



January 2018

# THE KEYSTONE HIKER

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths since 1956

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

## MEMBER CORNER

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### New Members 2017

Did you know that KTA is a membership-based organization?

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

KTA extends a warm welcome to our 121 newest members, who joined KTA between in 2017! Thank you to the following individuals and families for joining Pennsylvania's only statewide hiker advocacy organization:

Ryan Adams  
Ellen Bartman  
Matthew Bender  
Susan Bickford-Martin  
Kathleen Biddle  
James Bixby  
James Bohannon  
Thomas & Miriam Boyd  
Neil Brennen  
Jeannie Broskey  
Andrea Burkholder  
Ronald Burns  
Kelly Cameron  
Ellen Chenoweth  
Karyl Claroni  
Jaclyn Clausen  
Michael College  
Karin Constant  
Angela Cosenza  
Jill Craig  
Cynthia Cresswell  
Roger David  
Richard Dennis  
Nicole Desauliniers  
Gust Diamantoni  
R Kay Dietz  
Kara Eckert  
Michael Emmerth  
Inge English  
Mark Farrell

Dave Fauerbach  
Jennifer Fowler  
Sharyn & Lawrence Fradin  
Charles & Danielle Frost  
Paul Fuener  
Charmienne Ganao  
Mark Girvin  
Michael Glass  
Zachary Groff  
Alfred Hammer  
Michael Harmstead  
John Healy  
Katy Heinzl  
Claire Hennessey  
Michael Hinkle  
Jeffrey Howe  
Randy Hulshizer  
Jeffrey Kilcoin  
Kerry King-Rahn  
Michael Kul  
Jeremy Lebel  
Christopher Lessard  
Katherine Levine  
Keith Long  
Teresa Longacre  
John Makuch  
Tracy Maneval  
Anthony Mannino  
Richard Mannix  
Faye Maring

Gregory Mark & Louise Heckman  
Virginia & John Matthews  
Kevin Mccoy  
Dennis & Joleen Miller  
Ruth Miller  
Randy Moore  
Daniel Moyer  
Matthew Munyan  
Joshua Murdock  
Gary Neff  
Mason Noden  
Vinicios Occhiena  
Richard Odenweller  
Cynthia Paetow  
Sarah & Mike Patterson  
Frank Pecjak  
Brent Peterman  
Robert Pingar  
Caroline Price  
Karan Pruszynski  
Joseph Radzwill  
Steve Reinsfelder  
David Reitz  
Michaela Rennecke  
Johanna Ridder  
Mary Jo Rodgers  
Casey Roeder  
Nancy Rosman  
Mark Ryan

Kelly Ryan  
Louis Sabo  
Julie Santee  
Jeffrey Schneider  
James Seagriff  
Margaret Servaas  
Barbara Sheridan  
Maggie Shuttlesworth  
Neal Smith  
Kristin Smith  
Dan Stambaugh

Beverly & John Stehman  
Donna Stolz  
Cathy Striegel  
Sarah Stulga  
Ann Sylvester  
Debra Takach  
Michael Twigg  
Richard Walker  
Susan Weida  
George Weikel  
Karen Wenger

Ilyssa & Gregory Werstler  
Robert Whitesell  
Staci Wickard  
Christopher Wilson  
Sarah Wilson  
Mary Wotring  
Donna Yaros  
Benjamin Ziegler  
Jay Zimmerman  
D Zodda  
Margaret Zuehlke

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Dear Members,

This note is to inform you that our father, Robert H. Knowles, passed away peacefully in his home on 12-11-17. He wanted you to be notified of his passing. He led a long and full life and will be sorely missed.

Sincerely,  
The Family of Bob Knowles

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## **Registration Now Open for KTA Trail Challenge 2018**

Jump start your New Year's Resolutions by signing up for the 10th Annual KTA Trail Challenge and start training! The event will take place September 8, 2018.

25k or 50k: Are you up to the challenge?

