



August 2017

THE KEYSTONE HIKER

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths since 1956

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

MEMBER CORNER

A New Way to Give and Support KTA!

by Joe Neville, KTA Executive Director

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

It's a win-win situation: KTA receives a nice contribution, while you, the donor can possibly write off the gift and avoid paying capital gains taxes on the stock. The strategy has been around for some time, waning during the financial crisis, but has regained popularity in recent years as the stock market has roared back to life. It makes the most sense for a donor because it's an easy, seamless transaction.

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

Goodbye KTA

by Raymond Arke, KTA Program Aide

The summer went so quickly and it's already time to say goodbye. I'll be heading back to Duquesne University for my junior year and I've really enjoyed my summer at KTA. I've been extremely lucky to have worked alongside Joe and Brynn in our Mechanicsburg office.

During my time working here, I've been able to assist with a variety of interesting projects and activities. For instance, I was able to go alongside the staff and other members to the state capitol and meet with legislators. I enjoyed going on a trail maintenance trip to the Mid State Trail and working alongside great volunteers. I've helped plan for and market the KTA Trail Challenge, posted Facebook updates, and done many other tasks around the office.

I also had the opportunity to attend the annual Prowl the Sproul camping and hiking weekend. I really enjoyed meeting the board and all the members that were there. It was a ton of fun to hike alongside you all.

Working here has taught me so much about the day-to-day work of a non-profit and has given me real-life experience working on policy problems. It's been nice meeting some of you throughout the summer. I especially thank Joe and Brynn for all their help in teaching me the ropes and giving me the opportunity to assist this great organization.

YOUR INPUT NEEDED!

KTA prides itself on being a member driven organization. This means that your opinion is very important to us. To help guide us into the future we're asking you to take the following brief survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JRNHZ7S>

Thanks To All Who Attended The 14th Annual Prowl the Sproul

A special thanks to Ted Ligenza, and DCNR for their efforts to make this a successful event and good time for all! Pictures from the weekend as well as meeting minutes and reports from the board meeting can be found on our website.

Only 1 Month Until The 9th Annual KTA Trail Challenge: September 9, 2017

Go to the Event Page for the registration form and mail payment to KTA or register online through Pretzel City Sports. Preview Hikes now available!

Registration Open for 2017 Quehanna Elk Quest: September 29 – October 1

Fall is mating season for elk. Bulls spar for their own harem of cows by announcing their presence with a bugle. The "bugle" is an unforgettable sound that begins with a bellow, advances to a squealing whistle, and ends with a series of grunts. The cows don't seem to mind the noise at all!

The KTA Quehanna Elk Quest combines hiking and elk viewing in an unforgettable experience!

Join KTA staff, Board members, Game Commission staff, and fellow hikers September 29 - October 1, 2017 in beautiful north central PA. Go to the Event Page for the registration form and mail payment to KTA or register online.

Registration Open for 2017 Fall Hiking and Meeting Weekend: October 13-15

Join us for our annual Fall Hiking and Meeting Weekend, to be hosted at Wesley Forest Camp and Retreat in Weikert, Union County. Located in the beautiful forests of Central PA, this is sure to be a weekend of breathtaking colors, great hikes, and relaxation! Go to the Event Page for the registration form and mail payment to KTA or register online.

REMINDER: Please Send in All Hiking Award Applications By September 1

Hiking Award Application Letter

By Thomas R. Stott, KTA Life Member

Recently, Mr. Stott submitted his application to receive not one, but six of KTA's Hiking Awards. This letter, included in his application, gives a glimpse into the difficulty of achieving such incredible goals. To read his letter, please visit our website.



Perks of Membership

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

Penn State Hiker Study

A group of graduate students at Penn State University in the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management Department are conducting a study of hikers in Pennsylvania. They are interested in hikers' recreation-use of public land and their perceptions of and experiences with other users, like equestrians and mountain bikers, who sometimes share the same trail systems with hikers.

They have created an online survey with some questions regarding your use of hiking trails and perceptions of other groups of users. All your responses will be kept strictly confidential and anonymous.

https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bf4L81IBZjelOOOp

If you have any questions about completing the survey or about the study, please email PSUTrailUseStudy@gmail.com.

