



The Keystone Hiker - January 2023

Happy New Year

Member's Corner

2022 Mini Grants Make an Impact

The 2022 round of KTA \$500 mini grants benefitted four trail clubs, supporting several impactful outcomes.

Funds to the Susquehannock Trail Club helped to finance a month-long trail improvement project on the state's longest loop trail, the 84-mile Susquehannock Trail System. Anchoring the project was Abe Peachy, a volunteer from a Mennonite program who spent the entire month of May camping at various places along the trail or in Ole Bull State Park and working on the trail. In addition to buying two McLeod fire-hoe tools for the sidehill work, the mini grant paid for food for Abe for the month, as well as some meals for other volunteers who helped him on occasion.

The Standing Stone Trail (SST) Club used their grant money to purchase liability insurance for the first time in its history. Liability protection will help ensure that the club remains financially secure in the long term. This risk reduction is particularly relevant given that the Thousand Steps portion of the trail is very popular, with 42,000 hikes counted in 2020. In addition to the funds, KTA put the SSTC in touch with an insurance agent who had worked with KTA and other trail organizations. The agent secured an affordable policy for the SSTC.



*Hammersley sidehill upgrade
on the STS, June 2022*

The Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club used mini grant funds to purchase seven safety helmets for trail work. They also reimbursed five sawyers to attend requisite first aid/CPR courses.

The Warrior Trail Association channeled their funding towards the creation of a

FarOut app, still in development, for their namesake Warrior Trail.

*Trail clubs and other KTA member groups stay tuned,
the 2023 mini-grant round will be announced in February.*

Career Opportunities at KTA

Thanks in part to a recent grant from the PA DCNR, KTA is hiring two new positions—a part-time [Manager of Trail Maintenance and Training](#) and a full-time [Manager of Communications and Membership](#). Details can be found on the [Work for KTA](#) page of our website. The application deadline is January 15. Please help spread the word about these exciting opportunities to work for a mission-driven nonprofit organization devoted to trail and hiking interests.

Remembering Marcus Schneck Outdoor Writer and KTA Family

In the Pennsylvania outdoors and conservation world, whenever I introduce myself, 9 out of 10 times it's followed up with one question: am I related to Marcus Schneck? He was my dad and the reason I became a hiker, fisher, camper, gardener, and everything else that goes into being an outdoorsman. He was the reason I started working at KTA.

I always heard from fellow nature and outdoor enthusiasts about stories of his they liked, things he wrote recently or old favorites. My favorite stories are the many I didn't have to read because I was there in the field when he wrote them, seeing and learning everything first hand.

Marcus passed away last month. As a prolific outdoor writer, I am sure many KTA members will miss his stories. There is so much to say about him, but I think it was already best said here:

www.pennlive.com/outdoors/2022/12/pennlives-marcus-schneck-pas-preeminent-outdoors-journalist-dies-at-66.html

- Casey Schneck, KTA Program Admin

KTA ATV Film Debuts February 18th

KTA believes that the [ATV Connector Pilot](#) in northcentral Pennsylvania is incongruent with sustainable management values of the state forest system. Existing riding areas on state forest land demonstrate the resource degradation caused by ATVs and UTVs. The noise and pollution they generate conflicts with the quiet, healthy enjoyment of trails by hiking enthusiasts, cyclists, and



equestrians.

Underscoring these concerns, KTA, with support from the PA Public Natural Resources Trust and the Sierra Club's Huplits Wildlife grant program, commissioned a short documentary film about ATV/UTV effects on our public lands. The documentary was produced by Stony Creek Films, A Pennsylvania-based organization.

The film will debut on **February 8th at 12:00 p.m.** during a webinar hosted by the Sierra Club, KTA, Save PA Forests Coalition, and other partners. A panel discussion follows the screening of the film. Please mark your calendars and look for registration details in the February edition of the "Keystone Hiker."

Thanks for your interest in this important issue.

