

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 129
Confluence, PA 15424
www.kta-hike.org



50th Anniversary, 1956-2006!

Winter 2006

Pennsylvania Hiking Week, 2006 – May 27 to June 4

By Bill Dietrich

For the fifth consecutive year, Keystone Trails Association and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will be co-sponsoring Pennsylvania Hiking Week. The dates will be Saturday, May 27 to Sunday, June 4. The dates include the last day of Spring Gobbler hunting season (May 27), Memorial Day weekend (May 27-29), the start of the summer season, and National Trails Day on Saturday, June 3. We are all hoping that the “weather gods” cooperate with warm weather and a minimum of rain so that many folks will be motivated to break out of the winter miasma and “get out there” – spying on spring flowers; listening to spring bird calls; stretching one’s legs. Hike week hikes present a very good opportunity to talk to non-members about KTA, our work and how to become members.

All KTA members, local hiking clubs and individual hikers, are asked to sponsor hikes in all areas of our Commonwealth. Member clubs should consider designating one or more regularly scheduled club hikes during this week as Hiking Week events. Please submit your hikes by May 1 to me by email at wdietrich@adelphia.net or by post to: 229 Courtland Rd., Indiana, PA 15701-3202.

Pennsylvania Hiking Week is a cooperative effort with DCNR, so their foresters, park rangers and education specialists will be leading hikes as well. If you intend to lead a hike in a state park or state forest, please

coordinate with your local DCNR folks so that your efforts are not duplicated. DCNR will be setting up a calendar on their website that will include all hikes. Further, DCNR will be doing statewide advertising for this event in newspapers and broadcast media. Keep a sharp eye out for any mention of the event and “talk it up” with your hiking/trail clubs.

KTA supports hiking trails and hiking throughout the Commonwealth through trail maintenance, supporting local groups and voicing our concerns about conserving the beauty of Penn’s Woods. DCNR supports trails in state forests and parks and sponsors activities centered on its trails. Governor Rendell’s Growing Greener initiative promises greater attention to our shared concerns. Our state has more than 3000 miles of improved hiking trails; this is something of which our organizations justifiably can be proud. Support Pennsylvania Hiking Week by talking it up with your day-to-day contacts. Invite a friend or neighbor to come along on a hike.

Some time after the first of May, the hike schedule for Pennsylvania Hiking Week will be announced to the media state-wide and will be available on the KTA website (This may be a problem because of a KTA website redesign that will be underway. Stay tuned on this.) and DCNR website. Share hike information in your local newsletter, with your local newspaper and radio stations. With your support, this could be the best Pennsylvania Hiking Week ever.

Support Pennsylvania Hiking Week by sponsoring a hike and inviting friends and neighbors to come along on a hike.



Photo by Curt Weinhold

See page 5 for information on submitting hikes and suggestions for planning a Hiking Week activity.

Keystone Trails Association
Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

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This newsletter is published four times a year as a service to its members by Keystone Trails Association. Deadlines for submitting material are 1/1, 4/1, 7/1 and 10/1. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The Editors encourage submissions reflecting all viewpoints for publication, but reserve the right to edit for reasons of space or to prevent violent confrontation. You are encouraged to submit your material on disc or via e-mail.

New members are always welcome. A membership application is located on the back page of this newsletter.

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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2006 Trail Care Schedule

Trail Care weekends begin Friday evening at the designated campsite. A full day of trail work on Saturday is followed by an evening of campfire sociability and possibly a meal out at a local restaurant (Dutch treat). After a morning of additional trail work, the weekend concludes about noon on Sunday. If you can't spare an entire weekend, you can join the group for whatever portion is convenient. No experience or special skills are required. Tools and work gloves will be provided. **Contact the trip leader to register for Trail**

March 17-19 - Keystone State Park

Camp in cabins in the park

Leader: Jack Leashor, 724-744-0675

March 31-April 2 - Link Trail

Camp at Getty Ridge Camp

Leader: Mel Cooper, 813-643-2641

May 5-7 - Rock Handling Seminar

Camp at Getty Ridge Camp. See article on page 13

Instructor: John Motz. Contact Carl Lorence at PASTUMBLER@aol.com or Joe Healey at jnlhealey@aol.com.

May 12-14 - Donut Hole Trail

Camp at Hyner Lodge

Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

July 14-16 - Pinchot Trail

Camp at Manny Gordon Picnic Area

Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

August 18-20 - Promised Land State Park

Camp in the park campground

Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

September 22-24 - Susquehannock Trail Bridge Project

Camp at a private campground across from the bridge

Leader: Dave McMillan, 717-299-3714

October 20-22 - Delaware State Forest

Camping to be announced

Leader: John Motz, 570-236-1462

November 3-5 - Quehanna Trail

Camp at cabins in Parker Dam State Park

Leader: Ralph Seeley, 814-355-2933

2006 Trail Crew Schedule

Our Tenth Summer!

Crews assemble on Tuesday evening for dinner and orientation and work full days Wednesday thru Saturday, and a half day on Sunday. KTA provides a place to camp, meals, tools, work gloves, safety equipment, and instruction by crew leaders. Volunteers are accepted for one day, a weekend, all week, or the entire crew season. There are tasks for everyone.

For an application, contact Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702, phone 570-655-4979, or email jnlhealey@aol.com.

June 6-11 - Chuck Keiper Trail

Build bridges on the cross connector

Camp at a private campground

Leader: Rich Scanlon, 717-242-1644

June 13-18 - Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

Build new foot trail

Camp at Twin Streams Campground

Leader: Pete Fleszar, 717-583-2093

June 20-25 - Nature Conservancy, Woodbourne Forest, Susquehanna County

Build new foot trail

Camp at a private cottage at a beautiful lake

Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

Cook Needed!

We need a cook for the June 13-18 Crew Week, based at Twin Streams Campground south of Wellsboro. The cook is responsible for planning the menus (sample menus from previous years available), purchasing groceries and supplies, and preparing 5 breakfasts and 5 dinners (Tuesday evening thru Sunday breakfast) for approximately 20 people. Gourmet meals not required; hungry trail workers appreciate the meals prepared for them and will eat anything (and everything). Contact Joe Healey at one of the addresses above.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow Hikers,

About a week after a heavy, wet snow in early November, my long-time hiking buddy and I went out for a day's hike. We thought we'd go to Bear Run, owned by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, since hunting is not allowed there. When we got there, a sign at the trail kiosk said that all trails were closed due to so many downed trees resulting from the snow. We decided to continue into Ohiopyle and hike down there. We did hike - spending most of the day hiking around or over trees downed by the weight of the snow. A three hour hike became a five hour hike. What better reminder of what KTA stands for!

As a trail care regular, I could mentally hear the chain saws whining. I could imagine the conversation of KTA's sawyers, relating how they cleared a "tricky one" from the trail. It's funny how our trails "get in your blood". We love our trails - not only for ourselves, but also for all who draw pleasure from walking the footpaths of Penn's Woods. We in KTA own these trails in more ways than those of a taxpayer - we invest our time, treasure and labor in their continued availability to Pennsylvanians.

At the fall KTA meeting, you invested your trust in me and the others of our new Board of Directors. After three months, I realize more than ever how much of a responsibility you have handed over to us. Some or all of our Board have met three times since the election. Also we have had meetings with some of our partners in Harrisburg. Key to our future success was the strategic planning session we had on December 9 - and another is still to come. I can't express how good I felt after our strategic planning session. Your Board has been able to cut through the day-to-day to get down to the core issues of what KTA does, or aspires to. After this process and with the continued cooperation of the Board, I'm sure that a smarter more responsive KTA will result.

One change you will see right away. Jim Flandreau, our legal advisor, felt it would be best if he stepped down from this post. I'm sure you all join with me in wishing him: thanks for a job well done, good luck and "don't be a stranger". On October 17, I appointed Mr. Craig Mayer of Warren as our legal advisor. Craig works for an energy company and does easements and land issues all of the time. I believe that KTA would benefit from having someone with his experience as its legal advisor. Some know him as the owner of the Woy Campground near Everett. He is an outdoorsman and a canoeing enthusiast. I believe he will be a good fit for us.

I look at my study; it has become "KTA central" - much to the chagrin of my wife. The computer which was hers before my retirement has become ours - hers, mine and KTA's. In addition to the Board and other meetings, there is the day-to-day work that still needs to be done. Emails need to be answered and letters to be composed; trying to stay organized is a constant challenge. And the learning curve is steeper than I suspected it would be. If I've learned anything, it is that I know so very little about the organization, its members and the natural and political environments we work within.

