

March 2018



THE KEYSTONE HIKER

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths since 1956

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

MEMBER CORNER

Welcome to KTA's Newest Members: February

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 January, KTA welcomed 15 members and families to our hiking family:

Amanda Priebe

Amit Motiani

Brendan Bligh (family)

Catherine Rudder

Dalene Renner

Daniel Ray Hatterer

Deborah Bailey

Jason Yeager

Marlene Adams (family)

Michael Kovach

Rhett Landry

Scott Geosits (family)

Susan & Joseph Antonacci

Susan Kertis (family)

Wendy Eveler

KTA Hiking Weekend to Begin on PA's 2018 Trail of the Year

KTA will host PHILADELPHIA: An Upscale Urban Hiking Weekend on June 1-3, 2018. We will kick-start this sure-to-be memorable weekend by hiking the Forbidden Drive Trail, PA's 2018 Trail of the Year.

For more information on this incredible weekend, go to <https://www.kta-hike.org/philadelphia.html>.

See the DCNR News Release below:

Pennsylvania Names Philadelphia's Forbidden Drive as 2018 Trail of the Year

Harrisburg, PA – Today, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn announced that Forbidden Drive located in Wissahickon Valley Park, has been named 2018 Trail of the Year.

“This trail truly is among so many Fairmount Park gems, and one that shines brightest for the thousands of hikers, bikers, anglers and others who travel it each year,” Dunn said.

“For decades, Friends of the Wissahickon has been working hard to make a great trail even better. It's all here. Quality, benefits to the region, and a strong volunteer network and multitude of partnerships qualify Forbidden Drive to be singled out in this fifth year of very special recognition.”

Also known as Wissahickon Valley Park Trail, Forbidden Drive stretches five miles along Wissahickon and through Wissahickon Valley Park, passing the Thomas Mill Covered Bridge, Valley Green Inn and other numerous landmarks. Runners, bikers, and equestrians all frequently share the trail.

"We're thrilled that the beautiful and historic Forbidden Drive has been named Trail of the Year," said Maura McCarthy, executive director of Friends of the Wissahickon. "The name belies this urban oasis that welcomes visitors of all ages on foot, bikes, or horseback to enjoy the wonders of nature that Friends of the Wissahickon work to conserve."

Pennsylvania is a leader in trail development, providing its citizens and visitors with more than 11,000 miles of trails across the commonwealth to enjoy, from gentle pathways threading through miles of preserved greenways, to remote, rugged trails scaling the state's magnificent mountains.

Each year, the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee designates a Trail of the Year to help build enthusiasm and support for both large and small trails, and raise public awareness about the value of Pennsylvania's trail network.

Designated a National Recreation Trail in 1975, Forbidden Trail connects users with a rich history through many historic landmarks, 50 miles of natural surface trails, and a regional trail network that takes them into Pennsylvania's countryside on the Schuylkill River Trail (with access to state parks), and The Circuit (with a link to the East Coast Greenway).

The Wissahickon Valley once served as the hunting and fishing grounds of the Leni Lenape. It later became the site of more than 25 mills that were built along its banks in the 1800s, and numerous taverns and roadhouses were built along the Wissahickon Turnpike, now known as Forbidden Drive.

The Wissahickon Valley Park has been celebrated in poetry and in paintings. In 1868, Fairmount Park acquired the 1,800 acres of the Wissahickon Valley to preserve the purity of a then-city water supply. Mills and taverns were demolished, but the dams remain, telling the story of the industry that was once there.

Register Now For These Events

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

Spring Hiking Weekend, April 13-15: <https://www.kta-hike.org/spring-hiking-weekend-2018.html>

PHILADELPHIA, June 1-3: <https://www.kta-hike.org/philadelphia.html>

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>

Fall Black Forest Trail Slackpack, October 26-29: <https://www.kta-hike.org/fall-black-forest-trail-slackpack-2018.html>

YOUR HIKING ADVOCATE

Proposed Timber Sale #10-2017BC04

Letter from the Bureau of Forestry Sproul District #10

“The sale is an overstory removal treatment and shelterwood treatment. A section of the Chuck Keiper Trail runs near block #4 and #6. There is a 100 no cut buffer along the trail. This sale will not impact the trail. If you have any additional questions or comments please forward them to me by February 28th 2018.”

