

NEWSLETTER

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www.kta-hike.org



Serving Pennsylvania's Hikers Since 1956

August 2007

Keystone Trails Association Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

DCNR Approves KTA Consolidated Grant Request

By Paul Shaw

On June 13, DCNR announced the approval of KTA's \$64,000 consolidated grant request, providing funds for local clubs to purchase tools, equipment, materials and supplies for trail building and trail maintenance throughout the state. KTA Board members Norm Lacasse and Carl Lorence led the effort to secure these funds.

The KTA grant is one of 82 projects funded by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Growing Greener II and Keystone '93, a DCNR fund generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax.

KTA is planning to submit another consolidated grant application next April. Interested clubs will be encouraged to participate.

Participating clubs are scheduled to receive the following amounts:

Allegheny Outdoor Club: \$4,276
Allegheny Trails Hiking Club: \$2,150
Allentown Hiking Club: \$972
Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club: \$1,309
Chester County Trail Club: \$600
Horse-Shoe Trail Club: \$8,914 (2 grants)
Mid State Trail Association: \$5,795
North Country Trail Association: \$23,579
Standing Stone Trail Club: \$11,444 (2 grants)



The human volunteers on the KTA Summer Crew had the assistance of two llamas and a helicopter to haul cement, water, posts, signs, and bridge materials to backcountry locations. See page 15 for a recap of KTA's Summer Crew accomplishments. Photo by Tom Thwaites.

1100+ Hikers Participate in PA Hiking Week Events

by Paul Shaw

Based on a survey of hike leaders, an estimated 1100 people participated in hikes organized for Pennsylvania Hiking Week (May 26-June 3). Sponsored by KTA and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Hiking Week offered a total of 134 hikes throughout the state. This far exceeded the goal of 100 organized hikes. About half the hikes were led by hiking clubs and half by state park and state forest staff.

84 hike leaders (62.7% of the total) responded to a follow-up survey. 16 hikes were cancelled, but the 68 hikes that went on as scheduled attracted 694 hikers, an average of 10 people per hike. This projects to 1107 hikers for all of the hikes that were completed.

Special thanks are extended to all of KTA's participating member clubs and to DCNR for its help in publicizing Pennsylvania Hiking Week and for organizing numerous hikes in the state parks and forests.

Your combined efforts have expanded public awareness of hiking opportunities throughout the Commonwealth.

OFFICERS

President: Thyra Sperry, *Boiling Springs, PA*
Vice-President: Thomas Kelliher, *Baltimore, MD*
Secretary: Charles Glanville, *West Chester, PA*
Treasurer: Thomas Kelliher, *Baltimore, MD*

DIRECTORS

Robert Davey, Jr., *Flemington, PA*
Christopher Firme, *Blue Ridge Summit, PA*
Norman Lacasse, *Harrisburg, PA*
Carl Lorence, *Harrisburg, PA*
Steve Stroman, *Harrisburg, PA*
Barbara Wiemann, *Northampton, PA (ex-officio)*
Mary Young, *Enola, PA*

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Michael Jackson, *Everett, PA*
John Motz, *Stroudsburg, PA*
Thomas Thwaites, *State College, PA*
Barbara Van Horn, *Duncannon, PA*

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This newsletter is published four times a year as a service to its members by Keystone Trails Association. Deadlines for submitting material are 1/1, 4/1, 7/1 and 10/1. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The Editors encourage submissions reflecting all viewpoints for publication, but reserve the right to edit for reasons of space or to prevent violent confrontation. You are encouraged to submit your material on disc or via e-mail.

New members are always welcome. A membership application is located on the back page of this newsletter.

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2007 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. If you can't spare an entire weekend, you can join the group for whatever portion is convenient. No experience or special skills are required. Tools and work gloves will be provided.

Contact the trip leader to register for Trail Care weekends.

August 10-12 — Quehanna Trail

Camp at Parker Dam State Park
Leader: Ralph Seeley, 814-355-2933

October 5-7 — Delaware State Forest

Camp at Promised Land State Park
Leader: John Motz, 570-236-1462

September 14-16 — Salt Springs State Park

Camp at Salt Springs State Park
Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

November 2-4 — Mid State Trail, Everett Region

Camp at Tenley Park, Everett
Leader: John Stein, 717-533-3679



Instructor John Buburch, Jr. demonstrates a first aid technique on a "victim" while First Aid students watch and listen. Photo courtesy of KTA/SSTC.

KTA/SSTC Spring Training Report

By Joe Healey

KTA and the Standing Stone Trail Club sponsored two training sessions this spring.

Erosion Control

An Erosion Control Workshop was held at Getty Ridge Camp at McAlevy Fort in Huntingdon County during the second weekend in April. It was a very productive class taught by **John Motz**. We had classroom instruction in the morning and in the afternoon everyone worked building steps and water bars on the Greenwood Spur of the Mid State Trail. We were rained out on Sunday, but everyone learned something new and had a great time at **Rich Scanlon's** cabin. Special thanks to **Carl Lorence** and the Standing Stone Hiking Club for the food.

Attendees were **Tom Bastian, Patty Brunner, Kevin Busko, Rick Carlson, Joe Clark, Mel Cooper, Bill Dietrich, Carl Ganong, Dee Garmon, Carl Griffin, Joe Healey, Carl Lorence, John Motz, Edward Ritter, Rich Scanlon, and Tom Thwaites.**

Basic Wilderness First Aid

Basic Wilderness First Aid Training, held at the Scott Farm on May 12, was designed around the American Safety and Health Institute's *Wilderness Emergency Care* manual, which each participant received. The course was taught by John Buburch, Jr., under the auspices of the Bucks County Community College. Everyone who passed the final exam was issued a three-year certification card and diploma. The cost of the training and lunch was borne jointly by the DCNR Bureau of Forestry and the two sponsoring organizations.

Graduates were **Betty Clark, Joe Clark, Jeff Clarke, Chris Dunlap, Carl Ganong, Patrick Gilhool, Edna Himmler, Jim Hooper, Tom Kelliher, Ed Lawrence, Miles Newman, Nick Rosato, Tom Scully, John Stein, Gabriel Tamburger, Gorden Trexler, Jane Tuckey, and Darlene Wong.**



President's Message

At our annual meeting September 29, a slate of candidates will be elected to the KTA Board of Directors. The board has responsibilities for the fiscal and strategic oversight of our organization and for ensuring that the organization is meeting its mission. To accomplish this task, the Nominating Committee chaired by **Ed Lawrence** has recruited board members who are both hikers and possess a mix of skill sets to aid the board in its responsibilities. Board and ex-officio members give enormous amounts of their time, energy, knowledge and financial resources to KTA and the hiking community. We will begin our fiscal year on October 1 with some new additions to the board. Nominees for the term 2007-2110 are listed on page 4.

We'll miss **Carl Lorence** who is retiring from the first Board of Directors 2005-2007, to be a full time volunteer as President of the Standing Stone Trail Club. Carl participated in the writing and the follow up for the 2006 DCNR consolidated grant which was recently awarded to KTA for more than \$60,000.

One of the most important assets we have is the diversity and quality of people who are part of KTA. We need to work at linking our membership with the members of the State General Assembly who affect what we stand for. As we track legislation that affects hiking trails and trail lands, we realize that legislators need to hear from their constituents either by e-mail, postal service, telephone or a personal visit. Since our members reside in almost every county in the state, we are positioned to be a major influence as issues arise. We need to cultivate these relationships now and inform legislators about the value of what we are doing. As the need arises, we will send you an email, provide you with information, and ask that you contact your local legislator. Invite your local legislator to one of your events.

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As we track legislation that affects hiking trails and trail lands, we realize that legislators need to hear from their constituents either by e-mail, postal service, telephone or a personal visit.