Wilderness First Aid Training Opportunity Offered by Lancaster Conservancy

Lancaster Conservancy is proud to host Wilderness Medical Associates International for [Wilderness Advanced First Aid](#).

If you volunteer or work at parks, nature preserves, or for trail groups or outdoor camps, or if you simply like to recreate outdoors (such as hike, climb, swim, run, or bike) with family, friends or meetup groups then this course is for you. Wilderness Medical Associates International trains outdoor professionals and enthusiasts how to successfully manage medical emergencies in wilderness and remote settings.

KTA Members are eligible for a \$50 discount.

Thursday, Feb 16 - Sunday, Feb 19, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Climbers Run Nature Center
226 Frogtown Road
Pequea, PA 17565

Volunteer's Corner

Tentative 2023 Trail Care Schedule

Although winter has been relatively tame so far, we are really looking forward to getting back to working on PA hiking trails with the KTA Trail Care (TC) Program. I apologize for the slim details on some events below. Ed Lawrence, after 12 years with a steady hand on the wheel, has handed the helm to me. I have been participating in TC events since 2010, and have led 13 events, including 4 last year. But I could only guess as to the wealth of work (emails and phone calls) involved in coordinating a full year's worth of TC events.

Therefore, some details are not confirmed and this schedule may be subject to change. Stay tuned. And copious thanks to Ed for years of service to the TC Program!

Thank you to those hearty volunteers who have stepped up to lead an event. Your superb leadership is exemplary. KTA will be working hard in the coming weeks and months to recruit new volunteers and publicize how fun and rewarding these events are. We have developed some ideas to augment the safety of our volunteers, and improve communication and organization. We are also conjuring a possible new format for a couple of the events with some recreation or skills workshops mixed in with the trail work aspect, and are always on the lookout for ways to provide volunteer incentives (read: food). With the anticipated addition of more staffing at KTA headquarters, look for a new interface coming soon for TC event registration. I hope to see many of you awesome returning volunteers around the campfire and lots of newcomers giving Trail Care a shot in 2023.

- Jenn Ulmer

May 4-7: Trail Care

MID STATE TRAIL - STATE
COLLEGE REGION

Bald Eagle State Forest

Leaders: Kevin Busko / Jason Davis

Camp: R.B. Winter State Park

May 11-14: Trail Care

WEST RIM TRAIL

Tioga State Forest

Leader: Wanda Shirk

Camp: Twin Streams Campground,
Morris

May 18-21: Trail Care

MID STATE TRAIL - EVERETT
REGION

Buchanan State Forest

Leader: Chad North

Camp: Tenley Park, Everett

June 1-4: Trail Care

ELK TRAIL

Elk State Forest

Leader: Joanne Heimer et al

Camp: Hicks Run Campground

June 8-11: Trail Care

MID STATE TRAIL - TIOGA REGION
Tioga State Forest

Leader: Pete Fleszar

Camp: Hills Creek State Park
Organized Group Tenting Area

June 22-25: Trail Care

July 6-9 / 20-23?: Trail Care

CHUCK KEIPER TRAIL

Sproul State Forest

Leaders: Ted Ligenza / Jenn Ulmer

Camp: TBA

July 12 - 15: Trail Care BTD

TRACY RIDGE TRAIL SYSTEM

Allegheny National Forest

Leader: Joe Hardisky

Camp: Tracy Ridge Campground

August 24-27: Trail Care

THUNDER SWAMP TRAIL SYSTEM

Delaware State Forest

Leader: Ed Lawrence

Camp: Resica Falls BSA Camp

**September 14-17 / 21-24?: Trail
Care**

GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIL

Tiadaghton State Forest

Leader: Jenn Ulmer

Camp: TBA

October 7: Code Orange 1-day

GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK

W/ Friends of Pinchot S.P.

