



THE KEYSTONE HIKER

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths since 1956

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

MEMBER CORNER

Welcome to KTA's Newest Members: May

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

This year, we will be trying something new. Each month we will recognize the newest members of KTA in The Keystone Hiker.

In May, KTA welcomed 36 members and families to our hiking family:

Amy Rundle	Heather Eshleman	Marc Salans
Andy Hagg	Janet Reiland	Mary Beth Moritz
Ben Reuter	John Moritz	Matthew Fenner
Blase Hartman	Joseph Deitch	Melissa Youtz
Carol Roth	Joseph Pachorkowsky	Michael Youtz
Dana O'Korn	Julia Fenner	Mike Heinze
Dennis Urbanski	Kate Paul	Nathan Johnson
Erin Hassinger	Kathryn Lynch	Paige Kleinfelder
Frederick A. Hunsinger	Lindsay Tesno	Richard Troscianecki (Family)
George McGehrin	Lisa Bertolasio	Sharon Birch
Giovanni Ferro	Lisa Boksenbaum	Tammie Gitt
Gregory Roth	Marc Frymyer	Xuan Vivian Zhang

Register Now For These Events

Go to the links listed to check out these fantastic programs:

Prowl the Sproul, July 27-29: <https://www.kta-hike.org/2018-prowl-the-sproul.html>

KTA Trail Challenge, September 8: <https://www.kta-hike.org/kta-trail-challenge.html>

West Highland Way, Scotland, September 16-28: <https://www.kta-hike.org/west-highland-way-scotland.html>

Quehanna Elk Quest, September 28-30: <https://www.kta-hike.org/2018-qeq.html>

Fall Hiking Weekend, October 12-14: <https://www.kta-hike.org/fall-hiking-weekend-2018.html>

Gettysburg, November 2-4: <https://www.kta-hike.org/gettysburg.html>

Join or Renew Your KTA Membership Today!

Memberships will extend to September 30, 2019. Most memberships expire 9/30/2018. Get it out of the way today! Renew online and save a trip to the post office or mail this form to our office.

Why be a member? There are several perks to joining Keystone Trails Association including discounts on merchandise, member-only events, updates/action alerts, and the knowledge that you are supporting PA's beautiful hiking trails.

CLASSIFIEDS

Experienced backpacker (age - late 60's) looking for companion(s) for leisurely backpack/fishing hike or Old Logger's Path. 27 miles in approximately 4 days. Sometime in June, July, or August.

Contact Chris - abcsd@verizon.net

Hello, this is Carl Rush. I'm planning on hiking the Washington section of the Pacific Crest Trail starting in mid-July. I have done both the AT and PCT in the past. I'm not a fast hiker, but a steady one. I do have extra gear if you need it. I used to be a gear tester. If you go to the Facebook group "Lightweight Backpacking Safety Group", I'm the tall one. If you are interested in hiking with me, call me at 484-464-8318.

17th Annual Art & Wine Walk

by Joe Neville, KTA Executive Director

On Saturday, May 12, the KTA office was open for the Mechanicsburg Art and Wine Walk. The Chamber of Commerce says that the event has been growing, and if Saturday was any indication, it sure has grown.

Two years ago, volunteers who worked the event reported talking to approximately 50 people. On Saturday we had well over 100 people come through the office. At times it was hard to keep up.

Brynn did an excellent job greeting people at the front door and talking about KTA and our programs. I worked in the back room, giving people wine/beer/soft drinks/cheese and crackers and answering follow-up questions.

It was quite an event!

DON'T MISS OUT!

The 10th Annual KTA Trail Challenge is fast approaching! The last day to register with discounted, early bird prices is June 30th.

Register now to avoid paying more later!

PREVIEW HIKES ANNOUNCED!

Get ready for the 10th Annual KTA Trail Challenge by previewing the course!

Preview Hikes will be offered this summer to familiarize participants with the course and its challenges. Advanced registration is required.

