CODE ORANGE CATCHES FIRE!
By Ed Lawrence, Trail Care Chair

2012 marks the Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Code Orange (one-day) Trail Care program’s third year! Thanks to some networking with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, the 2012 calendar is full! KTA Trail Care volunteers will be returning to Gifford Pinchot State Park, and spending days at French Creek, Laurel Hill, and Nockamixon State Parks.

FIRE Continued on p. 4

WELLSBORO WELCOMES KTA

The Keystone Trails Association will return to Wellsboro, Tioga County, for our annual Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend. Greet old friends, and meet new ones, while hiking the Pennsylvania Wilds, the wildest and most remote area of the state. For information about how you can join us in Wellsboro from April 27 to April 29, 2012, please visit pages 11-14. Hope to see you in Wellsboro this year!

SAVE THE DATE: QUEHANNA IN THE FALL

KTA member Terri Davis submitted this photograph of Meeker Run in the Quehanna Wild Area (taken in February, 2011). Join KTA on the Quehanna Trail at the 2012 Fall Hiking Weekend, October 12-14!

IT’S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

THE KEYSTONE HIKER is going green! At the January 7, 2012 meeting of the Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Board of Directors, it was decided that KTA will transition to an electronic-only newsletter. As of the May, 2012 edition of The Keystone Hiker, your full-color digital copy will be emailed to you every quarter, and will be available online at www.kta-hike.org.

Why? In short, the Keystone Trails Association endeavors to be a “green” organization—one that helps protect our green space, not just through advocacy, trail maintenance, and more, but by conducting business in an environmentally-sustainable manner. The environmental impacts of paper distribution (from www.epa.gov) as well as the business costs and efficiency losses of using paper was a driving factor in KTA’s decision to go greener with a digital-only newsletter.

Environmental impacts of publishing a printed newsletter:
• Cutting down trees that release oxygen for our environment
• Energy usage and release of harmful gases in pulp/paper industry
• Fuel consumption by air, rail, and road transport distributing reams of paper and delivering printed documents like this newsletter
• Manufacturing printers, ink and toner cartridges
• Paper consumption has tripled since 1960 and Americans generate 85 million tons of waste paper

GREEN Continued on p. 10

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiking Advocate</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President’s Message</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintainer’s Corner</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Care Schedule</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Around the Clubs</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Corner</td>
<td>8-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Hiking Weekend</td>
<td>11-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTA News</td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Hikers</td>
<td>18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTA Membership Form</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Keystone Trails Association (KTA) is your advocate for providing, preserving, protecting, and promoting hiking trails in Pennsylvania. Below are just a few examples of our recent efforts:

**Sunday Hunting:** Legislation to permit Sunday hunting never made it out of the Pennsylvania House Game & Fisheries Committee in 2011. The committee held three hearings across PA, revealing that public opinion was unenthusiastic about the plan. Mobilizing membership and local clubs to be actively involved in policy advocacy remains a long-term goal of KTA. Many of you took the time to contact your legislators, and fortunately your voice was heard. Your continued support on these and other issues is crucial and appreciated.

**State Budget:** PA Budget Chief Charles Zogby predicts a $500 million revenue shortfall for the 2012 general fund. Cuts at numerous state agencies will be significant. PA is one of the few states not charging state park entrance fees. Such fees will likely be viewed by some as the solution to Pennsylvania’s general fund budget shortfalls. KTA will continue to represent the interest of hikers within state government, by aggressively opposing implementation of any other proposed fees (i.e., hiker licenses or trail permits).

**Marcellus Shale:** Clearing acres of trees and contouring the land for gas pads continues to wreak havoc on state forest lands and hiking trails. Swaths are being cleared for pipeline rights-of-way to convey gas to market. Trenching equipment and pipe-prepositioning machinery gobble up acreage. Unfortunately, gas companies don’t utilize common piping, resulting in parallel pipelines. All of us suffer from parallel pipeline rights-of-way.

**Grants to Local Hiking Clubs:** Local hiking clubs are again encouraged to apply to KTA for PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant funds to purchase equipment for trail building or maintenance. The turnaround time will be less than 30 days from receipt of the request.

**Big Decisions for KTA Board:** Recession often force charitable organizations to cut expenses. KTA revenues are down significantly from prior years. If you haven’t recently bought a trail guide or map, attended a KTA-sponsored event, renewed your membership, or made a tax-deductible contribution, please consider doing so. Your support will help keep current KTA programs and services alive and in fine form.

**Outreach to Youth:** Thanks to Camp Otter Creek in York County, a new program will provide at-risk and special-needs youth (and their adult chaperone) with a free, two-day camping weekend to experience the outdoors. Offered on a first-come, first-served basis on non-holiday weekends, this rewarding outdoors program is available only to youths recommended by KTA or one of nine other nonprofits selected by Camp Otter Creek. For more information, please contact KTA.
The industrialization of our state forests has resulted in hiking trails being relocated to power line rows and other less desirable locations. The loss and degradation of our trails is due to the vast amounts of forest land becoming devoid of trees and replaced with huge gas drilling towers and retention ponds that are bigger than football fields.

You may now be hiking along the edge of a dirt road, sharing it with tanker trucks bringing water to the ponds. Or you may be crossing over or walking alongside gas pipelines like those in the photo to the right (taken in Amwell Township, Washington Co., PA). Pretty noisy and gritty! With a continuing decline of quality habitats for outdoor recreation, and increased competition for the remaining resources, we will continue to witness declines in the beautiful environment that we are accustomed to enjoying as we hike.

KTA advocates to the government powers in the state to stanch this destruction of the forests. KTA and other environmental groups are fighting to stop the loss and deterioration of our hiking areas. This is a priority for the hiking community.

It will truly be a sad day when many of our valued hiking trails either cease to exist or are relocated away from the most beautiful hiking areas that we now enjoy.

At our Spring Hiking Weekend in Wellsboro (see p. 11), you will have an opportunity to view these sites. Bring your camera to document for your legislators why we need to stop the ravage and hold onto what we now have left for ourselves, our families and future generations. If we don’t, at least one hundred years will pass before we can hike in beauty and peacefulness.

If this issue is of importance to you, please support KTA in this ongoing effort.

