

NEWSLETTER

101 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
www.kta-hike.org

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

August 2009



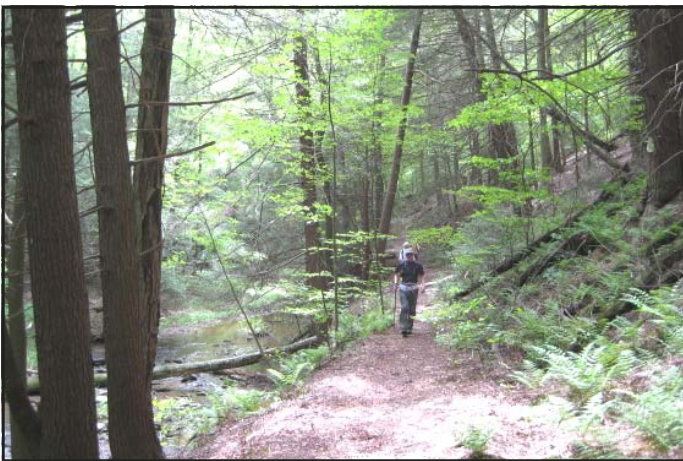
KTA'S Susquehanna Super Hike Is Almost Here!

By Paul Shaw

Preparations continue for KTA's Susquehanna Super Hike, the daunting 25-mile one-day challenge hike on both sides of the Susquehanna River, to be held September 12. The spectacular route follows portions of two of the Commonwealth's premier hiking trails, the Mason-Dixon in York County and the Conestoga in Lancaster County.

Scenic Route Beckons

Between the starting point near the Otter Creek Campground and the finish line at Pequea Creek Campground, hikers and trail runners will savor panoramic views at Urey, Face Rock, and Pinnacle Overlooks, and welcome numerous dark, cool glens including Oakland Run, Mill Creek, Kelly's Run, and Tucquan Run.



Oakland Run on the Mason-Dixon Trail

Additional points of particular interest along the trail are historic Lock 12 with remnants from the canal days, the crossing of the Susquehanna River on the Norman Wood Bridge, and Wind Cave, one of the largest tectonic caves in the eastern United States.

On the other hand, the route includes eleven ascents followed by descents with a total elevation change exceeding 8000 feet. Hikers/runners must be physically fit and mentally strong to complete the event and must reach each checkpoint within a pre-determined time to be allowed to continue.

Volunteers

Many volunteers have come forward for this exciting event, a fundraiser for KTA. The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club**

is staffing Checkpoint 1 near SGL 181, and Checkpoint 2 at Lock 12 will be staffed by the **Berks Community Hiking Club**. The KTA Board is providing staffing for Checkpoint 3 located at the Pinnacle Overlook.

Each checkpoint will serve snacks and water and will have first aid volunteers and ham radio operators to facilitate communications. Volunteers are still needed to direct parking, help with event timing, and assist with registration. Please consider helping and contact Becky Schreiber at the KTA office.

Event Sponsors

Special thanks go to the volunteers of the **Mason-Dixon Trail System, York Hiking Club** and **Lancaster Hiking Club** for building and maintaining the superb trails that the Super Hike will follow!

Event timing is being provided by Pretzel City Sports. Sponsors include **PPL**, who has granted permission for the hike to cross its property and has awarded KTA a \$1000 cash grant. **Bell and Evans** is supplying all-natural chicken burgers for the picnic, **Cliff Bar** is providing energy bars, and **Wildware Backcountry** is assisting with snack items for the checkpoints.

"Go Green" Event

The Active Network is handling registration and officially recognizes the Super Hike as a *Go Green* event. As such, KTA agrees to a number of principles to minimize its environmental footprint. This includes requiring 95% of registrations to be online (no downloadable registration forms), providing public transportation to the start of event, providing on-site recycling bins, and much more.

To register for the Super Hike or for more information, go to KTA's website www.kta-hike.org and click the appropriate links. We hope to see you there!

Volunteer
Hiking Trail
Maintainers
Contributed
More Than
31,000 Hours
to State Trails
Last Year
(see page 4)

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

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2009 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.

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

August 14-16 — Thunder Swamp Trail

Leader: John Motz, 570-236-1462,
trailbuilder@enter.net
Camp at Promised Land State Park

new footpath north of Cowans Gap to eliminate 4 miles of road walking
Leader: Mel Cooper, 814-643-2641,
814-599-1548, lunchtime1@verizon.net
Camp at Cowans Gap State Park

September 18-20 — Mid State Trail State College Region

Leader: Tom Thwaites, 814-237-7703,
ttt2@pennswoods.net
Camp at Poe Paddy State Park

October 30-November 1 — North Country Trail

Leader: Paul Henry, 724-347-3282, 724-685-1077, or 724-347-4941 (work).
Call after Sept. 7.
Camp at Bear Run Campground near
McConnells Mill State Park

October 2-4 — Standing Stone Trail
Establish new trailhead and construct

**Joe Healey Announces Retirement
KTA Seeks Trail Crew/Care Leader(s)**

After directing Summer Trail Crew for twelve years and heading up the Weekend Trail Care program for eight years, Joe Healey has announced his intention to retire at the end of this year's work season. As a result, KTA is seeking one or more persons to step in and take over leadership of these two trail maintenance programs, which are central to KTA's mission to preserve Pennsylvania's footpaths.

Summer Crew Duties

Duties for the director of the Summer Crew include selecting the trails and projects for the Crew; setting the dates for the work weeks; appointing a Crew Leader for each week (the Crew Leader is responsible for securing a camping location for that week, recruiting a cook or arranging for meals, and assigning each day's work tasks to the volunteers); preparing volunteer applications, communicating with potential volunteers, and informing the Crew Leader who will be available each day; advertising the program to the media; and seeing that the needed tools and equipment requested by the Crew Leader are delivered to the camping location.

Weekend Trail Care Duties

The Trail Care head is responsible for determining the locations and dates of each of the weekend events; selecting a Crew Leader (who will arrange for a camping location, handle volunteer signups for the weekend, and direct the volunteer workers during the event); and arranging for the delivery of the needed tools and equipment to the camping location.

General Information

Other responsibilities include preparing a budget; selecting and purchasing needed tools and maintaining the current inventory; and preparing reports after each event. The director(s) report to the KTA Board.

KTA is looking for applicants who wish to lead one or both programs. At this time, KTA's trailer, tools, and other equipment are located at the Healey home. However, KTA is willing to make other storage options if the new leader(s) do not have space to store some or all of these items.

Joe is willing to provide advice and assistance to the new head(s) to make this a smooth leadership transition.

For more information, contact Curt Ashenfelter at ktahike@verizon.net or 717-238-7017.

President's Message

What a great year!

I'd like to share with you some reasons why the Board and staff of KTA think 2009 has been a great year.

2009 has been a great year for KTA on a number of government initiatives. Years ago we had an idea that KTA could be the statewide voice for hikers and have a presence in Harrisburg. When we speak, state government and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) listen. Some of our club members were being told that they had to pay \$25 and get Letters of Authorization to lead guided hikes in state parks and state forests. KTA "spoke up" and sure enough DCNR listened and rescinded the order for hikers. In York County, a local government wanted to use a zoning board to hinder the relocation of a trail from a road walk to a county park. KTA "spoke up" and sure enough the zoning board recommended to the township supervisors that the trail should be relocated off the road. In Congress there was inaction on an initiative to purchase land surrounding the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. KTA "spoke up" and helped rally the commitment of a US Senator to fund the purchase. We will continue to act on our dream of "speaking up" in the halls of our state, local and federal government.

We continue to seek new funding sources to meet our dreams and continue our work. This year L.L.Bean and PPL have each contributed \$1,000 because they believe in our mission. If you believe in our vision for KTA, we need your financial help. We've been in the business of hiking and trail maintaining for over 53 years and we will build on the momentum. The last few years, since we reorganized, we have been productive beyond our wildest expectations, but our initiatives require money and your financial commitment. Our vision is for hikers to step forward. No one else will love our trails for us.

Please make KTA one of your top three priorities and participate in our "**KTA—Keep Trails Alive**" monthly donor program (see page 10) to sustain our work. Hikers, hike up to the crest of the mountain, reach into your backpack, and be as generous as you can.

In the meantime,
Get outdoors and protect your favorite trail

Thyra



Upcoming KTA Meetings and Events

September 12 — **Susquehanna Super Hike**, York & Lancaster Counties

September 25-27 — **Annual Meeting and Hiking Weekend**, Marienville, Forest County, PA. Hiking program by Allegheny Outdoor Club.

January 9, 2010 — **Board Meeting**, Harrisburg, PA

April 23-25, 2010 — **Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend**, Wellsboro, Tioga County, PA

June 26, 2010 — **Board Meeting**, Harrisburg, PA

KTA Newsletter Now Accepting Ads

This issue includes the KTA Newsletter's first paid advertisement. The ad from UpstatePA, an eleven county tourism promotion organization in the northeastern area of the state, appears on this page.

KTA will accept 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, and environmental issues. KTA reserves the right to reject any ads that do not reflect KTA's mission and to limit the number of ads accepted for any issue.

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

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

UPSTATEPA
Northeast Pennsylvania Mountains Region

upstatepa.org

KTA News

Volunteers Trail Maintenance Hours Top 31,000 Hours in 2008

By Lorraine Healey

After much prodding since January, the KTA volunteer maintenance hours are tallied up and ready to be reported to the state departments that are interested in this data. A total of 31,227 hours was reported to me as of July 1.

The hours include round trip travel time and maintenance work done by individuals who do not report to a club. Although most KTA member clubs reported their 2008 volunteer hours promptly, there are eight clubs out there who did not respond; all of them maintain trails. Of those eight organizations, three of them do "big time" maintenance, probably in the thousands of hours per club per year. This is a known fact from review of prior reports. Those clubs know who they are, and hopefully they will report hours next year.

The 2008 figures are not the largest that we have ever received, but are pretty good, since we have gone back to the original format for submission. As a reminder to maintainers, please be sure to submit your volunteer hours to your organization when you are finished with your yearly maintenance. Then your club's gatherer of hours will have an easier time when I come knocking on his/her door for the information.

