



## The Keystone Hiker - May 2021

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### Member's Corner

### Show Off Your Love for Trails with New KTA Gear

Now in the [KTA Store](#): more ways to show your support for our trails.

New KTA Outdoor/Car Magnets are now available, joining the patch and sticker that sport the Keystone Trails Association logo. All three are available as a set.

KTA caps are back as well, available in classic tan and now bright orange to stay safe and visible in the woods.

And don't forget to select the Member Price on all items for your KTA membership discount.



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## Mountain Souls

### Documenting the Webber's Legacy

Mountain Souls tells the story of Robert and Dotty Webber, a unique couple who lived for over 50 years in a rustic log cabin without electricity or running water. Their simple and sacred lifestyle has inspired generations of family, friends, and colleagues. Despite their remote location in Slate Run, hundreds of visitors made their way to the Webber's cabin, drawn to the couples' enthusiasm and love for



the outdoors. Robert and Dotty believed that it's "the journey," not the destination that matters most in life.

Your KTA membership is a testament to your love of the outdoors and the trails that Pennsylvania provides for your enjoyment. Robert Webber, whose life is documented in the film, is one of the creators of "The Black Forest Trail," a premier trail in the state of Pennsylvania. Robert, or "Bob" as he was known to many, created other trails as well and single-handedly maintained a total of 126 miles of footpaths.

Mountain Souls offers more than just a glimpse into the lives of this amazing couple who lived "off the grid." The documentary provides insight into life in the Pine Creek Valley many decades ago - simple, purposeful, and in communion with the forest.

As the producer, I admit that I am not a professional historian, filmmaker, or university professor. I am, however, a lifelong friend of the Webbers. My sole motivation for creating this film was to keep the Webber's spirits alive and to promote their legacy to current and future visitors of the Tiadaghton and nearby forests.

One hundred percent of the proceeds will be used to fund a Forestry scholarship in Bob Webber's name and will also assist with the ongoing maintenance of the trails and vistas in the Tiadaghton and nearby forests. The documentary and prints of original artwork (commissioned by Jeff Swingholm and drawn by artist Michael Pilato) can be ordered, from the website [mountainsoulsmovie.com](http://mountainsoulsmovie.com). Mountain Souls LLC is a pending 501(c)3. Again, please check out my website: [www.mountainsoulsmovie.com](http://www.mountainsoulsmovie.com)

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## Receive a Free Map When You Pledge to Keep Trails Alive

KTA is pleased to announce a new donor appreciation program.

When you sign up or increase your [Keep Trails Alive monthly donation](#) amount by at least \$10, you will receive one complimentary copy of your choice of [Purple Lizard Maps](#) available for purchase in the KTA Book Store. Visit [kta-hike.org/keep-trails-alive](http://kta-hike.org/keep-trails-alive) to sign up for recurring online payments, or contact the KTA office for information on direct ACH transfers.

We at KTA are very grateful for your contributions to our trails, As thanks, we hope these maps will help you explore the footpaths that your donations help to provide, protect, preserve, and promote.

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## Volunteer's Corner

### Trail Challenge Volunteers Needed

Join us on September 11, 2021 to help put on this trail running event. It takes over 120 volunteers to pull off the KTA Trail Challenge. Please sign up for the hours during the day that best fits your schedule. We need volunteers from 5:00 AM to 7:30 PM. We will try to accommodate your shift preferences as best we can. You will receive an email confirmation after signing up. If you do not receive an email, please contact us. Volunteers receive an official KTA Trail Challenge Volunteer t-shirt, access to the delicious Finish Line Picnic, and the awesome feeling that comes with doing good. Thank you so much for supporting the Keystone Trails Association!

[Sign up here!](#)

Volunteers are also needed prior to the event to prepare finisher medallions. If interested, please contact the KTA office.

