



May 2017

# THE KEYSTONE HIKER

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths since 1956

Contact us: 46 E Main St, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 / 717-766-9690 / bfurnace@kta-hike.org

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## MEMBER CORNER

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### Updating Email

As Verizon ends their email service, many of us, including KTA, will be forced to change our email accounts. KTA will send out an email in mid-May with our updated email address. We appreciate your patience during this transition.

If you need to add or update your email address in our systems, please go to [www.kta-hike.org/contact.html](http://www.kta-hike.org/contact.html) or give us a call at 717-766-9690.

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### Thank You To All Who Attended KTA's Spring 2017 Hiking Weekend

To access the meeting minutes and reports, please go to [www.kta-hike.org/news/kta-spring-2017-board-and-council-meeting-482017](http://www.kta-hike.org/news/kta-spring-2017-board-and-council-meeting-482017)

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### KTA Spring Weekend Features Wintry Weather

by Jody Phillips

For the second year in a row, wintry weather arrived in the Laurel Highlands of western Pennsylvania just in time for KTA's Spring Hiking Weekend. Unlike the sudden snowstorm that hit the hills above Wellsboro the second weekend of April last year—dropping 4 to 5 inches of soft snow on the hiking trails—this year's storm was predicted a week in advance. It also featured the dreaded “wintry mix” so prevalent in spring storms.

But we were prepared. We brought gaiters, waterproof boots, mittens, wool caps, and sweaters, along with a spirit of adventure. On Friday, most trails were wet, and light sleet was steadily making them wetter—turning them into rivulets and big puddles. It was a rather mild 38 degrees, however, and the skies began clearing by midafternoon. Our fairly flat 4-mile hike was to the Wolf Rocks Overlook in Forbes State Forest, and although fog and light mist obscured the view of the Linn Run Valley and Chestnut Ridge, it was still a nice vista and good hike.



That evening, after a large potluck dinner—20 or more hot and cold dishes—prepared by other hikers, we enjoyed an interesting talk on “frog months” given by a member of the Audubon Society. The sunset that evening was beautiful, promising a sunny day for Saturday's hiking.

Saturday dawned crisp, clear, and cold with bright blue skies and a light breeze. We were hoping the dirt road up to the parking lot at the start of our hike would be dry, and it was—but it was dry ice! After a delay from a truck stuck on the road (causing one of our cars to also get stuck), we managed to reach the starting point of our trek, and off we went.

Morning temperatures in the low 30s kept the trails from turning into creeks. The scenery was spectacular as we followed the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail up to the Seven Springs Mountain Resort ski area, across the north face of the summit. There, we encountered some pretty hefty drifts. Then we went up and down through the woods back to our cars. We expended a lot of energy trudging through the 3 to 4 inches of snow on the narrow trail, so we appreciated the hearty lunches we'd brought along.

The hike ended up being almost a mile longer than we originally planned because of the change in the parking lot location. As a result, we were tired, hungry, and a little sore when we returned to camp. Hot showers and dinner were welcome that evening, and we all slept soundly that night. After dinner, we were especially interested in the program presented on the future of state parks and a survey coming out about methods of funding them.

We arose Sunday morning ready for another day of hiking. However, our 5-person carpooling group decided unanimously that we didn't really want to trudge through more snow. After a hearty breakfast, we packed up and headed east for our 200-mile trip back to the Reading area.

About an hour's drive from camp, we stopped at Shawnee State Park and strolled for a few miles around a lovely lake, wearing sweatshirts, lightweight slacks, and sneakers and not using hiking poles. We ate our KTA trail lunches at a dry picnic table and looked at some of the pictures we had taken, remembering all the fun we had had the past 2 days and looking forward to sharing them with our other Berks Community Hiking Club friends.

To view Jody's photo journal, please go to:

[www.kta-hike.org/spring-2017-hiking-and-meeting-weekend-photo-journal](http://www.kta-hike.org/spring-2017-hiking-and-meeting-weekend-photo-journal)

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## Share Your Hiking Story!

