

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 129
Confluence, PA 15424
www.kta-hike.org



50th Anniversary, 1956-2006!

Fall 2006

Keystone Trails Association Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

Thyra Sperry Elected KTA President

Thyra Sperry of Boiling Springs was elected KTA President at the Fall Council meeting at Camp Swatara,

A long-time member, Sperry has played an active role in Association affairs. She has been a member of the Endangered Hiking Trails and Bylaws Revision Committees, and chaired the Nominating, and Executive Director Search Committees. Sperry previously served as a Council Representative at Large and was elected to the Board last year.

Sperry is also well known in the hiking community, having served on the Appalachian Trail Conference Board of Managers for ten years, including six years as Mid-Atlantic Vice Chair. In 2001 she chaired the ATC Biennial Conference held at Shippensburg University. She also served as both Chair and Secretary of the Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Committee.

On the club level, Sperry was President of the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club and a Director of the

Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club.

Other Officers

Also elected officers for the next year were **Tom Kelliher**, Baltimore, MD, and **Charles Glanville**, West Chester. Kelliher will continue to serve as Treasurer and also assume the duties of Vice President. Glanville returns for another term as Secretary.

New Board Members

Glanville, **Steve Stroman** of Harrisburg, and **Mary Young** of Enola were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Stroman and Young replace **Carol Witzeman** and **Ronald Stanley**, whose terms expired. Glanville was reelected.

Christopher Firme, of Blue Ridge Summit, accepted an appointment by President Carol Witzeman to fill the remainder of Bill Dietrich's unexpired term. Dietrich resigned August 31, citing health concerns.



Incoming President Thyra Sperry (left) receives the KTA gavel from outgoing President Carol Witzeman. Photo by Dick Martin.

KTA Hires First Executive Director—See page 5

Inside This Issue

President Sperry's Message.....	4
Fall Meeting.....	4
Executive Director Message.....	5
Member Survey.....	5
Web Site Redesign.....	5
Along Our Trails.....	6
Maintainers Corner.....	8
Agency Partner News.....	10
Plants and Animals.....	12
Around the Clubs.....	14
New Publications.....	15

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

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

REPRESENTATIVES-AT-LARGE

Joyce Appel, *East Brady, PA*
Kathryn Barker, *Carlisle, PA*
Carl Davis, *Wellsboro, PA*
Henry Frank, *Philadelphia, PA*
Wayne Gross, *Cresco, PA*
Michael Jackson, *Everett, PA*
John Motz, *Stroudsburg, PA*
Shethra Rigg, *King of Prussia, PA*
Thomas Thwaites, *State College, PA*
Barbara Van Horn, *Duncannon, PA*

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Barbara & Al Wiemann
4782 Sylvan Dr., Northampton, PA 18067
610-262-6977
Bwiemann@verizon.net

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

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

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Paul Shaw, Executive Director
107 North Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Pamela Metzger, Administrator
P. O. Box 129,
Confluence, PA 15424-0129
814-395-9696
info@kta-hike.org

www.kta-hike.org

2007 Trail Care Schedule

Trail Care weekends begin Friday evening at the designated campsite. A full day of trail work on Saturday is followed by an evening of campfire sociability and possibly a meal out at a local restaurant (Dutch treat). After a morning of additional trail work, the weekend concludes about noon on Sunday. If you can't spare an entire weekend, you can join the group for whatever portion is convenient. No experience or special skills are required. Tools and work gloves will be provided.

Contact the trip leader to register for Trail Care weekends.

March 23-25 — Keystone State Park

Stay in cabins at the park.
Leader: Jack Leashor, 724-744-0675

April 13-15 — Erosion Control Seminar and Training

Sponsored by KTA and the Link Trail Hiking Club.

Instructor: John Motz.
Camp at Getty Ridge Camp, McAlvey's Fort, PA.

See page 8 for more details.

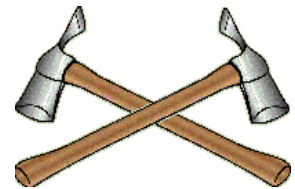
Limited to 25 people.
To register, contact Joe Healey 570 655-4979, jnlhealey@aol.com, or Carl Lorence, 717-234-1521, PASTUMBLER@aol.com.

April 27-29 — Link Trail

Camp at PATC cabin.
Leader: Mel Cooper, 814-643-2641
Contact Cooper or Carl Lorence, 717 234-1521

May 18-20 — Donut Hole Trail

Camp at Hyner Lodge at Hyner Run State Park.
Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979



2007 Summer Trail Crew

Crews assemble on Tuesday evening for dinner and orientation and work full days Wednesday thru Saturday, and a half-day on Sunday. KTA provides a place to camp, meals, tools, work gloves, safety equipment, and instruction by crew leaders. Volunteers are accepted for one day, a weekend, all week, or the entire crew season. There are tasks for everyone.

For an application, contact Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702, phone 570-655-4979, or email jnlhealey@aol.com.

June 6-10 — Chuck Keiper Trail

Leader: Rich Scanlon, 717 242-1644
Camp at a private camp off Coon Road in Sproul State Forest

June 13-17 — Pinchot Trail

Leader: Joe Healey, 570 655-4979
Camp at Manny Gordon Picnic Area

June 20-24 — Mid State Trail Tioga Region

Leader: Pete Fleszar, 717-583-2093
Construct new trail.
Camp at Twin Streams Campground, Morris, PA

2007 KTA Activities

Jan. 6, 2007 — Board of Directors Meeting

Harrisburg, PA

March 31, 2007 — Spring Council and Board Meetings

Kings Gap Environmental Center

May 25-June 3, 2007 — PA Hiking Week

June 1-3, 2007 — KTA Hiking Weekend
Hickory Run State Park

July 7, 1007 — Board of Directors Meeting

Site to be announced

Sept. 28-30, 2007 - Annual Meeting

Blue Knob Ski Resort, Claysburg, PA

We're always looking for suitable meeting sites. If you know of a facility anywhere in the state that can accommodate 150-200 folks, contact Pam Metzger (addresses in left column)..

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THANKS BILL!

The first item on the agenda for the 51st annual meeting of the KTA Council was adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS Bill Dietrich has served admirably this past fiscal year as KTA's first president to preside over both its Council and its new Board of Directors, and

WHEREAS he undertook his responsibilities with great care, diligence and intelligence, launching the Association into its second half century with such productive accomplishments as leading the board to adopt its first five-year strategic plan, refining the individual mission statements of the organization's various committees, strengthening our relationships with our partner agencies, facilitating the submission of KTA's grant application to DCNR that for the first time includes requests for funding for equipment and training needs of member trail clubs, and laying the ground work for the recruitment of KTA's first executive director, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Council of the Keystone Trails Association expresses its deep appreciation to Bill Dietrich not only for his dedication and outstanding leadership at a time of significant transition for KTA but also for all the forward steps that have been accomplished under his guidance, and wishes him good health and full success in all of his future endeavors.

As you can see, Bill did a tremendous job in just under a year on the job. KTA owes Bill an enormous debt for his vision, leadership and tenacity in accomplishing a long list of objectives in moving KTA forward to the next fifty years and beyond.