New this year: Long Sleeve Tech T-Shirt

Start times, check point times, locations, Legends Catering, and support will be the same as 2017.

This event requires over 120 volunteers to run smoothly. If you are interested in volunteering for this terrific event please contact us!

More information about the KTA Trail Challenge can be found at <https://www.kta-hike.org/kta-trail-challenge.html>

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## **Openings Remain for KTA Hiking Trip to Scotland**

Several openings are still available for KTA's fundraising hiking trip along Scotland's spectacular West Highland Way, September 16-28. Arriving as a group in Edinburgh, we will explore this beautiful historic city highlighted by imposing Edinburgh Castle. We then travel to Milngavie and the start of the 97-mile West Highland Way, a gorgeous pathway that leads into the heart of the Scottish highlands. For the most part, the Way follows gentle gradients on ancient drove roads and old military roads passing such scenic delights as the shores of Loch Lomond and the wild and open Rannoch Moor. In Fort William, near the end of our trek, the highest mountain in the United Kingdom, Ben Nevis, comes into view. We return to Edinburgh via the West Highland Line regarded by many as the "Greatest Railway Journey in the World."

Daily mileages vary from 7 to 16 miles, but the hiking is not difficult. Luggage is forwarded each day to our accommodations so you only need to carry a daypack. Accommodations are a combination of B&B's and country inns. The total cost is \$4,095 which includes round-trip airfare to Edinburgh. Trip leaders are Todd Lange from Treks & Trails International, and KTA's Executive Director, Joe Neville.

As a fundraising trip, your participation helps support KTA. What better way to support your hiking organization than by going on an awe-inspiring hiking trip? For detailed information, visit <http://treksandtrailsinternational.com/hiking/west-highland-way-scotland.html> or contact Todd Lange at [tlange1pa@yahoo.com](mailto:tlange1pa@yahoo.com). Hope you can join us!

Former KTA President Paul Shaw informs us that there is one opening available for a female on Treks & Trails' hiking trip to Iceland on August 8-19. With massive waterfalls, lots of volcanic activity, geysers, puffins, icebergs and the largest glacier in Europe, the "Land of Fire and Ice" beckons! Interested? For details, visit <http://treksandtrailsinternational.com/hiking/iceland-day-hiking.html> or contact Paul Shaw at [pshaw@ptd.net](mailto:pshaw@ptd.net).

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## **Spring Hiking Weekend 2018!**

Register now for a terrific weekend of hiking, food, and fun in beautiful, historic Jim Thorpe! April 13-15, 2018  
More information at [www.kta-hike.org/events](http://www.kta-hike.org/events)!

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## **Registration Now Open for PHILADELPHIA: An Upscale Urban Hiking Experience**

Get ready for a hiking experience like no other. Enjoy the history, culture, and beauty, both natural and man-made, of Philadelphia. Hikers will be immersed in all aspects of Pennsylvania's largest city. Join us for unique hiking opportunities over easy terrain at a relaxed pace, deliciously exquisite dining selections, and charming Philadelphia town-home style accommodations.

This is a weekend you will not forget!

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.kta-hike.org/philadelphia.html>

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## **SOLD OUT! KTA's Black Forest Trail Slackpack**

Back by popular demand, KTA will be offering the Black Forest Trail Slackpack on May 11-14, 2018. Participants will thruhike this challenging, but rewarding 42-mile loop leading through and above the west side of Pine Creek Gorge, in 4 days, without pitching a tent.

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# **YOUR HIKING ADVOCATE**

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## **Proposed New ATV Trail through the Sproul State Forest**

By KTA Staff and Members

Recently, KTA staff and members attended two meetings in Lockhaven to review the findings from the Larson Design Group study that would potentially add a 27.3 mile new ATV trail through the Sproul State Forest to connect two existing ATV parks.