YOUR HIKING ADVOCATE

DCNR Survey Hiker's Input Needed

DCNR is conducting a survey about the future of Pennsylvania State Parks. Make your opinions heard

https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3JfAY7RCut7rcEZ

Clean Air & Water – What Did The State Supreme Court Mean?

by Richard Martin, Coordinator, PA Forest Coalition

Just nine days after PEDF's landmark win in the State Supreme Court, PEDF Counsel, John Childe has filed THIS motion in Commonwealth Court, asking the court to determine that "funds received from the lease and bonus payments for the extraction of oil and gas from Pennsylvania State Forests are part of the corpus of the environmental public trust." This was the only detail that the State Supreme Court failed to cover.

Not knowing that was going to happen, I had written the OpEd (below).

Clean Air & Water – What did the State Supreme Court mean?

For years, the General Assembly acted as if they were the ones who determined the meaning of Article I § 27. After the legislature diverted hundreds of millions of dollars from DCNR's Oil & Gas Lease Fund, they didn't count on the nonprofit Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation to take them to task.

PEDF's counsel, John Childe felt that the language Article I § 27 of our State Constitution was not just "aspirational", but a clear statement of fact and the Commonwealth was the trustee of our natural resources. PEDF sued the Governor five years ago because revenue from our oil and gas leases were not being spent for conservation.

Sentence #1 of Article I § 27:

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment."

This is what we have been quoting for over 40 years, but it had not been affirmed by the courts until last week. Our State Supreme Court agreed that the wording is unambiguous. There is no longer a balancing act, with someone's thumb on the scale.

Sentence # 2:

"Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come."

This clearly establishes that the people own the public natural resources, not the Commonwealth. This is important because It eliminates all previous precedent and precludes compromises which balance protecting the resources with other Commonwealth duties.

Sentence # 3:

"As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

This establishes a public trust. This is a really big deal because it means that all agencies of the Commonwealth, both state and local, have a fiduciary duty to act toward the corpus of the trust, the public natural resources, with prudence, loyalty and impartiality.

The Commonwealth is not the proprietor of our resources, only the trustee. The standard for determining compliance is based on the plain meaning of "conserve and maintain", a duty to prevent and remedy the degradation, diminution or depletion of our public natural resources.

This is also a big deal. There is no limitation of this duty to be based on "reasonable" degradation, diminution or depletion. This is not "a guide" for our legislators, it is their affirmative duty to prohibit degradation.

The trustee must also act affirmatively to pass such laws as will best preserve the subject of the trust, and secure its beneficial use in the future to the people of the state.

Proceeds from the sale of natural gas and oil are part of the corpus of the trust and must remain part of the trust. This is extremely important; all royalties from oil and gas must stay as part of the trust, and be used only to conserve and maintain the natural resources. Read details at <http://www.pedf.org/>

They may not realize it yet, but every public official in Pennsylvania is obligated to adhere to this Supreme Court decision because they all took an oath of office and swore to uphold the PA Constitution. Ever since 1971, that oath of office has included Article I § 27. Every Governor, Senator, Representative, Mayor and Municipal officer must prevent any degradation of our public natural resources.

Before it was diverted, the original Oil & Gas Act of 1955 had been invested in conservation. That fund was the primary reason that DCNR expanded our State Park System from 44 State Parks to the present 120. Now we must use last week's State Supreme Court decision to save and restore our State Forests and State Parks, allowing DCNR to fulfill its mission of conservation and maintenance of our public natural resources.

Senator Franklin Kury is the visionary who worked both sides of the aisle to ensure that Article I § 27 became a constitutional amendment in 1971. Now, 46 years later, our State Supreme Court has finally affirmed his good work.

PEDF's work is far from finished. More legal action will be needed to fully enforce the Supreme Court decision because the Supreme Court has asked Commonwealth Court to determine if lease and bonus payments are also assets of the trust

Our Constitution's environmental amendment makes Pennsylvania unique in protecting the public's environmental rights and the June 20 decision by the State Supreme Court gives the amendment teeth, but PEDF counsel John Childe still has more work to do to ensure that all the words of Article I § 27 are fulfilled.

Shale Gas Developments Spurring Spread Of Invasive Plants in PA Forests

by Jeff Mulhollem, Penn State News

"This most recent Penn State study documents that non-native plants are rapidly invading Pennsylvania's northern forests and establishes a link between new invasions and shale gas development activity. In findings published today (July 20) in the Journal of Environmental Management, researchers show a direct correlation between the extent of non-native plant invasion and distinct aspects of shale gas development."