Stepping into Bill's shoes for a very brief term as President of KTA was daunting to say the least. The good news is that KTA has been able to move forward with the strategies Bill started. We are pleased to announce the hiring of KTA's first Executive Director, Paul Shaw. Some of you know him from Trail Care and hikes. Paul is passionate about PA Trails and hiking. He is a long time KTA member and has a strong business background which will enable KTA to continue the forward movement. Paul will be setting up a KTA office in the Harrisburg area in late October and is ready to tackle the many goals set forth in the strategic plan. KTA is fortunate to have achieved one of Bill's goals so quickly. Those that attended the meeting got to meet Paul and hear him speak about the future of KTA. I am sure you all join me in wishing him well and we'll all pitch in to help him wherever we can.

"I am proud to be a member of KTA and hope that every member of KTA will take this opportunity to invite one of their friends to join KTA and take a role in the exciting years ahead."

KTA's new board under the leadership of President Thyra Sperry, Vice President/Treasurer Tom Kelliher, and Secretary Charles Glanville is competent and poised to move KTA to a more prominent position as a State Association. They will be working closely with Paul to attain the annual goals of the strategic plan. KTA's voice will be heard more clearly on the "Hill" and KTA's message will be more widely heard not only among the hiking public, but the general public as well. These are exciting times for KTA. As a life member of KTA and having the distinction of serving the shortest term as President of KTA, I am proud to be a member of KTA and hope that every member of KTA will take this opportunity to invite one of their friends to join KTA and take a role in the exciting years ahead. KTA is going places, so hop on board.

Happy Trails,
Carol A. Witzeman
President

"KTA is going places, so hop on board."



Photo by Dick Martin

Message from Our New President

Hikers and Outdoor Enthusiasts,

Little did I know when Dick (my spouse) made the decision to switch our Internet service from dial up to broadband that I would be stepping up to the office of President of KTA. It couldn't have happened at a better time. The improved communications will be a blessing as I begin my term as President.

Some background: I had served on the Appalachian Trail Conservancy board for ten years 1995-2005 and as Mid-Atlantic Chair for six of those years. In 2001 (with many KTA volunteers at my side), I chaired the 33rd Appalachian Trail Biennial conference at Shipensburg. We all shared in the success of this event.

Some of you may remember that in the cold winter of February of 2000, I convinced KTA officers and dedicated leaders that we needed to meet and plan for the "Future of KTA". Jean Aaron, Ed & Bernie Beck, Hugh Downing, Chris & Beth Firme, Mildred & Maurice Forrester, Wayne Gross, Ron Gray, Carl Lorence, Dick Martin, Ginny Musser, Ralph Seeley, John Stein, Janice Slaybaugh, Tom Thwaites, Al & Barb Wiemann and Carol Witzeman spent a full day with a facilitator determining the strengths and weaknesses of KTA. (Mike Sausser and Lorraine and Joe Healey couldn't attend but sent opinions), and other KTA members shared their thoughts about our future. This was the beginning that led to the Strategic Plan, a Board of Directors, our first Executive Director, a grant for clubs, and a new website.

I want to thank Bill Dietrich for continuing these efforts, and Carol Witzeman, who graciously served the shortest presidential term in the history of KTA.

Please join me in welcoming our new board members, Chris Firme, Steve Stroman and Mary Young and our first Executive Director, Paul Shaw.

Paul and I are looking forward to working with our volunteer membership and public and private partners in the many different opportunities that we can offer to develop, build and maintain hiking trails, and also protect hiking trail lands through support and advocacy, and educate the public in the responsible use of trails.

Volunteers play the major role in achieving these goals; you are the soul of this organization.

Stuart Udall said it best: "Modern life is a conspiracy. Everything is against health. Television tells you to sit, sit; eat, eat. People need to get out of doors. Exercise."

Hike farther and longer,
Thyra

KTA Council & Board Report

Council News

KTA Council held its Fall meeting at Camp Swatara on October 7. On the agenda were reports from partner organizations and committee chairs, election of new Board members and officers (see page 1), a new dues structure, adoption of the 2006-2007 budget, and a presentation about the PA Highland Trail (see page 6).

The expansion of KTA's activities in trail protection and advocacy and the hiring of an Executive Director to further the mission of KTA will result in new expenses. To meet these costs, Council passed the revised dues structure recommended by the Board. Details are found on the membership form on page 16.

Council passed a 2006/2007 budget that includes more than \$50,000 to fund new editions of the PA Appalachian Trail Guide and Pennsylvania Hiking Trails.

Board News

The KTA Board met June 24, September 25, and October 8. Actions include:

- Adopting the strategic plan as amended after consideration of comments by members
- Creating the KTA Heritage Society, a deferred giving recognition society for those individuals who have included a bequest or charitable remainder trust to KTA in their estate planning
- Hiring Paul Shaw as executive director
- Submitting a grant application to DCNR for equipment for KTA member clubs, training workshops in equipment safety and trail building, and a pilot project to develop protocol and training for trail characterization

See pages 7, 8, 9, and 13 for more KTA news.



Jennifer Heisey, AMC Mid-Atlantic Recreation Planner, addresses the KTA Council. AMC is overseeing the development of the Pennsylvania portion of the Highlands Trail through 13 counties in the southeast area of the state. Photo by Dick Martin

Along Our Trails

Appalachian Trail

Alpine Rose Update

A State Environmental Hearing Board has revoked the storm water discharge permit for Alpine Rose Resorts, deciding that the state Dept. of Environmental Protection had erred in issuing it.

The resort/sports car racetrack, planned for Eldred Township in Monroe County adjacent to the Appalachian Trail, would have added more (and warmer) water to the high quality Aquashicola Creek and the developer could not prove that the project would not degrade the creek. As a high quality cold-water fishery, state law permits no degradation.

The hearing board had harsh language for DEP, saying the state agency charged with protecting the environment failed to do so in this case. Revocation of the permit had been sought by the Blue Mountain Preservation Association, which has been fighting for years (with much help from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy) to block the sports car track. The Sierra Club supported BMPA in this appeal.

The developer's conditional final plan approval from Eldred Township was valid only if he obtained all required permits. BMPA hopes this latest setback will convince Alpine Rose to abandon the project.

Mid Atlantic Crew

The Appalachian Trail Mid Atlantic Crew spent four weeks in September installing turnpiking (raised trail tread) and drainage to improve the AT footpath. Work locations were on Sharp Mountain near Ft. Indiantown Gap south towards the Yellow Springs Village site and north of Hawk Mountain Rd near Eckville. KTA contributed funds to help support the Crew.

Hiker Service at Pine Grove

Bill Snyder passes along this contact information for AT hikers looking for services near Pine Grove (PA 501). Amy Lu Holland-Colvert, 570-345-1119 or 815-549-042, Pamoneypit@yahoo.com offers rooms for rent (laundry available), meals, and shuttle service to a hospital and store.

Ice Storm Damage Study

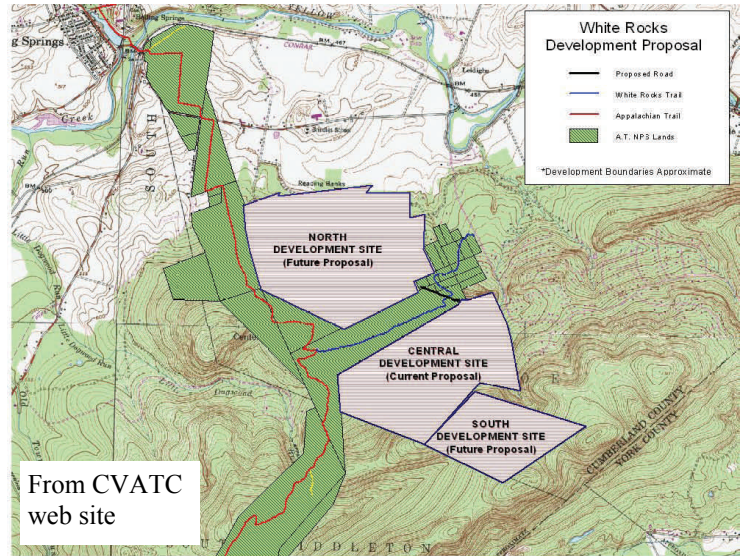


Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

In January 2005, a devastating ice storm broke or uprooted 22 percent of the trees on sections of the ridgeline used by the Appalachian Trail in eastern Pennsylvania. Researchers from Kutztown University have undertaken a four year study to determine which tree species were damaged and how the damage may influence seedling abundance, diversity, and long term composition of the forest.