A couple of points were emphasized. First, there is no adequate law enforcement and public contact, and second, the proposed trail alignment does not connect the two designated ATV areas and therefore the trail is not feasible. Larson can't figure out how to take the trail down the mountain above Renovo (50% grade), through the Bucktail State Park Natural Area, through the Borough of South Renovo, and over the Rt. 144 bridge. The map of the proposed new trail has a puzzle piece over this area. However, the locals sitting near us were saying "just build it and we'll figure out how to get across the river". Of course these comments were from proponents of the project.

The ATV group repeatedly touted the Hatfield McCoy trail. KTA members commented that this is North Central Pennsylvania, not West Virginia or eastern Kentucky. Additionally, the ATV group wanted to have the partial trail alignment built without the missing chunk.

There also appears to be no account of species of special concern or any evaluation of vernal ponds or the Audubon special bird area project smack dab in the middle of the proposed alignment.

Some key points:

- The proposed ATV trail will bisect the Walker Trail, Eddie Lick, and the Chuck Keiper Trail.
- The proposed trail will run within 50 yards of public roads. This seems to be something that will encourage ATV riders to access roads that are off limits to them if they can easily see the road.
- The trail will come within 300 feet of private cabins and even closer to designated natural areas.
- There would be 37 road crossings.
- Multiple streams will be impacted:
  - Between Bloody Skillet and West Branch Susquehanna:
    - West Branch Big Run - 4 crossings
    - Panther Branch - 1 or 2 crossings
    - Swamp Branch - 1 crossing
    - Wetland crossing near cabin
    - Clendenin Run - 1 crossing
  - Between Renovo and Whiskey Springs:
    - Bee Tree watershed numerous springs/wetlands
    - Shintown Run watershed - 1 crossing

DCNR should be posting the map of the proposed trail online very soon.

Read more:

[http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/DCNR\\_20033209.pdf](http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/DCNR_20033209.pdf)

[http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_20032819.pdf](http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20032819.pdf)

KTA members are encouraged to participate when DCNR opens the comment period to the public.

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## **VOLUNTEER / MAINTAINER'S CORNER**

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**Trail Care 2017**

In 2017, KTA and its member clubs completed a total of 17,326 hours of trail work on over 35 trails across Pennsylvania. This major effort took 3,128 hours of driving and 754 volunteer trail maintainers.

We are so proud of all of the hard work that was accomplished in 2017!

Here is an example of one club's trail work from 2017:

### *Susquehannock Trail System 2017 Trail Upgrades*

Three trail shelters are new to the Susquehannock Trail System (STS), in Clinton and Potter Counties, over the past 2 years. To facilitate long-weekend trail loops, the Susquehannock Trail Club has also established 2 crossover trails and refurbished the North and South Link Trails connecting the STS with the Black Forest Trail (BFT). The ambitious and active STC has also recently bridged half a dozen former wet crossings with log bridges that hikers will appreciate year-round but especially in the winter and spring months, when the streams are colder and run higher.

The first shelter, at mile 10.7, provides a roof for up to 4 people, but it's a site with a history. In the 1930s, it was a brick dynamite house that the Civilian Conservation Corps built for storing explosives safely. These were the days when TNT sticks, rather than bulldozers, were the power tools of road construction. The STS has cleaned the historic building, repointed the bricks, repaired the roof, and added a porch and bench to the front so that a pair of hikers can camp by the fire ring without setting up a tent.

Two standard-sized (9' x 12'), 3-sided, Adirondack-style shelters now stand ready to hold half a dozen or so backpackers: the Spook Hollow Shelter at mile 31.5 and the Scoval Branch Shelter at mile 42.5, the midpoint of the 85-mile STS loop. These well-equipped shelters make possible a nice 3-day weekend hike from Ole Bull State Park to the little village of Cross Fork, the only town on the STS. Suggested plan: On day 1, drive to Cross Fork, get a 10-mile shuttle up the road (see the STC website for shuttle contact info), and hike 5.5 miles in the afternoon from Ole Bull State Park (guidebook mile 26) to the Spook Hollow Shelter. On day 2, hike 11 miles from the Spook Hollow Shelter to the Scoval Branch Shelter and enjoy a night at the trail's luxury resort. On day 3, a 6.5-mile hike will get you back to your car in Cross Fork, where you can get great ice cream at Kinney's Store—or a beer at Deb's Restaurant across the road—with time to drive home and do your laundry before another workweek.