If you would like to share your stories from Spring Hiking Weekend 2017 or any other interesting hikes you've taken in Pennsylvania, please email the to Brynn Furnace at [bfurnace@kta-hike.org](mailto:bfurnace@kta-hike.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month!

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## Backpacking 101: Workshop

### Part 1

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Start Time: 10 AM

Little Buffalo State Park - Recreation Hall

Maybe you've gone hiking on a trail in PA and you've encountered backpackers, folks with larger packs for overnight camping who seem to be having a great time. Maybe you've also thought you might like to try backpacking, but you don't know where to start. KTA is offering just what you're looking for, "Backpacking 101".



"Backpacking 101" is a two part course designed to teach you all the basic skills you need for backpacking in Penn's Woods. Part 1 is a one day class that will cover all of the important issues and skills. We'll cover how to choose your backpack, tent, stove, clothing and other equipment, how to plan a backpacking trip, how to set up camp, the very important "Leave No Trace" skills, choosing and cooking food, staying safe in the woods,

etc. Part 2 is an optional, fairly easy, two day, overnight backpacking trip led by experienced leaders.

This course will be led by three experienced backpackers and trip leaders, Dave Gantz, Paul Shaw, and Jim Foster, who are volunteering their time. Dave is a KTA Director, backpacking guidebook author, and outdoor retailer professional - [www.walkwithgantz.com](http://www.walkwithgantz.com). Paul is President of KTA, a lifelong backpacker and owner of Treks & Trails International, a company that leads hiking and backpacking trips all over the world - [www.treksandtrailsinternational.com](http://www.treksandtrailsinternational.com). Jim is Board Secretary of KTA, an Appalachian Trail thru-hiker, and has led several backpacking trips. An additional instructor, a woman with extensive backpacking experience, will share her knowledge from a woman's perspective.

All proceeds will benefit KTA. Part 1 will cost \$50 per person, and will be limited to 40 participants. Thanks to our friends at DCNR, Part 1 will be held on Saturday, May 20 at beautiful Little Buffalo State Park, located near Newport, north of Harrisburg. Part 2 will cost an additional \$50, and will be organized by the leaders at the end of Part 1.

Visit our Events Page for the registration form, and mail with payment to KTA. Direct questions to [info@kta-hike.org](mailto:info@kta-hike.org). We must have your signed application and fee before we can hold a place for you. Should you have questions or need more information, contact Paul Shaw at [President@kta-hike.org](mailto:President@kta-hike.org).

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## Registration Now Open for 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Prowl the Sproul: July 28-30



Join us in the beautiful Sproul State Forest of western Clinton County. Slackpack price reduced! Check out the Events Page for the registration form, and mail payment to KTA or register online. Direct questions to [info@kta-hike.org](mailto:info@kta-hike.org).

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## Registration Open for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual KTA Trail Challenge: September 9, 2017



Go to the Event Page for the registration form and mail payment to KTA or register online through Pretzel City Sports. Act soon to receive a discounted price until July 1. Direct questions to [info@kta-hike.org](mailto:info@kta-hike.org).

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## Registration Open for 2017 Quehanna Elk Quest: September 29 – October 1



Explore the Moshannon and Elk State Forests, hike with KTA staff and Board members, view the elk herd in the Benezette area, and complete your weekend adventure at *Gunners* - a quaint motel/restaurant in historic St Marys, PA. Go to the Event Page for the registration form and mail payment to KTA or register online. Direct questions to [info@kta-hike.org](mailto:info@kta-hike.org).

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### 2017 Fall Hiking and Meeting Weekend: October 13-15

Save the Date! This year the fall meeting location is Wesley Forest Camp and Retreat in Weikert, Union County. More information will be available soon.

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### Perks of Membership



Keystone Trails Association Members Now Enjoy a 10% Discount when they shop at Appalachian Outdoors in State College

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## YOUR HIKING ADVOCATE

### KTA Lobby Day!

by Joe Neville, KTA Executive Director

Please join KTA staff and board members as we descend upon the Pennsylvania capitol and lobby our legislators to oppose lifting the ban on Sunday hunting.

KTA plans on having a large presence at the capitol on June 6 to convince our elected officials that most Pennsylvanians do not support the recent efforts of the National Rifle Association and Pennsylvania Game Commission to lift the ban on Sunday hunting and take away our 1 day of the week when we can hike in safety and quiet.