Now is the time to get out and protect your favorite trail,
REEDS GAP SPUR IS BACK ON THE MAP

In October 2011, the Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Trail Care team revived the fortunes of the 14-mile Reeds Gap Spur Trail. This trail runs across the grain of the Ridge and Valley region, and connects Reeds Gap State Park, east of Milroy, to Poe Paddy State Park. First opened in 1985, the Reeds Gap Spur Trail was to be eliminated from the next edition of the Bald Eagle State Forest public use map. Thankfully, the KTA Trail Care Program stepped in and negotiated its continued existence - both on the ground, and on the map.

Eleven volunteers put in 147 hours over the course of three days. They worked their way north out of Reeds Gap State Park to the crest of Thick Mountain, where both power and hand tools were needed to clear the trail corridor along the ridge line. This allowed a blazing team to follow up with their brushes. On Sunday, a dedicated saw team cut through to the brink of the Bear Gap Picnic Area. More work is needed on this section - and on the Poe Paddy end of the trail - so look to the 2012 schedule for opportunities to help complete the rehabilitation of this classic trail!

WANTED: IRON CHEF

Volunteer with a skillet [skill] set needed to run the June 12–17 Allegheny Front week-long Trail Crew “chuck wagon.” If you match this description, contact the authorities (Ed Lawrence) immediately!

REWARD: PERSONAL SATISFACTION

CAN-DO KNOW-HOW

Ten Keystone Trails Association (KTA) volunteers brought their trail care skill set to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's (WPC) Bear Run Nature Reserve in November. The KTA trail care team joined folks from the WPC and a professional trail building crew to continue the work, begun last year, of making the trail system at the reserve more sustainable.

The first order of business was to move bridging materials, white oak planking, and four-foot-long, incredibly dense, black locust "sleepers" a half-mile up the trail to the water crossing worksite.

Using principles and contrivances pioneered by Archimedes, one crew cajoled boulders into formation to underlie the bridgeworks. The other crews worked on stone curbing, outsloping, and revegetating closed sections of the old treadway.

On Saturday night, the KTA team enjoyed a convivial "family style" meal that was cooked in the well-appointed kitchen of the Kirkpatrick house.

When the KTA team left on Sunday—after 126 hours of focused work — they could look back on a naturally-buttressed treadway, a beautifully situated bridge, and beyond. As an added perk, volunteers were given the opportunity to take a private tour of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Falling Water on Sunday afternoon.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 18</strong></td>
<td>Camping available Friday &amp; Saturday</td>
<td>Reeds Gap State Park</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdydonovan@pa.gov">rdydonovan@pa.gov</a>, 717-776-5272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 29 - June 3</strong></td>
<td>Trail Crew Week #1 North Country Trail</td>
<td>Davis Hollow Cabin, Moraine S.P.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stehles@gmail.com">stehles@gmail.com</a>, 724-256-0674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 5 - 10</strong></td>
<td>Trail Crew Week #2 Chuck Keiper/ Donut Hole Trails</td>
<td>Davis Hollow Cabin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sails123man@yahoo.com">sails123man@yahoo.com</a>, 484-550-9802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 12 - 17</strong></td>
<td>Trail Crew Week #3 Allegheny Front Trail</td>
<td>Black Moshannon State Park group camping area</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cathyed@nationi.net">cathyed@nationi.net</a>, 570-925-5285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 19 - 24</strong></td>
<td>Trail Crew Week #4 Mid State Trail, Everett Region</td>
<td>Tenley Park in Everett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dhdunkle@embarqmail.com">dhdunkle@embarqmail.com</a>, 814-652-2227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 26 - July 1</strong></td>
<td>Trail Crew Week #5 Standing Stone Trail</td>
<td>Narrows Gun Club near McConnellburg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lunchtime1@verizon.net">lunchtime1@verizon.net</a>, 814-643-2641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 13 - 15</strong></td>
<td>Trail Care Mid State Trail, Tioga Region</td>
<td>Hills Creek State Park</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tioga@hike-mst.org">tioga@hike-mst.org</a>, 717-583-2093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 28</strong></td>
<td>Code Orange Laurel Hill State Park</td>
<td>Little Pine Creek State Park group camping area</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmumau@pa.gov">mmumau@pa.gov</a>, 814-445-7725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 10 - 12</strong></td>
<td>Trail Care Mid State Trail, Woolrich Region</td>
<td>Little Pine Creek State Park group camping area</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jnlhealey@aol.com">jnlhealey@aol.com</a>, 570-655-4979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 18</strong></td>
<td>Code Orange</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com">tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2012 TRAIL CARE SCHEDULE**

KTA’s Trail Care program offers interested volunteers three types of “hands-on” trail work opportunities. No prior experience necessary, and tools and training are provided. Volunteers must bring all personal camping gear.

**Trail Crew**: Weeklong events that begin on Tuesday evening and end the following Sunday at noon, with all meals provided. Participants can sign up for the entire week or by the day.

**Trail Care**: Work weekends begin Friday evening and end Sunday at noon. Participants provide their own meals.

**Code Orange**: One-day events. Camping may be available and food is sometimes provided.

Volunteers should contact trip leaders to indicate their intent to participate and get up-to-the-minute information.

- **March 30 - April 1**: Trail Care Mid State Trail, State College Region Leader: Kevin Busko kbkusko@verizon.net, 814-643-4238 Camp: Seven Mountains Boy Scout Camp, Rimmey Cabin
- **April 14**: Code Orange Thunder Swamp Trail System Leader: John Motz trailbldr@hotmail.com, 579-236-1462 Meet: 9:00 at Thunder Swamp Trail main trailhead on SR 402 No Camping available
- **April 21**: Code Orange Maurice K. Goddard State Park Leader: William Wasser, Park Manager wwasser@pa.gov, 724-253-4833 Meet: 8:30 at Launch #1 Pavilion/ Camping available Friday & Saturday
- **May 12**: Code Orange French Creek State Park Leader: Lisa Miller FrenchCreekEnvEd@pa.gov 610-582-9680 Meet: 8:30 at Park Office Camping available Friday & Saturday
- **May 18 - 20**: Trail Care Reeds Gap Spur Leader: Tony Robbins tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com

**May 29 - June 3**: Trail Crew Week #1 North Country Trail Leader: John Stehle stehles@gmail.com, 724-256-0674 Camp: Davis Hollow Cabin, Moraine S.P.