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## 2021 Trail Care

### **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  
570-477-2210

Camp: **pending**

### **July 15-18: Trail Care Mid State Trail, Tioga Region**

Tioga State Forest  
Leaders: Kevin Busko / Kristin Joivell

### **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

### **Sept. 16-19: Trail Care Donut Hole Trail**

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

Camp: Sites 1,2 & 3  
Hyner Run State Park

### **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

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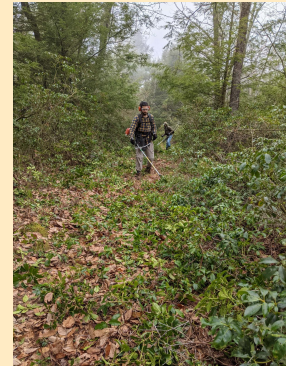
## Trail Care Report: Reeds Gap Spur Trail



The first Trail Care of the 2021 season was based out of the tenting only campground at Reeds Gap State Park. The sweet sound of the riffing Honey Creek was the background music to the time participants spent in the park around the campfire at night before being lulled off to sleep.

At just over 22km, the Reeds Gap Spur is the longest of the side trails in the Mid State Trail system, connecting Reeds Gap State Park to the MST at Poe Paddy State Park. Going north, generally against the grain of the ridge and valley topography, it is a rugged and challenging hike, but now would be an excellent time to get it off your bucket list.

Fifteen volunteers, led by Trail Care veterans Shira Blady and Brian MacNamara put in 200 hours of work, over two days, improving the trail. The work included brushcutting and lopping the High Top section of the trail along the ridge on Thick Mountain and the Long Path section up and over Treaster Mountain to the crest of Strong Mountain. The Long Path section was also reblazed yellow (hiking only) to Longwell Draft Road. A chain saw crew walked through cutting blow downs from Bear Gap Picnic Area to Poe Paddy State Park. A paint crew was also able to reblaze the main hiking trails in the park south of the New Lancaster Valley Road as a “thank you” to the park for letting us occupy 5 of its 14 sites. Sunday was a wash out due to rain, but the work that was accomplished both last fall and this weekend has put the trail in very good shape for an adventurous hiking experience.



Several new people came to the Trail Care, and their contributions both to the work done and to the evening conviviality were much appreciated. We hope to see them again. Also appreciated was the Philadelphia contingent that Shira and Brian brought to the event. Everyone worked hard and their combined efforts improved the Reeds Gap Spur.

Trail Care Participants were:

Shira Blady  
Brian Macnamara  
Jacob Younger  
Paul Younger  
Tony Robbins

Laura Birchler  
Bill Dietrich  
Paige Willam  
Andrew Pricas  
Alex Mauriz

Tosin Oniyide  
Walker Gosrich  
Tom Bastian  
Woody Loudenslager  
Ed Lawrence



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## Next up: Black Forest Trail

Trail Care Weekend: May 20-23

The Black Forest Trail is one of the best hiking and backpacking trails in Pennsylvania. Located in the variegated plateau territory encompassed by Tiadaghton State Forest in the NW corner of Lycoming County, this challenging 42 mile loop offers a steady churn of elevation changes punctuated with panoramic vistas. A web of side and connector trails provide a number of possible smaller loops that make excellent adventures for the intrepid day hiker.

The KTA Trail Care Program has been assisting Tiadaghton Recreational Forester Ben Sands' efforts to improve the trail for the past several years and that partnership continues this May. Join volunteer leaders Jenn Ulmer and Donna Thompson for a weekend of trail work and camp fire camaraderie. The Trail Care will be based out of the Ruth Will Cabin area at Pump Station Fire Tower off Route 44. As usual, a full day of work is planned for Friday and Saturday with a half day on Sunday. Volunteers are welcome to come all or any part of the weekend. Contact the leaders for further details and check out the entire Trail Care schedule for future events. Experienced trail care participants know that the work itself is the reward of volunteering.

-Ed Lawrence

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## AT Vistas 2021

### **A.T. Vista Inauguration 2021 - Hikes in 14 States - Be a Part of the History!**

The planning for the 2021 and 2022 A.T. Vista program has begun.

### **For 2021 – The Virtual Program, A.T. Vista – Celebrating 100 Years:**

As we want to continue to honor the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Benton MacKaye's 1921 article, "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning," the 2021 A.T. Vista program will be conducted as a virtual program with dispersed local hiking opportunities all along the Appalachian Trail (and perhaps even elsewhere!).

