansky and *Hawk Mountain: the world's first raptor sanctuary* by Jim Wright with photography by Kevin Watson. See [www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org) for more information.



Photo: Hawk Mountain Archives

### Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge

The Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, and the National Science Teachers Association invite students and teachers of grades K-8 to become "Agents of Change" in improving their communities through the "Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge." The second year of this national sustainability challenge encourages students to create replicable solutions to environmental issues in their classroom. The deadline for entries is Jan. 31 for the elementary level and March 15 for middle school students. For complete details, go to <http://siemens.discoveryeducation.com>.

The 2008-2009 first place winners helped convince the EPA to change its policies about the environmental impact of lead wheel weights.

### The Lorax Speaks For The World

Friends of Dr. Seuss will be pleased to see the Lorax is speaking for more than just the trees in today's modern world. Kids and teachers can get green tips in a fun Loraxy way at [www.seussville.com/lorax](http://www.seussville.com/lorax). The Lorax has also teamed up with Energy Star to offer a new activity guide that helps kids understand their impact on global warming. Download your copy at <http://tiny.cc/mS7N6>.

## KTA Trail Mix

This past September was one of the best and busiest months I can recall as your executive director. The month began with the Susquehanna Super Hike in Lancaster and York counties and concluded with our Fall Meeting and Hiking Weekend out west in Forest County. In between we lobbied furiously for Pennsylvania hiking trails in Harrisburg and met with Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resource (DCNR) officials in Centre County to advance our hiking agenda. I even found time to work with Tom Thwaites and 17 other volunteers on a Trail Care Weekend on the Mid State Trail. I am also pleased to report that 312 new individuals have joined Keystone Trails Association in the past year, 228 arriving in September.



By Curt Ashenfelter

### Super Hike

You will read more about the Susquehanna Super Hike elsewhere in this newsletter, but I want to thank all of you who so generously volunteered your time and talents to make the event a showcase for KTA and our trails. Throughout the day I heard numerous heartfelt thank yous from the participants to the volunteers and wonderful comments about the natural beauty of the trails. The Susquehanna Super Hike was a super success on a number of levels as many more people now know of our organization, our challenges, our goals, and our lovely trails.

### Fall Meeting

I enjoyed reuniting with 120 members at the annual Fall Meeting in Marienville. If you did not attend, you missed a great weekend with twenty different hikes led by members from the Allegheny Outdoor Club, the North Country Trail Association and the Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy. The weather cooperated with rain falling on Friday and Saturday after the hikes were concluded. Although many were dissuaded from hiking on Sunday morning because of the rain, those who persevered soon welcomed a day that quickly dried out. If you couldn't join us in Marienville, be sure to hike with us next spring in Wellsboro. The hikes just keep getting

better and better.

### Monthly Donors

Additionally, our monthly donor program has gotten off to a good start (see list of donors below). To date eighteen individuals contribute to our cause on a monthly basis. Our goal for the program is 500 individuals who will contribute a steady revenue stream to assure our continued operations. **If you have not signed up yet, please consider your commitment to our trails and do so today.**

The goals of Keystone Trails Association are to provide, protect, preserve and promote over 3,000 miles of trails throughout Pennsylvania, year in and year out. This year I have had the opportunity to tell our story to numerous legislators and at various DCNR meetings. By doing so, we continue to be front and center in the minds of the policy makers who affect our trails on a whole host of regulatory fronts.

### Holiday Gift Memberships

Last year I wrote that "We are in a competition for the hearts and minds of a new generation. We love the trail. We need to share that love with those who have never been on the trail." At that time I also asked each one of you to give to one of your hiking friends or family members a gift, the gift of a Keystone Trails Association Membership. This year to encourage a growing membership base we are offering four Keystone Trails Association gift certificates for the price of three. (See gift certificate story on page 14). If we increase our membership, year over year, we leverage the Keystone Trails Association into a more powerful voice for hikers' interests in Pennsylvania.

