



# THE KEYSTONE HIKER

## Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

February 2012

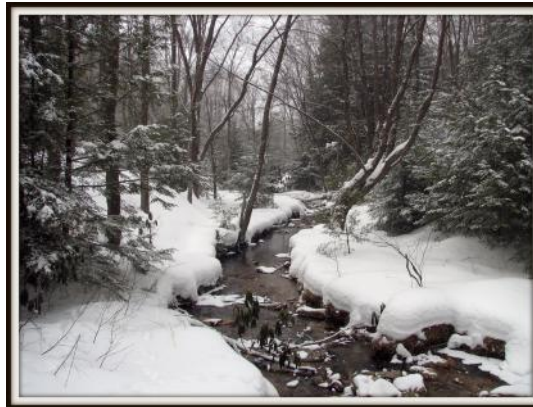
### CODE ORANGE CATCHES FIRE!

By Ed Lawrence, Trail Care Chair

2012 marks the Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Code Orange (one-day) Trail Care program's third year! Thanks to some networking with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, the 2012 calendar is full! KTA Trail Care volunteers will be returning to Gifford Pinchot State Park, and spending days at French Creek, Laurel Hill, and Nockamixon State Parks.

FIRE Continued on p. 4

### SAVE THE DATE: QUEHANNA IN THE FALL



KTA member Terri Davis submitted this photograph of Meeker Run in the Quehanna Wild Area (taken in February, 2011). Join KTA on the Quehanna Trail at the 2012 Fall Hiking Weekend, October 12-14!

### WELLSBORO WELCOMES KTA

The **Keystone Trails Association** will return to Wellsboro, Tioga County, for our annual Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend. Greet old friends, and meet new ones, while hiking the **Pennsylvania Wilds**, the wildest and most remote area of the state. For information about how you can join us in Wellsboro from April 27 to April 29, 2012, please visit pages 11-14. Hope to see you in Wellsboro this year!

### IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

*THE KEYSTONE HIKER* is going **green!** At the January 7, 2012 meeting of the Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Board of Directors, it was decided that KTA will transition to an electronic-only newsletter. As of the May, 2012 edition of *The Keystone Hiker*, your full-color digital copy will be emailed to you every quarter, and will be available online at [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org).



**Why?** In short, the Keystone Trails Association endeavors to be a "green" organization—one that helps protect our green space, not just through advocacy, trail maintenance, and more, but by conducting business in an environmentally-sustainable manner. The environmental impacts of paper distribution (from [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)) as well as the business costs and efficiency losses of using paper was a driving factor in KTA's decision to go greener with a digital-only newsletter.

#### Environmental impacts of publishing a printed newsletter:

- Cutting down trees that release oxygen for our environment
- Energy usage and release of harmful gases in pulp/paper industry
- Fuel consumption by air, rail, and road transport distributing reams of paper and delivering printed documents like this newsletter
- Manufacturing printers, ink and toner cartridges
- Paper consumption has tripled since 1960 and Americans generate 85 million tons of waste paper

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## OFFICERS

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## INTERIM NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Shanna Filizzi, Program Administrator  
ktaadmin@verizon.net  
717-238-7017

This newsletter is published four times each year as a service to its members by Keystone Trails Association. Deadlines for submitting material are 1/1, 4/1, 7/1 and 10/1. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The Editor encourages submissions reflecting all viewpoints, but reserves the right to edit material. You are encouraged to submit your material via email.

## KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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## KTA—YOUR HIKING ADVOCATE IN ACTION

by Curt Ashenfelter, Executive Director



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

**Sunday Hunting:** Legislation to permit Sunday hunting never made it out of the Pennsylvania House Game & Fisheries Committee in 2011. The committee held three hearings across PA, revealing that public opinion was unenthusiastic about the plan. Mobilizing membership and local clubs to be actively involved in policy advocacy remains a long-term goal of KTA. Many of you took the time to contact your legislators, and fortunately your voice was heard. Your continued support on these and other issues is crucial and appreciated.

**State Budget:** PA Budget Chief Charles Zogby predicts a \$500 million revenue shortfall for the 2012 general fund. Cuts at numerous state agencies will be significant. PA is one of the few states not charging state park entrance fees. Such fees will likely be viewed by some as the solution to Pennsylvania's general fund budget shortfalls. KTA will continue to represent the interest of hikers within state government, by aggressively opposing implementation of any other proposed fees (i.e., hiker licenses or trail permits).

**Marcellus Shale:** Clearing acres of trees and contouring the land for gas pads continues to wreak havoc on state forest lands and hiking trails. Swaths are being cleared for pipeline rights-of-way to convey gas to market. Trenching equipment and pipe-prepositioning machinery gobble up acreage. Unfortunately, gas companies don't utilize common piping, resulting in parallel pipelines. All of us suffer from parallel pipeline rights-of-way.

**Grants to Local Hiking Clubs:** Local hiking clubs are again encouraged to apply to KTA for PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant funds to purchase equipment for trail building or maintenance. The turnaround time will be less than 30 days from receipt of the request.

**Big Decisions for KTA Board:** Recessions often force charitable organizations to cut expenses. KTA revenues are down significantly from prior years. If you haven't recently bought a trail guide or map, attended a KTA-sponsored event, renewed your membership, or made a tax-deductible contribution, please consider doing so. Your support will help keep current KTA programs and services alive and in fine form.

**Outreach to Youth:** Thanks to Camp Otter Creek in York County, a new program will provide at-risk and special-needs youth (and their adult chaperone) with a free, two-day camping weekend to experience the outdoors. Offered on a first-come, first-served basis on non-holiday weekends, this rewarding outdoors program is available only to youths recommended by KTA or one of nine other nonprofits selected by Camp Otter Creek. For more information, please contact KTA.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thyra Sperry, President



The industrialization of our state forests has resulted in hiking trails being relocated to power line rows and other less desirable locations. The loss and degradation of our trails is due to the vast amounts of forest land becoming devoid of trees and replaced with huge gas drilling towers and retention ponds that are bigger than football fields.

You may now be hiking along the edge of a dirt road, sharing it with tanker

trucks bringing water to the ponds. Or you may be crossing over or walking alongside gas pipelines like those in the photo to the right (taken in Amwell Township, Washington Co., PA). Pretty noisy and gritty! With a continuing decline of quality habitats for outdoor recreation, and increased competition for the remaining resources, we will continue to witness declines in the beautiful environment that we are accustomed to enjoying as we hike.



KTA advocates to the government powers in the state to stanch this destruction of the forests. KTA and other environmental groups are fighting to stop the loss and deterioration of our hiking areas. This is a priority for the hiking community.

It will truly be a sad day when many of our valued hiking trails either cease to exist or are relocated away from the most beautiful hiking areas that we now enjoy.

At our Spring Hiking Weekend in Wellsboro (see p. 11), you will have an opportunity to view these sites. Bring your camera to document for your legislators why we need to stop the ravage and hold onto what we now have left for ourselves, our families and future generations. If we don't, at least one hundred years will pass before we can hike in beauty and peacefulness.

If this issue is of importance to you, please support KTA in this ongoing effort.

Now is the time to get out and protect your favorite trail,

## ADVERTISING

The *Keystone Hiker* accepts paid advertisements from organizations and individuals whose messages are consistent with KTA's mission. For more information, please contact us at [ktahike@verizon.net](mailto:ktahike@verizon.net).

## KTA TRAIL KIDS

KTA is seeking photographs of children and youth (18 and under) on the trails, stories, poems, and articles written by children about their trail adventures, and drawings of their favorite hikes. Photos taken by kids on the trail, are also welcome.

