



August 2018

THE KEYSTONE HIKER

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths since 1956

Contact us: 46 E Main St, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 / 717-766-9690 / info@kta-hike.org

MEMBER CORNER

WELCOME TO KTA'S NEWEST MEMBERS: JULY

KTA is a membership-based organization. Since 1956, we have depended on contributions from hikers and hiking trail advocates like you to help us achieve our mission of providing, preserving, protecting, and promoting recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania.

This year, we will be trying something new. Each month we will recognize the newest members of KTA in The Keystone Hiker.

In June, KTA welcomed **92** members and families to our hiking family:

Aaron Reynolds	Erin Miller	Kerry L. Kenny (Family)
Adam Biedrzycki	Evangelos Lountzis	Kevin Tucker
Alex Burkholder	Frank Anderson	Kristen Eichert
Amanda Shibley	Graham Schmidt	Kristen Hill
Amy Hydock	Grant Flaharty	Kyle Forbes
Andrew David Rhen	Gregory Gerhart	Kyle Schumaker
Anna Reinhart	Hareesh Reddy Anugu	Lee & Rachel Bostwick
Artie Baran	Harish Janardhan	(Family)
Bernadette Connor	Holly Metzgar (Family)	Madeleine Mulderrig
Bill Mebane	Jack Diffendarfer	Madeline Mirasol
Brian Kirn	Jack Driscoll	Melanie Winder
Chelsea Merkel	Jacob Stoltzfus	Michelle Hoover
Chris Carmichael	Jake Landon	Mitch Belanger
Chrissa Driscoll	James Brosious	Paddrick Flaharty
Christine Mccomsey	James Casey	Paul & Donna Antony (Family)
Cody Morgan	Jason Scott	Paul Egan
Colleen Kennedy	Jennifer Chambers	Rachel Hinzy
Cortney Albert	Jennifer Kaufman	Rebecca Lane
Dan Reichard	Jessica Klein	Rebecca Sprengle
Daniel Langabeer	Jessica Lakari	Sam Smoker
Darren Musser	Jessica Lemay	Samirah Abdulfattah
Dave Firestone	John Erisman	Stephanie Helsing
Diana Murray	Jonas Esh	Stephen Mccarthy
Diane Grim	Joseph Bentz	Steve Del
Dominish Miller	Joseph Mccarthy	Steve Kokkinakis
Donna Brosky (Family)	Justin Frye	Susannah Gerlach
Edward Schmidt	Kate O'Malley	Tom Laforgia
Elliot Shibley	Kelly Eileen O'Connor	Travis Race
Emanuel Esh	Kelly Isenberg	Wanda Mcfarlane
Emily Becker	Kelly Reynolds	Zack Smith
Emily R. Wilson	Kenneth & Carmella Power	Zoe Pagonis

REGISTER NOW FOR THESE EVENTS:

Go to the links listed to check out these fantastic programs:

KTA Trail Challenge, September 8: <https://www.kta-hike.org/kta-trail-challenge.html>

West Highland Way, Scotland, September 16-28: <https://www.kta-hike.org/west-highland-way-scotland.html>

Fall Hiking Weekend, October 12-14: <https://www.kta-hike.org/fall-hiking-weekend-2018.html>

PREVIEW HIKES: SPOTS AVAILABLE!

Get ready for the 10th Annual KTA Trail Challenge by previewing the course!

Preview Hikes will be offered this summer to familiarize participants with the course and its challenges. Advanced registration is required.

ADVISOR: HENRY KNAUBER

KTA has learned that long-time member and avid hiker, Henry Knauber, has passed away. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Read his obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/schuylkill/obituary.aspx?n=henry-l-knauber&pid=189499075>

WEBBER CABIN DEDICATION

by John Eastlake

The PA Lumber Museum is now the home for the Webber cabin. A number of his friends attended the dedication on Saturday, July 7, 2018. An amazing number of hands went up when Jim Hyland asked how many in the audience had been to the cabin.