**June 5 - 10**: Trail Crew Week #2 Chuck Keiper/ Donut Hole Trails Leader: Carl Ganong sails123man@yahoo.com 484-550-9802 Camp: West. Clinton Sportsmen’s Assn

**June 12 - 17**: Trail Crew Week #3 Allegheny Front Trail Leader: Ed Lawrence cathyed@nationi.net, 570-925-5285 Camp: Black Moshannon State Park group camping area

**June 19 - 24**: Trail Crew Week #4 Mid State Trail, Everett Region Leader: Deb Dunkle dhdunkle@embarqmail.com 814-652-2227 Camp: Tenley Park in Everett

**June 26 - July 1**: Trail Crew Week #5 Standing Stone Trail Leader: Mel Cooper lunchtime1@verizon.net, 814-643-2641 Camp: Narrows Gun Club near McConnellburg

**July 13 - 15**: Trail Care Mid State Trail, Tioga Region Leader: Pete Fleszar tioga@hike-mst.org, 717-583-2093 Camp: Hills Creek State Park organized group tent site

**July 28**: Code Orange Laurel Hill State Park Leader: Mike Mumau, Park Manager mmumau@pa.gov, 814-445-7725 Meet: 9:00 at Park Office Camping available Friday & Saturday

**August 10 - 12**: Trail Care Mid State Trail, Woolrich Region Leader: Joe Healey jnlhealey@aol.com, 570-655-4979 Camp: Little Pine Creek State Park group camping area

**August 18**: Code Orange

Visit www.kta-hike.org for the full 2012 Trail Care schedule and an interactive map.
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

by Barbara VanHorn

On June 2, 2012—National Trails Day—all trails lead to Duncannon! The hiking community is invited to join in as Duncannon celebrates its designation as an Official Appalachian Trail Community of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The theme, “Saving our Community from Nature Deficit Disorder,” paves the way for a day filled with family-friendly activities, including food, music, and guided hikes. Register to lead a guided hike, host an informational table or display, or lead participants in an educational or fun activity! Contact KTA member Barbara VanHorn at bvhbarb@pa.net to learn how you can be a part of this fun day.

AROUND THE CLUBS

IRONMASTER'S CHALLENGE & MARCH

by Karen Balaban

Co-hosted by the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC) and the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, the 3rd Annual 2012 Ironmaster's Challenge and the March for the Mansion will be held on Saturday, May 5th at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. There will be three events this year to match various fitness levels. The Ultra 50K and Marathon Challenges are on routes in Michaux State Forest and Pine Grove Forest State Park, and designed to test the serious hiker and trail runner. The 15K Challenge is a less demanding trail course, suited for the more leisurely pace of fitness walkers, trail runners, and moderate-distance hikers. Each event will have staggered starting times, a clock finish with instant results, aid stations with snacks and beverages, mile markers, wheel-measured courses, and a finish-line celebration picnic with free beer at the historic Ironmaster's Mansion.

The Ironmaster's Challenge is the premier fund raising event to support the operations and maintenance of the historic Ironmaster's Mansion, located near the mid-point of the Appalachian Trail. To register, visit www.ironmasterschallenge.com.

BUTLER KNOB SHELTER

by Carl Lorence

In June, 2011, the Standing Stone Trail Club, Inc. (SSTC) constructed the Butler Knob Shelter on the Standing Stone Trail. The cedar shelter is located on Jack's Mountain, in Rothrock State Forest, approximately 10 miles south of Mapleton Depot and about the same distance north of Three Springs—makes for a great weekend hike! Deeter Spring provides a nearby water supply; a fire ring, picnic-style bench, and a "bear pole" (to safely hang grub sacks) have been, or soon will be, installed. The shelter crew was led by SSTC President Mel Cooper and included: Frank Donlevy, Dick Littlefield, Paul Shaw, Jack Bushey, Sean Waddle, Joe Clark, Jay Moore, Tom Scully, Carl Jaymes, Carl Lorence, Ken Horting, Assistant Forester Marc Potter, Cliff Hawkins and Shelter Kit Owner/Manufacturer Mike Vilegi.
The Pennsylvania Humanities Council recently named historian Silas Chamberlin to its Commonwealth Speakers Program, which will allow him to give his presentation, entitled "Hiking in Penn's Woods: A History," to audiences throughout the state. This presentation provides an overview of Pennsylvania’s rich history of hiking and trails from the founding of the earliest clubs in the 1910s through to the present.

Eligible organizations may request a Commonwealth Speaker for a small fee. Chamberlin is an environmental history doctoral candidate at Lehigh University, where he is writing his dissertation, "On the Trail: A History of American Hiking." He is also Corridor Resource Specialist at the Delaware & Lehigh (D&L) National Heritage Corridor where he works on trail development, maintenance and advocacy and coordinates the D&L Trail Alliance.

For more information about the Commonwealth Speakers Program, please contact the PA Humanities Council at commonwealthspeakers@pahumanities.org.

SATC WEBSITE RE-DESIGN

With the technical skills of Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC) webmaster Kim McKee, and content revisions supplied by SATC president Karen Balaban, SATC is excited to present a new look for its website, www.satc-hike.org. The fresh, updated design is more user-friendly, and posts more current photos and web links. With the project more than 50 percent complete, webmaster Kim McKee encourages you to visit the site and enjoy the wealth of trail community information available.

In their spare time, Kim and Karen also administer the SATC Facebook page which had more than 61,000 views during one 30-day period this past summer. “Like” SATC on Facebook and stay up-to-date with their activities!

A [COMMON]WEALTH OF INFORMATION

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council recently named historian Silas Chamberlin to its Commonwealth Speakers Program, which will allow him to give his presentation, entitled "Hiking in Penn's Woods: A History," to audiences throughout the state. This presentation provides an overview of Pennsylvania’s rich history of hiking and trails from the founding of the earliest clubs in the 1910s through to the present.