Submissions will be utilized in our newsletter's **KTA Trail**



2012 Hiking and Backpacking trips to:

- Patagonia/Iceland
- Lapland/Newfoundland
- England & Wales
- Morocco
- Alaska/New England

[www.treksandtrailsinternational.com](http://www.treksandtrailsinternational.com)  
[info@treksandtrailsinternational.com](mailto:info@treksandtrailsinternational.com)  
717-215-8339 / 717-679-5894

*Thyra*



## ED' CORNER (by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair)

### REEDS GAP SPUR IS BACK ON THE MAP

In October 2011, the Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Trail Care team revived the fortunes of the 14-mile Reeds Gap Spur Trail. This trail runs across the grain of the Ridge and Valley region, and connects Reeds Gap State Park, east of Milroy, to Poe Paddy State Park. First opened in 1985, the Reeds Gap Spur Trail was to be eliminated from the next edition of the Bald Eagle State Forest public use map. Thankfully, the KTA Trail Care Program stepped in and negotiated its continued existence - both on the ground, and on the map.

Eleven volunteers put in 147 hours over the course of three days. They worked their way north out of Reeds Gap State Park to the crest of Thick Mountain, where both power and hand tools were needed to clear the trail corridor along the ridge line. This allowed a blazing team to follow up with their brushes. On Sunday, a dedicated saw team cut through to the brink of the Bear Gap Picnic Area. More work is needed on this section - and on the Poe Paddy end of the trail - so look to the 2012 schedule for opportunities to help complete the rehabilitation of this classic trail!



### FIRE, Continued from p. 1

These work days offer an excellent opportunity for KTA members to see a state park they have never visited (or return to their favorite one), while helping to improve and upgrade its trail system. Volunteers may camp—free of charge — both Friday and Saturday nights, and explore the park and surrounding region at their leisure.

Code Orange events depend upon a robust participation from KTA members and member clubs. State parks often serve as incubators for the next generation of hikers. They are also a setting conducive to instilling the values that being in nature evokes and that the hiking community treasures.

Volunteering at a Code Orange event is personally satisfying, and provides a boost to hiking in one of the nation's best systems of state parks. Hope to see you at one of KTA's 2012 events!

### WANTED: IRON CHEF

Volunteer with a skillet [skill] set needed to run the June 12-17 Allegheny Front week-long Trail Crew "chuck wagon." If you match this description, contact the authorities (Ed Lawrence) immediately!

### REWARD:

PERSONAL SATISFACTION



### CAN-DO KNOW-HOW

Ten Keystone Trails Association (KTA) volunteers brought their trail care skill set to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's (WPC) Bear Run Nature Reserve in November. The KTA trail care team joined folks from the WPC and a professional trail building crew to continue the work, begun last year, of making the trail system at the reserve more sustainable.

The first order of business was to move bridging materials, white oak planking, and four-foot-long, incredibly dense, black locust "sleepers" a half-mile up the trail to the water crossing work-site.

Using principles and contrivances pioneered by Archimedes, one crew cajoled boulders into formation to underlie the bridgeworks. The other crews worked on stone curbing, outsloping, and revegetating closed sections of the old treadway.

On Saturday night, the KTA team enjoyed a convivial "family style" meal that was cooked in the well-appointed kitchen of the Kirkpatrick house.

When the KTA team left on Sunday—after 126 hours of focused work — they could look back on a naturally-butressed treadway, a beautifully situated bridge, and beyond. As an added perk, volunteers were given the opportunity to take a private tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water on Sunday afternoon.

## 2012 TRAIL CARE SCHEDULE

KTA's Trail Care program offers interested volunteers three types of "hands-on" trail work opportunities. No prior experience necessary, and tools and training are provided. Volunteers must bring all personal camping gear.

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

**Trail Care:** Work weekends begin Friday evening and end Sunday at noon. Participants provide their own meals.

**Code Orange:** One-day events. Camping may be available and food is sometimes provided.

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

**March 30 - April 1:** Trail Care  
Mid State Trail, State College Region  
Leader: Kevin Busko  
kbusko@verizon.net, 814-643-4238  
Camp: Seven Mountains Boy Scout Camp, Rimmey Cabin

**April 14:** Code Orange  
Thunder Swamp Trail System  
Leader: John Motz  
trailbldr@hotmail.com, 579-236-1462  
Meet: 9:00 at Thunder Swamp Trail main trailhead on SR 402  
No Camping available

**April 21:** Code Orange  
Maurice K. Goddard State Park  
Leader: William Wasser, Park Manager  
wwasser@pa.gov, 724-253-4833  
Meet: 8:30 at Launch #1 Pavilion/  
Camping available Friday & Saturday

**May 12:** Code Orange  
French Creek State Park  
Leader: Lisa Miller  
FrenchCreekEnvEd@pa.gov  
610-582-9680  
Meet: 8:30 at Park Office  
Camping available Friday & Saturday

**May 18 - 20:** Trail Care  
Reeds Gap Spur  
Leader: Tony Robbins  
tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com

570-437-0065  
Camp: Reeds Gap State Park

**May 29 - June 3:** Trail Crew Week #1  
North Country Trail  
Leader: John Stehles  
stehles@gmail.com, 724-256-0674  
Camp: Davis Hollow Cabin, Moraine S.P.

**June 5 - 10:** Trail Crew Week #2  
Chuck Keiper/ Donut Hole Trails  
Leader: Carl Ganong  
sails123man@yahoo.com  
484-550-9802

Camp: West. Clinton Sportsmen's Assn

**June 12 - 17:** Trail Crew Week #3  
Allegheny Front Trail  
Leader: Ed Lawrence  
cathyed@nationi.net, 570-925-5285  
Camp: Black Moshannon State Park group camping area

**June 19 -24:** Trail Crew Week #4  
Mid State Trail, Everett Region  
Leader: Deb Dunkle  
dhdunkle@embarqmail.com  
814-652-2227  
Camp: Tenley Park in Everett

**June 26 - July 1:** Trail Crew Week #5  
Standing Stone Trail  
Leader: Mel Cooper  
lunchtime1@verizon.net, 814-643-2641  
Camp: Narrows Gun Club near McConnellsburg

**July 13 - 15:** Trail Care  
Mid State Trail, Tioga Region  
Leader: Pete Fleszar  
tioga@hike-mst.org, 717-583-2093  
Camp: Hills Creek State Park organized group tent site

**July 28:** Code Orange  
Laurel Hill State Park  
Leader: Mike Mumau, Park Manager  
mmumau@pa.gov, 814-445-7725  
Meet: 9:00 at Park Office  
Camping available Friday & Saturday

**August 10 - 12:** Trail Care  
Mid State Trail, Woolrich Region  
Leader: Joe Healey  
jnlhealey@aol.com, 570-655-4979  
Camp: Little Pine Creek State Park group camping area

**August 18:** Code Orange

Col. Denning State Park  
Leader: Ryan Donovan, Park Mgr.  
rydonovan@pa.gov, 717-776-5272  
Meet: 9:00 at Pavilion #2  
Camping available Friday & Saturday

**September 14 - 16:** Trail Care  
Thunder Swamp Trail System  
Leader: John Motz  
trailbldr@hotmail.com  
570-236-1462  
Camp: Promised Land State Park

**September 29:** Code Orange  
Nockamixon State Park  
Leader: Mike Quinn  
friendsofnockamixonstate-park@yahoo.com, 215-804-0372  
Meet 8:30 at Park Office/ Camping available Friday & Saturday nights

**October 6:** Code Orange  
Gifford Pinchot State Park  
Leader: Steve Stroman  
stevestroman@hotmail.com  
717-350-0437  
Meet 8:30 at the Quaker Race Day Use Area just off PA 177  
Camping available Friday & Saturday

**October 19 - 21:** Trail Care  
Reeds Gap Spur  
Leader: Ed Lawrence  
cathyed@nationi.net, 570-925-5285  
Camp: Poe Paddy State Park

**November 9 - 11:** Trail Care  
Bear Run Nature Reserve  
Leader: Jeff Rosier  
jrosier@paconserve.org  
724-329-7803  
Camp: Kirkpatrick House near Fallingwater/ Ohiopyle State Park

**Visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) for the full 2012 Trail Care schedule and an interactive map.**



## AROUND THE CLUBS

### IRONMASTER'S CHALLENGE & MARCH

by Karen Balaban



Co-hosted by the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC) and the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, the 3rd Annual 2012 Ironmaster's Challenge and the March for the Mansion will be held on

Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

There will be three events this year to match various fitness levels. The Ultra 50K and Marathon Challenges are on routes in Michaux State Forest and Pine Grove Forest State Park, and designed to test the serious hiker and trail runner. The 15K Challenge is a less demanding trail course, suited for the more leisurely pace of fitness walkers, trail runners, and moderate-distance hikers. Each event will have staggered starting times, a clock finish with instant results, aid stations with snacks and beverages, mile markers, wheel-measured courses, and a finish-line celebration picnic with free beer at the historic Ironmaster's Mansion.