WEBBER CABIN SLATED TO BECOME A NEW EXHIBIT AT THE PA LUMBER MUSEUM

From <http://lumbermuseum.org/webber-cabin-slated-become-new-exhibit-pa-lumber-museum-end-2017/>

The log cabin that was home to DCNR Forester Bob Webber and his wife Dotty for more than 54 years was originally located on a remote ridge top in the Pine Creek Valley, near the community of Slate Run. The Webbers loved living in this 500-square foot rustic space with no electricity or plumbing, and were always welcoming to friends, hikers and other guests curious about their unique "off-the-grid" lifestyle. Bob was an outspoken advocate for connecting people with the forest, which he viewed as PA's greatest natural resource. Following Bob's passing in 2015, an initiative was put forward to move the cabin to the PA Lumber Museum to preserve it and the story of the Webbers for future generations. The PA DCNR Tiadaghton, Tioga and Susquehannock State Forest Districts, along with Jack Duerer (a log home builder and friend of the Webbers,) labeled and dismantled the cabin and moved it to a temporary storage location. If all goes as planned, the cabin will be re-constructed at the museum in the summer of this year.

Bob and Dotty Webber are well known throughout the state as prominent naturalist. Bob personally (and in some cases, single-handedly) cut and maintained a long list of public trails during his tenure with DCNR including the Golden Eagle, Black Forest, George Wilski, Sentiero Di Shay, Francis Kennedy Ski, Pitch Pine Loop Ski, and the eponymous Bob Webber Trail. Acclaimed and respected by so many around the state and throughout the world, the accomplishments of Bob and Dotty Webber dovetail with the museum's mission of educating the public about the ongoing care, management and recreational use of Pennsylvania's forests. Once reconstructed, the cabin will be used to tell the Webber's story; serving as an interpretive tool for teaching broader themes such as the history of trail hiking as a recreational activity, the development of DCNR as a government agency from the mid-20th century, and the challenges and benefits of living a conservation-minded lifestyle.

If you knew Bob Webber either personally or by reputation and would like to be involved with this project, please contact the museum about how you make either a financial or in-kind contribution.

CONGRATS JACK!

Neither lyme disease, bears, rattlesnakes, bees, ticks, sleet, snow, heat, rain, fog, stinging nettles, mud, wet crossings, "detours", or re-routes kept Jack Hauler, KTA Board of Director, from his "appointed rounds" in completing the State Forest Trails of PA!

VOLUNTEER / MAINTAINER'S CORNER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 10TH ANNUAL KTA TRAIL CHALLENGE

Saturday, September 8, 2018

Please sign up to volunteer for the 10th Annual KTA Trail Challenge. We have changed our volunteer registration form to be more accommodating of our volunteers. Now you have more choice in the times and jobs you want to perform.

It takes over 120 volunteers to pull off such a large event. Volunteers receive an official KTA Trail Challenge Volunteer t-shirt, access to the delicious Finish Line Picnic, and the awesome feeling that comes with doing good. Thank you so much for supporting Keystone Trails Association

June Trail Care

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Coordinator

June is usually the busiest month of the Trail Care schedule, and this season is no exception. The first weekend of the month (May 31–June 3) will take willing volunteers up to the north-central woods, where the Donut Hole Trail Care will be based out of Hyner Run State Park, Clinton County. There is never a shortage of work on this 89-mile-long trail, so Crew Leader Tony Robbins would appreciate your participation.

The Mid State Trail Everett Region weeklong (Tuesday, June 12–Sunday, June 17) crew will once again be staying at Tenley Park in Everett. All meals for attendees will be provided by the fabulous Church Ladies. This is an opportunity to experience an extended period of trail work while feeling pampered at the same time, with hot showers and excellent food. Volunteers do not have to commit to the whole week but can come as their schedules allow. Let Crew Leader Deb Dunkle know ahead of time so she can be sure that you have a place at the table.

The Trail Care weekend of June 21-24 will continue with a focus on the Mid State Trail, but this time on the northern (Tioga) Region. Leader Pete Fleszar has reserved space in the Twin Streams Campground for the event and has a ready to-do list he is hoping to work through.

The Baker Trail in western Pennsylvania will be the site of the second Trail Care of 2018 (June 26–July 1) and be based out of Creek Bend Campground. Volunteers will again be well-fed during the week in exchange for helping to improve sections of the 141-mile-long trail. Contact Leader Dewaine Beard to register.

Volunteers are the backbone of KTA's Trail Care Program. By becoming part of the Trail Care community, you will experience firsthand the rewards of trail work, continue the tradition of service to the hiking community that KTA has fostered since 1985, and make good and lasting friendships along the way.

