



The Keystone Hiker - May 2022

Member's Corner

KTA Meets for Spring Hiking Weekend

This past weekend KTA kicked off the 2022 hiking season with our annual Spring Hiking Weekend, hosted this year at Bongiorno Conference Center in Carlisle, PA. Avid hikers met for a weekend on the trails of Cumberland Valley and for the biannual KTA council meeting to discuss the activities and future plans for KTA and our member organizations.

Attendees participated in a variety of local guided hikes each day and convened for presentations on international hiking adventures by Paul Shaw and a highly informative rattlesnake talk by Dr. Scott Boback.

Representatives from 8 member trail clubs came to promote their trails and organizations at a Trail Celebration reception event, organized by Master Naturalist candidate Kristin Joivell, who also prepared promotional material for 10 of PA's top hiking trails and [this video to feature them](#).

Thank you to everyone who joined us, our volunteer hike leaders, presenters, and thanks to our sponsors who made the weekend possible

Rick and Karen
[Rovegno](#)

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Hikers Gather in Harrisburg for Inaugural KTA Friday Breakfast Rambles

The Keystone Trails Association was met with beautiful weather and a crowd of participants for its first ever Friday Breakfast Rambles with Executive Director Brook Lenker.

A half-dozen members met at the Fort Hunter Conservancy for an invigorating hike that led to spectacular

views of the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg and the vast landscapes of Dauphin and Cumberland Counties.

Before heading out on the moderately difficult trail, Brook spoke to participants about the KTA, his goals for the organizations and ways to get involved. Anthea Stebbins, director of the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department, offered insight on the beautiful property that the group would be hiking. Dr. J. Wister Meigs donated the 153-acre wooded mountain land to Fort Hunter in 1986. Meigs' generous donation ensured the property would remain natural and open to nature lovers in perpetuity.



The trail meanders up the mountain, which gave the small group of participants time to get to know each other. They spoke about hiking, their favorite parks and trails, their involvement in outdoor recreation and more.



The trail really kicked into gear when hikers came within sight of the final climb, a steep, gravel series of switchbacks under power lines. The fast pace slowed as hikers made careful footfalls up the sloping trail crescendo.

A stunning view of the area awaited hikers when they topped out. Even in early-Spring, the natural splendor of the area jumped out.

From the top, you could see surrounding mountains, parks, valleys, towns, cities and the island-studded Susquehanna.

KTA members snapped photos of the gorgeous scenery. Upon making it safely down the steep decline, hikers spoke about future plans, how they could help the KTA, what could be done to diversify the outdoors and more.

Brook stopped the group several times to offer insights on the nature we were seeing, the plants and the animals. With "Leave No Trace," ever in the minds of members, the hikers picked up trash found along the trail. They were even able to snag a tire that was dumped by the trail head.

Following the hike, members met up for breakfast at the Front Street Diner in Harrisburg.

The April 8 outing was the first in a series of Friday Breakfast Rambles. Two more events, taking place on May 13 in Mechanicsburg and June 10 in Paxtang, have been scheduled.

-Christian Alexandersen

KTA Lehigh Gap Hosts ATC Trail Maintenance Workshop Series

Join a full-day workshop with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Keystone Trails Association to learn and apply new Trail Maintenance standards to the Appalachian Trail on Sunday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. near Palmerton, PA.

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available throughout the Trail but one fun way to volunteer is to help with trail maintenance. Essential trail maintenance helps protect natural resources and improves the hiking experience. After grasping the basics, participants will be ready to join future work trips with A.T. maintaining clubs, or even adopt their own section of the Trail to maintain.

You gain valuable skills and conservation experience while alongside a welcoming community of dedicated individuals, benefit from a light workout, and get quality time outside as you make the A.T. a better place.

With almost 2,200 miles of Trail spanning across the east coast from Maine to Georgia, the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) provides a place of sanctuary from the bustle of the modern-day world for both human and wildlife communities alike. Since its inception as the first National Scenic Trail 100 years ago, the A.T. has always depended on volunteers - people like you who are willing to contribute their time, interest, and skills in order to make it all possible.

This training workshop will introduce new and experienced participants to modern maintenance practices for use on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. With a focus on safety, and based on area conditions, the course will be adapted to include relevant module options that may include: Trail Condition Assessment, Dealing with Water Issues, Brushing, Keeping Hikers on the Centerline, and Marking the Trail.