To read the full article, go to <http://news.psu.edu/story/475225/2017/07/20/research/shale-gas-development-spurring-spread-invasive-plants-pa-forests>

VOLUNTEER / MAINTAINER'S CORNER

It's Here! The 2017 Trail Care and Crew Schedule!

Before you go, please read our Trail Care and Crew page on kta-hike.org for helpful information and applications.

August 4 - 6: Trail Care

The Pinchot Trail

Leader: Jeff Mitchell

jmitchmitch@hotmail.com

570-441-2952

Camp: Manny Gordon Picnic Area, Pinchot State Forest

September 15 - 17: Trail Care

Tuscarora Trail

Leader: Ben Auer

auer.ben@gmail.com

608-772-1715

Camp: PATC cabin at Little Cove

September 29 - October 1: Trail Care

Reeds Gap Spur

Leader: Jenn Ulmer / Donna Thompson
hawk2373@yahoo.com
570-854-8316
Camp: Reeds Gap S.P. sites 8 -14

Meet: 8:30 at Quaker Race day use area off Pa. 177
Camping available Fri. & Sat.
Friends Group will host Sat. evening cookout for
volunteers

October 7: Code Orange

Gifford Pinchot State Park
W/ Friends of Pinchot S.P.
Leader: Steve Stroman
stevestroman@hotmail.com
717-350-0437

November 3 - 5: Trail Care

Bucktail Path
Leader: Rick Hiemenz
mustardgarlic@hotmail.com
814-706-8218
Camp: Brooks Run Fire Tower Cabin

KTA Trail Crew On The Mid State Trail Everett Region: June 20-25, 2017

by Deb Dunkle, KTA Trail Crew Leader

Richard and Pam Hershberger have been a blessing this year! As trail meisters, they scouted the region and were ready with plans to work in different areas for this year's crew. Areas we first concentrated on were in Blair County from Route 164 to Williamsburg. Then we switched down to Bedford County in the Rainsburg area and went farther down to the Martin Hill area. We even got the KTA administration and intern to work on the Yellow Creek Bridge and Maple Run areas!

We started out with over 20 people on Wednesday for a total of 29 volunteers and 498 total hours for the week. In addition to the trail meisters, a big shout out of thanks for their labor of love goes to Marty Gutierrez; John Stein; Ray McCann; Brynn Furnance; Joe Neville; Raymond Arke; Carl Jaymes; Guy Stottlemeyer; Lorelle Steach; Tom Bastion; Regina and McKenna Miller; Jennifer, Patty, and Katy Kovacs; Dan Over; David Dilling; Lance Wareham; Kevin Busko; Andrew Goldfine; Tony Barr; Dale Miller; Pete and Laurel Fleszar; Calvin Herline; Travis Feight; and DH Dunkle.

The heat at times was oppressive, but working in and out of the shade helped keep us cool. Of course, the sudden rain kept the workers cooler and boots soaked. Hearing coyotes calling in the midmorning was a bit unnerving, but we kept the brushcutter buzzing and our eyes open! Kevin felt very much at home with the howlings! The overnight thunderstorm on Friday left a large tree overturned along our camping site at Tenley Park. For our Saturday evening program, we incorporated the Great American Campout event at the park.

The Everett Church of the Brethren ladies, headed by Anna and Bev Swindell, outdid themselves again with the delicious meals each morning and evening. Hot showers at the church were available, too. Overall, lots of hard work, good food, and meeting old and new friends culminated in the ninth-year Trail Crew for the Everett region of the Mid State Trail.

Anyone interested in helping with trail work can always contact DH Dunkle by e-mailing dhdunkle@gmail.com or calling 814-652-2227.

Code Orange Work Day At Nolde Forest Improves Trails; KTA Volunteers Hike To Magma Formation And Tour Mansion

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair

Three stalwarts of the KTA Trail Care Program, Tony Robbins, Tom Bastian, and Ed Lawrence, joined Center Manager Lisa Miller, DCNR ranger Chris, and four local volunteers on Saturday, July 15th, for a Code Orange work day at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center south of Reading. After a preliminary safety talk, a crew of Tony, Tom, and Chris set off to install a set of steps to ease a transition point between the Boulevard Trail and the Watershed Trail. The rest of the group headed to the Sawmill parking area where they installed water bars on the Kohout Trail and tackled drainage issues on the Beech Trail, which included putting in new water bars, cleaning out and extending existing bars, removing impediments to water flowing naturally off the trail and outslipping some sections of trail. At the end of the afternoon the participants had the satisfaction of knowing that all the items on Lisa's "to do" list for the day had been completed.

