



## The Keystone Hiker - February 2021

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### Member's Corner

#### Learn about Trail Care



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

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#### Bookkeeper Needed

KTA is looking for a part time bookkeeper. For more information, please contact:

Joseph Neville  
Executive Director  
[ktahike@kta-hike.org](mailto:ktahike@kta-hike.org)  
(717) 766-9690



## 2021 Trail of the Year



Each year, the [Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee](#) designates a Trail of the Year to help build enthusiasm and support for both large and small trails, and raise public awareness about the value of Pennsylvania's trail network. This year that honor goes to the [Delaware & Hudson Rail-Trail](#)

The 38-mile long D & H Rail-Trail extends through Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties and traces the former corridor of the Delaware & Hudson Railway, which primarily carried anthracite coal out of the Lackawanna Valley during the second half of the 19th century.

The trail welcomes motorized and non-motorized users, including walkers, bikers, equestrians, as well as snowmobilers.

The trail is situated in the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Heritage Region, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, and the Pocono Forest and Waters Conservation Landscape.

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## **Favorite Hiking Trail Survey**

Thank you to everyone who has completed the Favorite Trails Survey so far. If you haven't, we still want to hear from you! Let us know what makes a trail special, and which trails exemplify those values.



Visit [kta-hike.org/trail-survey](https://kta-hike.org/trail-survey) or email us listing a few of your favorite trails.

Please include location, brief description, approximate distance, and why you think it's special, and please include any rail trail or historic trails as well. We will compile a list of these trails for our membership and it will help KTA in promoting and protecting trails in the Keystone State. Thank you!

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## **Volunteer's Corner**

# Hike Leaders Needed

KTA is looking for Leaders for our [Black Forest Trail Slackpack weekends](#), (July 9-12, August 20-23, and September 24-27). Hike Leaders will guide participants on this 42 mile trail over 4 days of hiking, while KTA staff handles logistics, meals, and carpooling. Leaders should be strong hikers, able to your pace as needed, and engage a group.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact:

Casey Schneck,  
Program Administrator  
[ktaadmin@kta-hike.org](mailto:ktaadmin@kta-hike.org)  
(717) 766-9690

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## 2021 Trail Care

### **April 8-11: Trail Care**

#### **Reeds Gap Spur**

Bald Eagle State Forest  
Leaders: Shira Blady / Brian MacNamara  
[Bladysh@gmail.com](mailto:Bladysh@gmail.com)  
267-970-1280  
Camp: Reeds Gap State Park camping area

### **April 29-May 2: Trail Care**

#### **West Rim Trail**

Tioga State Forest  
Leader: Wanda Shirk  
[wshirk49@outlook.com](mailto:wshirk49@outlook.com)  
814-848-7944  
Camp: Twin Streams Campground, Morris

### **May 20-23: Trail Care**

#### **Black Forest Trail**

Tiadaghton State Forest  
Leaders: Jenn Ulmer / Donna Thompson  
[Hawk2373@yahoo.com](mailto:Hawk2373@yahoo.com)  
570-854-8316

Camp: Ruth Will Cabin at Pump Station Fire Tower

### **June 8-13: Extended Trail Care**

#### **Mid State Trail, Everett Region**

Buchanan State Forest  
Leader: Chad North  
[Chadnorth@gmail.com](mailto:Chadnorth@gmail.com)  
570-238-3591

Camp: Tenley Park, Everett

### **June 22-27: Extended Trail Care**

### **July 15-18: Trail Care**

#### **Mid State Trail, Tioga Region**

Tioga State Forest  
Leader: Kevin Busko  
[statecollege@hike-mst.org](mailto:statecollege@hike-mst.org)  
814-386-8728  
Camp: Hills Creek SP Organized Group Tenting area

### **August 12-15: Trail Care**

#### **Pinchot Trail**

Pinchot State Forest  
Leader: Jeff Mitchell  
[jmitchmitch@hotmail.com](mailto:jmitchmitch@hotmail.com)  
570-441-2952

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

### **August 19-22: Trail Care**

#### **Allegheny Front Trail**

Moshannon State Forest  
Leader: Ben Auer  
[auer.ben@gmail.com](mailto:auer.ben@gmail.com)  
608-772-1715

Camp: Black Moshannon State Park Organized Group Tenting Area

### **October 21-24: Trail Care**

#### **Reeds Gap Spur Trail**

Bald Eagle State Forest  
Leader: Ed Lawrence  
[cemclaw216@gmail.com](mailto:cemclaw216@gmail.com)  
570-925-5285

Camp: Reeds Gap State Park

**Chuck Keiper Trail**  
Sproul State Forest  
Leader: Dave Walp  
cemclaw216@gmail.com  
570-477-2210  
Camp: **pending**

camping area

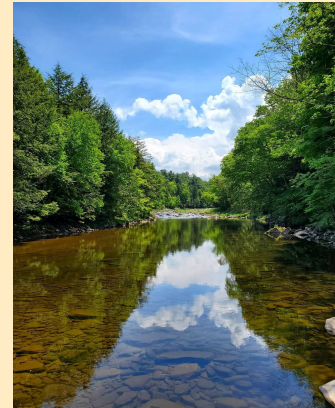
Visit <https://www.kta-hike.org/trail-care-and-trail-crew> for more info on volunteering with KTA

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## Hiker's Corner

### Jeff's Jaunts - Hike the Haystacks and Brook Kedron Loop - Loyalsock State Forest

The Haystacks have long been a popular hiking destination in the Loyalsock State Forest. For the more experienced and adventurous hiker, there is a great loop you can do along the unofficial Brook Kedron Trail. I've heard this may become an official trail, and it is shown on the Purple Lizard Map. When I hiked it, it was only marked with orange flagging. Be aware it can be a little hard to follow, especially south of Mead Road. Why hike Brook Kedron? It is a beautiful stream with many falls, slides, cascades, and a unique mini-gorge of fractured rock. It is a small stream; you can expect the best flow when the Loyalsock Creek is flowing over 3.0 feet on the USGS gauge. In summer, it will likely be dry except after a good rain. This loop is 5-6 miles long.