The Ironmaster's Challenge is the premier fund raising event to support the operations and maintenance of the historic Ironmaster's Mansion, located near the mid-point of the Appalachian Trail. To register, visit [www.ironmasterschallenge.com](http://www.ironmasterschallenge.com).

### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

by Barbara VanHorn

On June 2, 2012—**National Trails Day**— all trails lead to Duncannon! The hiking community is invited to join in as Duncannon celebrates its designation as an Official Appalachian Trail Community of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The theme, "Saving our Community from Nature Deficit Disorder," paves the way for a day filled with family-friendly activities, including food, music, and guided hikes. Register to lead a guided hike, host an informational table or display, or lead participants in an educational or fun activity! Contact KTA member Barbara VanHorn at [bvhbarb@pa.net](mailto:bvhbarb@pa.net) to learn how you can be a part of this fun day.

#### ATTENTION

#### MEMBER CLUBS!

Has your club conducted an unusual hike, outstanding program, or celebrated a milestone event? Please let KTA know so that we can share your news!

Email: [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net)

### BUTLER KNOB SHELTER by Carl Lorence

In June, 2011, the Standing Stone Trail Club, Inc. (SSTC) constructed the Butler Knob Shelter on the Standing Stone Trail. The cedar shelter is located on Jack's Mountain, in Rothrock State Forest, approximately 10 miles south of Mapleton Depot and about the same distance north of Three Springs - makes for a great weekend hike! Deeter Spring provides a nearby water supply; a fire ring, picnic-style bench, and a "bear pole" (to safely hang grub sacks) have been, or soon will be, installed. The shelter crew was led by SSTC President Mel Cooper and included: Frank Donlevy, Dick Littlefield, Paul Shaw, Jack Bushey, Sean Waddle, Joe Clark, Jay Moore, Tom Scully, Carl Jaymes, Carl Lorence, Ken Horting, Assistant Forester Marc Potter, Cliff Hawkins and Shelter Kit Owner/Manufacturer Mike Vilegi.



Above: Butler Knob Shelter. Courtesy of Carl Lorence.



## AROUND THE CLUBS

### MEMBER CLUBS: THE BACKBONE OF KTA

Forty-four local hiking organizations across Pennsylvania have joined together to provide, preserve, protect and promote hiking trails in Pennsylvania and have their hiking voice heard in Harrisburg, by joining the Keystone Trails Association (KTA). KTA represents your club's hiking interests before state government, particularly with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) which regulate hiking trails in state parks and state forests, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission which regulate hiking trails on state game lands.

During the past decade, KTA's member clubs chose to advance KTA's mission by establishing a more professional presence in the state capital, through the creation of a Harrisburg office and the hiring of two full-time staff.

What are some of the benefits local

hiking clubs have received in the past - and will continue to receive in the future - by having a professional staff in Harrisburg?

- Representation before DCNR on a whole host of issues, including hiker trail access, limiting expansion of ATV, mountain biking and horse riding on hiking-only trails, issues of signage and blazing on hiking trails, remediation or relocation of hiking trails before, during or after logging operations and Marcellus gas exploration and extraction, grant funding, letters of authorization for hike leaders, etc.
- Representation before the PA Game Commission on issues including trail access, issues of signage and blazing of hiking trails, primitive camping, etc.

- Meetings with State Senators and State Representatives to press hiker-friendly laws.
- Support of local hiking clubs at local government meetings on the county and township level on issues concerning access, zoning, etc.
- Fundraising to support trail maintenance and other local club services
- Trail maintenance support through Code Orange, Trail Care, and Trail Crew events

Many years ago, KTA's member clubs decided to support KTA's mission with a modest annual contribution. That contribution now stands at \$50 each year, or a voluntary \$50 plus 25 cents for each member for those clubs

CLUBS, Continued on p. 15

### SATC WEBSITE RE-DESIGN

With the technical skills of Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC) webmaster Kim McKee, and content revisions supplied by SATC president Karen Balaban, SATC is excited to present a new look for its website, [www.satc-hike.org](http://www.satc-hike.org). The fresh, updated design is more user-friendly, and posts more current photos and web links. With the project more than 50 percent complete, webmaster Kim McKee encourages you to visit the site and enjoy the wealth of trail community information available.

In their spare time, Kim and Karen also administer the SATC Facebook page which had more than 61,000 views during one 30-day period this past summer. "Like" SATC on Facebook and stay up-to-date with their activities!



### A [COMMON]WEALTH OF INFORMATION

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council recently named historian Silas Chamberlin to its Commonwealth Speakers Program, which will allow him to give his presentation, entitled "Hiking in Penn's Woods: A History," to audiences throughout the state. This presentation provides an overview of Pennsylvania's rich history of hiking and trails from the founding of the earliest clubs in the 1910s through to the present.

Eligible organizations may request a Commonwealth Speaker for a small fee. Chamberlin is an environmental history doctoral candidate at Lehigh University, where he is writing his dissertation, "On the Trail: A History of American Hiking." He is also Corridor Resource Specialist at the Delaware & Lehigh (D&L) National Heritage Corridor where he works on trail development, maintenance and advocacy and coordinates the D&L Trail Alliance.

For more information about the Commonwealth Speakers Program, please contact the PA Humanities Council at [commonwealthspeakers@pahumanities.org](mailto:commonwealthspeakers@pahumanities.org).

## MEMBER CORNER

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### HIGHLIGHTED OPPORTUNITY:

#### EVENT SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR

Do you enjoy networking? Do you have connections to local businesses, or larger corporations? Do you like working as part of a team? If so, consider coming on board at KTA as a volunteer **Event Sponsorship Coordinator**. KTA is seeking corporate and small-business sponsorships for the Susquehanna Super Hike and Ultra Trail Run, for our Spring, Fall, and Summer hiking weekends, and for our Trail Care Program. If you would like to help us reach out to local, state-wide, national, and/or global for-profit enterprises to generate event sponsorships, please let us know today!

#### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

**EDITOR OF *THE KEYSTONE HIKER***

**CLERICAL ASSISTANT**

**GRANT RESEARCHER & WRITER**

**PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR**

**SOCIAL MEDIA FACILITATOR**

**SNOWMOBILE AND ATV ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC) REPRESENTATIVE**

**SPEAKER'S BUREAU COORDINATOR**

**SPECIAL EVENT ASSISTANT**

**STUDENT INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR**

**WEBSITE DEVELOPER**

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For more information about volunteering with KTA, please contact us at [ktadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktadmin@verizon.net)

**Keystone Trails Association**  
**Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets -**  
**Income Tax Basis**  
**September 30, 2011 and 2010**

| <b>ASSETS</b>                             | <b><u>2011</u></b>       | <b><u>2010</u></b>       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Current Assets</b>                     |                          |                          |
| Cash                                      | \$ 134,707               | \$ 184,276               |
| Investments                               | 19,972                   | 19,623                   |
| Accounts Receivable                       | 3,404                    | 3,014                    |
| Inventory                                 | <u>36,462</u>            | <u>32,949</u>            |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>               | 194,545                  | 239,862                  |
| Property and Equipment                    | <u>721</u>               | <u>1,374</u>             |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                       | <b>\$ <u>195,266</u></b> | <b>\$ <u>241,236</u></b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>         |                          |                          |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                |                          |                          |
| Accounts Payable                          | \$ 1,274                 | \$ -----                 |
| Payroll Tax Liabilities                   | 1,938                    | 2,072                    |
| Accrued Payroll                           | 5,514                    | 5,264                    |
| Credit Card Payable                       | 1,638                    | 584                      |
| Deferred Revenue                          | 29,487                   | 43,868                   |
| Sales Tax Payable                         | 112                      | 64                       |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>          | <b>\$ 39,963</b>         | <b>\$ 51,852</b>         |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                         |                          |                          |
| Unrestricted                              | <u>155,303</u>           | <u>189,384</u>           |
|   | 155,303                  | 189,384                  |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b> | <b>\$ <u>195,266</u></b> | <b>\$ <u>241,236</u></b> |

### HERITAGE SOCIETY

You can leave a wonderful legacy for hiking trails, their surrounding natural areas, and the hiking experience by remembering the Keystone Trails Association in your will. If you leave a bequest to KTA, you may choose to leave a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or even a particular asset. Doing so will not only help to preserve the places you love to hike, but will most likely reduce estate and inheritance taxes. For simple language that may be used in your will, contact Curt Ashenfelter, Executive Director, at 717-238-7017 or by e-mail at [ktahike@verizon.net](mailto:ktahike@verizon.net).

### MEMBER DEATHS

Life #16, Jimmy Pike





**MEMBER CORNER**

**CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2012**

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

**President's Circle (\$2,500 or more)**

Richard Martin

**Gold Circle (\$250-\$2,499 )**

Scott Brown  
 Paul Burns  
 Camp Otter Creek  
 George & Miriam Martin Foundation  
 Wanda Shirk  
 Thomas Thwaites

**Silver Circle (\$100-\$249)**

A Friend (2)  
 Allentown Hiking Club  
 Jean Aron  
 Alice Ashenfelter  
 W. Franklin Bohn  
 Jeffrey Clarke  
 Melvin Cooper  
 George Gardner  
 George Henry  
 William Hooks  
 James Hooper  
 Peggy Johnson  
 James Jordan  
 Andrea Knox  
 Janice Pruch  
 Judith Shabrach  
 Katherine St. John  
 Robert Steeneck  
 Thomas Stott  
 Phil Williams  
 Geri Stahr

**Bronze Circle (\$50-\$99)**

A Friend  
 George Alderson  
 Kathy Borrell  
 Paul Brechbiel  
 Pat Callahan  
 David Carbonell  
 Thomas Chamness  
 Harold Croxton

Gail Dancer  
 Michael Finn  
 Mid State Trail Association  
 James Foster  
 Daniel Grabenstein  
 Connie Grisell  
 Wayne and Shirley Gross  
 Frederick Haack  
 Harry Hansell  
 Cass Janco  
 A. Anthony Kilkuskie  
 Henry Knauber  
 Ellen Konecny  
 Kenton Kurtz  
 Leonard Pott  
 Kathleen Sieminski  
 Thyra Sperry  
 Herman Tease  
 Barbara Terry  
 Merritt Zimmerman

**Other Contributors**

A Friend  
 Wellis Balliet  
 Robert Best  
 Gary Bortner  
 Richard Carroll  
 Randal DiPalo  
 Hugh Downing  
 Chelsea Dunkle  
 George Farley  
 Keith Groff  
 Richard Hackman  
 Carol Rowehl Kahler  
 Jon Kapecki  
 Donna Keeler  
 Edward Kenna  
 Lois Ludwig  
 Marci Mowery  
 M. Virginia Musser  
 Mary Pitzer  
 Herman Richey  
 John Seville  
 Sharon Southall  
 Bonnie Thomas  
 Stuart Thompson  
 Miriam Wert  
 Gary Willing

**KEEPING TRAILS ALIVE**

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

Giving to KTA is easy with a monthly automatic bank withdrawal! Please contact [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net) for additional information.

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

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

A Friend  
 Thyra Sperry

**Trustee  
 \$600 - \$1,199**

Dave Dalpezzo  
 Ernest Werstler

**Advocate  
 \$240 - \$599**

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

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

A Friend  
 Steve Stroman & Judie Howrylak  
 Nicholas Tonelli

## MEMBER CORNER

### FACEBOOK PHOTO FUN

Congratulations to the winners of KTA's recent Facebook Photo Contest!

**In first place:** David Schmude's photograph (to right) of Potter's Falls in Venango County, with 56 votes.

**In second place:** Scott Hafer's photograph (below) of Kettle Creek in Clinton County, with thirty votes.



And, **in third place,** Carolyn Kegler's photo (below) of Jonathan Run Falls in Ohiopyle State Park, with 26 votes.



Congratulations to David, Scott, and Carolyn, and thank you to everyone who submitted a photo to the KTA photo contest!

For KTA members that have not been following us on Facebook, make sure to visit soon to see *all* of the lovely photographs submitted by our Facebook friends!



**Congratulations to Wellis Balliet of Nescopeck, PA** who won the raffle mentioned in the November 2011 appeal letter. Wellis chose to receive the complete guide to the Mid State Trail as his gift.

### GREEN, Continued from p. 1

- The U.S. pulp/paper industry is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest consumer of energy
- Over 500 million ink and toner cartridges end up in landfills each year
- Printing 10 million pages consumes 2,500 trees, 56,000 gallons of oil, 450 cubic yards of landfill space, and 595,000 kilowatts of energy

If you have not previously done so, please let us know your preferred e-mail address as soon as possible. If we already have your e-mail address on file, please check to make sure ktaadmin@verizon.net is designated as a "safe sender" in your e-mail account, so our messages to you are not filtered out as spam. For those of you without internet access, we will print and mail a copy of the newsletter to you.

Thank you all for your support and understanding as we work together to grow greener!



# Keystone Trails Association Hosts 2012 SPRING MEETING & HIKING WEEKEND

April 27-29, 2012  
Wellsboro, Tioga County



## KTA RETURNS TO WELLSBORO FOR 2012 HIKING WEEKEND

The **Keystone Trails Association** will host its Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend from Friday, April 27th to Sunday, April 29th in Wellsboro, Tioga County. Tioga County is located in north-central Pennsylvania and is part of the **Pennsylvania Wilds**, the wildest and most remote area of the state. The region offers extensive uninhabited areas and breathtaking scenery, as well as an abundance of trails to suit all preferences and ability levels.

The Wellsboro area is also home to **Pine Creek Gorge**, which is commonly



Hikers hit the trails in Wellsboro in 2010! *Photo courtesy of Curt Ashenfelter.*

known as the **Pennsylvania Grand Canyon**. Surrounded by 160,000 acres of state forestland, the Pine Creek Gorge is approximately 50 miles long with depths in excess of

1,000 feet. Hiking trails in this area offer spectacular views and abundant wildlife.

After a day on the trails, hikers can enjoy historic Wellsboro, where the gas-lit streets, Victorian mansions and friendly town square welcome visitors with hometown charm. Enjoy a comfortable stay at the historic Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge in down-

town Wellsboro. Meals will be served in the Mary Wells Dining Room, which offers a first-class dining experience. See p. 13 for details.

KTA's Wellsboro weekends always attract a large crowd, so make sure to register early!