So, I must ask a favor of all of you: please be patient with me. I, it turns out, know so very little that I wind up asking questions to which some think I should already know the answer. I don't - please explain. Sometimes it seems I have walked into the middle of a conversation. When an issue comes up I will ask to be given the history of it and what your thoughts on it are. Some of you have already been treated to these questions of mine. I'm sure every KTA president has had a learning curve - mine seems quite steep.

With your forbearance, the cooperation of an enthusiastic Board, the wisdom of Council and the talents, time and treasure of you, the membership, I foresee a KTA that you will still recognize, but will be better at what it does: standing up for trails and hiking, and protecting the environment our trails run through.

I wish you all a healthy and happy 2006.

Keep amblin'
Bill

New Representatives-at-Large

KTA's individual members elected twelve Representatives-at-Large during a mail election in December:

Joyce Appel, *East Brady, PA*

Kathryn Barker, *Carlisle, PA*

Carl Davis, *Wellsboro, PA*

Christopher Firme, *Blue Ridge Summit, PA*

Henry Frank, *Philadelphia, PA*

Wayne Gross, *Cresco, PA*

Michael Jackson, *Everett, PA*

John Motz, *Stroudsburg, PA*

Shethra Rigg, *King of Prussia, PA*

Paul Shaw, *Millersburg, PA*

Tom Thwaites, *State College, PA*

Barbara Van Horn, *Duncannon, PA*

Representatives-at-Large are members of the KTA Council, which meets during the Spring and Fall meetings. Council is responsible for electing the Board of Directors and officers, ratifying the budget and setting the dues structure, amending the Bylaws, and providing advice and recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The newly elected Representatives took office on January 1 and will serve two-year terms.

Other members of Council include the representatives from each KTA organizational member, the nine Directors, the standing committee chairs, the legal advisor, and the newsletter editor.

KTA Volunteer Opportunities

Web Master

KTA needs a web master to take over management of the Association's web site. The web site will be undergoing a complete transformation this spring, thanks to the design efforts of a University of Indiana of Pennsylvania web design class. The new web master will be responsible for regularly updating information on the site with information supplied by club officers and administration. For more information, contact Al Wiemann at w3ce@verizon.net or Bill Dietrich at an address on page 2.

Newsletter Layout

Do you have a graphic arts background or an eye for design? KTA is looking for someone to lay out the newsletter. The time commitment is during the first two weeks of January, April, July, and October of each year. Preference is for someone who can use Quark. Contact Barb Wiemann; see page 2 for contact information.

KTA's Fiftieth Anniversary: Share Your Photos At Wellsboro

By Barbara Wiemann

To commemorate this milestone year in KTA's history, I am organizing displays of photos and memorabilia for the Spring Meeting at Wellsboro in April.

If you have any photos or mementos from KTA meetings, hikes, or trail activities that you are willing to display, please contact me at one of the addresses on page 2.

Plan now to attend the Spring Meeting to celebrate KTA's past accomplishments and be a part of KTA's future.

Wanted!! Your Volunteer Maintenance Hours

By Lorraine Healey

It's that time again. The requests for volunteer maintenance hours for 2005 and other pertinent information have been forwarded to the clubs.

Now it's up to the individual maintainers to make things a success. For those people who report their hours to clubs, if you haven't already done so, please tally up those maintenance hours and send them off to your club. Then those in charge of gathering those hours within each club can forward the totals for 2005 to me in a timely manner.

For those who do trail maintenance because you like to, but don't have a specific organization to which you submit those volunteer hours, please send them directly to me at jnlhealey@aol.com or to Lorraine Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702.

Every volunteer maintenance hour is important. Thank you for all that you've done throughout the year. Because of your hard work, Pennsylvania hiking trails are the greatest. Just ask any hiker.



Photo by Hugh Downing

Donors to KTA's Annual Appeal

Supporters of hiking and hiking trails in Pennsylvania have contributed over \$4,000 to KTA's 50th Anniversary appeal. Donors as of January 1 are:

George and Frances Alderson, Jerry A. Andree, Jean Aron, Dee Berger, Yvonne Blades, Gary E. Bortner, Melvin H. Bowman, Paul A. Brooks, Paul A. Burns, Melonia Charles, Mark L. Christ, J. Frederic Cox, Marian Crossman, Harold Croxton, Glenn Czulada, Arthur and Neen Davis, Ann Denz, William E. Dietrich, David and Carol Eibling, Harry W. Fenton, Jack D. Ferrara, Peter Fleszar, Fred W. Garnon, Dennis A. Giancola, Bernard D. Goldstein, Jane E. Greber, Connie Grisell, Frederick L. Haack, George Henry, Paul P. Ives, Michael B. Jackson, Jon A. Kapecki, Edward F. Kenna, Richard Lee, Bruce Lichtenstein, Carl E. Lorence, Elwood L. Loudenslager, Helen Marquard, George E. Martin, Fred Maurer, Catherine McLaughlin and Edward Lawrence, James F. Moersher, Glenn L. Oster, Paula A. Pardoe, Mary E. Pitzer, George G. Probst, Edward D. Rakowsky, David L. Raphael, Jeanette Russell, Michael A. Sausser, Ralph M. Seeley, Edward L. Shaffner, John H. Shissler, David R. Singer, Mike Stasik, Raymond J. Swingholm, Irene Szabo, Stuart R. Thompson, Kenneth R. Trimble, George D. Van Rossum, Charles Wettling, Carol A. Witzeman, Adina Zupanick

Pennsylvania Hiking Week Hike Submission Information

Please include your information in the following format (this makes it easier to communicate it to DCNR.):

- 1 Trail Name/Hike Name
- 2 Location, including county (Delaware State Forest, Pike County)
- 3 Region of the state (northeast, southeast, north central, south central, northwest, southwest)
- 4 Date
- 5 Time
- 6 Hike Description, Points of Interest
- 7 Difficulty (easy/moderate/difficult)
- 8 Hike length and estimated time to hike
- 9 Meeting/Parking location
- 10 Directions to meeting place (especially if complex)
- 11 Special notes (bring lunch, water, special foot ware, binoculars)
- 12 Hike leader or sponsor club or organization
- 13 Local contact (name, phone number, email)

Some notes about KTA sponsored hikes:

- 1 DCNR wants KTA to take the lead in sponsoring hikes on DCNR hiking trails – state forest and state parks. Please coordinate with them – they are our valued partners.
- 2 **Deadline for submission of hikes is May 1st.**

- 3 For those considering hikes on Saturday May 27, be aware that this is the last day of Spring Gobbler Hunting Season. You may want to schedule your hike in the afternoon or later since hunting is allowed only in the morning. Make sure that you and all others in your group are wearing orange.
- 4 The 2006 theme of National Trails Day is “Experience Your Outdoors”. Persons considering planning a hike on June 3 might wish to link up or co-sponsor your hike with a local environmental organization. Remember, we in KTA think of these trails as ours. Imparting a sense of ownership to your fellow hikers can only help in the struggle to stave off environmental damage or encroachment.
- 5 Consider weekday hikes, especially near metropolitan areas, for later in the day so participants can hike along after work.
- 6 Hiking is more than just walking, although that is good. Try to combine activities with your hike, e.g. bird watching, learning GPSing, observing the local historical sites or geology. Why not a night hike to observe the stars?
- 7 Consider planning some hikes in accessible areas for handicapped outdoor enthusiasts.
- 8 Finally, our previous hiking weeks revealed that remote hikes sponsored on weekdays were less well attended than those scheduled on weekends or on weekday evenings nearer to metropolitan areas. If you sponsor a hike in a remote area on a weekday, which we encourage, the sponsor should consider ways to promote the hike in the local area.

Anna Kinter

Anna Kinter, one of the 32 attendees at the January 1956 meeting during which KTA was formed, died November 2 at age 91. Anna served as a KTA officer (Recording Secretary) for one year before the position was merged with the Corresponding Secretary position. Anna was the widow of Ralph Kinter, KTA's first President.

The Kinters met on the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club's first club hike in 1954 and they were both active club members. Anna was recognized by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for 25 years of volunteer work on the AT.