A training program is being developed for KTA members who have an interest in learning how to interact with landowners to secure access to hiking trails on private property. The training includes the art of successful negotiating, dealing with different personalities, building trust and relationships, model easements, written agreements and case examples (see page 5).

The quality and enthusiasm of the volunteers that KTA attracts for its trail care weekends and summer crews are amazing. It's a worthwhile experience to participate in trail care with **Joe Healey**, often toiling in the rain and mud, working with and training volunteers in maintenance skills.

I attended KTA's Hikin' at Hickory, near the Lehigh River on National Trails Day, and hiked on several trails with leaders from the **Pocono Outdoor Club**. Pocono club members really outdid themselves in planning hikes and leading local hikers on trails that they wouldn't attempt on their own.

We are sorry that the KTA website is not up to our standards. Please be patient. A new system is being developed.

It's a rugged climb to the top of Blue Knob Ski Resort and State Park (located on the second highest mountain in Pennsylvania) out near Altoona, and the location for our September 29 meeting. Please join us in the celebration of our 51st year.

Get Outdoors and Promote Hiking
Thyna Sperry

Board of Directors Nominees, 2007-2010

By Ed Lawrence

The KTA Nominating Committee has selected a slate of four candidates for the three open seats and one seat for the expanded board for the 2007-2010 term of the Board of Directors.

The Board will then consist of at least nine, but not more than fifteen members, serving staggered three year terms with at least three but not more than five members elected each year.

The election will be held at the Fall Council meeting on September 29 at Blue Knob Ski Resort, with elected Directors taking office immediately.

Nominees are:

Rick Carlson, Harrisburg, PA. Rick worked over 30 years in Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Resources and the new Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources. He has served under six governors in a variety of management positions dealing with agency policy and legislation. He was a key author to Pennsylvania's Recycling Act, Keystone Fund legislation and Growing Greener. Prior to retiring from state government in March 2007, he served as Senior Advisor to DCNR Secretary Michael DiBernardinis. Rick received a B.S. in Forest Sciences in 1967 from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Drexel University in 1971. Between degrees, he served three years as an officer in the Marine Corps, including a tour in Vietnam. His spare time is taken up with fly fishing, mountain biking, hiking and skiing. He is a member of Trout Unlimited and a life member of Keystone Trails Association.

Norm Lacasse, Harrisburg PA. Norm is currently completing a two year term of office on the Board of Directors and is a member of the Executive Committee. Norm was a leader in writing the recently awarded DCNR consolidated grant for clubs.

Mollie O'Brien, Lewisburg, PA. Mollie has spent over four years working for Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, in several positions. As a Senior Writer in Communications, she writes and edits print publications, writes speeches for upper level management and oversees graphic design of printed pieces. Prior to this position, Mollie was Assistant Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. Working at Sovereign Bank, Mollie was Art Director and Graphic Designer. Several years ago she was the editor/proof reader for a publishing firm writing clues and headlines for puzzle magazines. A graduate of Bucknell University with a Master of Arts Degree, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Cedar Crest College, Mollie is a member of the Keystone Trails Association and the Sierra Club, an avid hiker and backpacker. Mollie also enjoys participating in KTA's Trail Care program.

Thyra Sperry, Boiling Springs, PA. Thyra is currently completing a two year term of office on the Board of Directors and is serving as President.

Nominees for KTA officers are: President: Thyra Sperry; Vice-President: Tom Kelliher; Secretary: Charles Glanville; and Treasurer: Tom Kelliher.

Nominating committee members are Ed Lawrence, Chair, Orangeville, PA; Carl Davis, Wellsboro, PA; and Lorraine Healey, Laflin, PA.

Carol Witzeman Named Honorary Chair of KTA Board of Advisors

Carol Witzeman has been named Honorary Chair of KTA's new Board of Advisors. The KTA Board of Directors approved her appointment on July 7.



Carol, a widely known and much beloved longtime member of KTA, has worked over the years, often behind the scenes, to help the organization grow and prosper. She served as KTA Awards Committee Chair for more than a decade, and headed the Meeting Site Selection Committee for many years. In her capacity as President of

the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, Carol helped spearhead the drive to Save the Steps and protect that key segment of the Standing Stone Trail. Carol chaired the Task Force on Executive Director Needs and Considerations, appointed by former President Hugh Downing. In October 2005, Carol was elected to a one-year term on KTA's first Board of Directors and also elected Vice President, a position she held until September 2006, when she assumed the office of President for one month.

The Board of Advisors, proposed by Charles Glanville and authorized by the Board of Directors last year, may include up to 30 longtime friends and supporters of KTA who have the skills and expertise that are valuable to the Association. The Advisors do not meet as a group. Instead, each Advisor agrees to individually provide advice when requested by the Board of Directors or individual directors.

2007/2008 KTA Meetings & Hiking Events

Sept. 15Absorb the Forbes II Hiking Day

Sept. 28-30...Annual Board & Council Meeting, Blue Knob Ski Area (see insert)

Jan. 5.....Board of Directors Meeting, Harrisburg

April 18-20..Spring Board & Council Meeting, Wellsboro

New Life Members

John Motz # 287
Stroudsburg, PA

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Brown
#288
Horsham, Pa

J. Michael Barlup #289
Mechanicsburg, PA

Member Death

J. Claude Epps, Jr.
Havertown, PA
(see page 13)

Contributions

Jon Bauer
Mike Sausser
Tom Weaver

KTA's Endangered Hiking Trail Program Seeking 10 Volunteers to Protect Our Footpaths

By Paul Shaw and John Stein

The Endangered Hiking Trail Program

With the long-term goal of securing trail access in perpetuity for all of Pennsylvania's hiking trails, KTA is launching the Endangered Hiking Trail Program, endorsed by the KTA Board of Directors at its July 7 meeting. We are actively seeking volunteers for training who have the desire, attitude, and personality to work with landowners and land managers to secure trail access. Only a select few have the combined traits needed to be truly effective negotiators, and these are the few we are looking for. Since so much of landowner negotiation is based on personal relationships, individuals must be willing to commit at least three years to the program.

Get Involved!

Once selected, volunteers will be thoroughly trained on the various types of trail agreements, provided models of written agreements, and taught how to best approach and interact with landowners. When we have recruited our first class of ten people, we will begin training.

If you would like to be considered for this most important program, please contact Paul Shaw at ktahike@verizon.net for an application and more information.

Why We Need This Program

In the past five years, the Horse-Shoe Trail in southeastern Pennsylvania has faced at least five trail closures requiring relocations or rerouting onto roads. In south central Pennsylvania, the Standing Stone Trail was denied access to a property, resulting in a 4.2 mile road walk that continues to this day. Near the Susquehanna River, the Mason-Dixon Trail lost access when a property was resold, forcing two miles of very steep side hill trail construction, requiring 1600 volunteer hours to build. The Rachel Carson Trail near Pittsburgh faces possible eviction on one of its segments. The Tuscarora Trail has been severed by landowner clo-

sure near Carlisle.

The Current Situation

With more than 3,000 miles of designated hiking trails on public lands and thousands of additional miles of hiking trails on 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 these and many other examples from all corners of Pennsylvania prove the precarious state of many of our trails, particularly those crossing private property. In Pennsylvania, only the Appalachian Trail, through an act of Congress, can be considered a permanent fixture.

Land Protection Methods

Trail clubs use a variety of methods to secure access to trails on private land. Most landowner agreements allowing foot trail access are based on handshakes, subject to the wishes of landowners. Even with the most cooperative landowners, trouble often ensues when the land is resold or the property is passed on to heirs. More effective methods include written permission letters, trail easements, conservation easements and land donations and acquisitions. Courthouse registered easements in perpetuity or land donations and acquisitions are the ultimate goals for permanently securing our trails.

You and your fellow hikers will be glad that you volunteered for this initiative.