HIKING FOR HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

Denise Bogert, dedicated KTA member since 2011, will be hiking the Appalachian Trail in Maine to increase homelessness awareness. She says, "I will do my best to complete the hike, but the goal is always homelessness awareness. I'm asking sponsors for a penny a mile (282) as I believe anyone can squeeze that in their budget."

Denise has requested that sponsorships be sent to any of the following charities:

Keystone Trails Association

46 E. Main St.

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Donation Form

Online Donation

Hearts 4 Homeless

100 S. Fraser St.

State College, PA 16801

814-325-9471

ginny@h4hstatecollege.org

OOTC3

P.O. Box 784

State College, PA 16804

1-814-238-0822 (Kendra)

ootccentreco@gmail.com

Centre Volunteers in Medicine

2520 Green Tech Dr. D,

State College, PA 16803

1-814-231-4043

cvim@cvim.net

Denise's hike will be published in the Huntingdon Daily News and on statecollege.com. KTA will post updates of her progress below and on our Facebook page as we receive them.

UPDATE 1 – 6/12/2018

I'm on the road heading for Route 80. I'm planning to arrive in Monson, park my car, and get a shuttle up to Katahdin Stream Campground, then head south from there back to Monson. I will keep you updated. I am hiking for the homeless, and we hikers, and backpackers in particular, are sort of homeless when we choose to hike the trails.

I plan on meeting Scot in 2 and a 1/2 weeks in Gorham and we will hike together through the Whites for as far as we can until he has to go back to work. If I still have miles to complete in Maine, I will go back and try to complete those. Scot hiked the Appalachian Trail in Maine last year, and I supported him while staying and volunteering at a homeless shelter in Skowhegan, Maine.

UPDATE 2 – 7/22/2018

Hi and hello, I am back home with my tail between my legs! I should be feeling like a miserable failure, and I did before receiving pep talks from friends and spiritual leaders who have helped me along the way. To quote Dale Carnegie, "Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success."

I ended up yellow blazing through Maine, ending up in Gorham N.H. where I met Scot and continued to yellow blaze the White Mountains all the way down to Rt. 9 in Vermont as I supported him on the trail. I only managed to get in a few day hikes as I realized that I don't like to hike alone (actually I think I am just a chicken). I met many wonderful people, experienced hikers included, along the way who said it just wasn't my time... your time will come... hike your own hike. "Let's face it," I said to myself. I went for all the right reasons, but I didn't prepare my mind or body for the task.

I didn't waste my time. I stopped at local churches along the way and spoke of my failure. They were very interested and when I mentioned trail angels, hiker feeds and hostels, as well as homeless shelters, they became excited. I like to think that they might have caught trail magic fever!

The real credit goes to Scot! He actually did the hiking and offered to replace my lost miles with his. "Heck," he said, "you supported me last year as I thru-hiked Maine. I couldn't have done it without you." He hiked the whole 100 Mile Wilderness and all the way to Caratunk without resupply as he hiked southbound. I did bag Katahdin, Saddleback, and Mahoosic Notch and Arm with him as he passed through. So Scot said, "Count my miles for the cause! You were there, you get credit too!" That's why I love him ☐

The new plan (to save face): We will return together to Rt. 9 and continue his hike south hoping to get at least 100 miles in between August 2nd and 10th. He will sacrifice speed as I hike along.

Please send in your sponsorship to the charities listed as we plan our hike together. Thank you for your support!

VOLUNTEER / MAINTAINER'S CORNER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 10TH ANNUAL KTA TRAIL CHALLENGE

Saturday, September 8, 2018

Please sign up to volunteer for the 10th Annual KTA Trail Challenge. We have changed our volunteer registration form to be more accommodating of our volunteers. Now you have more choice in the times and jobs you want to perform.

It takes over 120 volunteers to pull off such a large event. Volunteers receive an official KTA Trail Challenge Volunteer t-shirt, access to the delicious Finish Line Picnic, and the awesome feeling that comes with doing good. Thank you so much for supporting Keystone Trails Association

2018 KTA TRAIL CREW: MID STATE TRAIL EVERETT REGION AND BEYOND

by Deb Dunkle, KTA Trail Crew Leader

Ray McCann and I started out 3 days before the Trail Crew event, lining up equipment and jobs. With having the Student Conservation Association's (SCA's) 5-strong members this year, it was decided that I'd work with this group to open up the access and bottom trail areas. Ray was to work with the KTA crew to go up into the trails.