After the tools had been put away, the KTA trio headed up Coffee Pot Hollow to visit a rock formation that had been featured in a recent issue of the Appalachian Mountain Club's magazine *Outdoors*. The article, "Rocky Routes: 8 Geology Hikes", showcased the Nolde Forest site as one of 8 unique spots in the Northeast where the natural landscape suddenly reveals 'dramatic geological history'. In this case it is a sharp out-cropping of diabase rising 15 feet above the forest floor. Diabase is a volcanic rock that, in molten form, squeezed up through cracks in sedimentary layers 200 million years ago but never made it to the surface. The hardened stone was eventually exposed over centuries as softer layers of shale and sandstone gradually eroded around it.

Returning from viewing a wonder of natural creation, the crew was then given a personal tour of the impressive Nolde Mansion which now houses the Center's offices. The Tudor-style, stone building with slate roof and distinctive ironwork details is a magnificent building to see from both the outside and the inside. To cap things off, and to show her appreciation for their work, Lisa also presented the three amigos with DCNR Conservation Volunteer shirts and hats. It was a Code Orange day that could not have been better.

KTA Code Orange Workday At Little Buffalo State Park

by Jim Foster, KTA Board Member

On July 22, 2017, KTA held a Code Orange Workday at Little Buffalo State Park. This is a very popular park in Perry County, northwest of Harrisburg, with many miles of excellent trails. Five dedicated volunteers worked on the Fisherman's Trail, which climbs a mountain near two of the Park's well-known attractions, the railroad car and Shoaff's Mill.

Volunteers rebuilt log barricades to stop erosion and built a waterbar to direct the flow of water off the trail. They then rebuilt the footpath and placed gravel on top. The workday was part of a barter arrangement with PA DCNR. KTA was allowed to use the Park's Recreation Hall for its recent Backpacking 101 class in return for the workday.

Mid State Trail To Hold Work Weekend To Repeal And Replace The White Deer Creek Bridge

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair

The Mid State Trail Association is sponsoring a trail care work weekend August 25-27, based out of Ravensburg State Park, focused on replacing the bridge over White Deer Creek. The current bridge, located in Bald Eagle State Forest at the base of the northern flank of Naked Mountain between RB Winter State Park and Route 80, spans the creek on 30 foot long stringers that are badly deteriorated. Working in close coordination with Forestry, Woolrich Regional Manager, Joe Healey, will oversee the dismantling of the old bridge and the construction of its replacement which will be built atop 40 foot long poles set astride new abutments. Volunteers will be needed to realize this major trail project. The MSTTA will host a pizza party at the park

Saturday night for everyone who comes out to lend a hand. Contact Joe for more details at: jnlhealey@aol.com.

We Want You!

Volunteers are needed for the 9th Annual Trail Challenge September 9, 2017

Please see the Event Page for the registration form to mail to KTA or sign up online. Volunteers receive the satisfaction of a job well-done, t-shirt, and picnic by Legends Catering.

HIKER'S CORNER

Jeff's Jaunts: Sunfish Pond County Park

by Jeff Mitchell

Located near Leroy, PA, Sunfish Pond County Park is a best kept secret. Isolated and located on top of a mountain, the park covers 70 acres, and the pond is about 30 acres in size. It is a natural pond, fed by springs. Sunfish Pond County Park is surrounded by the vast wilderness of SGL 12.

<http://endlessmountains.wordpress.com/2017/07/14/sunfish-pond-county-park/>

Walk with Gantz: Standing Stone Trail

by Dave Gantz, KTA Board of Directors

Dave recently dedicated himself to writing a monthly column about backpacking trails he's hiked in Pennsylvania.

The Standing Stone Trail (SST) was awarded PA DCNR trail of the year in 2016. This well-maintained, linear trail leading approximately 84 miles along rocky ridges, offers days of enjoyable backpacking in Central PA. The first lesson for hikers of this trail is to recognize multiple trail names along the way: Originally called the Link Trail because it 'links' the Tuscarora Trail with the Mid State Trail, this route is now known as the Standing Stone Trail because of the large historically significant stones kept throughout towns in this part of the country. The trail also utilizes other shorter, independently named trails. Luckily, the trail is well blazed (orange blazes) and is quite easy to follow. The southern terminus is at Cowan's Gap State Park, while the northern terminus is located at a junction with the Mid State Trail along Detweiler Run in Rothrock State Forest.

