

# NEWSLETTER

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



Serving Pennsylvania's Hikers Since 1956

November 2007

## Keystone Trails Association Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

### KTA and MDTS Efforts Restore Eight State Hiking Trails To PennDOT Tourism and Transportation Maps

For years, most of the state's long distance hiking trails have been depicted on the free PennDOT Tourism and Transportation maps. The 2007 maps, as originally issued however, contained only four hiking trails – the Appalachian, Laurel Highlands, Mid State, and North Country Trails.

As a result of the efforts of KTA and the Mason-Dixon Trail System, the routes of eight long distance hiking trails have been restored to the maps.

#### KTA Concerns

KTA Executive Director Paul Shaw expressed KTA's concerns in a letter to Transportation Secretary Allen D. Biehler:

"With more than 2 million printed each year, the maps with trails have proven invaluable as a way to introduce people, including those out-of-state, to the hiking opportunities that exist in Pennsylvania. The maps make people aware of a trail's existence, leading them to the internet and other sources where more detailed information can be obtained. The maps are also very helpful to hikers and backpackers for locating approximate road crossings and identifying nearby towns for supplies and accommodations.

"As a Tourism and Transportation Map, retaining the hiking trails would help support other state outdoor recreation initiatives including the PA Wilds and Get Outdoors PA programs.

"It was explained to me that the trails were dropped to reduce "clutter" on the map, but most of our major hiking trails are located in more remote areas of the state where there are more blank spaces on the map and fewer roads.

"We urge the Department of Transportation to reconsider its decision and once again include our major

hiking trails in future printings of the *Tourism and Transportation Map*. I would also like to offer our assistance to the Department to update trail locations."

#### PennDOT Response

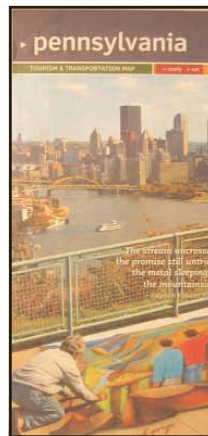
Frank DeSendi, Manager of the Bureau of Planning and Research, Geographic Information Division, responded:

"We have decided to reinstate several trails in the north central region. We are adding the Black Forest, Susquehannock, Bucktail, Quehanna, Chuck Keiper, Loyalsock, and the portion of Donut Hole from PA Route 120 to the Black Forest Trail. The criteria used to select these trails included open space, readability, access from a prominent traffic route, distinctive beginning and end locations, and/or part of a trail network. Due to space limitations, we cannot show both the West Rim Trail and the Pine Creek Trail. Our records indicate DCNR prefers Pine Creek.

"Additionally, we are planning to change the trail color, and all environmental features, to a shade of purple like the 2007 State Park Symbol. The goal is to improve legibility on predominantly green backgrounds."

#### Mason Dixon Trail

Jim Hooper of the Mason Dixon Trail System, who contacted PennDOT on behalf of the MDT, reports that the Mason Dixon Trail has also been reinstated.



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

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

**KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

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**2008 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 28-30 – Raccoon Creek State Park**

Leader: Mark Christy – 724-695-5523  
Stay in cabins in the state park.

**April 11-13 – Chainsaw Safety Training**

Leader: John Motz – 570-236-1462  
Stay at Getty Ridge Camp. Limited to 25 people.

**April 25-27 – Standing Stone Trail**

Leader: Mel Cooper – 814-599-1548  
Stay at Getty Ridge Camp.

**May 9-11 – Chuck Keiper Trail**

Leader: Rich Scanlon – 717-994-6212  
Camp at Coon Run Road at the old CCC Camp.

**2008 Summer Crew Schedule**

Crews assemble on Tuesday evening for dinner and orientation and work all day 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 a crew application, contact Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laffin, PA 18702, phone 570-655-4979, or email [jnlhealey@aol.com](mailto:jnlhealey@aol.com).**

**June 3-8 – Pinchot Trail**

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

Camp at Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association.

**June 10-15 – Donut Hole Trail**

Leaders: Joe Healey - 570-655-4979 &  
Rich Scanlon – 717-994-6212

**June 17-23 – Mid State Trail, Tioga Region**

Leader: Pete Fleszar – 717-583-2093  
Camp at Hills Creek State Park.

**2007 KTA Trail Care Awards**

**Attended 5 weekends (T-shirt)**

- Tom Bastian
- Joe Clark
- Bill Dietrich
- Joe Healey
- Lorraine Healey
- Elwood Loudenslager
- Tom Thwaites

**Attended 3-4 weekends (bandanna)**

- Carl Ganong
- Carl Griffin
- Tom Kelliher
- Ed Lawrence
- Mary Pitzer
- Rich Scanlon



Joe Healey, Tom Thwaites, Tom Kelliher, Ed Lawrence, Mary Pitzer, and Lorraine Healey display their Trail Care shirts and bandannas awarded at the Fall Meeting.



# President's Message

Over the weekend at our annual fall meeting at Blue Knob Ski Resort, hikers were treated to perfect weather as they hiked in the State Park and on the Lost Turkey Trail. One steep downhill sent a few hikers sprawling on the loose rock, and bear scat on the trails alerted everyone to get their cameras ready.

As we enter late fall and the holiday season, the views from our hiking trails change and the trails seem so different. We are no longer in the midst of greenery and can see far out over the mountains. This is also the time that we are setting aside for our membership development plan.

Your responses to the October membership survey, which included an opportunity for a weekend at the Cedar Run Inn at Pine Creek Gorge, were excellent. We thank the donor who provided the weekend and all of the members who expressed their thoughts about what are most important to them as a member of the Keystone Trails hiking community.

*This is the time that we are setting aside for our membership development plan.*

The survey was the beginning of a membership development project to evaluate how we communicate with our members and what services we provide. We want to know what's working and what we can do better. We will use the information in crafting our message to the public and planning for future membership services. Charles Glanville, Tom Kelliher, Norm Laccasse, Paul Shaw and I expect to complete the first phase of the project in late December.

*The survey was the beginning of a membership development project to evaluate how we communicate with our members and what services we provide. We want to know what's working and what we can do better*

With the guidance of a professional membership development consultant, we are reviewing the Association's outreach and other informational materials that include the strategic plan, newsletter, brochures, informational flyers, web site, grant requests, annual reports and membership growth and related activities. Our relationship with our local clubs and volunteers will be enhanced.

"We are confronted with insurmountable opportunities," Pogo the Possum once said in a comic strip. Membership development costs money, but our hiking trails and lands are worth protecting. Membership development planning will offer many opportunities for fund raising to help pay for the preservation of what we stand for, and why we exist. It may change what we are doing and how we are doing it, but we can identify the strategies needed to move from vision to action.

The goal of membership development is to help build the financial and organizational stability of our Association. We will strive to improve and integrate board development, communication and marketing. This includes strategic planning, major donor stewardship, board development, membership recruitment, cultivations and communication.

The process of planning is more important than the plan itself.

"You've got to be careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there"- Yogi Berra

Get outdoors and promote hiking,  
*Thyra Sperry*



## Fall Meeting Wrap-Up

Gorgeous fall hiking weather greeted the 120 members and friends who gathered at Blue Knob on September 28-30.

The KTA Council and Board both met on Saturday. Reports and actions included the following:

### Name Review

**Charles Glanville**, chair of the Name Review Committee, reported that the committee did not feel that any of the dozen potential names it considered was clearly superior to our current name, and recommends no change to our name.

### 2008 Consolidated Grant

KTA plans to submit another consolidated grant application to DCNR next spring. Clubs that need trail maintenance equipment are urged to prepare a request for inclusion.

### Mega-Hike

Paul Shaw discussed the possibility of KTA sponsoring a mega-hike next year, preferably an event of about 25 miles in south central Pennsylvania. Mega-hikes attract a younger demographic than those who typically attend KTA events, thus providing KTA with a means to gain name recognition with a younger generation. Member clubs could also set up booths and displays to promote club programs.

