



The Keystone Hiker - January 2020

Member's Corner

Hiking in the New Year

KTA would like to wish you a Happy New Year, and we hope to see you out on the trail in the new decade. Take your passion for trails to a new level in 2020 and make your New Year's resolution an investment in the future of our precious hiking trails!

As we begin another decade, hikers and our trails face an uncertain future in many parts of the Commonwealth: new developments, user conflicts, and privatization of our natural areas and a myriad of other challenges. KTA staff and our army of volunteers works to protect and preserve these vital footpaths for today and tomorrow.

Your contribution to KTA can make a difference! When you make a donation our collective voice for hiking and hiking trails becomes stronger, louder, and more effective.

**Donate
Today!**

or send check to
KTA, 46 E. Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

And consider also taking on some other hiking goals in 2020 with a New Year's resolution to:

- Complete the [KTA Trail Challenge](#) 25k or 50k trail race
- Hike 100 Miles and take the [100 Mile Trail Challenge](#) to raise money for trails each step of the way
- [Volunteer](#) 5, 10, 20, or more hours of trail care
- Or give to the cause and [Keep Trails Alive](#) all year long

Help Spread the Spirit of Care for our Trails



KTA is now pleased to provide promotional cards for our members. We encourage you to give them out to friends, fellow hikers, folks met on the trail, etc. to increase interest in and awareness of the work done by KTA and our amazing volunteers.

In the blank space you may write in your name, number, or whatever info you'd like to give. Members can get some of these cards at no charge by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to KTA.

Volunteer's Corner

The Trails are Calling

In 2020 volunteers with the Keystone Trails Association's Trail Care Program will once again have the opportunity to express their passion for the hiking experience by maintaining hiking trails across the Commonwealth, as they have done for the past 35 years. There are 17 weekend events scheduled, with work planned for trails in 10 of Pennsylvania's State Forests. Participants will also be working in, or based out of, 8 of our State Parks. In 2019, the all-volunteer program generated a total of 2390 maintenance hours on behalf of the hiking community and our public lands. Be part of this ongoing legacy by participating.



The season will get started the first weekend of April, returning to the gorgeous West Rim Trail and based out of a house, known as the Ranger Station, in downtown Blackwell. This upgrade in lodging will provide a more direct access to the lower end of the West Rim Trail, plus a full kitchen and showers at the end of the day. Next up in April will be the Allegheny Front Trail, followed by the Chuck Keiper Trail at the end of the month. May, and the blossoming of spring, will return volunteers to the Black Forest Trail and the Tioga Region of the Mid State Trail.

June's events will include two **Code Orange** Saturdays, first at Hickory Run State Park then later, returning to the Golden Eagle Trail, with a Trail Care BTB on the North Country Trail in between, and the Woolrich Region of the MST at the end of the month.

July has a single weekend, 9-12, scheduled for the Lost Turkey Trail, based at Blue Knob State Park, east of Johnstown. Leader Wanda Shirk discovered why the turkey got lost when she hiked the trail this past summer, poor blazing. Her crew will be working to reblaze the trail through State Gamelands 26 as well as general maintenance. Paint and brush kits will be readily

available.

Other trails on the schedule include the Pinchot Trail, The Thunder Swamp Trail System, The Donut Hole Trail, The Tuscarora Trail, The Bucktail Path and the third **Code Orange** of the year at Gifford Pinchot State Park where the Friends Group will once again provide a picnic lunch spread for participants.



Note that all Trail Care weekends except on the Tuscarora Trail include Friday as a designated work day (the BTB or 'bonus trail day') for those who are able to attend. The Tuscarora Trail event will be Saturday/Sunday only based at the lovely PATC Little Cove cabin south of Cowans

Gap State Park. All of the scheduled events include camping availability in some form. This year the Donut Hole event will be based out of the Hyner State Park Lodge in hopes of attracting more participants to work on this remote long distance trail.

Always contact the trail care leader if you are planning to attend their event as sometimes logistics do change. Volunteers are needed and essential to the program's success and to keep the hiking trails we value open, safe and accessible. Trail work is good work. It moves the spirit. Come and enjoy the camaraderie and satisfaction of a day well spent in Penns woods doing something that directly benefits the experience of tomorrow's hikers.