## HIKING THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS

The Pennsylvania Wilds region features a hiking trail network that is among the finest in Pennsylvania. There are a great number of day hikes in the region, including many on state forest and state park lands. Some day hikes in the area include:

- The **Gillespie Point Trail**, a one-mile uphill climb that rewards hikers with one of the best views of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon
- The **Golden Eagle Trail**, a 9-mile loop trail often called the best day hike in Pennsylvania
- The **Sand Run Falls Trail**, an easy and scenic 7-mile hike to an impressive waterfall

The area near Wellsboro also boasts four major backpacking trails, including:

- The **West Rim Trail**, a 30-mile hiking trail along the western rim of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. Many

vistas have been cleared along the trail to provide hikers with views of the Pine Creek Valley

- The **Susquehannock Trail**, an 85-mile loop trail that passes few signs of modern civilization and reaches into very remote forest areas
- The **Mid State Trail**, Pennsylvania's longest backpacking and hiking trail, traverses the region to reach its terminus at the Pennsylvania-New York border in Tioga County
- The **Black Forest Trail**, a 42-mile loop trail in northwest Lycoming County, is considered one of Pennsylvania's most challenging and rewarding trails

The area is also well-known for the **Pine Creek Trail**, which parallels Pine Creek and extends approximately 60 miles south from Wellsboro Junction to Jersey Shore and is used primarily for bi- *WILDS Continued on p. 12*



## SPRING MEETING & HIKING WEEKEND

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

#### Friday, April 27

**1:00 PM-7:00 PM:** KTA registration and hike sign-ups in the Penn Wells Hotel lobby

**3:00 PM:** Friday afternoon hikes depart (Check hike schedule for meeting place)

**3:00 PM:** Check-in time at the Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge

#### Saturday, April 28

**7:00 AM:** Breakfast at the Mary Wells Dining Room (please remember to pick up your bag lunch)

**7:30 AM-8:15 AM:** KTA Registration and hike sign-ups in Penn Wells lobby

**8:30 AM-4:00 PM:** Saturday hikes depart (Check hike schedule for meeting place)

**1:00 PM-3:00 PM:** KTA Board Meeting in the Penn Wells Hotel Green Room

**4:00 PM-6:00 PM:** Council Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**6:30 PM-7:45 PM:** Dinner at the Mary Wells Dining Room

**8:00 PM-9:00 PM:** General Membership Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

#### Sunday, April 29

**7:00 AM:** Brunch at the Mary Wells Dining Room

**7:30 AM-8:15 AM:** KTA Registration and hike sign-ups in Penn Wells lobby

**8:30 AM-1:00 PM:** Sunday hikes depart (Check hike schedule for meeting place)

**11:00 AM:** Check out time at the Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge

\*Weekend schedule subject to change. Visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) for updated information and hike schedule.

\*\*Register in advance for the hike(s) of your choice; hikes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis!

### WILDS, Continued from p. 11

cycling, cross-country skiing, and walking.

The KTA spring hiking weekend will feature a full schedule of hikes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday that will highlight the region's outstanding network of hiking trails. We are sure you'll enjoy the many hiking opportunities available in Tioga County and the Pennsylvania Wilds. Hope to see you on the trail!

### LOCAL RESOURCES

#### Asaph Trail Club

[www.wildasaphoutfitters.com/asaphtrailclub.html](http://www.wildasaphoutfitters.com/asaphtrailclub.html)

#### Pennsylvania Wilds

[www.pawilds.org](http://www.pawilds.org)

#### Pine Creek Outfitters

[www.pinecrk.com](http://www.pinecrk.com)

#### Tioga County Visitors Bureau

[www.visittiogapa.com](http://www.visittiogapa.com)

#### Tioga State Forest

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/tioga/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/tioga/index.htm)

#### Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce

[www.wellsboropa.com](http://www.wellsboropa.com)

#### Wild Asaph Outfitters

[www.wildasaphoutfitters.com](http://www.wildasaphoutfitters.com)

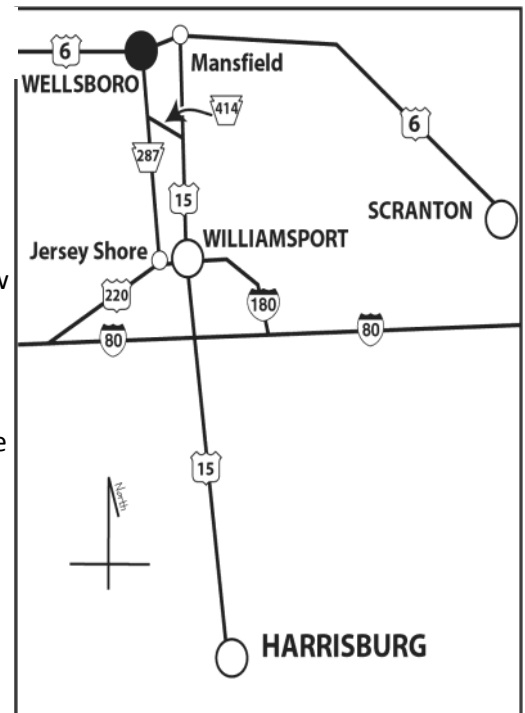
## Registration Deadline: April 11th

### DIRECTIONS & MAP

Wellsboro is located in Tioga County and is approximately ten miles west of the intersection of Route 15 and Route 6.

From the east and south, follow US 15 N to PA Route 414. Follow Route 414 until it becomes PA 287 (Main St. in Wellsboro).

From the west, follow US Route 6 East to Wellsboro. Alternatively, take I-80 E to PA Route 64 to US 220 N (outside Lock Haven), then to PA 287 (about 20 miles) and stay on PA 287 into Wellsboro.



## SPRING MEETING & HIKING WEEKEND

### LODGING & MEALS

**Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge**  
**62 Main Street** (Hotel)  
**4 Main Street** (Lodge)  
**Wellsboro, PA 16901**  
**Phone: 1.800.545.2446**  
**www.pennwells.com**

#### LODGING

The Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge is located on Main Street in historic downtown Wellsboro. The **Penn Wells Hotel** offers the classic comfort of a bygone era (with close proximity to the dining room and lounge), or choose the modern feel of the **Penn Wells Lodge** located just down the street (with a gym and indoor pool). Both the hotel and lodge offer free wireless internet access. Rooms will be assigned as reservations are received. Please indicate your lodging preference on your reservation form. We will do our best to accommodate your preference. (Note: There is no charge for children under age 18 in the same room as an adult. )

#### MEALS

All meals will be served at the Mary Wells Dining Room at the Penn

Wells Hotel. A breakfast buffet will be served on Saturday morning before hikers hit the trails with their bagged lunches. The Saturday banquet will also be served buffet-style and will have vegetarian options available. Hikers will enjoy a sumptuous Sunday brunch before they head home or back out on the trail.

Hikers who choose another lodging option in Wellsboro are invited to attend the Saturday dinner and annual meeting, but advance registration and payment is required.

Reservations for the Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge and weekend meals **must** be made through KTA. Contact us at 717.238.7017 or ktaadmin@verizon.net for more details.



*Hikers will enjoy their stay at the historic Penn Wells Hotel*

### ADDITIONAL LODGING

**100 West Bed & Breakfast**  
 11 West Avenue  
 570.724.6631  
 www.100westbnb.com

**Bear Mountain Lodge**  
 8010 U.S. Route 6  
 570-724-2428  
 bearmountainbb.com

**Garden Cottage Motel**  
 66 West Avenue  
 570.724.3581  
 www.wellsborogardencottages.com

**Sherwood Motel**  
 2 Main Street  
 570.724.3424  
 sherwoodmotel.org

**Wellsboro Inn on the Green**  
 3 Charles Street  
 570.662.7008  
 www.wellsboroinnonthegreen.com



*Enjoy the gym and indoor pool at the Penn Wells Lodge*

### WEEKEND PACKAGE PRICING INFORMATION

|  | KTA Member | Non-Member |
|--|------------|------------|
| <b>Single Occupancy</b> (1 Person/Room)    | \$285      | \$305      |
| <b>Double Occupancy</b> (2 People/Room)    | \$185      | \$205      |
| <b>Triple Occupancy</b> (3 People/Room)    | \$160      | \$180      |
| <b>Quadruple Occupancy</b> (4 People/Room) | \$145      | \$165      |

All prices are **per person** and include **2 nights lodging, 4 meals** (Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday brunch) and the **registration fee**. Please call KTA for information on children pricing.