### Prowl the Sproul

Attendance at this year's Prowl, the fourth annual event, reached 100 attendees for the weekend. The Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association and the Sproul Forest District are enthusiastic about the event.

### Board of Advisors

Five individuals have agreed to serve on the KTA Board of Advisors: **Craig Dunn**, **Carl Lorence**, **Dave Raphael**, **George Spring**, and **Ron Stanley**. **Carol Witzenman** is the honorary chair of the group.

### Election of Board and Officers

The Council elected **Rick Carlson**, **Norm Lacasse**, **Molly O'Brien**, and **Thyra Sperry** to three years terms on the Board of Directors. All of the current officers were re-elected to another one year term: **Thyra Sperry**, President; **Tom Kelliher**, Vice President and Treasurer; and **Charles Glanville**, Secretary.

### Silent Auction

The Silent Auction of lawn and garden tools donated by Ames True Temper Company netted \$344.00. All proceeds will support the KTA Trail Care program.

## KTA Hiking Awards

### AT Award

**J. Michael Barlup**, *Mechanicsburg*  
**Carol Brandt**, *Carlisle*  
**David Brickley**, *Woodbridge, VA*  
**Wil Brooks**, *Frederick, MD*  
**Gail Brossman**, *Mechanicsburg*  
**Forrest Craig**, *York*  
**Robert A. Doren, Jr.**  
**Roger Raymond Fischer**, *Washington*  
**John S. Greecher**, *Mechanicsburg*  
**Barbara Jane Harvey**, *Mechanicsburg*  
**Cathy Hing**, *Boiling Springs*  
**Karen McCollom**, *Landisville*  
**John C. Monn**, *Carlisle*  
**Donald H. Muth**, *Etters*  
**Lorrie A. Preston**, *Mechanicsburg*  
**Robert G. Preston**, *Mechanicsburg*  
**Dinesh Rathore**, *King of Prussia*  
**Richard P. Shelly**, *Mechanicsburg*  
**Debra Smith**, *Landisburg*  
**Eleanor Wagner**, *Harrisburg*  
**Jennifer D. Wright**, *Harrisburg*  
**John Zinn**, *Mechanicsburg*  
**Patricia Zinn**, *Mechanicsburg*

### Merit Award

**Roger Ramond Fischer**  
**John S. Greecher**  
**John C. Monn**

### Western Award

**John C. Monn**  
**John Potter**, *Montoursville*

### Pennsylvania Award

**John C. Monn**

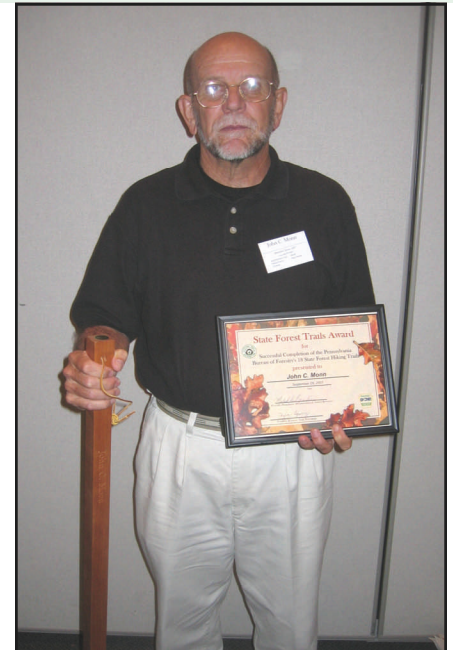
### Young Hiker Award

**Billy Clees**, *Williamsport*  
**Daivd Modispaw**, *Montoursville*  
**Tucker Pavelek**, *Grove City*



**Tucker Pavelek receives his Young Hiker Award from President Sperry**

The requirements and applications for all KTA hiking awards are available on the KTA web site or from the KTA office.



**John C. Monn**

## State Forest Trails Award

**Jeffrey C. Brethauer** of Lancaster and **John C. Monn** of Carlisle were honored at the Fall Meeting for earning the State Forest Trails Award. Sponsored by Keystone Trails Association and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the award recognizes individuals who have hiked all 791 miles of 18 designated state hiking trails on State Forest Lands. Recipients receive a certificate and a ceremonial hand crafted walking stick with their name carved into it.

"DCNR teamed up with the trails association to recognize individual hiking achievements, while at the same time drawing attention to the vast wealth of hiking opportunities offered in this state," Michael DiBerardinis, DCNR secretary, said. Since the award was first presented in 2003, Brethauer and Monn are the fourth and fifth honorees. Previous recipients are **Ginny Musser** and **Glenn Oster** (2003) and **Chris Rohrbach** (2004).

The 18 state forest hiking trails are: Baker, Black Forest, Bucktail, Chuck Keiper, Donut Hole, Golden Eagle, John P. Saylor, Lost Turkey, Loyalsock, Mid State, Old Loggers Path, Pinchot, Quehanna, Rocky Knob, Susquehannock, Thunder Swamp, Tuscarora, and West Rim Trails.

The exact mileage requirements and award applications are posted on the DCNR web site [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/trailaward.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/trailaward.aspx).

## KTA News

### Representative-At-Large Candidates for 2008-2009

The Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of candidates for the twelve KTA Representatives-at-large to be elected by the membership this year. Representatives are elected for a two-year term in odd numbered years and are not barred from seeking re-election to subsequent terms. The newly elected Representatives take office on January 1, 2008.

Representatives-at-large are members of the KTA Council, which meets twice a year, in spring and fall. Council is responsible for electing the Board of Directors and officers, ratifying the budget and setting the dues structure, amending the Bylaws, and providing advice and recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The other members of Council are the representatives from each KTA organizational member, the Directors, the standing committee chairs, the legal advisor, and the newsletter editor.

Ballots will be mailed in November.

Nominees are:

**Joyce Appel**, *East Brady, PA*

**Kathryn Barker**, *Carlisle, PA*

**Carl Davis**, *Wellsboro, PA*

**Linda Enders Roxberry**, *Shillington, PA*

**Henry Frank**, *Philadelphia, PA*

**Wayne Gross**, *Cresco, PA*

**Michael Jackson**, *Everett, PA*

**John Motz**, *Stroudsburg, PA*

**Wanda Shirck**, *Ulysses, PA*

**Debra Smith**, *Landisburg, PA*

**Tom Thwaites**, *State College, PA*

**Barbara Van Horn**, *Duncannon, PA*

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

### Offices Consolidated In Harrisburg

KTA relocated its administrative office from Confluence to Harrisburg in October. With the opening of the Harrisburg office last year, it became difficult to justify a second office in Confluence. To accommodate the move, KTA has leased office space at 101 N. Front St. The new telephone number is 717-238-7017; the email address has not changed.

**Pam Metzger**, our office administrator for the past five years, decided not to relocate to the Harrisburg area from Confluence). Pam has served KTA well, paying the bills, answering questions, keeping track of membership, organizing meetings and hiking events, and performing all the other sundry day to day tasks needed to support a volunteer driven nonprofit organization. Pam's last project for KTA was handling the arrangements for the Fall Meeting at Blue Knob.

KTA is seeking a new administrative assistant for the Harrisburg office.

**See pages 8 and 9 for more KTA news**

### KTA Begins Membership Building Program

By Paul Shaw

KTA has retained the services of the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL) to help KTA grow its membership and stabilize its funding. In a survey conducted for DCNR, an estimated 3.5 million Pennsylvanians participate in hiking each year. Of that number, 1100 are members of KTA (.0003%), so there would appear to be much room for growth. Amy O'Connor, ICL's assigned consultant, specializes in membership growth and development. As Membership Director for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Amy grew SUWA's membership from 1000 to 20,000 over an eight year period.