White Rocks Development Proposal

The White Rocks Trail is a blue-blazed side trail which connects with the Appalachian Trail near Center Point Knob in Cumberland County. The White Rocks themselves are a ridgeline outcropping which provide important wildlife habitat, a worthwhile climb for hikers, and impressive views of unbroken woodlands on one side and the Cumberland Valley on the other. The National Park Service has protected the trail itself with a narrow corridor from the White Rocks trailhead on Kuhn Road south of Boiling Springs to Center Point Knob, integral with the AT corridor.



Earlier this year developers submitted a sketch (preliminary) plan for 634 housing units on approximately 745 acres bracketing the White Rocks Trail corridor on both sides. This project would clear-cut the woodlands including some locations immediately abutting the White Rocks Trail corridor and within 100 yards of the trail. Although the land is within Monroe Township's conservation zone, the zoning ordinance does not seem to prevent this type of development. In addition to the impact on the White Rocks Trail and viewshed, this development could also affect water quality in the Yellow Breeches watershed, and the additional traffic on adjacent roads would also affect the AT corridor. A fact sheet on the proposal can be accessed from the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club's website at <http://geocities.com/cvatclub>.

Highlands Trail

The Appalachian Mountain Club has undertaken the task of creating the Pennsylvania portion of the Highland Trail. The PA Highlands Trail will link with existing trails and provide new trail segments to bridge the gaps between current trails. Overall, the Highlands Trail is intended to help with the conservation of the Highlands while increasing recreational opportunities in this beautiful region. The Highlands Trail project will be a collaborative effort between non-profit organizations and public agencies.

The PA Highlands Trail will extend from the nearly complete Highlands Trail in New York and New Jersey through the Highlands Region of Pennsylvania, a 13 county area (Bucks, Montgomery, Northampton, Lehigh, Chester, Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Adams, and York). At this time, trail route planning is in its preliminary phase; completion may require 15 years.

Anyone interested in this project may contact Jennifer Heisey, AMC's Mid-Atlantic Recreation Planner, at 610-868-6906 or jheisey@outdoors.org

Horse Shoe Trail

The Horse Shoe Trail Club has been meeting with local governments to promote the trail. The Berks County Planning Board offered their support to protect and "grow" the HST, while the

(Continued on page 7)

Along Our Trails

(Continued from page 6)

Chester County Parks & Recreation Director discussed the role of the HST in the network of county trails.

Charlestown Township, Chester County, has purchased Rainbow's End (MP 11.0) and has provided an easement for the trail along the fence line.

Brecknock Township, Berks County, and H-STC members are working together to secure easements for the approximately ten miles of trail in the township. Since the township has no state, county or township park facilities, the H-ST corridor is seen as an important recreational resource for township residents. The township has submitted an application for funding to purchase easements for the trail.

Link Trail (but not for long!)

The Link Trail Hiking Club has voted to change the name of the Link Trail. The new name will be unveiled in the near future.

The Link was originally laid out to "link" the Mid State and Tuscarora Trails. However, there are several Link Trails in the state, and, at 70 plus miles, the trail is more than a connector trail. The Club is considering several "natural" or historical names.

Even though less than 20 miles of the Link are on state forest lands, the LTHC is exploring the possibility of gaining State Forest Trail status. This designation would help the trail gain a little more publicity and help protect the corridor.

Mid State Trail

To help introduce sections of the Mid State Trail to hikers, the Mid State Trail Association will institute an annual hiking series focusing on a different region each year. 2007 will feature hikes in the Woolrich region.

Since the possibility of wind farm development exists in central Pennsylvania, the MSTA will consider any windmills within 300 meters of the trail as possibly affecting the trail and will examine the impacts on a case-by-case basis.

Mason Dixon Trail

Land owned by the Newark Country Club (and used by the M-DT) was recently sold to a developer who is turning it into building lots. However, the developer will provide a route for the trail through the area.

North County Trail

Irene Szabo was named Executive Director of the North County Trail Association in September. Szabo is the past President of the New York Finger Lakes

Trail Conference and a life member of KTA. She will work from her New York home and travel to trail meetings and NCTA headquarters in Michigan as needed. NCTA has been without an Executive Director for almost a year and Szabo's service as director is intended to be a bridge position, giving a search committee ample time to find a permanent candidate and more adequate funding.



Photo by Lois Judd

New Trail Segments

The Wampum Chapter plans to begin construction of another new section between Fletcher Hill Road and Snake Run Road this fall. Earlier this year the Chapter installed a ten-foot bridge by Snake Run Road and completed almost three miles of trail on CE-MEX property.

Schuylkill River Trail

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area recently opened a newly constructed 1.8 mile stretch of the Thun Trail, Berks County's portion of the Schuylkill River Trail. This newest segment connects Pottstown to Birdsboro, a 7.8-mile journey.

This new section is one of many recent improvements to the Schuylkill River Trail. A 1.5-mile section extending from Riverfront Park to the Berks County line was completed in May. And, in July, a new trailhead pavilion was built at Riverfront Park, behind the Schuylkill River Heritage Area's headquarters at 140 College Drive in Pottstown.

Eventually this segment will connect at either end to the rest of the Schuylkill River Trail which, when complete, will run from Philadelphia to Schuylkill County. By next year, it is expected that 18 miles will be open from Pottstown to Reading.

Thurston Griggs Trail

The Thurston Griggs Trail, a Maryland Appalachian Trail side trail from White Oak Rd. to Pogo Memorial Campground, is now open. A trailhead parking lot and kiosk is planned.

2006 KTA Hiking Awards

Appalachian Trail

(hike the entire AT in Pennsylvania)

Janet Beaton

Edward Cashin, Reading, PA

Suzanne Churgai, Berks Community Hiking Club/BMECC

Linnae Goda, Berks Community Hiking Club

Kathleen B. Hengen

Ellen W. Konecny, Berks Community Hiking Club

Bill Libhart, Susquehannock Trail Club

Frances Malley, Berks Community Hiking Club/BMECC

Rosemary Miller, Pocono Outdoor Club

Tom Miller, Pocono Outdoor Club

Edna M. Parr, Berks Community Hiking Club/BMECC

Laszlo Pasztor, Jr., Carlisle, PA

Vincent J. Rose, Reading, PA

Merit

(hike AT in PA plus 200 miles on other state hiking trails)

Bill Libhart, Susquehannock Trail Club

Pennsylvania

(hike 500 miles on state hiking trails)

William Shaffer, Connecticut

Young Hiker

(hike 25 miles on state trails, age 12 and under)

Steven Christ, Tamaqua, PA

Cody W. Ellis, Harrisburg, PA

Nathan D. Ligon, Harrisburg, PA

Maintainers Corner

Water Management and Erosion Control Workshop

KTA and the Link Trail Hiking Club are sponsoring an Erosion Control Training weekend April 13-15, 2007 at Getty Ridge Camp near McAlvey's Fort. Learn the ins and outs of E&S (erosion and sediment) and water management from a conservation district erosion control technician and long time trail maintainer.