Lesson two: ridges, roads, and rocks: Backpacking the entire trail requires multiple days of consistent rocky ridge walking along with a good amount of road walking. It is a very enjoyable hike, although water may be scarce during the summer months (lesson three...be sure to carry plenty of water). The effort is worth it though; the SST has stunning vistas and clear paths. There are several miles of paved road walking along this route, but there is also ice cream available at a gas station along the way! Another short road walk further north along this route takes the hiker directly through a small town with a pizza shop before crossing the Juniata River on a road bridge. Be sure to call ahead to confirm operating hours of local businesses if you plan to resupply along the trail!

Lesson four: Legal camping is scarce on the SST. The hiker will want to pay attention to land ownership while looking for camping spots because many areas along the trail are closed to overnight camping, including some

state designated natural areas and the famous 1,000 steps section of trail. Please respect private property so the trail can be enjoyed by all for years to come! A current trail guide is not available, but free downloadable maps can be found at The Standing Stone Club.

Lesson five: Keep walking! If 80+ miles of backpacking is not enough for you, feel free to continue walking north along the Mid State Trail to New York, or south along the Tuscarora Trail which eventually leads to Alabama! The SST makes up a small portion of a brand new long distance trail running from New York to Alabama. This is known as the Great Eastern Trail. To view pictures from the trip, go to <http://www.walkwithgantz.com/standing-stone-trail.html>

Simple Grilling Sauces For The Trail

by Gerry Rowan

'Tis the season! Soon it will be time for hiking, backpacking, camping, and just enjoying the outdoors or a day at the beach. Life would be easier with a few simple, quickly made grilling sauces.

These sauces can be made with ingredients common to most kitchens. Feel free to be creative. Yellow, brown, farmers, and Dijon mustard can be substitutes for any mustard. Honey can be a substitute, as well as maple, corn, and even pancake syrups. White or red wine, as well as cider, balsamic, and even champagne vinegars, can all be substitutes for each other.

Remember that grilling sauces containing sugar will burn easily. Apply them in the last few minutes of grilling.

Simple Barbecue Sauce

½ to 1 ounce onion soup mix

½ cup brown sugar

2 cups ketchup

2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

Optional: 1 to 2 teaspoons liquid smoke

Combine and mix well. Refrigerate overnight before using.

White Barbecue Sauce

2 cups mayonnaise

1 cup cider vinegar

3 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper

1 teaspoon kosher salt

Combine and mix well. Refrigerate overnight before using.

Chipotle Sauce

One 7 ounce can chipotle in adobo sauce

8 cloves garlic (peeled and left whole)

¼ cup honey

Water as needed

Place the garlic in a small bowl and cover with honey; then microwave for 1 to 1½ minutes and drain (This makes the garlic much milder.) Add the ingredients to a blender; process until smooth. Add water as needed to adjust the sauce thickness.

Mustard Grilling Sauce

½ cup Dijon mustard
½ cup farmers mustard
¼ cup honey
¼ cup brown sugar
¼ cup cider vinegar
Combine and mix well.

Trail Grilling Sauce
¼ cup to 2 tablespoons marmalade (orange, lemon, peach, or pineapple)
1 tablespoon farmers mustard
2 tablespoons maple syrup
1 tablespoons cider vinegar
Combine and mix well. Refrigerate overnight before using.

CLUB CONNECTION

Submit Events to the Club Calendar

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

Thank you and happy trails!

2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

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

August 4 - 6: The Pinchot Trail Care
August 5-15: KTA Treks and Trails International Fundraising Trip to Iceland
September 9: KTA Trail Challenge 25k and 50k
September 15 - 17: Tuscarora Trail Care
September 29 - October 1: Reeds Gap Spur Trail Care
September 29 - October 1: Quehanna Elk Quest
October 7: Gifford Pinchot State Park Code Orange
October 13-15: KTA's Fall Hiking Weekend, Weikert, PA
November 3 - 5: Bucktail Path Trail Care

Shop the KTA Bookstore



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

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

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

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Newsletter Submissions

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