Pinchot Trail System Trail Care

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair

The Pinchot Trail System is a popular 25-mile loop of interconnected trails in Pinchot State Forest, located on the Pocono Plateau just east of Wilkes-Barre. Backpackers can do the whole trail, while day hikers can opt to make a variety of smaller loops. Last year a KTA crew began a reroute on the southern section, moving a part of the trail that was a road walk onto newly acquired state forest land with more interesting geographic features. The reroute work will continue August 2-5, but the Trail Care of April 26-28 was scheduled to give other parts of the trail some needed attention. Ten volunteers put in 131 hours of work at various times over the course of the 3 days, joined in their efforts by Pinchot Recreational Forester Matt Crosbie. The following participants braved less-than-optimal weather conditions to work on the Pinchot Trail: Rick Stibgen (leader), Tony Robbins, Kathy Borrell, Donna Thompson, Dave Walp, Bob Boettger, Karen Verchimak, Mary Ladish, Elwood Loudenslager, and Tom Bastian. Their efforts have made a significant impact, improving the hiking experience

on the Pinchot Trail. Their decision to attend the Trail Care is greatly appreciated. Much good work was accomplished.

The Chain Saw Crew walked through about 20 miles of trail. They cut blowdowns on all of the trail except from Bear Lake Road to the Birchstill Trail and also cleared the Choke Creek Nature Trail. Lopping crews took on the Sunday Trail, the Sassafras Trail, a section of the Behler Swamp Trail to the Watres Trail on the Painter Creek Trail, the Pine Hill Trail, and the Frank Gantz Trail. Power brushcutters cleared sections of the Sunday Trail, the Sassafras Trail, the White Line Trail, and the Behler Swamp Trail.

Chuck Keiper Trail Care

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair

The Chuck Keiper Trail is a remote and challenging 50-mile loop with the East Branch Trail serving as a cross-connector. It's a designated Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) hiking-only trail, located between Snowshoe, Centre County, and Renovo, Clinton County, and traversing some of the most wild and rugged terrain in Sproul State Forest. The May 3-6 Trail Care had the good fortune to be based out of the private Middle Branch Camp, close to the heart of the trail, thanks to the generosity of the club members. Being able to stay at the Middle Branch Camp saved a lot of shuttle time, and I would like to especially thank Darren Miller, who facilitated our use of the camp and acted as host from the club for the weekend.

Nine people put in a total of 124 hours of work during the event. Volunteers were Tony Robbins (leader), first-time participants John Eveler and Jim Neylon Jr. (we hope to see them again), Ben Auer, Jenn Ulmer, Donna Thompson, Ed Lawrence, Elwood Loudenslager, and Tom Bastian. The crew was also augmented on Friday by Sproul Forester Ted Ligenza, who accompanied a crew, Pulaski in hand, into Yost Run to refurbish some sidehill treadway.

A lot of work, including reblazing, power brushcutting, lopping, and blowdown removal, was done in the section of the trail that includes the Cranberry Swamp Natural Area loop. The cross-connector was also brushcut. A crew went down into Yost Run along the Second Fork both Friday and Saturday, lopping and rebenching sections of the trail that required widening. With the Chuck Keiper's 50-plus miles of incredible hiking trail to help maintain, the KTA Trail Care Program depends on volunteers who appreciate this trail and other hiking opportunities in the state and are willing to do the good work needed to help keep our hiking trails open. There will be many other opportunities during 2018 to join a Trail Care crew and experience the honest satisfaction and conviviality of doing trail work. Please see the full schedule for details.

Hickory Run State Park Code Orange Report

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Coordinator

As it turned out, the adage "raining at 7, done by 11" was never more apt than on Saturday, May 12, when volunteers arrived at Hickory Run State Park for a Code Orange workday—apt, that is, if you substituted "pouring" for "raining" in the saying. Nonetheless, 7 hearty souls met at the appointed gathering spot, with their raincoats on and hoods up and discussing the weather as we waited, along with park Environmental Education Specialist John Slotterback, before heading out to improve the Orchard Loop and Hawk Falls Trails.