For natural surface trails, water is the enemy. Learn the ways of the enemy and common techniques for protecting your trail from attack. The course includes basic concepts for water management, erosion assessment, and typical treadway structures used to manage the enemy. Food, fun, and hard physical labor opportunities provided. This will be hands-on training, so bring your gloves. For questions about the course, contact instructor John Motz at 570-236-1462.

Pre-registration is required and limited to 25 people. Contact Joe Healey 570 655-4979, jnlhealey@aol.com, or Carl Lorence, 717-234-1521, PASTUMBLER@aol.com to register.

Hazardous Hogweed

Trail maintainers should use caution when pulling or cutting the giant hogweed. This tall majestic plant, which grows to a height of

8-14 feet, can cause severe skin irritation in susceptible individuals. Plant sap produces painful, burning blisters within 24 to 48 hours after contact. In addition, plant fluids can also cause painless red blotches that later develop into purplish or brownish scars that may persist for several years. This adverse reaction, known as phytophotodermatitis, occurs when the contaminated skin is moist from perspiration and then is exposed to sunlight.

Giant hogweed, originally from Asia, was introduced into this country as an ornamental in 1917. It is similar in appearance to the native cow parsnip, only it is much larger.

For more information, visit the PA Dept. of Agriculture web site at <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?q=128383>.



PALTA Model Trail Easements

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, with support from the William Penn Foundation and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, has issued the beta version of a model Trail Easement Agreement. PALTA views the model as a living document to be revised annually based on feedback and new developments. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

The document was built from scratch and resulted from intensive research and development. Commentary covering alternate and optional provisions and the reasoning behind the various provisions accompanies the model. Plain language and careful formatting to improve readability will help users avoid drafting errors when adapting the model to a particular situation.

The Trail Easement Agreement can be downloaded for free at www.conserveland.org.

Also available on the web site is the second edition of a Pennsylvania Conservation Easement.



One of the rock retaining walls constructed by the August Trail Care in Promised Land State Park.

Trail Care Reports

By Joe Healey

In July, Trail Care worked on the Pinchot Trail in the Lackawanna State Forest. Maintenance was done on the North Line, Hayes Run, Spruce Hill and Painter Creek Trails, which are all part of the Pinchot Trail System. The crew consisted of **Tom Bastian, Jack Bushey, George Delarche, John Grill, Joe Healey, Ed Lawrence, Bob Mercado, Kathy Sieminski, and Rick Stibgen.**

August took Trail Care to Promised Land State Park. Volunteers worked on building a rock wall on the south side of a bridge that state park service employees installed. Brushwacking was also done throughout the park. Volunteers were **Tom Bastian, Jack Bushey, Carl Gamong, Ann Griffin, Carl Griffin, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Cindy Kuhn, Fred Maurer, Dennis Morris, Tom Thwaites, Dave Walp, and Barb Wiemann.**

In September, Trail Care finished the three bridges on the Chuck Keiper Trail that were started in June. Under the leadership of Rich Scanlon, accompanied by the fine construction abilities of Tom Bastian, the three bridges—a 35 footer, a 25 footer and a 20 footer—were completed.

The Western Clinton County Sportsmen's Association helped fund this bridge project with part of a DCNR grant they received. A special thanks goes out to the WCCSA for hosting the KTA group at their clubhouse. We could not have asked for better hosts than **Jim Nivens and Ray Werts.** Thanks a million ,guys, for your hospitality.

The work crew consisted of **Tom Bastian, Rick Carlson, Jeff Clarke, Mel Cooper, Robert Davey, Bill Dietrich, Pete Fleszar, Carl Gamong, Joe Healey, Ed Lawrence, Carl Lorence, Mary Pitzer, Rich Scanlon, and Dave Walp.** A big thank you is also in order for an Americorps group from Lock Haven University for their help in hauling material on Saturday morning. They are **Jessica Asher, Trachanda Brown, Erin Eisenhach, Stephanie Madison and Renee Rosier.**

Hiker Alerts

Hickory Creek Trail

On September 11th, a decision notice was signed by Allegheny National Forest officials to go forward with the proposed Hickory Creek Wilderness Trail Relocation Project. This project will move the trailhead for the Hickory Creek Wilderness Trail from its current location at the Hearts Content parking area to a location about a half mile north along Hearts Content Road (SR 2002). In order to connect from this location to the Hickory Creek Wilderness Trail inside the interior of the Wilderness, approximately 1.5 miles of primitive trail will need to be constructed. Friends of Allegheny Wilderness has started working on the relocation, which they hope to open this Fall.

Horse- Shoe Trail

Thanks to the Game Commission, the H-ST has been re-routed to allow hikers to cross a bridge over Stony Creek. Horses may not use the logging road and bridge. See the 2006 guidebook for details.

Link Trail

Motel 22, located about the mid point of the trail and just yards from the trail crossing of US22, is back in business after a two-year hiatus. The new owners have renovated all of the rooms.

Mason Dixon Trail

In Delaware, hunting will be allowed in White Clay Creek State Park on November 10-18, 29-30, December 9-16, and January 13-20. During these periods, M-DT hikers should use Creek Rd. rather than following the circuitous route of the M-DT up into the hills (Map 9, east to west mile 4.9-8.1)

Mid State Trail

Due to soft wet ground this summer, the Bureau of Forestry stopped the logger who has a contract to remove downed trees from the Beaver Pond timber sale. This stoppage will automatically extend the sale time, and, in addition, the logger may purchase extra time.

2006 Citation Award Presented to Rick Carlson

Frederick (Rick) Carlson, the Director of Policy and Legislation for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is the 2006 recipient of the Citation Award. Rick was selected for KTA's highest honor because of his strong support for KTA's mission.

Rick is best known to many KTA members as a regular participant at Trail Crew and Care events, especially on the Chuck Keiper Trail in the Sproul State Forest.

Knowing the importance of trail work and KTA's need for tools and equipment to perform this valuable public service, Rick urged KTA to apply for a Recreational Trails Program Grant and offered advice and encouragement during the submission process. The result was KTA's first successful grant and funds to purchase a trailer and tools.

After this first successful grant, Rick suggested the idea of using "banked" volunteer trail work hours as the matching funds for future DCNR grants that KTA might apply for. This is a new concept that DCNR has accepted.

Rick will retire from DCNR in January, allowing him more time to pursue his outdoor interests, which include trout fishing and hunting.



2006 Trail Care Awards Presented At Fall Meeting

Attended three or four events – Bandana

Betty Clark	Carl Lorence
Jeff Clarke	Dennis Morris
Mel Cooper	Mary Pitzer
Robert Davey, Jr.	Rich Scanlon
Pete Fleszar	Kathy Sieminski
Lorraine Healey	Dave Walp

Attended five or more events – T-shirt

Tom Bastian	Joe Healey
Jack Bushey	Elwood Laudenslager
Joe Clark	Ed Lawrence
Bill Dietrich	Tom Thwaites



Hikers set off from Camp Swatara on a Sunday morning jaunt. Approximately 100 people attended the Fall meeting. Photo by Dick Martin.