Thank you so much for the terrific job that all of you do each year. Your efforts are appreciated by all who travel by foot along those hiking trails. Keep up the great work.

KTA Receives Warm Welcome In Potter County

By Becky Schreiber

115 hikers arrived in Potter County to attend the 2009 Spring Meeting & Hiking Weekend. Hikers were treated to blue skies and warm temperatures as they headed out on the Susquehannock Trail System. A variety of hikes were offered from leisurely town tours to full day, fast-paced hikes. 28 hikes were offered throughout the weekend.

Many thanks to **Wil Ahn** and **Wanda Shirk** of the **Susquehannock Trail Club** for coordinating the hiking schedule and recruiting hike leaders. Additional thanks to **Paul Lenz** for his evening presentation on the Susquehannock Trail System, and to the folks at the **Potato City Country Inn** and the **Susquehannock Lodge** for their hospitality.

Wanda Shirk leads the pack along the **Buckseller Trail** in Potter County during the Spring Hiking Weekend. Photo by **Dan Grabenstein**.



25 and 50 Year Volunteer Award

If you are a KTA member with 25 or 50 years of active volunteer service protecting, preserving, and promoting hiking and hiking trails in Pennsylvania, you are eligible for the new KTA Volunteer Award!

Active volunteer service includes time and effort contributed by an individual for the benefit of Pennsylvania foot trails. Areas of service may include maintenance (trail, overnight sites, shelters), management (monitoring, trail assessments, trail crews), administration (finance, publications, officer), and public service (leading hikes for the public, organizing hike schedules, presenting programs to the public, volunteering professional services, advocacy).

All KTA members who qualify are urged to submit, by mail or email, their names and qualifying activities and years of service to the KTA office in Harrisburg by August 15, 2009. A form is available on the KTA web site (under Forms) for those who wish to use it. For more information contact **Becky Schreiber** at 717-238-7017 or ktad-min@verizon.net.

Nominees for Board and Reps-at-Large

By Ed Lawrence

The KTA Nominating Committee has submitted a slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors and as Representatives-at-Large. The elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on September 26.

Board of Directors

Current Board member **Steve Stroman** of Harrisburg has been nominated for a second term, and **Wanda Shirk** of Ulysses, who is filling an unexpired term, is seeking her first full term.

Scott Adams, of Spring Mills, PA, is seeking his first term on the Board. Scott is employed by the State College Area School District, runs an Internet consulting company, and has a hiking web site PAHikes.com. He serves as Secretary of the Mid State Trail Association.

Mary Young of Harrisburg is not seeking re-election.

Board members, who serve three year terms, are elected by the KTA Council and assume office immediately after the election.

Officers

Officer nominees are **Thyra Sperry**, President; **Wanda Shirk**, Vice-President; **Norman Lacasse**, Secretary; and **Thomas Kelliher**, Treasure. Officers are elected by Council and serve one year terms.

Representatives-At-Large

Currently serving Representatives seeking re-election are **Joyce Appel**, East Brady, PA; **Kathryn Barker**, Carlisle, PA; **Carl Davis**, Shippensburg, PA; **Linda Enders Roxberry**, Shillington, PA; **Henry Frank**, Philadelphia, PA ;**Wayne Gross**, Canadensis, PA; **John Motz**, Stroudsburg, PA; **Janice Reich**, Reading, PA; **Thomas Thwaites**, State College, PA; and **Barbara Van Horn**,

(Continued on page 5)

KTA - Your Hiking Advocate In Action

By Curt Ashenfelter

Letters of Authorization To Hike in State Parks

Earlier this year it came to Keystone Trails Association's attention that there was a move afoot to require hiking clubs to obtain Letters of Authorization in order to lead hikes in state parks and state forests. This requirement was reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) at KTA's Spring Council Meeting, where it was met with concern.

Since that time KTA has continued to voice those concerns to DCNR. DCNR has heard our concerns and rescinded their decision to require LOAs for hikes in state parks and state forests.

Here is DCNR's response from **Lori Nygard, Chief of the Program Services Section of the Bureau of Forestry**:

Please be advised that hiking clubs normally would not need to do a Letter of Authorization (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, extravaganzas including kayak demonstrations, rock climbing, etc., where the activity is organized and/or where the public is invited to participate, an LOA (or perhaps a Special Activities Agreement) would need to be completed. A Special Activities Agreement (SAA) is used when the proposed activity greatly increases the liability of the Commonwealth, to cover some types of commercial activities, or when our facilities are to be utilized beyond their designed capacity. The SAA can also be written for multiple years.

There is an administrative fee of \$25 for an LOA and \$50 for an SAA for events conducted on a state park, however, that fee can be waived should the group perform a service project at the park. This is normally discussed with the local park manager. There is no administrative fee for an LOA at a state forest. Also, if an event that requires an LOA is to be conducted on both state park and state forest land or multiple areas of either park or forest, one agreement could be signed for the club for the entire event.

Lower Windsor Township Zoning Meeting

The Lower Windsor Township Zoning Board (York County) scheduled a hearing June 4 to consider the relocation of the Mason-Dixon Trail off a road and onto a county park. Some in the community had voiced their opposition to the trail and sought to use the zoning process to prevent the trail's relocation.

KTA supports efforts to relocate trails off roads and took a number of steps to seek a positive outcome in Lower Windsor Township. KTA placed a number of phone calls with state and county officials to better understand the issues involved. KTA then acted through emails and phone calls to get Keystone Trails Association members to the zoning hearing in support of the hiking trail.

Ten KTA members attended the meeting in support of the trail. **Mason-Dixon Trail System President James Hooper** and Keystone Trails Association Executive Director Curt Ashenfelter testified before the Zoning Board in support of relocating the trail off the road and onto county park land.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Zoning Board voted to recommend to the township supervisors that the Mason-Dixon Trail be relocated off of the road and onto the county park.

Grass Roots Effort to Support 1,000 Acre Purchase Bordering the Appalachian Trail

Conservation groups have been working quietly for the past seven years on an agreement to purchase over 1,000 acres adjoining the Appalachian Trail corridor on South Mountain. Known as the White Rocks Tract, this land is in the area from Whiskey Springs Road northward in Cumberland County. The land borders both the east and west sides of the corridor. Despite funding cuts at the state level, DCNR is able to provide 50% of the funds needed to acquire this property. Conservation groups are seeking federal funding for the remainder.



A recent email campaign was initiated by the **Forest Coalition** and supported by the Keystone Trails Association. Letters were sent to **Senator Arlen Specter** to encourage his support of the federal appropriations needed for the land purchase. At least 300 letters were sent to the Senator in support of the cause.

Senator Specter's office called the effort a well-coordinated and active grass roots operation. The Senator has requested funding for the White Rocks project in Cumberland County.

However, obtaining the Senator's support is only the first hurdle in the federal process. Next, the project will be reviewed by the Subcommittee, and subsequently by the full Senate Appropriations Committee. The Senate must then pass the appropriations bill, and that legislation must be reconciled with the US House of Representatives. Finally, the bill goes to the President for his signature or veto.

Please continue to check KTA's website for updates on this topic.

Board and Representatives

(Continued from page 4)

Duncannon, PA

New nominees are **Diane Buscarini** and **Cecil Dobbins**.

Buscarini, of Daleville, Lackawanna County, is a member of the Susquehanna Trailers and the Delaware Valley Chapter of AMC. A retiree, Buscarini is passionate about KTA's Trail Care.

Dobbins, of Akron, OH, is a 20+ year member of KTA and a 32 year member of the Cleveland Hiking Club. For 20 years, he conducted a business escorting hikers to the Swiss Alps.

Representatives-At-Large are elected in odd numbered years by the membership at the Annual Meeting to serve two-year terms, and are not barred from seeking re-election to subsequent terms. The newly elected Representatives take office immediately.

Nominating Committee Members

Nominating committee members are **Ed Lawrence**, Chair, Orangeville; **Joe Clark**, Mt. Union; **Carl Davis**, Shippensburg; **Lorraine Healey**, Laflin, and **Elwood Loudenslager**, Trout Run.

Along Our Trails

Appalachian Trail

Mammal Monitoring

Expanding into Pennsylvania this year is a survey of mammal populations along the Appalachian Trail. This research effort began two years ago in Virginia and Maryland. Researchers will use camera traps to try to determine how mammal populations differ in areas of high and low trail usage.

Work began earlier this year, when researchers contacted trail maintaining clubs to obtain clubs' estimates of areas of high and low trail usage. On-trail monitoring began in June, when researchers placed TrailMaster trail monitors at strategic locations to confirm trail usage.

Last month, the motion-sensitive infra-red cameras to photograph mammals were placed in selected locations. The cameras can be triggered by movement from a creature as small as a mouse and as large as a bear.

This project has been designed as a citizen-scientist project. Club members form survey teams that are trained on the operation of the monitors and cameras. Each team provides approximately ten hours of field work each month, moving monitors and cameras and downloading/uploading data that can be shared among the survey teams and other ATC members. This is another opportunity to enable the people who are committed to and passionate about the AT to get involved in research on the trail.

This summer will serve as a pilot season to collect baseline data. The study will then continue through summers 2010 and 2011.



AT Museum To Be Located in Pine Grove

By Larry Luxenberg

The Appalachian Trail Museum, a decade in the making, has reached an agreement to occupy the Old Mill building at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Pennsylvania. The grand opening for the museum, which will be the first hiking museum in the country, is expected to be on National Trails Day, June 5, 2010.

The 200-year-old grist mill, in the historic district of the park, is within two miles of the current midpoint of the Appalachian Trail and immediately adjacent to Pine Grove General Store and near the Ironmasters Hostel, both popular stops for hikers.

Over the next year the inside of the building will be renovated to conform to the uniform construction code and be adapted for use as a museum. The building is owned by the park.

Restoration work will be done largely by volunteers under the leadership of the **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's North Chapter "Yankee Clippers"** crew. Other members of the trail community have volunteered to help and additional volunteers are welcome. Work is expected to begin this fall and be completed over the winter.

Preparations for the initial exhibits are also underway. Exhibits initially will occupy one floor of the building until additional renovations are completed. The opening exhibits are expected to fea-

ture the Earl Shaffer Shelter and artifacts from other early hikers including Grandma Gatewood and an exhibit by Cesar Becerra.