All tools, instructions, and personal protective equipment will be provided. You only need to bring the items listed below and an eagerness to participate in a hands-on stewardship learning opportunity.

Scott Farm Update



Situated at the junction of the Appalachian Trail and the Conodoguinet Creek Water in Cumberland County, lies the Scott Farm, a bucolic property traditionally serving as a work center for crews of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Within a few years, Keystone Trails Association will take possession of the facility and accompanying

land to make a new headquarters for the organization. The Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club (CVATC) will continue to use the farm for meetings and events, and to store tools and equipment for trail maintenance activities.

This incredible opportunity is made possible by the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) who, through a special land swap, will eventually take initial possession of Scott Farm from the National Park Service before bestowing it to KTA. We appreciate their generosity and dogged work to make this manifest.

Meanwhile the KTA staff, board members, and the strategy committee, aided by representatives of CVATC, are beginning to vision prospective

configurations and priority improvements for the facility. Much thanks is directed at CVATC superhero, Craig Dunn, who has championed this project ever since the National Park Service shared its intention to divest of the property.

Trail Care 101 Training Recap

The [March 25-27 Trail Care Workshop](#) at Camp Nawakwa and the Michaux State Forest proved an informative and empowering weekend. Tom Moutsos - OH and PA Trail Manager for the North Country Trail Association (NCTA)– offered excellent instruction, complemented by Jenn Ulmer, a seasoned KTA Trail Care leader, and Rachel Lettre, Mid-Atlantic Director for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Grounded in a framework emphasizing safety and risk management, theory blended into practice as the participants performed maintenance on the Beaver Trail along Long Pine Run Reservoir and suavely moved a section of the trail to mitigate potential lakeshore impacts. The crew braved biting winds and snow squalls, but persevered. Add in great food, comfortable lodging, and palpable camaraderie, and by all accounts the weekend exceeded expectations for fun and learning.



A second training focused on rock work, aka “the rock edition” is tentatively slated for August 26-28, 2022, at McConnells Mill State Park. Keep an eye out for more information in a future edition of the Keystone Hiker.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to Tom and NCTA for their role in this program as well as the KTA Trail Care team whose tireless efforts accomplish so much, year after year. Trainings like these inspire new volunteers, encouraging them to join the legacy of intrepid trail stewards.

Thanks, too, for the funding enabling these events. This training series is supported in part by WeConservePA and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program funded through the Federal Highway Administration.

Volunteer's Corner

Trail Care Confidential

Besides all the other benefits of volunteering, Trail Care events give participants the opportunity to hone their car camping skills.

Car camping is on the opposite end of the spectrum from backpacking. When backpacking, you generally try to limit your cargo to essentials in order to keep

the weight down. The light packing aficionados famously cut three inches of handle off their tooth brush and pull out half the bristles. Car camping, on the other hand, allows you to be more expansive in your gear selection, which translates into a greater comfort range.

Sleeping in your vehicle is an option. As mentioned in a previous column, people who plan to regularly sleep in their cars may do some modifications to insure that their platform is somewhat level and allows them to completely stretch out. Sleeping in a procrustean bed is not the best way to get a good night's shut eye. One of our most committed volunteers has added hooks to the inside of his van so that he can hang his hammock inside when needed. If tenting, you can adopt a bigger more roomy, and necessarily heavier tent, than your usual backpacking one. Perhaps the biggest comfort enhancer is getting a thick foam mattress to sleep on instead of the austere half inch insulating pad.

Being able to bring an ice chest stocked with your preferred food and beverages is also an bonus of car camping. As always, any form of camping is about accommodating to the weather. With car camping you can always retreat into your trusted vehicle when conditions turn unexpectedly bitter or nasty and listen to the radio.

-Ed Lawrence

The Briar Patch

Scourge of the Month: Musk Thistle aka Nodding Thistle (Carduus Nutans)



Pennsylvania has at least 7 native thistle species, this Godzilla of a thistle is not one of them. The Musk Thistle is an invasive that came to our shores in the early 1900's from its native habitat in western Europe. It thrives in pastures and meadows that are not regularly mowed. It is a herbaceous biennial that spend its first year as a prickly rosette of leaves, the size of a dinner plate, hunkering close to the ground. In its second year, however, it can grow to a monstrous height of 7 feet with numerous branching stems covered with spiny wings and each sporting a nodding seed head. The blossoming flower is an attractive purplish red that pales as it matures and becomes a compact muffin shaped payload of flighty seeds. Due to its multiple flowering heads a single plant can produce upwards of 120,000 seeds that can be carried on the wind for miles and sit dormant in the soil for years. Mid-June, a field with a dense infestation of blooming Musk Thistle may bring a smile for the beauty of the tableau, but it will soon fade into a look of chagrin.

