



The Keystone Hiker - March 2021

Member's Corner

In Memory of John Eastlake

KTA mourns the loss of John Eastlake after his passing on February 20th in the Williamsport hospital of complications from Covid. He is survived by his four children -- the ABCD of Alicia, Brian, Cindy, and David.



John was quietly one of the greatest men anyone could ever know. Last year he was awarded *KTA's Citation Award for Lifetime Achievement* in recognition of his genius and labors in developing some of the great loop trails of Pennsylvania -- the 10 mile Golden Eagle Trail, the 28 mile Old Loggers Path, the 42 mile Black Forest Trail, and the connecting loop between the STS and BFT made by the North Link Trail and South Link Trail. John and Joan's honeymoon to the Adirondacks in 1964 inspired John to think about trail development in Pennsylvania and to enlist Bob Webber to help layout and build these great trails which have now been enjoyed by literally thousands of hikers.



Last summer STC member Lori Szymanik interviewed John about his other great interest, the CCC. John was the state's greatest CCC historian, and he regularly made presentations at the Barkpeelers Convention at the Lumber Museum, as well as speaking to many groups about the CCC, taking his slide show and boxes full of pictures. John was

described by Josh Roth at the lumber museum as a "walking encyclopedia of the CCC." You can see John, as of last summer, on Lori's 10 minute [CCC-related You-Tube video at this link](#). John spent much of his time over the

past several years digitizing hundreds of historical CCC and STC photos.

It is a huge loss to the entire world when a historian of this level is gone. The loss is especially hard for all of us who knew him, and especially his family.

Rest in peace, beloved friend John.

-Wanda Shirk

[View John's full obituary here](#)

To Promote Hiking Trails and Opportunities

The promotion of Pennsylvania's many wonderful hiking trails and opportunities is a core part of our mission. To serve that goal, KTA has a limited chance to purchase radio advertising at a special, discounted rate that would be heard on stations all across the state with Radio PA.

This special, limited time offer to KTA would:

- Be broadcast on 105 FM/AM stations
- Cover 95% of the state, reaching over 1 million Pennsylvanians
- Include over 525 ad spots per week
- And have a commercial value of \$105,300

We need your help to take advantage of this opportunity. Your targeted donation would:

- Increase awareness of the benefits of hiking and KTA's important role of protecting and maintaining our trails.
- Support our current volunteers in their vital efforts.
- Encourage others to volunteer at the local level and with KTA's local trail clubs.
- Raise support for protection of our trails

KTA's goal is to raise \$9000 to fund this incredibly valuable, limited time offer. Will you help us spread the word to more Pennsylvanians?

[Donate online](#) or send a check to:

KTA
46 E. Main Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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

Social Media Volunteer Needed

KTA is looking for volunteers to manage and contribute to our organization's Instagram and LinkedIn accounts. If interested, please contact:

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



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

July 15-18: Trail Care

Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

Tioga State Forest

Leaders: Kevin Busko / Kristin Joivell
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

570-441-2952

Camp: Pocono Mountain

Bible Conference camp

191 Clifton Beach Rd.

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**

Sprout State Forest

Leader: Dave Walp

cemclaw216@gmail.com

570-477-2210

Camp: pending

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

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

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!

The Delaware and Lehigh Trail

Over the past several months, I've explored a few of the more non-traditional, non-wilderness trails in the tri-state area. We've looked at the Batona Trail, in the New Jersey Pine Barrens and, more recently, the Schuylkill River Trail, a rails-to-trail path from Philadelphia north into coal country. Today we'll visit another, the Delaware and Lehigh Trail.



The D&L Corridor has occupied a special place in American history for centuries. Its unique combination of industry and natural resources made it a cradle of the Industrial Revolution. Later, this acclaim catapulted the region to an internationally-recognized hub of production.

The history of the region begins with the Lenni Lenape people. They were the ones who first hunted and gathered in the valleys, forests, and rivers throughout the area. Then came colonization — during this time, William Penn promoted religious tolerance and land settlement. He attracted thousands of immigrants who left their homeland in search of a better life. They farmed the corridor's rich, fertile soil and established diverse communities.

The region along the upper Delaware Canal largely escaped the effects of heavy industrialism. The ongoing use of the waterways preserved the area's natural resources. Meanwhile, successful agricultural production and gentleman farmers helped maintain a rural aesthetic charm. The pastoral land near the Delaware Canal, with its fieldstone houses and covered bridges, was one of the cradles of the American Revolution. In later years, farming gave way to industrialization.



The D&L Trail itself extends from Bristol northward to Easton. The entire 61 miles is on the canal towpath, paralleling the Delaware River. Built in the early 1800s, the canal was dug to transport anthracite coal from the Wilkes-Barre region to Bristol and beyond. Loaded barges were pulled by mules walking on the towpath. Dozens of locks, aqueducts, and spillways regulated the flow of water. Historical markers currently provide information about the lock tenders, muleskinners and barge captains, each of whom maintained unique lifestyles.

At Bristol, the Delaware was wide enough to allow further transport by larger vessels. The canal transported hundreds of tons of goods to New York and

Philadelphia, fueling industry and creating jobs. Bethlehem Steel grew from a modest iron producer to one of the most lucrative businesses in the U.S. Notably, it provided steel for the George Washington, Brooklyn and Golden Gate Bridges, and Madison Square Garden.