No one figured on all the rainfall during this Trail Crew event. Past years always saw some drips, but this year saw major, relentless rainfall that made the ridgelines inaccessible with power equipment and created dangerous footfalls.

SCA members included Lewis, Brooke, Austin, Michala, and leader Courtney. This was their first Trail Crew experience, but they were keen on trying the equipment—starting by putting on their raincoats to work! The

crew members were scared stiff at their first rattlesnake encounter along the ridgeline, but later, they adjusted somewhat.

Ray along with Sharon Southall, Tom Bastion, Chad North, and Jim Waller rounded out the other crew. Ron Smail, John Stein, and Joe Clark worked several days on other different projects. The crew attacked the trail from Route 164 northward and other areas of the ridges that we were able to access when it wasn't raining.

During the following week, Tony Barr led the SCA youth to open up more areas of the Mid State Trail. We logged in a total of 584 hours during the 2 Trail Crew weeks. We still need to get up to the 2 hard-to-access ridges from Rainsburg to Loysburg, Bedford County; there are parts that still need to be completed. Any volunteers are always welcome!

The SCA then ended 3 days at Tenley Park, cleaning along the ponds, lopping and spraying invasive plants, and planting native plants. Hard work is resulting in good things coming together for the MST in the Everett region! As always, Jake the Jack Russell terrier was always nearby for supper and offered crew members lots of moral support!

MID STATE TRAIL TIOGA REGION TRAIL CARE REPORT

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Coordinator

The Mid State Trail in the Tioga region traverses a mix of state forest land, state park lands, state game lands, Army Corps of Engineers lands, and (thanks to the generosity of land owners) private property. Consequently, the June 22-24 Trail Care Weekend, based out of the Twin Streams Campground in Morris, Tioga County, covered a variety of different territory. Among the main tasks we accomplished during the event was removing and obscuring the graffiti that had been spray-painted on rocks along a section of the trail in Tioga State Forest. Forestry reports that the perpetrator of the vandalism has been identified, apprehended, and charged.

Addressing the graffiti was a coordinated effort involving Tioga State Recreational Forester Tom Oliver supplying and running a fire pump that drew treated mine-discharge water through 250 meters of hose to a pressure washer that sprayed down the painted rocks after they'd been slathered with "elephant snot," a paint remover provided by the Mid State Trail Association. This was the first (and hopefully last) time that graffiti removal has been on a Trail Care agenda and was definitely a learning experience for all involved. Other activities, of a more traditional trail-maintaining nature, involved some chainsaw work, lopping, brushcutting, and running the DR[®] Mower through several different sections of open fields on Army Corps of Engineers lands and private property. The installation of 8 new trail signs and some blazing rounded out the eventful weekend.

As always, with volunteer-fueled events, it is the dedication of the participants that makes the work possible. Thanks to the 12 volunteers who prioritized coming to the Trail Care Weekend and logged 216 hours of work: John McFaden, Scott Kent, Tony Robbins, Jenn Ulmer, Donna Thompson, Elwood Loudenslager, Denny Colegrove, Kevin Busko, Dave Walp, Tom Bastian, Ed Lawrence, and leader Pete Fleszar.

TRACY RIDGE TRAIL CARE REPORT

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Coordinator

The Tracy Ridge Trail system, in northwest Pennsylvania, is a network of over 20 miles of hiking-only and cross-country-skiing-only trails in a designated national recreation area of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) bordering the Allegheny Reservoir. Popular with day hikers and backpackers from the tristate area (Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York), the trail system interconnects with the North Country Trail (NCT) at 5 junctions and offers the option to make a number of varying-length loop hikes.