Also planned is a children's discovery area to introduce children to the AT and outdoor activities. The museum will include an inside and outside story telling center to welcome hikers and give visitors a chance to hear directly about trail experiences. The museum's current exhibit, featuring the artifacts of Myron Avery and Benton MacKaye, is expected to remain in Harpers Ferry.

The museum also will display on computers the more than 12,000 thru-hiker photos taken at ATC headquarters in Harpers Ferry since 1979. The photo project, with support from a grant by the Quimby Foundation and in cooperation with ATC, includes a website where all the pictures will be accessible. The website, expected to be completed this summer, can be reached

through the ATC site, www.appalachiantrail.org. More information and forms granting permission to display individual photos are available by writing to atmuseum@yahoo.com.

At first, the museum will operate on weekends in the spring and fall and five afternoons per week from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This schedule is intended to match current park visitation patterns. Also, the building currently has only a portable space heater. The museum society is looking for volunteers to staff the building and others to do programs such as talks, nature walks and demonstrations of outdoor skills with an emphasis on programming for children. The museum society is continuing to collect artifacts.

This summer the museum society will launch a fund-raising campaign to pay for materials for the building renovation and for exhibits. Contributions can be made to the A.T. Museum Society, which is an independent, tax exempt charitable group.

More information is available at the museum's website, www.atmuseum.org, or contact info@atmuseum.org.

"Miles for Kyle" Thru-hike

Dennis Quinn of Warminster, PA, is thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail to honor his brother Kyle, a Kutztown University freshman who was murdered near campus in September 2007. On a backpacking trip four days before the murder, the brothers had discussed a possible thru-hike of the AT.

Quinn hopes to raise money for the Kyle Quinn Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Centennial Education Foundation at William Tennent High School in Bucks County.

Although this is his first long distance backpack experience, Quinn feels that his motivation to honor his brother will help him successfully reach Katahdin. On June 30, Quinn reached Duncannon. The web site www.trailjournals.com/dennisquinn contains his journals and tracks his progress.



The Old Mill. Photo courtesy of Larry Luxenberg

(Continued on page 7)

Along Our Trails

Darlington Trail

The Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club is actively involved in negotiations to extend the Darlington Trail at two different locations on both sides of the Susquehanna River.

On the west side of the river on Little Mountain, negotiations are ongoing to extend the Darlington Trail from its present eastern terminus at Tower Road in State Game Lands 170, Rye Township, east to Marysville, via properties owned by local developer Yingst Homes, Inc. The Marysville Planning Commission is discussing a trail right of way through Rockville Estates, a new housing development in Marysville.

On the east side of the river where the Darlington Trail historically followed the crest of Blue Mountain, the Lower Paxton Township Greenway Committee (LPTGC) is in negotiations with three landowners to obtain easements for the trail route between the township owned Hocker Park and the Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area. SATC is willing to mark and maintain the original route of the Darlington Trail once easements and/or a right-of-way for the trail are secured.

Horse-Shoe Trail

The Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy is working with a consulting firm, Stell Environmental Enterprises of Elverson, on a feasibility study aimed at moving the H-ST off roads in Berks County. Estimated cost of the study is \$25,000.

The H-STC used funds from its portion of the KTA consolidated grant to purchase weed whackers and GPS equipment.

In Charlestown Township, Chester County, mile 10.3-10.8, the completion of the Deerfield Development brings the good news that the developer is now creating the agreed-upon permanent trail through his property. A line of trees will screen one side of the trail from view of the homes, while the other side of the trail is open to undeveloped land that is part of the township's open space program. Posts will guide hikers through the section.

Mason-Dixon Trail

The M-DTS is considering a possible National Recreational Trail application for the M-DT. The application process is lengthy and requires letters of support from all land owners along the trail.

In the area of Furnace Run (map 5, west to east mile 2.4), the landowner is permitting the M-DTS to route the trail along a power line, eliminating the current awkward route on roadways.

York County Parks has given the M-DTS permission to flag its desired route through Lakeside East, a newly acquired 187-acre parcel. This relocation will affect map 4, east to west miles 14.7-17.6.

Heading north from Newark, DE (map 9, west to east mile 1.25), the M-DT has a new route, which utilizes a new foot bridge over White Clay Creek.

Mid State Trail

Mid State Trail Guide

The 352 page *Guide to Pennsylvania Mid State Trail*, 11th ed., is now available. New features include a table format for trail directions and features, and distance information for both north- and south-bound hikers. Accompanying the book are two full color waterproof maps that cover the route from Waterstreet in Hunting-



don County north to Blackwell in Tioga County; four black and white maps cover the distance from Waterstreet south to Maryland. Maps of the Tioga region north of Blackwell are available on the MSTA web site at www.hike-mst.org. The complete set of maps and guides, individual maps, or the guide only may be ordered from the MSTA web site or from KTA (see page 15).

Everett Region

The Mid State Trail Association is persevering with plans for an 85-foot fiberglass pedestrian bridge over Yellow Creek in Bedford County.. Some unexpected delays with PennDOT have been resolved, Department of Environmental Protection permit hurdles have been crossed, and the Association is currently working with landowners to address their concerns. MSTA needs to raise between \$50,000 and \$80,000 to pay for the structure.

Tioga Region

Pete Fleszar, Tioga Regional Manager, reports that there is less than six miles of unblazed gravel road walking in Charleston Township. See above for information about downloading up-to-date maps. Meanwhile, local volunteers are working to obtain the permissions needed to complete new trail in this township.

Morrison Trail (ANF)

The Allegheny Outing Club has already used funds it received from the first KTA Combined Grant to resurface the first thousand feet of the Morrison Trail in the Allegheny National Forest. Exposed tree roots and numerous pesky sandstone rocks had obstructed this section of the trail.

An inch or less of aggregate gravel was layered on top of a double-woven fiber geotextile base that prevents nearly anything from growing through it. The woven geotextile stabilizes the ground to minimize rutting and prevents intermixing of the aggregate with the soft soils below.

In this co-operative project, the Forest Service provided equipment and operators. AOC members and five members of the Co-operative Inmate Work Program of FCI-McKean County contributed volunteer labor.



Photo courtesy of Bill Massa.

The newly resurfaced trail.

(Continued on page 8)

Along Our Trails

North Country Trail



Your Adventure Starts Nearby.

New Logo and Tagline

The NCTA has adopted a new logo and tagline to brand the NCT. The Association hopes that the new logo and tagline will appeal to users of all ages and communicate the idea that the NCT belongs to everyone.

Wampum Chapter

The Wampum Chapter has installed four bridges for a total cost of \$30 by using available materials, including timbers salvaged from a hundred year old barn.

The North Country Trail Association sets aside ten percent of all member dues to fund competitive Field Grants to local chapters. These grants can be used to construct a facility or trail with volunteer labor. No club match is required. In 2008 the Wampum Chapter was awarded one of these grants.

Clarion Chapter

The Clarion Chapter has achieved one of its major goals by convincing the National Park Service to adopt the Allegheny Valley Trail from Parker to Shippensville as a temporary connector and identify this route on future maps. Using the AVT will replace 40 miles of road walking with 45 miles of scenic rail trail that includes two half-mile tunnels and several high trestles.

The Chapter has also eliminated about five miles of road walking around Clarion. From the AVT, the NCT now traverses Game Land 63, utilizing an old railroad grade and circling the Clarion County Airport. After crossing PA 66, the trail enters private property and then follows Doe Run Road, a low volume dirt road for a half mile. At US 322, the trail continues north on an old B&O rail grade to Kiser Wagner Road.

Additionally, working with DCNR, the Clarion Chapter has eliminated a one-mile road walk along Highland Drive by utilizing DCNR property. With these improvements, the NCT is a continuously completed trail from Eldorado Road in Butler County to the New York State border.

Finally, working with Clarion Fiberboard, the Clarion Chapter has laid out a 2.5 mile loop trail that runs from the plant to the North Country Trail, follows the North Country Trail to Kiser Wagner Road, and then loops back to the plant using the plant entrance road. The loop offers plant workers and the public a local recreational trail; a kiosk will be installed at the trail head parking lot.

PA Highlands Trails

Hiking Cards

The Appalachian Mountain Club and the Wildlands Conservancy have created a series of 22 pocket-sized hiking cards highlighting scenic trails in 13 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. The cards have directions, descriptions, photos, maps, and contact information. Go to www.outdoors.org/hikethehighlands to download the 22 hiking cards. Hard copies of the Hike the Highlands cards are free at pick-up locations listed on the web site. To

order a set of cards by mail (shipping and handling cost \$4.95), contact AMC's Mid-Atlantic Recreation Planner, Jennifer Heisey at 610-868-6906 or jheisey@outdoors.org.

Enter the Scavenger Contest

AMC and the Wildlands Conservancy invite hikers to participate in an outdoor scavenger hunt, exploring the beautiful forests, rivers, and farmlands in the Highlands. The Hike the Highlands Scavenger Hunt, which began in mid-July, will continue until October. Scavenger hunt questions will be posted at www.outdoors.org/hikethehighlands; answers can be found at the 22 Hike the Highlands card locations. Outdoor gear-related prizes will be awarded in a monthly drawing to participants who have answered three or more trivia questions.

Highlands Recreation Map

AMC's PA Highlands Recreation Map, which will include information about where to hike, bike, horseback ride, paddle, fish, swim, and camp in the PA Highlands, will be available at the end of August/early September. Go to the Highlands web site listed above for more information.



Steering Committee Formed

AMC has formed the PA Highlands Trail Network Upper Bucks-Lower Northampton Counties Steering Committee, which consists of community, municipal, land trust, DCNR, and county representatives. The purpose of the steering committee is to collaboratively work across municipal and county borders to aid in planning the extension of the Highlands Trail in Pennsylvania from Riegelsville in Bucks County to Green Lane Park in Montgomery County.

Susquehannock Trail

In 2008, 78 volunteers logged almost 1,500 hours of trail maintenance and associated travel time. For maintenance purposes, the 85-mile loop is divided into 14 sections, each with volunteer maintainers. Since some of these section maintainers live some distance from the trail, the STC has formed an ad-hoc "quick response" team for trail emergencies.

