



November 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

MEMBER CORNER

West Highland Way: Scotland

A Fundraising Hiking Trip to Benefit KTA

When: September 16-28, 2018
Leaders: Todd Lange, Treks & Trails International
Joe Neville, KTA Executive Director

The West Highland Way is a 97-mile hike in the Scottish Highlands passing through some of the most breathtaking scenery in the U.K. Not surprisingly, it is the most popular hiking trail in Scotland. From the starting point near Glasgow, the trail winds its way past Loch Lomond, through the wilderness of Rannoch Moor and into the heart of the Highlands, skirting Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis.

Trip Highlights Include;

- Two days exploring Edinburgh. Home of Edinburgh Castle, this city is world renowned for its architecture and beauty. Day hike to Holyrood Park and the Royal Mile. Expansive views of the Firth of Forth and old town Edinburgh.
- Nine Days on the Trail. Experience some of the best hiking in Scotland. We will pass through lowland moors, dense forest, rolling hills and high mountainous areas. Each day takes us deeper into the Highlands, and each day the landscape is increasingly dramatic. Hikes are 7-16 miles and range from moderate to strenuous. Highlights include;
 - Expansive views of Ben Nevis. Britain's highest mountain.
 - Open moorland of Conic Hill
 - Dramatic views of Loch Lomond and Glen Coe
 - Traverse of Rannoch Moor
 - Traditional Scottish accommodations at historic inns and B&B's.
 - Scenic train ride from Fort William to Glasgow.

Cost: \$4095 per person, double occupancy. Includes round-trip airfare, train and taxi transportation while in Scotland, luggage forwarding each day, admission to Edinburgh Castle, 12 nights lodging, 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches. Roundtrip limo service from Harrisburg to Newark available at additional cost. For more details visit www.treksandtrailsinternational.com

To reserve a space or for more information contact Todd Lange at tlange1pa@yahoo.com

Keep Trails Alive

The Keep Trails Alive monthly donor program helps sustain our work of preserving Pennsylvania's footpaths. We are a small organization with a big mission; as such, we need to find trail people who will

commit themselves to giving a regular, once-a-month contribution to put KTA on a stable and sustainable financial foundation.

Donations through the Keep Trails Alive program can be made in two ways:

The first option is to "Subscribe" to the program through PayPal using a PayPal account or via a credit or debit card at www.kta-hike.org

Another option is to set up recurring payments taken directly from the donor's bank account through ACH transactions. Please contact the office at ktaadmin@kta-hike.org or call 717-766-9690 for more information about this option.

A New Way to Give and Support KTA!

by Joe Neville, KTA Executive Director

KTA has now opened a brokerage account. This will enable our donors and supporters to increase their flexibility in giving. Donating long-term appreciated securities directly to KTA — rather than selling the assets and donating the cash proceeds — may be one of the best and easiest ways to give more. By taking advantage of the applicable tax incentives, you can significantly increase the amount of funds available for our trail care, advocacy, and hiking promotion efforts.

It's a win-win situation: KTA receives a nice contribution, while you, the donor can possibly write off the gift and avoid paying capital gains taxes on the stock. The strategy has been around for some time, waning during the financial crisis, but has regained popularity in recent years as the stock market has roared back to life. It makes the most sense for a donor because it's an easy, seamless transaction.

For more information please contact your financial advisor or Joe Neville for account information at 717-766-9690 or jneville@kta-hike.org.

Thanks to All Who Attended Fall Hiking and Meeting Weekend 2017 October 13-15

Award Presentations

In 1961, Keystone Trails Association instituted an annual Hiking Awards Program to recognize those hikers whose enjoyment of Pennsylvania's trails might serve as an example and inspiration to their peers. Over the years, hundreds of individuals have demonstrated their dedication to hiking and, in no small part, to preservation of trails by applying for and receiving the various KTA awards. Congratulations to the following 2017 hiking award recipients:

Trail Care Award - for attending five or more trail care events during the season. Recipients receive an orange 'Trail Crew' t-shirt.

Tom Bastian
Kevin Busko
Mary Ladish
Ed Lawrence
Elwood Loudenslager

Tony Robbins
Wanda Shirk
Rick Stibgen
Donna Thompson
Jenn Ulmer

100-Mile Trail Challenge – for hiking at least 100 miles and raising at least 1 dollar per mile to benefit Pennsylvania's Trails.