Trail Register Entry

"Our counselors made us eat the lemon rinds as part of the Leave No Trace thing." – Shiloh Quaker Camp #3

From PATC ridgerunner John Hedrick, published in the *Potomac Appalachian*

DCNR News

DCNR Honored for Greenways Work

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was one of four honorees for outstanding achievement in greenways preservation at the Kodak American Greenways Awards in October at the National Geographic Society. Sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company, National Geographic Society and The Conservation Fund, the awards honors individuals, organizations and corporations for their vision and commitment to protecting the nation's network of open space, trails and greenways.



DCNR was recognized for its leadership and extensive conservation record, which have served Pennsylvania and the nation as models of environmental leadership and restoration efforts. Through its Growing Greener and Pennsylvania Greenways initiatives, the commonwealth and its partners are developing a network of greenways, achieving sustainable growth, rebuilding local economies, creating livable communities and enhancing the quality of life for all.

Following stream corridors, abandoned rail lines, canals or other linear landscape features, greenways preserve wildlife habitat, enhance water quality and provide opportunities for close-to-home outdoor recreation and sustainable economic development.

"Greenways are America's parks for the 21st century," according to Gilbert M. Grosvenor, chairman of the National Geographic Society. "A growing network is linking our city streets to parklands and other open spaces in ways that encourage us to get out of our cars and into the landscape."



Governor's Outdoor Conference

Recognizing the importance of keeping people connected with nature, Governor Edward Rendell has announced plans for a Governor's Outdoor Conference next March 18-20 at the Penn State Conference Center in State College. The conference will provide policy makers with the information and ideas they need to address the critical issues surrounding Pennsylvanians' connection to the outdoors.

Pennsylvania's aging population, declining numbers of hunters and anglers, loss of open space, increased competition for leisure time and a drop in environmental literacy have combined to cause concern. These, and a variety of other indicators, suggest a meaningful decline in people's connections to their outdoor environment, which can lead to decreased tourism revenue in the state and economic development in rural areas.

"I've asked members of my cabinet to gather experts and stakeholders representing a broad range of perspectives on the outdoors and its impact on us," Governor Rendell said. "To be successful, we need a strong partnership between state and local governments, the private sector, sportsmen and outdoor recreation organizations of all types, educators and researchers, and, of course, the public."

"I am excited about this opportunity to bring together the best

thinking on outdoor connections in a focused and purposeful way. This conference will help government leaders to better understand these issues and learn how they can be addressed," Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "We see reports on a regular basis that seem to indicate a growing problem, with the potential to impact everything from children's health and development to the future of the state's \$1.5 billion hunting industry."

"From an environmental perspective, we know that participation leads to stewardship, and the future of this state's most valuable natural resources depend on future generations perpetuating Pennsylvania's outdoor heritage," DiBerardinis said.

For more information about the conference, visit www.connectoutdoors.state.pa.us, email connectoutdoorsinfo@state.pa.us, or call 877-240-2245.

Growing Greener Update

\$212 million has been committed for more than 236 projects in the first year of the Growing Greener II initiative. Included are projects to clean up streams, expand open space, preserve farmland, invest in state and community park improvements, and redevelop communities.

A detailed list of the projects can be found at www.growinggreener2.com. The website also includes the list of projects that counties have designated for funding.

Projects are funded through the Departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Community and Economic Development and the Fish and Boat and Game Commissions.

New State Park and Forest Foundation Tag Highlights PA Wilds

Artwork depicting a McKean County bobcat is featured on the second commemorative tag issued by the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation. Proceeds from sales of the tags supports programs and improvements in the Pennsylvania Wilds, a 12 county region in the north central region of the Commonwealth.

The tags will be sold for a minimum \$5 donation at the 17 park and 8 forest district offices located in the Pennsylvania Wilds, or are available from PPF, a statewide non-profit organization committed to the protection, promotion and enhancement of state parks and forests. A new tag will be released each year.

The bobcat depicted on the tag is a colored-pencil sketch drawn from an original photograph of a McKean County bobcat taken by Rocky Holland of Eagle-Eye Photography. Cameron County artist Nelson Haas, a retired state trooper and avid outdoorsman, donated the work that has been converted into the tags.

The Pennsylvania Wilds tag is sponsored by Woolrich, well known maker of sportswear and blankets, in Woorich, Clinton County.

The first tag in the park series was issued in March and depicts an original watercolor of Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Cumberland County. It is available at parks statewide. Another tag in this continuing series will be released next year. For details on the tag program, visit www.PaParksAndForests.org.



Game Commission News

Bear Management Plan on Website

After reviewing public comment and making revisions, the Game Commission has posted its black bear management plan on its website. The report can be viewed at www.pgc.state.pa.us by selecting "Hunting" in the left-hand navigation column, then clicking on the photograph of the black bear and choosing "Bear Management Plan."

At one time, bear populations were precariously low in Pennsylvania. However, their abundance and distribution have increased substantially during recent decades, and bears now occur at record numbers throughout most of the state, and human-bear conflicts are on the increase.



The Bear Management Plan presents a guideline for managing Pennsylvania's black bear resource over the next 10 years. The document begins with a mission statement to maintain healthy black bear populations in suitable habitats that provide hunting and viewing recreation without human-bear conflicts exceeding levels acceptable to citizens of Pennsylvania.

The plan outlines four goals necessary for achieving the mission, which are: ensure that black bear populations remain healthy and self-sustaining; minimize loss of forested habitats and improve quality of existing forests for black bears; maintain human-bear conflicts at acceptable levels; and provide bear-related recreational opportunities.

Game Commission Field Reports Added to Website

Game Commission Field Reports, compiled by Wildlife Conservation Officers, Land Management Group Supervisors, foresters, and biologists provide a glimpse into what it is like to work for the Game Commission. Now, these regional reports are available on the Game Commission web site and will be updated every two weeks. Topics covered range from wildlife sightings to habitat work and law enforcement, and include wildlife research projects. Click on "Reports/Minutes" on the left side of the PGC home page www.pgc.state.pa.us.

State Finishes Wildlife Action Plan Stable funding needed to support new plan

Partnering with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has coordinated development of a Wildlife Action Plan that will expand and strengthen the state's management of fish and wildlife resources, particularly species of greatest conservation need.

Developed in response to a federal mandate that required each state to put together a Wildlife Action Plan to guarantee future State Wildlife Grants (SWG) appropriations, the plan provides Pennsylvania with an unprecedented opportunity to focus its management, increase its understanding of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, as well as invertebrates, and attain sustainable

wildlife populations, communities and ecosystems. Goals are to improve the scientific basis for making conservation decisions; conserve the state's biodiversity; cultivate a knowledgeable citizenry that supports and participates in wildlife conservation; ensure resources are available to conserve wildlife; and expand and improve the coordination of public agencies and other partners in wildlife conservation planning and implementation.

Although Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan focuses management attention primarily on species of greatest conservation need, its theme is to monitor and manage all fish and wildlife proactively, instead of waiting until declining species require crisis care to resuscitate their populations.

Research projects in Pennsylvania currently being financed jointly by a SWG and state funding include studies of declining or endangered species such as the northern flying squirrel, Atlantic sturgeon, the eastern massasauga rattlesnake and the state's second Breeding Bird Atlas.

An infusion of state funding or new revenue streams is needed to cover the currently unmanaged or under-managed species identified in the Wildlife Action Plan, particularly as declining hunting and fishing license sales continue to impact the programs of the Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission.

Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan can be viewed on the Game Commission's website at www.pgc.state.pa.us by clicking on "Wildlife" in the left column, and then selecting "State Wildlife Grants" in the "Wildlife" box atop the right column. Finally, select "Pennsylvania's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy."

State Wildlife Grants

The U.S. Congress recently reauthorized the State Wildlife Grants Program for the 2006 fiscal year. Pennsylvania will receive \$1.96 million. Three projects are being funded:

- **Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas.** The last two seasons of field survey needed to produce a comprehensive database on the distribution of all nesting birds in Pennsylvania will be funded. Data will aid in implementing and refining the Game Commission's Strategic Plan, its Wildlife Action Plan and the future conservation of species of concern.
- **Identifying and Predicting High-Quality Habitat in Relation to Allegheny Woodrat Demographic Trends.** This project will map high-quality Allegheny woodrat habitat and develop a model that will evaluate the viability of woodrat populations within the Chestnut and Laurel Ridges of the Allegheny Mountains in southwestern Pennsylvania.
- **Piping Plover Management and Conservation Plan.** This project will identify management and conservation strategies beneficial to restoring the federally-endangered piping plover as a nesting species at Presque Isle State Park in Erie County.



When you have worn out your shoes, the strength of the shoe leather has passed into the fiber of your body. I measure your health by the number of shoes and hats and clothes you have worn out - Ralph Waldo Emerson (from the Philadelphia Trail Club, Mar-Apr 2006)

Plant and Animal Round-Up

Game Commission Commemorates 100th Bald Eagle Nest in State

In less than 25 years, the number of bald eagle nests in Pennsylvania has increased from just three nests to more than 100.

The Game Commission started Pennsylvania's seven-year bald eagle reintroduction program in 1983, when just three nesting pairs remained in the Commonwealth. The agency sent employees to Saskatchewan to obtain 12 eaglets from wilderness nests in the first year. With financial assistance from the Richard King Mellon



Foundation of Pittsburgh and the federal Endangered Species Fund, the project spurred the release of 88 Canadian bald eagles into the wilds of Pennsylvania at Haldeman Island in Dauphin County and Shohola Falls in Pike County.

The Game Commission is confident that the remarkable eagle recovery will continue, since the state has unoccupied bald eagle habitat. Bald eagles are nesting in at least 31 of the state's 67 counties, according to preliminary census tabulations. There are at least 106 active nesting pairs (99 confirmed in 2005), and an additional 20 pairs appear to have established territories, which typically is a prerequisite task to nest-building. New nests have been confirmed in Bucks, Columbia, Fulton and Sullivan counties. Field staff also is looking into reports of new nests in Adams, Lawrence, Luzerne, Mercer, Montour and Wayne counties.

To commemorate Pennsylvania's 100-nest milestone in bald eagle conservation, the Pennsylvania Game Commission is offering for sale a special-edition embroidered wildlife patch. Depicting a bald eagle with two eaglets and designed by award-winning wildlife artist Bob Sopchick, the patch is six inches in diameter and sells for \$20. There has been a one-time production run of 3,000 patches.

Those interested can purchase a patch at any of the agency's six region offices, Harrisburg headquarters or through "The Outdoor Shop" on the agency's website (www.pgc.state.pa.us) by clicking on "Merchandise" and then choosing "Patches."

More information on Pennsylvania's bald eagles is available on the Game Commission web site.

Where Do Frogs Go In Winter?

What's a frog to do when the weather turns cold? They can't go south for the winter, they don't hibernate, and they don't have thick fur.

When temperatures drop below freezing, the blood of wood frogs runs cold. Ice crystals form between layers of skin and muscle and their eyes turn white as the lenses freeze. Blood stops flowing and up to 65 percent of their total body water is converted to ice. The heart and breathing both stop, and the frog spends the winter in a state of suspended animation.

Moth Ball Danger to Wildlife

Hikers and outdoor enthusiasts sometimes spread mothballs and flakes under their cars to deter porcupines from chewing on

various car parts. This works to some extent, but can result in problems if people neglect to take the balls and flakes with them when they leave. The discarded material can poison the environment. Placing the deterrent in small sacks or mesh bags that you can pick up when you leave is an easy solution.

When selecting mothballs for outdoor use, choose the paradichlorobenzene (P-DCB) variety (sold under trade names Paramoth, Para Crystals, Paracide). This formula will break down to harmless products in about a month, is very volatile, and evaporates readily from water and soil, thus posing much less chance of environmental harm than the older naphthalene mothballs. (adapted from the *Mid State Trail Association Brushwhacker*, Summer 2006)

Sacred Oak Tree of Oley

The Sacred Oak Tree in Oley (Berks County) has been closed to the public due to the proposed sale of the 94-acre tract on which it stands. The land was formerly the home of the late Daniel Hoch, US Congressman and Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club president. There were no easements or agreements made for the tree and the monuments placed in front of it.

The Chinkapin Oak acquired its name because Native Americans brought their sick to the yellow oak to be healed. According to legend, "no man would ever fell the Sacred Oak."

The Sacred Oak is currently the biggest tree in Berks County and is on the Pennsylvania Register of Large Trees. It is 75 feet tall with a spread of 120 feet. It is registered as a Penn Charter tree, meaning that it was alive in 1682 when William Penn arrived in the colony.

It is ironic that Hoch, who spent much of his life convincing others to donate and preserve land, failed to make a provision to safeguard the historic tree that he owned.

White Bellied Fox Squirrel

The endangered white bellied fox squirrel (Delmarva fox squirrel) was considered extirpated from southeastern Pennsylvania, due to the pressure of urban sprawl in its historic range. A program in the 1980s to re-introduce the Delmarva fox squirrel to portions of Chester County was thought to be unsuccessful, based on a lack of subsequent squirrel sightings. However, reports have surfaced of sightings.

Rex Lord is trying to determine the animal's range in the southern part of the state and asks hikers who spot this squirrel to contact him with details of the sighting. His email is rex_lord@yahoo.com.

The white bellied fox squirrel is distinguished by its white or cream belly. It is a very large squirrel, averaging up to 2 1/2 to three pounds. This animal spends more time on the forest floor than gray squirrels.



Friends of Allegheny Wilderness News

Chestnut Ridge Area

Two Eastern Native Tree Society (ENTS) members visited the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness area of the Allegheny National Forest to study trees in the region. They report finding a 71 foot tall American chestnut tree (*Castanea dentata*), a 125 foot tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), a 114 foot white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and a 96 foot bigtooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*).



Their trip report is posted on the ENTS website at http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/penn/chestnut_anf/chestnut_ridge_anf.htm. According to one of the ENTS members, “[Chestnut Ridge] had to be the densest population of American Chestnut I had ever seen.”

The ENTS is an association of forest scientists, naturalists, arborists, and amateur tree and eastern old-growth

aficionados. One of the group’s best known activities is locating and measuring large, old trees.

FAW Hiring Grassroots Organizer

To help accomplish its goal of adding more wilderness areas in the Allegheny National Forest, Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is hiring a Grassroots Organizer. This Organizer will spearhead the FAW campaign to protect the remaining qualifying areas of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) as wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act of 1964. The organizer will interact with diverse groups of Pennsylvanians and work to build public support for additional wilderness designations in the ANF. While this effort will focus on communities in and near the ANF, FAW also hopes to inform people throughout western Pennsylvania about wilderness. The Grassroots Organizer will ensure that appropriate leaders in Pennsylvania, such as elected officials, scientists, and business leaders, are educated about wilderness, with the goal of procuring their support for the FAW campaign. The Grassroots Organizer will also help ensure that feedback to Pennsylvania’s Congressional delegation is made in an effective, timely manner.