ST volunteers do not cut up large trees that have fallen across the trail. Club policy is to notify the Susquehannock State Forest District so that the downed trees can be salvaged. The value of a timber tree depends in large measure on the length of the butt (bottom) log that can be harvested from it and cutting through the trunk shortens the logs and destroys much of the tree's value.

Tuscarora Trail

The 4th edition of the guide to the southern half of the Tuscarora Trail (Virginia and West Virginia) is now available. It describes completed and planned relocations, new and upgraded shelters and campsites, and includes sections on the flora, fauna, and geology of the trail. Since major changes are expected, updates will be inserted in the book and published on the PATC web site as they occur. The 144-page guide is available from PATC at www.patc.net for \$13.00 (\$10.40 for PATC members).

Summer Trail Crew Report

By Joe Healey

We had a very successful three week Summer Trail Crew, with a total of 1,248 work and travel hours, even though it rained for the first two weeks.

Pinchot Trail

The first week was very exciting, as we had two newspaper interviews and a special video presentation scheduled for PA Outdoor Life on WNEP Channel 16 TV.

PA Outdoor Life personnel dropped in at 7 AM on Thursday and carried a forty pound camera all the way to the work site, a fifty-five minute walk. The program was shown on Sunday, June 28, and can be viewed on the KTA web site.

The crew started out on Wednesday to finish the Watres Trail, which we started to build three years ago in the Lackawanna State Forest. We finally busted through on Friday, and had the trail painted and signs in place on Saturday.

Anne Griffin was the crew cook and did an excellent job with the meals. Everything was great. Anne also donated her salary back to KTA. Thanks so much, Anne.

Attendees were **Jon Bauer, Bob Best, Bob Boettger, Diane Buscarini, Carl Griffin, Wayne Gross, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Elwood Loudenslager, Bob Mercado, Ginny Musser, Rick Stibgen, Roseann Trolio** and **Dave Walp**.

Donut Hole Trail

The second week took us to north central Pennsylvania to Clinton County where the crew tackled two separate projects. The first one was building a wilderness bridge and the second task was general trail work on the Donut Hole Trail.

Rich Scanlon was supposed to head up the bridge project but injured his knee and was unable to participate, although he did show up on the first day to make sure all materials were in place. Thank you Rich for all the help on the trail crew. **Tom Bastian, Woody Loudenslager** and **Joe Clark** completed the bridge and did a great job.



The new Donut Hole bridge.
Photo by Ted Li-genza.

I would like to thank the **Western Clinton County Sportsmen's Club** for allowing the KTA crew to use their clubhouse and to **Alice Tarr** for cooking those delicious meals for all of us. Everyone bent over backwards, making the trail crew feel welcome.

Those in attendance were **Tom Bastian, Jack Bushey, Rick Carlson, Joe Clark, Bob Davey, Joe Healey, Mike Krempasky, Carl Lorence, Ginny Musser, Dave Singer, Rick Steinhauser**, and **Dave Walp**.

Mid State Trail

The third week found the trail crew way down in southwestern Pennsylvania, in Bedford County in the community of Everett. The crew camped in Tenley Park, a borough park. **Deb Dunkle** was the crew leader and she went over and above all expectations with the outstanding job she did for the crew, all while hobbling around with a fractured ankle.

First, she made arrangements with a women's church group to cook wonderful meals. Then she arranged with Everett High School to use their showers, even though school was finished for the summer. It doesn't get much better than that.

The crew usually split up into two or three groups, working on the Mid State Trail from the Maryland boarder up to Snake Valley. We used three gallons of orange paint, so no one will get lost while passing through this area.



Charles Williams (left), a Bedford County landowner, lends **Tom Thwaites** a helping hand assembling trail signs. Williams and his wife SaraJane, who have provided an easement allowing the MST to cross their land, stopped by Tenley Park to visit with the crew.

Saving the best for last, on Saturday evening the crew was sitting around and relaxing, and out of nowhere, a bluegrass band appeared. Wow, what a treat that was—a special end for the 2009 summer crew!! Deb really surprised everybody by providing Saturday night entertainment, which was a trail crew first.

Attendees were **Curt Ashenfelter, Tom Bastian, Bob Best, Paul Brechbiel, Kirk Bucynski, Kevin Busko, Joe Clark, Deb Dunkle, Chris Dunlap, Harry Felton, Pete Fleszar, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Susan Higgins, Ed Lawrence, Harold Schneider, John Stein, Tom Thwaites, Jack Timm** and **Barbara Wiemann**.

Retirement Notice

I have run the Summer Trail Crew for the past eleven years and really enjoyed doing it. However, the time has come for me to part ways. I would like to thank everyone who has involved in making it so successful. Last, but certainly not least, my very special thanks goes out to KTA for letting me run with it. Again, thanks to everyone.

[Ed. Note: With Joe's retirement, KTA is seeking a new director for the Summer Crew. See page 2]

KTA News

“KTA—Keep Trails Alive” Monthly Donor Program

By KTA Board of Directors

2009 has been a great year for KTA on a number of government initiatives. Our dream of making KTA the statewide voice for hikers and promoting an active advocacy presence in Harrisburg is coming true. Legislators in state government and the federal government and state employees with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania Game Commission have all been the focus of our most recent activities on behalf of hiking trails.

Advocacy A Priority

While our recent successes are a good beginning, we are in the infancy of our advocacy efforts and you will see continued development to make the priorities of hikers well known and achievable with our state, federal and local governments.

KTA Finances

Historically, KTA had four revenue streams: merchandise sales, membership dues, event registrations, and appeals. This year those four revenue streams will meet 70% of KTA’s expenses. The remaining 30% will be drawn from existing assets. If we continue to fund 30% of our expenses from our assets, we will exhaust our assets in three years.

Membership fees currently provide less than 10% of our expenses. Revenues for KTA must grow going forward. It is time for a monthly funding stream.

“KTA—Keep Trails Alive” is a monthly donor program that will finance our advocacy work around the state. We need 500 trail people who understand the value of being before government on a daily basis and will commit themselves to giving a monthly donation to provide KTA with a rock solid financial foundation.

Through an automatic bank withdraw, contributing to KTA is easy, not requiring you to write a check or make monthly mailings.

Each KTA member should consider this request carefully. **It goes to the heart of what kind of organization you want KTA to be - a fighter for hiking trails in the halls of government or something less effective.** Please support your organization and give the gift of monthly contributions to “KTA Keep Trails Alive.”

I want to join the Keystoner Club (contribute \$100 or more monthly)

I want to join the Trustee Club (\$50 or more monthly)

I want to join the Advocate Club (\$20 or more monthly)

I want to contribute \$ _____

Donor’s Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Enclosed is a voided check to be used to set up my once a month contribution

I do not want automatic deductions, here is my first check (Make check payable to KTA and send to Keystone Trails Association, 101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101).

KTA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

KTA Seeking Newsletter Editor

By Barb Wiemann

Al and I have been KTA Newsletter Editors since 2000. Editing the newsletter has been both a very enjoyable and educational experience. KTA members and friends provide great material for each issue.

But as we approach the ten year mark as editors, we feel that we may be in a editorial rut and that KTA would be well served with a new newsletter editor who will bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the Newsletter.

Duties include gathering and editing articles, laying out the issue, submitting it to the printer, and checking the proof. The Newsletter editor is an ex-officio member of the KTA Board.

This is a long range announcement to encourage our members to mull over the idea of becoming editor. Our plan is to edit the upcoming November and February issues and work with the new editor (if he or she desires) on the May 2010 issue, so that the new editor is ready to take over with the August 2010 issue.

Contact me at bwiemann@verizon.net for more information.

Contributions

Received April-June, 2009

General

Frank Eppinger
Gary & Dale Grubb
Richard L. Hackman
Violet Helenthal
Claus Petersen
Robert M. Ross
Paul Shaw
Wanda Shirk
David & Jean Wolz

Trail Care

Wilbur Ahn
George & Frances
Alderson
Chris Bartleson
Yvonne Blades
Michael Borovicka
Cindy Bower
Eleanor Chmielowski
Paul Feighner
Laurence Galen
Marshall Hamilton
Cass Janco
Roy Kleinle
Robert Knowles
Ed Lewkowitz
Mark Lilly
Adolphus & Carol
Messenger
Lucinda Miller
Eleanor Neukirch
Robert Nygren
Joseph Romanosky
David Singer
Mark Snyder
Bonnie Thomas
George Van Rossum
Daniel Wolfe
George Wolfe

February Appeal

Gold Club

Cecil Dobbins
Henry Frank

Silver Club

Thomas Chamness
Donald Kirkland
Thyra Sperry

Bronze Club

Robert Best
Harry Fenton
Charlotte Goldsmith
Paul Henry
David & Andrea Schwiller

KTA Trail Mix

LL Bean Contributes \$1,000 to KTA

L.L.Bean has contributed \$1,000 to assist the Keystone Trails Association's Endangered Hiking Trails Program in 2009. 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 three million Pennsylvanians take a hike on some section of the trails that we have built and maintained.

Many of those 3,000 miles of trails are on private property and under threat of being lost to the hiking community. With the long-term goal of securing trail access in perpetuity for all of Pennsylvania's hiking trails, Keystone Trails Association launched the Endangered Hiking Trail Program.

Our volunteers have the desire, attitude, and personality to work with land owners and land managers to secure trail access. Ten volunteers have been thoroughly trained on the various types of trail agreements, provided models of written agreements and taught how to best approach and interact with landowners.

In the past five years, the Horse-Shoe Trail in southeastern Pennsylvania, near the L.L.Bean store in Center Valley, has faced at least five trail closures requiring relocations or rerouting onto roads. The Rachel Carson Trail, near the L.L.Bean store in Pittsburgh, faces possible eviction on one of its segments.

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 the examples listed above and many other examples from all corners of Pennsylvania prove the precarious state of many of our trails, particularly those crossing private property.

Trail clubs use a variety of methods to secure access to trails on



By Curt Ashenfelter

private land. Most agreements allowing foot trails 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, trails 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.