Following evaluation of a membership survey conducted in October, ICL and the KTA Board and staff are preparing a three-year comprehensive development plan with goals for membership and fundraising and an action plan to achieve those goals. The plan will be presented to the KTA Board at its January 5 meeting for adoption.



### Photographs Needed for PA AT Guide

By Wayne Gross

The Publications Committee is searching for either slides or digital photos of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania for the next edition of the *Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Guide*. The photographs should be taken from the Trail or be of well known landmarks along the trail. We are looking for a variety of scenes including vistas, trail maintenance, shelters, flora and fauna, and scenes from all four seasons. We are looking for historical landmarks in particular. Photographers will be credited. Please indicate the location of each photo and where along the trail it was taken. Photographs for the *Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Guide* should be submitted by February 1, 2008, to Publications Committee Chair, Wayne E. Gross, RR#2 Box 2228, Canadensis, PA 18325. Email [wegseg@msn.com](mailto:wegseg@msn.com) if you have any questions.

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The Pension Protection Act passed by Congress last summer enables donors 70 1/2 years old or older to make tax-exempt charitable gifts from their IRAs through Dec. 31, 2007.

Call us at 717-238-7017 to learn more.



## Along Our Trails

### Appalachian Trail

#### White Rocks

The Monroe Township Board of Supervisors rejected a developer's plan to build 268 homes on South Mountain along the White Rocks Ridge Trail corridor. The Cumberland Valley AT Club, Mountain Club of Maryland, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and Forest Coalition fought the development by attending township meetings, writing letters, starting an e-mail list, handing out information sheets, leading hikes in the area, and working with local newspapers to rally local opposition to the development.

#### Little Gap Relocation

The National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy have been working together on a remediation plan that will involve both a temporary and permanent relocation of the trail between Lehigh and Little Gaps near Palmerton. The temporary reroute from Little Gap to the crest of Blue Mountain is scheduled to be constructed this fall.

### DV-AMC/Valley Forge NHP



On June 2, the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club signed a ten-year agreement with the National Park Service to provide trail maintenance in the Valley Forge National Historical Park. DV Chapter Chair Paul Davis and Park Superintendent Michael Caldwell complete the paperwork. Photo by Mike Manes.

### Darlington Trail

The Borough of Marysville and the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy are considering a proposal from Fishing Creek Valley Associates (a housing developer) that could extend the Darlington Trail east about two miles to the borough. If permissions are granted and easements obtained, the Susquehanna AT Club would build and maintain the trail.

### Horse-Shoe Trail

The H-STC is moving on several fronts, pursuing permanent protection for the trail in the rapidly developing southeastern area of the state.

#### Hopewell Big Woods

The H-STC has joined the Hopewell Big Woods Partnership,

formed by the Natural Lands Trust in northwestern Chester and southeastern Berks County. The Partnership is working to protect 15,000 acres of forest land. The H-ST has a long section through the area and the club hopes this new partnership will result in permanent protection for the trail in the Big Woods.

#### French Creek State Park

In August, the H-STC joined PaTH (Pennsylvania Trail Hands) to relocate an eroded and muddy section of the H-ST. This relocation is the first in a list of trail improvements in the park recommended by the International Mountain Bike Association during a June trail-building workshop in FCST sponsored by the Hopewell Big Woods Partnership.

#### Chester County

In the Diamond Rock Hill area of Tredyffrin/Charlestown Township, most of the route on Howell Road is now in the woods behind the houses on the south side of the road. Thanks for this trail improvement go to Mitsie Toland of Tredyffrin's Open Land Conservancy, Sue Staas of the Charlestown Horse-Shoe Trail Committee, and Peter Hall, who granted an easement on his land (and has joined the H-STC Board!). Parking is available in a lot on Rees Road, between Howell and Whitehorse Rds., thanks to Jack Lowe; a sign is forthcoming.

Charlestown Township has permitted the trail onto eased property at Pikeland and Hollow Rds., avoiding a hazardous intersection. Further west, a spur trail connects the H-ST to Brightside Farm, a township-owned property. Diagonal parking is available along the Farm's entry lane, located on the north side of Yellow Springs Rd., just west of Valley Hill Rd. The white blazed connector trail is on the left side of the lane.

West Vincent Township is working with the H-STC to move the trail onto existing equestrian paths and off Horseshoe Trail Rd. The section from Birchrun Rd. to Bartlett Lane is open and the section from Davis to Hollow Rd. is ready. The club thanks the French and Pickering Conservation for allowing the trail on their beautiful wooded land.

#### Berks County

In Brecknock Township two property owners, Sam and Chong Yi and Viva Gerhart, have agreed to allow the trail on their property. The relocation will be completed early next year. An Eagle Scout has installed distinctive H-ST signage at key road crossing throughout the township.

#### Dauphin County

A "Woods in the West" committee is working to find a route to take the trail "off the road" between Swatara Creek and McLean Road Bridge. The Committee includes four residents of East Hanover Township: John Conner, President of the Manada Conservancy; Suzanne Donovan, former township supervisor; Becki Oller, former township facilitator and supervisor; and George Rish, a current township supervisor. Mike Stevens, the club's GIS specialist, has produced a map with the trail and relevant property lines overlaying an aerial photo showing the terrain of the area.



## Along Our Trails

### Mason-Dixon Trail

#### Relocation on Map 7

A bridge over Northeast Creek at Rolling Mill Rd (map 7) is out. The east to west temporary reroute is:

0.0 mi— Cross MD 7 in the heart of North East. Jog left then right to pick up Mechanics Valley Rd. At first intersection turn left on Jethro Rd. Follow it until it ends on Mauldin Ave (north Main St)

0.3 mi— Turn right on Mauldin Ave. Cross North East Creek and veer right onto North Main Street

0.4 mi— Turn right on Rolling Mill Rd.

0.6 mi— Watch for roadway on right (with M-DT blue blazes) leading to old underpass under Amtrak line

The M-DTS posts trail reports and relocations in the “News and Updates” section of the M-DTS website [www.masondixontrail.org](http://www.masondixontrail.org).

#### Newark Re-Route Proposed

In Delaware, Newark’s Conservation Advisory Commission has proposed that the former Newark Country Club golf course (now Country Club Estates) include a trail system as part of its open-space plan. Trail access points would be at the northeast and southwest edges of the tract and replace 7/10 mile of road walking on Country Club Drive (map 9).

#### Highlands Trail Co-Alignment?

The M-DTS is working with the PA Highlands, which is interested in having the Highlands Trail share the M-DT from Wrightsville to Whiskey Springs.

### Mid State Trail

The Mid State Trail Association has issued a new colored map for the MST from US 22 at Water Street to Poe Paddy State Park, replacing old maps 201-204 and 212. The new map, printed on waterproof and tear resistant material, is numbered 307-310 and shows many side trails, including the Reed Gap Spur, Greenwood Spur, and the Ironstone Loop. To obtain a map, see the MSTA website [www.hike-mst.org](http://www.hike-mst.org) or write to MSTA, Box 167, Boalsburg, PA 16827.

#### 500 Km. And Growing

The completed, continuous portion of the MST now stretches 460 kilometers (276 miles) from the Maryland line to Arnot Rd. in Charleston Township, Tioga County. In addition, 44 kilometers (26 miles) are finished north from Hills Creek State Park to the Tompkins Recreation Area at Cowanesque Lake, and another 5 kilometers from HCSP south to Orebed Rd. are cleared and ready for blazing. This leaves a gap of 13.4 kilometers (8 miles) between Arnot Rd. and Orebed Rd. The target is to secure an off-road route by next summer so that the KTA Summer Crew can construct the “missing link”.