Recently there was a proposal (now withdrawn) to open sections of the trail system to mountain biking. One rationale for the proposal was that there were long-deferred, ongoing maintenance needs on the trail system that, so it was claimed, only mountain bike groups could adequately address. In comments opposing the change, KTA's Trail Care Program pointed out that the ANF had never requested assistance from our hiker-based volunteer organization to help tackle the trail system needs. With that as background, Tracy Ridge was added to this year's Trail Care schedule.

On Friday, July 13, 4 chainsaw crews set out from the Tracy Ridge Campground to begin clearing the accumulated backlog of blowdowns and deadfalls that crossed all sections of the trail system. Thanks to the diligent work of 2 certified sawyers associated with the NCT and 2 others associated with KTA, all main branches of the trail were cleared by the end of the day. The Johnnycake Run Trail alone had more than 120 obstructions that needed to be cut and removed. With that good work accomplished, only 1 hardworking crew was needed on Saturday to finish sawing through the interior loops, which allowed a brushcutting crew to open over 2 miles of trail corridor and also allowed some targeted lopping to be done. By late Saturday afternoon, the trail system had been entirely cleared of hundreds of blowdowns and deadfalls, some of which had been on the trail for years.

Volunteers willing to take the time to work on trails for the general benefit of the hiking community make this type of response possible. Thanks to David Kazmierczak, Joe Hardisky, and Tina and Mike Toole from the NCT Association for their good work. Kirk Johnson, of the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, and KTA regulars Tom Bastian, Wanda Shirk, and Ed Lawrence rounded out the crew members. All told, the crew logged a total of 107 hours of work on the trail system. The work of these volunteers has improved the hiking experience for everyone who uses the trail.

HIKER'S CORNER

JEFF'S JAUNTS: Backpacking the Old Loggers Path- July, 2018

by Jeff Mitchell

The Old Loggers Path (OLP) is a classic backpacking loop that has grown in popularity over the years. I was surprised to realize that I last backpacked the entire trail in 2012, over six years ago. So I decided it was time to return and experience this trail once again. I was also looking forward to seeing the two new shelters that were built on the trail last year.

As a change, I decided to hike the trail clockwise, something I had not done before. I also decided to start at the new trailhead off of Krimm Road, instead of Masten, the traditional trailhead.

I arrived late morning, quickly got my gear together, and began hiking down the trail. It felt good to stretch the legs and hike on an actual trail, instead of bushwhacking, my more common pursuit. The trail followed old logging grades and crossed a small meadow. I hiked past a large campsite along a stream with damage from a flood in 2016. I soon reached Masten and continued on the trail as it made an easy, gradual climb through a forest of beech trees. I crossed a dirt road and entered a scenic hemlock forest where I took a break. The OLP doesn't have a lot of forest diversity; most of the trail features hardwood forests, so it was nice to sit under the cool hemlocks.

I encountered patches of stinging nettle along the OLP, but it wasn't too thick and I was able to pass through, with shorts on, without too much discomfort. I soon reached the side trail to Sprout Point vista and shelter. The shelter was near the vista which provided nice views over the valleys and ridges. It would be a great place to stay for the night, but there is not any water nearby.

The OLP then descended through scenic, open forests of hardwoods. I crossed another road and traversed a series of stream valleys with rolling terrain. Each stream had a little water, and a campsite. The OLP also passed along a logging cut. A steep climb followed up to the trail's finest vista, Sharp Top. Up until this point I had only seen two other hikers, but there were about ten backpackers at the vista, enjoying the wide panorama of wooded lowlands and distant mountains. It is an impressive view so I was happy to take a rest for a few minutes.

The trail followed the edge of the plateau with a series of ledges and then entered brushy areas with plenty of blackberries. I then hiked into a mature forest above a stream with the sound of cascades that filled the air. As I neared the bottom, I passed the yellow blazed S&NY Trail, which is a cross connector trail to the OLP. I soon reached a campsite at Pleasant Stream.