With Anna's death, **Mel Brinton Sr.**, of Wilmington, DE, and **Mel Brinton, Jr.**, of Palestine, TX, are the only surviving attendees of the 1956 KTA organizational meeting.

T-Shirt Clearance

The new KTA T-shirts will be available for purchase at the Spring Meeting in Wellsboro. So that means the “old” design is clearance priced at \$9 per shirt. To take advantage of the new price, contact Pam Metzger at Box 129, Confluence, PA 15424, 814-395-9696, info@kta-hike.org.



Lorraine and Joe Healey wearing the clearance T-shirts.

Future KTA Meetings and Activities

(see page 2 for Trail Care/Crew schedule)

April 7-9, 2006 - Spring Meeting

Penn Wells Hotel, *Wellsboro, PA*

Hiking schedule arranged by Susquehannock Tail Club
Celebrate KTA's 50th anniversary!

May 27-June 4, 2006 - Pennsylvania Hiking Week

Co-sponsored by KTA and DCNR

June 24, 2006 - Board Of Directors Meeting

July 21-23, 2006 -- Prowl the Sproul III

Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, *Renovo, PA*

Co-sponsored by KTA, WCSA, & Sproul State Forest

Oct. 6-8, 2006 - Fall Meeting

Camp Swatara, *Bethel, PA*

January 6, 2007 - Board of Directors Meeting

March 30-April 1, 2007 - Spring Meeting

Yesterday's, *Renovo, PA*

Sept. 28-30, 2007 - Annual Meeting

Blue Knob Ski Resort, *Claysburg, PA*

We're always looking for suitable meeting sites. If you know of a facility anywhere in the state that can accommodate 150-200 folks, contact Carol Witzeman, 832 Yverdon Ave., Camp Hill, PA 17001, 717-763-9276, Cwitzeman@aol.com.

Along Our Trails

Conestoga Trail

At the request of the **Lancaster Hiking Club**, PPL brought in an outside company for advice and a proposal for a bridge at a difficult stream crossing. PPL also performed major trail work at Kelly's Run, clearing a large tree and bringing in a compressor and jackhammer for steps in the steep stone bank. Club members appreciate the trail improvement.

Fairmont Park, Philadelphia

The Fairmont Park Commission has received a \$500,000 Growing Greener II grant from DCNR for trails and trailheads that will connect the neighborhoods that border the park and provide gateways into its lands. Estimates have put the total costs of improving the trails between \$10 and \$15 million.

Fairmont Park is a citywide system of large parklands and neighborhood parks. It 9,200 acres account for 10 percent of the land in Philadelphia and includes acres of natural woodlands, wetlands and meadows.

Horse-Shoe Trail

Several landowners have allowed trail route improvements on their lands. At Lancaster County mile 9.0, landowner **John DeRemer** permitted the relocation of the trail from a deeply eroded gully. At Berks County mile 25.7, on the east side of Witmer Road, thanks to landowners **Don and Sue Ide and Judy Beidler**, the trail has been moved to higher ground from its former route on a muddy path.

Link Trail

On December 7, 2005, the Link Trail Master Plan Committee met to review progress to date. The members include: **Carl Lorence, Ron Kutz, Tom Scully, Pete Fleszar, Mel Cooper and Joe Clark**. The Committee has been working on various aspects of the current trail, including relocating the footpath off roads and gas lines, rerouting through interesting areas and vistas, and identifying shelter and camp sites. The group's goal is to produce a Master Plan that will guide the relocation, construction and maintenance of the Link Trail for years to come, so that the Link ranks as a premier hiking/foot trail in Pennsylvania.

One of biggest challenges will be to build the trail with more strict standards. To this end, the club has adopted the standards of trail maintenance found in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's *Appalachian Trail Fieldbook, Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Volunteers*, and supplied copies to all maintainers. In the long run, the **Link Trail Hiking Club** feels that upgraded construction practices will make trail sections easier to maintain.

Mason-Dixon Trail

Thanks to the efforts of **Dwayne Shreve**, the M-D Trail System has a new web site www.masondixontrail.org.

Boxes containing trail brochures informing hikers about the need for trail maintainers will be placed at various locations along the trail.

Mid State Trail

Tioga Region

Pete Fleszar, Tioga Regional Manager of the Mid State Trail Association, reports that the new section of trail from Blackwell to

Morris in Tioga County is now open. Designed by **Jeff Mitchell** of Tunkhannock, the new path is located on Tioga State Forest land and a portion of State Game Land No. 268 with the support of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Thomas Kelliher, President of MSTA, said, "We're really excited about opening this section of Mid State Trail. There are incredible views of the Pine Creek watershed, and up-close looks at the water magic of Stony Fork. You can find clues along the path showing how this land was once used."

Hikers can now follow a continuous path of over 280 miles from near Morris to Maryland. A map and more information about this new section of footpath is at Mid State Trail Association's web site: <http://phoenix.goucher.edu/MSTA>.

An article by Brad Lenker about the new trail section appears in DCNR's A Word on the Wilds e-newsletter at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/info/pawilds/wordonthewilds.aspx> (last article).

Susquehannock Trail

Current ST hikers probably don't realize that a section of the hiking trail is actually a 250 year old road! In 1806, early settlers to the region came across a well established road, hand dug in many places, corduroy logs bridging some wet spot, and with living trees up to a foot in diameter growing in deep wheel ruts. The settlers said that the road, which relieved them of much hard work, was a boon to them and called the find Boon Road.

Historians feel that the road was constructed in 1756 by a French Army transporting brass cannons and supplies to attack British Fort Augusta at the junction of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River. However, Fort Augusta had heavy walls and was well guarded, so, unbeknownst to the British, the attackers retreated back over their road.

The Boon Road utilized Cross Fork Creek, Cherry Run, Ole Bull Run, and Kettle Creek drainages, following the valley into Clearfield County. The name Boon Road is still used for a short section of road in the Susquehannock State Forest. (*Adapted from an article by Wil Ahn in the January 2006 STC Newsletter*)

Tuscarora Trail

In 2005 the Silberman Trail Center went from concept and kit stored on **Ron and Judy Kutz's** farm to a cabin erected on the PATC acquired Aughwick Creek tract north of Cowans Gap State Park. The interior of the cabin features a great room with fireplace

and woodstove, two sleeping areas accommodating 10-12 people, and an elevated front porch with a splendid view of the valley. When completed, the cabin will become a unit in the PATC cabin system and the center

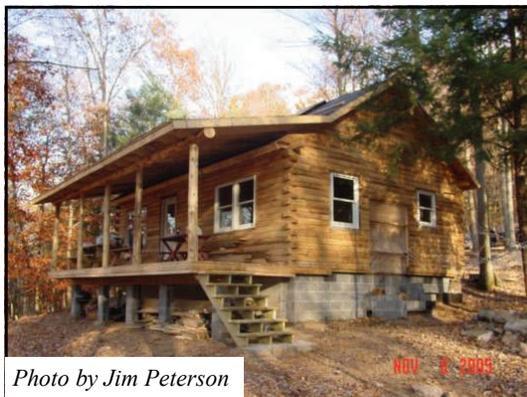


Photo by Jim Peterson

PennDOT MOU for Hiking Trails

By Thomas Kelliher

On Monday, December 12, KTA President Bill Dietrich and I met with representatives from the Pennsylvania Departments of Transportation (PennDOT) and Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to discuss the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DCNR and PennDOT concerning state highway crossings. The MOU is available at <http://phoenix.goucher.edu/MSTA/HOA/mouMerged.pdf>.

The MOU is designed solely for at-grade footpath-only crossings and covers the entire lengths of the 18 State Forest Hiking Trails.

This MOU replaces the Highway Occupancy Agreement (HOA) about which we had so many concerns. PennDOT's Pedestrian/Bicycle section will have responsibility for administering the MOU.

PennDOT emphasized during the meeting that the HOA was meant for situations in which a structure was involved, such as a rail-trail crossing a state highway on an old railroad bridge.

The MOU is designed solely for at-grade footpath-only crossings and covers the entire lengths of the 18 State Forest Hiking Trails. Because DCNR is acting as a trail sponsor, no proof of financial responsibility will be required.

