



The Keystone Hiker - August 2021

Member's Corner

Welcome Karen Lutz to the Board

Karen's love of the outdoors began at the age of two spending summers with family at Shawnee State Park. She served as the president of her high school outing club. During her college years she worked as a counselor at Girl Scout Camp Lycogis, as the trip director at a private camp in Maine, and director of a Youth Conservation Corps program at an NPS historic site in Cresson, PA. She has hiked and backpacked thousands of miles both on PA trails and in many National Parks. She is an A.T. 2000 miler, and a life member of both ATC and KTA.

Karen earned a Bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education from Lock Haven State College and a Master's in Parks and Recreation from Penn State. She retired from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in 2018, concluding a successful 30 year career as the director of ATC's mid-Atlantic Region.

Call for Nominations Awards

The KTA Awards Committee seeks nominations to recognize outstanding members at the Fall meeting in October. Please submit nominations for the awards listed below to Katie at barker4trails@gmail.com by August 31st, 2021 with the following information:

- Name
- Approximate length of service to KTA's mission
- Brief description of contribution

The **KTA Citation Award for Lifetime Achievement** is presented to a person who has, over a period of years (not necessarily their entire lifetime), made significant contributions to the preservation of hiking trails and promoting hiking in Pennsylvania. Service may be in the form of volunteer efforts, publications, fieldwork, or any other pursuit that has furthered the mission of the KTA.

The **Thyra Sperry Volunteer of the Year Award** goes to a KTA member whose recent service to KTA's mission, especially in the preceding year, is most worthy of recognition. It is named in honor of former KTA president Thyra Sperry (d. 2017) and her devoted service to KTA.

Certificates of Achievement can also be awarded based on nominations from KTA member organizations for extraordinary work on projects that benefit hikers and/or trails in Pennsylvania. This award option allows clubs to nominate a volunteer who may not be an individual KTA member. The nomination should be based on recent service, especially in the past year, that serves the hiking public as a whole rather than primarily the members of the member club.

KTA Board

KTA members willing to serve on the Board may be nominated by petition submitted to the Nominations Committee. Nominations may be made by a minimum of ten members of the Association and accompanied by written consent of the nominee. Petitions should be delivered to either the Nominating Committee or the Secretary no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

To make a nomination, you can submit your petition to:

Wanda Shirk, Chair
1152 N. Brookland Rd.
Genesee, PA 16923
814-848-7944
wshirk49@outlook.com

Carl Davis, Secretary
244 Big Pond Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-532-3696
bldavis@kuhncom.net

Job Opening: Executive Director

KTA is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. We welcome referrals of experienced nonprofit professionals who have the desired qualifications. Please visit kta-hike.org/careers to apply or for more information.

On the Trail

This month KTA took a trip to the Black Forest Trail, slackpacking 42 miles over 4 days. KTA then set off on the Susquehanna River for a kayaking day trip from Marysville. Visit kta-hike.org/events to learn about more KTA outing opportunities.



Huge Win for PEDF

The [PA Supreme Court issued a decision](#) on July 21, declaring that the transfer of monies from DCNR's Oil and Gas Fund-- derived from natural gas drilling in State Forests-- to the General Fund to balance the state budget and fund agency operations is unconstitutional.

"Income generated from the revenue streams at issue must be returned to the corpus as a matter of trust law." The opinion does not mean that past money taken from DCNR must be paid back, but going forward it must be used for conservation purposes, and not used for the general fund.

The legal challenge was brought by the [PA Environmental Defense Foundation](#) and follows a [2017 ruling](#) by the PA Supreme Court also declaring the transfers unconstitutional.

John Childe, attorney for the PA Environmental Defense Foundation, commented "The Supreme Court Opinion . . . affirms our belief that all funds from the oil and gas leases, . . . are part of the public trust, and must be used to conserve and maintain the public natural resources, including our State Forest."

The Supreme Court's opinion finally ends the twelve year battle PEDF has waged to stop degrading our State Forest for revenue from oil and natural gas reserves to supplement the general fund. The Supreme Court PEDF IV Opinion determines that Article I Section 27 of our Constitution means that the Commonwealth's role regarding our public natural resources is that of trustee.

The uses of our State Forest must be based on protecting the rights of the people to the clean air and preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic value of our public natural resources.