Colleen Hegland – Hiked 115.4 miles, raised \$200
Careen Shafer – Hiked 721 miles, raised \$265
Gust Diamantoni – Hiked 112.99 miles, raised \$300
Morgan Aldridge – Hiked 112.99 miles, raised \$300
Donna Stolz – Hiked 114.05 miles, raised \$114.05
Julie Santee – Hiked 102 miles, raised \$102
Denise Bogert – Hiked 228 miles, raised \$135
Scot Bogert – Hiked 561 miles, raised \$115
Susan Henderson-Utis – Hiked 143.06 miles, raised \$100
John Cosenza – Hiked 100.9 miles, raised \$200
Ron Schwartz - Raised \$550

Appalachian Trail Award - for hiking the entire Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania.

Dianne McCormick	Morgan Aldridge
Derek Campbell	Steve Aldridge
Linda Cooper	Paula Waldow
Gust Diamantoni	Thomas Stott

Young Hiker Award – For youth aged 12 and under who have hiked 25 or more miles on any trail in Pennsylvania.

Gust Diamontoni – age 11, for 101.49 miles in 2015 and 104.19 miles in 2017
Morgan Aldridge – age 10, for 101.49 miles in 2015 and 104.19 miles in 2017
Quinn Oxenreider – age 7, hiked 34.9 miles
Molly Oxenreider – age 6, hiked 37.6 miles

Merit Award – for hiking the entire Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania plus 200 or more miles on Pennsylvania's other trails.

Dianne McCormick
Thomas Stott

Merit II Award – for hiking the entire Appalachian Trail between the Hudson and Potomac Rivers and 200 miles on Pennsylvania's other trails in addition to those used for the Merit Award.

Dianne McCormick
Thomas Stott

Pennsylvania Award – for hiking 500 miles in Pennsylvania.

Dianne McCormick
Thomas Stott

State Forest Trails Award – for hiking all 798 miles of trails in PA’s state forest system.

Dianne McCormick
Daryl Warren
Thomas Stott

Western Pennsylvania Award – for hiking 200 miles on any of the trails in western PA.

Thomas Stott

Volunteer of the Year Award – *Presented by Ed Lawrence, Trail Care Chair*

Mary Ladish

Citation Award for Lifetime Achievement – *Presented by Paul Shaw, President*

Edward Lawrence

The 2nd Annual Quehanna Elk Quest

Fantastic hikes, delicious food, and elk sightings galore all contributed to an excellent time at the second annual Quehanna Elk Quest Hiking Weekend. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Feedback from participants:

"Hiking in Elk County this weekend was a pleasant and new experience. In addition to seeing and hearing the Pennsylvania elk, we had a fantastic time climbing along ridges and down valleys." - Dominik Maida

"I thought it was an excellent adventure! Great hikes, plenty of really good food and Pennsylvania Elk. What else could anyone want? Enjoyed meeting you, Joe and so many other KTA members. Looking forward to coming back for more hiking in that area." - Barb Sheridan

"Thank you for a great weekend. Well planned and well executed. Appreciated seeing some of PA's beauty. Best to Joe and you, and Dom too who graciously put up with us all." - Jill Craig

"George and I enjoyed the Elk Quest weekend VERY much. Gunners was an excellent choice - clean, cared for accommodations and REALLY tasty meals in an Autumn decorated dining room (we had all to ourselves!) With the attentive wait staff, who could ask for more? The hikes were a nice selection of lengths and points of interest. AND the elk put in an appearance and a bugling, too! George and I both enjoyed meeting and chatting with the other weekend participants. So many interesting points of view and travel stories! Finally, the weekend leadership, speakers, and hiking guides were very competent, friendly, and knowledgeable.

The one negative of the weekend was the changing info on hike length. For our situation, this was an important piece of info which impacted not only us, but (our judgement to go or not) could have affected the entire group. During training for certification to be an AMC Hike Leader, I learned that each person must accept the responsibility for his or her own safety and the first step to that end is clear descriptions of the hike. Informed decisions, right?