Staff will guide you with a planning meeting describing how to meet with legislators. We'll also guide you around the capitol, provide handouts and talking points, and schedule all appointments.

**When:** Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at 8:30 AM.

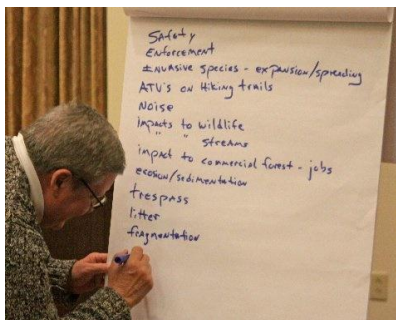
**Where:** Pennsylvania state capitol (meet in the cafeteria).

**Sign-Up and Additional Information:** E-mail your interest to [jneville@kta-hike.org](mailto:jneville@kta-hike.org) or call 717-766-9690.

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## Proposed ATV Connector

by Joe Neville, KTA Executive Director



The State Bureau of Forestry within DCNR scheduled a number of stakeholder meetings to review a study underway in the Sproul State Forest to address the feasibility of closing a trail gap and to determine the best way to connect the Bloody Skillet and Whiskey Springs ATV trail systems, near Renovo, Clinton County. KTA Board of Directors members Bob Merrill and Dave Gantz, Executive Director Joe Neville, and numerous KTA members such as Dick Martin, Butch Davey, John Wasserman, Jeff Schmidt, and others attended the meetings to voice their concerns.

Pictured is Joe Neville recording the public comments. Photo taken by Dick Martin.

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## KTA Supports SB 192

by Joe Neville, KTA Executive Director

Recently, the KTA Board of Directors voted to support SB 192, a piece of legislation that, if passed, would give authority to the Pennsylvania Game Commission to increase hunting license fees. Fees have not been raised since 1999 and the PGC is currently facing a severe financial crisis. Many of our hiking trails are situated on or cross state game lands.

This letter of support was distributed to legislators:

“April 24, 2017

Dear House Game & Fisheries Member,

The Keystone Trails Association (KTA) represents and advocates for the interests and concerns of the Pennsylvania hiking community. We currently represent over 44 clubs and organizations as well as thousands of individual Pennsylvanians who hike and enjoy the Commonwealth’s outdoor resources.

We are the voice of hundreds of thousands of people who use our state and local lands regularly. Our club members participate in thousands of hikes per year, and volunteer over 15,000 hours maintaining 3,000 miles of hiking trails, including the Appalachian Trail. Many of the trails we use and maintain are on state game lands.

Wildlife protection, healthy habitats and conservation are supported by hunters and non-hunters alike. The PGC's mission of managing 480 species of wild birds and wild mammals, and their habitats for current and future generations is one that the hiking community embraces and considers very important.

The PGC needs funding. We believe most people agree with that premise since a fiscally viable wildlife agency is in all Pennsylvanians best interests. KTA supports SB 192 P.N. 224. KTA would request that you keep SB 192 free of amendments and vote "yes" on this important piece of legislation.

Regards,

Joseph J. Neville Executive Director"

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## VOLUNTEER / MAINTAINER'S CORNER

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### It's Here! The 2017 Trail Care and Crew Schedule!

Before you go, please read our Trail Care and Crew page on [kta-hike.org](http://kta-hike.org) for helpful information and applications.

#### **May 6: Code Orange**

Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center

Leader: Lisa Miller, Center Manager

[lisamill@pa.gov](mailto:lisamill@pa.gov)

610-796-3699

Meet: 9:00 a.m.

Camp: Fri./Sat. at French Creek S.P.

#### **May 19 - 21: Trail Care**

West Rim Trail

Leader: Ed Lawrence

[cathyed@frontier.com](mailto:cathyed@frontier.com)

570-925-5285

Camp: Colton Point S.P., Group tenting area #1

#### **May 30 - June 4: Trail Crew Week #1**

North Country Trail in Butler County

Leader: Dave Adams

[davenjean@zoominternet.net](mailto:davenjean@zoominternet.net)

724-453-1685

Camp: stay in Davis Hollow Cabin, or camp outside, cabin located in Moraine S.P.