Temporary maps and guides for the new trail are posted on the MSTA website [www.mst-hike.org](http://www.mst-hike.org)

#### State College Region

Musser Gap is now officially open for public use. The entrance is located about 1.8 miles east of Pine Grove Mills on PA45. DCNR has improved the old farm lane and installed a gravel parking lot. (Do not park along the highway!) The new MST map (see above) lists the lot as the “Proposed Musser Gap Trailhead.” This area is a potential recreation destination for hikers, cross-country skiers, birders, and hunters.

### Everett Region

The August 23 family event at Tenley Park in Everett, designed to provide Bedford County Chamber of Commerce members information about the MST, was a rousing success. Attendees had an opportunity to join a short MST hike and view a wide variety of presentations. This fun evening demonstrated the high level of community support for Everett becoming a “trail town.”

Everett has just completed, with Penn State WPSU, a DVD titled *Our Town Everett*. Local residents were interviewed and the MST is mentioned as one of the interviews.

### North Country Trail

The Wampum Chapter held a ribbon cutting ceremony to open five more miles of NCT on the Cemex property on September 16.

### Standing Stone Trail

Recognizing that the designation as a “trail town” can be beneficial to local citizens, businesses, and hikers, Mapleton on September 18 became the SST’s second trail town. Mapleton’s ordinance pledges that the borough will support the development and maintenance of the SST and encourage residents and businesses to actively support the trail. Mapleton joins Three Springs as a SST trail town.

The SST has received a commitment for an easement on the Water Works land that the trail traverses just outside Mapleton.

### Susquehannock Trail

Nearly 1000 people have earned the ST “Circuit Hiker Award.” The person who submits the milestone 1000<sup>th</sup> hiking log will receive a hand-made walking stick engraved by Bob Webber, retired DCNR forester and trail builder extraordinary.

### Warrior Trail



A group of hikers pause at the new Warrior Trail sign that marks the start of the trail in front of the new boat launch site in Greensboro. Bill Lubich and his sons fabricated and installed the sign. Photo by Peggy Pings.



## Trail Views ... by Paul Shaw, Executive Director

Around mile 25 of the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge, I remember thinking to myself “I don’t need to do this again.”

Hikes come in many varieties, from short nature hikes and other easy forays into the woods to moderate half-day ventures and 15-mile boot busters. Then there is a fairly new phenomenon, the all-day marathon hike that is a test of will, endurance and fitness. In Pennsylvania, these hikes include the 25-mile Bald Eagle Megatransect held each year near Lock Haven, and the 35-mile Rachel Carson Challenge Hike near Pittsburgh. Both of these one day events attract hundreds of participants who attempt the hike in the name of fun, and dozens of volunteers who provide support.

Both events have Start and Finish lines, check points about every 6-8 miles with snacks, beverages, and first aid, and lots of food and camaraderie at the end. Although finish times are recorded, both events are billed as a personal challenge rather than a race. Emphasis is on the word “challenge.” The Bald Eagle hike includes a long section of boulder hopping and a climb up a powerline corridor so steep that a rope is used to help pull oneself up the most difficult part. Rachel Carson has its infamous “Rollercoaster” section of continuous climbs and descents up short but steep hills, usually following powerlines or pipelines. There are 9717 feet of total elevation gain and 9705 feet of elevation loss over its 35-mile length.



I’m at that age where I’m not sure how many “good” years are left, so this past June, I decided to take the Rachel Carson “Challenge” while I’m able. KTA member Patty Brunner is one of the organizers, and KTA stalwarts Joyce Appel and Paul Henry are key volunteers. I parked my car near the finish line at Harrison Hills Park, and boarded one of the shuttle buses that left at 4:30 AM to take us to the starting point at North Park. The hike began around 5:45 AM as we moved single file through the starting checkpoint. Within a few miles, hikers became widely dispersed, with trail runners and fast hikers moving well ahead, and slower hikers pulling up the rear. Let’s just say I wasn’t near the front.

The Rachel Carson Trail led us up and down some of the steepest terrain in Pennsylvania through several surprisingly wild areas, residential neighborhoods, abandoned industrial areas, badly rutted ATV tracks and stretches of road walking. It’s amazing that a 35-mile hiking trail even exists so close to downtown Pittsburgh. Check stations were greatly anticipated oases with fresh fruit, Gatorade, water and snacks in abundance, served by squadrons of friendly volunteers. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches never tasted so good. As I hiked along, I found myself falling in with a few people for a mile or two, then moving ahead or falling behind to join other small groups. Instant friends were made through our shared hiking experience. Many people were repeaters hoping to improve upon their times from previous Challenges.

Ages ranged from young teenagers to hikers in their 70’s, although the average age is probably early 30’s. There seemed to be as many women as men taking the challenge. People walked as couples, families, groups of friends or solo, and most seemed to be having a good time. Much of the Rachel Carson Trail is on private property, and several landowners proved to be “Trail Angels”, offering water and in one case, beer, to passing hikers.

Finally, the entrance to Harrison Hills Park came into view. Two miles later, and 13 hours and 41 minutes after I started, I crossed the finish line to the cheers of earlier finishers, as did 448 others. I met the challenge. And, you know, I’m thinking to myself, maybe I will do this again.

See you on the trail!  
Paul

## Gifts To KTA In Honor Of ...

- Galen Bortner**  
from Gary Bortner
- Paul and Ellie Kurtz**  
from George Probst
- Dave Raphael’s 85<sup>th</sup> birthday**  
from Ann Tobias Bakaric  
& Carol Witzeman
- Tom Thwaites**  
from Henry Frank
- Don Verno**  
from James Verno

## In Memory of ...

**Robert A. Olsen**  
from Jean Aron

## Contributions

- Jean Aaron**
- Kenneth Barker**
- John Bergevin**
- Robert Best**
- Charles Connor Family**
- Harry Hansell**
- Jon Kapecki**
- John Kapustka**
- Tom Kelliher**

**Terry Marshall**  
**Pamela Munroe**  
**Molly O’Brien**

**Friends of Salt Springs Park**  
**John & Rose Marie Schieber**  
**David Singer**  
**Chris & Dawn Stabley**  
**Robert Steeneck**  
**Malcolm White**

You can remember or recognize a person or occasion with a Memorial or Honorary gift to KTA. All contributions will support KTA’s work to promote and protect hiking trails and hikers’ interests in the Keystone State.



## Endangered Hiking Trails Training Program Update

The KTA Endangered Hiking Trail Training Program, authorized in July, has openings for several more volunteers who want to learn the skills that will enable them to successfully work with landowners and land managers to secure trail access on private and public lands. Since local residents are the best persons to make contact and negotiate with local landowners, this training program will be especially useful to members of our local trail maintaining clubs who wish to secure the future and long term protection of their trails across unprotected land.

Interested individuals and organizations are urged to contact Paul Shaw at [ktahike@verizon.net](mailto:ktahike@verizon.net) or 717-238-7017 for more information. Don't miss this trail protection opportunity!

### Member Death

**Robert A. Olsen**  
State College, PA  
(see page 13)

## Membership Dues Are Due!

Have you renewed your KTA membership? If not, now is the time to write that check! The KTA membership year runs from October to September.

Is this the year that you decide to join almost 300 other hikers and become a life member? You'll never write another dues check, **plus** you'll enjoy the warm feeling that comes with the knowledge that you have helped protect hiking trails and the interests of current and future hikers.

Congratulations if you have already renewed or are a life member!

One more idea—tell another hiker about KTA and give him or her a copy of the membership form on page 16.



John Seville of York, Shethra Rigg of King of Prussia, and Laura Jackson of Everett display the door prizes—hand made bird houses—that they won at the fall membership meeting at Blue Knob. The houses were made and donated by Gene McCarney of the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club.