On a personal note, my son is a hiking guide in Hawaii. I would like to visit him, but hotel costs are astronomical. If you or someone you know has a condo in Maui and will not be using it for a couple of weeks in 2010, let me know, perhaps I could rent it for a modest fee.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

### Member Deaths

**Paul E. Briggs**  
Spring Grove, PA  
Life Member #96

**Howard C. Simpkins, Jr.**  
Wilmington, DE  
Life Member #20

**Maryann Wagner**  
Bethlehem, PA  
Life Member #42

### New Life Members

**Robert L. Fromme, Jr.** #296  
Lykens, PA

**Edward Lawrence & Catherine McLaughlin** #297  
Orangeville, PA

**Karen Balaban** #298  
Harrisburg, PA

### Contributions Received July-Sept. 2009

#### General

**John M. Arrigo**  
Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club  
**Diane Buscarini**  
**Robert F. Davey, Jr.**  
**Chelsea Dunkle**  
**Robert L. Fromme, Jr.**  
**Jeffrey Mitchell**  
**Wanda Shirk**  
**Kathleen Sieminski**  
**Thyra Sperry**  
**Mike Teeter**

### Trail Care

**Ruth Hailperin**  
**Jeanette Russell**

**In Memory of Alexander McDowell**  
Angela Pany

### Keep Trails Alive Monthly Donor Program

**Keystoner**  
A friend

**Trustee**  
**Dave Dalpezzo**  
**Wanda Shirk**  
**Thyra Sperry**

### Advocate

**Curt Ashenfelter**  
**Henry Frank**  
**Marshall Hamilton**  
**Phil Keener**  
**Norman Lacasse**  
**Edward Lawrence**  
**Richard Martin**  
**Paul Shaw**  
**Thomas T. Thwaites**  
**Phil Williams**

### Additional Keep Trails Alive Donors

**A Friend**  
**Nicholas Bolgiano**  
**Richard L. Hackman**  
**Mary E. Pitzer**  
**Steve Stroman**  
**Nicholas A. Tonelli**



## Partner News

### DCNR SCORP Survey

As part of its Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2009-1013 (SCORP), DCNR funded a study on gaps in the statewide trail network. Included were missing links, disconnections, and areas devoid of trails. The twenty-one statewide trail organizations that were asked to submit their top ten priority gaps identified 107 gaps in 41 counties. To allow analysis of each gap, the gaps have been mapped using DCNR's geographic information system. Researchers also assessed social factors and organizational barriers to filling the gaps.

276 advocates from trail clubs and affiliated groups voiced their opinions and priorities. Acquiring trail right of way was highly important, especially where a trail might be lost to development. Also with a high priority were closing a gap in an existing trail or connecting two different trails.

The trail gap study was one of four conducted for the current SCORP. The others were a survey of state residents' resource needs, a state park visitor survey, and facilitated discussion groups for urban youth and adults ages 48 to 72.

Information about the updated Recreation Plan is available at [www.paoutdoorrecreplan.com](http://www.paoutdoorrecreplan.com).

### 2009 State Parks Survey

The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee has released the findings from the 2009 Mansfield University Statewide Survey, which asked the public how they used Pennsylvania's State Parks. Some of the results include:

- 53.4 percent said they visited a State Park at least once in the last year
- 18.5 percent said they never visited a State Park
- 79.9 percent said they visited a day or less
- 70.6 percent of those who stayed overnight said they preferred camping in the parks
- 66.3 percent said they would pay an admission fee to a State Park

The complete results are available in the July 2009 issue of *Environmental Synopsis*, the Committee's monthly newsletter.

### New Elk Visitor Center Partner



The Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation will assist DCNR in completing the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette Township, Elk County. DCNR's original partner in the project, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, has withdrawn and transferred ownership of the 245-acre property to DCNR.

Now under construction, the 7,000-square foot visitor center will include exhibits, wildlife trails and viewing blinds, year-round restrooms, and parking for cars and busses. Opening is scheduled for the summer of 2010.

The state is providing \$5 million toward construction costs. Other donors include the Richard King Mellon, Dominion, and Thoreson foundations; Safari Club International; Eastern Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep; Elk Foundation chapters across the country; and individual donors who made contribu-

tions through RMEF.

