



The Keystone Hiker - November 2022

Member's Corner

Hikers Gather in Central PA for Fall Meeting

On October 14-16, the KTA board and council met in Lewisburg, PA for the annual Fall Hiking Weekend. Participants set out on daily, guided hikes, assembled for the council meeting to review the past year and discuss the path ahead for KTA, and enjoyed a keynote presentation from National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, Heather Anderson.

New and returning officers were elected to a one-year term for 2023:

President, Wayne Gross

Vice President, Robert Merrill

Secretary, Ben Cramer

Treasurer, Cynthia Krom

KTA board and staff thanked previous President, Katie Barker, as her term concluded. Cynthia Krom, Wayne Gross, and Karen Lutz were re-elected and Linda Enders Roxberry joined the board of directors for a three-year term.

Hiking Awards Recipients

KTA recognized accomplished hikers and volunteers at the annual award ceremony. We would like to again congratulate the following hikers for their achievements!

100 Mile Challenge

Meg Nima - 158.1 mi and \$355 raised
Sarah Maxwell - 103.9 mi and \$260 raised
Oliver Maxwell - 100.6 mi and \$170 raised

Appalachian Trail Award

Ryan DeLutis
Scott Butwill



Rachel Gutzler
Kent Gutzler

Merit Award

Justin Funck
Pamela Root

Merit II Award

Diane Reader



Pennsylvania Award

Julia Shearson



Young Hiker

Emmalynne Doeblar
Spencer Dolan
Dexter Dolan
Jacob Habas
Alexandra Kinsey
Parker Lingenfelter
Reid Lingenfelter



State Forest Award

Sam Raisch

Mountain & Mediterranean Memories

With savvy traveler and trekker Paul Shaw as guide, the KTA entourage touched down in Barcelona the morning of September 26th, soon to board a minibus for a scenic drive to Andorra.

Andorra, one of the world's smallest countries, is tucked into the Pyrenees between Spain and France. With towering mountains and pine-clad valleys, the place is a bastion for outdoor recreation, especially skiing, mountain biking, and hiking.



For five days the group of fourteen explored Andorran trails, conquering six to ten miles afoot each day—through fairy-tale forests, along clear alpine lakes, and across meadows occasionally tintured with a chorus of cowbells and a dash of snow. The quiet village of Soldeu offered ample evening options for dining, merriment, and relaxation.

The bustle of Barcelona contrasted with the tranquility of Andorra, in vibrant, Spanish style—energetic, not frenetic. Delicious cuisine and dignified architecture blended with a sultry, Mediterranean breeze. The creative legacies of Gaudi and Picasso permeated the city blocks from the Sagrada Familia to museums, parks, and cultured spaces as abundant as saffron and serrano ham.

With rich memories and fine-tuned muscles, the KTA expedition departed Spain on October 6th recharged by the camaraderie of new friends and the zest of the Catalan spirit.

KTA's Next International Hiking Trip

Mark your calendars for **June 11-22, 2023**, when we journey the **Wales Coast Path** between the towns of Aberystwyth and Newport. The route includes a total of 67 miles spread over seven days of hiking with a rest day in between. It is clifftop hiking at its finest, along Cardigan Bay and the Irish Sea on the country's southwest coast. Enjoy secluded coves, picturesque fishing villages, and quaint towns making your way to guesthouses and small hotels for evening lodging. Luggage is forwarded so participants need only carry a daypack. This trip will be limited to 12 participants plus two leaders. Details, including cost, itinerary and registration information, will be available by December 1st. Save the dates and [email Casey](#) if you're interested joining the waitlist.

Two Great Reasons to Support KTA!

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

GivingTuesday, November 29th, is rapidly approaching. The event was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds

of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. We welcome your donation that day—or any day. Look for special social media posts, and email messages, before and/or during the celebration. Let friends and family know they can also support KTA and, in doing so, help perpetuate Pennsylvania's legacy of trails and hiking. [Donate online](#) or via check. Your gift is always appreciated and used wisely.

And, if you haven't already answered our special appeal, we are encouraging contributions of \$22 (or any amount) as 2022 winds down ([our \\$22 x '22 campaign](#)). Those whose donations are received or postmarked by 11/11/22 will receive a token of appreciation—one of our cool, new *"Hike Beautiful Pennsylvania"* stickers.



Great things are on tap for 2023 and your generosity makes it possible.

Wanted: Resident Trail and Shelter Caretaker

[The Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club](#) is seeking a resident caretaker for the Appalachian Trail shelter at the intersection of Pennsylvania Route 501 and the A.T. near Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

Must have long distance A.T. hiking experience and knowledge of general maintenance and trail work. The caretaker must be able to work both independently with minimal supervision and cooperatively with BMECC. Good communication skills and ability to maintain good public relations with local organizations, thru hikers, day hikers, local community, and law enforcement officials are essential. Duties include basic maintenance of caretaker residence and hiker shelter, cutting grass, picking up trash, monitoring the area, etc.