Proposed Timber Sale #10-2018BC01

Letter from the Bureau of Forestry Sproul District #10

“The sale is a shelterwood treatment. A section of the Donut Hole Trail is located on the PP&L powerline that runs parallel to the sale area. The timber sale is located outside of the trail buffer. We do not anticipate any impact to hikers or the trail. If you have any additional questions or comments please forward them to me by March 6, 2018.”

Proposed Timber Sale #09-2017BC03

Letter from Moshannon State Forest:

"Moshannon State Forest is writing you in regards to a timbersale that is proposed in proximity to the Quehanna Hiking Trail. The Quehanna Hiking Trail utilizes a portion of Three Runs Tower Road when the trail runs north along the old Three Runs Tower Road as the primary haul road. The trees being harvested are not in proximity to the Quehanna Hiking Trail, only the haul road that uses Three Runs Tower Road. Please see the enclosed map for your reference.

If you have any questions or concerns about the project described in this letter, please feel free to contact us at the address or phone number listed below."

VOLUNTEER / MAINTAINER'S CORNER

Trail Care Volunteers Ready Themselves to Spring Into Action

By Ed Lawrence, Volunteer Trail Care Coordinator

As winter loosens its crystalliferous grip under a steadily growing wave of sunshine, both the sap and the mercury are climbing through Pennsylvania's forests. Hikers are eager to stretch their legs, consult their maps, adjust their walking sticks, and top off their water bottles. Many members of the hiking community also reach for their work gloves, loppers, blaze paint, and brushes. These volunteers know that the toll winter takes on hiking trails can include obstacle courses of downed branches, uprooted trees, and decaying deadfalls. Spring brings its own panoply of new growth to laurel, rhododendron, azalea, and all manner of other rooted herbage, putting the squeeze on familiar trail corridors. Often, inspired by their own roots in the hiking experience, these Trail Care volunteers want to ensure that the hiking opportunities they've enjoyed remain available for whoever

feels the lure of the trailhead. Their personal familiarity with the satisfactions and comradery of trail work motivates them to resume their stewardship mission.

The KTA Trail Care Program's first outing this year will be April 5-8 working on the White Mountain Ridge Trail in the newly established Penns Creek Wild Area of Bald Eagle State Forest. Many participants of the 2017 KTA Fall Hiking Weekend at Wesley Forest got to experience firsthand the rugged beauty of this remote area. The event will be conveniently based out of a cabin at the corner of Weikert and Trails End Roads. This year, for the first time, Friday will be an official part of the work weekend—a Bonus Trail Day (or BTD). Volunteers can pack in on Thursday night or anytime thereafter as their schedules allow. If arriving in the morning on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, volunteers should plan to get there by 7:30 AM to be assigned to a work crew.

The second Trail Care (also a BTB event) will be April 26-29 in Pinchot State Forest to work on the Pinchot Trail. Work will be based out of the nearby Manny Gordon Picnic Area. No prior experience is needed to join the volunteer crew—there is always something for all levels of physical abilities and preferences. As Tom Thwaites said, “The rewards of trail work are as real as they are little known.” See for yourself what he meant.

HIKER'S CORNER

Jeff's Jaunts: Emerald Forest/Scouten Brook Loop-SGL 57

by Jeff Mitchell

This is one of the most scenic loop hikes in Northeast Pennsylvania. It features Scouten Brook, a tumbling mountain stream with cascades and waterfalls, an off trail hike to Cali Falls, and one of PA's most scenic forests, the Emerald Forest, with its deep green canopy of hemlock and spruce, with carpets of moss. Another short off trail hike will take you to a fine vista, great for sunsets, and massive boulders with passageways and overhangs.

This loop is approximately 7-8 miles long.

The trickiest part of the hike is the very beginning. The remainder of the hike follows well established old grades and logging roads, although there are no blazes or signs. Of course, the hike to Cali Falls, Zion Rocks, and the vista are off trail.