Eligible organizations may request a Commonwealth Speaker for a small fee. Chamberlin is an environmental history doctoral candidate at Lehigh University, where he is writing his dissertation, "On the Trail: A History of American Hiking." He is also Corridor Resource Specialist at the Delaware & Lehigh (D&L) National Heritage Corridor where he works on trail development, maintenance and advocacy and coordinates the D&L Trail Alliance.

For more information about the Commonwealth Speakers Program, please contact the PA Humanities Council at commonwealthspeakers@pahumanities.org.
**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### HIGHLIGHTED OPPORTUNITY:

**EVENT SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR**

Do you enjoy networking? Do you have connections to local businesses, or larger corporations? Do you like working as part of a team? If so, consider coming on board at KTA as a volunteer *Event Sponsorship Coordinator*. KTA is seeking corporate and small-business sponsorships for the Susquehanna Super Hike and Ultra Trail Run, for our Spring, Fall, and Summer hiking weekends, and for our Trail Care Program. If you would like to help us reach out to local, state-wide, national, and/or global for-profit enterprises to generate event sponsorships, please let us know today!

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- **EDITOR OF THE KEYSTONE HIKER**
- **CLERICAL ASSISTANT**
- **GRANT RESEARCHER & WRITER**
- **PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
- **PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR**
- **SOCIAL MEDIA FACILITATOR**
- **SNOWMOBILE AND ATV ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC) REPRESENTATIVE**
- **SPEAKER’S BUREAU COORDINATOR**
- **SPECIAL EVENT ASSISTANT**
- **STUDENT INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR**
- **WEBSITE DEVELOPER**

For more information about volunteering with KTA, please contact us at ktaadmin@verizon.net.

---

**HERITAGE SOCIETY**

You can leave a wonderful legacy for hiking trails, their surrounding natural areas, and the hiking experience by remembering the Keystone Trails Association in your will. If you leave a bequest to KTA, you may choose to leave a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or even a particular asset. Doing so will not only help to preserve the places you love to hike, but will most likely reduce estate and inheritance taxes. For simple language that may be used in your will, contact Curt Ashenfelter, Executive Director, at 717-238-7017 or by e-mail at ktahike@verizon.net.
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2012

Many thanks to all the individuals and organizations who contribute to KTA and support our efforts to preserve Pennsylvania’s footpaths.

**President’s Circle ($2,500 or more)**
Richard Martin

**Gold Circle ($250-$2,499)**
Scott Brown
Paul Burns
Camp Otter Creek
George & Miriam Martin Foundation
Wanda Shirk
Thomas Thwaites

**Silver Circle ($100-$249)**
A Friend (2)
Allentown Hiking Club
Jean Aron
Alice Ashenfelter
W. Franklin Bohn
Jeffrey Clarke
Melvin Cooper
George Gardner
George Henry
William Hooks
James Hooper
Peggy Johnson
James Jordan
Andrea Knox
Janice Pruch
Judith Shabrach
Katherine St. John
Robert Steeneck
Thomas Stott
Phil Williams
Geri Stahr

**Bronze Circle ($50-$99)**
A Friend
George Alderson
Kathy Brechbiel
Paul Callahan
David Carbonell
Thomas Chamness
Harold Croxton

Gail Dancer
Michael Finn
Mid State Trail Association
James Foster
Daniel Grabenstein
Connie Grisell
Wayne and Shirley Gross
Frederick Haack
Harry Hansell
Cass Janco
A. Anthony Kilkuskie
Henry Knauber
Ellen Konecny
Kenton Kurtz
Leonard Pott
Kathleen Sieminski
Thyra Sperry
Herman Tease
Barbara Terry
Merritt Zimmerman

**Other Contributors**
A Friend
Wellis Balliet
Robert Best
Gary Bortner
Richard Carroll
Randal DiPalo
Hugh Downing
Chelsea Dunkle
George Farley
Keith Groff
Richard Hackman
Carol Rowehl Kahler
Jon Kapecki
Donna Keeler
Edward Kenna
Lois Ludwig
Marci Mowery
M. Virginia Musser
Mary Pitzer
Herman Richey
John Seville
Sharon Southall
Bonnie Thomas
Stuart Thompson
Miriam Wert
Gary Willing

KEEPING TRAILS ALIVE

KTA’s Keep Trails Alive monthly donor program consists of individuals who commit themselves to giving a regular monthly contribution to sustain our work.

Giving to KTA is easy with a monthly automatic bank withdrawal! Please contact ktaadmin@verizon.net for additional information.

Many thanks to the following individuals who are a part of our Keep Trails Alive monthly donor program:

**Keystoner**
$1,200-$2,499
A Friend
Thyra Sperry

**Trustee**
$600 - $1,199
Dave Dalpezzo
Ernest Westler

**Advocate**
$240 - $599
Curt Ashenfelter
Henry Frank
Charles Glanville & Elizabeth Brecht
Marshall Hamilton
Phil Keener
Ed Lawrence
Richard Martin
Wanda Shirk
Phil Williams

**Additional Keep Trails Alive Donors**

$100 - $239
A Friend
Steve Stroman & Judie Howrylak
Nicholas Tonelli
FACEBOOK PHOTO FUN

Congratulations to the winners of KTA’s recent Facebook Photo Contest!

In first place: David Schmude’s photograph (to right) of Potter’s Falls in Venango County, with 56 votes.

In second place: Scott Hafer's photograph (below) of Kettle Creek in Clinton County, with thirty votes.

And, in third place, Carolyn Kegler's photo (below) of Jonathan Run Falls in Ohiopyle State Park, with 26 votes.

Congratulations to David, Scott, and Carolyn, and thank you to everyone who submitted a photo to the KTA photo contest!

For KTA members that have not been following us on Facebook, make sure to visit soon to see all of the lovely photographs submitted by our Facebook friends!

GREEN, Continued from p. 1

- The U.S. pulp/paper industry is the 2nd largest consumer of energy
- Over 500 million ink and toner cartridges end up in landfills each year
- Printing 10 million pages consumes 2,500 trees, 56,000 gallons of oil, 450 cubic yards of landfill space, and 595,000 kilowatts of energy

If you have not previously done so, please let us know your preferred e-mail address as soon as possible. If we already have your e-mail address on file, please check to make sure ktaadmin@verizon.net is designated as a “safe sender” in your e-mail account, so our messages to you are not filtered out as spam. For those of you without internet access, we will print and mail a copy of the newsletter to you.