## Upcoming KTA Meetings & Events

Dec. 1.....Board Retreat, Harrisburg  
Jan. 5.....Board of Directors Meeting, Harrisburg  
April 18-20.....Spring Meeting, Wellsboro  
May 24-June 1.....PA Hiking Week

## KTA Seeks Growing Greener Grant

By Paul Shaw

KTA has prepared a Growing Greener grant application entitled PA Hiking Trails Map, Manual, and Inventory Assistance.

### PA Hiking Trails Map

The PA Hiking Trails Map will identify, on a 24 x 36 folding map, all the major hiking trails in Pennsylvania, along with road crossings, nearby towns, etc. Color-coding will differentiate hiking-only trails from multiple use. The flip side will contain a brief description of each trail along with links for obtaining more detailed maps, guides, etc. The Peter Gould Center for Geography Education and Outreach at Penn State University has agreed to collaborate with us in preparing this map using existing overlays where available, plus original cartographic work where needed. It is anticipated that 25,000 copies will be printed for distribution to KTA members, member clubs, and other venues. Total cost is \$22,662, which includes map preparation, map printing and staff time.

### Hiking Trails Manual

The PA Hiking Trails Manual project will establish a standards committee to review existing hiking trail construction and maintenance standards from a variety of sources, and recommend best practices that are most appropriate for Pennsylvania's hiking trails. Current state standards on blazing and signage on public lands will be included as will information on PennDOT road crossings, the Conservation Volunteer program, and other materials of value to our maintainers and builders. It is anticipated that 250 copies of the manual will be printed for distribution to trail maintaining clubs, DCNR, and others. Total cost is \$7100, which includes manual printing and staff time in compiling the manual.

### Inventory Assistance

The Inventory Assistance project will assist DCNR in securing greater public input from the hiking community as DCNR compiles a statewide inventory of recreation trails, including hiking trails. Input will be sought at KTA's fall and spring meetings and at KTA special events. KTA, through its member clubs, will also provide GPS data on specific trails. Clubs will utilize GPS units provided by the current consolidated grant. Total cost of Inventory Assistance is \$1900, all for staff time.

The total cash amount for the grant request is \$31,662, to be matched with \$31,784 of in-kind services (committee volunteers, GPS volunteers, Penn State graduate students, trail volunteer hours, etc.).

This grant application, if approved, will result in publications that should prove valuable to the trails community.

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When the trail is steep and you feel like crying, and the top is far from sight – a quick rest stop will cure your blues and make everything all right.— Susquehanna Trailers Newsletter

## News from Our State Partners

### Devlin Appointed New State Forester

Daniel A. Devlin, who has worked for 26 years in various positions in the Bureau of Forestry, has succeeded Dr. James Grace as the State Forester. Grace is now DCNR's deputy secretary for state parks and forestry. The more than two million acres of Pennsylvania's state forest system is the largest in the nation that is certified as sustainably managed to ensure its future health and that of the timber industry it supports.

### Valley Forge State Forest Renamed To Honor William Penn

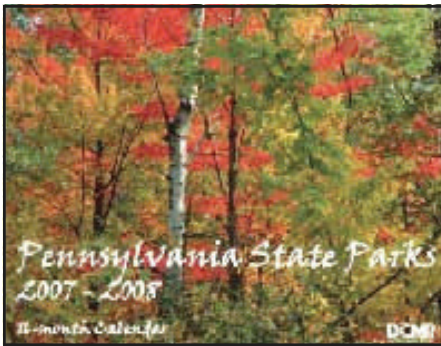
To eliminate public confusion over the name of one of its 20 state forest districts, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has renamed the Valley Forge State Forest District in honor of William Penn, the founder of the state and an early conservationist. The geographic area of this forest includes counties influenced by William Penn, whose 1681 edict directed that colonists "in clearing ground, care be taken to leave one acre of trees for every five acres cleared."

The district encompasses 901 acres in five tracts in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties, as well a section of Northampton County. The district headquarters are at French Creek State Park, near Elversen, Chester County.

The five tracts are Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens Public Wild Plant Sanctuary, 602 acres in the southwest corner of Chester County; Little Tinicum Island, 200 acres, in the Delaware River estuary, Delaware County; the David R. Johnson Natural Area, 56 acres, in Bucks County; the Ruth Zimmerman Natural Area, 33 acres in Berks County and the Cornwall Tower site, 10 acres, in Lancaster County.

### 2008 State Parks Calendar On Sale

DCNR is selling a calendar featuring photographs depicting scenes from state parks. The calendar highlights state park information and activities, notes holidays and significant environmental observations, and includes valuable outdoor recreational facts, tips and guidelines. Proceeds benefit the state park system.



The calendar is \$8.95, tax included, and can be ordered by calling 1-888-PA-PARKS. There is a shipping charge. The calendar also may be purchased at the following state parks: Canoe Creek, Colonel Denning, Cook Forest, Fort Washington, Gifford Pinchot, Greenwood Furnace, Hills Creek, Kettle Creek, Keystone, Lackawanna, Leonard Harrison, Little Pine, Linn Run, Lyman Run, Nockamixon, Oil Creek, Parker Dam, Pine Grove Furnace, Promised Land, Reeds Gap, Ricketts Glen, Sinnemahoning, Sizerville, Tobyhanna and Worlds End.

To look at the photographs in the calendar, go to [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us) and choose State Parks.

### WRCP

Gregory J. Czarnecki, the former director of the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, has been named executive director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Wild Resource Conservation Program. Czarnecki succeeds Sara J. Nicholas, who was named senior policy analyst at DCNR.

The semi annual *Keystone Wild! Notes*, the official publication of the WRCP, informs its readers about the activities of the Program, which is the principal agency that supports research and protection efforts for the state's natural heritage—the unique collection of native non-game animals and wild plants.

To add your name to the mailing list, send your postal address to: Editor, Wild Resource Conservation Program, PO Box 8764, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

For more information, visit the WRCP website at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf).



### DMAP

In an effort to control Pennsylvania's white-tailed deer population and reduce crop and forest damage, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has added more than 941,000 acres in 83 state park and forest areas to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). Hunters purchase permits, good during all established deer hunting seasons, allowing hunting of antlerless deer on a specified DMAP property. The 16 State Parks are Bald Eagle, Canoe Creek, Codorus, Cook Forest, Hickory Run, Kings Gap, Moraine, Nescopeck, Ohiopyle, Oil Creek, Presque Isle, Prince Gallitzin, Ricketts Glen, Ryerson Station, Shawnee and Tobyhanna.

Information about DMAP is available on the Game Commission web site [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us).

### New Deer Management Brochures On Game Commission Web Site

The Game Commission has developed eight new brochures to help Pennsylvanians learn more about why and how the agency manages deer, and the factors, variables and intangibles that influence this evolving management process.

Among the topics covered in the brochures:

*Deer Management For Everyone: Is it Mission Impossible?*

*Pennsylvania's Deer Management Goals: Measuring Progress*

*How Many Deer Are There?*

*A Keystone Species of the Keystone State* (effect of deer on the forest ecosystem)

*Where Are the Deer?*

The brochures, available as PDF files only, can be accessed by visiting the Game Commission's website [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us) and clicking on the "Deer Management Brochures" link found in the center of the homepage.



## News from Our State Partners

### GC Adjusts Hunting Hours

The Game Commission has extended hunting hours. Legal hunting will now end 30 minutes after sundown. Hunting hours begin 30 minutes before sunrise.

### Hunter Numbers in PA

Pennsylvania's 920,000 resident hunters age 16 and over represent nine percent of the state's population. That rate is almost double the national average of five percent of population. The state's hunters spend 15.8 million days out in the field, for an average of 17 days per hunter, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation.

### Wildlife Art Available from PGC

Wildlife enthusiasts who enjoy owning wildlife art can help support programs that benefit Pennsylvania's wildlife by purchasing any of the wildlife prints offered by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The Game Commission's 2007 Working Together for Wildlife fine-art print, "The Getaway," is by Pennsylvania wildlife artist Patrick R. Sharbaugh. The print features three white-tailed deer in a farmland scene. The print was published on the cover of the January issue of *Pennsylvania Game News*, the agency's official monthly magazine.