**You may have noticed that** the cost of our Wellsboro weekend is higher than in the past. Unfortunately, the Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge raised their prices by a significant amount (yet another impact of the gas industry on hikers!). We hope you understand and will choose to join us in Wellsboro for our Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend.



# KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION



## 2012 Annual Spring Meeting & Hiking Weekend Registration

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

Club Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note the names of all individuals covered by this reservation (**including children under the age of 18; please include their ages**), or with whom you will be sharing your lodgings, even if his/her reservation is mailed separately:

KTA Member?  Yes  No  Joining Now

**WEEKEND PACKAGE PRICING INFORMATION:** The price listed is **per person** and includes **two nights lodging** (Friday and Saturday night), as well as **four meals** (Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday brunch) and the **registration fee**.

Lodging Preference:  Penn Wells Hotel  Penn Wells Lodge  No preference  
 Return my registration if my lodging preference is not available

Vegetarian Meals:  Yes \_\_\_\_\_ # Adults

| Please circle selected option:                 | KTA Member | Non-Member | # Adults | Total |
|--|------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Single Occupancy (1 Person/Room)               | \$285      | \$305      | X        |       |
| Double Occupancy (2 People/Room)               | \$185      | \$205      | X        |       |
| Triple Occupancy (3 People/Room)               | \$160      | \$180      | X        |       |
| Quadruple Occupancy (4 People/Room)            | \$145      | \$165      | X        |       |
| Saturday dinner and annual meeting <u>only</u> | \$28       | \$35       | X        |       |

**NEW MEMBERSHIP OR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** I'd like to join KTA or renew for another year

|                    |        |        |   |  |
|--------------------|--------|--------|---|--|
| New Membership     | \$15   | \$20   |   |  |
|                    | single | family | X |  |
| Membership Renewal | \$30   | \$35   |   |  |
|                    | single | family | X |  |

**REGISTRATION FEE:** Please omit the registration fee if you selected a **Weekend Package** or if you are only attending the Saturday dinner and evening program

|            |      |   |  |  |
|------------|------|---|--|--|
| KTA Member | \$20 | X |  |  |
| Non-Member | \$40 | X |  |  |

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$**

Please mail your completed form, with a check or money order, to:

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

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 11.**

**NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER APRIL 12.**

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

**Questions?**

Contact KTA at  
 ktaadmin@verizon.net  
 or 717.238.7017



## KTA NEWS

### 11TH ANNUAL PA HIKING WEEK

The Keystone Trails Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) are proud to sponsor the 11th annual **Pennsylvania Hiking Week**.

This year's hiking week is scheduled for **Saturday, May 26 through Sunday, June 3, 2012**, which coincides with the Memorial Day weekend and National Trails Day (Saturday, June 2).

The statewide event promotes Pennsylvania's amazing network of hiking trails in state parks, state forests and communities throughout the commonwealth. The nine-day event typically features more than 100 organized hikes and walks throughout Pennsylvania.

KTA thanks our local hiking clubs for organizing hikes and for providing hike leaders. Please consider scheduling a hike during Pennsylvania Hiking Week to feature your local trails. For instructions on how you can schedule a hike, see p. 18, or contact [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net) for more details.



### WE WILL ROCK YOU by Ed Lawrence

The Keystone Trails Association-sponsored North Country Trail (NCT) week-long Trail Crew (May 29-June 3) intends to tackle some intensive rock work where the NCT threads through the Slippery Rock Creek Gorge in McConnells Mill State Park. The goal is to make this intensely beautiful—and heavily impacted—section of the trail more sustainable and hiker-friendly. This project will use rock bars when possible, and a hoist grip when necessary.

If you have previous experience in the art and mechanics of rock relocation and placement, be doubly sure to sign up for the NCT week, and be part of the Trail Crew team!

### NOT JUST YOUNG AT HEART

Do you have any connections to service or outdoor-oriented youth groups in your area? KTA wants to strengthen its relationship with young hikers and hikers-to-be throughout Pennsylvania. Please let us know if you think the youth group in your life would be interested in learning more about Keystone Trails Association's youth outreach program, which includes volunteer and training opportunities, guided hike weekends, informational resources, hiking awards, and special KTA memberships for young hikers. Thank you!

### CLUBS, Continued from p. 7

with more than 200 members. Unfortunately, this does not pay for the benefits local clubs receive from a full-time presence in Harrisburg. Current club dues to KTA amount to approximately \$2,500 per year, while the cost of a Harrisburg office and two full-time staff members totals approximately \$88,000.

If KTA's 44 member clubs—along with their estimated combined 30,000 members — each voluntarily decides to dramatically increase their level of contribution to KTA in 2012 and beyond, it will provide KTA not only with the funds to address its current budget shortfall, but insure the sustainability required to move forward in the coming years.

Local hiking clubs, like your club, are the grassroots of the hiking community, and KTA is always looking for ways to better represent your interests and concerns. We welcome your ideas and suggestions, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your support.

### YOUR FAVORITE TRAIL

Would you like to tell us about your favorite trail? Do you have pictures or updates about one of the trails you have hiked recently?

We'd love to include your stories, updates, and photos in the next *The Keystone Hiker!* Please send your contributions to

[ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net).

## KTA NEWS

### WOOLRICH: A TRAIL CARE SPONSOR By Brent Hollowell, VP Marketing, Woolrich

Woolrich, the rugged outdoor apparel company based in central Pennsylvania, is teaming up with Keystone Trails Association (KTA) for 2012 and beyond to help maintain the current trail system, promote trail usage, and boost KTA membership.

Trails and trail stewardship have been a part of Woolrich's heritage for over 180 years. The Mid State Trail runs right past our mill in the village of Woolrich, PA, and we're proud to officially expand our support of hiking and trail maintenance in Pennsylvania by being a sponsor of KTA's 2012 Trail Care program.

Woolrich's support of KTA is part of a larger initiative by the company to grow outdoor participation, and specifically hiking, nationally. Along with sponsoring the KTA, Woolrich has engaged in support of the Great Eastern Trail (GET). The GET stretches for more than 2,000 miles from New York to Alabama through the linkage of a series of the East Coast's most popular paths, including the Mid State Trail. Currently, the GET is 70 percent complete, and Woolrich is working with its industry partners and local associations, like KTA, to map, maintain, blaze and re-blaze the GET.

Last November, Woolrich brought together representatives from KTA, the Great Eastern Trail, the Mid State



Above: Participants, including representatives from KTA, gather for a weekend at Woolrich in November, 2011.

Trail, the Standing Stone Trail, and *Backpacker Magazine*. Over the two-day gathering, hosted at Woolrich's Brayton Lodge, the group developed a cooperative effort that would also include several other trail associations along the GET. The goals are to increase the volunteer base to maintain trails and increase revenue streams to support the group's individual and collective initiatives.

For the past several years, Woolrich has been a sponsor of *Backpacker's* "Get Out More Tour," which travels throughout the country to retail stores and events to educate consumers about the skills and equipment needed to safely enjoy the outdoors. On the 2012 tour, Woolrich and *Backpacker* are adding a segment on the Great Eastern Trail to the program that will give KTA, and the other groups involved, additional visibility. Woolrich has also developed an advertising campaign to further support

the initiative.