Trail clubs will work with DCNR to prepare simplified crossing plans. These will apply to new crossings and re-located crossings. An agreement form will be executed by the trail club and the appropriate Forestry District office. A copy of this form is available at <http://phoenix.goucher.edu/MSTA/HOA/dcnrAgmt.pdf>. The trail club will provide DCNR with a crossing plan, showing the crossing intersection and any signage deemed necessary for safety reasons.

Trail clubs will have their usual responsibilities of maintaining the crossing. The agreement emphasizes safety, both for trail workers and motorists, while work is underway at a crossing site.

DCNR will forward crossing plans to PennDOT for review. Some plans will undergo a traffic safety study, if PennDOT is concerned about the safety of a particular crossing. Depending upon District workload, these studies may take a month to a month-and-a-half to complete.

As a result of a study, PennDOT could potentially require changes to the crossing, signage, or reject the crossing due to safety issues. For this latter reason, it will be important for trail clubs to work with DCNR early in the scouting process to identify safe crossings and, therefore, minimize the number of safety studies and maximize the number of approved crossing plans.

PennDOT has set a limit of conducting 10 safety studies per year, but reserves the right to conduct more, depending upon resource availability. As noted earlier, not all crossing plans will require safety studies.

The MOU covers the 18 State Forest Hiking Trails. What about trails such as the Link and North Country Trails? PennDOT is currently preparing a separate agreement for these "non-covered" trails. A draft of the agreement will be provided to us in January for review and comment. We will have to wait to see the details, but some information about the agreement was provided at the meeting.

PennDOT is currently preparing a separate agreement for "non-covered" trails.

One agreement will cover all crossings within a single PennDOT district (this appears to be similar to the intent of the agreement between DCNR and trail clubs). It will be a simplified, condensed agreement covering at-grade footpath-only crossings. (I believe this means it will be based upon the HOA.) It will entail reduced effort and responsibility and, at the start, cover new crossings and re-locations only.

An eventual goal is to widen the scope of the program to cover all crossings, so that PennDOT knows where the crossings are. This could be a positive, as PennDOT has unknowingly obliterated parts of the MST in the past when performing major maintenance near the trail.

MAFTA and the Great Eastern Trail

MAFTA, the Mid Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition, was organized on November 5 by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Link Hiking Trail Club, Mid Atlantic Trail Association, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, and the American Hiking Society at the Blackburn Trail Center in Virginia. MAFTA's mission is to create a segment of a second long distance hiking trail through the Appalachians west of the Appalachian Trail. This new trail will eventually run from Georgia or Florida to Lake Champlain in northern New York.

The southern portion of the trail is being developed by the SouthEast Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC), comprised of the Florida Trail, Alabama Pinhoti, Georgia Pinhoti, Cumberland Trail, and Pine Mountain Trail.

Great Eastern Trail is the working name for this new trail. Use of the word "Appalachian" has been banned by the American Hiking Society, at the request of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Another suggested name, Atlantic Crest Trail, drew objections since the trail will not be near the Atlantic.

Although the web site has not been developed yet, the domain name www.greateasterntail.org has already been reserved for future use.



Save Stony Valley

The Stony Creek Valley Coalition invites all KTA members and member clubs to get involved in saving the Stony Valley region, eastern Pennsylvania's largest wilderness area. The Coalition is working to stop the transfer of 2,100 acres of land from the Pennsylvania Game Commission to Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center in Lebanon County. The Appalachian Trail and Horse-Shoe Trail, as well as other shorter hiking trails, are located in Stony Valley. For up-to date information, see the Coalition web site at www.savestonyvalley.com.

KTA's Third Decade: 1976-1985

By Maurice J. Forrester, Jr.

The third decade of KTA's existence proved to be the busiest so far. The organization continued to grow and established itself firmly as a force and voice for hikers throughout the Keystone State. Various new member services were implemented, and ever more energy was put into public policy concerns. More support was provided for trails on the ground. The ten-year period ended with two events that shaped much of the group's activities for a number of years into the future.

Organization

Keystone Trails Association Officers: 1976-1985

	President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Membership Secretary
1976	Maurice Forrester	Clifford Ham	Alice Matthews	Wilma Flaig	Office not created until 1982
1977		David Raphael	Boyd Sponaugle		
1978		John Eastlake			
1979					
1980	David Raphael	John Eastlake	Mildred Forrester	M. Virginia Musser	Wilma Flaig
1981					
1982	Victor Decker	Tom Thwaites	Mildred Forrester	M. Virginia Musser	Wilma Flaig
1983					
1984					
1985					

In 1978 it was decided that KTA should incorporate, and appropriate steps were taken to do so. Following successful incorporation, application was made to the IRS for 501-c-(3) status so that contributions to the organization might qualify for tax deductions. The application was eventually approved in 1981.

The practice of holding the fall Council meeting apart from the Annual Meeting and in a different part of the state, which was begun in 1972, was discontinued following the 1978 meeting. It had proved less successful than hoped in stimulating membership and interest.

Among other administrative changes:

- The KTA Constitution was amended to provide for a life membership category.
- A part-time position of Administrative Coordinator was established, providing KTA with its first paid staff support.
- In 1984 the organization's first computer was purchased, and KTA entered the electronic age.

Finally, in 1980 the members took advantage of the Annual Meeting, held that year at Camp Swatara, to celebrate KTA's 25th Anniversary.

Publications & Other Sale Items

A fourth, fifth, and sixth edition of the *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania* were published during this period. In addition, an eighth and ninth edition of *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails* were published.

New trail publications unveiled in this third decade were a Tus-

carora Trail Guide, and a guide book and map set for the newly opened Link Trail.

A *Trailhead Transportation Guide* was also developed and published. This was intended to provide interested hikers with information about trail access points that could be reached by public transportation -- mostly buses. It never elicited a great deal of interest, however, and was never updated or republished.

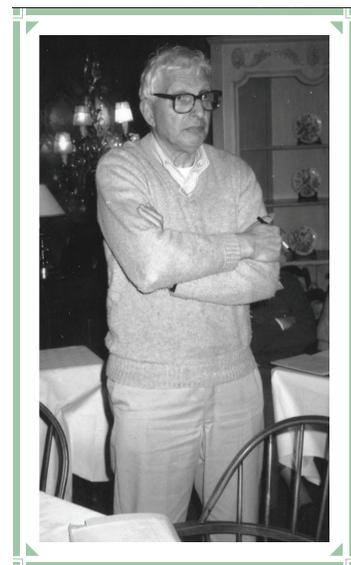
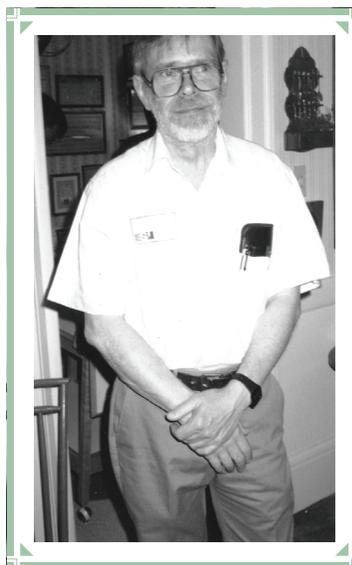
In an unusual cooperative venture between KTA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Geologic Survey, *Geology of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania* was published in 1983. This included many black-and-white photos, as well as a pocket inside the back cover containing a 30"x38" multi-colored geologic map of the entire Appalachian Trail corridor in Pennsylvania.

Finally, in an action that many saw as providing definitive proof that KTA was a "real" organization, a KTA t-shirt was produced and offered for sale in 1984.

Trails

Throughout most of this decade KTA was closely involved in the effort to establish a more acceptable route for the AT in the Cumberland Valley. When a route was finally selected by the National Park Service, and local opposition emerged, KTA participated vigorously in the public debate that ensued.

In the fall of 1977, the first proposal was made for the creation of a trail linking the Mid State Trail with the Tuscarora Trail, and thereby to the larger Appalachian Trail system. Within five years the Link Trail -- as it came to be known -- was open and hikeable. Shortly thereafter a guide book and map set was made available.



Leadership during KTA's third decade came from Maurice Forrester Jr. and Dave Raphael, who each served as President for four years. In addition, both served as editors for KTA publications (Forrester as editor of the Newsletter and AT guide, Raphael as PA Hiking Trails editor). Photos by Hugh Downing



One of the attractions for attendees at the Annual Meetings held at Doubling Gap Center, Newville, PA, was the long row of rocking chairs on the covered porch of the main camp building. Six meetings were held here between 1982-1990.

