

# KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Preserving
Pennsylvania's
Footpaths

November 2010

### 2<sup>nd</sup> SUPER HIKE & ULTRA TRAIL RUN IS SUPERB! by Paul Shaw, Super Hike Director

KTA's second annual Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run was a rousing success. Under sunny skies and mild temperatures, 327 of 355 participants completed the scenic but arduous 28.4-mile course in York and Lancaster counties. Congratulations to all who participated!

First to finish was Jesse Johnson of Stewartstown, PA with an incredible time of 4:09. The first woman to cross the finish line was Ashley Moyer of Oley, PA with a time of 5:05. Rather than a race, most participants viewed the Super Hike as a personal challenge, a test of endurance, fitness, and strength of will. All who finished received a certificate with their official time.

121 women and 206 men completed the hike. The youngest participant was 13 years old, and the oldest was 66. Participants came from 15 states, including some from as far away as Colorado, Texas and Florida.

The Super Hike Steering Committee provided organizational support and included KTA President Thyra Sperry, KTA Executive Director Curt Ashenfelter, KTA Program Administrator Becky Schreiber and KTA Board Member and Super Hike Director Paul Shaw.

An event of this size is impossible without the strong support of volunteers and sponsors. Special thanks go to the York Hiking Club, the Mason-Dixon Trail System and the Lancaster Hiking Club for the excellent preparation of the trails and for sup-



Top: Super Hikers take in the fantastic river views from the trail. Photo courtesy of Richard Martin. Right: Waterfalls at Mill Creek on the Mason-Dixon Trail. Photo courtesy of Joyce Hooper. Visit www.kta-hike.org to check out more photos from the Super Hike!

plying numerous volunteers who worked at registration, at the checkpoints, at the finish and as trail sweeps. In addition, the **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club** staffed Checkpoint 1, and **Berks Community Hiking Club** provided volunteers for Checkpoint 2.

Gold Sponsor and Internet outdoor equipment retailer Backcountry Edge provided monetary support, volunteers, prizes and tents for welcome shade. Silver Sponsor PPL also provided monetary support and generously made its property available for the event. Lancaster County Conservancy likewise provided access to its property in the Tucquan Creek and Kelly's Run areas. Other sponsors included Bell & Evans, Clif Bar, Hershey's, John F. Martin & Sons, nathanfrohmdesign, nuun, Road ID, Snyder's of Hanover and Turkey Hill. Ham radio operators from the Red Rose Repeater Asso-



**ciation** and **Middle Creek Search & Rescue** assisted with communications.

The 3rd Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run is scheduled for September 10, 2011.

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Becky Schreiber, Program Administrator ktaadmin@verizon.net 717-238-7017

This newsletter is published four times a year as a service to its members by Keystone Trails Association. Deadlines for submitting material are 1/1, 4/1, 7/1 and 10/1. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The 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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#### TRAIL CARE SCHEDULE

Trail Care weekends begin Friday evening at the designated campsite. A full day of trail work on Saturday is followed by an evening of campfire sociability and possibly a meal out at a local restaurant (Dutch treat). After a morning of additional trail work, the weekend concludes about noon on Sunday. You can join the group for whatever portion of the weekend is convenient. No experience or special skills are required. Tools and work gloves will be pro-

vided.

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

November 5-7: North Country Trail Leader: Paul Henry, 724-347-3282 or 724-685-1077 phenry@hermitage.net Camp at Cooks Forest State Park cabins

## NAME THE KTA NEWSLETTER AND WIN A PAIR OF TREKKING POLES!

What's in a name? The KTA *Newsletter* has been going by "Newsletter" for many years (and by just "News" prior to that). The current name certainly describes the function of this publication, but we would like to give the *Newsletter* a new name that more effectively conveys the mission of the Keystone Trails Association - to provide, preserve, protect and promote hiking trails in Pennsylvania.

Newsletter readers should send their suggestions to KTA on or before January 1. The slate of names will be announced in the Winter issue. KTA members will then vote for their favorite name, and the winning name will be announced in the Spring issue!

KTA Board member Scott Adams has generously donated a pair of **Komperdell Northern Lights Trekking Poles** for the person who submits the winning entry.

Send your suggestions to **ktaadmin@verizon.net** or mail to KTA at 101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Remember, all entries must be received on or before January 1. Good luck!

#### ADVERTISING TERMS AND RATES

The KTA *Newsletter* accepts paid advertisements from profit and non-profit organizations and individuals who want to present their messages to our readers whose interests are focused on hiking, backpacking, outdoor recreation, nature, conservation or environmental issues.

KTA reserves the right to reject any ads that do not reflect KTA's mission and to limit the number of ads per issue.

For more information, please contact KTA Executive Director Curt Ashenfelter by phone at 717-238-7017 or by email at ktahike@verizon.net.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Thyra Sperry



The Best and Worst of Times

This September's second annual Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra

Trail Run was the best of times and the struggle for an impact fee (severance tax) for the Marcellus shale natural gas industry is the worst of times.

#### First, the worst of times:

We desperately need the severance tax on the natural gas industry to mitigate the environmental damage that we have seen in many parts of the state. The devastating results of drilling directly affect state forests and in some cases our water supply, streams and watersheds. Plant and animal habitat is also being decimated. All conservationists and environmentalists must continue to speak out to minimize the destruction of lands that will take generations to regenerate.

Large amounts of money will be needed to undo the terrible damage to the woods and habitats that are so important to hikers. We need to make sure that a large percentage of the impact fee is directed to investing in conservation and recreation projects. The drilling industry must pay for the destruction they are causing. A large percentage of the severance tax must be allotted to renew the land.

Keep in contact with your legislator and let them know that you expect their support in protecting the environment.

#### Now the best of times:

At the Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run nearly four hundred hikers and trail runners strove to

meet their personal challenge and most of them made it unscathed.