Pleasant Stream suffered from a lot of flood damage with embedded trees and gravel, sand, and cobblestones everywhere. I crossed the stream easily, passed another campsite, and continued on the trail. This next section was re-routed due to the flood damage; the trail made a steep climb up to the road, followed it for a little ways, and then followed a grade to Long Run. I crossed Long Run and passed more hikers. A climb then ensued up Sullivan Mountain as I tried to move fast to see the sunset. I reached the first series of vistas with beautiful view of the mountains basking in the golden glow of the setting sun. It was breathtaking. I set up my tent at a small site near one of the vistas. I sat at the vista and watched the stars come out. Owls hooted in the distance, coyotes howled through the forest, and fireflies lit up the sky.

I was up early the next morning and enjoyed watching the rising sun through the misty trees. The trail passed large boulders and followed level grades over springs and small streams. I reached Doe Run and saw the new shelter, which was set close to the creek in a beautiful location. I made note to camp there on a future hike. I reached a view over Rock Run Gorge, where a couple were just getting up and I then hiked down to gorgeous Rock Run, passing above an unnamed falls on Yellow Dog Run. This is such a beautiful stream with its bedrock pools, chasms, and waterfalls. I sat there for a while to eat and enjoy the scenery. While there I spoke to another backpacker.

I was surprised by the number of hikers on this trail. I saw almost 40 hikers, but the OLP did not feel particularly crowded.

I like the northern section of the trail because of the scenery and the hemlock forests. The rapids of Rock Run filled the air as I hiked up the trail, passing several other hikers. I crossed a few more streams and then returned to my car on Krimm Road.

It was great to be back on the OLP. Hopefully my return will not be in another six years.

To view pictures from the trip, go <https://endlessmountains.wordpress.com/2018/07/12/backpacking-the-old-loggers-path-july-2018/>

WALK WITH GANTZ

by Dave Gantz, KTA Board of Directors

Dave will be travelling in West Virginia and will be unable to provide content for this section. Check back for more in a few months!

A WOK FOR THE TRAIL

by Gerald Rowan

What if you had a single pot in which you could boil water, make soup, cook pasta, fry, stir-fry, deep-dry, steam, sauté, and even cook pancakes? Well, how about a wok? Yes, one of those thin, steel pans common to Chinese cooking. But we're not talking about the giant woks often found in Chinese restaurants but, rather, medium or small ones that probably won't fit in your backpack but are perfect for car campers, picnickers, and family gatherings.

Woks are made from hammered steel, cast iron, or cast aluminum. The hammered steel is the lightest and probably the best for campers. In addition to being lightweight, woks heat quickly and, when seasoned, clean up easily. They're a very versatile utensil and really inexpensive. Add a lid, and a wok is just about the only pot you'll need.

There are 2 types of wok—1 with a couple of short handles, the other with a single long handle. I prefer the long-handled variety; it allows a little distance between the cook and an open fire and is therefore safer. Woks are available from 10 to 28 inches in diameter and are made with round or flat bottoms. Flat-bottom woks fit conventional stove-top applications better than round-bottom woks, which are designed to allow a gas flame to move up along the outside of the wok, cooking foods very quickly but requiring a frame for support over the burner.

A canvas bag is great for storing your wok. The wok utensils, seasonings and an ovenproof mitt can be stored in the bag too.

A lid is great to help reduce cooking time, especially in windy weather. There are domed and flat lids—again, it's your preference. A domed lid can also be used to cover foods on the grill to shorten the cooking time.

Match the wok size to your cooking needs. Match the burner or fire size to the size of your wok. Stir-frying food in a wok requires high temperatures and hot fires. When cooking for a group, a large wok placed over high-energy burners designed for deep-frying turkeys will work really well. Large woks are perfect for doing fish fries and deep-frying food. To remove the fried food from the hot oil, add the spider, and you're in business.

The cuisines of both India and Pakistan use a type of cooking pot, known as a karahi, that is similar to a wok. Some are made from hammered steel; others are made from cast aluminum. They are available in Indian and Middle Eastern markets or online.

To steam-sauté in a wok, start by sautéing the food until the food and wok reach tight temperature. Then add 1 to 2 tablespoons of sherry, white wine, chicken stock, or water at a time. Cover immediately. The idea is to form steam in the wok without lowering the temperature significantly. The steam will help transport the heat around the wok, cooking the food more quickly. If the wok gets too cold, you'll be stewing the food, not steaming it. Add small amounts of water at a time, and allow the wok to come back to hot before adding more water. Wash your wok with soap and water; then heat over the fire to dry, and season with a small amount of vegetable oil to keep it from rusting outdoors.