The west-east crossover trails are the West Branch Trail (6.8 miles, connecting the STS at guidebook mile 77.9 on the west and mile 11.25 on the east) and the East Fork Trail (9 miles, connecting guidebook miles 74.2 and 14.4). A start at the Denton Hill trailhead could utilize the West Branch Trail for a 25-mile loop or the East Fork Trail for 34-mile loop. The 2-person Dynamite House Shelter at mile 10.7 is the only shelter on these loops, but many fit hikers could hike 15 miles (counterclockwise) from Denton Hill on day 1, utilizing the flat and easy West Branch Trail, then camp at the Dynamite House shelter and finish the loop with 11 miles on day 2—all without the weight and bulk of carrying a tent.

The BFT North Link–STS South Link Trail loop hike is another great weekender of 25 miles total, with fairly easy access options from Pennsylvania Route 44. Both link trails (North Link Trail, 8.5 miles; South Link Trail, 6 miles) and the STS section (2.3 miles) have gentle grades and easy treadway, with the BFT section (8 miles) providing just a little more challenge. Optimal camping is on the North Link Trail section just west of Dyer Road at the north end of the loop, south from route 44. (Parking, campsites, and picnic tables there facilitate equestrians, as it is a shared-use area.)

The STS and BFT are blazed orange; the link and crossover trails are sometimes blazed red (for shared-use trails) but are well marked and easy to follow.

The Susquehannock Trail Club takes great pride in the upgrades of the past 2 years. Another STS shelter, on the west side of the trail at mile 68, is planned for 2018. Construction is anticipated in the spring, weather permitting.

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## **Trail Care 2018: Opportunities Ahead With “Bonus Trail Days”**

by Ed Lawrence, Volunteer Trail Care Coordinator

The 2018 Trail Care season will range across the state and offer volunteers the opportunity to help maintain some of Pennsylvania’s best-known hiking trails, as well as ones that are off the beaten track.

The season begins the first weekend of April, returning to Bald Eagle State Forest’s Weikert area—the site of the 2017 Fall Weekend—to work on the remote and challenging White Mountain Ridge Trail. At the end of April (26-29), the Pinchot Trail, in Pinchot State Forest east of Wilkes-Barre, will be the focus of the first of 2 Trail Care Weekends in 2018 dedicated to improving the hiking experience on this 25-mile loop. Both of these Trail Care Weekends are newly designated as “Bonus Trail Days” (BTD events), meaning that Friday will be included as a designated workday. What better excuse to take a 3-day weekend than participating in a KTA Trail Care. For BTD events, the camping area will be available on Thursday night, as well as Friday and Saturday. If you can’t come for Friday, plan on joining a crew for the rest of the weekend.

May will feature the first Code Orange workday on Saturday the 12th, with the Trail Care crew going to Hickory Run State Park, in Carbon County, for the first time. May will also feature BTD events on the Chuck Keiper Trail (Sproul State Forest), based out of an on-trail private camp, as well as on the Black Forest Trail (Tiadaghton State Forest). June will feature a BTD event on the Donut Hole Trail (Sproul State Forest).

The 2 Trail Care Weeks scheduled for 2018 will be on the Everett Region of the Mid State Trail (June 12-17) and the Baker Trail (June 26–July 1). These Trail Care Weeks will, as always, include meals for participants. June will also feature a BTD event on the Tioga Region of the Mid State Trail, based out of the Twin Streams Campground.