What to Expect:

May 5-8 Trail Care: Black Forest Trail

Dear Potential Trail Care volunteers: Please consider giving back to one of the most beloved backpacking trails in PA, the 42-mile [Black Forest Trail](#).

Work sites: Tiadaghton Forester Ben has been especially busy this year, and is still out scouting the trail. Exact work locations are being planned. From our campsite, there is anywhere from a 45-minute drive to the Algerine Wild Area, to a short trek on the nearby ski trail to possible work sites. We carpool; please let me know if you are not comfortable riding with others or driving on gravel forestry roads.

Work types: (with estimated level of difficulty - easy, moderate, strenuous - and reasons in parentheses): A couple of us will be continuing last year's work of reblazing the trail (easy to moderate- distance). Less rocky portions of the trail will need a DR mower, which is basically a heavy-duty rotary mower (easy to moderate- distance, maneuvering tight spots). There are some more signs/signposts to plant at trail intersections and trailheads (easy to moderate-strength, distance carrying equipment). There will likely be chainsaw work for experienced sawyers only, plus swamper/tosser help (moderate- distance, strength).

Camping: We're tent/hammock/car camping at the Pump Station Fire Tower site, coordinates 41.465547, -77.571377; about 20 miles north of Waterville on PA-44. The short road to the fire tower is normally gated but will be open for our weekend (starting Thursday afternoon. I hope to get there by 5pm). I'll try to put some sort of sign/traffic cone/lights, or the usual KTA sign, on PA-44 where you turn westerly, for Thursday night arrivals. There is a rustic cabin to which we'll have access as well, but there are only a couple cots in the loft, so most choose to tent outside. There is running water and a privy outside, and we have access to a refrigerator and coffee maker (and electricity) inside. No showers, though we usually head to Hyner State Park before dinner to purchase a \$4 shower. I'm planning to patronize Black Forest Inn Saturday night for dinner, if you'd like to join us. Please note: cell service can be quite spotty; I may not receive any emails/texts in a timely fashion after Thursday afternoon. If weather allows, we'll have a campfire in the evenings. Bring a chair, gather 'round, and regale us with tales of your day, favorite hiking trails, etc.

All abilities and experience are welcome - we offer "on the trail" training! Please consider joining us for a day or the weekend. If you have any questions, or would like to participate, please contact me, Jenn Ulmer, at hawk2373@yahoo.com / 570-854-8316. It is VERY helpful to know ahead of time who is coming, along with their experience level, when planning task divvying and for less stressful mornings. General information about KTA Trail Care, and what to bring, [on our trail care web page](#).

May 19-22 Trail Care: Houselander Trail

Back in the day, the Mid State Trail crossed Pine Creek on an old swinging bridge. When that bridge got washed away in a flood, hikers had to wade across the creek to continue their hike, up until the time when the Pine Creek Rail Trail took possession of the nearby railroad bridge and the MST was rerouted a bit north onto the bridge, and then crossed Route 44 at Ramsey, as it does today. The old MST route, on the east side of Rte. 44 is known as the Houselander Trail and is located, appropriately, on Houselander Mountain. Upgrading it will be the focus of the second Trail Care in May (19-22). Tony Robbins will be the KTA crew leader, with the work projects

coordinated by Tiadaghton State Forester Ben Sands. According to Ben, the trail needs considerable work. His list includes the following projects:

1. Repaint all blazes along trail corridor
2. Rehab tread surface between PA-44 and ridgeline of Houselander Mtn.
3. Cut brush with brush cutters and mow sections with DR mower
4. Plant a couple of signs for the Houselander Trail.

Participants will be able to help improve this trail using, potentially, both hand and power tools. Perhaps lunch on one of the mountain's outstanding vistas will be in the mix as well.

The base camp will be in the Organized Group Tenting Area, Site #1 at Little Pine State Park, which is located north of Waterville off Little Pine Creek Road. All volunteers will be rewarded with the satisfaction of having helped renew a venerable trail in the Pine Creek valley.