We had the most perfect day for the 28.4-mile hike and ultra trail run along the Mason-Dixon and Conestoga Trails. It was a great day to be in the woods, crossing streams and enjoying the spectacular views. One fellow hiked/ran the whole event in flip flops! There was quite a variety of footwear and hiking sticks and clothing. Whatever works - it's the desire to achieve something that you never thought you could. It was an awesome event and a lot of fun (and hard work, too).

The Super Hike was supported by volunteers from the Mason-Dixon Trail System, York Hiking Club, Lancaster Hiking Club, Berks Community Hiking Club and Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club, as well as members of KTA, staff and board and other trail enthusiasts. In addition, the ham radio operators from the Red Rose Repeaters kept communications open - not an easy feat in the" river hills" along the Susquehanna.

The consensus was that the last section from the Pinnacle to Pequea Creek Campground was a real boot buster. Hope to see you on the trail next year as a volunteer or Super Hiker.

In the meantime,

Get out and protect your favorite trail!

Thyra

#### **KTA ELECTIONS**

At the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Fall Council Meeting in Milroy, Mifflin County the KTA Council elected **Norman** Lacasse, Molly O'Brien-Foelsch, Thyra Sperry and Ernest Werstler to serve another term on the Board of Directors and elected Janice Reich of Wyomissing, PA to serve her first term on the Board.

Officers are also elected by the Council and serve one-year terms. The KTA officers for 2010-2011 are: Thyra Sperry, President; Wanda Shirk, Vice President; Ernest Werstler, Treasurer; and Norman Lacasse, Secretary.

We would like to thank all the Board members, Representatives-at-Large, committee chairs, advisors to the board and KTA club representatives for your continued leadership and support of the Keystone Trails Association.

#### KTA SEEKS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Duties include gathering and editing articles, laying out the issue, submitting it to the printer and checking the proof. The *Newsletter* editor is also an ex-officio member of the KTA Board of Directors. Please contact **ktahike@verizon.net** for more information.

#### **UPCOMING KTA EVENTS**

April 15-17, 2011 - **Spring Meeting** and **Hiking Weekend**, West Chester, Chester County

July 22-24, 2011 - **Prowl the Sproul**, Renovo, Clinton County

September 10, 2011 - Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run, York & Lancaster Counties

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

#### TRAIL MIX By Curt Ashenfelter, Executive Director



#### REI DONATES \$9,500 TO TRAIL CARE

On September 20<sup>th</sup> I travelled to REI's Bedford, PA Distri-

bution Center to accept a check for \$9,500. Chris Joyce, REI's Director of Operations presented the check to me in support of KTA's volunteer Trail Care weekend programs to maintain and build trails in Pennsylvania.

In remarks before REI's employees I explained how the grant will pay for the purchase of tools, materials, and t-shirts for volunteers and other costs associated with maintaining trails. I also said that last year over 220 KTA volunteers donated over 3,800 hours of their time and labor to trail maintenance. I thanked the employees for REI's generosity in helping KTA meet its goals to protect and preserve hiking trails in Pennsylvania.

Chris Joyce spoke about REI's passion for the outdoors and their outdoor customers. He said that REI's core purpose is to inspire, educate and outfit people for a lifetime of outdoor adventure and stewardship. REI's grant to KTA in support of Trail Care is evidence of their passion and stewardship.

Jill Latuch, REI's Bedford Distribution Center Outreach Specialist told me about REI's commitment to getting people outside and leading healthy active lives, caring for the planet by protecting shared natural spaces, and engaging others in making a difference. She said stewardship is also how REI operates the co-op, finding ways to improve the environmental performance of their business while striving to generate positive environ-

mental, social and financial results. REI, the nation's largest consumer cooperative, has more than three million active members.

REI employees in retail stores, distribution centers and headquarters each play an important role in REI's efforts through volunteering for service projects, recycling, identifying opportunities for efficiencies in REI operations, and much more.

Twenty-nine REI employees volunteered this year at the KTA Trail Crew week on the Mid State Trail in June.

Earlier this year in applying for the REI grant I wrote in part:

"Preserving Pennsylvania's footpaths is the key mission of the Keystone Trails Association. We are a powerful voice for trail protection and preservation in Pennsylvania. We build trails, maintain trails and hike over 3,000 miles of trails in Pennsylvania. Each year over 3 million Pennsylvanians take a hike on some section of the trails that we have built and maintained.

"Our volunteers have the desire to give back to the trails. Over 200 volunteers in 2009 have been thoroughly trained on various types of trail maintenance protocols. On-thetrail training includes proper techniques for brushwhacking, loping and blaze painting to name a few. We will continue that training in 2010

"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. Public perception is that these trails will be around forever. But nature works each year to reclaim our trails through storms that blow down trees and erode trails, aggressive growing seasons that obscure our paths with vegetation and painted blazes that fade over time. Additionally, manmade development often causes us to relocate trails.

"There is no better way for hikers to give back to the trails of Pennsylvania than volunteering to work at a Keystone Trails Association's Trail Care event."

Please consider volunteering for the final trail care weekend of the 2010 season (see page 2 for details), and many thanks to REI for their generous support.

Chris Joyce, REI Director of Operations presents Curt
Ashenfelter with a grant to support the 2010 KTA Trail Care program. Photo courtesy of REI.



#### KTA - YOUR HIKING ADVOCATE IN ACTION by Curt Ashenfelter, Executive Director

### MONROE TOWNSHIP ZONING MEETING

With the passage of Act 24 signed by Governor Rendell in June of 2008, fifty-eight Pennsylvania municipalities through which the Appalachian National Scenic Trail ("AT") runs are required by law to use their zoning authority to preserve the AT and protect the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic resources along the trail. Section 4 of that Act states that municipalities shall "take such action consistent with applicable law, as at least an interim measure, to preserve the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the trail and to conserve and maintain it as a public natural resource. Such action shall include the adoption, implementation and enforcement of zoning ordinances as the governing body deems necessary to preserve those values."