Again, thanks for offering this great weekend. We would definitely recommend it to others. Happy Trails!" - Jude Shabrach

"We enjoyed our weekend with KTA. The people were great and the hiking was good but for my wife, who is an avid 'walker', the rocky trails were a challenge so we skipped Sunday. We were disappointed in the number of elk we saw. We have been to this area a number of times and have always seen dozens of elk so only seeing a few here and there was a disappointment. A minor suggestion for the next time, print the name tags in LARGER FONT. Keep on hiking!" - Joe Barnett

"Barb and I had a great time and hopefully will join in more KTA events. At the very least we may come do more exploring in Elk Country – after all the elk and leaf peepers have left. Could not believe the amount of traffic." - Pat White

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2018 Spring Hiking and Meeting Weekend will take place April 13-15, 2018 in Jim Thorpe, PA!
Details coming soon!

Perks of Membership

Keystone Trails Association Members now enjoy a 10% Discount when they shop at Appalachian Outdoors in State College.

Hyke & Byke is working to help eliminate poverty through interest-free microloans and we love giving back to the community and promoting the outdoors. KTA members use coupon code TAKE20OFF to get \$20 off any purchase of a Hyke & Byke product from their website: www.Hykeandbyke.com

YOUR HIKING ADVOCATE

ATV Connector Feasibility Study Public Meetings

The ATV connector feasibility study public meetings have been rescheduled from 10/26 and 11/9 to 12/12 and 12/19 at Duurwatcher Center Lock Haven University from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

VOLUNTEER / MAINTAINER'S CORNER

Join Us for the Last Trail Care Event of 2017!

Before you go, please read our Trail Care and Crew page on kta-hike.org for helpful information and application.

November 3 - 5: Trail Care

Bucktail Path

Leader: Rick Hiemenz

mustardgarlic@hotmail.com

814-706-8218

Camp: Brooks Run Fire Tower Cabin

Wrapping Up the 2017 KTA Trail Care Season

by Ed Lawrence, Trail Care Chair

KTA Fall Weekend wrapped up the 2017 Trail Care Season, which began after last year's Fall Weekend. Every Trail Care Event has a positive impact on the trail it focuses on, and it all happens because of the commitment of volunteers who want to take their love of hiking to another level. Highlights of the season included a "Flash Crew" (organized on short notice) at Black Moshannon State Park, Centre County, which stepped up to build a boardwalk in the park after a work crew from the American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacation program cancelled. The Rachel Carson Trail, in Allegheny County, hosted its first week-long Trail Crew this summer that netted 299 hours of solid work. KTA will be returning to the Rachel Carson Trail in 2018. The Trail Care Program also managed to successfully reschedule our first Code Orange workday at the Nolde Forest Environmental Center, Berks County, after the original date got washed out.

A sincere thank-you to everyone who came out to help keep Pennsylvania's hiking trails open and accessible. Volunteers put in 2624 hours of honest work across the state this season. The following people deserve special recognition for coming to multiple events and, in the process, earning themselves an Orange Trail Care shirt. The honor role for the 2017 season includes Tom Bastian, Kevin Busko, Mary Ladish, Ed Lawrence, Elwood "Woody" Loudenslager, Tony Robbins, Wanda Shirk, Rick Stibgen, Donna Thompson, and Jenn Ulmer. The 2018 season begins with the final Trail Care of the year (November 3 to 5) on the Bucktail Path, based out of the historic Brooks Run Fire Tower Cabin, Elk State Forest.

Reeds Gap Spur Trail Care Event Recap

by Jenn Ulmer

The RGST is a 13.8-mile/22.3-kilometer-long collection of existing trails connecting Poe Paddy and Reeds Gap State Parks in the Bald Eagle State Forest of central Pennsylvania. Volunteers at the 2017 KTA Trail Care Weekend (September 29 through October 1) on the RGST, workers had their work cut out for them, and they rose to the challenge! Since KTA last worked on the RGST in 2012 and 2013, the birch saplings, blueberries, etc., had taken the opportunity to encroach on the trail. Our focus was reopening the High Top Trail portion. It took us several days, but we got all the work done. Also, we've freshened blazes along portions of the trail and cleared the entire trail of blowdowns. We actually had more people who could volunteer on Friday than the rest of the weekend days. Sincere thanks go to the following, all of whom braved rocky treadways, bees, and bouncy commutes: Tom Bastian, Jane Huston, Don Kirkwood, Woody Loudenslager, Tony Robbins, Bob Staver, Donna Thompson, and Ernie Werstler. Tony led a hike from Reeds Gap State Park to the Bear Gap Picnic Area for the recent KTA Fall Hiking and Meeting Weekend, and the hikers were quite appreciative of our work. If you're looking for a challenging hike, an idyllic campsite at Weikert Run, and heart-pumping climbs, try the RGST! E-mail me for more information: hawk2373@yahoo.com.