The Court also said-Section 27 [Environmental Rights Amendment] expressly creates a trust, and pursuant to Pennsylvania law in effect at the time of enactment, proceeds from the sale of trust assets are part of the corpus of the trust." Id. at 933."

The Court concluded, "We conclude that the bonus payments, rentals and penalty interest qualify as income and not the sale of trust assets. Since the ERA does not create an entitlement to income in the beneficiaries, the revenue generated from these Marcellus Shale leases must be returned to the corpus to benefit all the people.

-Dick Martin

Receive a Free Map When You Pledge to Keep Trails Alive

KTA is pleased to announce a new donor appreciation program.

When you sign up or increase your [Keep Trails Alive monthly donation](#) amount by at least \$10, you will receive one complimentary copy of your choice of [Purple Lizard Maps](#) available for purchase in the KTA Book Store. Visit kta-hike.org/keep-trails-alive to sign up for recurring online payments, or contact the KTA office for information on direct ACH transfers.

We at KTA are very grateful for your contributions to our trails. As thanks, we hope these maps will help you explore the footpaths that your donations help to provide, protect, preserve, and promote.

Volunteer's Corner

Volunteers Needed

KTA Trail Challenge - September 11, 2021

It takes over 120 volunteers, working from 5 AM to 7PM to pull off the KTA Trail Challenge. [Sign up for a shift here!](#)

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.

Volunteers are also needed prior to the event to prepare finisher medallions. If interested, please contact the KTA office.

Duncannon Appalachian Trail Festival - August 28, 2021

The AT Festival is a day to connect with the hiking community. Volunteers are needed to assist with the KTA booth at the festival, please contact the office if interested.

August Connects Two Loops

The Pinchot Trail, east of Wilkes-Barre, and the Allegheny Front Trail, west of State College, are two of Pennsylvania's finest loop trail systems. August offers an opportunity for volunteers to help maintain both of these hiking trails. Based out of the nearby Pocono Mountain Bible Conference Camp, the August 12-15 Trail Care on the Pinchot Trail will continue KTA's commitment to keeping the trail in good shape under the leadership of Jeff Mitchell. The Allegheny Front Trail work weekend, August 19-22, will be based out of the Black Moshannon State Park Organized Group Tenting Area and give participants a chance to experience the varied terrain that the trail is known for. Doing this volunteer work is a way for hikers to show their appreciation for the experiences that hiking trails have provided and it is a great way to spend a weekend with other

2021 Trail Care

August 12-15: Trail Care Pinchot Trail

Pinchot State Forest
Leader: Jeff Mitchell
jmittchmittch@hotmail.com
570-441-2952

Camp: Pocono Mountain
Bible Conference camp
191 Clifton Beach Rd.
Clifton, Pa. 18424

August 19-22: Trail Care Allegheny Front Trail

Moshannon State Forest
Leader: Ed Lawrence
cemclaw216@gmail.com
570-925-5285
Camp: Black Moshannon
State Park Organized Group
Tenting Area

Sept. 16-19: Trail Care Donut Hole Trail

Sproul State Forest
Leader: Tony Robbins
tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com
570-437-0065

Camp: Sites 1,2 & 3
Hyner Run State Park

October 21-24: Trail Care Reeds Gap Spur Trail

Bald Eagle State Forest
Leader: Ed Lawrence
cemclaw216@gmail.com
570-925-5285
Camp: Reeds Gap State Park
camping area

Visit <https://www.kta-hike.org/trail-care-and-trail-crew> for more info on
volunteering with KTA

Tioga Trail Care Report

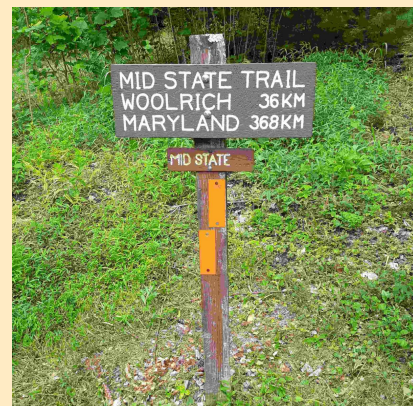


Thanks so much to all the volunteers who came out to do the blazing and brush cutting work. We're so glad we were able to get so much accomplished even though there was so much rain.