Drive down Windy Valley Road from Forkston, cross the bridge, and about .4 mile further reach Scouten Brook Road, a private road on the left. Slow down. Cross over Scouten Brook and pass a white cabin on the left. The game lands touch the road just past the cabin at 41.483737, -76.133386. Pull off as best you can, parking is very limited. You may notice the white blazes on the trees, which are the game lands boundary.

Enter the woods, there is no trail. Some mobile homes are off to your right. Walk back, slightly southeast, for about 1,000 feet, and reach an old forest road; turn left as it curves uphill. Enter a forest with some pines and continue a climb before the grade descends. There's a grade on the left; take it. The grade straight ahead is your return route.

Reach views of Scouten Brook, and in winter, an old log cabin off to your left. Reach another grade, turn right on it and follow it up Scouten Brook. The grade stays above the creek and offers many views of it in winter. There are cascades and small falls. Some parts of the grade are eroded. A side glen comes down on the north side of the brook; this is where Cali Falls is located. It is a seasonal falls, so if Scouten Brook is low, Cali Falls will be dry. The cascades and falls on Scouten become larger with some large boulders and pools.

Reach where the two forks of Scouten Brook join. The grade turns left, above Scouten Brook Falls, a wide ledge about 12 feet tall. Now climb and veer right and hike across the other fork of the brook. The grade soon levels and reaches another grade, make a sharp left. This grade is often wet and makes a gradual ascent. Reach a four way intersection; turn right. You will soon reach another intersection, turn right. The grade ascends slightly and soon enters a stunning spruce forest. The terrain is rolling and the forest becomes more scenic the further you hike, this is the Emerald Forest. There are wet areas. This evergreen forest is comprised of hemlock and spruce, with some pine. Moss covers the ground. It is like hiking in Maine or Quebec. This forest is very beautiful.

Where the grade begins to descend, and before it leaves the Emerald Forest over some boulders and ledges, you can hike off trail to the south to see the vista and Zion Rocks. The vista is a window opening through the trees to the vast plateaus to the west. It is notable for its isolation, no sign of development, and the plateaus look particularly impressive here. It is also a good sunset vista. Below the vista are a maze of massive boulders. About 500 feet north of the vista are the incredible Zion Rocks where huge mansion-sized boulders feature overhangs, caves, and crevices.

Back on the trail, descend and leave the Emerald Forest. The trail levels and then drops down the benches of the mountain. Two other grades join from the left but continue straight. The trail curves right and descends. Reach another grade and turn left, continuing the descent, which can be steep in places. Reach the point where you began the loop and retrace your steps.

Please treat this special place with respect. The Emerald Forest is unique in PA for its size, composition, and scenery; help make sure it will be there for generations to come.

To view pictures from the trip, go <https://endlessmountains.wordpress.com/2018/02/10/emerald-forest-scouten-brook-loop-sgl-57/>

Walk with Gantz: The Appalachian Trail

by Dave Gantz, KTA Board of Directors

Pennsylvania is host to 229 miles of the Appalachian Trail (AT). Commonly referred to as "Rocksylvania", this section is infamous for numerous ankle-breaking, boot piercing rocks. Luckily, there is more to this section of trail than just rocks, of course!

Lesson one of the AT in PA: Plenty of miles without rocks. The AT in PA is rightfully infamous for its rocks, but that doesn't mean that the trail is miserable. If and when you are thru-hiking the trail, you will remember the PA section as a flat and rocky challenge. As a day hiker or weekend hiker, the trail can seem completely different. Of the 229 miles within the state, most miles are rocky and flat, but many other miles are dirt single and double track bliss.

The AT in PA crosses through a lot of PA Game Lands, and the PA Game Commission is notoriously against any recreational use other than hunting. Lesson Two: Luckily, the AT is technically a national park and a national scenic trail which affords extra stipulations regarding hiking and camping. So, some game lands camping restrictions are loosened along the AT corridor. Rather than worry about these regulations, why not just stay at the AT shelter areas along the trail? Some of the more famous shelters along the AT exist in PA. Consider, for instance, the Quarry Gap Shelter in Michaux State Forest. Rausch Gap Shelter is another famous shelter along the trail in PA.