Accompanying this year's Working Together for Wildlife print is a patch, designed by Bob Sopchick, of York, York County. Like all other patches in the Working Together for Wildlife series, the patch sells for \$5.66.

Launched in 1980, the Working Together for Wildlife program has raised more than \$2 million to support research and management of non-game wildlife species native to Pennsylvania, including the bald eagle, osprey, river otter and fisher.

These and other art prints, stamps, patches, videos, wallcharts, and collectibles are available through The Outdoor Shop on the agency's website [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us) or at PGC's Harrisburg headquarters.

### Pennsylvania's Tourism Web Site Promotes Hiking

The state is extolling the beauty and joy of hiking on its official tourism web site at [www.visitpa.com](http://www.visitpa.com) under the heading Roadtrips.. One three- day hiking vacation featured the Quehanna, Donut Hole, and Loyalsock Trails.

The description for day one begins: "You'll start off your hiking roadtrip near Penfield, on the lovely Quehanna Trail. This loop trail runs 58 miles through the Moshannon State Forest and 17 miles through the Elk State Forest, so you know you'll see plenty of bright fall leaves (and maybe even an elk or two). Better yet, this trail is accessible to foot traffic only, so you won't have to deal with cars or ATVs---it's just you and Mother Nature."

### Invasive Plant Brochures

Available from DCNR is the revised 2006 edition of *Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania*. This handy leaflet lists the invasive trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and flowers that are threatening our native plants, briefly describes the problems caused by these pests, and provides contact data and web sites to obtain further information. The brochure is available on the web at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildplant/invasive.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildplant/invasive.aspx).

Also available from the Recreation Advisory Committee of DCNR is a series of single page fact sheets, titled *Invasive Hitchhikers*, that are designed to help recreational enthusiasts learn how they can play a critical role in minimizing the spread of invasives while participating in recreational activities. Number 1 is entitled *What Hikers and Backpackers Need to Know!* and number 10 is *What Trail Maintainers Need to Know!* The fact sheets may be reprinted in newsletters and other publications or included on an organization's web site. Go to [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/invasivefactsheets/index.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/invasivefactsheets/index.aspx).



## Children and the Outdoors

### Wilderness Safety for Children

Rescue International's Wilderness Safety for Kids and Parents is a kid-friendly leaflet about staying safe in the woods. The "Note to Parents" section provides helpful tips to reinforce the information in the kids' section. Some of the Kids content is on the Northeast Search and Rescue Team website at [www.nesar.org](http://www.nesar.org).

### What Are Our Children Doing?

Kids spend about 6 ½ hours per day with TV, video games, and other electric media. 50 percent fewer children spent time outside hiking, fishing, or playing in 2003 than in 1997

The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007, a bill introduced by US Sen. Jack Reed and Rep. John Sarbanes, would provide federal funding for states to develop environmental literacy plans, teacher-training programs, and other outdoor learning activities. The proposed act would also reestablish the Office of Environmental Education.

### Reaching That Younger Generation

In our ongoing effort to grow its wilderness campaign for the Allegheny National Forest, Friends of Allegheny Wilderness has recently launched a MySpace page to connect with new wilderness supporters online. Their page is at [www.myspace.com/pawild..](http://www.myspace.com/pawild..) Members of the MySpace community can add FAW's site to their "friends list"!



## Ecology

### The Economic Value of Wilderness

The Wilderness Society and Friends of Allegheny Wilderness have collaborated on a new analysis of the long-term benefits of more wilderness areas in the Allegheny National Forest region. According to the report, *Allegheny National Forest Wilderness: Economic Benefits for Pennsylvania* (September 2007), designating eight proposed wilderness areas, totaling 54,460 acres, would not harm the timber industry or local municipalities as some wilderness opponents assert. Instead, there would be a windfall of long-term economic benefits to the region in response to wilderness designations.

As an example, an intact ecosystem offers benefits, for free, that people might otherwise have to provide for themselves. A 2001 study by Loomis and Richardson published in the *Journal of International Wilderness* estimated the value of federally designated wilderness areas for watershed protection, carbon storage, climate regulation, and waste treatment (nutrient cycling) at \$152 per acre per year. In the ANF, the larger proposed wilderness region would ensure the continued provision of \$8.3 million per year in these ecosystem services.

People get economic benefits from wilderness even if they never set foot in it, see it, or drink water that is filtered by forests growing there. These “passive-use” benefits derive from people's desire to conserve the option of visiting or using wild places in the future, of passing that option on to future generations, or simply knowing that those places exist in a natural state.

Loomis and Richardson found wilderness in the eastern United States provides about \$4 per acre per year of these benefits. For the ANF that could mean approximately \$218,000 in economic benefit that could be generated each year even before the first angler casts a fly into a wilderness-nourished stream or the first hiker steps onto a wilderness trail.

In addition, the report details educational, scientific and other economic benefits of wilderness. The analysis is online at [www.pawild.org/pdfs/ANF\\_wilderness\\_economics.pdf](http://www.pawild.org/pdfs/ANF_wilderness_economics.pdf).



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

### Ozone-Causing Emissions Reduced by 60% Since 2000 Over Eastern U.S.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported this week that ozone-causing nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants and industry have been reduced 60 percent from 2000 to 2006 in 19 eastern states and the District of Columbia.

The reduction of NOx – a precursor to ground-level ozone, or “smog” – has helped reduce ground-level ozone concentrations an average of 5-8 percent in the eastern United States in the last three years. Four out of five eastern ozone non-attainment areas now meet the current standard.

The EPA report tracks summertime emission reductions from 1990 to 2006 and assesses the impact of these reductions on ozone air quality in the eastern region. The report is available on the EPA web site at <http://www.epa.gov/airmarkets/progress/nbp06.html>.

### Drilling Threats in the ANF

Currently, there are more than 9,000 active oil and gas wells on the Allegheny National Forest. To support those wells there are more than 2,000 miles of oil and gas roads, which are in addition to the standard Forest Service road network. Each well requires a cleared area averaging 1/4 to 1/3 acre in size.

The Forest Service anticipates that drilling applications for more than 2,000 new wells will be received this year. Those additional wells will require an estimated 500 miles of new road, 50 miles of new pipeline and more than 1.6 million cubic yards of sandstone for road surfacing material dug from the Allegheny National Forest, requiring 35 to 50 new rock pits.

Fifteen wells have been drilled near the Morrison Run Trail in the proposed Morrison Run Wilderness. Forest Service officials estimate as many as 500 to 800 wells will be planned for within the Morrison Run area within the next one to three years. Those wells will reach far into the interior, largely blanketing the entire 6,800-acres of the proposed wilderness area.



### Northern Flying Squirrel Added to State Endangered Species List

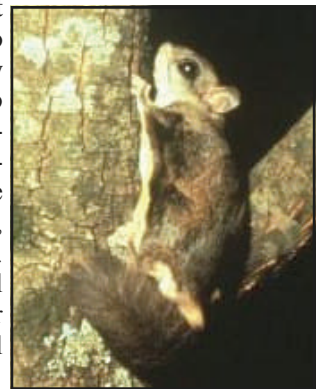
The Game Commission has added the northern flying squirrel, the larger of the state's two flying squirrel species, to Pennsylvania's endangered species list.

Field survey work has shown that this species' population has been in decline for some time. Northerns were once found across Pennsylvania's northern tier. Now, however, their distribution is limited to less than a half-dozen known sites in old-growth forests with a large percentage of conifers. All are in northeastern Pennsylvania, with the exception of one in Warren County and one in Potter County.