Both of the July BTD events will continue focusing on western Pennsylvania trails. The first (12-15) will take place on the Allegheny National Forest’s Tracy Ridge Trail System. At the end of the month (26-29), KTA will return to work on a section of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

The second Pinchot Trail BTD event will be held August 2-5 to continue work on the reroute that was initiated last year. Later in August (23-26), the crew will move east to Delaware State Forest’s Thunder Swamp Trail System, where volunteers will again be based out of the Resica Falls Boy Scout Camp.

In September, KTA will partner with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club to continue work on Pennsylvania’s portion of the Big Blue: the Tuscarora Trail.

The Code Orange banner will again fly on October 6th at Gifford Pinchot State Park, in York County, where the Friends of Pinchot State Park will host a cookout for volunteers.

Later in October (25-28), the Joe Gmitter Trail, located in State Game Land 57, Wyoming County, northeast of Ricketts Glen State Park, will receive some much-needed attention. The Trail Care season will close out the first weekend of November on the Bucktail Path in Elk State Forest.

I want to especially thank all the people who stepped up to lead these events—their dedication is very much appreciated. Everyone is welcome to participate in a KTA Trail Care Event. There is always meaningful work that can be done to keep our hiking trails open and accessible to all.

For more information, go to <https://www.kta-hike.org/trail-care-and-crew.html>

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## HIKER'S CORNER

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### Happy New Year!

Did you or your club participate in a first day hike? We'd love to hear about it! Send your story to [ktaadmin@kta-hike.org](mailto:ktaadmin@kta-hike.org).

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### Jeff's Jaunts: Waterfalls of Sullivan Branch-SGL 13

by Jeff Mitchell

Sullivan Branch in SGL 13 is a stream known for its incredible beauty, carving a deep gorge with waterfalls, cascades, and deep pools. This area is commonly known as the Waterfall Wonderland. I returned to scout a route for the proposed Endless Mountains Trail; I wanted a route that would offer views of the waterfalls, but avoid the creek itself since such a route would be infeasible due to the terrain and floods.

I parked at Sullivan Falls and enjoyed the view of this impressive falls as it tumbles into a large amphitheater of the rock and a deep pool. I then followed the current trail on an old grade up Sullivan Branch. While this is a nice trail, it avoids the waterfalls on Sullivan Branch. I stopped at Pigeon Run and enjoyed its many waterfalls. I continued up the old grade, passing an unnamed creek with its own grotto and waterfalls. I soon reached Ore Run (there's another falls up that creek as well) and took a break as Sullivan Branch tumbled over boulders and ledges.

I then hiked along the east bank above Sullivan Branch as the waterfalls soon appeared, as well as a long mini-gorge and slide. I re-crossed the previous unnamed stream and found a great route for a trail on reasonable terrain. The waterfalls continued, including one nearly 50 feet tall. The scenery was impressive as I looked down the gorge to the crashing water below. Such a beautiful place.

I'd seen these falls before and it was great to see them from a different perspective. I reached Pigeon Run and its own glen of waterfalls. I then returned to the previous grade I had hiked in on and returned to my car.

As I walked to my car, I noticed a ridge on my left (east) that had some impressive rock outcrops. Naturally, I had to check it out. It was a tough climb under dying hemlocks, but I reached the top and explored unique ledges and giant angled, slanted boulders. A very cool place.

I made the steep descent, being careful not to break my ankles, and returned to my car.

To view pictures from the trip, go to <https://endlessmountains.wordpress.com/2017/12/13/waterfalls-of-sullivan-branch-sgl-13/>

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### Walk with Gantz: The Mid State Trail

by Dave Gantz, KTA Board of Directors



The Mid State Trail (MST) is a wild and outstanding 312-mile (500+ Km) trail that cuts through the heart of Pennsylvania. The main trail leads from the southern border of Maryland clear through to the northern border of New York. The MST is a rocky, bumpy, dry, and wonderful route designed by Tom Thwaites. The trail is signed as and uses the metric system rather than English miles. Along the way, multiple side trails offer options for hikers of all abilities. This trail also acts as a large segment of the Great Eastern Trail, which is a long distance hiking alternative route to the Appalachian Trail. Mid State Trail is maintained by DCNR along with volunteers from the Mid State Trail Association.