Photo by Hugh Downing

Public Policy

On April 28, 1978, the Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Act was signed into law, establishing a corridor for the trail in Pennsylvania consistent with federal legislation.

The policy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission prohibiting camping on State Game Lands had long been a problem for backpackers in the state, particularly in the St. Anthony's Wilderness section of the Appalachian Trail where the long stretch between shelters and approved camping spots was often a serious hardship. KTA approached the Game Commission with a proposal for modifying this policy to allow primitive camping along the Appalachian Trail. The Game Commission agreed to study the suggestion. Subsequently, in 1980, they sought legislation from the General Assembly to permit regulated primitive camping in the AT corridor. Legislation was eventually enacted and a policy for such camping was put in place.

Probably the biggest public policy success during these ten years involved widespread opposition to a proposed power project

in Stony Creek Valley which would have had serious impact on the Appalachian and Horse-Shoe Trails in the St. Anthony's Wilderness area. Opposition to the power project extended far beyond the hiking community, however. Along with many other groups in Pennsylvania, KTA affiliated with the Stony Creek Valley Coalition to oppose the proposed project. The proposal was withdrawn in 1980.

Member Services

KTA purchased a measuring wheel and a brush-cutter for use by member clubs in their trail maintenance work. In a somewhat related initiative, a grants and loans program was established to provide financial assistance to the clubs to help cover costs related to trail maintenance.

In 1984, the TrailCare Program was set up to provide trail maintenance assistance of a somewhat different kind. A crew of volunteers was to be created each summer to go out and actually assist local clubs with trail work on the ground wherever there was exceptional need beyond the capabilities of local volunteers. During the first summer, an eight-week work program kicked off the project.

Another new initiative was launched in 1981, this one for the benefit of hikers on the Mid State Trail. In cooperation with the Bureau of Forestry, the Hiker Cabin Program took advantage of the fact that most fire towers were accompanied by cabins for use by fire wardens in the past, although at present they stood largely va-



Mildred Forrester surrounded by merchandise at the KTA sales table. Mildred became KTA Treasurer in 1982, a position she held for 18 years. She also served as KTA's Administrative Assistant.. (Photo by Hugh Downing)

cant offering a ready target for vandals. Volunteers were recruited to stay for a week at a time as caretakers at certain of the cabins along the Mid State Trail. Space in the cabin was then made available to backpackers for overnight use. In addition to benefiting hikers, the program assisted the Bureau of Forestry by reducing vandalism. Unfortunately, the program had to be discontinued following the 1985 season, since for various reasons only one cabin remained available. In addition, hiker usage had declined considerably following a flurry of interest at the start of the program.

DCNR News

Laurel Ridge State Park Web Cam

For anyone curious about how much snow is in the Laurel Highlands, click on www.paccsa.org/webcam.htm for the web cam at Laurel Ridge State Park.

The Park's newly completed ski shelter has three picnic tables, a wood-burning stove, and a bathroom. There is a new outside ski rack and a station waxing table inside the warming room.



Wild Resource Conservation Program

Sara J. Nicholas, a former American Rivers administrator who has overseen wide-ranging conservation efforts with private and federal organizations, has been named executive director of the DCNR's Wild Resource Conservation Program. She succeeds Dr. **Ronald A. Stanley**, who retired.

Housed within DCNR's Office of Conservation Science, the Wild Resource Conservation Program works to protect endangered and threatened species - both plants and animals - and strives to educate the public on recognition and preservation of Pennsylvania's most sensitive flora and fauna. The program has reintroduced river otters to Pennsylvania's waterways and ospreys to its skies, while awarding grants to projects studying and protecting plants, birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and other species.

For more information about WRCP, visit DCNR's web site at www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf

Kinzua Bridge Video

The rise and fall of the historic Kinzua Viaduct in McKean County has been captured in a new documentary, "Tracks Across the Sky." The video chronicles the challenges of builders in the late 1880s, the destructive wrath of the tornado and the ongoing commitment to see the bridge remains and surrounding state park restored to prominence as a major tourist attraction in the Route 6 corridor.

The video is available from Penn State Media Sales for \$19.95, call 800-770-2111, or order online at www.mediasales.psu.edu.

New District Forester

Joseph Frassetta is the new district forester for the Valley Forge State Forest District, based in Elverson, Chester County. He replaces former District Forester **John G. Miller** who was named chief of the bureau's Forest Fire Protection Division.

Game Commission News

New Executive Director

Carl Roe has been named as the new PGC executive director. Roe will succeed **Vernon Ross**, who retired in December.

Roe served as the agency's Bureau of Administrative Services director, and spearheaded the effort to implement an electronic license sale system, commonly referred to as "point-of-sale." Roe joined the PGC in 2001 as the first ever long-range strategic planner, and oversaw the implementation of the agency's Strategic Plan.

Roe, 57, a native of Wayne, Montgomery County, served in the

US Army from 1970 to 2000, retiring with the rank of colonel.

Bear Harvest

Hunters shot a new state record 4,123 black bears in the state's recently concluded bear season, according to preliminary reports.

Allegheny National Forest News

Drafts for Forest Plan and EIS

The drafts for the revised forest plan and environment impact statement will be available in May. After release, the public will have 90 days to comment on the plans. The Forest Service will be offering information sessions. Final plans will be released by December.

Forest Assessment

The Allegheny National Forest is undergoing a comprehensive external assessment of its forest management practices by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainability Forestry Initiative. The assessment could lead to improved management and long-term viability of national forestlands, as well as possible certification by the agencies. Part of the review includes a public meeting. A final report is expected this summer.

For more information, go to www.fs.fed.us/projects. Information on certifications is available from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation at www.pinchot.org/certification.htm.

Forest Service Releases Final Rule for Motorized Recreation in National Forests

In early November, the USDA Forest Service released new rules governing the use of dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, and other off-road vehicles on national forests and grasslands. According to the American Hiking Society, although the rules include some positive measures, they fail to adequately address urgent threats such as the continued creation and use of unauthorized, renegade routes in America's forests.



The new policy requires each national forest and grassland to identify and designate through a public process those roads, trails and areas that are open to motor vehicle use. The agency expects that it will take up to four years to complete the designation process for all 155 national forests and 20 grasslands. Once the designation process is complete, motor vehicle use off these routes and outside those areas (cross-country travel) will be prohibited. Each unit will also

publish a motor vehicle use map.

The American Hiking Society is working closely with the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition to monitor this issue and urges hikers and hiking clubs to get involved with local route designation processes. American Hiking Society President Gregory Miller stated, "Until the Forest Service commits real resources to combating uncontrolled off-road vehicle use and effectively implementing the regulations, our forests, and the quiet, natural experiences they provide will continue to be put at risk."

For more information, visit: www.americanhiking.org/policy/current/fsoffroad.html. The regulations are at www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/

Centre County Donation is DCNR's First Conservation Easement For Profit Company Seeks to Protect Land From Development

A for-profit real estate company, Appalachian Land & Conservation Services Co., LLC (www.appalachianland.us), has donated conservation easements on 250 acres adjacent to both Bald Eagle State Park and State Game Lands 323 in Howard Township, Centre County, to DCNR. The donation of another conservation easement on an additional 99-acre parcel adjoining the park and State Game Lands is planned pending resolution of an access issue.

The protected land maintains approximately three miles of frontage on the 6,000-acre park, and is nearly all of the remaining private land sandwiched between the park and the 2,500-acre State Game Lands 323, which runs along Bald Eagle Mountain. The protected properties form a substantial portion of the park's viewshed visible from the 1,730-acre Sayer's Lake, the park's centerpiece.

Appalachian was also successful in facilitating the donation of a conservation easement by another private landowner on an adjoining 115-acre property.

All of the land is unzoned, meaning that any sort of development - residential, recreational, or commercial - could have occurred. Building lots with scenic views over lakes and other water bodies are in demand in the rapidly growing State College real estate market. Therefore, a significant impact on the park's viewshed and watershed was averted. By allowing only a handful of homes on hundreds of acres, the donation also averts major impacts, encroachments and the imposition of safety zones by many landowners on the adjoining Game Lands.