The Act directs the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to assist municipalities in complying with these provisions by September 2009. It also directs the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to assist municipalities in the "identification and acquisition of property appropriate for a conservation easement or other protection measures and provide information to municipalities relating to protection measures such as conservation easements and other techniques through its grant programs."

On July 22, 2010 the Monroe Township (Cumberland County) Supervisors met to vote on a recent zoning change.

Kim Williams from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), Jim Foster from Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club and myself on behalf "... The Appalachian Trail was not built in a day or a year or even a decade. It took the good work of many individuals many years to create. It will take an equal amount of work to protect..."

of the Keystone Trails Association all made presentations to the supervisors. Many individuals from the audience also offered their comments in support of the trail as well.

Unfortunately the Township supervisors passed their ordinance as proposed, which had the effect of reducing the buffer enjoyed by the AT from 300 feet to 150 feet.

Supervisor Dwyer claimed that a reduction from 300 feet to 150 feet does not reduce the protections enjoyed by the AT under Act 24.

However, the Cumberland County Planning Office in their memo to Monroe Township on the proposed ordinance stated:

"...Section 324.1.5 -- The 150' buffer from the Appalachian Trail appears to be a decreased standard from what is currently found in the current Monroe Township Zoning Ordinance which requires a 300' buffer from the center of the trail. To comply with Act 24, the township should consider keeping its existing 300' standard or document its rationale for implementing a reduced standard from what is currently in the zoning ordinance...."

Supervisor Simmons stated that zoning ordinances can be changed in the future and advised trail supporters to continue to make their case before the Township.

The Keystone Trails Association will continue to make the case to protect Appalachian Trail viewsheds. This task is a work in progress and

will probably continue for all of our lives. The Appalachian Trail was not built in a day or a year or even a decade. It took the good work of many individuals many years to create. It will take an equal amount of work to protect.

We are looking for best practices and hope to learn of a township that has created "the gold standard" of zoning ordinance to share with other townships. If you know of such an ordinance please contact me at ktahike@verizon.net or 717-238-7017.

#### **DCNR LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION**

Earlier this year it came to the attention of Keystone Trails Association that an assistant district forester was requesting a **Letter of Authorization** (LOA) from a hike leader who was about to lead a hike for a local club.

As we have reported in previous newsletters, LOAs are not required to lead a hike in a state forest or a state park. In this case the assistant district forester claimed that because the hike was publicized on a website and/or in a newsletter, an LOA was required. That is incorrect.

"...DCNR does not require a LOA for normal hikes led by hiking clubs..."

In order to clear up the confusion a number of emails were exchanged with DCNR officials to confirm that LOAs are not required of local hike leaders and asking DCNR headquarters to remind their staff not to request LOAs inappropriately.

The following email was sent out from Harrisburg to regional offices in August:

"FYI - Hiking clubs normally do not need to do a Letter of Authorization

#### **KTA NEWS**

#### HIKERS VISIT PA WILDS FOR PROWL THE SPROUL



KTA, the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association (WCSA) and the Department of Conservation & Natural Re-

sources hosted the 7th annual Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend on July 16-18.

Ted Ligenza, Assistant District Forester with the Sproul State Forest, organized more than 20 hikes for the weekend including popular day hikes on the Chuck Keiper and Donut Hole Trails, visits to scenic vistas like the Hyner View Overlook and a featured hike to **Round Island Waterfall**.

The weekend event also featured the third annual Prowl the Sproul 10K hosted by the PA Trail Dogs. Nearly 130 runners and hikers completed the course, which utilizes a 6-mile section from the Hyner View Trail Challenge.

Carl Griffin explores the Round Island Waterfall at Prowl the Sproul while other hikers look on. Photo courtesy of Richard Wykoff.



As always, many thanks to WCSA for their hospitality and use of their clubhouse. Save the date for next year's Prowl the Sproul, which is scheduled for July 22-24, 2011.

The Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association reported in their Fall 2010 Newsletter that despite local opposition, Anadarko has been granted permission to establish a water withdrawal facility at the base of Hyner Mountain. The WCSA was concerned with safety issues due to

increased heavy truck traffic and degrading the magnificent view from Hyner View State Park.

The Chapman Township Zoning Board initially denied Anadarko's request for a Special Exception that would allow them to proceed in the construction and operation of the water withdrawal facility. That decision was ultimately overturned by the Clinton County Court of Common Pleas. WCSA will continue to monitor drilling activities in the area.

#### **ADVOCATE** (from page 5)

(LOA) for a typical hike that is conducted in either a state park or state forest. However, when they request additional events or activities, i.e., camping in non-designated areas, group camping, kayak demonstrations, rock climbing, etc., where the activity is organized and/or where the public is invited to participate, a LOA [or perhaps a Special Activities Agreement (SAA)] would need to be completed."

In conclusion, DCNR does not require a LOA for normal hikes led by hiking clubs, but would require a LOA for special events as defined

above. As a courtesy to DCNR it would be a good idea to share your newsletters that publicize hike schedules with District Foresters or email them your website schedules from time to time. DCNR can then alert you to potential conflicts with other user groups.

#### **MARCELLUS SHALE UPDATE**

The PA House of Representatives recently voted on SB 1155 to enact a strong severance tax, or impact fee, to fund gas clean ups and land conservation initiatives. By the time you receive this newsletter, we hope that the Senate has voted favorably

on the House proposal.

However, if this issue is not resolved by the time you receive this newsletter I would strongly urge you to visit your State Senator and State Representative and express your views in the strongest terms possible. At the very least a telephone call, email or letter from you is extremely important.