Thank you, and see you there.
Ed Lawrence

2020 Trail Care Schedule

April 2 – 5: Trail Care BTB WEST RIM TRAIL

Tioga State Forest

Leader: Ed Lawrence

cemclaw216@gmail.com

570-925-5285

Camp: Ranger Station Lodge
Blackwell

June 25 – 28: Trail Care BTB MID STATE TRAIL, Woolrich Region

Bald Eagle State Forest

Leader: Tony Robbins

tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com

570-437-0065

Camp: Ravensburg State Park

April 23 – 26: Trail Care BTB ALLEGHENY FRONT TRAIL

Moshannon State Forest

Leader: Ben Auer

auer.ben@gmail.com

608-772-1715

Camp: Organized Group
Tenting Area, site 1, at
Black Moshannon State Park

July 9 – 12: Trail Care BTB LOST TURKEY TRAIL

Gallitzin State Forest

Leader: Wanda Shirk

wshirk49@outlook.com

814-848-7944

Camp: Blue Knob State Park
Sites: 3, 4, 5, 6, 10

April 30 – May 3: Trail Care BTB CHUCK KEIPER TRAIL

August 6 – 9: Trail Care BTB MID STATE TRAIL, Everett Region Buchanan State Forest

Sproul State Forest
Leader: Tony Robbins
tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com
570-437-0065
Camp: Middle Branch Camp
3 miles down Penn Rose Rd
off Rte. 144 between Snowshoe
and Renovo

**May 14 – 17: Trail Care BTD
BLACK FOREST TRAIL**

Tiadaghton State Forest
Leaders: Jenn Ulmer / Donna
Thompson
Hawk2373@yahoo.com
570-854-8316
Camp: Ruth Will Cabin
at Pump Station Fire Tower

**May 28 – 31: Trail Care BTD
MID STATE TRAIL, Tioga Region**

Tioga State Forest
Leader: Pete Fleszar
tioga@hike-mst.org
717-583-2093
C:717-576-3112
Camp: Organized Group
Tenting Area at
Hills Creek State Park

**Sat. June 6th: Code Orange
HICKORY RUN STATE PARK**

Leaders: Shira Blady / Brian
MacNamara
Bladysh@gmail.com
267-970-1280
Meet: 8:30 a.m.
Organized Group Tenting
Area, Site B
Camping available both
Fri. and Sat. nights in
OGTA, Site B

**June 11 – 14: Trail Care BTD
NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL**

State Game Lands 95
Leader: Dave Adams
but@northcountrytrail.org
Camp: Peaceful Valley Campground
231 Peaceful Valley Rd.
West Sunbury, Pa. 16061

**Sat. June 20th: Code Orange
GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIL**

Leader: Ed Lawrence
cemclaw216@gmail.com
570-925-5285
Camp: Tenley Park, Everett

**August 13 –16: Trail Care BTD
PINCHOT TRAIL**

Pinchot State Forest
Leader: Jeff Mitchell
jmitchmitch@hotmail.com
570-441-2952
Camp: Pocono Mountain Bible
Conference Camp
191 Clifton Beach Rd.
Clifton, Pa. 18424

**August 20 – 23: Trail Care BTD
THUNDER SWAMP TRAIL SYSTEM**

Delaware State Forest
Leader: Ed Lawrence
cemclaw216@gmail.com
570-925-5285
Camp: Resica Falls
Boy Scout Camp
Bear Paw Site

**August 27 – 30: Trail Care BTD
THE DONUT HOLE**

Sproul State Forest
Leader: Tony Robbins
tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com
570-437-0065
Camp: Hyner Lodge
Hyner State Park

**Sept. 18 – 20: Trail Care
TUSCARORA TRAIL**

Buchanan State Forest
Leader: Ben Auer
auer.ben@gmail.com
608-772-1715
Camp: PATC cabin at
Little Cove
Fri. & Sat. only

**Sat. Oct. 3: Code Orange
GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK**

W/ Friends of Pinchot SP
Leader: Steve Stroman
stevestroman@hotmail.com
717-350-0437
Meet: 8:30 at Quaker Race
day use area off Rte.177
camping available Fri. & Sat.

Tiadaghton State Forest

Leader: Wanda Shirk
wshirk49@outlook.com

814-848-7944

Meet: 8:00 a.m.

GET trailhead

parking area at

Clark Farm

Camping available both

Fri. and Sat nights at

Little Pine State Park

tent sites: 001,002, 016,017

Friends Group will provide
picnic lunch for volunteers

Nov. 5 – 8: Trail Care BT BUCKTAIL PATH

Elk State Forest

Leader: Ed Lawrence

cemclaw216@gmail.com

570-925-5285

Camp: Brooks Run

fire tower cabin

A Look Back at Trail Care in 2019

Thank you to everyone who came out to work on our trails over the past year, whether with KTA, member clubs, or elsewhere. Your invaluable work is the reason we have such a rich and wonderful trail system in Pennsylvania.