KTA Receives Anonymous \$100,000 Gift

KTA has received an anonymous gift in the amount of \$100,000. The gift was made through the IRA charitable rollover (see box to right), which allows a qualified donor to contribute up to \$100,000 of his/her IRA to a charitable organization, tax-free. This rollover is set to expire December 31.

Speaking on behalf of the KTA Board, President Thyra Sperry said "KTA is very grateful for the unique opportunity this gift presents to seed projects and programs that build, preserve, protect and promote hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania. We have a huge responsibility to wisely manage this gift for the maximum benefit of our trails."

New Trail Ahead - Make a Gift From Your IRA

By Thyra Sperry

If you have an IRA and want to support hiking and trails in Pennsylvania, you can make a charitable rollover gift to Keystone Trails Association. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 contains legislation helping charities and donors.

This newly enacted law will allow individuals age 70 1/2 and above to make current gifts from their IRA accounts directly to charity. Effective until the end of 2007, these individuals may be able to rollover tax-free up to \$100,000 of IRA assets directly to KTA. There will be no tax due on the withdrawal from the IRA and correspondingly, no charitable deduction.

You may also name KTA as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, your IRA, or your life insurance policy. Simply write in our legal name, "Keystone Trails Association" and our tax ID number, 232111213, on the beneficiary designation form.

This is a landmark way to protect our Pennsylvania hiking trails. As KTA does not provide tax or legal advice, please check with your tax advisor.

Along Our Trails

Appalachian Trail Hiker Survey

The National Park Service, US Forest Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the University of Georgia developed a study to collect and report visitor use on selected segments of the Appalachian Trail. As one component of the project, hikers were interviewed at certain exit sites between Harpers Ferry and Boiling Springs between June 1 and August 14.

AT Protection Legislation

State Rep. Bob Freeman, D-Northampton, introduced a bill that would require municipalities that border the Appalachian Trail to enact zoning and other land-use ordinances as part of their responsibility to protect the Appalachian Trail. The legislation stems from the protracted struggle by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Blue Mountain Preservation Association to prevent a developer from building a private automobile racing club adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. The development would have brought noise and other problems to the area, disrupting the pristine setting of the trail. Since the township where this development was proposed had no zoning in place, there was little that could be done to block this inappropriate use.

“By requiring municipalities along the Appalachian Trail to enact good land-use ordinances, we can ensure that a conservation buffer zone will be in place to protect it,” Freeman said. “The trail is one of our state’s greatest scenic assets and must be protected.”

AT Museum Open

The Appalachian Trail Museum opened its first exhibit at ATC headquarters in Harpers Ferry on June 2 in conjunction with National Trails Day. This first exhibit illustrates the vastly different contributions of two men: Benton MacKaye, the thinker and dreamer who first proposed and popularized the idea of the Appalachian Trail in the 1920s, and Myron Avery, the hard-charging leader who mobilized a force of volunteers to get the job of trail-building done.

The Museum seeks to preserve items of historical importance and honor significant figures in the Trail community. For more

information, go to www.atmuseum.org.

Batona Trail

The Batona Hiking Club celebrated the 20th anniversary of the completion of the club’s 20-mile extension to the Batona Trail with a commemorative hike and a small trail celebration. The original 30 miles of the Batona Trail was built in 1961.

Chuck Keiper Trail



The I-beams and other materials for the Chuck Keiper Bridge are lined up for helicopter transport to the construction site. Photo by Rich Scanlon.

Rich Scanlon reports that the KTA Trail Crew completed the last of four hiking bridges on the Chuck Keiper Trail in June. These new bridges replace old “slippery log” crossings that were hazardous to use when streams were swollen after rain. Grant money from the Bureau of Forestry and DCNR funded the cost of the materials.

The bridge completed this year is 30 feet in length and constructed with three aluminum I beams and outdoor treated lumber. Plans for the bridge required approval from DCNR and other agencies to insure hiker safety and lessen impact on the stream and surrounding habitat.

Because of the weight and the distance from a road to the bridge site, the Army National Guard from Fort Indiantown Gap provided a twin rotor Chinook helicopter to deliver the bridge beams and wood.

Three of the bridges are on the cross connector that links the eastern and western loops of the trail, and the other a short distance away in the area of the Swamp Branch Trail.

Mason-Dixon Trail

The historic engraved tri-state marker that defines the junction of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware is expected to soon be in the public domain and the M-DT will either be re-routed to the marker or a spur will be built so that hikers can see this significant



This is the artist’s drawing of the tunnel that will be constructed for hikers under PA944 in Cumberland County. The tunnel will eliminate a dangerous road crossing.

(Continued on page 7)

Along Our Trails *(Continued from page 6)*

point of interest.

The Mason-Dixon Trail web site at www.masondixontrail.org has been redesigned and includes breaking news and announcements.

Mid State Trail Everett Region Slide Show

Tim Segina, a naturalist and photographer from Pittsburgh, backpacked and photographed the MST between the Maryland line and Everett. His photographs are now in the public domain and available as a slide show at <http://backpack.phanfare.com/album/255630>.

Woolrich Region Has New Shelter

The Mid State Trail has its first dedicated shelter! The J. Woods Rich Shelter, built and maintained by Woolrich, was dedicated on June 8. Located in Woolrich Park along the MST in Woolrich, PA, the shelter provides a much needed break on the 26 mile stretch of trail between Ravensburg State Park and Bonnell Flats. Drinking water and restrooms are nearby and available for most of the hiking season.

The shelter is named for J. Woods Rich, president of Woolrich from 1964-1968. Building and maintaining this shelter continues Woolrich's commitment to the outdoor community, according to Jim Griggs, current Woolrich President, who hopes that hikers will enjoy this shelter and the Mid State Trail for years to come.

Woolrich, which has been in business more than 175 years, is an American brand known for its outdoor apparel and accessories.



Photo by Scott Adams

North Country Trail

The Mines and Meadows ATV Riding Resort in Lawrence County has agreed to the construction of a new quarter mile of the NCT on their property. Although located in an ATV park, the trail will be for foot travel only.

The North Country Trail Association has joined Leave No Trace as a non-profit partner and will embrace the LNT principles along the NCT.

The Butler Chapter of the North Country Trail dedicated the recently constructed Bear's Mouth Bridge on National Trials Day on June 2. The 48-foot bridge over the North Branch of Bear Creek in Game Land 95 near Parker, PA, was designed by Dan

Mourer and built by members of the NCT and the Baker Trail. The bridge replaces a bridge destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. All the building material, tools, scaffolding and generator were carried to the bridge site which is half a mile from the road.



Photo by Ron Rice

Standing Stone Trail First Trail Town

The Standing Stone Trail Club is developing Trail Towns along the SST. The borough of Three Springs in Huntingdon County has passed a resolution supporting the designation of the town as a trail town. The borough believes that having the SST run through the town is a benefit to the local businesses and citizens of the borough.

The only other town on the route of the trail is Mapleton Depot. Huntingdon County has agreed to partner with the club in this project.

Free full color maps for the Standing Stone Trail are now available on the web at www.hike-sst.org.

Tuscarora Trail Author Seeks Material for Tuscarora Trail History

Tom Floyd is writing a history of the Tuscarora Trail and is looking for stories and photographs. He would like firsthand accounts of the early scouting and planning trips, early work trips, later relocations, hikes, and backpack adventures. Details and "the little things" are important. He is especially interested in information about the early founders in Pennsylvania and Maryland and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's assumption of maintenance for the northern section.

Tom will copy original photographs, slides, letters, and other source material and return the originals if contributors request it. Material not returned will be placed in the PATC archives.

Contact Tom at 1908 Floyd Rd., Springdale, AR 72762, w5je@yahoo.com.