Thank you all for your support and understanding as we work together to grow greener!
KTA RETURNS TO WELLSBORO FOR 2012 HIKING WEEKEND

The Keystone Trails Association will host its Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend from Friday, April 27th to Sunday, April 29th in Wellsboro, Tioga County. Tioga County is located in north-central Pennsylvania and is part of the Pennsylvania Wilds, the wildest and most remote area of the state. The region offers extensive uninhabited areas and breathtaking scenery, as well as an abundance of trails to suit all preferences and ability levels.

The Wellsboro area is also home to Pine Creek Gorge, which is commonly known as the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. Surrounded by 160,000 acres of state forestland, the Pine Creek Gorge is approximately 50 miles long with depths in excess of 1,000 feet. Hiking trails in this area offer spectacular views and abundant wildlife.

After a day on the trails, hikers can enjoy historic Wellsboro, where the gas-lit streets, Victorian mansions and friendly town square welcome visitors with hometown charm. Enjoy a comfortable stay at the historic Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge in downtown Wellsboro. Meals will be served in the Mary Wells Dining Room, which offers a first-class dining experience. See p. 13 for details.

KTA’s Wellsboro weekends always attract a large crowd, so make sure to register early!

HIKING THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS

The Pennsylvania Wilds region features a hiking trail network that is among the finest in Pennsylvania. There are a great number of day hikes in the region, including many on state forest and state park lands. Some day hikes in the area include:

- The Gillespie Point Trail, a one-mile uphill climb that rewards hikers with one of the best views of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon
- The Golden Eagle Trail, a 9-mile loop trail often called the best day hike in Pennsylvania
- The Sand Run Falls Trail, an easy and scenic 7-mile hike to an impressive waterfall

The area near Wellsboro also boasts four major backpacking trails, including:
- The West Rim Trail, a 30-mile hiking trail along the western rim of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. Many vistas have been cleared along the trail to provide hikers with views of the Pine Creek Valley
- The Susquehannock Trail, an 85-mile loop trail that passes few signs of modern civilization and reaches into very remote forest areas
- The Mid State Trail, Pennsylvania's longest backpacking and hiking trail, traverses the region to reach its terminus at the Pennsylvania-New York border in Tioga County
- The Black Forest Trail, a 42-mile loop trail in northwest Lycoming County, is considered one of Pennsylvania's most challenging and rewarding trails

The area is also well-known for the Pine Creek Trail, which parallels Pine Creek and extends approximately 60 miles south from Wellsboro Junction to Jersey Shore and is used primarily for bi-

WILDS Continued on p. 12
**SPRING MEETING & HIking WEEKEND**

**WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

**Friday, April 27**
1:00 PM-7:00 PM: KTA registration and hike sign-ups in the Penn Wells Hotel lobby
3:00 PM: Friday afternoon hikes depart (Check hike schedule for meeting place)
3:00 PM: Check-in time at the Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge

**Saturday, April 28**
7:00 AM: Breakfast at the Mary Wells Dining Room (please remember to pick up your bag lunch)
7:30 AM-8:15 AM: KTA Registration and hike sign-ups in Penn Wells lobby
8:30 AM-4:00 PM: Saturday hikes depart (Check hike schedule for meeting place)
1:00 PM-3:00 PM: KTA Board Meeting in the Penn Wells Hotel Green Room
4:00 PM-6:00 PM: Council Meeting at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
6:30 PM-7:45 PM: Dinner at the Mary Wells Dining Room
8:00 PM-9:00 PM: General Membership Meeting at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

**Sunday, April 29**
7:00 AM: Brunch at the Mary Wells Dining Room
7:30 AM-8:15 AM: KTA Registration and hike sign-ups in Penn Wells lobby
8:30 AM-1:00 PM: Sunday hikes depart (Check hike schedule for meeting place)
11:00 AM: Check out time at the Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge

*Weekend schedule subject to change. Visit www.kta-hike.org for updated information and hike schedule.

**Register in advance for the hike(s) of your choice; hikes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis!**

**WILDS,** Continued from p. 11

The KTA spring hiking weekend will feature a full schedule of hikes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday that will highlight the region’s outstanding network of hiking trails. We are sure you’ll enjoy the many hiking opportunities available in Tioga County and the Pennsylvania Wilds. Hope to see you on the trail!

**LOCAL RESOURCES**

**Asaph Trail Club**  
www.wildasaphoutfitters.com/asaphtrailclub.html

**Pennsylvania Wilds**  
www.pawilds.org

**Pine Creek Outfitters**  
www.pinecrk.com

**Tioga County Visitors Bureau**  
www.visittiogapa.com

**Tioga State Forest**  
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/tioga/index.htm

**Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce**  
www.wellsboropa.com

**Wild Asaph Outfitters**  
www.wildasaphoutfitters.com

**DIRECTIONS & MAP**

Wellsboro is located in Tioga County and is approximately ten miles west of the intersection of Route 15 and Route 6. From the east and south, follow US 15 N to PA Route 414. Follow Route 414 until it becomes PA 287 (Main St. in Wellsboro). From the west, follow US Route 6 East to Wellsboro. Alternatively, take I-80 E to PA Route 64 to US 220 N (outside Lock Haven), then to PA 287 (about 20 miles) and stay on PA 287 into Wellsboro.

**Registration Deadline:** April 11th
LODGING & MEALS

Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge
62 Main Street (Hotel)
4 Main Street (Lodge)
Wellsboro, PA 16901
Phone: 1.800.545.2446
www.pennwells.com

 LODGING

The Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge is located on Main Street in historic downtown Wellsboro. The Penn Wells Hotel offers the classic comfort of a bygone era (with close proximity to the dining room and lounge), or choose the modern feel of the Penn Wells Lodge located just down the street (with a gym and indoor pool). Both the hotel and lodge offer free wireless internet access. Rooms will be assigned as reservations are received. Please indicate your lodging preference on your reservation form. We will do our best to accommodate your preference. (Note: There is no charge for children under age 18 in the same room as an adult.)