#### **June 6 - June 11: Trail Crew Week #2**

Thunder Swamp Trail System

Leader: Ed Lawrence

[cathyed@frontier.com](mailto:cathyed@frontier.com)

570-925-5285

Camp: Resica Falls Boy Scout Camp

#### **June 13 - 18: Trail Crew Week #3**

Chuck Keiper / Donut Hole Trails

Leader: Tony Robbins

[tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com](mailto:tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com)

570-437-0065

Camp: Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association

#### **June 20 -25: Trail Crew Week #4**

Mid State Trail, Everett Region

Leader: Deb Dunkle

[dhdunkle@gmail.com](mailto:dhdunkle@gmail.com)

814-652-2227

Camp: Tenley Park, Everett

#### **July 22: Code Orange**

Little Buffalo State Park

Leader: Jim foster

[jimhfoster@yahoo.com](mailto:jimhfoster@yahoo.com)

717-649-5505

Meet at the park office at 9:00 AM

**June 27 - July 2: Trail Crew Week #5**

The Baker Trail

Leader: Dewaine Beard

dewaineb@gmail.com

412-719-9904

Camp: Creek Bend Campgrounds

**July 7 - 9: Trail Care**

Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

Leader: Pete Fleszar

tioga@hike-mst.org

717-583-2093

Camp: Hills Creek State Park, Organized group  
tenting area

**August 4 - 6: Trail Care**

The Pinchot Trail

Leader: Jeff Mitchell

jmitchmitch@hotmail.com

570-441-2952

Camp: Manny Gordon Picnic Area, Pinchot State  
Forest

**September 15 - 17: Trail Care**

Tuscarora Trail

Leader: Ben Auer

auer.ben@gmail.com

608-772-1715

Camp: PATC cabin at Little Cove

**September 29 - October 1: Trail Care**

Reeds Gap Spur

Leader: Jenn Ulmer / Donna Thompson

hawk2373@yahoo.com

570-854-8316

Camp: Reeds Gap S.P. sites 8 -14

**October 7: Code Orange**

Gifford Pinchot State Park

W/ Friends of Pinchot S.P.

Leader: Steve Stroman

stevestroman@hotmail.com

717-350-0437

Meet: 8:30 at Quaker Race day use area off Pa. 177

Camping available Fri. & Sat.

Friends Group will host Sat. evening cookout for  
volunteers

**November 3 - 5: Trail Care**

Bucktail Path

Leader: Rick Hiemenz

mustardgarlic@hotmail.com

814-706-8218

Camp: Brooks Run Fire Tower Cabin

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**Thanks to Trail Care 101 Participants!**

by Brynn Furnace, KTA Program Administrator



KTA's first Trail Care 101 Workshop was held April 22, 2017 at Whipple Dam State Park. Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair, taught the group the basics of trail care, emphasizing that safety always comes first. He discussed the importance of getting permission from land managers, wearing the proper clothing, and using safety equipment, especially when operating power tools. Ed explained key terms and tools while describing how to maintain established trails, water crossings, as well as creating re-routes and new trails.

After lunch, participants hiked around Whipple Dam State Park on a trail that KTA Trail Care had recently maintained. Ed pointed out the work that volunteers had done to make this trail more sustainable. Participants were able to ask questions and experience first-hand the impact that volunteer trail maintainers can have.

A huge thank you to Ed for leading this event and his dedication to trail work. Congratulations to all of the new trail maintainers!

## **First Code Orange to Support Environmental Education at Nolde Forest**

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair

A 1-day Code Orange Trail Care Event will take place at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, Berks County, on Saturday, May 6. Established in the 1970s, Nolde Forest was the first environmental education center operated by the Bureau of State Parks. Hundreds of school and youth groups visit the center each year to experience and learn from its environmental programs. Nolde Forest has a 10-mile network of walking trails that lead visitors to streams, ponds, and other diverse habitats.