Basic Stir-Fry Recipe

1 pound beef, chicken, or turkey, cut into strips

1 red bell pepper, cored, seeded, and cut into strips

1 medium onion, peeled, cut in half and then into slices

1 carrot, peeled and julienned

3 tablespoons canola oil, divided

1 to 2 tablespoons soy sauce

1 to 2 teaspoons fresh ginger, grated

Heat the wok to hot; then add 3 tablespoons of the oil. Heat the oil to hot; then add the meat. Stir-fry the meat until browned. Transfer the meat to a bowl and cover to keep warm. Add the remaining oil to the wok and heat to hot. Add the onion; stir-fry the onion until translucent. Add the remaining vegetables; then continue stir-frying until the carrot is just tender. Add the garlic, ginger, and soy sauce; then continue stir-frying for an additional minute. Serve over the cooked rice.

Additions: ¼ cup chopped parsley or cilantro; 1 to 2 tablespoons oyster or hoisin sauce; one 6-ounce can sliced water chestnuts, drained; one 6-ounce can sliced bamboo shoots, drained; one 14-ounce can baby corn, drained and cut into 1-inch pieces; 1 or 2 green onions, chopped.

Garnishes: chopped parsley or cilantro; 2 to 3 tablespoons thinly sliced basil; commercial fried chow mein noodles.

Stir-Fry Sauce

1 to 2 tablespoons cornstarch

⅔ cup chicken stock or water

When the stir-fry is about cooked, mix the cornstarch and chicken stock together and add to the wok. Stir and cook over high heat until the sauce thickens. Serve.

What if you have a small fire or single-burner stove? Why not stage your cooking? Start by prepping the rice. Bring the water to a boil; then add the rice and let it begin to cook. While the rice is cooking, prep the meat and vegetables. After the 10- to 12-minute active rice-cooking period, wrap the rice pot in a cozy, set it aside, and begin stir-frying the entrée. When the entrée is ready, so should the rice. There you go—a meal in about 30 minutes.

Basic Rice Recipe

1½ cup white rice

3 cups water

1 teaspoon kosher salt

Add the water to a heavy pot fitted with a lid. Bring the water to a boil; then add the salt and rice. Stir well, reduce the heat to low, and cook for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove the pot from the fire and place in the center of a casserole or Dutch oven cozy.* Fold the cozy over the Dutch oven, allow the rice to stand, and proceed with stir-frying the meat. To serve, fluff the rice with a fork and serve.

*A casserole or Dutch oven cozy is a thick, quilted fabric cover about 3 to 4 feet squared. The pot is placed in the center of the cozy; then the cozy is folded over the pot. You can make a cozy by sewing 2 or 3 layers of an

old quilt together. A cozy is also useful to keep food warm when you're waiting for guests. Make a storage bag for the cozy, or store the cozy in a small plastic bag.

Falls & Views Hike: Exploring the Wildness of Loyalsock State Forest and Worlds End State Park

by David Kowalewski, Ashley Kowalewski, and Ruth Rode

Section One, approximately 13.52 miles, starts at Worlds End State Park and ends at Locator Post 18 near High Knob Road. Utilizing mostly established and marked trails, the Scar Run Area is the exception. Two of the authors were there recently and found it to be the most difficult and challenging portion of the Falls & Views Loop, but well-worth seeing the many Scar Run waterfalls and cascades. Besides a topographical map, there are three sketch maps (Trails In & Around Worlds End State Park, Scar Run Loop, and Ketchum Run Area) that provide more detail for those areas.

Over the next couple of months, we'll be ironing out the guide, topographic map, and sketch maps for Section Two. An update of our results will appear in a future newsletter.

Nearing completion, if you're interested, have questions, or just want to stay updated, contact Dave and Ashley at fallsandviews@gmail.com or Ruth at 570-322-5878.