Over the course of the weekend a total of 18 volunteers logged close to 200 hours of work time!

Some highlights of the weekend included:

- Yellow blazing on the hunting season road walk on Ridge and Elkhorn Creek Roads
- Brushcutting on sections of the MST north of Hammond Lake
- Installation of 3 new signs on the "new" Haunted Mine Trail
- Chainsawing, yellow blazing and lopping on the "new" Haunted Mine Trail
- Chainsawing on the MST north of Blackwell to Johnson Cliff and then down Stone Quarry Trail



- Orange blazing on the MST north of Blackwell
- Turn blaze post installation and some various blaze/signage corrections
- DR mowing, lopping and chainsawing work near Hickory Ridge and Miller Hill Roads
- DR mowing between Hills Creek S.P. and Hammond Lake
- Orange blazing on the MST at Sand Run Falls
- Orange blazing of the roadwalk on Hickory Ridge and Elkhorn Run Roads
- Brushcutting and lopping at Cowanesque Lake north and south of the North Shore Boat Club
- AND.....in addition to Kristin's home made trail treats at breakfast we enjoyed some well deserved post work camaraderie Friday night at Wellsboro House in Wellsboro followed by Saturday night at Yorkholo Brewing Company in Mansfield!

-Kevin Busko and Kristin Joivell

In Praise of Shoe Goo

There is nothing as disheartening for a hiker than having their favorite pair of hiking boots or trail shoes start to lose their sole. Luckily there is a product that does an excellent job of reconnecting the separation and adding more miles to the footwear. Shoe Goo is widely available and comes in a red squeezable tube. It is a chemical glue which initially gives off an unpleasant odor so plan on putting the shoes outside overnight until the glue sets. After applying it I use a craft "popsicle" stick to evenly spread the Goo and rubber bands to hold the glued sections together. Shoe Goo also works well to rebuild the thin layer of rubber on the bottom of running shoes when break through into the soft foam inevitably occurs.

-Ed Lawrence

Cowanesque Lake Conservation CleanUp Day

Saturday, September 4th starting at 8am. Meet at South Shores boat launch or Tompkins Campground boat launch.

Cowanesque Lake and picnic areas have trash floating in the water, on the shoreline and on land. We are reaching out since some of the trash can only be retrieved by boat, kayak or canoe. We also have areas on land that could use your help.

If you can spare a couple of hours or stay all day, your clean up efforts will be appreciated. We will supply plenty of trash bags and please don't forget to bring durable gloves.

Hope to see you there!
Thank You

[Friends of Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes](#)

Learn about Trail Care



Ever wonder what goes into maintaining a trail?
Learn the basics with a video from KTA produced by film students at Messiah University. You can visit <https://www.kta-hike.org/trail-care-and-trail-crew> to learn more and volunteer to help with KTA Trail Care and try it out for yourself on a trail near you!

Hiker's Corner

Susquehannock Trail



Jeff's Jaunts - Erie Bluffs State Park

Erie Bluffs State Park is one of PA's newest state parks, and surely one of its most unique. This park has a hiking experience unlike any other in the state. Imagine hiking with the sound of the surf, with views across Lake Erie, which may as well be a freshwater ocean. There is a beach, inlets, ravines,



and trees of impressive size. The trails that exist here are far more extensive than what is shown on the map. I do not know if these trails are official. For the best hike, you should incorporate these trails (brown on the map). They often have some blazes, but not always, and are clearly established. They are also very curvy. They appear to primarily be used by mountain bikers. The hiking here is relatively easy, but you should be good with navigation to use the brown trails on the map above.

From the parking area, begin on the Transition Trail as it crosses fields with bird houses. There are also many wildflowers. The trail follows a woodline and reaches a four-way intersection. Turn right on the Lookout Trail as it follows the edge of the gorge and offers the first views of the giant hardwood trees that call this park home. Some of the trees here are gigantic, with oak, maple and tulip poplar. Erie Bluffs is the Cook Forest of hardwood trees. Reach another intersection; the view here is ok. Follow an unblazed trail down the slope to superb view of the lake from the top of the bluffs. The forests are unique at top of the bluffs; it is open with hardwoods. Be careful along the bluffs, as they are eroding. It is awesome to hike with sounds of the surf and views of the lake.