Trail Care volunteers will meet at 9:00 AM at the center's office in the Nolde Forest Mansion. There, Manager Lisa Miller will organize work crews. The work will address drainage issues on the Beech and Kohout Trails and building steps on the Watershed Trail. The steps will make it safer for school groups to negotiate 2 short, steep trail sections.

Volunteers are key to having a successful Trail Care Event that will make the center's trail system more hiker-friendly and sustainable. Nolde Forest is located south of Reading along Route 625—2 miles south of Route 724 and 3 miles north of Route 568. Start your spring off with a Trail Care workday that will have a positive impact year-round.

In addition, on May 19-21, volunteers can work on the West Rim Trail running along Pine Creek Gorge (also called the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania) in Tioga County. This Trail Care Weekend will be based out of Colton Point State Park. This will be our third year of work to improve one of the state's great hiking trails.

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## **Bridge Over Cherry Run To Be Built**

by Ed Lawrence, KTA Trail Care Chair

About 3.7 miles north of the Poe Paddy Tunnel, the Mid State Trail crosses Cherry Run. Last year the bridge collapsed when one of the aging telephone pole stringers gave out. In cooperation with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) foresters of Bald Eagle State Forest, the Mid State Trail Association (MSTA) is pleased to announce that a new bridge is in the works. Already the DCNR has removed the old bridge, which was the longest of its type on the entire MST. A work crew of MST volunteers then helped prepare the site for setting the new telephone pole stringers. In late spring or early summer, DCNR staff will position the new poles across the stream. A volunteer crew will then be needed to build out the bridge. If you'd like to be a part of this crew, your help would be much appreciated. The exact timing of the work will depend on a variety of factors, but you can get your name on the crew list now by going to the contact link on the MSTA website. You can take part in building this bridge to the future.

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## **Trail Crew Worker**

John Steinhike submitted this picture of an old KTA crew worker resting after many HARD years. Trail Crew takes a LOT out of you, but it's FUN!





## We Want You!

### Volunteers are needed for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Trail Challenge September 9, 2017

Please see the Event Page for the registration form to mail to KTA or sign up online. Volunteers receive the satisfaction of a job well-done, t-shirt, and picnic by Legends Catering.

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## KTA Seeks Intern

### *Spring and Summer Internship Positions:*

Gain valuable experience with a statewide hiking, trails, advocacy, conservation and outdoor recreation organization.

Description: Assist with and attend hiking programs, facilitate communications, social media, marketing, planning, organizing events, and member relations. Flexible hours and a very casual, relaxed work environment.

Send inquiries to:

Joe Neville, KTA Executive Director

[jneville@kta-hike.org](mailto:jneville@kta-hike.org)

(717)766-9690

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## HIKER'S CORNER

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### Storm Damage To Old Loggers Path & Access Roads

by Dick Martin, PA Forest Coalition Coordinator



Access to the Old Loggers Path (OLP) in Loyalsock State Forest, Lycoming County, is difficult because of many road closures from last year's flooding. The flooding was caused by more than 8 inches of rain in about a 6-hour period that washed out some roads and bridges.

The present problem is not water but erosion. Some roadbeds were severed by 5- to 15-foot-deep channels. Some will not be rebuilt.

Pleasant Stream Road, Mill Creek Road, and Big Hollow Road are closed. Masten Road is closed from the quarry down to Masten as of this writing.

See the road-closures map at

[http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_20032191.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20032191.pdf)

If you belong to a trail club, consider scheduling a work trip to repair the damage to the OLP. The Bureau of Forestry has relocated the most difficult section at mile 16.84, where the OLP crosses Pleasant Stream. Please coordinate with the Bureau of Forestry to find other critical areas. This trail needs your help.

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## Crossing A Stream

by the American Hiking Society

In Spring, many creeks and streams run faster and deeper due to snow melt at higher elevations and seasonal rains. To read their article, go to <https://americanhiking.org/resources/crossing-a-stream/>

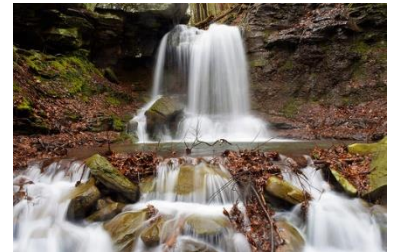
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## Jeff's Jaunts: Koerber and Cali Falls – SGL 57

by Jeff Mitchell

I hiked to these two waterfalls a few weeks ago in SGL 57. Both are very beautiful, and few know they exist. Scouten Brook is also a scenic stream with many cascades, pools, and boulders.