KTA and its member clubs logged a total of nearly
12 thousand hours of trail care over the course of 2019!

Keystone Trails Association -- 2502

ANF Chapter NCTA -- 4128

Susquehannock Trail Club -- 1805

Mountain Club of Maryland -- 1221

Mason-Dixon Trail System -- 1010

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy -- 592

Warrior Trail Association -- 236

Chester County Trail Club -- 235

Wilmington Trail Club -- 110

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club -- 64

Lancaster Hiking Club -- 56

Become a Master Watershed Steward

The Penn State Extension [Master Watershed Steward \(MWS\)](#) Program in Cumberland County will be training its first class in spring 2020. Master Watershed Stewards volunteer in their community to improve the health of our streams, rivers and other natural resources.

Attend one of the [informational sessions](#) to learn more about the program.

Dates/Times: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 7:00 pm

Dates/Times: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:00 pm

Location: Cumberland Services Center — Allen Road Campus,
310 Allen Road, Carlisle, Pa. 17013, Room PS3

Hiker's Corner

2019 Photo Contest

Congratulations to Clare Kaczmarek, winner of the KTA 2019 Photo Contest for this shot from Beam Rocks Trail near Somerset.



The 2020 Winter/Spring Photo Contest is now open! Get your cameras ready in the new year and share the awesome views you find with us.

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

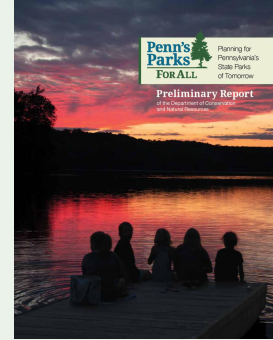
The winner will be announced in July and will receive a free 1 year membership and KTA hat.

Penns Parks for All

As the 2010s come to close it's time to look ahead at the future of trails in the coming decades. [Penn's Parks for All](#) is DCNR's plan that will guide the next 25 years or more for State Parks in PA. The preliminary report public comment period is over, but all KTA member clubs have been extended an opportunity to submit feedback until the

end of February 2020.

This will give all groups an opportunity to develop a formal response to the report, if they so choose. Paul's contact information is included below for submitting group comments. Also feel free to contact Paul if you want to discuss any of the recommendations or have questions about this process.



Paul Zeph | Chief, Planning Section
DCNR Bureau of State Parks
P.O. Box 8551 | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551
Desk: 717.783.3340
E-mail: pazeph@pa.gov

Community Calendar

KTA Events

Spring Hiking Weekend - April 17-19

Join us in Wellsboro for a weekend of hikes and history at the historic Penn Wells Hotel. Choose from a variety of hikes, easy to rugged, long or short, in and around the beautiful Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania

Horse-Shoe Trail Slackpack - April 22-26

A 5 day excursion to hike 76 miles covering half of the HST without ever pitching a tent. A second trip will tackle the other half, but you are welcome to join us for just one or both.

Allegheny Front Trail Slackpack - May 15-18

Hike the AFT in 1 weekend, with transportation each day between the trailheads and the cozy Black Moshannon Lodge.

Allegheny National Forest - July 24-26

Spend a weekend in Pennsylvania's only national forest. Stay in Groves Lodge as you explore the many trails and sights of the ANF.

Trail Challenge - Sept 12

Join us on September 12th for a one-day hiking event spanning 50 (or 25) kilometers of trails in Lancaster County

Black Forest Trail Slackpack - Oct 23-26

Hike through the 42 mile BFT in 4 days with just a day pack. Stay in comfortable cabins at Pettecote Junction Campground.

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 info@kta-hike.org.

Club Spotlight

Mid State Trail Association



The Mid State Trail Association seeks out remote, quiet natural corridors for placing the Mid State Trail, constructs and maintains only foot paths, and acts to protect the quiet, wild and scenic, natural and cultural resources of the corridor through which the trail passes. Within a natural setting, hikers enjoy a diversity of experiences. We recognize the importance of those areas with significant historic, cultural, geological, or other features of interest to hikers, and work to have the foot path visit those features, where feasible. At times, sections of the foot path may be, unnecessarily, in non-natural areas or on non-natural surfaces. Our goal is to re-locate these sections to remote, primitive natural places.

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. 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.