KTA's position on the severance tax or impact fee is that the rate of the fee should be substantial (39 cents per thousand cubic feet) and with no exceptions (such as the first four years of operation) and that a sub-

#### **KTA NEWS**

#### KTA HOSTS HIKING WEEKEND IN MIFFLIN COUNTY

The Keystone Trails Association recently hosted the 2010 Annual Meeting & Hiking Weekend on October 1-3 in Milroy, Mifflin County.

Pete Fleszar of the Mid State Trail Association coordinated the weekend hike schedule with additional support from hike leaders from the Ridge & Valley Outings Club and the Standing Stone Trail Club. Twenty hikes were offered along the Mid State Trail, the Standing Stone Trail and other trails within the Rothrock and Bald Eagle State Forests.

Art Heim was the featured speaker at the Saturday evening general membership meeting. His program featured his experience trekking in the Himalayas and also covered trek basics including high altitude hiking and trip preparation.

The Fall meeting also featured the





presentation of the KTA Trail Care and Hiking Awards. Adam Bucynski, John Greecher and William Shaffer were all in attendance to collect their respective hiking awards; trail care award winners present at the meeting were Betty Clark, Joe Clark, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Ed Lawrence and Wanda Shirk.

Shaffer, from Groton, CT and recipient of the State Forest Trails Award said, "Between the local hiking clubs, the Pennsylvania State Parks, and the KTA trail care program, Pennsylvania is the best state for the overall hiking program." Shaffer takes a one-month leave each year to enjoy Pennsylvania's hiking trails.

KTA would like to congratulate all award winners on their achievements and thank all our hike leaders for making the weekend a success.





Clockwise from top left: Wanda Shirk, KTA Vice President presents Adam Bucynski with the Young Hiker Award and John Greecher and William Shaffer with the State Forest Trails Award. Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair presents Joe Healey and Joe Clark with t-shirts for attending at least five trail care weekends. All photos courtesy of Marion Srebro.

#### **TRAIL CARE AWARDS**

#### Attended at least 5 weekends:

Tom Bastian

Diane Buscarini

Kevin Busko

Joe Clark

Pete Fleszar

Joe Healey

Ed Lawrence

Elwood Loudenslager

Catherine McLaughlin

Ginny Musser

Dave Walp

#### Attended 3 or 4 weekends:

**Betty Clark** 

**Lorraine Healey** 

John Potter

Wanda Shirk

**Sharon Southall** 

Tom Thwaites

**Dave Wittmer** 

#### **KTA HIKING AWARDS**

**Adam Bucynski**, Huntingdon, PA, Young Hiker Award

**John Greecher**, Mechanicsburg, PA, State Forest Trails Award

**Nathan Sauers**, Canadensis, PA, State Forest Trails Award

William Shaffer, Groton, CT, State

Forest Trails Award

**Paul Ullrich**, Oxford, NJ, Appalachian Trail Award

Hiking awards are presented each year at the Annual Fall Meeting. For details on earning these awards, see the KTA website **www.kta-hike.org** or contact Becky at 717-238-7017 or ktaadmin@verizon.net.

More photos from the KTA Fall Hiking Weekend are available at the KTA website www.kta-hike.org.
Click "On the Trails" and "Photo Gallery".

#### **KTA NEWS**

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2010**

The **Keystone Trails Association** is the statewide voice of Pennsylvania's hikers. We are a small organization with a big mission and need to grow to compete with other statewide organizations that work to the detriment of hiking trails.

We have initiated the **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor program to find 500 trail people who will commit themselves to giving a regular, oncea-month contribution to sustain our work of preserving Pennsylvania's footpaths.

Giving to KTA is easy with a monthly automatic bank withdrawal. We encourage our donors to enroll in automatic monthly contributions to eliminate the need to write a check or make multiple mailings. Please contact ktahike@verizon.net for additional information.

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

KEEP TRAILS ALIVE President's Circle \$2,500+ REI

**Keystoner \$1,200-\$2,499** A Friend \* +

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

Advocate \$240 - \$599

Curt Ashenfelter \*
Henry Frank \* +
Charles Glanville \*
Marshall Hamilton \*
Phil Keener \*
Ed Lawrence \* +
Richard Martin \* +
Wanda Shirk \* +

Talisman Energy USA Inc.

Tom Thwaites + Phil Williams \*

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

Cindy Bower \*
Ellen Konecny
Steve Stroman \*

Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club Nicholas Tonelli \* Anonymous (2)

#### **Other Contributors**

+ LIFF MFMBFR

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Robert Best
Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club
Carl Davis
Chelsea Dunkle
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Violet Helenthal
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KTA is a 501(c)3 organization; membership contributions and additional donations are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution. To make a contribution or renew your membership, visit **www.kta-hike.org** or call 717-238-7017.

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



Congratulations to Shirley and Wayne Gross on the birth of their son, Bryce David Gross, our newest KTA member! Shirley and Wayne first met at a KTA hiking weekend. Photo courtesy of Wayne Gross.

#### **New Life Members:**

Alfred & Barbara Wiemann, #302 Northampton, PA

Member Death:

George O. Reistad Lafayette Hill, PA

#### **ALONG OUR TRAILS**

#### NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL

David Brewer, Communications Coordinator for the Wampum Chapter, NCTA reports that the Chapter has been working on extending their current mileage eastwards towards Darlington, PA with an additional mile of trail at State Game Lands 285.

The landowner abutting the Game Lands in that direction had recently given permission for the trail to be placed on her property along the North Fork of the Little Beaver Creek.

The complicating factor for the project was that the trail was to be routed up and over a very steep hill, at the top of which is a local histori-

MID STATE TRAIL

Tom Thwaites reports that a new gate has been installed on the road to Little Flat Fire Tower. It will be closed and locked on October 1, 2010.