UPDATE on the swinging bridge over Pine Creek. Apparently the fate of the bridge was not sealed by water as legend has it, but rather by wind. Ben Sands reports that the bridge came down two years after Hurricane Agnes in a wind event on April 14, 1974. He included a picture of the bridge in its better days connecting to the Boy Scout camp on the west side of the

creek. Thanks to Ben for setting the record straight.

Trail Care Report: Snyder Middleswarth Natural Area

April 7-10

Despite some less-than-ideal weather conditions, the awe-inspiring Snyder Middleswarth Natural Area now has a much safer and easier to traverse hiking loop thanks to the thirteen volunteers that volunteered at KTA's first Trail Care event of 2022. One big project that was tackled was "refurbishing" the bridge on the inner Hemlocks Trail one-mile loop.



Weeks before the Trail Care event even started, preparations were underway: three volunteers dismantled the broken-down bridge, and our resident bridge guru, Tom, spent a day at Bald Eagle State Forest's maintenance shop precutting and drilling new components. Then, Friday April 7th, Forestry personnel dropped the materials at the trailhead. It was all hands-on deck as most of the volunteers helped to ferry lumber (including two 20-foot, 2x8' stringers) and tools to the bridge site, a rocky and wet 0.4 miles up the trail. As trips up and down the trail increased, the treadway was made less treacherous along and through swollen Swift Run after Thursday's rain thanks to some newly created rock hops. By Saturday afternoon, the bridge was complete and enjoyed its first customers, and family of hikers with some little tykes.

Also accomplished in two and a half days: the entire outer 3.3-mile loop was reblazed, brushed and lopped, and cleared of the numerous blowdowns. All of

the flagged sections of trail were re-benched, bringing the trail back onto a much better treadway. Some of the crew enjoyed dinner at the New Lancaster Valley Wilderness Lodge Saturday night. [Pictures from the weekend can be viewed here.](#)

I, KTA, and future hikers owe a debt of gratitude to the following hearty volunteers, three of whom were first-timers with KTA: Tom Bastian, Victoria Buckwash, Erik Curtis, Kelly Finley, Katie Legenski, Woody Loudenslager, Dave Mitchell, Tony Robbins, Connie Scheunemann, Paul Shaw, Donna Thompson, Jenn Ulmer, and Dave Wolfgang. These volunteers endured multiple indecisive weather events (rain/snow/sleet/hail/graupel) and frigid overnight camping temperatures. They also made the work much more fun!

Bear Run Nature Preserve / LHHT



April 21-24

Weather is always a factor when it comes to reblazing, and fortunately it cooperated on this weekend and allowed crews to reblaze a section of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail on both Friday and Saturday. Two two person crews each day, one scrapping and one refreshing the yellow blazes, worked towards each other and were able

to cover close to 12 miles on the southern end of the 70 mile trail between mileposts 7 and 19. Meanwhile other participants were busy improving the black disced trail at the Bear Run Nature Preserve. With a total length of 12 miles, this is the longest of the loop trails at the Preserve and the only one that crosses to the west side of Route 381. KTA volunteers brushcut, lopped and addressed drainage issues from the numerous seeps and springs that were flowing across the trail from the junction with the blue disced trail to the overlook behind the F.L. Wright Fallingwater house. On Sunday morning, we were given a guided tour of the house and grounds at Fallingwater. The work accomplished on both trails exceeded expectations and hikers who crossed our paths expressed their appreciation. I would like to thank the 11 people who came out to the Ohler house base camp to join the volunteer crew. They were: Paul Brechbiel, Erik Curtis, Katie Legenski, Scott Bliss, Mary Pitzer, Lowell Fluke, Paul Shaw, Tony Robbins, Tom Bastian, Catherine McLaughlin and Ed Lawrence. Together we put in a total of 141 hours of work on the two trail systems

-Ed Lawrence

KTA Trail Care Schedule 2022

May 5-8: 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

August 18-21: Trail Care

Thunder Swamp Trail System
Delaware State Forest
Leader: Ed Lawrence
cemclaw216@gmail.com
570-925-5285
Camp: Resica Falls BSA Camp
off Route 402
Bear Paw site

off Route 44

May 19-22: Trail Care

Houselander Trail
Tiadaghton State Forest
Leader: Tony Robbins
tony.robbins.kta@excellservices.com
570-437-0065
Camp: Little Pine State Park
Organized Group Tenting Area
Site # 1

