

Executive Director Report

April 8, 2017

Ligonier camp and Conference Center, Ligonier, PA

- Personnel – In early February, Program Administrator Sara Haxby resigned to take a position with the ATC. The position was advertised and roughly a dozen resumes were received. Three individuals were interviewed and an offer was made to Brynn Furnace who accepted and started working a short time later.
- Legislation - SB 453 (Brewster, D – Westmoreland), HB 71 (Godshall, R – Montgomery)
These bills would authorize the Game Commission to allow for hunting on Sundays. Currently this is prohibited by statute, but either piece of legislation will amend the law to allow for the Game Commission to issue regulations allowing for Sunday hunting.
HB 640 (Barrar, R – Chester)
This legislation would combine the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). PHMC would be absorbed by DCNR.
HB 754 (Murt, R – Montgomery)
This legislation amends the Conservation and Natural Resources Act to provide a 15% discount on state park activity fees and charges for active duty, retired and disabled military personnel and their immediate family. The legislation would apply to active duty and retired military members and veterans who have a 100% service-related disability, plus their immediate family. Military personnel and veterans who qualify would have to provide identification in order to receive a discount.
HB 723 (Hanna, D – Clinton)
This legislation would allow the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to enforce Title 75 (Vehicles) provisions related to all-terrain vehicle (ATV) summary offense violations, even if the violation occurs outside of state park and state forest lands.

Anticipated Bill Yet to Be Reintroduced:

Ellis, R – Butler

A proposal that would allow political appointees to make decisions on Public/Private Partnerships such as golf courses, water parks, amusement parks, office buildings and hotels by allowing private sector development in State Parks.

Meeting scheduled with Chairman Maher 4/19.

- The SGL “user fee” or “habitat fee” is according to the PGC **“still on the table”**. Questions of how it would be enforced are being voiced by many people.
Meeting scheduled with Rep. Gabler (elk range) 4/24
- Lobby Day – On June 6th KTA will be holding a lobby day to educate legislators on our views of Sunday hunting. Currently, 5 people are scheduled to attend with the possibility of assistance from other organizations.
- DCNR ATV Connector – The Larson Group is conducting a feasibility study for an ATV connector trail in the Sproul State Forest. KTA Board members Bob Merrill, Dave Gantz and a number of volunteers such as: Butch Davey, Dick Martin, John Wasserman and others attended a recent meeting in Lockhaven and shared our concerns. A public comment period will be available later this summer.
- Boy Scout Leaders – On March 25th I conducted a program on hiking for Boy Scouts leaders on opportunities in central PA.
- Through the efforts of Dave Gantz KTA is receiving a \$5000.00 grant from Patagonia for restoration projects (trail care).
- KTA Hats – KTA hats are now available for \$18 for members.
- KTA will be submitting two grant requests to DCNR. One for trail care equipment and the other for marketing.
- The possibility of a Jeep grant is on hold until the launch their new vehicle later this year. We may still get funding for the Trail Challenge and/or fall hiking weekend.

Upcoming

- Brynn and I are scheduled to attend an Earth Day event in State College April 20th.
- In May we have the BFT slackpack and may need assistance running that program since Wanda will be unavailable.
- Trail Care 101 (6) and Backpacking 101(9) registered for each.
- In 2016 KTA Trail Challenge had 25 people registered by 4/1/2016. As of 4/1/2017 we have 70 people registered.
- Registration for Prowl the Sproul is now open.

Events

April 22: KTA's Trail Care 101 Workshop, Whipple Dam State Park

April 28 - 30: Black Forest Trail Care

April 30: SATC & CPC Present The Ironmaster's Challenge

May 6: Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, Code Orange

May 19-22: KTA's Black Forest Trail Thruhike Slackpack (SOLD OUT)

May 20 Backpacking 101 (Part I) Little Buffalo State Park

May 19 - 21: West Rim Trail Care

May 25 - June 2: PA Hiking Week - cosponsored with DCNR
May 26 - 29: Butler Outdoor Club's Outdoor Extravaganza
May 30 - June 4: North Country Trail in Butler County, Trail Crew Week #1
June 6 - June 11: Thunder Swamp Trail System, Trail Crew Week #2
June 9-11: ANF Chapter of NCTA's Allegheny 100 Hiking Challenge (A-100)
June 10-11 Backpacking 101 (Part II) Location TBD
June 11: NCTA Butler Chapter's Muddy 5k Race - during the Bantam Jeep Festival
June 13 - 18: Chuck Keiper / Donut Hole Trails, Trail Crew Week #3
June 20 -25: Mid State Trail, Everett Region, Trail Crew Week # 4
July 22: Little Buffalo State Park Code Orange
June 27 - July 2: The Baker Trail, Trail Crew Week #5
July 7 - 9: Mid State Trail, Tioga Region Trail Care
July 28-30: KTA's 14th Annual Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend
August 4 - 6: The Pinchot Trail Care
August 5-15 KTA 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: Fall Hiking Weekend
November 3 - 5: Bucktail Path Trail Care