PennDOT continues to work on PA 26 at the top of Tussey Ridge above Pine Grove Mills at the intersection of the Jackson and Mid State Trails. The highway is being widened to three or possibly four lanes. In the process four trail signs have been removed. Two of these signs have been replaced. When work is completed a third sign may be installed on the Mid State Trail.

It is currently difficult for north bounders to see where the trail enters the woods on the far side of PA 26. There is one orange-blaze on an oak tree but it is very close to ground level of the new berm. It will likely be obscured by weeds next year.

cal attraction referred to by residents as Indian Rock.

The Wampum Chapter was concerned about whether they had the resources to complete the project this year due to the amount of total trail to be built along with the difficulty of digging hundreds of yards of sidehill and switchback on a very steep hillside. Then Mr. Ron Heitsch, Director of Volunteers for Mount Olive Lutheran Church of Chippewa, PA offered the assistance of a group

of local youth and adults who were in town to perform a week of community service.

For four hot, humid days in early August fifteen volun-

Volunteers from Mt. Olive digging sidehill trail at State Game Lands 285. Photo courtesy of the Wampum Chapter, NCTA teers from the church along with Wampum Chapter members worked on digging a thousand yards of very high quality hiking trail. Hikers have marveled at now having a safe way to get up to Indian Rock.

The Chapter appreciates the support of Mr. Heitsch and of Mt. Olive's pastor John Pingel in getting this project completed.



#### **ADVOCATE** (from page 6)

stantial portion (25 to 50 percent) should go to gas clean ups and land conservation initiatives (not 80 or 100% to the general fund).

KTA will continue to monitor this issue and advocate in the best interests of the hiking community. Updates will continue to be available on our website at www.kta-hike.org.

State legislators have heard and will continue to hear the voice of Pennsylvania's hikers. We can fund gas clean ups and land conservation initiatives out of our own pockets vis-àvis income taxes and sales taxes, or the extremely profitable gas industry can pay their fair share. Pennsylvania is the only Marcellus Shale gas

producing state that does not have a severance tax.

We encourage you to send us information about how the drilling is impacting hiking trails. It's only by compiling this data that we can build a compelling case for the negative impacts of drilling on hiking trails. Since we hike all areas of the state, we are well positioned to monitor and comment on the impact of gas drilling on hiking trails to local, state and federal governments. Additionally we can work with gas drilling companies to relocate trails away from gas drilling sites in an effort to preserve the character of our wilderness trails.

#### **MAINTAINERS' CORNER**

#### TRAIL CARE NEWS by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair

### KTA TRAIL CARE WEEKEND ON THE LOYALSOCK TRAIL

A backsplash of brilliant Autumn colors suffused the scene as the September Trail Care rolled out of World's End State Park.

Joining forces with the Alpine Club of Williamsport, KTA volunteers spent a productive weekend benching out a new section of trail along and above Ketchum Run to get the Loyalsock Trail out of the creek east of mile 35. Several other sections of treadway were improved as well, along with lopping and some trail rediscing.

"...Twenty people logged in 188 hours of work on the Loyalsock Trail..."

Twenty people logged in 188 hours of work on the Loyalsock Trail, which coincidentally had just been featured in a 4-page spread in the October issue of *Backpacker* magazine, kicking off a list of America's 10 best 50-mile thru-hikes.

The article describes the streams in this section as being "acrobatic,"

which the Alpine Club's Ruth Rode took a little too literally when a misstep at the end of the day on Saturday sent her tumbling down a steep embankment.

Fortunately, she arrived at the bottom relatively unscathed. Unfortunately, one knee took the brunt of the fall rendering her unable to put weight on one leg.

An emergency call was sent out and responders from the Forksville Volunteer Fire Company arrived within the hour with all the technical equipment and calm professionalism needed to bolster everyone's spirits and launch an effective carry out.

Ruth rode out past the falls that is named in her honor and all the way to a waiting ambulance. She was released from the hospital later that evening and spent the night at home recovering from a little more excitement than she needed. KTA Trail Care is profoundly grateful to the volunteers of the Forksville Fire Company who dropped what they were doing on a Saturday afternoon in order to come to the aid of our friend.

### T-SQUARED TRAIL GETS THE CODE ORANGE TRAIL TREATMENT

Code Orange Trail Care volunteers waded into the Tiadaghton State Forest in September to clear a section of the T-Squared Trail that had been overtaken by undergrowth.

At the end of the day, 64 hours of work showed stunning results, with the T-Squared between Benson Road and where it meets the Black Forest Trail being cleared, lopped, reblazed yellow and having two new locust posts installed ready for directional signage being supplied by forestry.

Aiding the accomplishment and adding to the enjoyment of the day was the presence, wit and wisdom of both Tom Thwaites and Bob Webber.

Code Orange one-day trail cares are geared to benefitting hiking trails where a single day of work will make an appreciable difference in upgrading the quality of the hiking experience. Code Orange events may be scheduled between newsletters, so look to the KTA website or Facebook page for updates.

#### October 9, 2010

Dear KTA,

As I sit here in my home on a beautiful day thankful that God spared me serious injuries, I want to thank the Trail Care team for relocating the Loyalsock Trail out of the streambed above Rode Falls.

This new route, paralleling above Ketchum Run, has been approved by the District Forester of the Loyalsock State Forest and is blazed.

Thanks to all who worked to make this relocation and other improvements possible.

Sincerely,

Ruth Rode

The Alpine Club of Williamsport

Trail care volunteers upgrade a section of the Loyalsock Trail during the September 24-26 KTA Trail Care weekend. Photo courtesy of Tony Robbins.