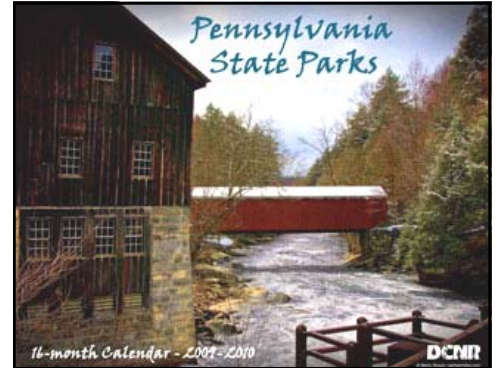
DCNR will support PPF's efforts to continue to raise funds for the operation of the center while it explores a more permanent solution to the long term operation of the facility.

### 2010 State Park Calendar

The 2010 DCNR State Parks calendar, featuring scenery and wildlife from a different park each month, includes information on what to see and do at the parks, environmental observances, and conservation tips.

Check the DCNR web site

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us) displays copies of the calendar photos. The 9 by 13 inch calendar costs \$8.49 plus shipping and tax. Order from 1-888-PAPARKS or purchase at selected state parks. Proceeds support the operations of state parks.



### DCNR Adds to State Forests

#### Lackawanna State Forest

DCNR has acquired the Blue Ridge Lehigh Tract, 1,175 acres in Monroe and Lackawanna counties, to add to the Lackawanna State Forest. The tract, largely forested, includes about 2.5 miles of frontage on the Lehigh River and will provide open space, watershed protection, and land for low impact outdoor recreation.

#### Delaware State Forest

The 708 acre "Polatnick Tract," heavily forested acreage in Westfall Township, Pike County, has been added to the Delaware State Forest. Hailed by conservation agencies as one of the truly wild areas in Northeastern Pennsylvania, the addition provides more than two miles of stream frontage along the Bush Kill (Millrift) Creek. The tract contains significant stands of upland oak, several miles of exceptional value trout streams, and ideal habitat for black bear, bobcat, river otter, coyote, fisher, snowshoe hares and white-tailed deer.

### WPC Conserves Clearfield Acreage

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has completed a significant land acquisition in Clearfield County, purchasing 2,400 acres of forested slopes at the headwaters of Bennett Branch, which is a tributary to Sinnemahoning Creek.

The purchase includes six parcels that are largely adjacent to Moshannon State Forest and State Game Lands within the Pennsylvania Wilds region. Visible to motorists traveling on PA 255 to the Elk Scenic Byway, the properties offer magnificent views of forested ridges and valleys and will be open to the public.

The \$3.5 million purchase was made possible through a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation. The Conservancy transferred the lands upon purchase to The Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit conservation organization, which will manage the properties for recreation and sustainable forestry.

## For Hikers and Maintainers

### Tick Removal Advice Questioned

The Finger Lakes Trail News printed the tick removal tip about using dish soap in its Fall issue. Thanks to Editor Jo Taylor for passing along this response from John Gibbs, a New York District Forester:



“I noticed the short note on tick removal on page 28 of the Fall 2009 Finger Lakes Trail News. Just wanted to pass along my experiences from going to Lyme Disease seminars for those in the medical field. The directive was always -- NEVER use soaps, oils, heat, etc. to get a tick to ‘back out on its own’. The reason being that the tick will expunge its bodily fluids to the human host in the process; this increases the risk of diseases being transmitted.”

Forester Gibbs uses flat tweezers to remove ticks.

For more information about Lyme Disease and removing ticks, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site at [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme).

### Publications

#### Pine Creek Rail Trail Guide

Wellsboro resident and trail enthusiast Audrey Fox, an education specialist with the state Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, has written a new guide of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon and the Pine Creek Rail Trail. Titled *Pine Creek Rail Trail: A Recreation and Interpretive Guide to the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon*, the 210-page book is intended for recreational enthusiasts and history buffs.

The book provides details and locations of 27 access points to the trail, as well as driving directions, and is intended for use by people with diverse interests, including hikers, bikers, boaters, fishermen, cross-country skiers, and showshoers. In addition to natural history and historical details, the guide covers amenities such as convenience stores, bed and breakfasts, cabins, outfitters, and restaurants.