These donated development rights mark the first time that DCNR has accepted a conservation easement, with significant implications for future land protection efforts in the Commonwealth, because some areas of Pennsylvania are not yet served by non-profit land trusts, which would naturally be inclined to hold conservation easements. This transaction also marks the first time that a for-profit real estate development company has actively pursued the acquisition of sensitive and highly valuable development land with the intention of protecting it.

Appalachian's president and CEO, Josh First, said "Bald Eagle State Park is a special place, and like all of Pennsylvania's rugged, wide-open special places it is evocative of our nation's frontier and symbolic of our Yankee spirit. Preserving places like this as cultural touchstones is important. We will make a good profit when we sell these lands, not a killing, and a good profit is good enough." First concluded, "Smart growth development and donating conservation easements make good business sense. When conservation pays, it creates incentives to do the right thing."

Appalachian is actively pursuing other significant land acquisitions in central Pennsylvania in order to implement the same kind of vision and conservation benefits as were achieved at the Bald Eagle State Park project.

For further information contact Josh First, Appalachian Land & Conservation Services Co., LLC, 717, 232-8335, jfirst1044@aol.com, or Christina Novak at DCNR, 717-772-9101, cnovak@state.pa.us.

Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority in the Allegheny National Forest in northwestern Pennsylvania.



FAW maintains an informational email listserve to regularly update subscribers about efforts to designate additional wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest. Approximately two emails, with relevant articles, event announcements, and action alerts are sent each week. To

subscribe, send an email to alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net. This list is not shared with anyone else, so you will not receive "spam" as a result of subscribing.

Some Allegheny National Forest quick facts

- There are approximately 7,000 producing oil and gas wells in the ANF, which, with their associated roads, pipelines, and electric lines, affect about 50,000 surface acres
- The ANF contains about one-third of the world's high quality black cherry
- About 5,600 acres of the ANF is harvested each year, producing approximately 53 million board feet of lumber
- Timber harvesting accounted for 99 percent of the \$304 million generated at the Forest from 1987-2004

Model Trail Easement Agreements

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, in partnership with the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, is developing model trail and public access easements for nonprofits and governments.

PLTA is looking for examples of easements and anyone with expertise or experience in this area, so that they can create the best models and explanations of the models.

Contact Andy Loza at aloza@conserveland.org or 717-230-8560 to help or get more information.

PNDI Database Online

The Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory database is now online. Searching the online database will help developers save time and money and help alert environmentalists to potential threats to certain plants and animals.

Before the online database was available, a government agency had to search the database. Now anyone can use the PNDI Environmental Review Tool to review a proposed development. Project searches on the database that return no potential impacts can be expedited. Projects with potential impacts will require further coordination with the appropriate federal or state agency listed on the results of the review.

To use the database, log onto PNDI to www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Hiker Alerts

Appalachian Trail

A fallen tree has destroyed the bridge over the canal at Caledonia State Park, just north of US30. A detour that follows the power line has been set up. The bridge may not be rebuilt until this summer.

Horse-Shoe Trail

In Berks County at mile 26.9, go right along the edge of the field paralleling PA 568, then left on PA 568. Cross PA 568 and follow the road thru the underpass across the US 222 ramp to the cul de sac on Adams Road. Continue straight on Adams to Furlow Drive, then straight on Furlow for 0.4 mile. Turn right on Old Lancaster Pike for 0.6 miles to mailbox 2117 on the left. Turn left (old mile 27.5) and continue uphill between two houses.

Mason Dixon Trail

The trail route near the Eastern end has been relocated (Map 10, west to east miles 13.8-15.3). At mile 13.8 turn left off Cosart Rd into woods, angle left, cross bridge, cross second shallow stream on rocks, and then cross pond inlet on wooden bridge. At 14.9 reach floodplain, cross bridge over ditch, and follow Brandywine Creek upstream. At 15.2, turn left and take elevated walkway. Continue thru fields toward railroad tracks and climb up to tracks at 15.3 miles.

Mid State Trail

Reeds Gap Spur, section D, has been relocated onto Knob Ridge Road while High Top Trail (top of Thick Mountain) is being reopened. Junctions are marked with trail signs (2005) except for Bigelow Trail. Distances in km:

1.68 Continue ahead on unblazed Knob Ridge Road where old jeep road goes left.

2.81 Pass Zeigler Trail at pole line up mountain.

4.58 Pass junction with Peters Trail.

6.83 Pass Bigelow Trail junction on private land. NO SIGN Log Cabin visible to right.

9.41 Turn left on Bear Gap Trail and climb steeply. If you pass a cinder block cabin, you have gone too far.

9.81 Junction with High Top Trail. Continue ahead on Bear Gap Trail. This is point 9.65 in guide book. End of relocation.

Hiking in the winter is no sweat

[Philadelphia Trail Club Bulletin Jan/Feb 2005]

Hiker Health Alert

Boot-Waterproofing Products Causing Respiratory Problems

Pittsburgh Poison Center reported that 21 people developed respiratory problems last fall after using aerosol products to waterproof leather footwear. Symptoms included coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Although most of the affected recovered after breathing fresh air, some people developed a pneumonia-like illness and at least one person was hospitalized.



Poison center officials speculate that cold weather induced people to apply the waterproofing in confined spaces, rather than in well-ventilated areas as directed by the product. Those affected used a variety of brands that included the ingredients heptane, Stoddard solvent, fluorocarbons, and silicon. The exact cause of the respiratory illness could be one agent or a combination.

Other poison centers have also noted an influx of calls related to the use of waterproofing, including 50 cases at a Michigan poison center and twelve at an Indianapolis center.

Landfill In Centre County?

The Ridge & Valley Outings Club reports on a potential threat to Rush and Snow Shoe Townships in northwest Centre County. Hikers and outdoor enthusiasts will recognize this area as the home of Moshannon State Park/Forest, Rock Run Trail, Snow Shoe Rail Trail, and the Elk Scenic Drive.

Resource Recovery, LLC, wants to "economically develop" the area by placing a landfill, incinerator, and industrial park on 5,800 acres of interior forest known as the CLOG parcel. The project has the potential to become the largest landfill east of the Mississippi River.

People Protecting Communities, a grassroots group that is leading the opposition to this development, cites the noise, light pollution, and odors that will degrade the natural serenity of the area and impact outdoor recreations experiences. PPC welcomes help from concerned individuals. For the latest information, visit the PPC web site at www.stoplandfill.com.

Keystone Trails Association

Financial Summary – Fiscal Year Oct.

2004-Sep. 2005

Beginning net assets.....	\$221,850
Support and revenue	
Merchandise retail sales.....	\$1,506
Merchandise wholesale sales....	\$26,444
Membership dues.....	\$9,323
Contributions.....	\$11,107
Grants.....	\$2,800
Investment income.....	\$4,750
Meeting revenue.....	\$13,397
Miscellaneous.....	\$1,337
Total support and revenue.....	\$70,664
Expenses	
Cost of merchandise sold.....	\$12,334
Office expense.....	\$1,733
Depreciation expense.....	\$3,303
Postage expense.....	\$3,594
Printing expense.....	\$662
Storage expense.....	\$670
Miscellaneous expense.....	\$441
Administrative services.....	\$16,042
Professional fees.....	\$2,150
Land and equipment expense.....	\$637
Newsletter.....	\$4,183
Meeting expense.....	\$14,344
Total expenses.....	\$68,312
Accounting Change Adjustment.....	\$4,710
Support over expenses.....	\$7,062
Ending Net Assets.....	\$228,912

The audit was conducted by Beer, Ream & Co., P.C., certified public accountants. For more information, contact Pam Metzger at info@kta-hike.org or 814-395-9696.

The 14th annual National Trails Day will be held June 3.

The theme is "Experience Your Outdoors." For more information, visit the National Trails Day website

National Trails Day



June 3, 2006

www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/index.html or contact Ivan Levin, Trail Programs Manager at

Education & Training Opportunities

Rock Handling and Step Building Seminar



KTA and the Link Trail Hiking Club will cosponsor a rock handling and step building seminar on May 6 and 7 at Getty Ridge Camp in McAlvey's Fort, PA. John Motz will instruct the course. The Saturday session will feature a half-day in the classroom. The afternoon will be spent on the trail. Sunday's training will be on the trail in the morning with dismissal around noon.

Please register early as there is a limit of 25 people. Meals will be provided. Reply to Carl Lorence, President of the Link Trail Hiking Club, at PASTUMBLER@aol.com or to Joe Healey, KTA Trail Care Chair, at jnlhealey@aol.com.