#### **MAINTAINERS' CORNER**

#### KTA VOLUNTEER HOURS TALLIED FOR 2009 by Lorraine Healey, KTA Trail Care Committee

The 2009 Volunteer Trail Maintenance Reports are in and approximately 36,116 hours of volunteer trail maintenance have been documented for 2009. Along with approximately 5,027 hours of travel time documented by the organizations, at least 41,143 hours were devoted to trail maintenance in Pennsylvania last year. That figure is up almost 10,000 hours from last year's total of 31,260.

Six organizations that surely do their share of trail maintenance - you know who you are - did not respond to my requests for information this year. Oh well, what else is new. Hopefully everyone will get back on track for the 2010 figures.

"...**41,143 hours** were devoted to trail maintenance in Pennsylvania last year. That figure is up almost 10,000 hours from last year's total..."

Thank you to all those people who are working so diligently to provide the information that is being requested. It's not an easy task trying to pull the information out of hundreds of volunteers. As I reported time and again in the past, there seems to be an across the board reluctance on the part of the individual trail maintainers to report how much maintenance is being done on their part.

The 2009 KTA Trail Care effort, both the regular weekend edition and the June extended version contributed a combined total of over 3,800 hours with 220 volunteers participating. Great job, as usual.

Ten individuals responded to my query for hours volunteered doing maintenance not reported to any club affiliation, for a total of 372 hours.

Again, thank you to all who responded to my inquiry and especially to the volunteers for their efforts. It is very much appreciated by the hiking community and others who enjoy the outdoors.

Please keep on keeping track of those hours!!



KTA trail care volunteers head out for the day with the tools of their trade at the Loyalsock Trail. Photo courtesy of Tony Robbins.

#### TRAIL CARE IN THE WOOLRICH REGION by Joe Healey

The Woolrich Region Trail Care was held August 13-15 with camping at Ravensburg State Park. Thanks to Park Manager Bob Deffner for allowing the KTA group to camp there free of charge.

Saturday went great. We had two crews working in different areas, and all the work that was planned got finished.

Sunday was a bit rainy, but everyone knows that the KTA Trail Care volunteers work rain or shine. There were three crews who went off working in every direction (except one). Several members of Boy Scout Troop 7 from Williamsport even came out in the rain to tend to a section they maintain. All in all, a lot of needed work was accomplished on that rainy Sunday, and the Mid State Trail in the Ravensburg Park area is now looking a whole lot better.

Those who attended were Tom Bastian, Paul Brechbiel, Diane Buscarini, Kevin Busko, Betty Clark, Joe Clark, Larry Czudak, Pete Fleszar, Greg Garthe, Jim Garthe, Carl Griffen, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Ed Lawrence, Woody Loudenslager, Chris Morrell, Ginny Musser, Kathy Sieminski, John Stevens, Rick Stibgen, Stuart Thompson and Dave Walp.

A few people came out early and did a full day's work on Friday (talk about dedication!). Bob Boettger joined the early group on Friday and was a big help. Thanks also is in order to DCNR's Jim Hyland, who works with the PA Wilds and worked along with the KTA group during the weekend.

Haven't volunteered for trail care in 2010? There is still one trail care weekend remaining this season. See page 2 for more details.

#### **AROUND THE CLUBS**

#### BUTLER OUTDOOR CLUB ANNOUNCES EVENTS

The **Butler Outdoor Club** will host their **Annual Awards Dinner** November 13. The speaker will be Larry Luxenberg, who will present a program on the Appalachian Trail and the Appalachian Trail Museum. There will also be raffles, a silent auction and door prizes. For tickets, contact John Stehle by email at stehles@yahoo.com or by phone at 724-283-0191

The Cherry Pie Hike is scheduled near George Washington's birthday on February 26. Come join the North Country Trail Association and the Butler Outdoor Club and follow George's footsteps. There will be a history presentation in the Old Stone House near Slippery Rock before the hike, and - of course - cherry pie and drinks afterwards. Contact Dan Mourer

(mamour@zoominternet.net) or Joyce Appel (appel@windstream.net or 724-526-5409) for details and to sign up.

#### US CONGRESSWOMAN VISITS BUT-LER OUTDOOR CLUB, MORAINE STATE PARK

US Congresswoman Kathy
Dahlkemper recently visited with her
constituents in a "Walk and Talk" set
up with the Butler Outdoor Club at
Moraine State Park. About a dozen
people attended the event to discuss issues related to the outdoors,
including conservation, energy extraction on public lands and the
need for public outdoor spaces and
facilities. The day also included a
short hike on the North Country Trail
including a visit to the Davis Hollow
Cabin.

## BMECC HOSTS BOOK DISCUSSIONS

It's not about the mountains or hiking or climbing, but for outdoor adventure, it doesn't get any bigger than crab fishing on the Bering Sea.

The Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club will be holding book discussions on the Discovery Channel's Deadliest Catch books.

On November 13, they will discuss **North by Northwestern** by Captain Sig Hansen and Mark Sundeen. On December 18, they will discuss **Time Bandit** by Andy and Johnathan Hillstrand with Malcolm MacPherson.

The meeting time is 9:30 to 11:00 AM at the Muhlenberg Community Library, 3612 Kutztown Road, Laureldale, PA.

Please contact the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club Book Discussion Group Leader at 610-373-6967 with any questions.



Congresswoman Kathy
Dahlkemper and BOC
members hike along the
North Country Trail in Moraine State Park. Photo
courtesy of John Stehle.

## FRIENDS OF THE LACKAWANNA STATE FOREST GROUP FORMED

The Friends Group is all volunteer and will help at the forest with litter pickup, trail maintenance and other projects. An organizational meeting was held in September with representatives from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation and DCNR in attendance.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Joe Healey of Laflin, PA at 570-655-4979.

To learn more about Friends Groups, please visit the **Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation** at www.paparksandforests.org.

#### **To All KTA Organization Members:**

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

All organizational members should send copies of their member publication, either in print or electronically, to the KTA *Newsletter* editor. See page 2 for contact information.