Hickory Run State Park comprises 16,000 acres on the ragged edge of the Poconos just off Interstate 80 in northern Carbon County. It has over 40 miles of hiking-only trails, most of which were originally created by the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Hawk Falls Trail leads past Hawk Falls, one of the park's most popular destinations—a 25-foot cataract, eroded to a lower level by the glacial melt from a bygone era,

where Hawk Run empties into Mud Run. The trail then connects to the Orchard Trail Loop, with its rhododendron tunnels and views of Mud Run.

There were several tasks that the KTA volunteers wished to accomplish. Sherry Ferguson and Chris Bartleson set out with loppers to redefine the sometimes shaggy trail corridor. Donna Thompson and Scott Kent grabbed the posthole digger, digging bar, new signs and posts, and headed to an intersection with a fishing trail that could cause hiker confusion. Tom Bastian and Catherine McLaughlin formed the chainsaw crew, outfitted with all needed safety equipment, to clear all the blowdowns and deadfalls from the trails. John Slotterback, of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Ed Lawrence—with fire rake and Pulaski in hand—went to cut in a short switchback trail that would replace a dangerous vertical descent over slippery rocks.

By the end of the day, new signage had been installed, the trail treadway and corridor had been cleared, and a benched section of switchbacks was ready for hikers to access. The 7 participants had put in 42 hours of productive and rain-free work. Kudos to them all. As we left the park that afternoon, sprinkles began to hit the windshield, and soon another deluge ensued.

HIK(E)U

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Coordinator

Spring trail red blazes
one moves
Scarlet Tanager

HIKER'S CORNER

Jeff's Jaunts: Little Schrader Creek and Carbon Run-SGL 12

by Jeff Mitchell

Little Schrader Creek is a tributary of Schrader Creek in SGL 12 and it is a beautiful stream featuring bedrock gorges, waterfalls, and deep pools.

I parked near Laquin at 41.626264, -76.656104 and walked the road up along Schrader Creek. After crossing a bridge over Little Schrader Creek, I turned right onto an obvious, unblazed footpath. This path crossed a meadow and entered the woods along an old grade above the creek. Little Schrader Creek is very scenic with rapids and boulders. I then entered a gorge with cliffs and a deep pool fed by a waterfall carved into the bedrock. This was a very beautiful spot. The falls weren't very tall, maybe ten feet, but the power of the water and smooth, eroded bedrock made for an impressive sight.

The trail continued upstream, crossing a small tributary and then another meadow. The trail followed a grade that became eroded and narrow into another gorge with cliffs and fluorescent moss. Again, the scenery was superb. I soon reached another falls, a slide into a narrow chasm of smooth bedrock. Some logs were embedded in the chasm. There was a deep pool and some rhododendrons growing from the cliffs. Upstream was a gorge with smooth, sculpted bedrock creating pools and flumes.

I retraced my steps. The hike to Little Schrader Creek is about 1.25 miles, one way.

I also visited Carbon Run, a creek just to the east of Little Schrader. I parked at 41.631031, -76.642714 and hiked up Carbon Run. I soon reached an 8 foot falls into a deep pool. Above was a scenic hemlock shaded glen

with smooth bedrock, cascades, slides, and deep pools. It was very scenic. I found an old grade on the east side of the creek which easily returned me to the parking area.

Little Schrader Creek is described as Hike No. 70 in Hiking the Endless Mountains.

To view pictures from the trip, go <https://endlessmountains.wordpress.com/2018/05/06/little-schrader-creek-and-carbon-run-sgl-12/>

Walk with Gantz: The Mid State Trail

by Dave Gantz, KTA Board of Directors

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vernal Pool

by Gerald Rowan

It was one of those rare days that happen in the changing of the seasons. The temperature was in the fifties, the sun spring warm on the skin, and the air had a lingering chill left over from a particularly hard winter. In late April, the sun was noticeably high above the horizon and brilliant in a clear blue sky. A cloudless sky—the product of a Canadian high pressure dome that had warmed a few degrees on its way south.

I walked a trail along Jordan Creek, in Lehigh County—a broad, flat creek still full of snowmelt. Ahead of me, a young couple walked with a black lab, clearly the family pet. They were absorbed in the day, playing with their dog, and enjoying each other. They would throw a stick ahead of them and the lab would run to retrieve it.

One of their throws was directed to and landed in a small vernal pool near the trail. The lab enthusiastically bounced down the trail and leaped into the air, landing in the small pool. The lab landing in the small vernal pool set off an explosion of a pair of mallards attempting to flee what they perceived as sudden death. The dog paddled around in the pool for a time, attempting to grip the stick that was thrown. The dog climbed out of the pool, shook himself vigorously, and ran back to the couple, with the stick in his mouth.