June 2-5: Trail Care

Mid State Trail, Everett Region
Buchanan State Forest
Leader: Chad North
chadnorth@gmail.com
570-238-3591
Camp: Tenley Park, Everett

June 23-26: Trail Care

Mid State Trail, Tioga Region
Tioga State Forest
Leader: Pete Fleszar
tioga@hike-mst.org
717-576-3112
Camp: Hills Creek State Park
Organized Group Tenting Area

July 14-17: Trail Care

Allegheny Front Trail
Moshannon State Forest
Leader: Ben Auer
auer.ben@gmail.com
608-772-1715
Camp: Black Moshannon State Park
Regular Camp Ground
Sites # 76, 77, 78 and 80

September 15-18: Trail Care

Bucktail Path
Elk State Forest
Leaders: Shira Blady / Brian MacNamara
bladysh@gmail.com
267-970-1280
Camp: Sizerville State Park
Regular Camp Ground
Sites # 3, 19, 20, and 21

October 1: Code Orange 1 day

Saturday Only event
Gifford Pinchot State Park
W/ Friends of Pinchot S.P.
Leader: Steve Stroman
stevestroman@hotmail.com
717-350-0437
Meet at 8:30 am at the campground office, off of East Camping Area Road.
Friends of Pinchot will provide a trail lunch for participants.
Free camping and showers available Friday & Saturday for participants in Group Camping Areas D, E, and F.

October 27-30: Trail Care

Pinchot Trail System
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
Meet: Manny Gordon Picnic Area off Bear Lake Road at 8:00 a.m. each morning

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

Other Trail Care Opportunities

Spring Into Action at Nescopeck State Park

Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. to Noon

Join park staff for our annual Earth Day clean-up event, just a little late this year. We'll tackle litter pick-up on the trails and start our annual landscaping projects. Please come prepared to do your choice of hiking a trail or doing

some weeding. All equipment will be provided. [Registration is required.](#)

Hawk Falls Clean-Up at Hickory Run State Park

Friday, May 13 from 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Head down the trail with a trash bag and gloves to tidy up our busiest, most popular section of the park. [Registration is required.](#)

Hiker's Corner

Mason Dixon Trail - Four Scenic Short Hikes



The Trail is Calling

The Appalachian Trail (A.T.) Vista program is scheduled for August 5-8, 2022, at the State University of New York campus in New Paltz, New York. The event is four days, Friday through Monday, and includes opportunities for attending hikes, workshops, excursions, and entertainment, and gathering with hundreds of hiking and outdoor enthusiasts!

It's been since the summer of 2017 that we've been able to gather, spend time on the trail, learn, and socialize. The inaugural A.T. Vista program is being planned to carry on the great camaraderie of kindred spirits that cherish the Appalachian Trail and being outdoors.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will host the in-person A.T. Vista in the beautiful Hudson Valley region, with hikes and excursions in the region, and workshops and entertainment at the State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz, New York. The A.T. Vista is the rebranded ATC Biennial program, somewhat streamlined but keeping most of the exciting activities.

Programming includes over sixty hikes, including more than 20 on the Appalachian Trail, and the remainder using many of the hiking areas that are within an hour's drive from New Paltz. There are over 45 workshops scheduled, and over a dozen exciting excursions, most in the Hudson Valley region. Evening entertainment includes concerts and other opportunities to meet other attendees. An opening session and reception are scheduled for Friday night, August 5.

Registration for the inaugural A.T. Vista program is now open

Access to certain activities will have limited spaces, so register early to join the fun! A list of the currently planned hikes, workshops, and excursions are available to view at: www.atvista2022.org

Jeff's Jaunts

Hike to Stairway Lake and Falls-Stairway Wild Area



The Stairway Wild Area is a place worth exploring with waterfalls, a lake, view, and extensive, abandoned bluestone quarries. Our route was about seven miles long and this hike is moderate to challenging. I think it is one of the more interesting hikes in the Poconos. Also some trail junctures have signs and the trails are blazed fairly well, although some of the lesser hiked trails are likely overgrown in summer.

Due to the trail layout, our route was little convoluted, but I enjoyed and would recommend it. We began at the parking area for the Stairway Lake Trail. The Boundary Trail may be shorter and it appeared to have a parking area as well, but was missing a sign.