MEALS

All meals will be served at the Mary Wells Dining Room at the Penn Wells Hotel. A breakfast buffet will be served on Saturday morning before hikers hit the trails with their bagged lunches. The Saturday banquet will also be served buffet-style and will have vegetarian options available. Hikers will enjoy a sumptuous Sunday brunch before they head home or back out on the trail. Hikers who choose another lodging option in Wellsboro are invited to attend the Saturday dinner and annual meeting, but advance registration and payment is required.

Reservations for the Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge and weekend meals must be made through KTA. Contact us at 717.238.7017 or ktaadmin@verizon.net for more details.

WEEKEND PACKAGE PRICING INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>KTA Member</th>
<th>Non-Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Occupancy (1 Person/Room)</td>
<td>$285</td>
<td>$305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Occupancy (2 People/Room)</td>
<td>$185</td>
<td>$205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple Occupancy (3 People/Room)</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadruple Occupancy (4 People/Room)</td>
<td>$145</td>
<td>$165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You may have noticed that the cost of our Wellsboro weekend is higher than in the past. Unfortunately, the Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge raised their prices by a significant amount (yet another impact of the gas industry on hikers!). We hope you understand and will choose to join us in Wellsboro for our Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend.

ADDITIONAL LODGING

100 West Bed & Breakfast
11 West Avenue
570.724.6631
www.100westbnb.com

Bear Mountain Lodge
8010 U.S. Route 6
570-724-2428
bearmountainbb.com

Garden Cottage Motel
66 West Avenue
570.724.3581
www.wellsborogardencottages.com

Sherwood Motel
2 Main Street
570.724.3424
sherwoodmotel.org

Wellsboro Inn on the Green
3 Charles Street
570.662.7008
www.wellsboroinnonthegreen.com

Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge Located on Main Street in historic downtown Wellsboro. The Penn Wells Hotel offers the classic comfort of a bygone era (with close proximity to the dining room and lounge), or choose the modern feel of the Penn Wells Lodge located just down the street (with a gym and indoor pool). Both the hotel and lodge offer free wireless internet access. Rooms will be assigned as reservations are received. Please indicate your lodging preference on your reservation form. We will do our best to accommodate your preference. (Note: There is no charge for children under age 18 in the same room as an adult.)

Enjoy the gym and indoor pool at the Penn Wells Lodge

Hikers will enjoy their stay at the historic Penn Wells Hotel

You may have noticed that the cost of our Wellsboro weekend is higher than in the past. Unfortunately, the Penn Wells Hotel & Lodge raised their prices by a significant amount (yet another impact of the gas industry on hikers!). We hope you understand and will choose to join us in Wellsboro for our Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend.

All prices are per person and include 2 nights lodging, 4 meals (Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday brunch) and the registration fee. Please call KTA for information on children pricing.
Name: ________________________________________________________________

Club Affiliation (if any): _____________________________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________________________

Telephone: __________________________ Email: _______________________________________________________

Please note the names of all individuals covered by this reservation (including children under the age of 18; please include their ages), or with whom you will be sharing your lodgings, even if his/her reservation is mailed separately:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

**KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

2012 Annual Spring Meeting & Hiking Weekend Registration

KTA Member? □ Yes □ No □ Joining Now

**WEEKEND PACKAGE PRICING INFORMATION:** The price listed is per person and includes two nights lodging (Friday and Saturday night), as well as four meals (Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday brunch) and the registration fee.

Lodging Preference: □ Penn Wells Hotel □ Penn Wells Lodge □ No preference
□ Return my registration if my lodging preference is not available

Vegetarian Meals: □ Yes _____ # Adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please circle selected option:</th>
<th>KTA Member</th>
<th>Non-Member</th>
<th># Adults</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Occupancy (1 Person/Room)</td>
<td>$285</td>
<td>$305</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Occupancy (2 People/Room)</td>
<td>$185</td>
<td>$205</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple Occupancy (3 People/Room)</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadruple Occupancy (4 People/Room)</td>
<td>$145</td>
<td>$165</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday dinner and annual meeting only</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEW MEMBERSHIP OR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** I’d like to join KTA or renew for another year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New Membership</th>
<th>Membership Renewal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KTA Member</td>
<td>$15 single</td>
<td>$30 single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Member</td>
<td>$20 family</td>
<td>$35 family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REGISTRATION FEE:** Please omit the registration fee if you selected a Weekend Package or if you are only attending the Saturday dinner and evening program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>KTA Member</th>
<th>Non-Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KTA Member</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Member</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** $
11TH ANNUAL PA HIKING WEEK

The Keystone Trails Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) are proud to sponsor the 11th annual Pennsylvania Hiking Week.

This year's hiking week is scheduled for Saturday, May 26 through Sunday, June 3, 2012, which coincides with the Memorial Day weekend and National Trails Day (Saturday, June 2).

The statewide event promotes Pennsylvania’s amazing network of hiking trails in state parks, state forests and communities throughout the commonwealth. The nine-day event typically features more than 100 organized hikes and walks throughout Pennsylvania.

KTA thanks our local hiking clubs for organizing hikes and for providing hike leaders. Please consider scheduling a hike during Pennsylvania Hiking Week to feature your local trails. For instructions on how you can schedule a hike, see p. 18, or contact ktaadmin@verizon.net for more details.

WE WILL ROCK YOU by Ed Lawrence

The Keystone Trails Association-sponsored North Country Trail (NCT) week-long Trail Crew (May 29-June 3) intends to tackle some intensive rock work where the NCT threads through the Slippery Rock Creek Gorge in McConnells Mill State Park. The goal is to make this intensely beautiful—and heavily impacted—section of the trail more sustainable and hiker-friendly. This project will use rock bars when possible, and a hoist grip when necessary.

If you have previous experience in the art and mechanics of rock relocation and placement, be doubly sure to sign up for the NCT week, and be part of the Trail Crew team!

NOT JUST YOUNG AT HEART

Do you have any connections to service or outdoor-oriented youth groups in your area? KTA wants to strengthen its relationship with young hikers and hikers-to-be throughout Pennsylvania. Please let us know if you think the youth group in your life would be interested in learning more about Keystone Trails Association’s youth outreach program, which includes volunteer and training opportunities, guided hike weekends, informational resources, hiking awards, and special KTA memberships for young hikers. Thank you!