Pennsylvania Trails Hiking Map Project

Work continues on the Pennsylvania Trails Hiking Map Project. Ten volunteers have been recruited to provide Geographic Positioning System data on the following trails:

1. Horse-Shoe Trail
2. Laurel Highlands Trail
3. Mason-Dixon Trail
4. Mid State Trail
5. North Country Trail
6. Pinchot Trail
7. Quehanna Trail
8. Standing Stone Trail
9. Tuscarora Trail
10. Warrior Trail

Volunteers are needed for trails not listed above. If you would like to participate in KTA's GPS effort please email, mail or call me. General procedures for collecting GPS data are available online at www.kta-hike.org.

KTA/DCNR Consolidated Grants Rounds 1, 2 and 3

Round 1

Round 1 KTA/Department of Conservation and Natural Resource Grants are being disbursed. The Standing Stone Trail Club was the first club to get their receipts for trail maintenance equipment and materials to KTA headquarters. They have received 50% of the \$2,532 requested and will receive the remaining \$1,266 in the near future.

The Mid State Trail was the second club to get their receipts for a mapping grade GPS system and software. They have received 50% of the \$5,568 requested and will receive the remaining \$2,784 in the near future.

The Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy was the third club to get their receipts for trail maintenance equipment to KTA headquarters. They have received 50% of the \$1,838 requested and will receive the remaining \$919 in the near future.

The Chester County Trail Club was the fourth club to get their receipts for trail maintenance equipment to KTA headquarters. They have received 50% of the \$515 requests and will receive the remaining \$207 in the near future.

As soon as five other clubs get their receipts in, KTA will be one step closer to disbursing the entire \$64,000.

Round 2 and 3

Round 2 grants are in the final stage of approvals and we would hope to have 50% of the \$67,400 from DCNR in the near future.

Round 3 grants are in the preliminary stage of review and we would hope to have the monies later in the year.

Hikers Get Outdoors During Pennsylvania Hiking Week

By Becky Schreiber

Keystone Trails Association and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) teamed up once again to sponsor Pennsylvania Hiking Week. Pennsylvania Hiking Week was established to encourage Pennsylvania residents to embrace healthy lifestyles while enjoying the state's abundant outdoor opportunities.

In its eighth year, the event was held from Saturday, May 23 through Sunday, May 31, 2009. Over 100 guided hikes were scheduled across the state. Hikers could pick their path and pace under the guidance of an experienced hike leader. The scheduled hikes ranged from easy to strenuous in a variety of settings including state parks and state forests, along the Appalachian Trail, in the Allegheny National Forest, in urban parks and more. Special hikes included geocaching, plant and wildlife identification, a night hike, campfire cooking, and children's hikes.

Many thanks to the KTA member organizations that scheduled hikes and provided hike leaders in support of Pennsylvania Hiking Week.

For Hikers

Hiker Health

Foot Care Advice

Toughen your feet by soaking them for ten minutes every night in a rock salt solution. Dissolve two cups of salt in a tub of boiling hot water and let the solution cool. Reuse the cool solution for two weeks. Your toughened feet won't blister easily on long hikes. (*Susquehannock Trail Club Newsletter, April 2009*)

Tick Removal

Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for 15-20 seconds. The tick will come out on its own and stick to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique is not traumatic for the patient and works in places where it is difficult to reach with tweezers. Unless someone is allergic to soap, this treatment should not be damaging in any way. (*Submitted by Carl Lorence*)

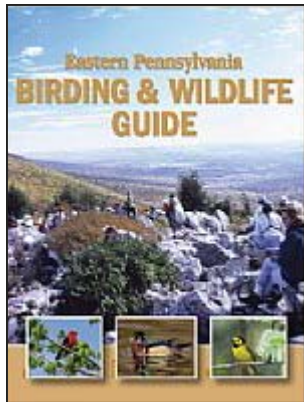
Publications

Cumberland & Perry County Hiking and Biking Trails

Last year the Economic Policy & Recreation Class at Dickinson College researched recreational areas in the two county area near the college and prepared a very informative web site, www.itech.dickinson.edu/recreation/?p=1, which describes the longer and often more demanding trails, as well as parks that host a network of trails that can be combined to create longer hikes. Although intended for fellow students, hikers of all ages will find this a useful site.

Eastern Pennsylvania Birding and Wildlife Guide

This new 130-page spiral bound guide will help readers explore the fauna in the 13 county region that encompasses the Lehigh, Delaware and Schuylkill watersheds. The guide includes a breakdown of sites such as parks, game lands and wildlife sanctuaries in each county. Site descriptions include information about birds and wildlife that may be seen in every season, as well as full-color photographs and illustrations. Parking, restrooms and pertinent historical background data is also included.



The guide is free at participating nature centers and state parks; the list is at http://www.schuylkillriver.org/EastPA_BirdingWildlife_Guide.aspx. It can be ordered (for \$10 shipping/handling) by calling 484-945-0200.

Outside In: Collected Poems and Nature Notes

From Jean Aron, the author of the *The Short Hiker: a guidebook of trails near State College*, comes this slender volume of 21 poems and 7 brief essays which express her appreciation of life and the natural world. Richly illustrated throughout with color photographs, the volume is available for \$15 in paperback or electronic versions from www.aronpublications.com.

WRCF Offers Free Books

The Wild Resources Conservation Fund is offering free (while supplies last) individual copies of two books for the nominal charge of \$2 per book for shipping. The two titles are *Endangered*

and *Threatened Species of Pennsylvania* (80 pages, 1995) and *Species of Special Concern in Pennsylvania* (430 pages, 1985). To obtain these volumes or purchase other WRCF items, go to www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf and choose Donate or Purchase.

Hike for Habitat

The Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club is partnering with Perry County Habitat for Humanity to sponsor the second annual Hike for Habitat Perry County, a one-day 27-mile hike in the Tuscarora State Forest in western Perry County on September 19. The figure 8 route is rocky with rough terrain and a few significant climbs on multi-use state forest trails. Overnight accommodations are available at the Blain Elementary School. The registration fee includes a light, cold breakfast, snacks and drinks at each checkpoint, a light lunch at the mid-point, and a T-shirt. The event is limited to 150 registrants and proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity. See the SATC web site www.satc-hike.org or the Perry County Habitat for Humanity web site www.habitatperrycopa.org for more information.

Mohican Events

The Mohican Outdoor Center, an AMC facility in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, is offering the following getaways:

Mother-Daughter Getaway (Aug. 18-20); **Digital Photography Getaway** (Aug. 25-27); **Map and Compass Weekend** (Sept. 11-13); **Yoga, Just For Us** (Sept. 15-17); **Intro to Digital Photography** (Sept. 25-27); **AT Thru-Hike Planning** (Sept. 25-27); **Quilt Retreat Weekend** (Oct. 3-5); **Irish Song and Dance Getaway** (Oct. 16-18); **Fall Foliage Getaway** (Oct. 20-22); **Mindfulness Retreat** (Oct. 23-25)

Rates start at \$115 and include lodging, some meals, and your program. More details are available at www.outdoors.org/lodging (choose Mohican). To register call 908-362-5670 or email Mohican@mindspring.com.

PATC Cabin Rentals - Milesburn

Milesburn Cabin, one of four Potomac Appalachian Trail Club public rental cabins in Pennsylvania, is located 60 feet from the Appalachian Trail near the head of Milesburn Hollow on the northeast side of South Mountain in the Michaux State Forest. It was built in 1930 as a ranger cabin. Living and cooking facilities are on the first floor, with bunks for ten persons on the second floor. A small seasonal stream and footbridge are in front of the cabin; a spring is not far away. The cabin is ideal for those with small children, because of the short walk-in and the absence of steep drops.

PATC has been renting this cabin under lease from the PA Dept. of Environmental Resources since 1937. For rental information see www.patc.net.



In My Opinion

A Perspective on Wilderness

By Ryan Wilhelm

Edited by Judith Gallagher

I have great respect for the state forest land stretching across northern Pennsylvania, yet I have trouble calling it wilderness. The word “wilderness” is hard to define. I feel the broader term “wild land” describes it better.

Pennsylvania’s small protected Wild and Natural Areas (such as Algerine, Fish Dam, and Hammersley) belong to a classification that is often applied incorrectly to *any* state land. The misnomer implies that a massive wilderness region extends across northcentral Pennsylvania. In reality the majority of *Pennsylvania Wilds* is a populated, industrialized, fragmented area of forest and farmland with only a vague resemblance to its original character. State forest roads and logging trails dissect the region to the extent that it becomes impossible to find areas larger than a few thousand acres free from any sort of mechanized intrusion.

What is wilderness? Having just finished reading two thought-provoking articles addressing this subject, I understand this simple question fuels debate. In “The Attraction of Wilderness,” in the latest bimonthly issue of *Adirondack Explorer*, publisher Tom Woodman highlights our relationship with the wild and our need to respect it. Woodman writes, “We find that wilderness demands

respect in at least two ways. We must respect its power in order to move through it enjoyably and safely. And we must respect its vulnerability, because a wilderness that isn’t protected will stop being wild.”

I relate to both statements. Even a hundred acres without roads or trails becomes intimidating when you’re cold, tired or lost, yet the same small parcel can provide a place for rejuvenation—an oasis away from the frenzy of life. The ever-present pressure to extract monetary value makes wilderness protection a continuous and necessary effort, like the Sierra Club’s involvement in the Hammersley Wild Area.

New York State protects three million acres of wilderness in the Adirondacks and Catskills in the state constitution under Article 14, the “Forever Wild” clause. To achieve that degree of wildness, all state land in Potter County would have to be rid of gas wells, logging, hundreds of miles of state forest roads, and all ATV and snowmobile trails. In addition, any public access by motorized vehicles would have to be prohibited. Only if that were done would a true Pennsylvania wilderness eventually result.

In the end, even if we disagree on exactly what the word “wilderness” means, we can all agree that wilderness is a scarce and precious resource. [*Previously published in the Susquehanna Trail Club Newsletter, April, 2009*]

Invasive Weed Poised To Strike PA From The South

An introduced species of wavyleaf basketgrass (WLBG) is threatening to cross the Mason-Dixon line into Pennsylvania soon—and may already be here. The noxious weed was found in Maryland in 1996, and has since been documented in several locations in Maryland and Virginia. While no occurrences have been documented in the state, there is a good possibility it has already encroached into Pennsylvania.