The southern section of the MST runs along top of rocky ridgelines, cuts across a few forests, and meanders through a few towns in Southern PA. Right now, the trail does go through a lot of private property and state game lands, which have limited camping opportunities. The sections of trail leading through state forests is generally open to camping. Trail shelters are slowly popping up throughout the whole length of the MST, which is great news for those looking to travel without a heavy shelter.

The central section of trail is just about as rocky as could be. Luckily, the trail mainly runs through Rothrock and Bald Eagle State Forests, both of which offer outstanding vistas and back country campsites. Generally, the MST is still following a single ridgeline, although it does begin to climb up and over several ridges north of Hairy Johns Picnic Area.

The northern section of trail quickly becomes more remote and difficult as it climbs up and over several mountains. North of the town of Woolrich, the MST ventures into Pine Creek and the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. Highlights in this region include vistas, mountain streams, and waterfalls!

As noted earlier, the Mid State Trail is maintained by Mid State Trail Association and its many volunteers. Contact MSTA today to get involved with this great trail!

To view pictures from the trip, go to <https://www.walkwithgantz.com/mid-state-trail.html>

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## **Hand Warmers and Hoodies**

by Gerry Rowan

There's a really old idea that bears being recycled. In the past, when the ice thickness on lakes and ponds was more predictable, ice fishing was a popular winter sport. The problem with ice fishing is that staying warm can be challenging, with long days standing on ice out in a cold wind. The solution for many was to use a catalytic hand warmer in combination with a hooded sweatshirt to stay warm while out on the ice. The hand warmer was placed in the front pocket of the sweatshirt, and a windproof layer was added over that. The windproof layer protected the wearer from the cold wind but also helped retain as much heat as possible.

Catalytic hand warmers are still used, although battery-operated and chemical-based warming packets have pretty much replaced them. Catalytic hand warmers "burn" lighter fuel (naphtha) not with an open flame but with a catalyst to oxidize the fuel without an open flame. These warmers are made of several parts. There's a tank or reservoir containing a supply of fuel. A wicking system gets the fuel up to the "burner" housing the catalyst. The burner is, in turn, protected by housing. The catalyst is lit and the cover replaced. The cover protects the unit when in contact with clothing. Since there is no open flame, the unit can be carried in a pocket. Some warmers use some kind of a damper to regulate the amount of air allowed into the unit. The more air, the more heat; less air, the cooler the unit will burn. Shutting off the unit is usually accomplished by cutting off all the air. Once the unit cools below the oxidation temperature of the fuel, it's out. The warmers are hand sized and fit comfortably into pockets.



There are 2 more components you will need. One is a heavyweight, quarter-zip, hooded sweatshirt with a front pocket. Zipping or unzipping the sweatshirt allows the wearer to regulate how much heat the sweatshirt captures. The front pocket is where to place the hand warmer so it's close to your body's core mass and also where you can warm your hands. The shell you've created makes you windproof and helps trap as much heat as possible.

Most hikers, backpackers, and trekkers already have hoodies. To my knowledge, the only company still making catalytic hand warmers is Zippo (which, incidentally, is a Pennsylvania company). The hand warmers sell for about \$12, while the complete kit sells for about \$20. They are really long-lasting; my last one lived for about 35 years. New ones should have a lifespan of about the same length. The only part that wears out is the head containing the catalyst, which can be replaced for about \$10.

Most catalytic hand warmers have a burn time of about 6 hours on a full tank of fuel. Add a small extra fuel container the size of a hip flask and you'll extend the burn time to about 24 hours. A space blanket (mirrored Mylar survival blanket) and a hand warmer should be in every outdoor trekker's winter backpack

## CLUB CONNECTION

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### Submit Events to the Club Calendar

Would you like KTA to promote your club/organization's major events with The Keystone Hiker, on Facebook, and on our website? It's a perk of membership. Please submit a list (ideally with date, time, location, link to web page) of only those events that the public should see, to [info@kta-hike.org](mailto:info@kta-hike.org).