Warrior Trail

The Warrior Trail Association has learned from the Greene County Department of Planning and Economic Development that a huge power line project that is proposed for the county is slated to run directly over the Warrior Trail at the Zavorra Shelter. That shelter is perhaps the finest campsite on the trail. The county is opposed to the power line. More information is available at www.stopthetowers.org.

Hiker Alerts

Mason-Dixon Trail

On Map 7, housing developments and warehouses between Belvedere and Red Toad Roads and in the Whitaker Woods area east of Red Toad Rd. have made the trail impassible. The MDTS will consult local government officials to discuss the possibility of a new route south of the present one.

Mid State Trail

In the State College Region, the fire tower on Little Flat has been closed due to vandalism. The steps have been removed to enforce the closure

Hiker Sets Goal to Trek

All Eight National Scenic Trails

Bart Smith has set a rigorous goal for himself. He intends to hike all eight National Scenic Trails by October 2, 2008, the 40th anniversary of the National Scenic Trails Act.

That's more than 15,000 miles of hiking!

Along the way, he is combining his love of hiking with his photography talents, publishing coffee table books about the trails. The Pacific Crest, Appalachian, and Florida Trail books are currently in print, with the volume about the Ice Age Trail due out in September. (The other four trails are the Continental Divide,

North County, Potomac Heritage, and Natchez Trace).

When asked what he found most impressive about the NST system, Smith focused not on the scenic beauty or landmarks along the trails, but on the massive network of volunteers who actually maintain those thousands of miles of trail.

In addition to his NST books, Smith's photographs are featured in *The Appalachian Trail: Calling Me Back to the Hills*, a compilation of Earl Shaffer's writings published after Shaffer's 1998 50th Anniversary AT hike.

Hiking Web Site for Southcentral PA

Gary K. Smith, State Parks Region 3 Manager in Southcentral Pennsylvania, recommends the web site www.thealleghenies.com/hiking.aspx to everyone looking for hiking information in the Alleghenies: The site offers easy, moderate, and challenging hike suggestions, and locates hikes by geographic area. Each hike description includes a map suitable for hiking use, an elevation profile, and hiking details (how to get to the trailhead, terrain, points of interest). Included are hikes on the Standing Stone, Mid State, John P. Saylor, Allegheny Front, Tuscarora and many other trails in Centre, Cambria, Blair, Huntingdon, Fulton, Bedford, and Somerset Counties.

And if you want to bike or paddle or just tour the region, there are sections of the web site for those activities.

Trail Viewsfrom Paul Shaw, Executive Director

A Day's Hard Work

I recently spent a very rewarding day with the KTA Summer Trail Crew helping build an extension of the Mid State Trail in Tioga County. I caught up with the crew, around 20 volunteers, at the Twin Streams Campground in Morris at 7:30 a.m. The crew had finished breakfast and coordinator Joe Healey and leader Pete Fleszar were busy rounding everyone up, anxious to get started. Volunteers were divided into teams of 5 or 6 people, and each team had an assignment for the day. Teams grabbed appropriate tools from the well-equipped KTA trailer and were quickly on their way.

Besides our leader, Pete, my team included sawyer Tom Kelliher, blaze painter extraordinaire Louise Sis, and lopper wielders Pat Monahan from the Finger Lakes Trail Association and me. Our assignment was to cut and blaze new trail following a route identified last fall by Pete. Slowly we cut and lopped and painted our way through the forest. The only impediments to our progress were a break for lunch and a couple of blowdowns that took a while to work our way through. By late afternoon, we had reached the road that was Pete's goal, and we turned around. The transformation was remarkable. What had been blowdowns, overhanging branches and deadfall connected by strands of yellow tape was now a discernable, clear and orange-blazed footpath ready for hikers. In a day's hard work, we had completed less than a mile. I began thinking of all the volunteers from all the clubs who over the years similarly constructed trails mile by painstaking mile. Pennsylvania's extraordinary network of hiking trails, now extending thousands of miles, is the result of these efforts.

This was a rather ordinary stretch of trail. There were no vistas, just one tiny stream crossing, but it is a vital link in the chain that comprises the Mid State Trail as it extends from Maryland to New York. The Mid State Trail will be a key component of the Great Eastern Trail, paralleling the Appalachian Trail as it runs from Alabama to New York.

Satisfied with our efforts, we returned tired, sweaty, and ravenous to Twin Streams. After a quick shower and short rest, we chewed the fat until renowned camp cook Mary Pitzer served a delicious dinner to the appreciative crew. I left soon afterwards as new volunteers were arriving. Many volunteers had arrived Tuesday and were working through Sunday, while others, like myself, were there for a day or two.

There are still plenty of opportunities to join the fun this year. Check page 2 for details on remaining work trips. Volunteers, including those with no experience, are always needed and welcome. For a hiker, there is no greater satisfaction than giving back to the trail.

See you on the trail!

---Paul



My Favorite Trail — The Rock Run Trail

By Ralph Seeley

Now for a discussion of my favorite trail. It is my favorite because it goes back close to 40 years in my memory. Tom Thwaites and I were taking Penn State Outing Club kids out to ski in the area before there was a trail. Gradually we built what is now the Rock Run Trail system, part of which is used for the Allegheny Front Trail.

The Rock Run system is a figure-8 of loops, reached by an entrance trail. The total length around the loops and back out to the trailhead is 13 miles.

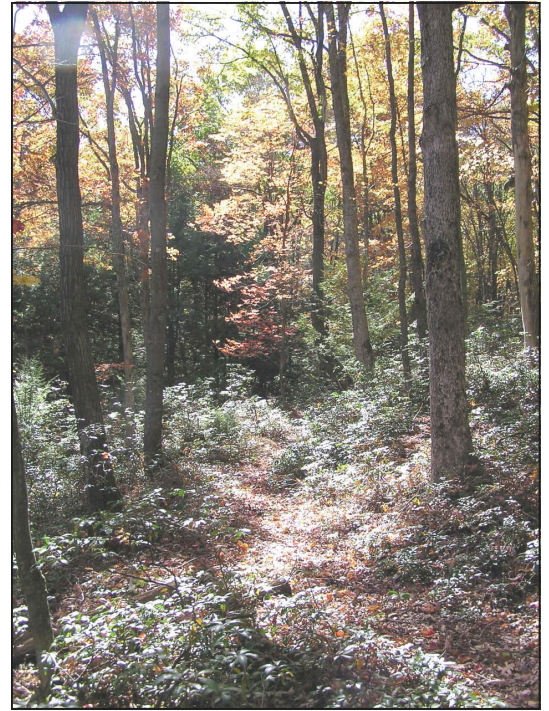
It is best to request a map of the Allegheny Front Trail from the district forest office, and note the Rock Run system in the northeast corner. The phone number for the district forest headquarters is 814-765-0821, and a map will be sent free on request.

The trail head is on PA504, locally known as the Rattlesnake Pike, about 4.3 miles east of Black Moshannon Lake. It can also be reached from Unionville, at old PA 220 in the Bald Eagle valley. There is a parking lot with a trail sign for the Allegheny Front Trail. Start off heading north, following the orange blazes of the AFT. Where the Rock Run system splits off from the AFT, the blazes change to blue.

The Rock Run system is at the top of the Allegheny Plateau, near where the plateau breaks off in the abrupt change called the Allegheny Front. Since it was designed for cross-country skiing, there are no steep slopes. The trail passes beaver works, both old and present-day. Much of it is on old tram road grades, and is often near a twinkling stream. Most of the trees are 70 years old, dating from the large regional fire of 1934.

The whole area, and the Allegheny Front Trail loop, is enclosed in the Moshannon State Forest. The Rock Run system is in an isolated area after you leave the Rattlesnake Pike. It would be very unusual to meet another person there.