The species, *Oplismenus hirtellus* subsp. *undulatifolius*, is native to southern Europe and southeastern Asia. It is a low-lying, trailing perennial grass, branching and rooting at nodes along creeping stems called stolons. It also reproduces from seeds, which are sticky and may adhere to clothing, animals, or other surfaces for dispersal.

The state of Maryland has developed a task force for early-detection and rapid response with the hopes of completely eradicating or significantly slowing the spread of WLBG. In Pennsylvania, the Appalachian Trail near the Maryland border will be surveyed this summer for the species. For more information about WLBG, visit www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/WLBG/index.asp.



Take time to play – it is the source of perpetual youth
SATC Bushwack Bulletin, March-May 2009

2009-2010 Hunting Seasons

- Coyotes** -- No closed season
- Starlings and English sparrows** -- No closed season, except during the antlered and antlerless deer seasons and until noon daily during gobbler season
- Opossums, Skunks, & Weasels** -- No closed season, except Sundays and prior to noon during gobbler season
- Woodchucks** -- No closed season, except: Sundays; during the antlered and antlerless deer seasons; and until noon daily during gobbler season
- Crows** -- July 3-April 4, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only
- Deer (Archery)** -- Sept. 19-Nov. 14; Nov. 16-28; Dec. 14-23; Dec. 26-Jan. 9
- Pheasants** -- Oct. 10-17; Oct. 24-Nov. 28; Dec. 14-23; Dec. 26-Feb. 6
- Squirrels** -- Oct. 10-Nov. 28, Dec. 14-23; Dec. 26-Feb. 6
- Ruffed Grouse** -- Oct. 17-Nov. 28; Dec. 14-23; Dec. 26-Jan. 23
- Deer** -- Oct. 17-24; Nov. 30-Dec. 12; Dec. 14-Dec. 23; Dec. 26-Jan. 23
- Raccoons, Foxes, & Bobcats** -- Oct. 24-Feb. 20
- Rabbits** -- Oct. 24-Nov. 28; Dec. 14-23; Dec. 26-Feb. 6
- Quail** -- Oct. 24-Nov. 28
- Turkeys** -- Oct. 31-Nov. 21
- Elk** -- Nov. 2-7
- Bear** -- Nov. 18-19, 23-25; Nov. 30-Dec. 5
- Hares** -- Dec. 26-Jan. 1
- Gobbler** -- Apr. 24; May 1-31

Note: Not all dates are valid in all wildlife management units or for all classes of hunters. Consult the PGC web site for details.

Remember: Hunters wear blaze orange, and you should too.
Orange is required from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15 on SGL

My Favorite Trail

By Ralph Seeley

This hike is not long, being only about four miles in length, but it is interesting and moderately strenuous. It takes place in the Quehanna Wild Area, on the orange-blazed Quehanna Trail. It makes use of a relocation done by the KTA trail crew in November 2008. It would help to have a Quehanna Trail map, obtainable free from the Forestry District Office at 814-765-0821.

From the start point at the Caledonia Pike, walk north a few hundred yards on a muddy road to where the road suddenly bears right down a hill. This steep, rocky, narrow road was the supply road for the logging splash dam at the bottom. As you go down, think about braking hard on a team and wagon filled with people food and feed for the draft animals at the bottom; then later there would be the long hard pull back up the hill, with now an empty wagon. Local people do drive down this road, and some have been stranded in trying to get back up.

The splash dam at the bottom, called the Corporation Dam, was built in 1870 and was one of the two largest of such dams within a 60 mile range. It took about three years for the bulk of the logging to be done in the area, and the dam then went out of use. The dam was a large all-wood structure. It was built by a combination of Lock Haven and Williamsport lumbermen, joining their money and warrant holdings, thus accounting for the name. At the bottom walk over to the right and look across to the opposite side. The dam was built at the junction of three streams: Mosquito Creek, Gifford Run, and Twelvemile Run. Now turn and look upstream. You will note the relatively high silt banks that the streams have cut through. Apparently the water level was that high in floods, and dumped its silt behind the dam when that still existed.

Trout fishing in these parts has been severely impacted by acid rain. Due to sporadic liming efforts on Gifford Run and Mosquito Creek, a few brook trout now exist. The application of limestone chips to all the forest roads must have also had an effect in bringing back some stream life.

Walk upstream a short distance on a jeep track to a wet crossing of Gifford Run. If the stream is too high, search on up Gifford another hundred yards to a hunter-built swinging bridge. Across Gifford, turn right on the orange-blazed Quehanna Trail and walk a short distance to the 72 foot bridge over Mosquito Creek. This bridge was carried by a PA Army National Guard helicopter in 2007 to this site, and placed with considerable difficulty as it waded around in the helicopter prop wash, while four large For-

estry employees hung onto ropes attached to each corner of the bridge, trying to guide it. This is a fiberglass bridge, and replaces a swinging bridge that was hunter-built, and of the type that I call "cable-supported, flimsy-decked." It probably had the thinnest deck I have ever seen, with the boards wired at their ends onto the supporting cable underneath. It was provided with a slack cable on one side for hanging onto. People sometimes crawled across. The new fiberglass bridge was assembled by volunteers from the Quehanna Area Trails Club. The cost was \$37,000 for the bridge and \$5000 for preparation of the abutments.

After checking out the new bridge, turn around and head west past a hunting camp and up the hill between Gifford Run and Mosquito Creek. The side-hill construction here could be better, but it is only a couple hundred feet of elevation change. The trail levels out and turns right onto new location. The previous location climbed again through rocks.

The trail now runs along on the level, on the outer edge of a sloping bench, partway down from the top of the hill up to the left. The footing starts out rather rocky but becomes better. You will pass several sets of large rocks, evidently slid down long ago from the top of the hill above. The forest here is mature, with patches of rhododendron, and otherwise clear of undergrowth. Mosquito Creek at the bottom of the hill can be heard but generally not seen. When the leaves are off you can look at the hillside opposite, where the local hunters say they used to see deer moseying along in the old days. There is evidence that the top of one of the large boulders was a permanent deer stand.

Finally the trail starts trending upward, first gradually, then steeply. In a climb of a little over a hundred feet, you emerge at a high-voltage power line. Now you are at the original trail location. [The previous location, which you have now bypassed, went through heavy laurel hard to maintain.] Take the time to cross under the power line and follow the trail for a few yards north, up onto a boulder that has a memorial stone on top. This is Wildcat Rock. In about 1946 a hunter "killed three wildcats from this rock," as the monument states. This would have been a female bobcat and two kits, I think. The hunter was very proud of this achievement.

At this point you could continue on the Quehanna Trail, which is flat and easy in this part, but the end of the hike as I conceive it is to head west under the power line for a 10 minute walk out to Lost Run Road, where you have left your shuttle car.

How to get there: Get onto the Quehanna Highway, either from the direction of Karthaus to the southwest, or from the direction of Medix Run on PA 555 to the northwest. Drive to Reactor Road, which is about a mile northwest of the intersection of the Quehanna Highway with Wykoff Run Road. Drive in on Reactor Road for about a mile, and then bear off to the right onto Lost Run Road. Drive about 3.5 miles to the second high-voltage power line. This is the access to Wildcat Rock. Park a car here.

Continue driving south on Lost Run Road about 2.5 miles to the intersection with the Caledonia Pike. Here turn left and drive east for a measured half mile until you see on your left the identification sign for two hunting camps. There may also be a sign saying "Corporation Dam." Park here at the intersection of this forest track and the Caledonia Pike.



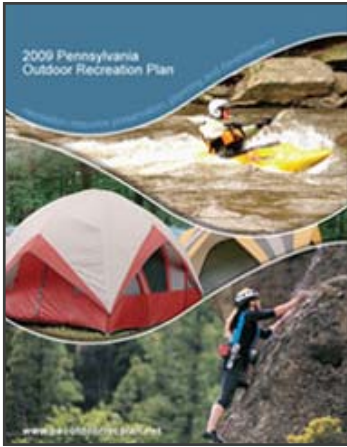
The 72 foot Corporation Dam Bridge.
Photo courtesy of Ralph Seeley.

DCNR News

PA Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has posted the draft of the PA Outdoor Recreation Plan at www.paoutdoorrecplan.com. The 2009 Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Plan will serve as a status report and as an overall guideline for recreation resource preservation, planning and development through the year 2013.

DCNR has identified four major themes for its draft recommendations in the plan:



- Align planning efforts to provide more integrated outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Connect outdoor recreation and conservation to Pennsylvania's economy and the health and quality of life of its residents;
- Reconnect people to the natural environment and develop an environmental stewardship ethic in all segments of the population; and
- Develop a statewide trail network including addressing priority trail gaps.

PA State Parks Are National Gold Medal Award Finalist

Pennsylvania's state park system is one of four finalists for the 2009 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, given by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association. The winner will be announced at the NRPA annual meeting in Utah in October. The other finalists are the state park systems in Georgia, Michigan and North Carolina.

The award honors excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development and professional development. Pennsylvania has 117 state parks and three conservation areas. The system's nearly 300,000 acres and 1,800 full- and part-time employees play host to more than 35 million visitors each year.

For more information about the Gold Medal program, go to www.nrpa.org/awards.

DCNR Combating Invasive Species

Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and DCNR have extended for 18 months a collaborative effort to stop the spread of invasive plant species in state parks. Plants such as Japanese stiltgrass, mile-a-minute weed and multiflora rose have been taking over the ecosystems of many state parks in recent years.

Invasive species are making parks less biologically diverse, according to Art Gover, a research support associate in the university's Department of Horticulture. Losing plant diversity means losing the species-specific insects that eat those plants and, in turn, losing the birds that eat the insects.

Even though the forest looks healthy, a seemingly innocent shift in the plant population can have impacts on the food chain. To the

untrained eye, Japanese stiltgrass creates a nice carpet of green in a forest understory, but that carpet of green also inhibits forest regeneration.

The state parks project follows the model established by the Vegetation Management Project's 24-year affiliation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, addressing invasive plants and problem vegetation along highways. Penn State provides training, operational demonstrations and research to the transportation department to deal with invasive plant species.