One of the major stops on the tour each year is the stop at the Woolrich flagship store in Woolrich, PA. This year the stop will coincide with National Trails Day, and Woolrich is planning a number of activities and trail-focused events for the stop.

In addition to the Woolrich event, the "Get Out More Tour" will make additional stops throughout Pennsylvania and along the GET. The tour runs from the early spring through late fall. A complete tour schedule will soon be available at [www.getoutmore.com](http://www.getoutmore.com).

Woolrich's support of the KTA as a Trail Care Sponsor will include the company's involvement in KTA Trail Care events. Along with volunteers from the company joining in to assist at the events, Woolrich will be providing T-shirts and supplies to the volunteers. We hope that you will join us and Woolrich at a Trail Care event near you:

**March 30 - April 1:** Trail Care weekend, Mid State Trail, State College Region

**June 19 - 24:** Trail Crew Week #4, Mid State Trail, Everett Region

**June 26 - July 1:** Trail Crew Week #5, Standing Stone Trail

**July 13 - 15:** Trail Care weekend, Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

For the complete KTA Trail Care schedule and information, see p. 5 or visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org).

## KTA NEWS

## REACHING OUT TO YOUTH

In November, 2011, the Keystone Trails Association (KTA) received a grant from Camp Otter Creek in York County, PA. The grant will be used in KTA outreach efforts in York and Lancaster counties, to encourage youth participation in hiking and trail maintenance events.

With more than 3,000 miles of designated hiking trails on public lands and private lands, Pennsylvania's hiking community has established one of the finest networks of trails in the country. Unfortunately, many of our 3,000 miles of trails are a secret to our young people. The KTA website, Facebook page and publications help newcomers to hiking find trailheads and other important information about our beautiful trails.

With the help of Otter Creek Campground as a Gold Supporter, KTA will be able to continue our outreach efforts to local youth in the coming year. Their gift will enable us to educate York and Lancaster County youth about their local hiking trails, provide them with opportunities to learn valuable trail maintenance skills, help them build confidence as hikers during our hiking weekends, and encourage responsible, ethical, and environmentally-sustainable interactions with nature through our 'Leave No Trace' program.

See p. 2 for more information regarding Camp Otter Creek's youth outreach initiatives.

## SECOND SLACKPACK IN THE SPROUL

Save the weekend of July 20-22, 2012 for the first-ever **Prowl the Sproul Donut Hole Slackpack!** In addition to the terrific schedule of day hikes already offered at the 9th Annual Prowl the Sproul, twenty experienced and fit hikers will have the opportunity to complete the 35-40 mile eastern-most section of the Donut Hole Trail (DHT) during the three-day weekend.

The DHT is a long-distance backpacking trail paralleling the West Branch of the Susquehanna River through the Sproul State Forest. It is one of the most remote and challenging of the state's backpacking trails, and is for seasoned hikers only, with numerous steep climbs and unbridged stream crossings.

Guided by KTA Board Member Wanda Shirk and Prowl the Sproul Hike Leader Extraordinaires Ray Johnson and Chris Moore, hikers will "slackpack" a different section of the rugged and scenic Donut Hole Trail each day.

By leaving behind heavy multi-day backpacks, hikers carry only what they need for a typical day hike, which enables them to cover longer distances at a brisk pace (over two miles per hour) and over challenging terrain. At the end of each day, transportation will be coordinated back to the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association (WCSA) clubhouse for hot showers and hearty meals.

Registration for the exclusive three-day Donut Hole Slackpack will open on May 1, 2012, and include meals and camping at the WCSA. Additional information will be posted at [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) by May 1, 2012, and included in the May edition of *The Keystone Hiker*.

## SEEKING SUPER VOLUNTEERS FOR THE SUPER HIKE

We at KTA have already hit the ground running, gearing up for the **2012 Susquehanna Super Hike!** The fourth annual challenge event will be held on Saturday, September 8, 2012, starting at 7 AM. We expect **500 participants** this year and are looking for over **100 volunteers** to serve in such capacities as Timing Assistant, Checkpoint Crew, Picnic Assistant and so much more! Slots are open on both Friday afternoon and evening, and all day on Saturday, at Otter Creek Campground (the starting line), Pequea Creek Campground (the finish line), and everywhere in-between! Visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) to register online or to download the Volunteer Registration Form.

Up for the Super Hike challenge? Registration opened February 1! The registration fee is \$60 (before Aug. 19) and includes a short-sleeved Super Hike Tech shirt, snacks and water on the trail, and a celebratory picnic at the finish line. Visit [kta-hike.org](http://kta-hike.org) to complete your registration online or to download and return your registration form.

See you in September!





## FOR HIKERS

### HIKINGEEK: TIPS FOR WINTER HIKING

Many hikers spend summer, spring, and fall weekends on their favorite trails, but hibernate during the winter. If this sounds like you, you are missing out! These tips will help you prepare for a safe, comfortable winter hike.

#### 1. Dress like an onion.

Temperatures can vary at the bottom of the trail and on the summit of the mountain. Having a variety of insulating clothing (thick socks, long underwear, a light fleece, and waterproof pants, with an insulated jacket, fleece pants, and waterproof shell in your pack) will help you regulate your body temperature and stay comfortable. It's also a good idea to have two layers of gloves, one for insulation and one for waterproofing.

#### 2. [Don't have] great expectations.

Be reasonable about the distance and difficulty of the trail. While it might be a cinch to do a twelve-mile loop in the summer, you may run into ice or deep snow on the same trail during the winter. Many access roads to trailheads are closed and unplowed over the winter, which could add significant mileage to your trip. Also, don't forget that the sun sets much earlier in the winter.

TIPS Continued on p. 19

### IRELAND HIKING TRIP TO BENEFIT KTA



Curt Ashenfelter, Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Executive Director and Paul Shaw, KTA Board Member and co-owner of Treks & Trails International, a PA-based adventure travel service, will be taking twelve lucky KTA members to Ireland in Fall, 2012! Co-sponsored by KTA, the ten-day trek will follow the spectacular Dingle Way (above) through Ireland's beautiful countryside. Participants will hike 4-5 hours each day and will be lodged in comfortable guesthouses each night where their van-transported luggage awaits. The trip is tentatively scheduled for September 13-23, so mark your calendars now! All proceeds will benefit KTA's programs and efforts. Registration information will be posted on [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) by February 15.

### KEEPING COOL IN THE SPROUL

The Keystone Trails Association will host the 9th annual **Prowl the Sproul** hiking weekend on July 20 to 22, 2012 in the Sproul State Forest of western Clinton County. Hikers will be able to explore new and exciting parts of the Sproul that are only seen when hiking with a DCNR guide.

Please visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) and take our hike-option survey, and select the hikes you would most like to see offered at the 9th annual Prowl the Sproul. The results will help us determine which hikes to offer during the three-day weekend. In addition, there will be three new "cool" options for hikers hoping to beat the heat on especially hot and humid days! In order to accommodate the Bureau of Forestry personnel's work efforts, the survey will end on April 1.

For more information about Prowl the Sproul, please visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) after May 1, 2012 or check in our May edition of *The Keystone Hiker*.

### CALLING ALL HIKE LEADERS!

You will be able to add your local hikes to the **2012 PA Hiking Week** schedule after March 1. Help us lead over 100 hikes in PA, from May 26 to June 3, 2012! To schedule a guided hike:

1. Create a free account on [www.explorepatrails.com](http://www.explorepatrails.com). Note: You must be logged in to submit an event.
2. Visit [www.explorepatrails.com/hikingweek.aspx](http://www.explorepatrails.com/hikingweek.aspx) and click on "Submit a Hiking Week Event." Be sure to enter hikes under the "PA Hiking Week" tab.
3. When you enter hike descriptions, please include all details (meeting place/directions, what to bring, specific instructions, etc). This information will show up in the event description.
4. It takes 3 days for DCNR to review, approve, and list submissions on the website. Please be patient, and check back later to make sure it is listed.