CLUBS, Continued from p. 7

with more than 200 members. Unfortunately, this does not pay for the benefits local clubs receive from a full-time presence in Harrisburg. Current club dues to KTA amount to approximately $2,500 per year, while the cost of a Harrisburg office and two full-time staff members totals approximately $88,000.

If KTA’s 44 member clubs—along with their estimated combined 30,000 members — each voluntarily decides to dramatically increase their level of contribution to KTA in 2012 and beyond, it will provide KTA not only with the funds to address its current budget shortfall, but insure the sustainability required to move forward in the coming years.

Local hiking clubs, like your club, are the grassroots of the hiking community, and KTA is always looking for ways to better represent your interests and concerns. We welcome your ideas and suggestions, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your support.

YOUR FAVORITE TRAIL

Would you like to tell us about your favorite trail? Do you have pictures or updates about one of the trails you have hiked recently?

We’d love to include your stories, updates, and photos in the next The Keystone Hiker! Please send your contributions to ktaadmin@verizon.net.
WOOLRICH: A TRAIL CARE SPONSOR

By Brent Hollowell, VP Marketing, Woolrich

Woolrich, the rugged outdoor apparel company based in central Pennsylvania, is teaming up with Keystone Trails Association (KTA) for 2012 and beyond to help maintain the current trail system, promote trail usage, and boost KTA membership.

Trails and trail stewardship have been a part of Woolrich’s heritage for over 180 years. The Mid State Trail runs right past our mill in the village of Woolrich, PA, and we’re proud to officially expand our support of hiking and trail maintenance in Pennsylvania by being a sponsor of KTA’s 2012 Trail Care program.

Woolrich’s support of KTA is part of a larger initiative by the company to grow outdoor participation, and specifically hiking, nationally. Along with sponsoring the KTA, Woolrich has engaged in support of the Great Eastern Trail (GET). The GET stretches for more than 2,000 miles from New York to Alabama through the linkage of a series of the East Coast’s most popular paths, including the Mid State Trail. Currently, the GET is 70 percent complete, and Woolrich is working with its industry partners and local associations, like KTA, to map, maintain, blaze and re-blaze the GET.

Last November, Woolrich brought together representatives from KTA, the Great Eastern Trail, the Mid State Trail, the Standing Stone Trail, and Backpacker Magazine. Over the two-day gathering, hosted at Woolrich’s Brayton Lodge, the group developed a cooperative effort that would also include several other trail associations along the GET. The goals are to increase the volunteer base to maintain trails and increase revenue streams to support the group’s individual and collective initiatives.

For the past several years, Woolrich has been a sponsor of Backpacker’s “Get Out More Tour,” which travels throughout the country to retail stores and events to educate consumers about the skills and equipment needed to safely enjoy the outdoors. On the 2012 tour, Woolrich and Backpacker are adding a segment on the Great Eastern Trail to the program that will give KTA, and the other groups involved, additional visibility. Woolrich has also developed an advertising campaign to further support the initiative.

One of the major stops on the tour each year is the stop at the Woolrich flagship store in Woolrich, PA. This year the stop will coincide with National Trails Day, and Woolrich is planning a number of activities and trail-focused events for the stop.

In addition to the Woolrich event, the “Get Out More Tour” will make additional stops throughout Pennsylvania and along the GET. The tour runs from the early spring through late fall. A complete tour schedule will soon be available at www.getoutmore.com.

Woolrich’s support of the KTA as a Trail Care Sponsor will include the company’s involvement in KTA Trail Care events. Along with volunteers from the company joining in to assist at the events, Woolrich will be providing T-shirts and supplies to the volunteers. We hope that you will join us and Woolrich at a Trail Care event near you:

March 30 - April 1: Trail Care weekend, Mid State Trail, State College Region

June 19 - 24: Trail Crew Week #4, Mid State Trail, Everett Region

June 26 - July 1: Trail Crew Week #5, Standing Stone Trail

July 13 - 15: Trail Care weekend, Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

For the complete KTA Trail Care schedule and information, see p. 5 or visit www.kta-hike.org.
We at KTA have already hit the ground running, gearing up for the 2012 Susquehanna Super Hike! The fourth annual challenge event will be held on Saturday, September 8, 2012, starting at 7 AM. We expect 500 participants this year and are looking for over 100 volunteers to serve in such capacities as Timing Assistant, Checkpoint Crew, Picnic Assistant and so much more! Slots are open on both Friday afternoon and evening, and all day on Saturday, at Otter Creek Campground (the starting line), Pequea Creek Campground (the finish line), and everywhere in-between! Visit www.kta-hike.org to register online or to download the Volunteer Registration Form.

Up for the Super Hike challenge? Registration opened February 1! The registration fee is $60 (before Aug. 19) and includes a short-sleeved Super Hike Tech shirt, snacks and water on the trail, and a celebratory picnic at the finish line. Visit kta-hike.org to complete your registration online or to download and return your registration form.

See you in September!
Curt Ashenfelter, Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Executive Director and Paul Shaw, KTA Board Member and co-owner of Treks & Trails International, a PA-based adventure travel service, will be taking twelve lucky KTA members to Ireland in Fall, 2012! Co-sponsored by KTA, the ten-day trek will follow the spectacular Dingle Way through Ireland’s beautiful countryside. Participants will hike 4-5 hours each day and will be lodged in comfortable guesthouses each night where their van-transported luggage awaits. The trip is tentatively scheduled for September 13-23, so mark your calendars now! All proceeds will benefit KTA’s programs and efforts. Registration information will be posted on www.kta-hike.org by February 15.

Many hikers spend summer, spring, and fall weekends on their favorite trails, but hibernate during the winter. If this sounds like you, you are missing out! These tips will help you prepare for a safe, comfortable winter hike.

1. **Dress like an onion.**
Temperatures can vary at the bottom of the trail and on the summit of the mountain. Having a variety of insulating clothing (thick socks, long underwear, a light fleece, and waterproof pants, with an insulated jacket, fleece pants, and waterproof shell in your pack) will help you regulate your body temperature and stay comfortable. It’s also a good idea to have two layers of gloves, one for insulation and one for waterproofing.