All innocent enough? Not quite. The pool contained thousands of frog and toad eggs just beginning to hatch. The pair of mallards had a nest in the tall grasses and bulrushes growing along the bank of the small pool. No foul, no harm? I walked to the pool to see. In either entering or leaving the pool, the dog had charged through the ducks' nest, destroying 3 of the clutch of 7 eggs laid there.

The dog probably killed a number of small tadpoles or smashed tadpole eggs laid there. This was a typical vernal pool. A shallow depression filled with spring meltwater, and an environment necessary for frogs and toads to reproduce. They instinctually seek out these quiet pools—places that, since they dry out in the late spring and summer, don't harbor any predators that might eat either their eggs or hatching tadpoles.

Still no foul, no harm? In thrashing around in the small pool, the lab stirred up a cloud of mud and silt. He climbed out of the pool, shook himself, and ran off down the trail hoping to get his stick tossed again. As the pool settled, a film of silt settled over the unhatched eggs. The forming tadpoles would normally draw oxygen from the water in the pool. The silt would choke them, causing a high mortality rate.

A stick thrown innocently enough had caused a microcatastrophe. The mallards would not return to the nest due to the destroyed eggs. The smell would surely attract raccoons or coyotes that night. They may or may not build a new nest this season. Hundreds and hundreds of frogs or toads would die in their egg cases without a chance—smothered by the fine silt that had settled over them.

I'm not faulting the couple who were walking their dog. I'm certainly not faulting their dog. The fault lies in not having an intimate understanding of nature. That same walk several weeks later would have had no adverse impact on the toads, frogs, or ducks. The mother mallard would have led her ducklings to the safety of the stream shortly after they were hatched. The tadpoles would have absorbed their tails, grown legs and lungs, and hopped away to the protection of some damp glade. Untold thousands of insects that would have been eaten by the young frogs and would have become part of the food chain. Some of those frogs and toads would have been food for wading birds, raccoons, and coyotes. Yet others would have wintered over to lay eggs the next spring in the same vernal pool they had hatched from. Fewer hikers on that trail would have had the annoyance of mosquito bites.

Understanding is important for several reasons. Knowing on a number of different levels allows for an enjoyment on a number of levels. Knowing nature generates a respect for nature and its complexity. Knowing nature allows a hiker to be in sync with nature. Knowing also increases the enjoyment of nature.

I grew up loving the woods and trails—everything about nature. This love has given me a strong desire to protect the environment. The challenge is how to spread this love and concern to others. It is my conclusion that the best way to protect wild Pennsylvania is to get people to love it. The more that people experience nature personally and understand it more fully, the more deeply they will come to love it. Nature operates as an interactive, interdependent system. There is an awe that settles over the hiker when he or she gets tuned into the system. There is a spirituality to be experienced in nature understood on this level.

Falls & Views Hike: Exploring the Wildness of Loysock State Forest and Worlds End State Park

by David Kowalewski, Ashley Kowalewski, and Ruth Rode

Looking for an upcoming, unique, and challenging Pennsylvania hike? The unofficial Falls & Views Hike (not endorsed by any group or state agency) is a 75-mile loop, passing over 30 waterfalls with 15 views. Additionally, you'll pass through remote and scenic areas, infrequently visited by the casual hiker.

Divided into four sections with a detailed guide, maps, and sketch maps, it utilizes portions of the Loysock Trail, Link Trail, state park and state forest trails, abandoned and unmaintained trails, and requires some bushwhacking.

Nearing completion, if you're interested, have questions, or just want to stay updated, contact Dave and Ashley at fallsandviews@gmail.com or Ruth at 570-322-5878.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IS SATURDAY, JUNE 2

From DCNR's BRC Bulletin 5-25-2018

National Trails Day is celebrated annually on the first Saturday in June to promote the importance of trails in the United States. The American Hiking Society started National Trails Day to promote trail awareness and to recognize trail organizations and volunteers for their dedicated efforts in maintaining and developing trails.

Trails provide safe routes to work, school and play; provide healthy lifestyle opportunities and preserve the natural environment for future generations. Hiking offers all individuals healthy, affordable and simple ways to connect with the outdoors.