To purchase a copy, send \$10 plus \$2 shipping to Audrey Patterson, P.O. Box 162, Wellsboro, PA 16901, or contact the Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce, 114 Main St., Wellsboro, PA 16901, <http://www.pagrandcanyon.webs.com>.

### American Trails Magazine

*American Trails Magazine*, published by American Trails, is now available online. Go to [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org) and click on the graphic of the magazine cover. American Trails proclaims itself the world’s largest online trails resource. The web site contains resources for planning, building, funding, managing, enhancing, and supporting trails of all types and greenways. Also available are links to trails in all states.



### Holiday Gift Memberships—4 for 3 Deal

You know the value of KTA membership, which helps KTA provide, preserve, protect and promote recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania.

This holiday season give the gift of KTA memberships to friends and family. Receive four gift certificates (a \$60 value) for the price of three (\$45)!

Tell everyone how we do it:

- **Advocacy** – communicating and advocating for hiking with state government
- **Protection** – training and supporting volunteers to work with landowners and managers to secure permanent access to trails
- **Creation and maintenance** – organizing volunteer trail crews to build and care for trails across the state
- **Local support** – trail maintenance, information and grants to local hiking and trail clubs
- **Hiking opportunities** – organizing or co-sponsoring hiking weekends, Pennsylvania Hiking Week (with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) and weekend programs four times a year
- **Information** – publishing maps and guides and providing trail alerts, volunteer opportunities and news alerts on our website [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org)

Gift certificates can be purchased on the KTA web site or from the KTA office (see page 2).

**And don't forget to renew your own membership!!**

### Maintainers' Lament

I think that I shall never see  
 A poem nasty as a blown down tree.  
 A tree whose hungry trunk is prest  
 Against the sweet trail's flowing breast;  
 A tree that scoffs at hikers in need,  
 And lifts her leafy arms to impede;  
 A tree that falls in Winter where  
 A nest of Overseers pull out their hair;  
 Upon whose bosom Snow's axe has lain;  
 Who after failed clearing attempts, lives with pain.  
 Poems are made by plagiarists that are low down,  
 But only God can make a blowdown.

—by Mountain Meatball, a PATC member. *Reprinted from News & Views, PATC North Chapter, Spring-Summer, 2009*

### Volunteering Is Democracy in Action

So much work remains to be done in this unfinished and imperfect world that none of us can justify standing on the sidelines. Especially in a society like ours, volunteering is an expression of democracy in its purest form. For the volunteer is a participant, not a looker-on, and participation is the democratic process.

—Eunice Kennedy Shriver, in the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, *Report and Recommendations to the President of the United States*, 1986.



## Around the Clubs

The **Allentown Hiking Club** notes the death of **Maryann Wagner**. Club treasurer since 1990, Wagner was an active hike leader, trail worker, promoter of hiking, and attended many KTA Spring and Fall weekends.

AHC has accepted maintenance responsibilities for Lock 2, north of Jim Thorpe in Lehigh Gorge State Park, for the D & L Trail of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

**Batona** announces the death of Laura Cramer, club secretary from 1980 through 1992.

The **Mid State Trail Association** notes that charter members **Gert and Jean Aron** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August. Among her many hiking related activities, Jean served as MSTA Treasurer from 1982 to 2008, and was a founder of the **Ridge and Valley Outings Club**.

The **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club** notes the death of **Bill Hutchinson**, a past president and founder of the club's Midweek Hikers group.

The **Philadelphia Trail Club** is changing its method of handling event disclaimer/release forms. Previously, each member had to sign a disclaimer before each hike. Now, all members sign a blanket disclaimer once a year, eliminating one pre-hike chore for leaders and participants.

The **Wilmington Trail Club's** four day trek in the White Mountains in July included 4.6 inches of rain, horizontal sleet, hail, whipping winds of 30-50 mph, and temperatures in the 40s and 50s. Leaders attribute the twelve hikers' ridiculously cheerful attitude to mass hysteria and hypothermia, and agree that they would happily lead this fun group through Hell, where at least it would be warm and dry.

### To All KTA Organizational Members

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 member publication, either in print or electronically, to the KTA Newsletter editors. See page 2 for addresses.

### Food For Thought

The total U.S. food supply provides 500 more calories per day per person than it did in the 1970's, an increase of 24 percent, according to the Department of Agriculture.