Ed. Note: Do you have a favorite trail? We are looking for trails to feature in this column. Send your recommendation to the editors (address on page 2)



Rock Run Trail where the Allegheny Front Trail overlays on it. Photo by Ralph Seeley.

Hikin' with KTA: Summer Events in Full Swing

By Pam Metzger

With two successful events completed and (as this issue of the newsletter goes to press) registrations for the fourth annual Prowl the Sproul event pouring in, KTA is happy and proud to be reaching out to new hikers across the state.

Hickory Run/Oil Creek Successful Events

On National Trails Day, 56 hikers visited Hickory Run State Park and, under the able guidance of park staff and the Pocono Outdoor Club, enjoyed eight different hikes. A week later, some 200 adults and children came to Oil Creek State Park for Oil Creek Outdoors, where 17 vendors and educational booths showcased things like raptors and bats, outdoor cooking, fly-tying, and leaf painting. KTA's Pam Metzger and PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Marci Mowery got the kids' blood pumping with sleeping bag stuffing and tent pitching competitions.

Absorb theForbes—September 15

On September 15, KTA once again joins with PPF and the Friends of Linn Run State Park & Forbes State Forest to present Absorb the Forbes in Forbes State Forest. Eleven hikes, ranging in length from 3 miles to 14, will be led by volunteers among the staff at Forbes and Linn Run. The meeting point for all the hikes is Laurel Mountain Ski Lodge, high atop Laurel Ridge above the Ligonier Valley.

The Ligonier area is a beautiful place to spend a few days, and

camping is available in Linn Run State Park's beautiful rustic cabins. Reservations for the cabins must be made through DCNR's State Parks reservations system at 888-PA-PARKS. In addition, several lovely bed & breakfasts dot the Laurels countryside, as well as a few more traditional motels. Fall foliage promises to be breaking through during our visit.

Hikes leave the Lodge at 9:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. No advance registration is required. Visit the PPF website at www.paparksandforests.org for a complete hike schedule, or contact KTA Administrator Pam Metzger at info@kta-hike.org for additional information. Don't miss the fun!



The tent pitching competition at Oil Creek. Photo by Marci Jo Mowery.

Trail Maintainers: Enroll in DCNR Conservation Volunteer Program

by Paul Shaw

Club members and individuals who provide any kind of trail building or maintenance work on state forest or state park lands are advised to enroll in DCNR's Conservation Volunteer Program.

Why You Should Enroll

DCNR is strongly urging trail volunteers to enroll in this program for the following reasons:

- communication between clubs, volunteers and DCNR is enhanced;
- all enrolled volunteers are covered by Workman's Compensation in the event of injury during trail work;
- all enrolled volunteers are extended the same liability protection as DCNR employees;
- DCNR will assume liability for any pre-approved structures, including bridges and shelters, that are designed and built by enrolled volunteers; and
- local forest managers may allow use of DCNR vehicles on a case by case basis for trail work.

How to Enroll

A maintaining club can submit just one application for the club and attach sign-up sheets listing the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of all potential trail maintainers. The application and sign-up sheets should be forwarded to the Conservation Volunteer Coordinator at the appropriate forest district or state park. If somebody who is not enrolled comes to a work trip, that person should be added to the sign-up sheet, with the new names forwarded to the district or state park.

For clubs that assign trail sections to individual maintainers, the club can again submit one application and attach sign-up sheets for the maintainers. When planning a work trip, individuals should contact the Conservation Volunteer Coordinator at the forest district or state park.

Applications are available at state parks and forest district offices.

SF Contact Information

Conservation Volunteer Coordinators for each forest district are as follows:

- District 1, Michaux SF: Gary Zimmerman 717-352-2211
- District 2, Buchanan SF: Steven Keiper 717-485-3148
- District 3, Tuscarora SF: Donald Kline 717-536-3191
- District 4, Forbes SF: Edward Callahan 724-238-1200
- District 5, Rothrock SF: Randall White 814-643-2340
- District 6, Gallitzin SF: Robert E. Schweitzer 814-472-1862
- District 7, Bald Eagle SF: James Lipko 570-922-3344
- District 8, Clear Creek SF: Robert Shurtleff 814-226-1901
- District 9, Moshannon SF: Wayne Wynick 814-765-0821
- District 10, Sproul SF: Richard Kugel 570-923-6011
- District 11, Lackawanna SF: Bradley Ellison 570-963-4561
- District 12, Tiadaghton SF: Jeffrey Raisch 570-327-3450
- District 13, Elk SF: Jeanne Wambaugh 814-486-3353
- District 14, Cornplanter SF: Mark Lewis 814-723-0262
- District 15, Susquehannock SF: Justin Shaffer 814-274-3600
- District 16, Tioga SF: John Brodnicki 570-724-2868
- District 17, Valley Forge SF: Phil McGrath 610-582-9660
- District 18, Weiser SF: Nick Zulli 570-385-7800
- District 19, Delaware SF: Timothy Ladner 570-895-4000
- District 20, Loyalsock SF: Jon Weaver 570-387-4255

Pennsylvania Recreational Use Act Amended

For decades, the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA) has protected landowners who agreed to allow hunters, hikers, birders, and other outdoor users access to their land without charging a fee.



Last September, however, a Lehigh County court case (Burns vs. Haas) raised questions about the strength of the law. In the Burns case, the landowner was held responsible for the actions of a hunter when the hunter's errant shot wounded a young woman who was on her own property.

Responding to the concerns of landowners, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts, the General Assembly has amended RULWA to expand a landowner's protection to include events and actions that occur off of the landowner's property when the action is a result of allowing a hunter onto his property. The law, Act 11 of 2007, was signed by Governor Rendell on June 30, and its provisions took effect immediately.

The text of the new law is available at www.legis.state.pa.us; type in HB13 at the top of the screen in the "Find Legislation" box.

2007-08 PA Hunting Seasons

- Coyotes:** No closed season
- Starlings, sparrows:** No closed season, except during the antlered and antlerless deer seasons and until noon daily during the spring gobbler season
- Opossum, skunk, weasels:** No closed season, except Sundays and prior to noon during the spring gobbler season
- Woodchucks:** No closed season, except: Sundays; during the antlered and antlerless deer seasons; and until noon daily during the spring gobbler turkey season
- Crows:** July 1-Nov. 24, Dec. 28-April 6, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only
- Elk:** Sep. 3-29, Nov. 5-10
- Deer (Archery):** Sept. 15-Nov. 10, Nov. 12-24, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Jan. 12
- Pheasant:** Oct. 6-12, Oct. 20-Nov. 24, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Feb. 9
- Squirrels:** Oct. 6-Nov. 24; Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Feb. 9
- Deer:** Oct. 13-20, Nov. 26-Dec. 8, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Jan. 26
- Ruffed Grouse:** Oct. 13-Nov. 24, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Jan. 26
- Quail:** Oct. 20-Nov. 24
- Rabbit:** Oct. 20-Nov. 24, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Feb. 9
- Bobcat, foxes, & raccoon:** Oct. 20-Feb. 16
- Turkey:** Oct. 27-Nov. 17,
- Bear:** Nov. 14-15, Nov. 19-21, Nov. 26-Dec. 1
- Hares:** Dec. 26-Jan. 1
- Spring Gobbler:** April 19, April 26-May 26

Note: Not all dates valid in all Wildlife Management Units and/or for all classes of hunters. For complete details, check the PA Game Commission web site www.pgc.state.pa.us.

**WEAR BLAZE ORANGE
DURING HUNTING SEASONS**

Footpath Road Crossings and PennDOT

By Tom Kelliher

Since the time PennDOT and DCNR executed, and amended, the Memorandum Of Understanding covering the 18 State Hiking Trails for Crossings of State Routes, PennDOT has been working on a similar agreement, the Footpath Crossing Master Agreement, for all the other footpaths in the state. The new agreement has been released as a Strike-Off Letter (SOL) dated June 5, 2007. None of these policies applies to the Appalachian Trail (AT).