The major reason for their decline is the loss and fragmentation of the older-growth coniferous forest in Pennsylvania. Also contributing to the decline is a parasite carried by southern flying squirrels and lethal to northerns. The *Strongyloides robustus* parasite poses no threat to southern, but it seems to suppress the northern's ability to put on winter fat, and to even maintain existing weight. Since northerns and southern will share living quarters where their ranges overlap, there is substantial concern for the already rare northerns.

Northern flying squirrels are nocturnal gliding mammals, and are incapable of true flight. Adults are about twelve inches long and weigh less than 5 ounces.

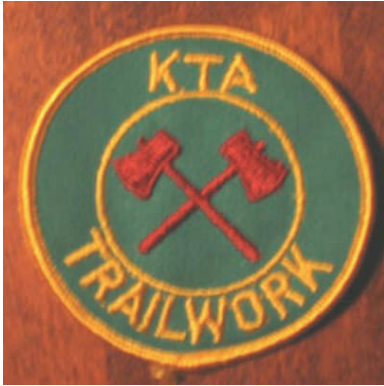
Adding this species to the state's endangered species list will permit more management attention and improve eligibility for federal funding.



## Trail Care Reports

By Joe Healey

### Mid State Trail



Tom Thwaites led the July Trail Care, held on the Mid State Trail in the State College region. We camped at Poe Paddy State Park in a very nice camping area. The crew repaired a broken bridge and did a lot of brushcutting. Those attending were **Tom Bastian, Paul Brechbiel, Jack Bushey, Joe Clark, Bill Dietrich, Dwight Fox, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Tom Kelliher, Elwood Loudenslager,**

**Ed Lawrence, Rich Scanlon, Rich Stibgen, Tom Thwaites, and Jan Unneberg.**

### Quehanna Trail

August took the crew north to one of my favorite trails, the Quehanna Trail in Clearfield and Elk Counties. Ralph Seeley was the leader and he kept us busy all weekend. The crew camped at Black Moshannon State Park. Participants were **Tom Bastian, Jack Bushey, Joe Clark, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Mary Pitzer, Ralph Seeley, and George Weakely.**

### Salt Spring State Park

September brought a new work site for the Trail Crew, as we headed north to Susquehanna County to Salt Springs State Park north of Montrose. I was the leader. The crew repaired a very badly eroded trail by installing over two dozen water bars and also repaired the trail section along the stream. We also built a nice set of steps to the trail. Volunteers were **Tom Bastian, Joe Blaisure, Kathy Blaisure, Jim Cogan, Paul DeSeva, Daniel Dougherty, Carl Ganong, John Grill, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Debbie May, Ralph May, Joe Morris, Bob Neal, Dave Walp, Dennis Wilson, and Nancy Wottich,**

I would also like to thank the Friends of Salt Spings State Park for their generous donation to the KTA Trail Care program.

## Volunteers

Many will be shocked to find when the day of judgment nears That there's a special place in heaven set aside for volunteers. Furnished with big recliners, satin couches, and footstools, Where there's no committee chairman, no group leaders or car pools.

No eager team that needs a coach, no bazaar and no bake sale. There will be nothing to fold or mail. Telephone lists will be outlawed.

But a finger snap will bring cool drinks and gourmet dinners and treats fit for a king.

You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few and work for all they're worth?"

Why, all those who reaped the benefits and not once volunteered on Earth.

Ann Landers, May 1999 (quoted from Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club Newsletter)

## New DCNR Trail Marking Guidelines Issued For State Forests and Parks

DCNR has issued new guidelines for marking recreational trails, including hiking trails, on State Forest and State Park lands. According to Dan Devlin, the Director of the Bureau of Forestry, the guidelines must be followed by volunteers working on State Forest and State Park lands. The 18 page brochure is posted on the DCNR web site at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/sfrmp/documents/Recreation\\_Trail%20Marking\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/sfrmp/documents/Recreation_Trail%20Marking_Guidelines.pdf).

## 2008 PA Hiking Trails Calendar Sales To Benefit KTA

KTA member Scott Adams is selling 2008 trail calendars, and purchasing them will also benefit KTA, since Scott is donating five dollars from the sale of each calendar to KTA.

A member of the Ridge and Valley Outings Club and the Mid State Trail Association, Scott hopes that the calendar will help promote hiking and get more people out on our trails.

The 17 x 11 inch wall calendar features trail scenes from around the state, including the Allegheny Front, Chuck Keiper, Donut Hole, John P. Saylor, Mid State, Old Logger's Path, and Pinchot Trails. The calendar portion features large squares for each date, perfect for noting your upcoming hikes and other commitments.

The calendars sell for \$18.85 and are available on the web at The Hiking Spot, [www.thehikingspot.com](http://www.thehikingspot.com).



Calendar photo for January. Courtesy of Scott Adams.

## Trail Advocacy

"But it is important to realize that once the blasting and bulldozers are held at bay, and the land has been transferred to the public domain, there is still work to do to ensure that the public enjoys appropriate access to it. ...like much else in modern times, creating park trail networks is a much more regulated activity than before. ...Advocacy for better recreational design and management requires a never-ending engagement in these public processes. ...Without that involvement, the hard won gains in open space advocacy and acquisition phases may not translate into high quality recreation ... Ed Goodell, NYNJ Trail Conference *Trail Walker*, May/June 2006.



## Around The Clubs

The **AMC Delaware Valley Chapter** is participating in AMC's Chapter Youth Program. The CYP is a collaborative effort between a sponsoring youth group and AMC; AMC volunteers share their skills as outdoor leadership advisors with the youth agency staff and participants. Chapter volunteers are required to attend a five-hour training session and be certified by AMC to serve as advisors.

The **Batona Hiking Club** is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of an L.L. Bean "Grants to Clubs" award, which will enable the club to purchase trail maintaining tools and equipment

The **Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club** was recognized for 90 years of service to the community and hikers at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Biennial Meeting at Ramapo.

The **Chester County Trail Club** offered a two-week 110-mile backpack in Yosemite National Park this summer.



The **Mason-Dixon Trail System** is selling blue Mason-Dixon Trail T-shirts. The two designs feature the MDTS map on either the front or the back of the shirt. Cost is \$15. Order forms are on the club website at [www.masondixontrail.org/tshirts.htm](http://www.masondixontrail.org/tshirts.htm).

Two M-DTS volunteers recently donated their club and trail related material to the Special Collections Department of the University of Delaware Library. In this way, the documents will be preserved and available to researchers.

The **Mid State Trail Association** celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Although the Mid State Trail was initially built in the late 1960s under the auspices of the Penn State Outing Club, the MSTA was formed in 1982 to began the expansion of the trail out of the Seven Mountains region.

The **North Country Trail Association's** Pennsylvania Trail Council elected Paul Henry as the state's new Trail Council Chair. The NCTA will hold its next annual conference August 7-10 at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY. Check the NCTA website [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org).

The **Pocono Outdoor Club** now has an official web site [www.PoconoOutdoorClub.org](http://www.PoconoOutdoorClub.org). Due to the greater visibility of the site, POC has already picked up a handful of new members. The club has also started emailing weekly activity updates to members' inboxes.

The **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club** is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. President Lee Sheaffer notes that PATC can attribute the club's success to the fact that it has never forgotten what founder Myron Avery taught – be a club of action.

The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club's** AT Across PA

series was a resounding success, with 20 hikers completing all 229 miles of the trail (see page 4). Among those who completed the series was Dinesh Rathore, who suffered seven major leg fractures in a 1996 accident and was not expected to ever walk again. His fellow hikers gave him the trail name "True Grit" because "he earned it." SATC reports that a handful of other hikers are well on their way to completing the AT through PA and will likely "make-up" their missing sections this year.



Building on this momentum, SATC is scheduling seven hikes so that members can hike the AT in Maryland and West Virginia this fall.

SATC notes the passing of Jennie Riggio, SATC's last surviving charter member.