<https://endlessmountains.wordpress.com/2017/04/11/hike-to-koerber-and-cali-falls-sgl-57>



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## Walk with Gantz: Old Loggers Path

by Dave Gantz, KTA Board of Directors

*Dave recently dedicated himself to writing a monthly column about backpacking trails he's hiked in Pennsylvania.*

The OLP is a very popular beginner to moderate 27.8-mile backpacking loop in Loyalsock State Forest, north of Williamsport, PA. As its name indicates, most of this trail is routed along old logging grades which allows for fast walking. Unfortunately this area was severely affected by a flooding event in the fall of 2016, so now some sections of the OLP are more difficult than before.

The first lesson of the OLP: Closed Roads! Trailhead parking is now only available by driving through Ralston and entering the forest on Rock Run Road. A small pull-off will fit a few cars where the OLP crosses Yellow Dog Run Road. A larger parking area can be found where the OLP crosses Ellenton Ridge Road. The roads that lead into Masten (Masten Road, Pleasant Stream Road, and Hillsgrove Road) are all washed out; making Masten inaccessible by car.

Of course the roads were not the only victims of this flood, which leads to lesson two: Washed out trails and bridges! Several sections of the OLP have been altered and are now a bit tricky to follow. Most of the trail is still in good shape, but several stream crossings are now 'wet' stream crosses (no more bridges). Some of these crossings, including Pleasant Stream (pictured above), can be extremely dangerous during times of high water. Please contact the Loyalsock State Forest to check on conditions before embarking on a trip to the OLP.

Lesson three: The OLP is still a fantastic trail with awesome camping spots! Yellow Dog Run and Rock Run are beautiful as always. Sprout Vista, Sharp Top Vista, and Sullivan Mountain Vistas are still great too!

Lesson four: Safety on the OLP. Please be aware that this trail and forest are now more remote and less accessible for emergency responders since so many roads are washed away. Please practice safe hiking while visiting the OLP; especially around animals (rattlesnakes), water crossings, and fires. When you return home, be sure to check yourself, your loved ones, and your pets, for ticks.

Of course it would be really nice if the OLP would be brought back to its former glory. This leads to lesson five: Sign the trail registers and become a volunteer!

Keystone Trails Association volunteers and DCNR workers maintain this trail, but of course more volunteers are always welcome: [KTA Trail Crew](#)

DCNR officials can track the number of users from the trail registers as well. These numbers act as motivation for state funding, so go ahead and sign in at every register.

Photo credit: Emily Newman



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## Mid State Adventure

by Gerry Rowan

Three of us in our fly-fishing group gathered one Saturday night in late March to plan a trip for the first week of trout season. Where to go? Where to fish? How long to stay?

That night, we gathered at Shack's house to work out some common ground for the trip. We agreed on the location—north-central Pennsylvania, in keeping with our group's first-week-of-trout-season tradition.

But we had some different preferences. Ross and I were all for doing some hike-in fishing; Shack was in favor of establishing a base and day-fishing the streams in our camping area. Shack also planned to take his oldest son along.

How to work out the dates? Shack called his son so he would be in on the choice of dates. But his son had other plans. Then Carolyn, Shack's wife, interjected that she wanted to join the trip. Carolyn had grown up in a family that loved the outdoors; she was an occasional fisherwoman but as good at fly-fishing as any of us. How to accommodate her? Normally Ross and I share my trailer; the other guys sleep in my dome tent on an adjoining campsite. (Our rule: the oldest guys get the trailer.)

For this trip, Ross and I planned to hike the Mid State Trail (MST) from R.B. Winter State Park, in Union County, down to Poe Valley State Park, in Centre County. Then Shack would pick us up and ferry us back to R.B. Winter. Poe Valley was our destination because of the bathhouse and hot showers. Its location is a bit awkward—just below the dam at the lake—but after 4 days on the trail, a good, long, hot shower gave it an advantage over Poe Paddy.