This poem from the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club Newsletter, reflects the sentiment of many trail maintainers and roadside cleanup crews:

Litter Bitter

By Margaret C. Scruggs

Our roadsides all flutter
With litter and clutter
From long-living plastic food pan,
To diapers abandoned,
Just tossed out to land on
Our landscapes among all the cans.

If only this litter
Could follow and flutter
Back home to the tosser’s front door,
Twould be a solution
To roadside pollution,

Such sins could be secret no more.

KTA Is Now an NCTA Supporting Affiliate

KTA has become a Supporting Affiliates of the North Country Trail Association, the non-profit organization that is working to construct and maintain the North County National Scenic Trail. Supporting Affiliates are groups with a connecting mission or interest who do not actually maintain a section of the physical North Country Trail.

Board Votes to Support Stony Valley

The KTA Board has voted to support the Stony Valley Coalition in their efforts to preserve the Stony Valley area. The Stony Valley is a popular hiking area, home to the Appalachian and Horse-Shoe Trails, as well as the Stony Creek Railroad Rail-Trail.

More than 30 years ago, when Stony Valley was threatened by a pump storage power project in the St. Anthony’s Wilderness area of the Valley, KTA also joined the Stony Creek Valley Coalition in opposing that development; that conservation effort was ultimately successful.

Wind Energy and Wildlife Meeting

The Geology Dept. of Kutztown University will be holding a day-long Conference on Wildlife and Wind Energy on December 2. The program will focus on the risks and trade-offs of wind power in the central Appalachian Mountains of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.



Use of utility-scale wind power as a supplemental source of generating electricity is gaining popularity in the four state area.

The Conference was organized to present accurate, objective, state-of-the-art information on wind power and wildlife in a public forum aimed at an audience consisting of the general public, media, governmental officials, non-profit organizations, wildlife and scientific experts, and wind energy companies.

For more information, see <http://www.kutztown.edu/acad/geography/wildlifeconf.htm>.

Hiker Health

Tick Remover

To remove a tick, 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 of its own accord and will stick to the cotton ball when you lift it away. (from *Susquehanna Trailers Newsletter*)



Rabid Coyote in Berks County

An eastern coyote killed September 21 in Sinking Spring, Berks County, tested positive for rabies. The private citizen who killed the animal reported that the coyote attacked his dogs and attempted to come through a door after attacking the dogs.

According to the PA Dept. of Agriculture, this is the first confirmed case of rabies in this species in the state. The Department

Around the Clubs

Allentown Hiking Club

AHC has joined the parade of clubs increasing dues to cover the increasing costs of printing and mailing newsletters. The new rate is \$10 per person, \$15 for a household.

Appalachian Mountain Club, Delaware Valley Chapter

The AMC-DV has announced its hiker and leader awards for 2005. Phil Mulligan topped all leaders by conducting 69 hikes, while Mike Helbing tallied 746 miles on chapter events.

Working with the Greater Philly Tourism and Marketing Commission, AMC is contributing to Boundless Philadelphia, an effort to encourage city residents to explore the wilds of eastern Pennsylvania. AMC created 17 hike itineraries in the greater metropolitan region. They are posted on the Commission's web site at www.gophila.com with a link to AMC activities at www.outdoors.org/pa_highlands.

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club

To mark Halloween, BMECC gathered for an outdoor evening of Blue Mountain and Berks County ghost stories, told by Charles Adams III, followed by a hike to a cemetery (by moonlight).

At a recent Bernville public relations event, BMECC unexpectedly found a connection to the club's past when Doyle and Faye Ney Showers stopped at the BMECC information table. Doyle's uncle Lloyd built Showers Steps and Faye's family owned the Ney's Cabin/Shelter (now demolished).

George Shollenberger, BMECC Trails Chair for more than 22 years, will relinquish his duties at the end of the year. He will, however, remain active, helping his wife Joan with the Corridor Management Committee.

BMECC commemorated two Appalachian Trail milestones with hikes to Tri-County Corner in November and Bake Over Knob in October. Under the leadership of Dr. Harry C. Rentschler, BMECC held the first Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail work trip on Nov. 21, 1926, at Tri-County Corner. Less than five years later, BMECC had completed its section of the trail (108.25 miles from the Lehigh River to the Susquehanna River) and the club celebrated with a rally on Oct. 15, 1931, at Bake Oven Knob, attended by Benton MacKaye and Myron Avery.



Mountain Club Of Maryland

MCM has invested a six-figure bequest from **Lester Miles**. The Club will award grants from the funds to projects pertaining to new trails, trail improvements, and preservation of woodlands and hiking terrain. The first grant was awarded to the Baltimore Council of Boy Scouts for a two-year effort to protect virgin hemlock trees from the woolly adelgid pest.

NCTA, Wampum Chapter,

The Wampum Chapter of the North Country Trail Association plans to draw attention to the club and trail by participating in two Christmas parades. Other promotional activities this year included presentations to community groups such as the American Legion and League of Women Voters, leading home schoolers, church,

and Silver Sneaker groups on trail hikes, and setting up information booths at community events. KDS-TV interviewed members at one event; the video is available on the station web site at www.KDSTV.com.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

PATC has received a \$7,355 grant from REI to support the club's effort to expand its expertise in stone construction methods.

The funds were used to purchase a set of hand tools, including various hammers, hand drills, wedge/feather sets, and a gasoline powered hammer-drill.



The club will present a series of workshops to instruct members in using and caring for the equipment and construction methods associated with building and restoring CCC-era crib walls and other stonework.

PATC has announced that future PATC built structures will be handicapped accessible in accordance with Appalachian Trail Accessibility guidelines. Costs are expected to be minimal.

Two movie producers visited the Blackburn Appalachian Trail Center as part of their planning for a "Walk in the Woods" motion picture production, based on the 1999 Bill Bryson book.

PATC has increased individual membership from \$25 to \$35 and couple membership from \$30 to \$40, effective January 1. PATC's last dues increase was in 1987. Inflation and significant increases in property taxes, particularly on Tuscarora Trail lands, spurred the change.

Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club

SATC sponsored nine hikes and one work trip during PA Hiking Week this year.

SATC donated over \$1000 to the hiking community last year - \$400 to the Appalachian Trail Ridgerunner program, \$500 to the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program, and \$200 to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in memory of deceased members.

Club membership now tops 650.

Susquehanna Trailers Hiking Club

STHC members were thrilled to learn that a new member is a niece of Chuck Keiper, for whom the Chuck Keiper Trail is named.

Venture Outdoors

VO participated in a city wide walk sponsored by Get Moving Pittsburgh. Members were urged to wear club branded items to publicize VO during the event.

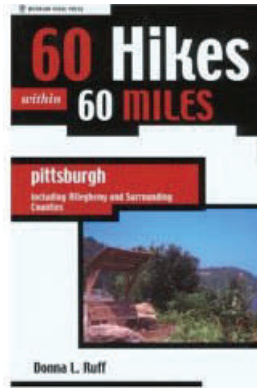
Erik Lingren has been named the new executive director of Venture Outdoors, replacing interim ED Wesley Posvar, Jr. Lingren, with 17 years of experience with the Boy Scouts, has experience and success in fundraising and enthusiasm for the outdoors.