DCNR Seeking Trail Accomplishments

DCNR and the PA Trails Advisory Committee are seeking submissions for 2017 trail accomplishments for inclusion in the 2017 PA Trails Annual Report. This information helps the committee celebrate success and track progress toward building a statewide trail network. All trail groups are encouraged to submit a one-page narrative with photographs to RA-explorepatrails@pa.gov.

Deadline for submitting trail accomplishments is December 15.

HIKER'S CORNER

MSTA Deeded Property

by Peter Fleszar, Mid State Trail Association

On September 19, the Shambach family deeded their 5.2-hectare Bedford County property to the Mid State Trail Association (MSTA). For 2 decades, the family had hosted the MST on the property—a portion of the former Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain/Everett Railroad grade they owned (see the *Guide to Pennsylvania Mid State Trail*, 12th edition, Section 3, NB km 5.04 to 6.28) in the heart of Aliquippa Gap, paralleling U.S. Route 30 and trail-north or compass-west of Everett.

We deeply appreciate the gift by family members Eleanor, Joni, and John Jr.—and, of course, the substantial effort by the peripatetic Everett Regional Manager, Deb Dunkle, and the support of the law office of Carl Walker Metzgar, Esq., who is also a state representative for portions of Bedford and Somerset Counties—to make this private donation possible.

This occasion marks the first time in the 48-year history of the MST that the association has owned, in fee simple, even a millimeter of the trail.

Jeff's Jaunts: Wolf Run, Bowman Creek, Bean Run Loop – SGL 57

by Jeff Mitchell

After hiking the Bucktail Path, my tour of the PA Wilds continued on Ridge Road in the Elk State Forest. This road is locally well-known for its nine beautiful vistas, making it a miniature Blue Ridge Parkway, just on a dirt road and without the crowds.

It is surprising just how beautiful the PA Wilds are, whether it be the isolation, endless trails, numerous state parks, vast public lands, dark skies, and breathtaking vistas.

I've always driven north on Ridge Road, I don't think it matters much which direction you take. From US 120, south of Emporium, take Grove Hill Road to the top of the mountain. This road becomes Ridge Road.

The vistas soon begin off of both sides of the ridge. My two favorite vistas are Squaretimber and Logue Run Vistas.

Being a north-south ridge, the vistas offer both sunrise and sunset panoramas.

There is even a picnic area along the road at the Whitehead Pavilion.

Many people head back down Whitehead Road, but there are three more vistas to the north, one being only a half mile north of the juncture of Ridge and Whitehead Roads. To see the remaining two vistas, continue north on Ridge Road for about fourteen miles. The road was under construction when we drove it, and it was a bit rough, but I assume it is otherwise in good shape.

Turn left onto Crooked Run Road for the final view. The two northern views are not as dramatic and expansive as the others, but they are very nice nonetheless. Drive Crooked Run Road down to scenic Sizerville State Park. This 5ish mile loop in SGL 57 is a great hike that follows trails that are fairly well established. The terrain is

gradual, with some stream crossings that will be difficult in high water. The trails do not have signs or blazes. This isolated loop features superb streamside hiking, diverse forests, fern meadows, big rocks, and a great view.

Begin at the parking area near Wolf Run, located at 41.352937, -76.194498. It is about 10.2 miles from Noxen. Look across the road for a trail that goes into the woods; follow it. It crosses Wolf Run and then proceeds upstream along Bowman Creek. The scenery is excellent with pools, hemlocks, and rhododendrons. Cross Bean Run and enter a deep hemlock forest. Look for some metal bars across Bowman Creek; turn right here and leave the creek, following an old grade along a meadow with stone foundations. Turn left on the next grade, and then right on another. Climb up and this will bring you to the road.

Follow the road to the right and hike it for .4 mile to Bean Run. Do not cross the run. Look for a trail on the left that enters the woods on a grade. Follow it. It goes up the grade above Bean Run for about .5 mile. Turn right (if you continue straight, you will cross a creek and go too far). The trail descends and crosses Bean Run. The trail along Bean Run is very scenic as it enters a gorge lined with ledges and large angular boulders with some spruce trees.