We are seeking to promote and have hikes conducted in all 14 States and need your club or organization to identify hikes that you would like to conduct on Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8, 2021. Our goal is to have at least 100 hikes for participants to join during the two-day period. We are also seeking someone from each state to lead the coordination of getting groups to organize hikes in their state.

The 2021 virtual program will be a 2-day event. A general itinerary is below (details are still in process):

1. August, 7 and 8, 8AM to 5PM Local hikes to be conducted along the Appalachian Trail in all states (and other trails in your area) and based on

workshop input will determine how to add recorded sessions for access.  
2. August 8 Evening: Pictures and videos from these hikes to be uploaded from the Social Media sites and made into a recording and shared for viewers to experience the weekend hikes and outdoor experiences.

[Click here for more info and submission details!](#)

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## 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!

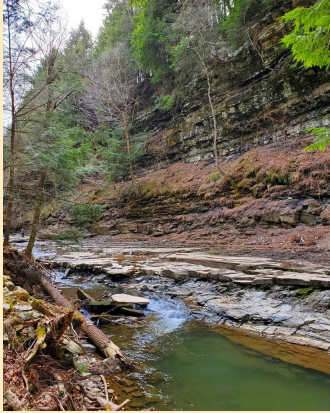
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## Hiker's Corner

### Get to Know your Forest Delaware State Forest



## Jeff's Jaunts - Salt Springs Circuit - Salt Springs State Park

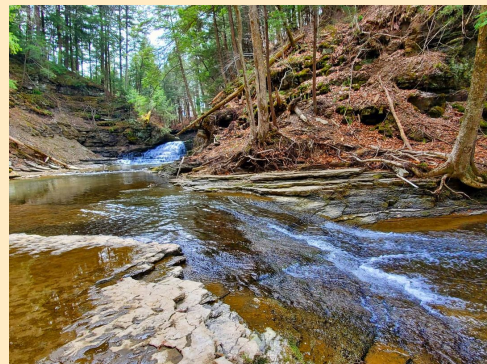


Salt Springs State Park is an excellent place to hike with over fourteen miles of trails from which you can do a variety of loops. The park has diverse scenery with waterfalls, gorge, old growth hemlocks, meadows, streams, and some nice views. The park's namesake is a small bubbling spring close to the main parking area. The park offers cabins, and has a campground. The Friends of Salt Springs Park helps maintain the trails.

This eight mile loop contains some of the best scenery in the park. It follows a lot of different trails, with many turns. It is easy to shorten, or lengthen the loop. It explores some of the less popular areas of the park, and features a lot of streams and hemlock forests. The meadows along this route offer wildflowers, wildlife, and bird watching, not to mention views. There is even a beautiful grove of spruce trees. Begin at the right side of the barn at the parking area and follow the red Silver Creek Trail into beautiful hemlocks above Silver Creek. Climb up the slope to an old woods road and then descend into a hardwood forest. Pass a juncture with the North Creek Trail, which crosses Silver Creek without a bridge and features meadows; it is a nice alternative route.

Reach some hemlocks and the trail splits, go right onto the blue Border Trail. This trail goes to a small seasonal stream and begins a steep climb along it. At the top is a rock overhang and wet weather falls that is beautiful when flowing. Leave the Border Trail and continue on the Meadow Trail, making sure to veer straight or left at the start of the Meadow Trail loop. This is a great trail, featuring stone walls, wildflowers, and explores the edge of the valley. Pass some meadows and odd rock outcrops. Descend along more meadows and reach Buckley Road with a nice view. Follow Buckley Road to the right. This road is gated and is basically an old forest road. Turn left onto the blue Border Trail. Hike on some boardwalks across some wet areas.

Reach the white Spruce Trail and turn left; keep an eye out for this turn. Enter a beautiful grove of spruce trees, a highlight of the hike. Hike down to a small stream and walk along it and then cross a dirt road. Pass some ruins and reach the Wetlands Trail and turn left; turning right and crossing the creek would be a shortcut, but hiking along Fall Brook is scenic.