Leader: Steve Stroman

Camp: TBA

October 26-29: Trail Care

PINCHOT TRAIL SYSTEM

Pinchot State Forest

Leader: Jeff Mitchell

BLACK FOREST TRAIL
Tiadaghton State Forest
Leader: Jenn Ulmer
Camp: Pump Station Fire Tower

Camp: Manny Gordon Picnic Area
sites

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

SSTC Trail Master

Standing Stone Trail Club Volunteer Job Opportunity

The Trail Master is the primary, or leading, club member responsible for organizing group work activities throughout the year. Duties include rallying volunteers to 1) maintain existing trail, 2) build new trail, or 3) participate in work sessions for certain trail upgrades that section maintainers might not be able to accomplish on their own.

Hiker's Corner

Backpacking 101

Join KTA for this educational workshop on March 18, 2023

Keystone Trails Association and Dauphin County Parks & Recreation are presenting a one-day seminar on backpacking basics. This training is geared towards avid day hikers who are interested in learning about backpacking from an experienced group of backpackers. Topics will include differences between day hiking and backpacking, clothing, footwear, gear (packs, sleeping bags, stoves, lights, stuff sacks, poles, tents), food preparation, campsite selection, potential dangers (ticks, waterborne diseases, bears, snakes), Leave No Trace, unique considerations for women, plus available resources (both online and print). A light continental breakfast will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch to consume during the designated lunch break. Dress for indoor and outdoor activities.



SATURDAY, MARCH 18 9:00AM- 2:00PM

The class will be held on **Saturday, March 18 from 9 am to approximately 2 pm at the Olewine Nature Center at Wildwood Park, 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110**. The cost for the seminar is \$25.00 per person. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited.

This course will be led by three experienced backpackers and trip leaders, Jim Foster, Marian Orlousky & Ed Riggs, who are volunteering their time. Jim & Ed

are experienced backpackers who have backpacked the entire Appalachian Trail, as well as the John Muir Trail, the Quehanna Trail and others. Marian is Director of Science and Stewardship for Appalachian Trail Conservancy and an experienced backpacker. Following the seminar, KTA will offer an optional overnight backpacking event, at a time and place to be announced.

To register for the March 18 class, follow this link:

<https://dauphincountyparksandrecreation.ticketleap.com/backpacking-101/>

The Great Hiking Trails of PA

Presented by KTA in Middle Creek Speaker Series

Learn about the commonwealth's amazing estate of long distance hiking trails. From nationally-designated trails like the Appalachian and North Country, to lesser known but more remote trails like the Chuck Keiper and Donut Hole, there are routes awaiting exploration in every corner of the state. Take a virtual tour of them with KTA's executive director, Brook Lenker.

February 8th, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Middle Creek Visitor Center Auditorium
Stevens, PA
Free to the public!

Nominations Open for 2023 AT Hall of Fame

Nominees for the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Class of 2022 will be accepted through January 31, 2023. The Hall of Fame recognizes those who have made a significant contribution toward establishing and maintaining the approximately 2,190 mile footpath that passes through 14 states from Maine to Georgia.

"The thirteenth class of the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame will be inducted in 2023, and nominations are open for Hall of Fame nominees," said Larry Luxenberg, president of the Appalachian Trail Museum – the organization that oversees the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame. "Nominees should be people who have made a significant positive contribution to the Appalachian Trail and who have unselfishly devoted their time, energy and resources toward making the Appalachian Trail a national treasure."

52 individuals have been inducted into the Hall of Fame in the first twelve years. Their names and biographies can be found on the Museum's website, www.atmuseum.org

Sustainable Forestry Program

Available in PA, WV, and MD

Like you, we value protecting the places that are

important to us. That's why when you enroll in the Family Forest Carbon Program, you'll receive annual payments and technical assistance from professional foresters to do right by your land. Our program's sustainable forest management practices are designed to improve the overall health of your forest, resulting in improved wildlife habitat, enhanced water quality, and increased carbon storage.



Developed by the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, the Family Forest Carbon Program is designed to empower small landowners to help address climate change, while earning income from their land. Landowners with 30 forested acres or more in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia are eligible to enroll

in the enroll in the program, which encourages you to let your trees grow large for 20 years by limiting tree removals from the property.