Pennsylvania has over 12,000 miles of trails to explore, find a trail near you to celebrate National Trails Day.

Walking Tour of Visual Crescendo: Hike the Height of the Mountain Laurel Bloom

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair

On the cusp of summer, the hardwood forest of north-central Pennsylvania will be a riot of mountain laurel blossoms, and Sproul State Forester Ted Ligenza wants to take you into the heart of this stunning spring finale. Ted, a good friend of KTA, known for his canvas snake gators and amiable good humor, will be leading a hike on Friday, June 15, timed to catch the mountain laurel bloom at its peak. The hike will leave from Hyner Run State Park, Clinton County, and participants should plan on gathering near the park office at 9:00 AM for the

4½-mile walk showcasing laurel stands in their fullest splendor. This will be a splendid opportunity to experience the exquisite beauty of the laurel-infused forest in flower. Bring a walking stick, water, lunch, camera, and sense of wonder. For more information, contact Ted at 570-923-6011 or the KTA office.

UPDATE TO THE LAST MONTHS NPS UPDATE (posted 5.22.2018)

PA sites and trails that will NOT open this summer due to hazardous conditions include:

Dingmans Falls Visitor Center and Trail
George W. Childs Park
Adams Creek Trail and drainage area
Toms Creek Trail
Hornbecks Creek/Indian Ladders Trail

PA trails that are currently closed but are likely to re-open later in the season include:

Cliff Park trails, including Hackers Falls
Hidden Lake trail
Two Ponds and Scenic Gorge trails at Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
Conashaugh trail

PA trails that are currently OPEN include:

Appalachian Trail
Raymondskil Creek/Falls Trail
Arrow Island Trail
Slatford Loop Trail
McDade Trail (except the section between Conashaugh and Pittman Orchard trailheads which is closed for resource protection)
Tumbling Waters, Fossil, Sensory, and Ridgeline Trails and the Trail for Everyone at PEEC

All trails in NJ are OPEN except the following which remain closed due to hazardous conditions:

Kaiser Trail
Van Campens Glen Trail

These trails may re-open later this summer.

CLUB CONNECTION

8th Annual Iron Run Half-Marathon & Charcoal Challenge 5k Run/Walk

Saturday, June 9, 2018

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park will hold these two races starting at 7:30 and 8:30 a.m.

Click below for more information:

Iron Run Half-Marathon: <https://www.runreg.com/7757>

Charcoal Challenge 5k Run/Walk: <https://www.runreg.com/7758>

Butler Outdoor Club's Muddy 5k

Muddy 5K Foot Race at Coopers Lake Campground - Sunday, June 10

Price: \$25 for age 12-17
\$30 for age 18 +

The race course will challenge people to perform as well as a tricked-out Jeep and will feature even more mud and fun than last year. Obstacles will include: tires, cargo nets, steep hills, wooded trails and the Jeep Playground itself (hint - the mud pit!!!). Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age group plus top male and female finishers.

Participant Pre-Registration

Pre-registration is available until May 6, 2018.

Minimum age is 12 years. Pre-registered participants will receive a tech t-shirt, refreshments and admission to the Festival on Sunday.

Participants must register by May 6th to receive a shirt.

On-Site Registration

On-site fee: \$35

On-site registration is on Sunday, June 10th from 7- 7:45 a.m.

Spectators: \$10 for Adults, \$3 for kids

Cash or credit accepted.

COORDINATED BY:

Butler Outdoor Club

Plan to stay after the race and enjoy all the Festival offers!

Registration and more information: www.BantamJeepFestival.com

4TH MASON-DIXON APPALACHIAN TRAIL OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 16, 2018

The Greater Waynesboro, PA Area Appalachian Trail Community is sponsoring its 4th Mason-Dixon Appalachian Trail Outdoor Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Red Run Park, 12143 Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro

There will be food, music, exhibits, vendors, contests, yoga, children's activities, kayaking, and long-distance hiker hospitality!

For more information, go to <http://waynesboroatc.org>

The Longest Day: Hike for a Cause!

June 21, 2018

On the summer solstice, The Longest Day of the year, people across the world will do what they love—or what those affected by Alzheimer's disease love to do. Hiking is among the most popular of The Longest Day activities! Teams have rallied to climb a favorite mountain, adopted local trails and "named" them for The Longest Day, and challenged one another by scheduling multiple individual hikes or climbs at the same time.