Thanks for helping make this the best Hiking Week ever!

**FOR HIKERS**

**TIPS,** Continued from p. 18

**3. Ask the weatherman.**

Look at the precipitation, wind speed, avalanche reports, and daylight hours. Be sure your hike is planned for a day when conditions are manageable.

**4. Learn how to (safely) use crampons.**

When the trail is icy, crampons can make the difference between summiting and turning around, but if you use them improperly, it's easy to injure yourself. If you're new to crampons, read up on techniques and try them out on an easy trail.

**5. Friends in low places AND high places.**

Not only is it more fun to share the adventure with others, but it's also safer to be with a group (check out [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) for a hiking group near you!). Be sure to let someone at home know where you're going, too.

**6. Don't skimp on gear.**

Most avid winter hikers invest in the following items: crampons or snowshoes, waterproof pants and jacket, knee-high gaiters, waterproof boots, an insulated jacket, hiking poles, a camp stove, hats/gloves, and goggles or wrap-around sunglasses. Most of the gear you pick up can be useful in the summer season as well.

Aside from basic hiking gear, you should always have safety gear, like a trail map, a first aid kit, a compass, a pocket knife or multi-tool, hand warming packets, and a headlamp. Even day hikers should be prepared to spend the night in an emergency; gear like a bivy sack, down parka, or cell phone can save your life (or at least your toes).

**7. Remember: Getting down is mandatory.**

Legendary mountaineer Ed Viesturs said, "Getting to the top is optional, getting down is mandatory." Don't hesitate to turn around if you run into conditions that look dangerous. Reaching the summit is half the journey; you must have time and energy left over for the descent.

While there are many considerations when transitioning from casual fair-weather hiking to winter adventures, these tips should help get you started!

**Have a tip, trick, gizmo, or gadget you'd like to share with other hikers? Email [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net) for inclusion in a future newsletter's *HIKINGEEK* section!**

| <b>KTA HIKERS' MARKET</b>   |         |            |                        |
|---|---------|------------|------------------------|
| KTA Member? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> JOINING NOW   |         |            |                        |
| Please order by circling price:   | Member  | Non-Member | Total                  |
| <b>Appalachian Trail Guidebook &amp; Maps</b>   |         |            |                        |
| Pennsylvania AT Guide (2009)  | \$8.40  | \$11.55    | _____                  |
| PA AT Map Sec. 1-6: Delaware Water Gap to Swatara Gap (2011)  | \$11.35 | \$12.60    | _____                  |
| PA AT Map Sec. 7-8: Swatara Gap to Susquehanna River (2011)   | \$5.65  | \$6.35     | _____                  |
| PA AT Map Sec. 9-11: Susquehanna River to PA Route 94 (2009)  | \$6.10  | \$6.75     | _____                  |
| PA AT Map Sec. 12-13: PA Route 94 to US Route 30 (2009)   | \$6.10  | \$6.75     | _____                  |
| PA AT Map Sec. 14: US Route 30 to the Maryland line (2009)  | \$6.10  | \$6.75     | _____                  |
| Complete AT set of maps and guidebook   | \$39.90 | \$46.20    | _____                  |
| <b>Other Publications</b>   |         |            |                        |
| Pennsylvania Hiking Map (2009)  | \$5.20  | \$6.25     | _____                  |
| Pennsylvania Hiking Trails, 13th ed.  | \$9.45  | \$10.50    | _____                  |
| PA Hiking Trails Book & Map Set   | \$12.85 | \$14.95    | _____                  |
| Mason-Dixon Trail Maps (2009)   | \$14.20 | \$15.75    | _____                  |
| Standing Stone Trail Guide (2006)   | \$7.35  | \$10.50    | _____                  |
| Guide to the Horse-Shoe Trail (2011)  | \$13.65 | \$15.00    | _____                  |
| Guide to Pennsylvania Mid State Trail (2010)  | \$35.90 | \$39.90    | _____                  |
| Hiker's Guide to the Bucktail Path (1998)   | \$5.20  | \$5.80     | _____                  |
| Loyalsock Trail Guide (2011)  | \$16.40 | \$17.65    | _____                  |
| Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the North Half in MD & PA (1997)  | \$8.40  | \$10.50    | _____                  |
| Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South Half in WV & VA (1997)  | \$8.40  | \$10.50    | _____                  |
| Tuscarora Trail Map J (AT Junction in PA to PA Route 641)   | \$4.75  | \$9.45     | _____                  |
| Tuscarora Trail Map K (PA Route 641 to Hancock, MD) (1997)  | \$4.75  | \$9.45     | _____                  |
| <b>Patches</b>  |         |            |                        |
| KTA Logo Patch  | \$1.58  | \$1.75     | _____                  |
| Old Logger's Path Patch   | \$2.70  | \$3.00     | _____                  |
| <b>Shipping:</b> (\$3.50/first item, \$1.00/each additional item)   |         |            |                        |
|   |         |            | <b>Subtotal:</b> _____ |
| <b>Pennsylvania residents add 6% tax:</b>   |         |            |                        |
| <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b> _____  |         |            |                        |
| <b>Ship to:</b>   |         |            |                        |
| Name: _____   |         |            |                        |
| Address: _____  |         |            |                        |
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| Make check or money order payable to Keystone Trails Association and mail to: 101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 717.238.7017. Prices are subject to change. <b>Order online at <a href="http://www.kta-hike.org/shop">www.kta-hike.org/shop</a></b> |         |            |                        |

## UPCOMING KTA EVENTS

April 27-29, 2012—**Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend**, Wellsboro, Tioga County, PA (p. 11)

May 26-June 3, 2012—**PA Hiking Week**, throughout Pennsylvania (p. 15 & 18)

June 30, 2012—**Board Meeting**, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA

July 20-22, 2012—**Prowl the Sproul**, Renovo, Clinton County, PA (p. 17 & 18)

September 8, 2012—**Super Hike**, Lancaster & York Counties, PA (p. 16)

September 13-23, 2012—**Trip to Ireland** (p. 18)

October 12-14, 2012—**Fall Meeting and Hiking Weekend**, Clearfield, Clearfield County, PA (p. 1)



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

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The **Keystone Trails Association** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. To make a contribution, renew your membership, or become a **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor, call 717-238-7017 or visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org).

## HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The KTA membership year ended on September 30, 2011. Have you renewed your membership this year? Member contributions support our efforts to provide, preserve, protect, and promote hiking trails in Pennsylvania. **Our good work to preserve Pennsylvania's footpaths cannot continue without your help.** Please renew your membership now, and consider gift memberships for your hiking friends and relatives! Complete the membership form below, or renew online at [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org). Thank you for your generous support.

## KTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

The current KTA membership year runs from **October 1, 2011** until **September 30, 2012**.

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliations (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*THE KEYSTONE HIKER* is now fully digital. However, if you do not have internet access and require a printed copy mailed to you, please check this box.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Basic Membership (New Member Only)</b><br>Individual - \$15      Family - \$20 | \$ |
| <b>Basic Membership (Renewal)</b><br>Individual - \$30      Family - \$35         | \$ |
| <b>Brush Cutter Membership</b><br>Individual - \$45      Family - \$55            | \$ |
| <b>Blaze Painter Membership</b><br>Individual - \$75      Family - \$100          | \$ |
| <b>Trail Builder Membership</b><br>Individual - \$150      Family - \$175         | \$ |
| <b>Life Membership</b><br>Individual - \$750      Family - \$1,000                | \$ |
| <b>Youth Membership</b><br>Individual - \$5                                       | \$ |
| <b>Additional Contribution</b><br>In Memory Of/In Honor Of                        | \$ |
| <b>Total Enclosed</b>   | \$ |

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

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