PennDOT recognizes that a footpath is unique and should not be subject to a Highway Occupancy Agreement (HOA). HOA requirements caused the Mid State Trail Association (MSTA) numerous problems a few years ago.

Establishing a Master Agreement

The Master Agreement establishes a relationship between PennDOT and a Footpath Maintenance Group (PennDOT's terminology for trail clubs). Under the Master Agreement, a FMG need not demonstrate financial responsibility, a major grievance MSTA had with the HOA process.

The Master Agreement process begins when a FMG proposes to create a new crossing or to modify an existing crossing and contacts the District Trail Coordinator in the local PennDOT District. (Existing, unmodified crossings are "grandfathered" from the Master Agreement process unless PennDOT determines there are safety issues.)

First, the Master Agreement is executed by the District and the FMG. As the Master Agreement is executed with the local PennDOT District, it is possible that a FMG will execute more than one Master Agreement, if they create or modify crossings in more than one PennDOT District. Only one Master Agreement is executed per District.

Submitting a Crossing Plan

Second, the FMG submits a Crossing Plan for consideration by the District. One Crossing Plan is submitted for each new or modified Crossing. The Master Agreement must be in place with the District before submitting a Crossing Plan. The Crossing Plan is to contain basic information regarding the footpath and the crossing, such as footpath name, FMG contact information, state route to be crossed, brief narrative of footpath use, any footpath markings on the approach or with the right of way, any drainage facilities to be installed, any vegetation removal, and a statement that the FMG will comply with the terms of the Master Agreement.

Some technical information is also to be included in the Crossing Plan, namely segment and offset location of the crossing and measurements of pedestrian sight distance and stopping sight distance. The District should be able to provide segment and offset information, otherwise latitude and longitude information locating the crossing is acceptable. Computation of the two sight distances is more complicated, involving the use of the state route's design speed and measurement of the actual width to be crossed.

The Master Agreement directs the District to provide assis-

tance, as necessary, to aid the FMG in creating the Crossing Plan. It would be wise to leave the computation of the sight distances to the District.

PennDOT Review

Upon receipt of the Crossing Plan, the District will review the plan and accept it or suggest modifications. If negative traffic safety conditions are identified, the District may take one of three actions: make changes to the plan to mitigate the conditions; require the FMG to make changes to the crossing to mitigate the conditions; or require the FMG to conduct a traffic safety study to analyze the crossing and suggest possible solutions.

Unresolved Questions

The Strike-Off Letter raises some questions which have been forwarded to PennDOT for a response. The Master Agreement specifically states that it doesn't apply to "longitudinal occupancies" (road walks). How will such occupancies be addressed?

The Master Agreement mentions the use of advance warning signs along the footpath approaches. Are such signs of use to the hiker? I've only ever seen one such sign; it was on the AT at the PA16 crossing. From the traffic noise along the highway, I was aware of the crossing well before I saw the advance warning sign.

A traffic safety study could represent a significant cost to a FMG. In the MOU between PennDOT and DCNR, PennDOT agreed to conduct a certain number of studies each year itself. Would PennDOT be willing to make a similar commitment in the Master Agreement?

Finally, the restrictions PennDOT has placed upon the blazing process within the right of way may make it difficult for hikers to follow the footpath. How can this be addressed?

MOU/Master Agreement Comparison

The process outlined in the MOU between PennDOT and DCNR is slightly different from the process outlined in the Master Agreement, in that FMGs interact solely with a Forestry District and do not execute any sort of Master Agreement with PennDOT. The MSTA has already submitted several crossing plans to the Tioga Forestry District under the MOU process. The information a FMG provides in order to produce a crossing plan appears to be substantially the same whether it occurs under the MOU or the Master Agreement.

As far as can be determined now, before any FMG has submitted a Crossing Plan under the Master Agreement, the only substantial difference in the two processes is that, under the Master Agreement, FMGs are responsible for conducting any requested traffic safety studies. As mentioned earlier, we are looking into the possibility of having PennDOT conduct a certain number of safety studies each year. The number of studies conducted each year should be quite low. Hopefully, PennDOT will be willing to make this commitment.



Longitudinal occupancy of a road by hikers, a situation not addressed in the Footpath Crossing Master Agreement.

Ecology

Volunteers Needed for AT Water Resources Monitoring Event

By Jeanne Mahoney

As part of the Appalachian Trail MEGA-Transect Initiative, ATC has partnered with the Water Federation Environment to host the first annual AT Water Resources Monitoring event. ATC is recruiting volunteers to collect water resources data. Analysis of long-term water quality trends will help improve and sustain the water resources of the AT by providing valuable information to land managers and decision makers in Congress.



Water sampling will take place for a one-month period between September 18 and October 18 in conjunction with World Water Monitoring Day. We are working with the Water Environment Federation to develop an AT specific registration option on their website. The AT water resources sampling event will continue annually every fall. This annual event will help

us identify areas that may need more dedicated sampling on a month to month schedule.

Volunteers can spend less than a day on this project and no special training is required. Anyone who can arrange a hike on the Appalachian Trail sometime between September 18 and October 18 can participate. This position is ideal for adults, as well as families and youth groups - classes, clubs, and scouts. Registration will open in late July/early August at the ATC website. We will be posting more information on the ATC website in the coming weeks.

If you are interested in representing an AT club for this monitoring program, please email your contact information to: water-quality2007@appalachiantrail.org.

For more background information about the A.T. MEGA-Transect, go to the ATC web site www.appalachiantrail.org/site/c.jkLXJ8MQKtH/b.2264999/k.9C7C/AT_MegaTransect.htm

AMC Documenting Spring Flowers to Track Climate Change

Global climate change is causing winters in the northeastern states to be warmer, affecting the ecology of the region. One way to study any changes is to track the flowering times of indicator plants, particularly on or near ridge tops.

The Appalachian Mountain Club and its chapters are participating in the effort to document flowering dates. Hikers are encouraged to look for six targeted flowers while on the trail in June, and AMC chapters conducted special Forest Flower Watch hikes during the month. Downloadable field guides with photos and other information and reporting forms were posted on the AMC web site.

Using the observations of a large number of citizen scientists, researchers will have a diverse pool of data with which to work. Since longitudinal data is required, this will become an annual AMC effort.



Emerald Ash Borer Found in PA

The emerald ash borer has been discovered north of Pittsburgh and in eastern Ohio. This metallic green destructive insect, which lives underneath the bark and leaves "D" shaped holes in the bark, has been moving rapidly across the country.

The borer is transported in firewood that campers take from one area to another. As a result, it is illegal to transport wood from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio into Pennsylvania. Fines can reach \$4,000.

The Allegheny National Forest is very concerned and urges everyone to buy firewood at the campsite. The new slogan is Pack hotdogs, not firewood.

More information is available at www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny.

PALTA Land Trusts Statistics

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association recognizes 95 land trusts in Pennsylvania. Over half of these trusts were founded since 1990. 77 of these organizations have reported protecting land through one or more methods - ownership, land purchased and later transferred to a government agency, or conservation easements.

As of December 31, 2005, these trusts owned almost 45,000 acres of land and had purchased over 240,000 acres that have been transferred to governmental agencies. Another 151,000 acres were covered by over 1800 easements. That totals over 433,000 acres, or more than 677 square miles.

Almost three quarters of the Commonwealth's land trusts are small operations, with three employees or less. Over one-third are entirely volunteer-based.

WPC Opens Allegheny Office

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has opened an office in Ridgway to better serve the Allegheny region. WPC is seeking to provide expert ecological service to local communities and groups and work closely with private forest owners. More than 60 percent of the forest land in this area is privately owned, but only three percent is professionally managed. The new office address is 40 West Main Street, Ridgway, PA 15853, 814-776-1114, jheinze@paconserve.org.