Hike down along Fall Brook, enjoying views over the water and cross a series of meadows. Reach Buckley Road, turn right and cross the bridge, and then turn right on the red Fall Brook Trail. The Bunny Trail soon joins, but follow the Fall Brook Trail, which features more views of the creek and lots of hemlocks. Climb from the creek and follow Bunny to Cliff Trails with rock

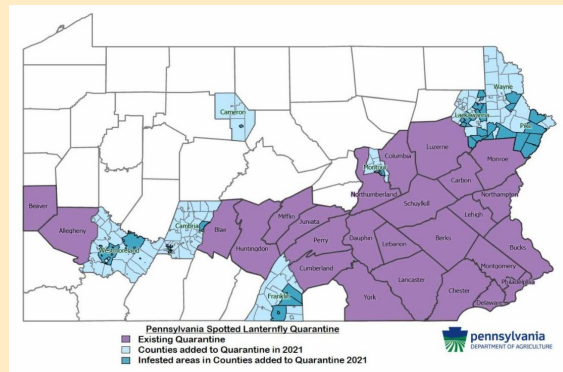


outcrops. Follow Cliff Trail with open hardwood forests and large ledges above the trail. Climb up to the Frog Pond, really just a shallow vernal pool and continue on the Cliff Trail. Pass an old quarry, which still has cut flagstone. Descend and rejoin the Bunny Trail again. Reach a parking area and turn right onto the white Friends Trail with meadows and some views. The Friends Trail makes a sharp left and crosses the road and a large meadow with great views. Enter the woods and turn left onto Hardwood and then Hemlock Trail, with its stunning old growth hemlocks and boardwalk along the rim of the gorge. Descend to the picnic area and see the salt spring. To see the gorge and falls, hike up Fall Brook. The trail that had been there is largely washed away. You can climb up the first falls to see the second falls and the heart of the gorge. It is beautiful. Retrace your steps and go to the parking area. Be aware on this hike there was no footbridge across Fall Brook.

**-Jeff Mitchell**

## **Lanternfly Quarantine Expanded**

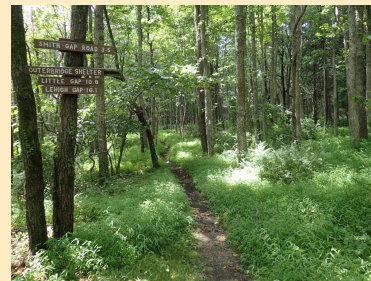
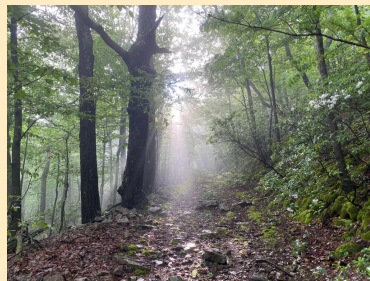
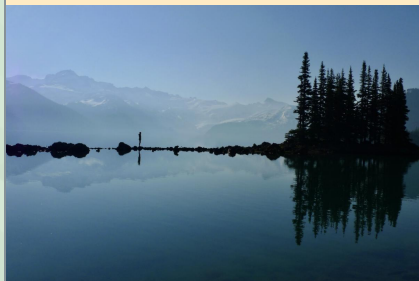
Eight counties have been added to the Spotted Lanternfly quarantine zone in 2021. To keep this invasive pest from spreading, be sure to check for and remove Lanternflies when traveling to or from affected areas. You can refer to [this handy guide](#) from the Department of Agriculture on the life stages of the Spotted Lanternfly.



## **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**

[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.

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## **Community Events**

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## **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](mailto:ktaadmin@kta-hike.org).

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## **Club Spotlight**

### **Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy**



**RACHEL CARSON  
TRAILS CONSERVANCY**

The Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), volunteer-based organization dedicated to the development, protection, and promotion of hiking, biking, and walking trails throughout western Pennsylvania.

The goals of the Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy include raising awareness of the benefits of community trails, getting more people interested in physical activities, getting more people to experience the beauty of our region and the natural world, and helping people see our region as active and vibrant. Join us in our efforts and help make a difference!

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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, Casey Schneck, at [ktaadmin@kta-hike.org](mailto: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.