We carefully laid out our activities to fit into the week we'd set aside for the trip. Day 1, traveling and setup; day 7, packing up and going home; the remaining 5 days, hiking and fishing. We estimated about 43 miles on the MST. We could do about 10 miles a day, with a remaining day at Poe Valley. We'd leave the morning of the second day, arrive at Poe Valley the afternoon of the fifth day, and hike back on the sixth day through the old railroad tunnel to Penns Creek, where we'd fish for the day. Later that afternoon, Shack would pick us up at

our campsite in Poe Valley. We'd return to R.B. Winter for a hot shower, a hearty meal, and a night's sleep; then we'd pack up for home.

To read the full article, go to <http://www.kta-hike.org/news/mid-state-adventure>

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## April 1, 1973

by John Eastlake, KTA member since 1972



On this day, "several" years ago we floated Pine Creek. Burt Webber and Joanie Eastlake were in the back of the raft.

Bob Webber and I were in the front. This was one of those days that you can't forget - a blue letter day. It was just a fun day. Joanie did fall out of the raft. Pine Creek was low that day and occasionally we would end up on top of a big rock and we would paddle hard and rotate off the rock. One time we rotated and we saw Joanie in the creek. She had just had her hair done and amazingly her hair didn't get wet.

It was always a good time with Bob.

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## Spring Gobbler Season Alert!

Wear blaze orange!

April 22: Junior Hunters' Day

April 29-May 13: ½ hour before sunrise until noon

May 15-31: ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset

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## CLUB CONNECTION

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### Building the 2017 Club Calendar

Would you like KTA to promote your club/organization's major events with The Keystone Hiker, on Facebook, and on our website? It's a perk of membership. Please submit a list (ideally with date, time, location, link to web page) of only those events that the public should see, to [info@kta-hike.org](mailto:info@kta-hike.org).

Thank you and happy trails!

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## **Calling All Clubs!** **PA Hiking Week: May 25- June 2**

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KTA and DCNR are teaming up to offer a variety of hikes across the state. We need our clubs to lead hikes. Let's show hikers the trails we love that get little use. This is your chance to show off! If a hike is not registered, it won't be counted. **Let's make every hike count!** If you need additional assistance registering, please email Brynn at [bfurnace@kta-hike.org](mailto:bfurnace@kta-hike.org).

Clubs – to register your hike(s) for PA Hiking Week, just follow these simple instructions to enter your hikes into the DCNR Calendar:

How to submit an Explore PA Trails event in the DCNR Calendar of Events

Go to <http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/>

If you're already a DCNR Calendar of Events user, log in.

If you're not yet a DCNR Calendar of Events user, sign up.

How to submit an Explore PA Trails event in the DCNR Calendar of Events

Click the “Me” link at the top of the page and click Submit an Event.

Enter your Event. Include Meeting Place, Difficulty, Length of Hike, and your contact information in the Description.

**IMPORTANT!** Make sure you select ExplorePATrails as the Category. If you don't, your event will not be displayed at <http://www.explorepatrails.com/calendar.aspx>

If you are entering a Hiking Week and/or National Trails Day event, those categories can be selected under the “Seasonal Event” heading.

Click Add Event.

If your event is not visible on <http://www.explorepatrails.com/calendar.aspx> within five business days, log in again at <http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/> and click the “Me” link at the top of the page.

Open your event and make sure that: 1. Your event has been approved 2. “ExplorePATrails” is listed under Categories

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### **Butler Outdoor Clubs Presents:**

Outdoor Extravaganza 2017: May 26-29. Activities and events galore! For more information, go to <http://www.outdoorextravaganza.org/>

The Bantam Jeep Muddy 5K: Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Run the race or just attend the festival! For more information, go to <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com/>

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### **NCTA Allegheny 100**

The Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country Trail Association announces the 8th Annual Allegheny 100 Hiking Challenge!

On June 9th - 11th, 2017, come join us for this adventure through the beautiful scenery of the Allegheny National Forest.