Follow the unblazed trail down to the Fisherman's Foot Path and walk out onto the beach and inlet of Elk Creek. Enjoy the beautiful scenery. It is hard to believe you are in Pennsylvania. Retrace your steps back up to the Bluffs Edge Trail. Where that trail makes a sharp left, continue straight on an obvious trail. These trail meanders wildly, around ravines and back to the bluffs with some views. The scenery is unique, and the ravines are almost 100 feet deep. You may notice some different paint blazes on the trees, but the trails do not have signs. I tended to keep turning right to get to the bluffs, and then the trails would veer left to go around the ravines.



We then reached the Timber Trail and followed it for a while, passing more giant hardwoods and beautiful forests. We then turned right again for one of the most scenic parts of the hike as the trail followed the edge of a deep ravine, and then followed the top of the bluffs. It was beautiful with the wind, surf, and views. Next was the yellow West Overlook Trail along the edge of Duck Run's ravine. We found a trail to drop into the ravine and it was stunning to walk down it with the creek and huge trees. We hiked to the shore with views of the lake and a small slide where Duck Run flowed into the lake. When it is calm, and the lake is low, it is possible to hike along the shore. I hear it is an amazing experience.

We hiked out along the Duck Run Trail, dropped back into the scenic ravine, and followed the Whitetail Crossing and Black Oak Savanna Trails, which crossed more fields and meadows with wildflowers. Next was a right turn on the Transition Trail back to the parking area.

-Jeff Mitchell

Hiking for Science

HikerNet Connectivity Study

Have you ever experienced poor connectivity on hiking trails? Introducing *HikerNet*, a mobile app that allows you to record, view, and analyze cellular connectivity on your hikes. *HikerNet* is part of a research project at the Georgia Institute of Technology focused on exploring internet access in rural areas and investigating new methods for measuring cellular connectivity. *HikerNet* has officially launched to the public, and we're actively recruiting users to interview for the project! We'd love for you to be involved. Go to our website, <https://hikernet.rnoc.gatech.edu>, to download the app and sign up for an interview. Happy hiking!

Trails Survey

Dear trails, outdoor recreation or conservation community member,

You are invited to participate in a research study on trail use and trail building practices as they relate to stewardship ideology, sense of place, and community identity. We are reaching out to communities and individuals with an interest in trails. We define trail building as including both paid and volunteer activities related to constructing new trails or maintaining existing trails. Your participation will help us develop a more participatory and nuanced understanding of trails and trail work in the United States and elsewhere.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you may stop the survey at any time. Participation involves completing a 15 minute long survey. There are no known risks or benefits associated with participating in this study. Participation is anonymous and individual responses will be kept anonymous.

The survey is open to all adults living or working in the United States. Please share with your networks and others who you think would be interested in taking this survey. The survey will remain open, but we are hoping to gather the bulk of responses by July 30th, 2022.

If you would like to be contacted about participating in a follow up interview you may optionally provide contact information which will be stored separately from your responses to the survey.

Questions and contact information:

If you have any questions about this study, please contact [Dr. Madeline Brown](#) or [Nic Galloway](#) at the University of Maryland, College Park.

If you would like to receive follow-up information about our survey results, please email or follow our project page on [Open Science Framework](#).

Follow this link to the Survey:

[Take the Survey](#)

CAUTION: Gas Company Construction on the Loyalsock Trail Ahead

The Alpine Club of Williamsport has recently been informed that a gas company (PGE) will construct a road and buried water line across the Trail on the plateau ahead. The exact date and location of the work is still unknown. The construction will affect the Loyalsock Trail at the 2 following locations:

- 1.) Between LT Miles 1.4 and 1.5 the construction will cross the LT at a right angle.
- 2.) Between LT Miles 3.38 and 3.60 the construction will cross the LT but where and how it will cross remains unknown.