Heading northbound, let's look at the trail towns through which a hiker will travel.

Bristol has been a commercial hub for more than 300 years and marks Mile 0 of the D&L Trail. Yardley is truly representative of American and Pennsylvania history. The original land was purchased from William Penn by William Yardley in 1682. After that, the town served as a safe haven on the Underground Railroad and fed Union troops during the Civil War.

At Washington's Crossing, the great general forded the Delaware River under the cover of darkness and snow on Christmas night, 1776. The courageous move helped win the Battle of Trenton. New Hope is home to artists, writers, and musicians and is well worth exploring.

The area north of New Hope is more rural and provides ample opportunity to picnic and view wildlife, particularly nesting bald eagles. In Easton, view the confluence of the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers and explore the National Canal Museum.

So, if you're looking for an easy hike, with lots of history, the D&L Trail is an excellent choice. Kayaking and canoeing rentals are also available by local outfitters.

(I'd like to thank and credit the D&L Heritage Foundation and the Buck County Visitors Bureau for background information)

-Jack Hauler

Jeff's Jaunts - Winter Hike to Becker Brook and the Weeping Wall - SGL 57

This was a winter hike to Becker Brook to see the ice flows at the Weeping Wall. I first hiked through here six year ago in the spring, we came upon a cove of ledges and cliffs from which many springs flowed. I've always wanted to return to see what these springs looked like frozen. This is a worthwhile hike anytime of the year with big rocks, waterfalls, cascades, caves, mazes and overhangs. Being a winter hike, access is tricky. The road is plowed to Parking 1, but not Parking 2. If there is little snow, it is possible to reach Parking 2; it is best to reach it from PA 487. it is generally not advisable to drive the road between Parking 1 and 2 as it is steep and rugged in places.



Due to heavy snow, we had to make the longer hike from Parking 1. Thankfully, the road had tire and snowmobile tracks, which made the walking easier. At the top, however, we had to put on snowshoes to traverse

the deep snow. What a workout. We dropped down to some large rock outcrops below Parking 2, which had some ice flows. We crossed the one branch of Becker Brook, and headed to the main branch. We dropped down to the creek at Becker Brook Falls, which were completely snow covered. This is a beautiful spot with giant boulders and cascading waterfalls into a deep pool. We then climbed to the rim of rocks south of the brook and hiked around the rim. The giant rocks were beautiful and we passed one overhang with ice flows. Animal tracks stitched the snow across the forest floor.



We reached a giant overhang with a cave, maze and chasms. It was very scenic. The tracks of a bobcat passed through a small cave. The red rock was striking against the white snow. The overhang had a variety of colors-black, green, silver, red and orange. It was striking.

We headed south along the rim, passing more giant rocks, and soon reached the Weeping Wall. The ice flows were beautiful with mounds, draperies, and walls of blue ice. A narrow chasm with filled with silvery icicles. Springs bubbled from the rocks. A beautiful place. We retraced our steps, the hike being much easier with a packed path in the snow.

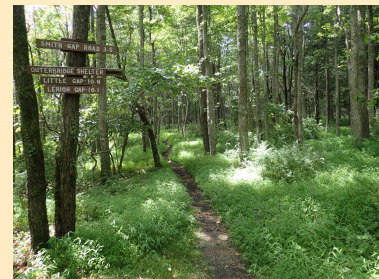
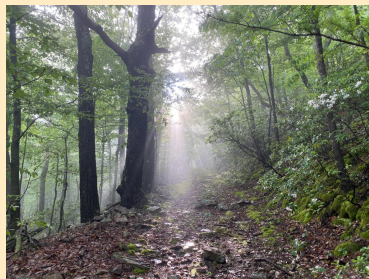
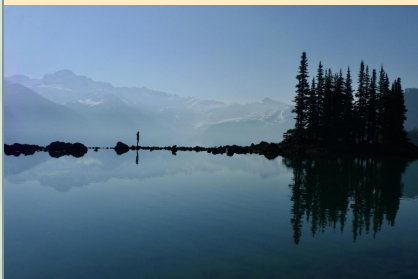
This hike is off trail with no blazes or signs. Red is the off trail route. Yellow is an alternate route to see more of Becker Brook's cascades and falls, although there are landslides and flood damage. Parking 2 is on the gamelands. Enjoy this beautiful place anytime of the year..

-Jeff Mitchell

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 Slackpacks - May 7-10 or 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

March 11th, 12:00PM

Contact the KTA office for call in information

Community Events

Effective Communication of Leave No Trace

Zoom Webinar - Thursday, March 4 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m

This Leave No Trace (LNT) training is specifically geared toward A.T. volunteers and is a great opportunity to discuss best practices for effectively communicating LNT principles to the public. As a steward of the Appalachian Trail, effectively communicating the seven Leave No Trace (LNT) principles to

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

Alpine Club of Williamsport



The Alpine Club of Williamsport, PA, organized in 1953, maintains the 59.21 mile Loyalsock Trail (LT) and has trail care hikes and other outings. Hike offerings will appear on the Activity Schedule page of this web site. Alpine Club membership is open to anyone over the age of 18.

The Alpine Club invites you to hike the Loyalsock Trail in hopes that you will enjoy, explore, and protect the wild lands and places of natural beauty!

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.