Thank you and happy trails!

## 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 5-8: Trail Care BTM - White Mt. Ridge/Reeds Gap Spur

**April 13-15: Spring Hiking Weekend, Jim Thorpe, PA**

April 26-29: Trail Care BTM - Pinchot Trail

May 3-6: Trail Care BTM - Chuck Keiper Trail

May 12: Code Orange 1 Day - Hickory Run State Park

**May 11-14: Black Forest Trail Slackpack**

May 17-20: Trail Care BTM - Black Forest Trail

May 31 - June 3: Trail Care BTM - Donut Hole Trail

**June 1-3: Philadelphia: An Upscale Urban Hiking Experience, Philadelphia, PA**

June 12-17: Trail Crew Week - Mid State Trail, Everett Region

June 21-24: Trail Care BTM - Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

June 26 - July 1: Trail Crew Week - Baker Trail

July 12-15: Trail Care BTM - Tracy Ridge Trail System

July 26-29: Trail Care BTM - North Country Trail, Butler County

**July 27-29: 15th Annual Prowl the Sproul, Renovo, PA**

August 2-5: Trail Care BTM - Pinchot Trail

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

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

September 13-16: Trail Care BTM - Tuscarora Trail

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

**September 28-30: Quehanna Elk Quest, St. Marys, PA**

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

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

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

**October TBD: Pinchot Trail Slackpack**

November 1-4: Trail Care BTM - Bucktail Path

**November 2-4: Gettysburg Hiking Weekend, Gettysburg, PA**

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## Shop the KTA Bookstore

KTA Bookstore Holiday Special: Receive a FREE Keystone Trails Association Logo Sticker for every item purchased during the month of December!

Check out KTA's latest additions: Hiking the Susquehannock Trail, The Black Forest Trail Patch, The Laurel Highlands Trail Patch, and Purple Lizard Maps. Now available online or in the office.

KTA publishes and sells maps, guidebooks, and patches related to hiking trails in Pennsylvania. Members receive at least a 10% discount! Click the link to check out our online bookstore.

<http://www.kta-hike.org/ktas-bookstore.html>

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## Amazon Smile

The next time you shop online, use Amazon Smile and choose Keystone Trails Association. It doesn't cost you any extra: Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Keystone Trails Association.

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## Perks of Membership

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

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

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## A New Way to Give and Support KTA!

by Joe Neville, KTA Executive Director

KTA has now opened a brokerage account. This will enable our donors and supporters to increase their flexibility in giving. Donating long-term appreciated securities directly to KTA — rather than selling the assets and donating the cash proceeds — may be one of the best and easiest ways to give more. By taking advantage of the applicable tax incentives, you can significantly increase the amount of funds available for our trail care, advocacy, and hiking promotion efforts.

It's a win-win situation: KTA receives a nice contribution, while you, the donor can possibly write off the gift and avoid paying capital gains taxes on the stock. The strategy has been around for some time, waning during

the financial crisis, but has regained popularity in recent years as the stock market has roared back to life. It makes the most sense for a donor because it's an easy, seamless transaction.

For more information please contact your financial advisor or Joe Neville for account information at 717-766-9690 or [jneville@kta-hike.org](mailto:jneville@kta-hike.org).

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## **Newsletter Submissions**

This newsletter is published monthly by Keystone Trails Association. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The Editor encourages submissions reflecting all viewpoints, but reserves the right to edit material. You are encouraged to submit material (even just a trail closing or care alert!) to the Program Administrator, Brynn Furnace, at [bfurnace@kta-hike.org](mailto:bfurnace@kta-hike.org). The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Submissions received after that time will be considered for the next month.