The joint project between Penn State and DCNR is aimed at assessing invasive species conditions and developing park-specific management plans. Under the contract, researchers select parks from different regions across the state for evaluation, target high-priority areas, and train park staff in the most effective management techniques.

WRCP's Keystone WildNotes! Goes Digital

In order to better serve its readers with more in-depth stories and to take advantage of the interactive capabilities of the internet, the Wild Resource Conservation Program will no longer be printing *Keystone WILD!Notes*. Pennsylvania's only non-game and wild plant news magazine will now be available online. Current subscribers—along with those interesting in signing up for the quarterly newsletter for the first time—can enter an email address at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf/subscribe.html> to subscribe.



PCN Tours State Parks

DCNR and the Pennsylvania Cable Network have joined forces for a third summer of programs showcasing the unique features of state parks. This year the summer series is focusing on green initiatives as well as the beauty and recreational versatility of the state's parks. Upcoming programs will feature Codorus, Parker Dam, Little Buffalo, Keystone, Worlds End and Frances Slocum. Programs air on Sundays at 7:30 PM.

Gov. Rendell Nominates John Quigley For DCNR Secretary

John Quigley is Gov. Rendell's choice for DCNR Secretary. He would replace Michael DeBerardinis, who resigned in April. Quigley has worked for DCNR for four years, most recently as the chief of staff and prior to that as director of Legislation and Strategic Initiatives and of Operations. Prior to joining DCNR, Quigley served as government relations manager with PennFuture, a statewide public interest organization.



Plants and Animals

Seasonal Pool Registry

The Pennsylvania Seasonal Pools Registry is an effort by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program to document locations of, and collect preliminary biological data on, seasonal pool habitats throughout Pennsylvania. The Natural Heritage Program hopes to facilitate this project with the help of volunteers and landowners. Information collected will be used to create a database of seasonal pools in Pennsylvania.

The Seasonal Pools website www.waterlandlife.org/54 provides information on how to register and study seasonal pools, general information about seasonal pool ecology, pictures and field guides for species that use seasonal pools, outreach ideas, information for educators, and a list of additional resources.

Watershed Forestry Resource Guide Available

A *Watershed Forestry Resource Guide* with information and resources for managing urban forests for watershed health has been issued online by the Center for Watershed Protection with funding from the USDA Forest Service—Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, and The Home Depot Foundation. The web site covers four areas: forest planning and assessment; reducing storm water runoff; forest friendly development; and planting and maintaining trees. There are also links to other resources. See the web site www.forestsforwatersheds.org.

State's First Private Wild Plant Sanctuary

Pennsylvania has its first private wild plant sanctuary, the Panther Creek Private Wild Plant Sanctuary, a 7.6 acre property in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties. The landowners, Michael and Barbara Yavorosky, will preserve the site in perpetuity, and welcome the public to visit the sanctuary.

The Private Wild Plant Sanctuary Program was established through the Wild Resource Conservation Act of 1982 to establish a voluntary statewide network of native plant sanctuaries on private lands. Landowners agree to protect the area and educate others about the importance of native and wild plants and habitats. In return, they receive assistance with a management plan if needed, and have access to technical assistance and ecological check ups.

For more information about the Private Wild Plant Sanctuary Program, contact DCNR's Bureau of Forestry at 717-787-3444 or send email to: RA-PAPlandSanctuary@state.pa.us.

Black Fly Control

Black flies are a real nuisance to outdoor enthusiasts. They swarm around you, bite, and suck your blood. On the good side, the flies live only a short time and don't bite at night.

In the past, to control the flies, agencies poured diesel oil and gasoline into rivers and sprayed chemical insecticides like methoxychlor and Dibrom. But it was pollution and sewage that really limited fly reproduction in the 1970s, since the fly eggs need pristine water to hatch. The return of cleaner rivers has resulted in an explosion of black flies.



The new weapon to combat black flies is Bti, bacillus thuringiensis israelensis, a natural soil bacteria and "biopesticide". Microscopic crystals of Bti are broadcast onto moving water where female black flies lay their eggs. The larvae ingest the crystals, the crystal dissolves, becomes toxic, and kills the insects.

Bti is not toxic to other aquatic life, making it one of the safest insect control agents known. In Pennsylvania, Bti application is an annual six million dollar business.

Great Sunflower Project



The Great Sunflower Project was designed to help determine the health of bee populations by watching and recording the presence of bees at sunflowers in homes, businesses and schools. The project provides free "Lemon Queen" sunflower seeds and complete instructions on the survey process and bee identification. Interested parties can learn more or sign up online at www.greatsunflower.org.

Feral Swine

The Game Commission has declared that feral swine are an injurious, non-native, invasive species of concern in Pennsylvania and pose a significant, imminent and unacceptable threat to the state's natural resources, including wildlife and its habitats; the agricultural industry, including crop and livestock production; the forest products industry; and human health and safety.

It is suspected that the swine were introduced into the wilds of the Commonwealth through a variety of means, including both intentional and unintentional releases.

The Game Commission has determined that the eradication of feral swine from Pennsylvania is necessary to prevent further harm to public and private property, threats to native wildlife and disease risks for wildlife and the state's pork industry. The agency is not seeking to establish a hunting season, but is committed to rid Pennsylvania of this invasive species.

The Game Commission has launched a "Feral Swine" section on its website www.pgc.state.pa.us.



Trees for PA Parks

Take a minute to plant a virtual tree, and Pennsylvania could end up a big winner again this year with real trees in the Odwalla Plant A Tree program. Eleven state park systems are competing for \$100,000 in tree planting money. The more votes, the more money a state park system will get for planting trees. Last year, Pennsylvania blew away the competition with more than 19,000 votes. Cast your vote for Pennsylvania at www.parkvisitor.com/odwalla and tell a friend!

Ecology

DCNR Collecting Seismic Data By Thumping Roads Looking For Sites Where Carbon Dioxide Could be Stored Underground

As part of the requirements of a 2008 state law that directed the state to investigate the viability of storing carbon dioxide underground, DCNR began collecting seismic data last month. Seismic data are generated by using vibrations to capture a two-dimensional picture of the rock layers beneath the surface. Interpretation of the data will allow scientists to estimate the type of material, its structure and its depth below the surface.

To collect this data, large trucks with “thumper” devices travel slowly along public roadways. They thump the ground, and a cable with sensing devices connected to it records the energy reflected back to the surface by the underlying geologic features.

Detailed site evaluations involving several years of advanced scientific study will need to be performed at specific locations to make a final determination about whether any site is suitable. Suitable formations have alternating layers of rocks of different types, some of which form barriers that prevent the stored carbon dioxide from moving upward.

A carbon sequestration network would involve first capturing carbon dioxide from coal-fired electricity generating plants and other industrial sources. It would then be compressed into a liquid and cooled, and transported through pipelines to a sequestration site, where it would be injected into the rock formations or other suitable geologic features deep beneath the surface.

DCNR's Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey will oversee the project, with the field work performed by ARM Geophysics of Hershey. The data collection will probably continue through September.

For more information, see the DCNR web site www.dcnr.state.pa.us and choose Carbon Sequestration under Hot Topics.

Global Warming

The number of Pennsylvanians who believe that global warming is a problem dropped five percent in the last year, according to the 2009 Mansfield University State Survey.

“This year, the number of firm believers in global warming declined to 65 percent,” according to Dr. Timothy Madigan, associate professor of sociology and co-director of the annual survey of adult Pennsylvanians. “Last year it was over 70 percent and had been rising steadily since 1999 when we first asked the question. At the same time, the number of people who do not believe in global warming rose to 28 percent. This matches the height of disbelief first recorded by our annual survey on this topic a decade ago.”

For complete survey results, see <http://news.mansfield.edu/archives/?i=13380>.

Mass Transit

In 1946, when the population of this country was half what it is now, Americans took 23.4 billion rides on public transportation. That amounted to about 156 rides per person. Last year, ridership hit 11 billion (about 37 uses per person), the highest total since 1956, when the Interstate Highway System was authorized.

FAW Wilderness Videos

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, an advocate for more wilderness areas in the Allegheny National Forest, has a new sixteen minute film that highlights the areas that it hopes to protect as wilderness areas.

In order to make the video available to the widest possible audience, the film has been divided into two parts and posted to YouTube. The addresses are www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NaxaVBlEtEo and www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5_qkD6O7WY.

FAW also has other short wilderness-related videos on its YouTube page at www.youtube.com/FAWweb



New Report Spotlights Potential Wildlife, Wind Energy Conflict Areas

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania has released two new reports looking at potential conflicts between wildlife, land use and commercial wind energy farms.

Modeling Potential Wildlife-Wind Energy Conflict Areas, by Brian W. Okey and Michael J. Kuzernchak from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, highlights tools communities can use to more comprehensively address land use decisions involving wind farms.

Using PA Natural Heritage Program Data for Wind Energy Planning: A Manual for Townships by the same authors used Natural Heritage Program information to identify 235 townships in 39 counties which contain areas of outstanding importance to the state's wildlife.

The Center is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agency which serves as a resource for rural policy within the Commonwealth.

Audubon PA Seeks Input On Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch

Audubon Pennsylvania is seeking feedback about the use and development of the Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch on the Cumberland-Perry county border north of Carlisle.

The survey is online at <http://pa.audubon.org/kittatinny/birdinfo/WaggonersGap.html>. Surveys are also available at the Cumberland County Planning Commission, 18 N. Hanover Street, Carlisle; the Cumberland Valley Tourist Bureau, 401 E. Louthier Street; and Cumberland County Courthouse.

Since the 1950s, volunteers have handled migration counts and submitted numbers to Audubon and the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Among the plans for the area is a trail for self-guided walks with various stops to explain what can be observed at each station, an outdoor classroom, a picnic glen, and handicapped accessible viewing areas.

The relocation of the Tuscarora Trail in Perry County will cross PA 74 at the Hawk Watch Station and negotiations with Audubon are underway to permit the trail to cross this Audubon property.



Around the Clubs

The **Delaware Valley Chapter of AMC** honored **David Stein** as its “top leader” for organizing 65 days of activities in 2008.

The **Butler Outdoor Club**’s annual Outdoor Extravaganza was a rousing success, attracting 250 people during Memorial Day weekend.