Leadership Training Weekend

The Delaware Valley Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club will host a leadership training weekend April 7-9 at Nockamixon State Park in Bucks County. Participants will learn the skills needed to plan and lead outdoor activities; the weekend is open to prospective, new, and experienced leaders. For more information, contact Lennie Steinmetz at bls@fast.net or 610-694-8677.

Wilderness First Aid Courses

18 hour classes in Wilderness First Aid will be held in Philadelphia on March 4-5, in Harrisburg on March 18-10, and in Newark, DE on Aril 7-8. The cost of \$160 includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and a two-year certification from the Wilderness Safety Council. Call 703-836-8905 to register or visit <http://wfa.net>.

Environmental Education

The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators' annual conference will be held March 24-26 in Ligonier, PA. 60 workshops, twelve field studies, prominent speakers, symposiums, and entertainment will reflect the theme Pennsylvania's Harmony. The conference is open to anyone interested in the wonders of Pennsylvania's environment. The keynote speaker will be Jean Craighead George, author of *Julie of the Wolves* and *My Side of the Mountain*. More information is available at ww.pae.net, 724-843-7046, rroperti@zoominternet.net.

Trail Maintaining Activities With Other Trail Organizations

Raccoon State Park Trail Care

April 29 and May 20, 2006, from 8:30 to 3:30. No experience or special skills are required; tools will be provided. Bring work gloves, a lunch and plenty of water. Call 724- 899-3611 to register.

Bear Mountain, NY

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is undertaking a five-year project to rebuild the trails on Bear Mountain, NY, where the first and most heavily used section of the Appalachian Trail is located. In conjunction, the Conference is organizing a Trail University to teach trail building skills to everyone from beginners to

experts. The best trail builders from the East Coast have been invited to lead workshops.

Crews will work every weekend day and some weekdays from the Spring through the early Fall. Contact BMP Volunteer Coordinator, Eddie Walsh at eddiwalsh@nynjtc.org, or (201)512-9348x22

PATC Seasonal Trail Crews

PATC organizes ten week-long trail crews in the Shenandoah National Park and Lee Ranger District of the Forest Service during May, June, August, and September. Applications and details are on the club web site at www.patc.net.

ATC Mid Atlantic Crew

August 31-October 23 on Appalachian Trail projects from Virginia's Rockfish Gap to the New York-Connecticut state line. Applications on the ATC web site www.appalachiantrail.org (choose Volunteer, then Trail Crews). KTA is one of the sponsors of the crew.

AHS Volunteer Vacations

American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations offer trail construction and maintenance experiences around the country. To learn more and see the list of opportunities, visit www.americanhiking.org/events/vv/index.html or contact Shirley Hearn, Volunteer Programs Manager, at 800-972-8608, ext. 206, or Volunteer@AmericanHiking.org.



Volunteers Tips

Deducting Mileage on Tax Returns

Tom Kelliher reminds trail volunteers that driving mileage for work hikes is tax deductible as a charitable contribution for those who itemize deduction on their federal tax returns.

Blazing Made Easy

Emeline Otey of PATC has designed a method for painting blazes that is neat with easy cleanup. Tools needed are:

- 1 An old belt pack or carpenter's apron with 3-4 pockets
- 2 Empty tall soup cans, one for each color
- 3 Empty plastic squeeze bottles, one for each color (mayonnaise bottles are best)
- 4 A paint brush for each color



Fill the squeeze bottles with paint. Put paint can(s), brush(es), and filled squeeze bottles in the apron. When ready to paint, squeeze about a half-inch of paint into the empty can. Refill the paint can as needed. Keeping small quantities in the can prevents drying out and waste.

Cleanup is easy. The cans can be discarded, the bottles saved for the next trip, and only the brush needs to be cleaned.

Backpack Frame for Chainsaws

PATC maintainer **Frank Haas** has created a backpack frame to carry a chainsaw and first aid kit. He is willing to share his design with anyone who would like to build his or her own. Contact Jon Rindt, 621 Skyline Forrest Dr., Front Royal, A 22630 or jkrindt@adelphia.net.

Around the Clubs

Anniversaries for 2006!

90th anniversary - **Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club**

75th anniversary - **Allentown Hiking Club**

40th anniversary - **Warrior Trail Association**

30th anniversary - **American Hiking Society**

Allentown Hiking Club

AHC notes the death of **Earl Raub**. In addition to leading series hikes on the entire Appalachian Trail in PA six times and NJ/NY three times, Earl organized one day hikes of the entire Horse-shoe and PA AT (teams of club members hiked every section of the trail in one day) and orchestrated the clean-up of the wreckage of four airplane crashes near the Appalachian Trail.

Appalachian Mountain Club, Delaware Valley Chapter

The Chapter is hosting Weekend Getaways at the Mohican Outdoor Center, located near Delaware Water Gap. Each Friday evening to Sunday afternoon weekend, led by a club member, features instruction and activities related to a theme. Upcoming topics include Astronomy, AT Thru Hike Planning, Intro to Digital Outdoor Photography, Irish Dance, Beginners Spring Birding, and AT Section Hiking.



Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club

To celebrate its 90th anniversary, many club hikes are featuring past club presidents, either as hike leaders or as hike destinations (such as Dan's Pulpit named after Danny Hoch and Kimmel Look-out named in honor of Dick Kimmel).

Bulter Outdoor Club

Glenn Oster received the BOC Outstanding Contribution Award at the club's annual dinner in November. The award recognizes someone who has performed outstanding service to the outdoors, through "organization volunteer time, trail work, books, maps, environment, etc." Among his many activities, Glenn led over 300 hiking trips during a 15-year period, served as a trail maintainer for both the Rachel Carson and Baker Trails, and presented slide shows to a wide variety of community organizations. Glenn received a plaque and monetary award, which he donated to KTA



Horse-Shoe Trail Club

The club membership form now contains a space for county and municipality of residence, so that the club can enlist the support of local members to respond to changes and threats along the trail.

Link Trail Hiking Club

The LHTC has established a Roll of Honor. The initial inductees are the original builders and maintainers of the Link: **Jean Aron, Gordon Bosler, Julia Hix, Bob Olsen, Dave Raphael, Bill Roman, Mike Sausser, Tom Scully, Ron Shafer, Ron Singer, and Tom Thwaites.**

The Club contest to design a club logo has been reopened after all submissions were rejected. The new deadline is August 2006; participants must be club members. Prize is \$50.

The new club address is Link Hiking Trail club, c/o Rich Scanlon, 27 Sandy Lane, Suite 206, Lewistown, PA 17044.

Pete Fleszar has upgraded the club web site at <http://geocities.com/linktrail>.

Mid State Trail Association

The content of the MSTA web site (<http://phoenix.goucher.edu/MSTA>) has been updated with more content and features, including trail alerts, guidebook updates, downloadable maps, a calendar of events, copies of the club newsletter, frequently asked questions, and links to other useful sites.

MSTA has purchased "rocker" patches that club members can wear to identify themselves as trail workers.

Mountain Club of Maryland

More than twenty eager participants turned out for a Beginners' Backpack Workshop organized by **Rosie Suit**. Experienced club members demonstrated several options for each category of gear. One intrepid club member illustrated how not to pack, staggering in with a pack weighing more than 65 pounds.



North Country Trail Association

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the North Country Trail Association is hosting the NCTA annual National Conference in Clarion, PA on August 10-13. More information will follow later in the year. All trail organizations are invited and all events are open to the general public. Come to learn and to share your trail building and hiking experiences. The NCTA web site is www.northcountrytrail.org.

Philadelphia Trail Club

Sam Jones, 99, a club member for 63 years, died in November. He met his wife through the club and led many hikes.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

The Blue and White Crew web page now includes trail inventory data on all trails in the Shenandoah National Park Central District. To see the posted trail information, including trail lengths and average grades, go to www.blueandwhitecrew.org/traildata/selectTrail.php.

Former PATC President **Walt Smith** received the Myron Avery Award, PATC's highest award, at the club's annual meeting. Since stepping down as President three years ago, Smith has taken on the task of protecting and improving the Tuscarora Trail.

Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club

Over the next two years, SATC will be offering a series of Appalachian Trail hikes so that members can complete the trail in the state. Separate hikes are planned for "fast and almost fast" hikers.