The A-100 is an endurance challenge met through unsupported hiking. It is not a race, but an individual

challenge of stamina, determination and resilience. Being an unsupported hike, there are no first aid or water stations. Hikers are responsible for supplying their own food, drinks and equipment. Participants must recognize that cell phone reception is very spotty along the length of the trail.

The adventure covers a 100-mile stretch of the North Country National Scenic Trail in the Allegheny National Forest. Hikers will climb over rolling hills and pass through many beautiful stream valleys. The A-100 challenges hikers to traverse 100 miles, 75 miles, 50 miles or 25 miles in a fifty hour time period. This challenge is for anyone, regardless of skill level, who wants to test him or herself against the trail. Everyone needs to “hike their own hike”, moving at their own pace and resting when necessary.

For the 2017 challenge, hikers will travel north to south, from the Rt 346 trailhead, near Willow Bay to the Rt 66 trailhead, between Marienville and Vowinckel. A shuttle is offered to transport hikers from their finish point (where they've parked) to the joint starting point at the Rt 346 trailhead.

Those who pre-register will receive a membership in the North Country Trail Association, shuttle service to the start of the hike and a T-shirt. **Pre-registration begins on Monday, March 6 and continues to May 12, or when 150 hikers have signed up. Cost is \$55 for non-members and \$32 for members.**

In 2016, a record number of 100 milers, 25, completed their challenge. Perfect weather was a big factor. Four hikers completed 75 miles. Fifty-two hikers reached 50 miles, and another 19 completed at least 25 miles. Many met their personal challenge and many more vowed to be back next year to attempt to achieve their goals after learning so much out on the trail. Everyone enjoyed the beauty of the Allegheny National Forest, the friendships formed on the trail and the hospitality of the area.

For more information or to register, visit the NCTA website at <https://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/allegheny-100-hiking-challenge/> , the ANF Chapter Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ANFChapterNCT/](http://www.facebook.com/ANFChapterNCT/) or email [anf@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:anf@northcountrytrail.org).

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## 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

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*To learn more about each event, visit our home page to explore event listings, or the Trail Care and Crew page for the full schedule and more information. Thank you!*

- May 6: Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, Code Orange
- May 19-22: KTA's Black Forest Trail Thruhike Slackpack (SOLD OUT)**
- May 19 - 21: West Rim Trail Care
- May 25 - June 2: PA Hiking Week - cosponsored with DCNR**
- May 26 - 29: Butler Outdoor Club's Outdoor Extravaganza**
- May 30 - June 4: North Country Trail in Butler County, Trail Crew Week #1
- June 6 - June 11: Thunder Swamp Trail System, Trail Crew Week #2
- June 9-11: ANF Chapter of NCTA's Allegheny 100 Hiking Challenge (A-100)**
- June 11: NCTA Butler Chapter's Muddy 5k Race - during the Bantam Jeep Festival**
- June 13 - 18: Chuck Keiper / Donut Hole Trails, Trail Crew Week #3
- June 20 -25: Mid State Trail, Everett Region, Trail Crew Week # 4
- July 22: Little Buffalo State Park Code Orange
- June 27 - July 2: The Baker Trail, Trail Crew Week #5

July 7 - 9: Mid State Trail, Tioga Region Trail Care  
**July 28-30: KTA's 14th Annual Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend**  
August 4 - 6: The Pinchot Trail Care  
**September 9: KTA Trail Challenge 25k and 50k**  
September 15 - 17: Tuscarora Trail Care  
September 29 - October 1: Reeds Gap Spur Trail Care  
**September 29 - October 1: Quehanna Elk Quest**  
October 7: Gifford Pinchot State Park Code Orange  
November 3 - 5: Bucktail Path Trail Care

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## Shop the KTA Bookstore

Check out KTA's latest addition: The KTA Embroidered Hat. Now available online or in the office.

KTA publishes and sells maps, guidebooks, and patches related to hiking trails in Pennsylvania. Members receive at least a 10% discount! Click the link to check out our online bookstore.

<http://www.kta-hike.org/ktas-bookstore.html>



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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, Brynn Furnace, at [bfurnace@kta-hike.org](mailto:bfurnace@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.