In the National Football League, the average weight for players rose 10 percent from 1983 to 2006, to 248 pounds. In 1976, three NFL players weighed more than 300 pounds; in 2006, that number was 570, or one in five players.

The International Journal of Obesity totaled 509 pages in 1993, its first year. In 2006 it filled 2,322 pages.

(From *Smithsonian*, Sept. 2009)

## KTA Hikers' Market

KTA Member?  YES  NO  JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price: Member Non-Member Total

### Appalachian Trail Guidebook & Maps

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

### Other Publications

NEW! Pennsylvania Hiking Trails	\$11.50	\$16.95	_____
NEW! Mid State Trail Guide	\$34.20	\$38.00	_____
NEW! Mason-Dixon Trail Maps	\$11.65	\$12.95	_____
SALE! Standing Stone Trail Guide	\$7.00	\$10.00	_____
Guide to the Horse-Shoe Trail	\$11.00	\$12.75	_____
Hiker's Guide to the Bucktail Path	\$4.95	\$5.50	_____
Hikers Guide to the Warrior Trail	\$13.00	\$16.00	_____
Loyalsock Trail Guide	\$6.30	\$7.00	_____
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the North Half in MD & PA (3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition)	\$8.00	\$10.00	_____
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South Half in WV & VA (3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition)	\$8.00	\$10.00	_____
Tuscarora Trail Map J (AT Junction in PA to PA Route 641)	\$4.50	\$9.00	_____
Tuscarora Trail Map K (PA Route 641 to Hancock, MD)	\$4.50	\$9.00	_____
Walks, Hikes & Overnights in Raccoon Creek State Park	\$11.50	\$13.50	_____

### Patches

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

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

**Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pennsylvania residents add 6% tax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ship to:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

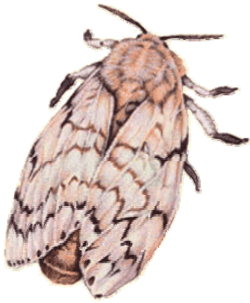
**Order online at [www.kta-hike.org/shop](http://www.kta-hike.org/shop)**

## Don't Move Firewood!

The Emerald Ash Borer infestation of ash trees has been devastating in many states, and the borer now has moved into several Pennsylvania counties. State and federal agencies and organizations are working to educate the public about one of the core actions citizens can take to prevent the spread of these hitching insects — Don't Move Firewood! Visit the web site [www.dontmovefirewood.org](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org) for more information about the various pests that attack trees, and view a series of educational and sometimes funny short videos emphasizing the Don't Move Firewood theme.

## Gypsy Moth Reprive

Heading into this past spring, it appeared many stands of oaks were going to be hit hard by gypsy moth caterpillars. Limited funding for spraying from state agencies and municipalities had foresters concerned.



But, the emerging caterpillars were hit by a fungus – *Entomophaga maimaiga* (a natural enemy, although not native to Pennsylvania); a virus (*Lymantria dispar* Multienveloped Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (NPV) that appeared in America about the same time the gypsy moth did); and a biological insecticide (*Bacillus*

*thuringiensis* (Bt) sprayed on forestlands by the DCNR).

The resulting die off is only a reprive. Gpsy moths will regroup and they are sure to resurface in woodlands some time in the next five to ten years. It is a recurring problem Pennsylvania has endured since the gypsy moth arrived here in the 1930s.

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION  
101 North Front St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Harrisburg, PA  
Permit #891

## No Child Left Inside

### Nature Connections

Nature Connections, a central Pennsylvania initiative that seeks to raise awareness of the outdoors among children and combat nature deficit disorder, offers articles, advice, activities, and links to other resources, many of them local. Visit the web site [www.natureconnections.net](http://www.natureconnections.net)

### A Parents' Guide to Nature Play

The Green Hearts Institute for Nature in Childhood is dedicated to restoring nature play for children. Their 20 page booklet, *A Parents' Guide to Nature Play*, available on the web at [www.greenheartsinc.org](http://www.greenheartsinc.org) will help parents and caregivers discover what makes great nature play, why it is important, and how to restore it to children's daily lives

## 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.

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