(Continued on page 15)

New Publications for Hikers

60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Pittsburgh and Surrounding Counties, by Donna Ruff. Ridge Press, June 2006. 288 p., ISBN: 089732915, 6x9 in., \$16.95.

Pittsburgh's revitalized city parks, abundant state parks, tranquil state forests, and enhanced riverfronts offer endless opportunities for trekkers of every ability and interest to hike and explore. Diverse hikes include Frick Park, which can be combined with a visit to the Frick Art and Historical Center (free); Ohiopyle State Park, with views of the beautiful Youghiogheny River and Cucumber Falls; Beechwood Farms, where kids and adults can opt to participate in nature programs and walks; and Mt. Davis Natural Area, where hikers can stand on the highest point in Pennsylvania. History buffs will love Bushy Run and its museum and other historical site/hike combinations. Those seeking solitude will relish time spent walking in lovely Todd Sanctuary or one of the scenic and tranquil destinations of Forbes State Forest. Beautiful river, lake, waterfall, mountain, wildflower, and historical walks are all nearby



Horse-Shoe Trail Guidebook

The 23rd edition of the Horse-Shoe Trail guidebook was published this summer. The guide is available from the Club, PO Box 182, Birchrunville, PA 19421 for \$6.00 post paid or from Eastern Mountain Sports and other hiking stores.

Link Trail Guidebook

This long awaited second edition of the Link Trail Guide was published this Spring and is available from KTA for \$9.00 (members) and \$10.00 (non-members), plus \$2 shipping.

Around the Clubs *(Continued from page 14)*

Warrior Trail Association

The July meeting of the WTA featured two special guests. Fuzzy Randolph, a founding member, showed local archeological finds and talked about the early days of the Warrior Trail. 92 year old Bertha Bradford was the last teacher in the one room schoolhouse that is now the WTA headquarters. She had 14 students in 1966; WTA has prepared a display to preserve the history of the building.

WTA has received a grant that will enable the club to replace the roof on the historic building.

The increased cost of gasoline has prompted the **Wilmington Trail Club** to increase mileage paid to drivers to ten cents per mile. The previous rate, five cents per mile, was instituted in 1974 when gas was about 50 cents per gallon. The **York Hiking Club** has upped its contribution rate to drivers from five to seven cents per mile.

Hiking in the Year 2088

by Alex Gonzalez

[Ed. Note: This entertaining piece is reprinted from the Finger Lakes Trail News.]

It's never been better for hikers. Just last year, airboarding was banned over all green space; nothing like seeing a horde of airboarders landing on and invading the summit of Grace Peak and not a one of 'em burning a single calorie! Good riddance to that menace to solitude and any kind of real wilderness feeling. Now being alone is possible again.

Reminds me of the bad old days when illegal ATV use was rampant and law enforcement just couldn't keep up. Then in 2011 some guy named Joe Dabes invented the anti-electrical medallion, for which all hikers owe him a great debt. Just bury one under an inch of topsoil and it will suck all the juice out of an ATV's battery within a radius of a thousand feet, stopping it dead in its tracks. Many ATVs to this day still lie out there where they died, now quietly rusting; others, legally operating on farms, are still in use.

I remember one night, back in about 2020, when I was following an abandoned trail that led to an old lean-to, one of the really old ones, made mostly from stone. Jackasses had smashed hundreds of beer bottles inside it, rendering it little more than a receptacle for a ton of broken glass, which sparkled repulsively as I shone my flashlight over its myriad facets. I left, depressed. Then about a year later, someone named Irene Szabo invented the glass magnet. At last! A way to get glass fragments out of the woods! I went back to that old lean-to and let the contraption work its magic: turn it on, stand at least fifty feet away, and then use the remote-control unit to get it to engage. Immediately, all glass within a fifty-foot radius flies to the magnet. I wasn't able to carry out all the glass that day, but eventually I did—every last shard and fragment. Glass is less of a problem these days with a deposit of \$20 per bottle.

As I said at the outset, it's never been better for hikers. With my newly-cloned body, I think I'll do the Adirondack 46 again this summer—and maybe the Finger Lakes Trail, too. I want to break that Dabes guy's record of a dozen end-to-end hikes. Not much of a challenge any more, really—but that guy did it all with the same body! No one will ever match that part of the record—ever!

[Alex Gonzalez, a trail builder and maintainer for many years, won the FLTC's 2002 Clar-Willis award for his hard work and dedication to trail maintenance]

Square dancers at the Fall Meeting.
Photo by Dick Martin



Recycling Plastics

Confused about those little triangular arrows and numbers on the bottom of plastic containers? Many people think that the presence of a code means that the item is recyclable in curbside programs, but that's not always true.

Here is a recap:

- #1 PET clear plastic can be recycled almost everywhere and turned into fleece, luggage and other products
- #2 HDPE translucent plastic can usually be recycled, although some programs can't handle it (96% of all plastic bottles are #1 or #2)
- #3 PVC polyvinyl chloride (pipes, wire insulation and carpet backing) can be recycled, but not with PET plastic since one PVC bottle can contaminate a batch of 10,000 PET containers
- #4 LDPE low density polyethylene (squeezeable bottles, dry cleaning bags, bread and frozen food packaging) usually can't be recycled curbside
- #5 PP polypropylene (margarine tubs and medicine bottles) generally can't be recycled
- #6 PS polystyrene (egg cartons and plastic cups) is not recyclable in most household program
- #7 other is non-recyclable

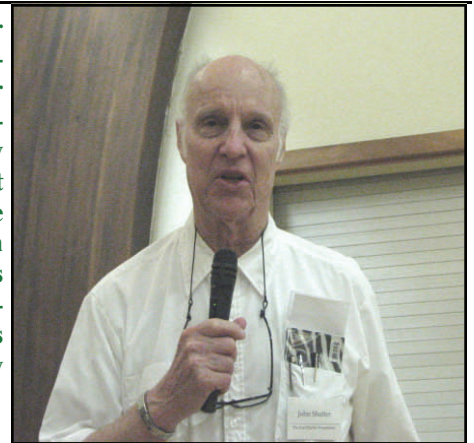


For more information on the recycling symbols and their meanings, go to www.earthodyssey.com/symbols.

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION
 PO Box 129
 Confluence, PA 15424-0129
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Confluence, PA
 Permit #9

John Schaffer, brother of legendary Appalachian Trail thru hiker Earl Schaffer, presented the Saturday evening program at the Fall Meeting. He showed photos taken by Earl on his hikes and entertained everyone with his brother's adventures. Photo by Dick Martin



KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliations (if any): _____

Organizational members are welcome and should forward the name and contact information for the group's designated KTA representative along with appropriate dues: \$50 per year for clubs; \$100 for commercial enterprises; \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All dues payments and correspondence should be mailed to: P.O. Box 129, Confluence, PA 15424.

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

Basic Membership (New Member Only) Individual—\$15 Family—\$20	
Basic Membership (Renewal) Individual—\$25 Family—\$30	\$
Brush Cutter Membership Individual—\$35 Family—\$45	\$
Blaze Painter Membership Individual—\$50 Family—\$75	\$
Trail Builder Membership Individual—\$100 Family—\$125	\$
Life Membership Individual—\$500 Family—\$750	\$
Youth Membership Individual—\$5.00	
Additional contribution In memory of/in honor of _____	\$
Total Enclosed	\$