On a recent club hike, a reporter from the Harrisburg Patriot-News interviewed hikers with dogs in order to write a feature article on overweight pets.

Trail Blazes, **Ralph Kinter's** history of SATC, has been transcribed and placed on the SATC web site at www.satc-hike.org/history.htm.

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Susquehanna Trailers Hiking Club

The Trailers have reached an important milestone – they now have 100 members!

During his hike on the John Muir Trail, **Dave Walp** reported that he found a pair of smartwool socks, a knife, and a hiking stick, but lost a bandana, a spoon and 15 pounds.

Venture Outdoors

Mike Schiller has resigned as Executive Director; **Wes Posvar** is serving as Interim Executive Director.

VO has completed the work to become an official non-profit with 501(c)(3) status.

Creative Hikes

At the conclusion of the **Philadelphia Trail Club**'s eight mile "**Cut Your Own Christmas Tree Hike**," in December, club members, led by **Hanna Seckel Drucker**, each selected and cut a free tree and evergreens at a tree farm.

On a "**Search and Find Hike**," leader **John Stein** split the participants into two groups. One group had to try to find the other group by tracking them through the snow. (**Susquehanna AT Club**)

For a "**Funny Hat Hike**," the **York Hiking Club** waived the hike fee for the person wearing the funniest hat, as determined by hike leader **Gwen Loose**, who noted that she appreciated cookie bribes.

A night "**Spook Hike**" led by **Brandy Watts** took hikers three miles on the old railroad bed to the Goldmine Cemetery in Stony Valley, where Brandy told ghost stories. After hearing about the ghost of Mason English, who was decapitated by a train between Yellow Spring and Rattling Run and the headless railroad worker of Kalmia, hikers needed no prodding to not disturb the ghosts on the return hike. (**Susquehanna AT Club**)

For the history minded, **Harry West** and **Betty Smith** of the **Susquehanna Trailers Hiking Club** offered an "**Indian Artifact Hike**."

The **Ridge and Valley Outings Club**, led by **Tom Thwaites**, took a "**Pingo Ponds Hike**, exploring pingo scars near R. B. Winter State Park.

Venture Outdoors offered a "**Temperature Hike**" on January 1. The morning temperature, divided by 5, determined the number of miles to hike.

Challenge Hikes

The 36 mile **Brandywine Trail End-to-End Hike** will be held April 8. Information is available on the Brandywine Trail area of the **Wilmington Trail Club** web site www.wilmingtontrailclub.org.

Batona's 75 Mile Challenge Hike will be held April 1-2. Hikers start at Wrightstown in Bucks County and conclude the hike in Jim Thorpe after climbing Bear Mountain. For information call 610-847-5709 or send a SASE to Susan French, PO Box 1, Ottsville, PA 18942.

Retired Foresters Still Active

Manny Gordon

94 year old Manny Gordon was the surprise guest speaker at the Susquehanna Trailers' Christmas party. Manny spoke about his life as a forester and the history of forestry in Pennsylvania and the United States.

After his graduation from Penn State, Manny started his career as a forester in a CCC camp in Clearfield County. During World War II, he was in charge of forestry operations and 28 prisoner of war camps in the Argonne and Ardenne Forests in Europe. He returned home to Pennsylvania and spent 44 years with the Pennsylvania Forest Department, 40 years as District Forester in the Scranton/Five County Region. He retired in 1979, but is still remembered for his trademark "Enjoy, Enjoy, the Great Outdoors"

The Manny Gordon Picnic Area, located in the Lackawanna State Forest near the Pinchot Trail, has served as the home base of several KTA Trail Care weekends.

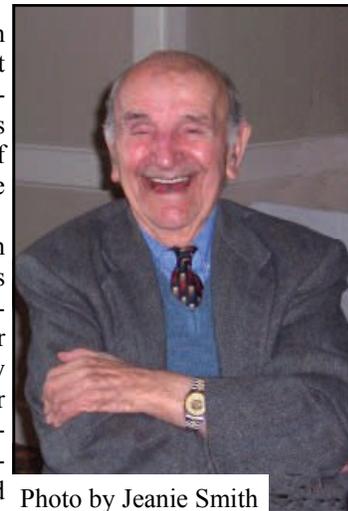


Photo by Jeanie Smith

Bob Webber

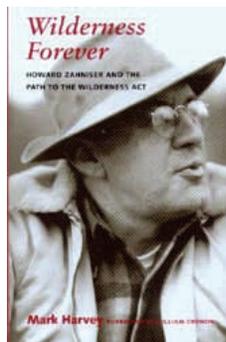
Wil Ahn, writing in the STC Newsletter, passes on the news that Bob Webber, a retired forester with the Tioga and Tiadaghton State Forests, and his wife Dottie were featured in the May 18, 2005, issue of The Webb Weekly from Williamsport. The front cover photo shows the couple standing in front of their log cabin home four miles back in the woods. They still cut and split their own wood for heat and cooking, and snowshoe or cross country ski to the post office when the snow gets deep.

Ahn notes that a Thoreau quote "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." captures the Webbers' lifestyle.

Webber is an avid and dedicated trail builder and maintainer. The Black Forest, Golden Eagle, and the appropriately named Bob Webber Trail, are testaments to his skills. He has also led many a hike for such local clubs as the Susquehannock Trail Club and the Alpine Club of Williamsport.

New Publication

Wilderness Forever: Howard Zahniser and the Path to the Wilderness Act, by Mark Harvey (University of Washington Press, 2005; 328 p., ISBN 0-295-98532-1, \$35.00) is a biography of Tionesta, PA, native Howard Zahniser, one of the nation's most important conservation leader who authored the 1964 Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act established America's National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), which today has permanently protected more than 106 million acres all across the country, including 9,000 acres in Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest.



The Electric Backpack Alternative

For the gear enthusiast who needs lights, a phone and tunes, but detests the weight and hassle of carrying extra batteries, inventor Lawrence C. Rome of the University of Pennsylvania and the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, has unveiled a backpack that makes electricity from the energy generated by its wearer.

The backpack creates electricity from the springs used to hang the packsack from the metal frame. The entire pack moves up and down as the hiker walks. A gear mechanism converts vertical movements of the pack to rotary motions of an electrical generator, producing up to 7.4 watts.

"As humans walk, they vault over their extended leg, causing the hip to rise 5-7 centimeters on each step. Since the backpack is connected to the hip, it too must be lifted 5-7 centimeters," Rome said. "It is this vertical movement of the backpack that ultimately powers electricity generation."

The amount of power generated depends on how much weight is in the pack and how fast the wearer walks. The Penn researchers found that the wearer could constantly generate as much as 7.4 watts while moving at a steady clip. Typically, cell phones require less than one watt to power.

Surprisingly, researchers have determined that people walk differently when they wear these springy packs. Hikers use less energy than when lugging regular backpacks. Researchers also claim that the springy action makes the electric pack more comfortable than standard packs. Because of that surprising advantage, Rome plans to commercialize both electric and non-electric versions of the backpack.

For more information, see *Science*, v. 309, no. 5741, p. 172-1728, Sept. 9, 2005 or go to www.upenn.edu/pennnews/article.php?id=841.

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Skunk Cabbage—A Harbinger of Spring

How can you tell if Spring is coming? Look for skunk cabbage! Skunk cabbage is one of the first plants to emerge in Spring because it can generate its own heat (up to 60 degrees Fahrenheit), melting ice and snow around it. The leafy green plant can actually



produce enough heat that insects will take refuge among its foliage to survive when temperatures drop.

Skunk cabbage is also distinctive due to its decaying flesh odor, which is the plant's method of attracting bees and other insects to spread its pollen.

KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliation (if any): _____

Basic Individual Membership One Year—\$15	\$
Youth Membership (Under Age 18) One Year—\$5	\$
Brush Cutter Membership One Year—\$20	\$
Blaze Painter Membership One Year—\$30	\$
Trail Builder Membership One Year—\$50	\$
Life Membership One-Time Payment—\$375	\$
Additional contribution*	\$
Total Enclosed	\$

PLEASE NOTE: Organizational members are welcome and should forward the name and contact information of the group's designated KTA representative along with appropriate dues of \$25 per year for clubs and commercial enterprises and \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All dues payments and correspondence should be mailed to: P.O. Box 129, Confluence, PA 15424.

*KTA is certified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. As such contributions are deductible to the extent permitted by law.