To find out if you are eligible, visit the [Family Forest Carbon Program website](#) where you can use our secure mapping tool to find your property to check your eligibility.

Trail News

[7 Picturesque Trails In Pennsylvania That Are Perfect For Winter Hiking](#)

[5 Stunning Pennsylvania State Parks Where You Can Camp All Year Round](#)

[Backpacker treks all of Yellowstone's trails, a feat that took 25 years](#)

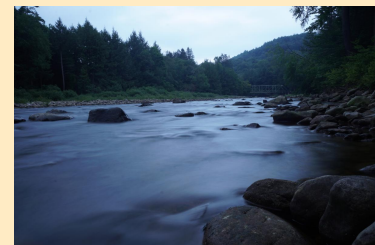
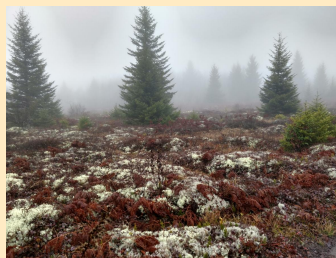
[Adventure-loving women of Lehigh can check out this all-women hiking group](#)

[The Best Job on the Appalachian Trail](#)

2022 Summer/Fall KTA Photo Contest

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

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



Community Calendar

KTA Events

Backpacking 101

March 18

Hikers and prospective backpackers are invited to attend a one-day seminar on backpacking basics from KTA and Dauphin County Parks & Recreation.

Spring Hiking Weekend

April 21-23

Penn Wells Hotel in Wellsboro, PA

Prowl the Sproul

July 14-16

North Bend, PA

Allegheny National Forest Weekend

Aug 25-27

Olmstead Manor in Ludlow, PA

Trail Challenge 25k/50k

Sept 9

Susquehannock SP and Pequea Creek Campground in Pequea, PA

Keystone Hike Fest 2023

Fall Hiking Weekend

Oct 21-23

Johnstown, PA

Hiking the Wales Coast Path

Aug 15-26 or Sept 26 - Oct 7

Trip Filled

Hiking adventure on the renowned Wales Coast Path. Following the sweeping crescent of Cardigan Bay, this section, the Ceredigion Coast Path, has perhaps the most varied landscape and terrain of the entire 870 mile path.

More to come!

Community Events

Mid State Trail Association Winter Meeting

January 15, 2023

At Rock God Brewing in Danville, PA, or a Zoom virtual option will be available. Come learn about accomplishments in 2022 and plans for 2023! Free pizza at noon; beer, etc. available for purchase. Meeting 1-3pm.

RSVP and more information on [Facebook event page](#). Any questions, secretary@hike-mst.org.

Hike the Hill 2023

February 12-17, 2023

Celebrating its 26th year, [Hike the Hill®](#) is a joint effort between [American Hiking Society](#) and [Partnership for the National Trails System](#) to bring together the trails community to advance shared trail priorities with congressional and federal agency leaders including: trails funding, public lands management and conservation, equitable access, and other top priority issues that sustain trails and improve access to public lands.

[SkiDance 2023](#)

February 17-20, 2023

[Ski Dance](#) has been held annually on Presidents' Day weekend for over 35 years in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania. It is a weekend of live music, singing, and contradancing in the evening and cross country skiing (downhill skiing is also an option) or hiking (as well as other activities) during the day. Singles, couples, families and friends of all ages are welcome. No experience skiing or dancing is required. Lessons for contra dancing and xcounrty skiing are both included.

[A.T. Vista 2023](#)

August 4-7, 2023

Mark your calendars. The 2023 conference will be held in Johnson City, TN. More information to come.

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](#)

[Mountain Club of Maryland](#)



Our members lead hikes every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Other Club activities include backpacking, camping, canoe/kayak trips and trail work. Founded in 1934 to help build the Appalachian Trail, the Club is currently one of 31 clubs that maintain the AT for all to enjoy. Members also support trail work in Patapsco Valley State Park.

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 ктаadmin@кта-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.



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