Parks Visitation Declining

Shenandoah National Park has experienced a 38 percent decline in visitors in the last ten years, from 1.75 million people in 1995 to just one million in 2005. Baxter State Park in Maine, home of Mount Katahdin, has seen a 25 percent drop in attendance since 2000. Overall, 14.5 million fewer people visited national parks last year than in 1999.

A 2006 study funded by the Nature Conservancy shows a correlation between the decline in visitors and the rise of electronic entertainment forms. The study suggests that the increase in video games, movie rentals, and Internet usage, coupled with rising gas prices, accounts for 98 percent of attendance drop.

Tent and backcountry camping in national parks dropped 24 percent between 1995 and 2005.

Hiker Health

Coping With Poison Ivy

When novices evaluate the potential dangers to be encountered when hiking, bears and snakes often top the list. But, for the 85 percent of the population that is susceptible, poison ivy might rank as the number one threat. Indeed, more than 350,000 people seek medical treatment for poison ivy rashes every year.

Urushiol oil, which is found in all parts of the plant except the pollen and wood cells, is the cause of the allergic reaction to poison ivy. The oil remains viable on any surface, including dead plants, for up to five years. One nanogram of the oil can cause a rash; six grams, or one-fifth of an ounce, would be enough to stricken every human being on earth.

The oil penetrates the skin and binds to cells, triggering the immune reaction. Since urushiol oil bonds to skin cells in about



30 minutes, washing with a solvent or soap immediately after exposure is necessary. A rash appears a day after exposure; on the second day, small blisters appear. In four days, large blisters burst and ooze. It takes about four weeks for the damaged tissue to heal.

Avoiding the plant is crucial, but poison ivy can be hard to identify. While it usually has three leaves, there can be five or seven. The leaves can be either shiny or matte

and have smooth edges, toothed edges, or lobes.

And now for the bad news! Researchers at Duke University pumped carbon dioxide into an experimental forest at the increased levels predicted by 2050 and observed the results. Poison ivy proliferated, showing a 149 percent increase in average annual growth. But most distressing, this was accompanied by a 153 percent increase in the concentration of urushiol oil.

New Study of Lexan Water Bottles

The European Food Safety Authority has added its own study to the continuing controversy over the safety of Lexan water bottles. The January 2007 report concludes that there are no known risks to human health in the everyday use of Lexan, even though Bisphenol-A (BPA) does leach from the bottle into food and water in trace amounts. The BPA ingested is thousands of times lower than the safe recommended limits. The US Food and Drug Administration has reached a similar conclusion about BPA.

According to Dr. Lorenz Rhomberg, BPA does not accumulate in the body since almost all of the tiny amounts ingested are converted into a biologically inert form before the compound gets into the general blood circulation, and then this material is quickly excreted.



Which one will you celebrate?
 August 30 - Toasted Marshmallow Day
 or
 August 31 - Trail Mix Day

In Memorium:

Claude E. Epps, Jr.

By M. Virginia Musser

The first KTA Life Member, Claude R. Epps, Jr., fondly known as "Bob," passed away on October 23, 2006 at the age of 71. Bob lived in Havertown and is survived by his wife of 45 years, Jean, along with three children: David Hill, Linda Bressi and Lisa Epps as well as five grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held at



Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church last fall.

Bob joined Keystone Trails Association in 1976 and became Life Member #1 in 1984. He was elected Vice President of KTA in 1986, an office he held for 5 years.

KTA hosted a biennial meeting, referred to as "ESU '89," of the Appalachian Trail Conference, (now known as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy) in 1989. Bob served as the General Vice Chair for this weeklong conference but also was in charge of the souvenir items. These items included flippy flyers, key chain with a light, note pads, mugs, and T-shirts emblazoned with the famous Pennsylvania AT rocks.

In 1985, at its biennial meeting at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont, Bob was elected to the Appalachian Trail Conference Board of Managers representing the Middle Region. After four years on the Board he was elected Vice President of the Mid Atlantic Region (formerly known as "Middle Region") at ESU '89 and served until 1995.

Bob was employed in program administration at AEL in Lansdale. He had done graduate studies in finance and economics at Widener University and held an undergraduate degree from La-Salle College.

Bob was an A.T. maintainer and a long time member of the Springfield Trail Club.

As I was perusing old ATN's to gather information for this Memorium I saw several pictures of Bob with that ear-to-ear grin that was his trademark. I can still see Bob standing in my office in Sellersville delivering some piece of KTA paperwork with that big grin on his face. In my mind, Bob will always be smiling!

Trail Crew Opportunities

PATC

PATC's Massarock Crew will be working Sep. 9-14 and 16-21 in the George Washington & Jefferson National Forest. Details from Heidi Forrest at hforrest@patc.net or 703-242-0315.

ATC

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew will work Sep. 6 through Oct. 29. The Crew will be working on an erosion control project at Eckville and in Cumberland County. Email crews@appalachiantrail.org for details.

AMC

Mohican Outdoor Center crews stay at the Mohican Outdoor Center and works on trails in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Sep. 8-9, Oct. 13-14, and Nov. 10-11. Email Mohican_Trail_Crew@verizon.net for more information.

Around The Clubs

The **Allentown Hiking Club** and the Lehigh Gap Nature Center teamed up for a after dark whip-poor-will hike to the summit of Blue Mountain. At one point, seven of the birds simultaneously serenaded the group.



The **Butler Outdoor Club's** Outdoor Extravaganza drew about 200 people from five states to Breakneck Campground, near McConnells Mill State Park, over the Memorial Day weekend. The event has grown every year; BOC invites everyone to attend next year, same time and place.

The **Delaware Valley Chapter of AMC** notes the death of long time member and hike leader Ken Graham last September at the age of 94.

The **Mid State Trail Association** has a new web site www.hike-mst.org and is now set up to sell its maps and guide book online.

The **Mountain Club of Maryland** notes the death of William Kemper, 96, the club's most senior and oldest member. He participated in the first Hike Across Maryland and did it again in the 1990s.

Joyce Appel has been re-elected as the Pennsylvania representative to the **North Country Trail Association** Board of Directors.

The **Pocono Outdoor Club** has a new official web site www.PoconoOutdoorClub.org.

The **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club** has raised the rental rates on its 33 cabins and instituted a two-night minimum weekend policy. The last increase was more than five years ago. Rates now

range from \$15 for a weekday in a primitive cabin to \$120 for a weekend night at modern Highacre in Harpers Ferry. Complete information and charts of cabin availability are at www.patc.net/activities/cabins.

PATC has printed "business cards" for distribution by its volunteers who encounter members of the public. These cards briefly describe the PATC mission and provide contact information. These small cards are a convenient size for hike leaders, trail maintainers, and overseers to carry and easy for the recipient to receive. There is blank space on the back of the card to write anything the volunteer may wish.

The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club** is supporting the newly formed Susquehanna Water Gap Coalition, which seeks to preserve the environmental and scenic values of the gap and surrounding waters.

The club has formed a Weed Warrior Team to tackle the problem of invasive plants along the trails that the club maintains. Individuals who are reluctant to move rocks and dig water bars can pull weeds and socialize at the same time.

To celebrate International Jelly Filled Doughnut Day, **Venture Outdoors** held a Jelly-Filled Doughnut Hike on June 9. Participants feasted on the designated snack and coffee.

Venture Outdoors reports that it currently has over 1800 members.



The **Warrior Trail Association** has just learned of the demise of the local Internet provider that hosted their web site. The WTA is searching for a new host.

The **Wilmington Trail Club** held 357 hikes last year, totaling 3,099 miles. With 2,102 miles to his credit, Mike Kintner hiked over two-thirds of those miles. Just 14 people led or co-led 203 times, well over half of the events.