The trail curves right and ascends from Bean Run, meandering through the forest, a red marked trail joins from the left, but I've never hiked it. Hike along scenic fern meadows and descend to near another stream, Wolf Run. If you want to see the view, turn left at a small cairn and cross Wolf Run (if you begin to descend along Wolf Run, you went too far). The side trail is about .5 mile and leads to a rock outcrop known as Coyote Rocks with views of Bowman Creek valley. It is a fine view that feels isolated; it is also a great place to see the sunset. Retrace your steps.

Descend along Wolf Run which features some boulders. The grade stays above the creek and descends to a meadow with pickers. Work your way through and reach the road. Turn left, cross Wolf Run, and reach your car.

Much of this route is described in the White Gold Circuit hike in "Hiking the Endless Mountains".

To view pictures from the trip, go to <https://endlessmountains.wordpress.com/2017/10/18/wolf-run-bowman-creek-bean-run-loop-sgl-57/>

Walk with Gantz: The Cohos Trail

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 Cohos Trail is a 170 mile route from the Canadian Border to Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. This trail includes snowmobile trails, ATV routes, dirt roads, paved roads, and of course single track hiking trails in order to connect the White Mountain National Forest with Canada. The most common phrase for this trail is, 'hikers see more moose than other hikers'. While we didn't see any moose, we didn't see many people either!

From Canada, the trail follows the headwaters of the Connecticut River for dozens of miles. We actually spent about 3 days walking alongside the river, or walking around the four lakes that comprise the beginnings of this river.

We especially appreciated camping on the shore of one of these lakes. And of course, everyone has to love seeing and hearing loons on a lake while hiking alongside it.

We spent a few days walking on ATV and snowmobile trails in this relatively flat section of New Hampshire. Luckily, there were several sections of new hiking trails to break up the monotony of the road walking. The single track trails were well blazed and signed, although the same cannot be said for the double track and road walking sections. All of the local trail riders were very friendly and welcoming.

After a few days of flat walking, we finally hit the steep climbs and big mountains that we were expecting from the granite state. It felt as though the route south from Coleman State Park was now mostly trail, with only a few sections of road walking. The trail was great, steep, and offered lots of views of the surrounding lands.

There is a lot of work being put into the Cohos Trail by local volunteers, including building and updating several cabins and shelters for hikers. Since the trail is a 'no campfire' trail, other campsites were more difficult to find. Luckily, we found a flat spot to sleep everyday just before sunset!

We finally spotted the White Mountains and the Presidential Range after a week of hiking. The Cohos Trail enters this area from the west, from Jefferson, and climbs Mt. Eisenhower and crosses the Appalachian Trail before quickly descending into the Dry River Wilderness.

After a full week of dry, sunny weather, the clouds rolled in just as we climbed above treeline in the White Mountains National Forest. Of course the trails here are great, but I didn't get many photos because of the weather. Overall, we spent 9 days walking 170 miles through New Hampshire. The Cohos Trail was great, and will only get better as more shelters and single track trails are built in the future!

To view pictures from the trip, go to <http://www.walkwithgantz.com/cohos-trail-2017.html>

Home-Veeta Cheese Recipes

by Gerry Rowan

As a kid I had a love affair with processed cheese foods. Velveeta was a word that always made me salivate. I was introduced to it for the first time in my elementary school cafeteria in their version of cheese dogs. We never ate it at home, so it was novel and intriguing when I was 10. I began to crave this childhood comfort food again. I wanted a homemade version that tasted similar but didn't have the exotic chemistry of the commercial brands. This homemade cheese food turned out to be a convenient camping food.

Home-Veeta Cheese

1 cup boiling water

6 tablespoons powdered milk

1 envelope (¼ ounce) unflavored gelatin

4 cups shredded cheese (Colby, Gouda, jack, pepper jack, cheddar, Swiss, or a mixture)

Line a loaf pan with plastic wrap; set aside. Add the boiling water to a blender; then sprinkle in the powdered milk and unflavored gelatin. Pulse to blend. Add shredded cheese and blend until smooth. Immediately pour into a prepared mold (it sets up quickly). Tap the mold on the counter to release any trapped air and flatten the top of the cheese. Put in refrigerator until set—about 2 hours or overnight. Keep refrigerated.

