



## Executive Director Report

### KTA Fall Hiking Weekend

October 13-15, 2017, Weikert, PA

1. **Personnel** – In the last year our Program Administrator, Sara Haxby left KTA for the ATC. We subsequently hired Ms. Brynn Furnace who has to date done a very fine job for KTA.
2. **DCNR Grant** – In April of 2017, KTA applied for a grant from DCNR for trail care equipment for our member clubs. Club requests came to almost \$30,000. As of this writing, the state budget is still unpassed which ties up the funds these grants come from. After the budget is finalized we assume we'll hear whether we got the grant or not.
3. **Programs** – This year KTA offered many of the same programs we did in years past. The Treasurer's report includes details of the year's income and expenditures. The Program Administrator's report will include participant numbers. Below are some of the revenue broken out by program for the past year:

#### **Spring Hiking Weekend**

Income	\$12,275
Expenditure	\$6224
Net	\$6051

#### **BFT Slack Pack**

Income	\$2460
Expenditure	\$772
Net	\$1688

#### **Prowl the Sproul**

Income	\$4760
Expenditure	\$2983
Net	\$1777

#### **KTA Trail Challenge**

Income	\$32055
Expenditure	\$16922

\*Net \$15133

**Backpacking 101**

Income \$1000

Expenditure \$50

Net \$950

**Quehanna Elk Quest**

Income \$5470

\*Expenditure \$3407

\*Net \$2063

**KTA Treks and Trails Trip**

Income \$6700

**Fall Hiking Weekend**

Income \$6118

\*Expense \$3377

\*Net \$2741

\*(estimated)

**4. Programs planned for 2018**

Backpacking 101 - TBD

**April**

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

TBD BFT Slackpack (Wanda Shirk)

TBD Weekend in Philadelphia PA (Wissahickon Valley Park – Forbidden Drive, guided tour of historical sites in downtown, and Schuylkill River Trail)

**May**

TBD Pinchot Trail Slackpack

TBD Weekend in Gettysburg, PA (Guided weekend tour of the battlefield)

**July**

27-29, Prowl the Sproul

**September**

8 KTA Trail Challenge

TBD - KTA Treks and Trails Trip to Scotland

28-30, Quehanna Elk Quest I

## **October**

5-7, Quehanna Elk Quest II

6, Brynn's wedding

12-14, Fall Hiking Weekend, Location TBD

### 4. Advocacy

A. Sunday Hunting – No movement on any bills. KTA Advocacy Day was a success.

B. 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. We met with Chairman Maher and Rep. Ellis in April. Rep. Ellis still plans to introduce this bill.

C. 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 meetings in Lockhaven and shared our concerns. Public input was tabulated and there is a report on DCNR's webpage. A follow up meeting will be held in Lockhaven on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

D. Representative Barbin's (the minority chair of the House G&F Committee) proposal would merge the Administration Offices and the Law Enforcement Bureaus of the agencies. Instead of two Executive Directors, there would only be one Executive Director, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Based on the sample language we've seen, this merger process would be accomplished via a "Memoranda of Understanding" between the two agencies.

E. Rep. Martin Causer plans to introduce legislation to merge the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission into one independent agency, based on the results of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) study on the issue.

The LBFC study examined the feasibility, impact, costs and savings of combining the agencies and explored a range of options with regard to how

to structure a new agency to best manage the wildlife and aquatic resources of the Commonwealth. Currently, Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation with two separate, independent agencies with management and oversight of fishing, boating and wildlife activities.

The study found that a merger of the commissions is feasible and would save the Commonwealth at least \$5 million annually, primarily through elimination of redundant upper level positions and duplication of services.