



The Keystone Hiker - January 2021

Member's Corner

In Memory of Carl Lorence



We are saddened by the loss of a beloved member of KTA this past month in Carl Lorence. His dedication to trails was second to none, having served as a KTA Board Member and President of the Stand Stone Trail Club.

"Carl was one heck of a great person. Lorraine and I have known him for years, thanks to the KTA Trail Care, and have hiked extensively with him throughout that time. It was always a laugh a minute with Carl and we think and talk about him often. He will be sorely missed, but his adventures with us will never die."

-Joe Healey

[Please pay your respects here.](#)

Your Support for Trails

We at KTA would like to offer one last Thank You to everyone who contributed to our mission in 2020. Whether you gave your time or a financial gift, we are incredibly grateful. This past year was filled with challenges, but thanks to you KTA has continued to provide, protect, preserve, and promote recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania.

You can support KTA through your online shopping at no cost with Amazon Smile. This year our Amazon Smile supporters have raised more than ever before for KTA. To join in, just use the link below and a portion of your purchases will be donated to KTA at no cost to you!

**Select KTA as your Charity of
Choice**

Of course you can also donate to KTA directly. We greatly appreciate

contributions of any size and are so thankful to our supporters. Last year was difficult for all of us, and thanks to you, KTA was able to continue working for our mission. There were many setbacks and cancelations, but we are looking forward to the new normal and getting back into the action in 2021!

**Donate
Today**

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 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!

Volunteer's Corner

TRAIL CARE PROGRAM 2021

The KTA Trail Care Program is gearing up again, after a sporadic season afield in 2020 due to the pandemic. Trail Care events are scheduled to begin in April of 2021 with a return to Reeds Gap State Park to continue work on the Reeds Gap Spur Trail. Covid-19 protocols will remain in place as determined by the status of the pandemic at the time of each individual Trail Care. Please refer to the KTA website on a regular basis for information about additional events and the latest updates regarding each scheduled Trail Care, and be sure to contact the leader of the events you plan on attending.

This year all regular Trail Care weekends will include a full day of work on Friday (previously known as a BTD or Bonus Trail Day). Volunteers will be able to arrive Thursday afternoon to the designated base camp or any morning by 7 a.m.. As in past years, participants can work the days, Friday, Saturday and till noon on Sunday, that fit into their personal schedules. Of course, volunteering

for the entire time bestows the highest degree of personal satisfaction and greatest amount of Trail Care Karma.

Also, this year there will be two "Extended Trail Cares". The first will be on the Mid State Trail, Everett Region (June 8-13) and the second on Chuck Keiper Trail (June 22-27). These events will begin Tuesday afternoon and last until Sunday. Volunteers for the Extended Trail Cares will have to provide their own food during the week.

Keeping safe while improving the trails and hiking experience on Pa.'s hiking trails is the goal for this year's Trail Care Program. Join us!

2021 Trail Care

April 8-11: Trail Care

Reeds Gap Spur

Bald Eagle State Forest

Leaders: Shira Blady / Brian MacNamara

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

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

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

570-238-3591

Camp: Tenley Park, Everett

June 22-27: Extended Trail Care

Chuck Keiper Trail

Sproul State Forest

Leader: Dave Walp

cemclaw216@gmail.com

July 15-18: Trail Care

Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

Tioga State Forest

Leader: Kevin Busko

statecollege@hike-mst.org

814-386-8728

Camp: **pending**

August 12-15: Trail Care

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 19-22: Trail Care

Allegheny Front Trail

Moshannon State Forest

Leader: Ben Auer

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

570-925-5285

Camp: Reeds Gap State Park camping area

570-477-2210

Camp: **pending**

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

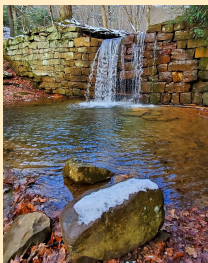
Hiker's Corner

Jeff's Jaunts - Scurry Overlook and Henry Run Falls-Cook Forest State Park

This is a great hike with a view, a falls at a unique and beautiful dam, and an incredible hike along the Clarion River. This hike is about 1.5 miles, one way. At the small parking area along Gravel Lick Rd, follow the blue blazed North Country Trail (NCT) to the east. Climb through laurel and reach Scurry Overlook with its nice view of the Clarion River below. The trail drops and then follows the side hill of the mountain, passing some boulders.



Descend to hemlocks and reach Henry Run, cross over it on a bridge. Walk downstream to see the unique old sawmill dam with its 10-12 foot falls. The dam is unique with its large blocks of stone. The fact that it is still standing is amazing and a testament to its workmanship. There is a bench to sit on along the Clarion River, below the falls



We continued along the NCT and the Clarion River to the River Trail, at which point we turned around. What a beautiful hike along this pristine river, under large hemlocks. We could hear the rattling calls of the kingfishers across the water. From there we retraced our steps.

The NCT is an incredible hiking destination across western Pennsylvania, featuring historic towns and diverse scenery.

-Jeff Mitchell

Legislative Update

The Pennsylvania Legislature wrapped up the 2019-2020 Legislative Session on November 30. While the new session doesn't officially start until January 1, 2021, legislators are allowed to start submitting new bills on December 1, and they aren't wasting any time. There are already well over 600 co-sponsor memos circulating. Most are bills that died at the close of the 2019-2020 session.

KTA will keep you informed as we begin another year!

Photo Contest Winner

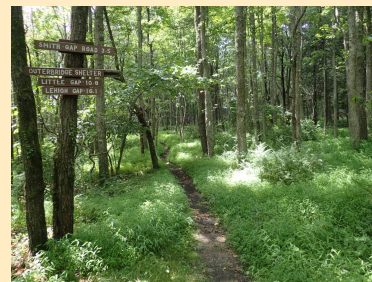
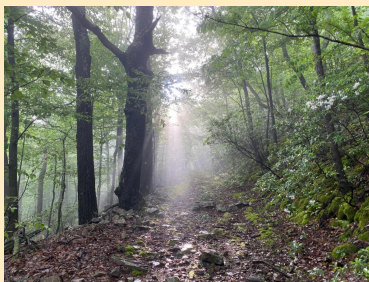
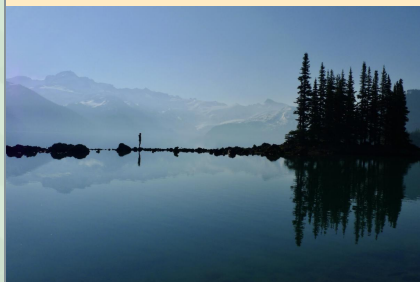
Congratulations to Gregory Strine for this fantastic view from Kettle Run Vista on the Donut Hole Trail.



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.



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.

[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 Board Zoom Meeting

January 9th, 9:00AM

February 11th, 12:00PM

March 11th, 12:00PM

Contact the KTA office for call in information

Community Events

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.

Club Spotlight

[Friends of the Wissahickon](#)

Founded in 1924, FOW is a 2,600-member nonprofit organization that works in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation to restore



historical park structures, eliminate invasive plant species, monitor watershed management issues, and restore trails throughout Wissahickon Valley Park. Keep up with what we're up to and follow us @FOWissahickon on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

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.