Some Spend Their Weekends

By Wanda Shirk

Some spend their weekends cleaning house;
I keep mine out-of-doors,
With leaves the only paper piles,
And stones and dirt for floors!

Some dress up fancy, paint their nails,
And seek out city lights,
But I'm a fan of forests
And of silent star-lit nights.

Some get their learning just from books,
But nature teaches me;
The campus is the universe,
And all tuition's free.

Mid State Trail Association Invites Hikers to Everett

The Everett Chamber of Commerce will hold a family day in Tenley Park on August 23 from 4-7 PM. This event will showcase the Mid State Trail. Activities will include a hike on the Mid State Trail, and Tim Segina's Mid State slide show. The Great Eastern Trail, REI, Bedford County Search and Rescue, Blue Knob Ski Patrol, Buchanan State Forest, DCNR, State Game Commission, and other groups will have exhibits and demonstrations. Storytellers and musical groups will provide entertainment. Parking will be available along Sandbank Road. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Contact Deb Dunkle at dhdunkel@mttfirst.net for more information.

Wisdom From Club Newsletters

The best remedy for a short temper is a long walk. - Jacqueline Schiff (Philadelphia Trail Club Bulletin)

Hike: The goal is to come back the same day to indoor plumbing and a bed with an expensive mattress. (Pocono Outdoor Club Quarterly)

Eat a live toad in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you for the rest of the day. (Susquehanna Trailers)

Summer Trail Crew Invests Over 2,000 Volunteer Hours Improving PA's Hiking Trails

By Joe Healey

How are a Chinook helicopter and a llama similar? KTA's Summer Crews found out. With the help of these two means of transport, the Crew weeks were successes and we amassed a total of 2,092 volunteer hours.

Week 1—Finishing the Keiper Bridges



Photo by Rich Scanlon

Crew Leader **Rich Scanlon** did a great job coordinating the operation. Thanks go to **Rick Carlson**, who arranged for the Chinook to ferry the bridge materials from the Fish Dam Overlook to the job site (see page 5). Local on-the-ground assistance, procurement of the permits for construction, and other grant application and approval services were provided by Forester **Ted Ligenza** and the Sproul District Forestry Office. Additional thanks and appreciation go to the members of the Western Clinton County Sportsmen's Association and their president **Ray Wertz**. Lastly, **Tom Bastian**, KTA's Trail Care toolmaster, provided technical and construction guidance. Without Tom's assistance, we would not have been able to finish the bridge in two and a half days.

While one crew was assembling the bridge, a second crew performed general trail maintenance. From reports in the trail register, the trail has never been in such good shape. The Crew thanks **Dale Benner** for the use of his cabin, and **Mary Pitzer** for her usual good job in the kitchen.

Volunteers were **Tom Bastian, Rick Carlson, Jeff Clarke, Robert Davey, Daniel Dougherty, Mike Krempasky, Carl Ganong, Carl Griffin, Joe Healey, Cindy Kuhn, Elwood Laudenslager, Carl Lorence, Rich Scanlon, Dave Singer, Tom Thwaites, and Dave Walp**.

Week 2—Constructing New Trail for the Pinchot

The second week took the crew to the Manny Gordon Picnic Area on the Pinchot trail. The task for the week was to build 4.9 miles of trail on new land acquired for the Lackawanna State Forest. The crew worked hard with fire rakes and completed about three and a half miles. We expect to finish up next year.

KTA and the crew welcomed a new cook, **Gerry Rowan**, for the week. He did a fine job and we hope to entice him back next year. I want to thank Assistant District Forester **Nick Lilo**, and Forester **Andy Duncan** for their help.

Volunteers were: **Jon Bauer, Robert Best, Samuel Carlson, Patrick Cody, Daniel Dougherty, Chris Dunlap, Carl Ganong, John Grill, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Tom Kelliher, Mike McKinny, Bob Mercado, George Shollenberger, Kathy Sieminski, and Rick Stibgen**.

Week 3—Extending the Mid State North toward NY

And here come the llamas, Lewis and Clark by name. For the third work week, the crew moved up north to Morris, PA, in Tioga County to Twin Streams Campground. What a beautiful setting for a trail camp.

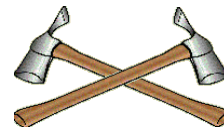
The llamas, under the direction of **John Zerphey**, carried in all of the four by four inch poles and 40 pound bags of concrete for the trail signs (see page 1). Thanks to John for the use of Lewis and Clark.

Pete Fleszar had us all busy as usual, extending the Mid State Trail further north. **Mary Pitzer** worked her wonders in the kitchen for another week.

This third week had the highest turn out of volunteers - 33 - in the history of the Summer Trail Crew. They worked 988 hours.

Volunteers were: **Scott Adams, Tom Bastian, Jack Bushey, Daniel Bougherty, Betty Clark, Joe Clark, Jeff Clarke, Mike Cosgrove, Deb Dunkle, Brandon Eddinger, Pete Fleszar, Carl Ganong, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Tom Kelliher, Elwood Laudenslager, Jerry Lehman, Dave Maxwell, Pat Monahan, Don Muth, Sheila Oswald, George Reistad, Christine Richards, Jeff Richards, Bryon Robinson, Harold Schneider, Paul Shaw, Louise Sis, John Stein, Tom Thwaites, Steve Tuckerman, Barb Wiemann, and John Zerphey**.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the job easy!



Trail Care Trip Reports

By Joe Healey

Standing Stone Trail – April

Digging sidehill was the work for this weekend. **Mel Cooper** did an excellent job of laying out the re-route up Cove Mountain. This section of trail (which Lorraine and I maintained for 15 years before recently relinquishing it) used to go straight up and over the mountain. Mel laid out three or four switchbacks to make it a much better hiking trail. We camped at Cowans Gap State Park.

Volunteers were **Tom Bastian, Paul Brechbiel, Kevin Busko, Betty Clark, Joe Clark, Mel Cooper, Bill Dietrich, Chris Dunlap, Pete Fleszar, Carl Ganong, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Ken Horting, Tom Kelliher, Elwood Loudenslager, Carl Lorence, and Tom Scully**.

Donut Hole Trail – May

Trail Care neglected the Donut Hole Trail for the past four years while we were busy building the Garby Trail to connect the Donut Hole and Chuck Keiper Trails. We worked in five or six places clearing brush and painting blazes and camped at both Hyner Run State Park and the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association.

Volunteers were **Tom Bastian, Joe Clark, Jeff Clarke, Bill Dietrich, Anne Griffin, Carl Griffin, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Tom Kelliher, Ed Lawrence, Elwood Laudenslager, Shirley McLaren, Wanda Shirk, Louise Sis, Tom Thwaites, Neal Watson, and Pat Yale**.

Podcasts for Hikers

A wealth of information of interest to hikers and backpackers is available for download onto an IPOD or MP3 player by going to your computer and visiting www.trailcast.org or www.practicalbackpacking.com.

Once downloaded, these programs are perfect for listening to while you take your daily walk or exercise.

--from the SATC Bushwack Bulletin

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A team of trail maintainers move a log into position. See page 15 for news about KTA Trail Crews. Photo by Tom Thwaites.

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*Annual Meeting Flyer
and registration
information enclosed in
this issue.*

*Mark your calendar
now and join us at
Blue Knob Ski Resort
Sept. 28-30*

KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliations (if any): _____

Member organizations are welcome and should forward the name and contact information for the group's designated KTA representative along with appropriate dues: \$50 per year for clubs; \$100 for commercial enterprises; \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All dues payments and correspondence should be mailed to: 107North Front St., Suite 112, 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—\$5.00	
Additional contribution In memory of/in honor of _____	\$
Total Enclosed	\$