2. **[Don’t have] great expectations.**
Be reasonable about the distance and difficulty of the trail. While it might be a cinch to do a twelve-mile loop in the summer, you may run into ice or deep snow on the same trail during the winter. Many access roads to trailheads are closed and unplowed over the winter, which could add significant mileage to your trip. Also, don’t forget that the sun sets much earlier in the winter.

The Keystone Trails Association will host the 9th annual Prowl the Sproul hiking weekend on July 20 to 22, 2012 in the Sproul State Forest of western Clinton County. Hikers will be able to explore new and exciting parts of the Sproul that are only seen when hiking with a DCNR guide.

The Keystone Trails Association will host the 9th annual Prowl the Sproul hiking weekend on July 20 to 22, 2012 in the Sproul State Forest of western Clinton County. Hikers will be able to explore new and exciting parts of the Sproul that are only seen when hiking with a DCNR guide.

Please visit www.kta-hike.org and take our hike-option survey, and select the hikes you would most like to see offered at the 9th annual Prowl the Sproul. The results will help us determine which hikes to offer during the three-day weekend. In addition, there will be three new “cool” options for hikers hoping to beat the heat on especially hot and humid days! In order to accommodate the Bureau of Forestry personnel’s work efforts, the survey will end on April 1.

For more information about Prowl the Sproul, please visit www.kta-hike.org after May 1, 2012 or check in our May edition of *The Keystone Hiker*.

---

**KEEPING COOL IN THE SPROUL**

**CALLING ALL HIKE LEADERS!**

You will be able to add your local hikes to the **2012 PA Hiking Week** schedule after March 1. Help us lead over 100 hikes in PA, from May 26 to June 3, 2012! To schedule a guided hike:

1. Create a free account on www.explorepatrails.com. Note: You must be logged in to submit an event.
2. Visit www.explorepatrails.com/hikingweek.aspx and click on “Submit a Hiking Week Event.” Be sure to enter hikes under the “PA Hiking Week” tab.
3. When you enter hike descriptions, please include all details (meeting place/directions, what to bring, specific instructions, etc). This information will show up in the event description.
4. It takes 3 days for DCNR to review, approve, and list submissions on the website. Please be patient, and check back later to make sure it is listed.

Thanks for helping make this the best Hiking Week ever!
3. Ask the weatherman.
Look at the precipitation, wind speed, avalanche reports, and daylight hours. Be sure your hike is planned for a day when conditions are manageable.

4. Learn how to (safely) use crampons.
When the trail is icy, crampons can make the difference between summiting and turning around, but if you use them improperly, it’s easy to injure yourself. If you’re new to crampons, read up on techniques and try them out on an easy trail.

5. Friends in low places AND high places.
Not only is it more fun to share the adventure with others, but it’s also safer to be with a group (check out www.kta-hike.org for a hiking group near you!). Be sure to let someone at home know where you’re going, too.

6. Don’t skimp on gear.
Most avid winter hikers invest in the following items: crampons or snowshoes, waterproof pants and jacket, knee-high gaiters, waterproof boots, an insulated jacket, hiking poles, a camp stove, hats/gloves, and goggles or wrap-around sunglasses. Most of the gear you pick up can be useful in the summer season as well.

Aside from basic hiking gear, you should always have safety gear, like a trail map, a first aid kit, a compass, a pocket knife or multi-tool, hand warming packets, and a headlamp. Even day hikers should be prepared to spend the night in an emergency; gear like a bivy sack, down parka, or cell phone can save your life (or at least your toes).

7. Remember: Getting down is mandatory.
Legendary mountaineer Ed Viesturs said, “Getting to the top is optional, getting down is mandatory.” Don’t hesitate to turn around if you run into conditions that look dangerous. Reaching the summit is half the journey; you must have time and energy left over for the descent.

While there are many considerations when transitioning from casual fair-weather hiking to winter adventures, these tips should help get you started!

Have a tip, trick, gizmo, or gadget you’d like to share with other hikers? Email ktaadmin@verizon.net for inclusion in a future newsletter’s HIKINGEEK section!
UPCOMING KTA EVENTS

April 27-29, 2012—Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend, Wellsboro, Tioga County, PA (p. 11)

May 26-June 3, 2012—PA Hiking Week, throughout Pennsylvania (p. 15 & 18)

June 30, 2012—Board Meeting, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA

July 20-22, 2012—Prowl the Sproul, Renovo, Clinton County, PA (p. 17 & 18)

September 8, 2012—Super Hike, Lancaster & York Counties, PA (p. 16)

September 13-23, 2012—Trip to Ireland (p. 18)

October 12-14, 2012—Fall Meeting and Hiking Weekend, Clearfield, Clearfield County, PA (p. 1)

The Keystone Trails Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. To make a contribution, renew your membership, or become a Keep Trails Alive monthly donor, call 717-238-7017 or visit www.kta-hike.org.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The KTA membership year ended on September 30, 2011. Have you renewed your membership this year? Member contributions support our efforts to provide, preserve, protect, and promote hiking trails in Pennsylvania. Our good work to preserve Pennsylvania’s footpaths cannot continue without your help. Please renew your membership now, and consider gift memberships for your hiking friends and relatives! Complete the membership form below, or renew online at www.kta-hike.org. Thank you for your generous support.

KTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

The current KTA membership year runs from October 1, 2011 until September 30, 2012.

Name: _____________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________
_________________________________________________
Telephone: _________________________________________
Email: _____________________________________________
Club Affiliations (if any): ________________________________

Member organizations should forward the name and contact information for the group’s designated KTA representative along with appropriate contribution: $50 per year for clubs; $100 per year for commercial enterprises; $10 per year or $25 for three years for youth groups. All member contributions and correspondence should be mailed to: 101 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17101

KTA is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Basic Membership (New Member Only)  
Individual - $15  Family - $20  $

Basic Membership (Renewal)  
Individual - $30  Family - $35  $

Brush Cutter Membership  
Individual - $45  Family - $55  $

Blaze Painter Membership  
Individual - $75  Family - $100  $

Trail Builder Membership  
Individual - $150  Family - $175  $

Life Membership  
Individual - $750  Family - $1,000  $

Youth Membership  
Individual - $5  $

Additional Contribution  
In Memory Of/In Honor Of  $

Total Enclosed  $