#### **ECOLOGY**

#### DEP OFFERS MARCELLUS SHALE E-NEWSLETTER

In the past three years, Pennsylvania has become the epicenter of natural gas exploration, with dozens of companies seeking to capitalize on the abundant natural resources in the Marcellus Shale formation. The consequences of this rapidly growing industry affect us all.

In the coming months, there will be a tremendous amount of focus on

drilling related issues: from enacting a severance tax to ensure large drilling firms pay their fair share, to writing laws that could affect landowners' rights when it comes to drilling on or under their property, and more

It's important that all state residents understand the impact drilling into the Marcellus Shale has on our communities today and what it will mean for our state tomorrow. To follow all of these developments, sign up to receive the DEP's *Marcellus Shale Examiner*, a weekly enewsletter that chronicles the latest news on Marcellus Shale activities. Go to

www.ahs2.dep.state.pa.us/centrallis tmanager/default.aspx?id=6 to sign up.



A Marcellus Shale drill pad in Tioga State Forest. Photo courtesy of Richard Martin, Pennsylvania Forest Coalition.

#### **AUDUBON STARTS NEW "BIRD TOWN" PROGRAM**

Audubon is partnering with municipal officials, local environmental advisory committees (EACs) and Audubon chapters to promote sustainable communities through a new program called *Bird Town*.

Collecting data in each municipality, Audubon tracks changes and provides towns with an annual "dashboard" of their status - evaluating habitat quality, storm water runoff, money saved (by homeowners and the government), and of course, bird diversity. *Bird Town* municipalities will be recognized for protecting birds and habitats and will benefit from the cumulative impact of individual properties enrolled in the Bird Habitat Recogni-

tion program to realize broad implementation.

While the initial focus is in southeastern Pennsylvania, in future years *Bird Town* will spread across the Commonwealth.

The Audubon At Home program inspires people to better manage their communities for conservation. The Bird Habitat Recognition Program is an online property registry that provides tools for landowners to create healthy habitats. More than 350 properties, representing 50 out of the state's 67 counties, are already enrolled in the program. Landowners can register their yards at www.pa.audubon.org/habitat/index.html.

#### PALE SWALLOW-WORT

Pale swallow-wort, also known as European swallow-wort, is a twining vine that can be found around fields, woodlands, riverbanks and roadsides. The plant has pairs of three to four inch-long leaves. Five-petaled, pale pink to reddish brown flowers appear in June or July. Flattened seed pods release downy seeds, like its relatives the milkweeds, from mid-summer through fall.

Pale swallow-wort, and its invasive cousin black swallow-wort, ruin habitat for ground nesting birds and insects and chase out threatened native plant species. The plant is moving into Pennsylvania from New York and no one is quite certain how widespread the plant is in the state. For more information on how to stop this invader, go to www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/cyro 1.htm.



#### **FOR HIKERS**

## SAVE A LIFE - EASY NEW CPR

Just pump.

Continuous Chest Compression CPR, a hands-only CPR method doubles a person's chance of surviving cardiac arrest.

The technique - which was developed at the University of Arizona College of Medicine - is easy and does not require mouth-to-mouth contact, making it more likely bystanders will try to help. Learn more at:

http://medicine.arizona.edu/spotli ght/learn-sarver-heart-centerscontinuous-chest-compression-cpr

"This video is worth sharing," said Gordon A. Ewy, MD, director of the UA Sarver Heart Center and one of the research pioneers who developed this method.

#### **ELK COUNTRY VISITOR CENTER OPEN**

Every year thousands of people make the trek to the Pennsylvania Wilds to see the largest wild elk herd in the northeastern United States. Now, the region boasts a new visitor center, the Elk Country Visitor Center, in Benezette Township, Elk County.

The 8,400-square foot eco-friendly building features a panorama of windows looking out on elk viewing areas and food plots, a "Story Theater" presenting a multimedia experience and a series of wildlife watching trails, observation areas and viewing blinds. Interpretive exhibits im-

merse the visitor in the sights, sounds and smells of a mixed hardwood forest, the natural world of the elk and native wildlife and the heritage of the region.

The 245-acre grounds open at 6:30 AM for viewing and walking. The Visitor Center is open 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM seven days per week. Operational hours will change seasonally, so call 814-7878-5167 before visiting. The address is 134 Homestead Drive, Benezette, PA 15821. Visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us/elkcenter for more information.

The exterior of the new Elk Country Visitor Center



#### 9/11 MEMORIAL TRAIL

The September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail Alliance announced that it is partnering with DCNR to develop the September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail route across Pennsylvania.

The 994-mile non-motorized hiking and cycling trail will connect the three memorials at Shanksville, PA, the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia.

The goal is to have the route established with a number of segments open for use in time for the tenth anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.

Volunteers who wish to get involved in this project in Pennsylvania can get more information from 911Trail@comcast.net.

#### **TOUR DE NCT OF PA CONTINUES IN 2011**

The **Tour de NCT of PA** proceeded through the state this year with stages 10 through 18, which included one hike a month along the off-road portions of the North Country Trail.

The biggest turnout was for Stage 10 with 40 participants when the Tour kicked off the new year in March. The high turnout was due in part to a severe epidemic of cabin fever along with good publicity in the local newspaper.

The Tour alternates between going east from Ohio and going south from New York. This year's stages visited the scenic Minister Creek and Little Salmon Creek areas and the rails-to-trails sections along the Allegheny River and Sandy Creek.

There is one more hike this year in November along the Sandy Creek Rails-to-Trails before taking a break for the winter.

In 2011, the Tour will be finishing up the remaining four sections, all in the Clarion Chapter of the NCT. They will also be doing some make-up hikes in the ANF, so that some of the participants can pick up a missing section or two, so that they will be eligible for the coveted Tour de NCT of PA patch - yet to be produced.