OLD LOGGERS PATH TRAIL ADVISORY

A portion of the Old Loggers Path that runs on Pleasant Stream road in Masten will be impacted by a major road construction project. See Pleasant Stream Road/Hillsgrove Road advisory for more information on the project. Hikers using this portion of the trail are advised to use caution near the construction area, avoid active construction equipment/vehicles, and heed any safety signage or guidance. There may be times when it's necessary to ford Pleasant Stream and bypass the construction site by traveling adjacent to the road, through the woods, for a short section. The OLP trailhead at the Masten Camping Area will remain open during the project, however, hikers are encouraged to use the Krimm road trailhead/parking area off Ellenton Ridge road to avoid the construction activity.

CLUB CONNECTION

SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON TRAILS IN SEPTEMBER

by Alyssa Wentz, DCNR GIS Specialist

Calling trail enthusiasts of all types! DCNR and the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee will be focusing attention on outreach around trails of all types in September 2018.

We're hoping trail enthusiasts will help spread the word by having events leading up to and during the month of September.

Events could include a hike, ride or paddle on a trail; a community celebration inviting the media to a new trail or groundbreaking; some social media posts that talk about the health and economic benefits that trails provide to our communities and commonwealth.

We are hoping to see trail-related activities all over the state during the month. Please pass this information along to anyone that may be interested in coordinating and leading an activity during what we hope will become an annual event.

We'll be using the ExplorePAtrails.com calendar of events for promotion. To submit an event, please use the DCNR Calendar of Events.

When you enter descriptions of your events, please be as specific as possible. In the 'Filters' section under 'Category', please select 'ExplorePAtrails' AND 'Trails Month' as the Category.

Through this outreach, we're hoping to:
Promote trails as free outdoor recreation and important to health
Highlight the economic impacts of trails to communities
Spotlight Pennsylvania as a trail destination
Create support for a trail within 15 minutes of every Pennsylvanian

If you would like to talk with someone about an idea or need help with the calendar, please contact Alyssa Wentz, DCNR GIS Specialist at c-awentz@pa.gov or 717-787-7672.

Thank you!

ATC FAMILY HIKING DAY

Good afternoon, friends of the Appalachian Trail!

In conjunction with National Public Lands Day, the 8th annual Family Hiking Day on the A.T. will be held on September 22nd this year - an important year as it is also the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act.

On Family Hiking Day, the ATC promotes and supports guided hikes and stewardship events on the A.T. hosted by our Trail partners, educators, advocates. We know that many A.T.-maintaining clubs and A.T. Communities are planning hikes, stewardship opportunities, and outreach events to celebrate Family Hiking Day with us.

If your club or community is planning such an event, we would love to help get the word out! Please let ATC know about your event by filling out this form, or responding to this email with the following information about your activity by August 1st:

Sponsoring Organization(s):

Activity Title:

Activity Description (including difficulty and length if including a hike - see attachment):

Closest Town:

Meeting location and time:

Additional location directions (if any):

Nearby metro areas (within 2 hours):

Sign-up necessary, and if so, directions for sign-up:

Point of contact name, number, and/or email:

We also have a variety of resources to share with event leaders and will offer a training webinar on August 21st at noon. Attached is a poster you can use to publicize your event. We also will have a new hike leadership manual coming in August, and can offer other individual support like suggesting possible route suggestions, tips for a great Family Hike and methods for promoting your specific event. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

We hope to hear from you soon, and until then, happy hiking!

Sincerely,

Alivia Acosta
National Service Coordinator Intern
Next Generation Advisory Council Member
aacosta@appalachiantrail.org
(802) 391-9775

Want your event featured on the community calendar?

KTA will promote your club/organization's major events through The Keystone Hiker, Facebook, and our website. It's a perk of membership!

Just submit a list with date, time, location, and link to web page for only those events that the public should see, to info@kta-hike.org.

2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

To learn more about each event, visit our home page to explore event listings, or the Trail Care and Crew page for the full schedule and more information. Thank you!