Lesson Three: Again, because the AT is so well-known and well-funded, it has some great perks that we don't see on a lot of other trails in PA. One perk is dry crossings of large streams and rivers. Sure, some of these crossings are on highways, but it is really neat to walk across the Delaware River, Lehigh River, Susquehanna River, Juniata River, and many more waterways without even getting one toe wet.

Lesson Four: Make it a loop! Sure, the AT is a continuous linear path from Georgia to Maine, but hundreds of side trails allow hikers to create loops suitable for day hiking, weekend backpacking, or even month long trips.

Nowadays everyone is talking about how busy the AT has become. Like other trails, this one is open 24/7, which leads us to Lesson Five: The AT isn't always busy! Most thru-hikers traverse PA between May and September, which is when most day and section hikers will also be on the trail. Consider exploring this trail later in the fall, or earlier in the spring if you are looking for solitude.

Since the AT is so special, I've decided to add a bonus lesson. Lesson Six: Use the AT in PA to practice skills and test gear! Most shelter areas on the AT include a privy, signed water access, tent areas, fire pits, unique bear-bagging structures, and more! Test your skills and your new gear at these areas during the off-months, to prepare to tackle remote trails in PA during the prime backpacking season!

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

Raccoon Creek

by Gerry Rowan

Every now and then some hikers get the urge for a road trip—a “getaway from our home turf and into new territory” kind of a trip. Raccoon Creek State Park was a jumping-off point for one of those trips—our “exploring the west” trip. We planned to start in the southwest part of the state and head northeast into the wilds of Pennsylvania. This was to be a hiking, backpacking, and car-camping trip using a number of state parks as our base of operations. We started at Raccoon Creek State Park and worked our way through Keystone, Linn Run, Laurel Ridge, and Laurel Mountain State Parks followed by Blue Knob, Trough Creek, and Colonial Denning State Parks. The entire trip was to be a month long. We intended to include Canoe Creek and Black Moshannon State Parks in our schedules but ran out of time.

Raccoon Creek State Park, in Beaver County between the Ohio River and the West Virginia state line, is large as far as Pennsylvania state parks go. Plus it offers a variety of amenities, including electric and nonelectric campsites as well as cabins. There's a lake with a bathing beach and, of course, Raccoon Creek. A shower house and a dump station round out the amenities. Both geology and geography make the area interesting. Horizontal strata of both hard and soft rock layers make up the area. The creek and its tributaries have cut the strata deeply, forming numerous rock overhangs and waterfalls as the softer rock layers weather faster than the harder layers.

One of those layers contains chert, the first cousin of flint and an important material for early humans to produce tools and weapons. The stream, the protection of the rock shelters, and the availability of chert made the area a place of congregation for some of the earliest settlers to this continent. One particular spot, about 15 miles from the park, is the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter, which archaeologists regard as the longest-occupied site in the Americas. People began camping at the shelter 16,000 years ago and, according to archaeologist Jim Adovasio of Mercyhurst University, used the shelter as a sort of late Pleistocene “Holiday Inn” until the 13th century. The large overhang, good ventilation, and presence of Cross Creek only several feet below the shelter's opening helped make the site appealing.

The long-ago collapse of the ledge overhang was akin to closing a book on the archeological past of the area. That book remained closed until 1955, when archeologists began excavating the site. What they found was not just a book but a whole library of artifacts from the dawn of human occupation in North America. The pre-Clovis artifacts from the shelter include a lanceolate point, bifaces, unifaces, prismatic blades, and core fragments. Renovations were made to the shelter in 2008 so that visitors could see some of the tools and campfires made by the first Americans thousands of years ago. The shelter is recognized as a Pennsylvania Commonwealth Treasure and is an official project of the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures program. A re-creation of a 17th-century Native American village is under development.

With the shelter so close by, we were keen to see it. We headed off early in the day to see the excavations, have a picnic lunch, and do some hiking along Cross Creek. A moment to imagine: being back 16,000 years ago, harvesting chert and making spear- and arrowheads. Imagine hunting and gathering wild food on the small floodplain of the creek. Was the climate just postglacial, or was it similar to today's?