We hiked the blue blazed Stairway Lake Trail through hardwoods with a large wetland off to our left. The trail was level and rolling, and easy to follow. The blue blazes are bit faded and I wouldn't be surprised if they are repainted yellow in the future. Reach an old forest road and turn left. Notice the yellow blazes. Follow this old road and pass two yellow trails to the right. You will use both on this hike. The old road reaches some large ledges and climbs gradually. Reach sublime Stairway Lake, a truly scenic place. The lake is undeveloped and was formed by a small dam. A small peninsula juts out into it. On the trail, walk out to a fine view looking down to the Delaware River and into New York. There is also a campsite. This must be an incredible place to camp.

Retrace your steps down the hill and turn left onto the next yellow trail under hemlocks. The trail bends right, but to see Stairway Falls, you will need to go off trail to your left. Drop down to see the falls. It's an odd falls, as it tumbles down a series of ledges with good height. But the flow seems dispersed over the ledges and the stream is small. It's a nice feature but do not expect to be wowed, unless there is high water, or it is winter.

The yellow trail curves down, joins the Cut Trail. Turn left and descend. Cross Stairway Run along an old forest road. Large cliffs rise to your left. The gorge is to your right. The trail levels and then descends gradually with hemlock and rhododendron. Signs of the old bluestone quarries become more frequent, with ledges and piles of rock. Look for a small pond to the left of the trail.

A small stream joins the trail and the descent continues with more old quarries. Reach the bottom and make a



sharp right, it is easy to continue straight. The ledges and old quarries continue. Barberry also joins the trail and there are dead hemlocks. A railroad is below you to the left. Hike along old quarries and piles of rock. There are also some small stone ruins. Soon, boulders and ledges appear along the trail.

The trail descends to Stairway Run and crosses it, but it is easier to just use the railroad. Now climb up the gorge of Stairway Run with ledges and hemlocks. Look for a cascading waterfall just off trail to the right; it is about fifty feet total. The trail then winds into beautiful hemlock and pine forests. The trail levels and reaches a juncture with a sign, and the front of an old, rusting Ford. Turn left. The trail is level with more ruins and another old, rusting vehicle off to your left. Reach the old forest road you walked in on and turn left. Retrace your steps back to the parking area.

[-Jeff Mitchell](#)

Trail News

[Volunteers needed in PA to help maintain trails strained by record use](#)

[Hikination: How a historic cross-country backpacking revolution started](#)

[PA Department of Agriculture Expands Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine](#)

[The Best Hiking Poles for 2022](#)

[Trail Rx: New wellness program offers nature as prescription for healing](#)

[Outdoor recreation contributes nearly \\$60 billion in Pa., new study says](#)

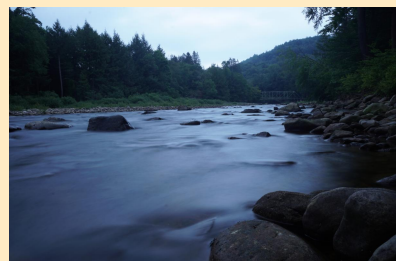
[Pennsylvania is poised for a summer of ticks and the diseases they carry](#)

[A Quiet Walk](#)

2022 Winter/Spring KTA 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 Front Trail Slackpack

May 27 - 30th

Take on this fantastic 41.7 mile loop around Black Moshannon State Park with just a day pack. Shuttle between the trail and a cozy cabin every night.

Allegheny National Forest Weekend

August 26 - 28th

Take a trip to Pennsylvania's only National Forest and stay in the beautiful Olmstead Manor in Ludlow for a weekend of amazing and wild hikes.

KTA Trail Challenge

September 10th

Take the challenge to conquer our 25k or 50k trail run, based out of Pequea Creek Campground and Susquehannock SP in Lancaster County.

Barcelona and Andorra

September 25 - October 5th

Barcelona, on the Mediterranean Sea, is one of Europe's most vibrant cities, a world center of art, culture and sport and a wonderful city for walking. Andorra, nestled in the nearby Pyrenees Mountains between Spain and France, is one of the world's smallest countries but packed with excellent hiking opportunities.

Black Forest Trail Slackpack

September 30 - October 3rd

Take advantage of this incredible opportunity, to complete in ONE WEEKEND the trail that everyone talks about: The Black Forest Trail. Shuttle between the trail and a cozy cabin with a home-cooked meal every night.