To view pictures from the hikes, go to butleroutdoorclubphotojournal.shutterfly.com/. For information or to be put on the email list, contact John Stehle at stehles@yahoo.com or phone 724-256-0674.

#### **FOR HIKERS**

#### 2010-2011 HUNTING SEASON DATES



Please remember to **wear blaze orange** when hiking in State Game Lands during hunting seasons.

For more information, please visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission website at

www.pgc.state.pa.us.

**Squirrels, Red, Gray, Black and Fox**: Oct. 9-Nov. 27; Dec.

13-23 & Dec. 27-Feb. 5

Ruffed Grouse: Oct. 16-Nov. 27, Dec. 13-23 & Dec. 27-

Jan. 22

Rabbit (cottontail): Oct. 9-Nov. 27, Dec. 13-23 & Dec. 27

-Feb. 26

**Pheasant:** Oct. 9-Nov. 27, Dec. 13-23 & Dec. 27-Feb. 5

Bobwhite Quail: Oct. 23-Nov. 27

Hares (snowshoe rabbits) or Varying Hares: Dec. 27-Jan.

1

**Woodchucks (groundhogs):** No closed season, except: Sundays; during deer seasons and spring gobbler turkey season.

**Crows**: July 2-April 10, on Friday, Saturday & Sunday

only.

**Starlings & English Sparrows**: No closed season, except: Sundays; during deer seasons and spring gobbler turkey season.

Wild Turkey (male or female): Nov. 6-19 & Nov. 25-27 Spring Gobbler (bearded bird only): Apr. 23-May 31

Black Bear (bow & arrow only): Nov. 15-19

Black Bear: Nov. 20 & Nov. 22-23

**Elk:** Nov. 1-6 & Nov. 8-13

Deer (archery): Sep. 18-Nov. 27 & Dec. 27-Jan. 29 Deer (rifle): Oct. 21-23, Junior & Senior License Holders,

Nov. 29-Dec. 11 & Nov. 29-Dec. 3

Deer (muzzleloader): Oct. 16-23

Deer (flintlock): Dec. 27-Jan. 15

Coyotes: No closed season.

Raccoon & Foxes: Oct. 23-Feb. 19

**Opossum, Skunks & Weasels**: No closed season, except Sundays and during legal hunting hours of the spring

gobbler season.

Bobcat: Dec. 18-Jan. 8

KTA HIKERS' MARKET				
KTA Member? □YES □NO □JOI	NING NOW			
		Non-		
Please order by circling price:	Member	Member	Total	
Appalachian Trail Guidebook & Maps Pennsylvania AT Guide (2009)	\$8.00	\$10.00		
PA AT Map Sec. 1-6: Delaware Water	\$6.00	\$10.00		
Gap to Swatara Gap (2010)	\$10.80	\$12.00		
PA AT Map Sec. 7-8: Swatara Gap to				
Susquehanna River (2004)	\$5.40	\$6.00		
PA AT Map Sec. 9-11: Susquehanna River to PA Route 94 (2009)	\$5.79	\$6.45		
PA AT Map Sec. 12-13: PA Route 94	ψ55	Ψ00		
to US Route 30 (2009)	\$5.79	\$6.45		
PA AT Map Sec. 14: US Route 30 to	4	44		
the Maryland line (2009)  Complete AT set of maps and guide-	\$5.79	\$6.45		
book	\$38.00	\$44.00		
Other Publications	, 10.00	Ţ 7 3 3		
Pennsylvania Hiking Map (2009)	\$4.95	\$5.95		
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails (2008)	\$8.99	\$9.99		
PA Hiking Trails Book & Map Set	\$12.25	\$14.25		
Mason-Dixon Trail Maps (2009)	\$13.50	\$15.00		
Standing Stone Trail Guide (2006)	\$7.00	\$10.00		
Guide to the Horse-Shoe Trail (2006)	\$13.00	\$14.30		
Guide to Pennsylvania Mid State Trail				
(2010)	\$34.20	\$38.00		
Hiker's Guide to the Bucktail Path (1998)	\$4.95	\$5.50		
Loyalsock Trail Guide (2008)	\$10.45	\$11.30		
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the North	ÿ10. <del>4</del> 3	Ş11.50		
Half in MD & PA (1997)	\$8.00	\$10.00		
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South				
Half in WV & VA (1997) Tuscarora Trail Map J (AT Junction in	\$8.00	\$10.00		
PA to PA Route 641)	\$4.50	\$9.00		
Tuscarora Trail Map K (PA Route 641	7	7-1		
to Hancock, MD) (1997)	\$4.50	\$9.00		
Patches				
KTA Logo Patch	\$1.58	\$1.75		
Old Logger's Path Patch	\$2.70	\$3.00		
Shipping: (\$3.50/first item, \$1.0	0/each addit	ional item)		
		Subtotal:		
Pennsylvania residents add 6% tax: TOTAL ENCLOSED:				
Ship to:	IOIALI	INCLUSED:		
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and mail to: 101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. For a full de-				

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



Snapshot from the KTA Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend. Read more about the weekend on page 7. In this picture, Jackie Covert enjoys the fantastic view of the "Big Valley" from Indian Wells.

Photo courtesy of Jerry Covert.

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION 101 N. Front Street Harrisburg, PA 17101 Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Harrisburg, PA Permit #891

#### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The KTA membership year ended on September 30. 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 expand without your help. Thank you for your generous support by renewing your membership again this year and consider gift memberships for your hiking friends and relatives this holiday season.

Complete the membership form below or renew online at www.kta-hike.org.

#### KTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name:	
Email:	

□Receive the *NEWSLETTER* in full color via email by 1st of issue month instead of by postal mail and save KTA paper and mailing costs.

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

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

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