An objective of our trip was not only hiking some new trails but taking in any new experiences and interesting stuff along the way. We spent 3 days at Raccoon Creek—hiking some of the 45 miles of park trails on the first day, exploring the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter on the second day, and hiking and exploring the old health spa at Frankfort Mineral Springs on the final day. Then we moved on to Keystone State Park. With a 2-man kayak on top of the truck and fishing gear stowed behind the seat, we were ready for anything. We could camp, backpack, hike, fish, kayak, swim, or just be tourists as the mood struck us.

After at least 60 years of hiking and backpacking, I find that just bagging miles is no longer as important as it once was. There is much more to experience and enjoy than just the miles. There is a lot of Pennsylvania to encounter along the way—from outdoor chamber music performances to church dinners and picnics, swimming holes, lakes for fishing, and streams for kayaking. When planning trips, I design them with flexibility in mind. Imagine a month with the time to follow a loose schedule of hiking destinations while enjoying any interesting side trips along the way. Deciding in the moment when to fish, when to hike, when to kayak.

Among our more notable side trips was to Forbes State Forest, where we visited Mount Davis, the state's highest point at 3,213 feet. We climbed the tower, hiked the trails, and kayaked on High Point Lake. A line of thunderstorms had passed through the area just before we arrived at Forbes, leaving the air dry and clean, the sun sparkling. The high elevation made the nights comfortably cool, so the sleeping was great.

We didn't get to Canoe Creek and Black Moshannon State Parks, making those parks logical starting places for our next adventure. Maybe that trip should be a fall trip.

Here's a recipe I wanted to share for your next hiking or camping trip:

Trail Potato Bread

1½ cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting

2 teaspoons baking powder

2 tablespoons cold bacon fat or butter, cubed

¾ cup instant mashed potato flakes

2 tablespoons dry milk powder

¾ cup water (adjust if needed; different brands of flour and instant mashed potatoes absorb differing amounts of water to form a dough)

Bacon fat, butter, or vegetable oil for frying

Kosher salt, to taste

At home, combine the flour, potato flakes, baking powder, milk, and salt and mix well. Store in a ziplock bag. In camp, add the bacon fat or butter, cubed, to the bag and knead until the mixture looks like coarse meal. Add the water and work the mixture into a dough. Divide the dough into 6 balls; then pat into a flat bread about 3/16-inch thick. Add some bacon fat, butter, or vegetable oil to a skillet and heat over a medium fire. Add the flat bread, 1 piece at a time, and sauté until browned on both sides. Great with chili or instead of toast with breakfast.

Substitutions: 1½ cup self-rising flour for the all-purpose flour and baking powder; 1 teaspoon baking soda for the baking powder; ¾ cup buttermilk for the water.

Additions: 1 green onion, finely chopped and added to the dough; ½ teaspoon garlic powder.

CLUB CONNECTION

4th Annual Celtic Breakfast Fundraiser for Rentschler Arboretum

Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with authentic Celtic food, Celtic guitar and fiddle music, craft vendors, and a "Best Legs in a Kilt" Contest.

Event Address:

Bernville Grange
37 Shartlesville Road
Bernville, PA 19506

Send reservations by March 13 to
BMECC c/o Linda Enders
38 South Miller St.,
Reading, PA 19607
610-775-3004

Price: \$15/person + \$10/child

Rentschler Arboretum, Bernville, PA is headquarters of Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club and is open to the public during daylight hours as a nature center. It was given to BMECC by it's founder Dr. Rentschler to be used for the education of school children. In December 2017 a conservation easement was secured to protect the property from development.

Proceeds from the event will be used to continue Dr. Rentschler's legacy. For more information go to bmecc.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!

March 17: 4th Annual Celtic Breakfast Fundraiser for Rentschler Arboretum

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

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

April 26-29: Trail Care BTD - Pinchot Trail

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

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

May 11-14: Black Forest Trail Slackpack

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

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

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

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

June 21-24: Trail Care 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

Nicer weather is just around the corner. 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>

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)

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.