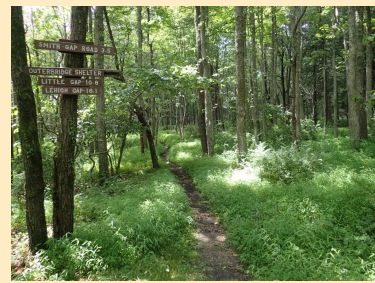
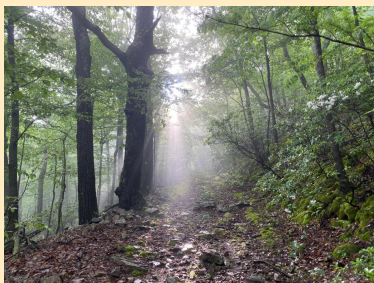
You may encounter an open 3 foot deep ditch.
Remember, trucks and equipment always have the right of way.
Be safe and enjoy your hike.

Dan Wolfe
[The Alpine Club of Williamsport](#)

2021 Summer/Fall Photo Contest

Submit your photos at <https://www.kta-hike.org/photo-contest.html>

The winner will be announced in January and will receive a free 1 year membership and KTA hat.



Community Calendar

KTA Events

[Black Forest Trail Slackpack](#)
[August 20-23 or September 24-27](#)

Take advantage of this incredible opportunity, to complete in ONE WEEKEND the trail that everyone talks about: The Black Forest Trail.

[Allegheny National Forest Weekend - August 20-22](#)

It's time to leave the city behind and get back to nature. During our weekend hiking adventure we'll be staying at Groves Lodge in the heart of the National Forest.

[KTA Trail Challenge \(25k and 50k\) - September 11](#)

The KTA Trail Challenge is an event for adventurous trail runners and hikers on the wild river hills of the lower Susquehanna Gorge. This daunting trail challenge event on the Conestoga Trail, State Park trails, alternates breathtaking vistas with steep descents into dark, scenic hollows followed by strenuous climbs to the next vista.

[Fall Hiking Weekend - October 15-17](#)

KTA heads to Lock Haven for a weekend of hiking and camaraderie in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

Community Events

[AT Vista - KTA AT Section Hike - August 7](#)

Hike the Appalachian Trail at Lehigh Gap, led by Janet Penner. This hike is part of the virtual AT Vista celebration for 2021.

[2021 Duncannon Appalachian Trail Festival - August 28](#)

Join us on the Appalachian Trail in Duncannon between Cumberland and Ann streets on Saturday, August 28th from 10AM to 4PM for some great family-friendly fun. Admission is free, there will be live music, food trucks, free craft projects for kids, hiking and outdoor clubs, and arts & crafts vendors.

[PA Greenways & Trails Summit - September 19-21](#)

The Summit seeks to inspire improvements and expansion to Pennsylvania's trail system, build peer networks, and celebrate successful projects connecting the public to land and water trails throughout the state. Over the course of 3 days, the summit will offer dozens of educational sessions, mobile seminars, keynote presentations, discussion panels, and various social and networking opportunities to our attendees. The summit will be held at Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA.

[AT Museum - Hall of Fame Banquet - November 20](#)

Each year, we honor outstanding legends of the A.T. at our Hall of Fame Banquet. The Tenth Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on November 20, 2021. We will again be at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, located just outside Carlisle, PA.

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 ktaadmin@kta-hike.org.

Club Spotlight

Chester County Trail Club



The Chester County Trail Club began in the fall of 1970 as a casual "get together" among friends in the West Chester area who were interested in finding company for their Sunday afternoon walks. An ad was placed in the local newspaper asking anyone interested to meet

and explore the possibility of walking together. Almost thirty fresh air enthusiasts arrived one Sunday afternoon in late September and the Chester County Trail Club was born.

The Club took its first "walk" in Tyler Arboretum on Sunday afternoon, October 4, 1970. For a while CCTC met every Sunday in the parking lot of the Daily Local News. When the club began to list its weekly events in the newspaper inviting anyone interested to join, membership quickly increased. Within a few years, the group had established a meeting schedule, a constitution and by-laws and charged an annual dues of two dollars per year. Since it was established the club has grown from 30 hikers to several hundred members and the dues have increased to fifteen dollars per year per membership.

Although hiking is the main activity of the club, the members are also concerned with environmental issues, conservation, ecology and hiking education. Members are educated about safety on the trail, proper dress and footwear, water consumption guidelines and back-packing know-how.

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, Casey Schneck, at ktaadmin@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.

Please reference our **Editorial-Style Guide** while you compose your piece.