Additions: ¼ to ½ cup pickled jalapeño peppers, chopped; ¼ to ½ cup pickled onions, chopped; 2 to 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard; 1 to 2 teaspoons cayenne pepper; ½ to 1 teaspoon thyme leaves, crumbled.

Substitutions: ½ to 1 teaspoon annatto seed extract for yellow cheese.

Note: Parmesan or blue cheese can be added for a flavored version. A piece of unflavored dental floss can cut this cheese food easily.

Home-Veeta Potato-Cheese Soup

8 cups water
2 pounds potatoes, peeled and shredded
1 pound (16 ounces) Home-Veeta Cheese, cubed
1 small onion, peeled and chopped
4 cubes chicken bouillon
1 tablespoon parsley, chopped
½ teaspoon Kosher salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 teaspoons to 1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning

Combine the water and all ingredients in a large pot. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low; cover and simmer until potatoes are tender (about 25 to 30 minutes).

Onions and Cheese

2 pounds sweet onions, peeled and sliced
2 to 3 tablespoons butter or bacon fat
8 ounces Home-Veeta Cheese
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Melt the butter in a large sauté pan. Add the onions, season with salt and pepper, and sauté over medium heat until the onions are caramelized. Stir in the cheese food and allow it to melt. Serve over burgers, steaks, grilled chicken, omelets, home fries, etc.

Suggestions: You can slice this cheese food and melt it on top of scrambled eggs and home fries. Or cube it and stir into hot cooked rice. Add a dollop of butter and some Home-Veeta Cheese and you have a reasonable camp/trail mac 'n' cheese. Add with some crumbled, crispy bacon to the top of baked potatoes. Cube and add it to muffins or soda bread. Add a slice as part of the filling for an omelet.

Ham and Cheese Waffles

1 cup whole wheat flour
½ cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon Kosher salt
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 large egg, beaten
1½ cup lukewarm milk
8 ounces Home-Veeta Cheese, diced
4 ounces ham, finely diced
½ cup melted butter

Preheat your waffle iron while you make the waffle batter. Whisk together the dry ingredients (except the ham and cheese). In a separate bowl, whisk together the egg, milk, and butter. Mix together the wet and dry

ingredients, stirring just until combined; then stir in the ham and cheese food. The batter may be a bit lumpy. Cook the waffles over a medium-high fire until golden brown. Serve with maple syrup, fruit syrup, pancake syrup honey, golden syrup, jam, or marmalade and butter.

Substitutions: Instead of 1 cup whole wheat flour, combine ½ cup whole wheat flour plus ½ cup all-purpose flour or entirely replace with all-purpose flour. White or light brown sugar for the brown sugar. Canola oil or melted vegetable shortening for the butter.

Camp-Friendly Version: Combine the dry ingredients and store in a ziplock bag. Combine the wet ingredients and store in a lidded plastic container. Combine the ham and cheese in a third ziplock bag. At camp, add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, cover, and shake well.

Suggestion: Try thinning the batter a bit and cooking on a griddle.

Note: Several manufacturers make cast iron or aluminum waffle irons designed for use over an open fire or on top of a fuel-burning stove.

CLUB CONNECTION

2018 Trail of the Year Nominations Being Accepted

If you have a favorite trail and think that it is the best in the state, then nominate it for 2018 Trail of the Year. The designation is coordinated by DCNR's PA Trails Advisory Committee to elevate public awareness of the thousands of miles of trails available for public enjoyment in Pennsylvania.

The Trail of the Year will be recognized through a DCNR and Trails Advisory Committee news release, commemorative poster for statewide distribution, trailhead marker and promotion on www.explorePATrails.com. The supporting organization will receive grant funding for educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection on the trail.

To nominate a trail, download the nomination form on the DCNR website and submit it with supporting materials to RA-exploreatrails@pa.gov by November 17.

Submit Events to the 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.

Thank you and happy trails!

2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

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!

November 3 - 5: Bucktail Path Trail Care

April 13-15: Spring Hiking and Meeting Weekend, Jim Thorpe, PA

Shop the KTA Bookstore

Check out KTA's latest additions: Hiking the Susquehannock Trail, The Black Forest Trail Patch, The Laurel Highlands Trail Patch, and Purple Lizard Maps. 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>

Amazon Smile

The next time you shop online, use Amazon Smile and choose Keystone Trails Association. It doesn't cost you any extra: Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Keystone Trails Association.

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. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Submissions received after that time will be considered for the next month.