From the Loyalsock Parking area, just follow the Loyalsock Trail (LT) down to the old railroad grade and be sure to visit Dutchmans Falls. Continue on the Loyalsock Trail down the grade until the trail makes a sharp right and descends to the Loyalsock Creek. Follow the creek for some beautiful hiking. The trail veers from the creek, ascends a ridge, and drops down to the Loyalsock Creek again with campsites. An access road joins from the left. Soon reach the impressive Haystack Rapids with its giant white boulders and cascading water. It is a truly beautiful place.



The LT climbs the mountain back to the old grade and to a seasonal falls. Turn left on the grade until near where the access road descends to the left. Here, look for a trail and orange flagging to the right, follow it. The trail enters the glen of Brook Kedron with its cascades. The trail leaves the brook and climbs to the left to some ledges and boulders, but returns to the brook with a nice falls. Continue up the brook with more cascades and slides. Enter a beautiful mini-gorge of bedrock ledges. Continue upstream with more cascades. The trail leaves the brook



to the left, this can be easy to miss. Upstream, and off trail, is a unique oxbow loop that is neat to photograph.

Reach Mead Road, where you have a decision. Turn left on the road and walk it back to the parking area for a shorter and easier loop. Or continue on the Brook Kedron Trail, which is harder to follow, at least on my hike. It follows the remnants of an old logging road under hemlocks and across meadows. Overall I found it scenic. Descend to a deer fence where the flagging ended. Turn right and follow the deer fence around and you will be behind the forestry buildings. Now follow the yellow trail (I can't recall the name, maybe the Old Dushore Rd. Trail) as it explores the forest, crosses a swath, and descends under hemlocks to Mead Road. Turn left on the road and hike up to the parking area.

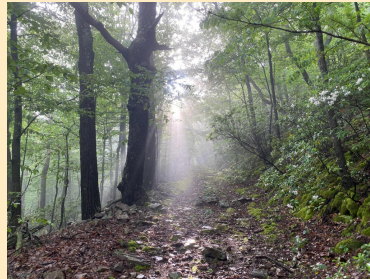
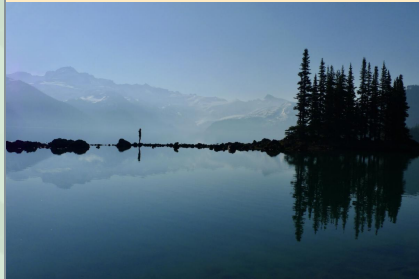
**-Jeff Mitchell**

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## 2021 Winter/Spring Photo Contest

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

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



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## Community Calendar

### KTA Events

#### Spring Hiking Weekend - April 9-11 Wellsboro

Stay at the historic Penn Wells Hotel and enjoy a weekend of fantastic hikes in and around the Pine Creek Gorge.

#### Allegheny Front Trail Slackpack - May 14-17

Hike the AFT with a daypack. 4 days of hiking, 41.75 miles, carpool each day between the trail and accommodations at Black Moshannon Lodge.

#### Allegheny River Canoe/Camping Trip - May 22-23,

This journey takes you 31 miles, from Warren, PA to West Hickory, PA on the scenic Allegheny River.

#### Old Loggers Path Slackpack - June 11-13

In 3 days of hiking, you'll have checked the OLP off your list, made friends, and

maybe even shaved off some waistline.

### **Susquehanna River Trip - June 26 or July 17**

KTA takes to the trails – Water trails this is! Our day long adventures, featuring professional and knowledgeable guides, include all paddling equipment, and are suitable for novice and experienced paddlers alike!.

### **Black Forest Trail Slackpack**

#### **July 9-12 or August 20-23 or September 24-27**

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

### **Allegheny National Forest Weekend - August 20-22**

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

### **KTA Trail Challenge (25k and 50k) - September 11**

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

### **KTA Board Zoom Meeting**

February 11th, 12:00PM

March 11th, 12:00PM

Contact the KTA office for call in information

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## **Community Events**

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## **WANT YOUR EVENT FEATURED ON THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR?**

KTA will promote your club/organization's major events through The Keystone Hiker, Facebook, and our website. It's a perk of membership! Just submit a list with date, time, location, and link to web page for only those events that the public should see, to [ktaadmin@kta-hike.org](mailto:ktaadmin@kta-hike.org).

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## **Club Spotlight**

### **Philadelphia Trail Club**

The Philadelphia Trail Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has been in existence since 1931. We lead hikes most Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year; hikes are less frequent in July and August.



Aside from hiking, the additional purposes of the club include:

- 1 Encourage interest in the outdoors
- 2 Support development of facilities for outdoor activities in the

Philly area

- 3 Encourage appreciation and outdoor-related education
  - 4 Support outdoor trail maintenance.
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### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

This newsletter is published monthly by Keystone Trails Association. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The Editor encourages submissions reflecting all viewpoints, but reserves the right to edit material. You are encouraged to submit material (even just a trail closing or care alert!) to the Program Administrator, Casey Schneck, at [ktaadmin@kta-hike.org](mailto:ktaadmin@kta-hike.org). The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Submissions received after that time will be considered for the next month.

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