Alzheimer's disease is a global health crisis. Worldwide, there are an estimated 47 million people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, including 5.5 million in the United States and 400,000 here in Pennsylvania.

On The Longest Day, creativity is welcome as we work together to raise funds and awareness for the care and support of people with Alzheimer's, while advancing research toward finding the first survivor of the disease.

For more information or to register, visit www.alz.org/thelongestday.

Questions? If you live in southeastern Pennsylvania, including Berks County and the Lehigh Valley, contact Sue Wronsky of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association at 1-800-272-3900 or swronsky@alz.org. If you live elsewhere in Pennsylvania, contact Sara Giammarise of the Greater Pennsylvania Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association at 1-800-272-3900 or sgiammarise@alz.org.

Want your event featured on the community calendar?

KTA will promote your club/organization's major events through The Keystone Hiker, Facebook, and our website. It's a perk of membership!

Just submit a list with date, time, location, and link to web page for only those events that the public should see, to info@kta-hike.org.

2018 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!

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

June 9: Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park's Annual Iron Run Half-Marathon Trail Run

June 9: Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park's Charcoal Challenge 5k Run/Walk

June 10: Butler Outdoor Club's Muddy 5k

June 15: Hike the Height of the Mountain Laurel Bloom

June 16: 4th Mason-Dixon Appalachian Trail Outdoor Festival

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

June 21: The Longest Day: Hike for a Cause

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

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

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

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

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

August 2-5: Trail Care BTD - Pinchot Trail

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

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

September 13-16: Trail Care BTD - Tuscarora Trail

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

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

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

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

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

October 26-29: Black Forest Trail Slackpack

November 1-4: Trail Care BTD - Bucktail Path

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

KTA's Bookstore

As April's showers bring May's flowers, hikers get the itch to hit the trails. Time to stock up on items for this season's adventures! Look no further than KTA's Bookstore: your one-stop shop for trail guides, maps, apparel, patches, and more!

Check it out at <http://www.kta-hike.org/ktas-bookstore.html>

GUIDEBOOK SALE!!!

In order to move inventory, we are offering a sale on The Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South Half in West Virginia and Virginia (2013).

SAVE OVER 50%! Quantities are limited. Get one before they're gone!

Check Out Our New Patch!

Introducing the brand new Allegheny Front Trail Patch: a round, 3" patch with NINE colors!

Get yours today!

Exclusive KTA Membership Perks

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

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

Use promo code KTA10 to receive 10% off your order and FREE shipping when you shop at Out Gear Recreation.

Support KTA!

Here are just a few ways to give back to the organization dedicated to preserving your hiking experience:

AmazonSmile: Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support **Keystone Trails Association** by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

KTA Brokerage Account: 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.

Keep Trails Alive: The Keystone Trails Association's KTA-Keep Trails Alive monthly donor program helps sustain our work of preserving Pennsylvania's footpaths. We are a small organization with a big mission; as

such, we need to find trail people who will commit themselves to giving a regular, once-a-month contribution to put KTA on a stable and sustainable financial foundation.

For more information, please contact KTA at info@kta-hike.org or call 717-766-9690.

Do You Care About Trails?

Dear Fellow Hiker,

If you're reading this, odds are you've experienced some of your greatest days while hiking Pennsylvania's trails. Think about one of those times. Think about how it broadened and enriched your world, how it changed you. Now imagine that it never happened.

If that alarms you, good. It's time to act.

Winter is hard on our trails. Storms cause everything from blowdowns to ruts to washed-out bridges to silt-filled water bars to leaning signposts. Every year we go through the cycle of maintaining our magnificent trail system only to see Mother Nature return it to a state of chaos.

Each spring, KTA trail crews and individual maintainers cut out the logs that have blown down, rebuild the washed-out trails, note the bridges that must be rebuilt, and perform the mandatory maintenance our trails need. Will you help KTA today?

We're asking for your help. A monetary gift of any amount will be greatly appreciated, or you can gift your time and give back to our trails by volunteering for trail care. Either way, your generosity will help KTA rebuild and rejuvenate our trails for the 2018 hiking season and beyond.

Sincerely,

Joe Neville, Executive Director

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.