SATC has its own email address to use to contact the club: [hike-hbg@satc.org](mailto:hike-hbg@satc.org).

The **Susquehannock Trail Club** now offers a members newsletter to provide better communication between quarterly newsletters. Members can keep up-to-date with the latest trail and club news and post messages and photos.

STC is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The club was formed to create and maintain the Susquehannock Trail System, conceived in 1966 by William D. Fish, Jr., publisher of Potter County's *Potter Enterprise* weekly newspaper.

As part of its historical celebration, the October STC Newsletters recounts this trail episode:

Girl scout leader Yvonne Baldwin of York, PA, along with a group of eight girls and another leader from Camp Echo Trail, hiked the 85 mile Susquehannock Trail in six days. Along the old B&S Railroad grade in the East Fork, they encountered a troop of Boy Scouts from Buffalo, NY, who were hiking 50 miles in ten days. The boys were described as "surprised, if not embarrassed." The girls met the same boys a few days later on the other side of the loop.

The **Wilmington Trail Club** held its 15<sup>th</sup> Hike Across Delaware in October (traversing all 14 miles of the state). The route follows the north side of the C & D Canal from Chesapeake City to Delaware City.

### Robert A. Olsen 1913-2007

Robert A. (Bob) Olsen, 93, of State College, a long time KTA member, and one of the founders of the Standing Stone Trail, died August 24. A professor in the Engineering Department at Penn State, Olsen began hiking and backpacking on the Appalachian Trail in 1963. In 1981 he and Dave Raphael, assisted by others from the Mid State Trail community, blazed a new trail, the "Link" Trail, connecting the Mid State Trail to the Tuscarora Trail, and thus providing a hiking route from the Mid State Trail to the Appalachian Trail.



## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor, KTA:

### Three million hikers in Pennsylvania! We could be a force!

ATV registrations raise approximately \$1.5 million a year with their two-year, \$20 registration fees. They pay \$200,000 annually in Allegheny National Forest (ANF) permits.

If we 3 million hikers would insist on a two-year, \$20 public lands hiking registration/license, we could raise \$30 million a year.

We could demand a \$10 yearly ANF hiking pass. If only one in 30 of us 3 million Pennsylvania hikers used the ANF, we would raise \$1 million - 5 times what the ATVers raise.

Currently, Pennsylvania State Forests spend approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000 on ATV trails, but only half that amount on hiking trails annually (the ANF does not separate out ATV trails from hiking trails under expenditures).

While we are into becoming a force 3 million-strong, let's demand that the federal government put an 11 percent excise tax on all our gear, incorporated into the price. Hunters and fishermen already do this and they have raised billions of dollars for land purchases and land management.

There are fewer than 1 million licensed hunters in Pennsylvania, and yet millions of dollars come back to the state annually from the federal government for lands and their management, through just such an excise-on-equipment system.

Imagine what that 11 percent from hikers could return to the state for trails!

Surveys may show that there are 3 million hikers in Pennsylvania, but until we put big money to it, we hikers will never be a force.

Sincerely,  
Bob Steiner  
Cooperstown, PA



## Featured Member Organization...

### Sierra Club—Otzinachson Group

One of KTA's newest member clubs is the Otzinachson Group of the Sierra Club. The Group takes its name from a Native American word that refers to the tangled and shadowy nature of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River watershed. The Group seeks to get members outside, thus motivating them to become active advocates for the preservation of forests and other natural features, and to create a spirit of good fellowship.

Founded in 1981, the Otzinachson Group has more than 700 members residing in an eleven county area of northcentral / north-east Pennsylvania, stretching south from the New York border, from Coudersport in the west to Troy in the east. The core membership resides in the Williamsport-Lewisburg region.

Anyone is welcome to join an outing; Sierra Club membership is not required. Hikes are scheduled most weekends from late March to early December. The schedule is posted at <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/Otzinachson>.

## Upcoming Spring Conferences

### Wilderness Training



Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness will host a wilderness training conference April 11-13 at Parker Dam State Park in Elk County. Planned activities are talks by well-known environmental writers, advocacy workshops, and field excursions. The conference will provide an opportunity to learn and sharpen skills, meet like-minded people, and enjoy the outdoors.

Information will be available on the FAW web site [www.pawild.org](http://www.pawild.org) or contact FAW at 814-723-0620.

### Land Conservation

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference will be held April 4-5 at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern, Chester County.

## Multi-Club Activities

### Mohican "Midweek Getaway" Series

Are you one of those lucky people who has free time in the middle of the week. Then a Midweek Getaway at the AMC Mohican Outdoor Center near Delaware Gap might appeal to you. The Tuesday to Thursday events include two nights lodging, two dinners, two breakfasts and two happy



hours for \$95 (\$105 for non-members). A variety of hikes, paddling opportunities, and events are scheduled. For more information contact the Center at [mohican@mindspring.com](mailto:mohican@mindspring.com) or 908-362-5670.

### BMECC Book Discussions

BMECC has resumed its Thursday evening book discussion series. Upcoming books are Larry Luxenberg's *Walking the Appalachian Trail* on Nov. 8, and *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer on Dec. 6. Call Rita Floriani at 610-373-6967 for directions to the meeting place for each discussion.

## Hiking Humor

Two guys are out hiking. The first guy says, "Did you see that?" "No," the second guy says. "Well, a bald eagle just flew overhead," the first guy says. "Oh," says the second guy.

A couple of minutes later, the first guy says, "Did you see that?" "See what," the second guy asks. "There was a big black bear walking on that hill, over there." "Oh," says the second guy.

A few minutes later the first guy says, "Did you see that?" By now the second guy is getting aggravated, so he says, "Yes." And the first guy says: "Then why did you step in it?"

*(from the Pocono Outdoor Club Quarterly, Fall 2007)*

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Meandering leads to perfection. – Lao Tzu  
(Philadelphia Trail Club Bulletin Mar-April 2007)

## Hiking —

### Your Healthy Habit for a Healthy Life

Another powerful reason to hike doesn't involve a specific disease or a single facet of life. Rather it is life. Each time you go outside and walk, as long as you stay within your capabilities, you will come home feeling better than you did when you left. Your body will feel better. Your head will feel clearer, and your stress level will have decreased. The result? You'll want to hike again! As you notice improvements in your body and state of mind, you may also want to start eating healthy foods. With each hike you will feel better, which will encourage you to continue your new healthy habits. Don't believe it? Go for a hike and see what we mean! - from the American Heart Association's *Walking for a Healthy Heart*, as quoted in the Pocono Outdoor Club Quarterly, Fall 2007.

## Hiking Trails —

### Your Health Club and Spa

...the trail is available to us every day in every season. You may think of the FTL [*Finger Lakes Trail*] as a type of health club provided by nature with help from volunteers, with no fee and the promise of lots of exercise in clean fresh air. Or you might think of it as a retreat, a private spa, offering solitude and relaxation. You do not need a big budget to expose yourself to grand landscapes, sparkling flowing water, fresh air, beautiful plant life, and fascinating wildlife. Studies have demonstrated that contact with nature has strong positive benefits for physical and mental health. The trail is surely a very special place and it is yours for enjoyment ... - from David S. Marsh's President's Message, *Finger Lakes Trail News*, Summer 2007.

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION  
101 North Front St.  
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Harrisburg, PA  
Permit #891



Outfitted in all of the proper safety gear, volunteer Carl Griffin of Schnecksville uses a brush cutter to clear an overgrown hiking trail. Volunteers of all ages are welcome on KTA Trail Care events. See page 2.

## KTA Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliations (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Receive newsletter in full color via e-mail by 1st of issue month instead of by postal mail and save KTA paper and mailing costs

Member organizations are welcome and should forward the name and contact information for the group's designated KTA representative along with appropriate 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: 101 North Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17101.

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

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