Friday Breakfast Rambles

Join the Executive Director, Brook Lenker, for short (< three mile) morning hikes and get to know KTA's new leader and the trail of the day. Meet special guests from our partnering organizations and agencies. Afterwards, if you wish, enjoy breakfast (on your own) and conversation at a nearby diner. Reservations are not required and there is no cost to participate (although donations are welcomed). Consider bringing a friend or co-worker.

May 13 - Appalachian Trail - Cumberland Valley

In partnership with the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club
Meet: Craig Dunn Trailhead on Trindle Road, West of Mechanicsburg
Breakfast at Dalicia, 105 S. Market Street, Mechanicsburg

June 10 - Capital Area Greenbelt, Paxtang Parkway Section

In partnership with Capital Area Greenbelt Association
Meet: Greenbelt lot off Derry Street @Parkway Boulevard in Paxtang
Breakfast at the City Line Diner, 3302 Derry Street, Harrisburg

Community Events

Hike Across Maryland 2022

May 7, 4:30AM - 8:45PM

The HAM starts in at the PA / MD border, follows the Appalachian Trail through Maryland, and ends in Harpers Ferry, WV. That's 41 miles over rough, rocky trail with several significant climbs- The Ham is intended for serious hikers! Have you done three or more training hikes of 15 miles and more in the last few months?

Can you maintain 2.5 to 3 mph for 13 to 16 hours over mountainous terrain? If so, you'll enjoy the challenges of the Mountain Club of Maryland's HAM!

Note : The HAM is only open to members of the Mountain Club of Maryland.

Allegheny 100 Challenge

June 10 - 12

The 2022 Allegheny 100 Challenge (A-100) is scheduled for June 10th – 12th along the 100 miles of the Allegheny National Forest section of the North Country Trail. This year it will be run from north to south. The event will be run in the traditional manner with the return of the optional shuttle bus to take you to the start. The registration fee is \$80 and does not include any membership to the North Country Trail Association.

The lottery to win a spot to register for the A-100 opens on March 7, 2022. Go to the A-100 event page at <https://northcountrytrail.org/events/a-100/> for an explanation of the lottery and additional information about the event.

The inaugural Allegheny 100 Hiking Challenge was held in June 2010 with 19 participants. The event was conceived by one of the founding members of the Allegheny National Forest Chapter, Bert Nemcik. Bert knew from thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail that the NCT needed greater exposure to the hiking community in order to help improve the trail. The ANF Chapter is saddened to report that Bert passed away in December 2021. The 2022 A-100 is being dedicated to Bert.

Best of luck in the lottery! Hope to see you in June.

Questions? Email us at anf@northcountrytrail.org

Mason-Dixon Appalachian Trail Outdoor Festival

June 11

Saturday, June 11 at Red Run Park, 12143 Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro, the Greater Waynesboro PA Area Appalachian Trail Community is sponsoring its 6th "Mason-Dixon Appalachian Trail Outdoor Festival," from 10-4. Food, music, children's activities, vendors and exhibits as well as hiker hospitality fill the day, including the PA Department of Ag's WoodMobile! If you have an environmental group or display or handcrafted items and would like to participate, check out our website; please email atfestival17268@gmail.com if you have any questions.

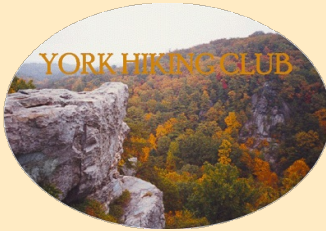
WANT YOUR EVENT FEATURED ON THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR?

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

York Hiking Club



During the Great Depression in 1932, a group of enthusiastic folks formed an association to enjoy each others company while engaging in local, inexpensive outdoor recreational activities. Today, the Club is an incorporated, non-profit, all volunteer organization with one or two activities most weeks of the year.

The Club, with over 130 members and 11 committees, is governed by a Board of Directors. Communication is accomplished through a monthly newsletter. The Club maintains a section of the Appalachian Trail and participates in the Mason-Dixon Trail System.

Our purpose is to promote hiking and appropriate use of outdoor recreational assets. Our members include all kinds of people of all ages who share an interest in hiking and walking. After hiking 30 miles with the club in a twelve month period or performing alternative service, a guest becomes eligible to become a member.

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.