August 2-5: Trail Care BTM - Pinchot Trail

August 23-26: Trail Care BTM - Thunder Swamp Trail System

September 8: 10th Annual KTA Trail Challenge, Lancaster & York Counties

September 13-16: Trail Care BTM - Tuscarora Trail

September 16-28: Treks & Trails International Hiking Trip: West Highland Way, Scotland

September 28-30: SOLD OUT! Quehanna Elk Quest, St. Marys, PA

October 6: Code Orange 1 Day - Gifford Pinchot State Park

October 12-14: Fall Hiking Weekend, Williamsport, PA

October 25-28: Trail Care BTM - Joe Gmitter Trail

October 26-29: SOLD OUT! Black Forest Trail Slackpack

November 1-4: Trail Care BTM - Bucktail Path

November 2-4: SOLD OUT! Gettysburg Hiking Weekend, Gettysburg, PA

KTA's Bookstore

As April's showers bring May's flowers, hikers get the itch to hit the trails. Time to stock up on items for this season's adventures! Look no further than KTA's Bookstore: your one-stop shop for trail guides, maps, apparel, patches, and more!

Check it out at <http://www.kta-hike.org/ktas-bookstore.html>

GUIDEBOOK SALE!!!

In order to move inventory, we are offering a sale on The Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South Half in West Virginia and Virginia (2013).

SAVE OVER 50%! Quantities are limited. Get one before they're gone!

Check Out Our New Patch!

Introducing the brand new Allegheny Front Trail Patch: a round, 3" patch with NINE colors!
Get yours today!

Exclusive KTA Membership Perks

Keystone Trails Association Members now enjoy a 10% Discount when they shop at Appalachian Outdoors in State College.

Hyke & Byke is working to help eliminate poverty through interest-free microloans and we love giving back to the community and promoting the outdoors. KTA members use coupon code TAKE20OFF to get \$20 off any purchase of a Hyke & Byke product from their website: [www. Hykeandbyke.com](http://www.Hykeandbyke.com)

Use promo code KTA10 to receive 10% off your order and FREE shipping when you shop at Out Gear Recreation.

Support KTA!

Here are just a few ways to give back to the organization dedicated to preserving your hiking experience:

AmazonSmile: Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support **Keystone Trails Association** by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

KTA Brokerage Account: Donating long-term appreciated securities directly to KTA — rather than selling the assets and donating the cash proceeds — may be one of the best and easiest ways to give more. By taking advantage of the applicable tax incentives, you can significantly increase the amount of funds available for our trail care, advocacy, and hiking promotion efforts.

Keep Trails Alive: The Keystone Trails Association's KTA-Keep Trails Alive monthly donor program helps sustain our work of preserving Pennsylvania's footpaths. We are a small organization with a big mission; as such, we need to find trail people who will commit themselves to giving a regular, once-a-month contribution to put KTA on a stable and sustainable financial foundation.

For more information, please contact KTA at info@kta-hike.org or call 717-766-9690.

LIKE TO HIKE?

Dear Fellow Hiker,

For many, nice weather sparks a desire to get outside and go on a hike. Going for a hike is a great way to get some exercise while quenching one's thirst for reconnecting with nature.

Our trails mean a tremendous amount to all of us who hike. We have very fond memories of walking in the morning to far off calls from birds as tendrils of mist lift between the trees, exposing some of the most beautiful and scenic places in all of Pennsylvania.

However, in the words of The Lorax, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Our beloved trails are under threats from pipelines, cell towers, development, and other human impacts. Keystone Trails Association works diligently to not only maintain our trails, but to protect and preserve them as well.

Every day, KTA's mission is made possible with your support. We simply can't do it without you. Your support makes a real, lasting impact on the preservation and protection of our trails.

Will you make a gift of \$50, \$100, or whatever you can afford to help us continue this vital work?

Thank you for your continued support and friendship.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Neville
KTA Executive Director

Newsletter Submissions

This newsletter is published monthly by Keystone Trails Association. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. 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 material (even just a trail closing or care alert!) to the Program Administrator, Brynn Furnace, at bfurnace@kta-hike.org. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Submissions received after that time will be considered for the next month.