The **Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy** reports that its corps of maintainers is increasing. In 2008 154 volunteers “turned in” over 2800 hours of work and travel time. This was an increase of more than 30 people over 2007 and almost double the 83 maintainers in 2006. Almost 600 more hours were reported in 2008 than in 2007, and a thousand more hours than in 2006.

The **Mason-Dixon Trail System** notes the deaths of three distinguished members: **Kay Way**, president from 1986-1991; **Marie Pittinger**, secretary and newsletter editor 1985-1992; and her husband **John Pittinger**, treasurer 1985-1992, who died just weeks after his wife. The Pittingers were also active with the **Wilmington Trail Club**, where they served on the club’s Council as Environmental Co-Chairs and John was treasurer and program chair in the 1960s.

The **Mid State Trail Association** held its 40th anniversary party for the Mid State Trail on July 12 at the Elk Creek Café + Aleworks in Millheim, PA. To mark the occasion, Café owner **Tim Bowser** released his latest seasonal beer, Mid State Trail Ale, for attendees to enjoy. For hikers who would like to savor this addition to the ranks of beers named after hiking trails, the ale is on tap at the Café.

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the **Mountain Club of Maryland** will follow two club traditions – hiking from Crampton Gap to Weverton to recreate the club’s first activity and eating at a celebratory anniversary dinner. In 1934, 65 people became charter members, paying \$1 in dues for the first six months. Today the club has 600 members who pay \$20 per year. MCM still maintains 34 miles of the Appalachian Trail that it adopted in 1934.

The MCM Hike Across Maryland attracted 102 hikers, of whom 90 finished the 40 mile one day hike on the Appalachian Trail from the Pennsylvania border to Harpers Ferry in West Virginia. All 16 MCM members who started the event finished.

The **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club**’s Student Trail Stewards from Northwood High School have designed a Leave No Trace bandana to be used as a non-disposable educational tool when teaching

community members. The bandana is available thru the PATC web store for five dollars, and the funds will be used to support the Student Trail Steward



program.

The Stewards have led two Leave No trace family hikes, instructing participants in hiker etiquette, respecting wildlife, trash decomposition, durable surfaces, and planning and preparing for a hike. A Maryland State Senator who learned of the Stewards work joined one of the hikes, and, based on the students’ input, agreed to introduce legislation aimed at reducing plastic bag usage. Students have met with a legislative aide to present their solutions to reducing this impact on nature.

PATC’s primary mission is trail maintenance. To supplement the work of individual trail overseers, PATC has twelve organized volunteer trail crews, including the newest group, the District of Columbia based Thursday Morning Group, which focuses on projects on the Potomac Heritage Trail.

Ken Lacey, a PATC Appalachian Trail overseer for 40 years, has retired at age 90. Lacey maintained the AT from Rattlesnake Run Rd. to north of Chimney Rocks.

The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club** has adopted Hike Leader Guidelines and a new Hiking Code. The Guidelines and Code are on the SATC web site at www.satc-hike.org/hikeldr.html.



Pete Fleszar is the 2009 recipient of the SATC Giant Boot Award, which recognizes the service of an outstanding volunteer. The unusual award is a large wooden boot. In addition to his work for SATC as a hike leader, trail maintainer, club web master, and club T-shirt designer, Fleszar is Tioga Regional Manager for the Mid State Trail and a KTA Trail Care leader.

The **Wilmington Trail Club** held 343 hiking events in 2008. 372 members participated, with an average attendance of 14 members per event. That amounted to more than 36,600 member miles hiked (nonmembers added another 4,200 miles).

71 people finished the 35-mile Brandywine Trail End-to-End Hike, including 23 WTC members.

New Organizational Member North Country Trail Allegheny National Forest Chapter

8320 Route 337
Tidioute, PA 16351

www.northcountrytrail.org/anf/index.htm
President: Keith W. Klos, nct001@verizon.net

To All KTA Organizational Members

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

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

Maintainers' Corner

Weed Wrench—The Woody Plant Puller

Weed Wrench is a manually-operated, steel tool designed to remove woody plants by uprooting them. The jaws have an 18 to:1 gripping leverage with a 6 to 1 leverage for pulling. Weed Wrench can permanently remove unwanted shrubs and sapling trees with minimal soil disturbance.



The Weed Wrench has been tested and found effective with invasives such as multiflora rose, Russian olive, privet, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and Norway maple.

The Weed Wrench is available in four sizes. The 24 inch tall Mini can be operated while kneeling or sitting. The larger models, ranging from 43 to 60 inches, have jaw capacities up to two and a half inches. All models are bright orange, making them easy to spot in the field.

The Weed Wrench is manufactured in the US by the Weed Wrench Company, PO Box 512, Grants Pass, OR 97528, www.weedwrench.com, 877-484-4177.

Chain Saw and First Aid Certification

The North Country Trail Association, with funding from KTA, DCNR, NPS, and assistance from Moraine State Park, is offering wilderness first aid and chainsaw certification training at Moraine State Park. Those who successfully complete the chainsaw certification course will be provided with a complete set of personal protective equipment.

Wilderness first aid instruction will be provided by SOLO and chainsaw certification training will be provided by Allegheny National Forest instructors. Wilderness first aid is not specifically required for chainsaw certification, although First Aid/CPR Certification is required prior to the chainsaw certification course.

Through this course, sawyers will be certified to use their skills on all federal and state lands.

Dates are August 15-16 for Wilderness First Aid and August 29-30 for chainsaw certification. Contact Andrew Bashaw, NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator OH/PA, PO Box 5, Shawnee, OH 43782, 740-394-2008.

Mid Atlantic Trail Crew

The ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew will be repairing the Katellen Side Trail September 3-7. Volunteers may join the crew. Contact Dan Schwartz at das18014@gmail.com.

The Civilian Conservation Corps improved over 100,000 miles of trail and constructed 28,087 miles of new trail between 1933 and 1942. More than three million young men were employed by the CCC, at a cost of \$1,000 per worker per year (about \$17,000 in today's dollars). The CCC was an economic stimulus, jobs, conservation, and infrastructure improvement program all in one.

KTA Hikers' Market

KTA Member? YES NO JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price:

Mem-ber	Non-Member	Total
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Appalachian Trail Guidebook & Maps			
Pennsylvania AT Guide	\$8.00	\$10.00	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 1-6: Delaware Water Gap to Swatara Gap	\$10.80	\$12.00	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 7-8: Swatara Gap to Susquehanna River	\$5.40	\$6.00	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 9-11: Susquehanna River to PA Route 94	\$5.79	\$6.45	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 12-13: PA Route 94 to US Route 30	\$5.79	\$6.45	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 14: US Route 30 to the Maryland line	\$5.79	\$6.45	_____
Complete AT set of maps and guidebook	\$38.00	\$44.00	_____
Other Publications			
NEW! Pennsylvania Hiking Trails	\$11.50	\$16.95	_____
NEW! Mid State Trail Guide	\$34.20	\$38.00	_____
SALE! Standing Stone Trail Guide	\$7.00	\$10.00	_____
Guide to the Horse-Shoe Trail	\$11.00	\$12.75	_____
Hiker's Guide to the Bucktail Path	\$4.95	\$5.50	_____
Hikers Guide to the Warrior Trail	\$13.00	\$16.00	_____
Loyalsock Trail Guide	\$6.30	\$7.00	_____
Mason-Dixon Trail Maps	\$10.80	\$12.00	_____
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the North Half in MD & PA (3 rd Edition)	\$8.00	\$10.00	_____
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South Half in WV & VA (3 rd Edition)	\$8.00	\$10.00	_____
Tuscarora Trail Map J (AT Junction in PA to PA Route 641)	\$4.50	\$9.00	_____
Tuscarora Trail Map K (PA Route 641 to Hancock, MD)	\$4.50	\$9.00	_____
Walks, Hikes & Overnights in Raccoon Creek State Park	\$11.50	\$13.50	_____
Patches			
KTA Logo Patch	\$1.58	\$1.75	_____
Old Logger's Path Patch	\$2.70	\$3.00	_____
Shipping: (\$3.50/first item, \$1.00/each additional item)			
Subtotal: _____			
Pennsylvania residents add 6% tax: _____			
TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____			
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Make check or money order payable to Keystone Trails Association and mail to: 101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 717.238.7017. (Prices are subject to change)			
Order online at www.kta-hike.org/shop			

Smithsonian Exhibit Honors Earl Shaffer and His Dream

By Maurice J. Forrester

Pennsylvania's own Earl Shaffer, one of the premier Appalachian Trail icons, is being honored this summer by an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. Titled "Earl Shaffer and the Appalachian Trail," the exhibit will be on view until October 30 in the Albert H. Small Documents Gallery. The focus of the exhibition will be Earl's three-times completed through hike of the entire Appalachian Trail -- the fulfillment of a youthful dream.

A variety of items from Earl's first hike in 1948 are featured in the exhibit. These include the battered black notebook that served as his trail diary, in which he made almost daily entries of the landmark hike. Also on display will be photographs he took along the trail, the maps he used, and the boots he wore.

When he returned to York County following more than four years of military service, Earl was disenchanted with the war and the army. He determined to walk the army out of his system by



Earl on Katahdin in 1998. Photo by Earl's nephew Bobbie. Courtesy of John Shaffer

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undertaking a feat never before accomplished and thought by many to be impossible. Upon completing his four-month hike he found many still skeptical. Over time, however, nearly everyone -- even if reluctantly -- came to believe that it happened.

Nonetheless, for many years Earl felt that his achievement did not receive the recognition that it deserved. One can readily imagine the pleasure he would feel if he knew that his efforts were now being validated by the nation's foremost historical museum.

Admission to the Smithsonian exhibit is free. It is open from 10 AM to 5:30 PM daily. Additional information on the Web can be accessed at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/documentsgallery/exhibitions.html>

Information is also available at the web site of the Earl Shaffer Foundation, www.earlshaffer.com. The Foundation was formed to facilitate the publication of Earl's literary works and to pass along to future generations the "wilderness" values he represented.

KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliations (if any): _____

_____ Receive newsletter in full color via email by 1st of issue month instead of by postal mail and save KTA paper and mailing costs

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

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

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	\$