See full Duties and Requirements

To apply please email a cover letter outlining your qualifications, a resume, and the completed [shelter caretaker application](#) to kramer501@comcast.net. Alternately you may mail to:

Larry Kramer
22 Evergreen Way
Newmanstown, PA 17073

Questions can also be directed to Larry Kramer at 717-269-4367

Keystone Trails Endowment Fund

Please take this opportunity to make a donation to The Keystone Trails Endowment Fund as a lasting legacy to the mission of KTA. KTA organizational member clubs and other groups may also make contributions to the fund. Consider making a donation in honor or memory of a club member who has made a difference in your club or the hiking community.

The following giving levels were established to recognize individuals and groups who have contributed to the Keystone Trails Endowment Fund. Contributions may be given over a time period up to a five year period for Keystone Hiker and higher levels of giving.

Life Memberships - \$750
Keystone Hiker - \$1,000
Keystone Trails Sustainer - \$5,000
Keystone Trails Legacy - \$10,000
Keystone Trails Visionary - \$25,000
Keystone Trails Benefactor - \$50,000
Keystone Trails Guardian - \$100,000+



Please consider making a donation before December 31st for 2022.

An application is available at kta-hike.org/keystone-trails-endowment

KTA Welcomes New Intern

I would like to formally introduce myself to the KTA community and family. My name is Jada Walker and I am the new Social Media Manager.



I was born and raised in Staten Island, New York. I am a sophomore at Penn State studying Public Relations. My family and I have spent a lot of our free time camping, which has encouraged my passion in creating a more inclusive, diverse, and fun space for those who enjoy the outdoors.

I look forward to creating, inspiring, and engaging with you all!

Volunteer's Corner

KTA Trail Care Schedule

Our scheduled trail care events have concluded for the 2022 season. The schedule for 2023 will be coming soon

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

KTA Recognizes Outstanding Volunteers

Kristin Joivell

Thyra Sperry Volunteer of the Year Award

This award goes to a KTA member whose recent service to KTA's mission, especially in the preceding year, is most worthy of recognition. It is named in honor of former KTA president Thyra Sperry (d. 2017) and her devoted service to KTA.



Jim Foster

Citation Award for Lifetime Achievement

Presented to a person who has, over a period of years (not necessarily their entire lifetime), made significant contributions to the preservation of hiking trails and promoting hiking in Pennsylvania. Service may be in the form of volunteer efforts, publications, field work, or any other pursuit that has furthered the

mission of the KTA.

Tim Bachmann, Tom Scully, and Gary Wenczel

Certificates of Achievement

Awarded based on nominations from KTA member organizations for extraordinary work on projects that benefit hikers and/or trails in Pennsylvania. This award option allows clubs to nominate a volunteer who may not be an individual KTA member. The nomination should be based on recent service, especially in the past year, that serves the hiking public as a whole rather than primarily the members of the member club.

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club

Club of the Year

New in 2022, clubs may be awarded this honor for excelling in one or more of the following areas during the previous 12-18 months: hiking promotion, trail work, inclusion, and philanthropy.

Clubs, Please Report Your Volunteer Hours

Trail Maintenance is vital to keeping the incredible trail systems of Pennsylvania in good condition. Keystone Trails Association is justifiably proud of the work its volunteer crews and those of its member clubs dedicate to this important task.

We crow about it whenever possible, to whoever will listen! This includes the media, the general public, state agencies, and grant partners (some of which count the hours we dedicate to the trails of the Commonwealth as in-kind contributions for purposes of grant matching). So the more hours you devote to trail care translates to more money devoted to trails!

Thank you for all the work you do!

Volunteer hours should be compiled and reported by the member hiking clubs. Hours include round-trip driving time.

[Report Your Hours](#)

Pinchot Trail Care Day

October 1, 2022

The rain did not stop the Friends of Pinchot, the Keystone Association, nor the Mason Dixon volunteers from working on Beaver Creek Trail Friday (staging of materials) and Saturday. Thank you to all who participated.



DCNR Seeking New Members for 2023 Trails Advisory Committee

Two volunteer members are being sought for the 2023 Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee, representing the following user groups: horseback riding and members at large.

“We are excited at the prospect of adding two new members to this extraordinary committee that will help set the course for our trails system for years to come,” DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said.

Those selected will serve a three-year term starting January 1, 2023. This 20-member, DCNR-appointed committee is charged with implementing the development of a statewide land and water trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles for all.

Letters of interest and resumes are due by Monday, October 31, 2022.

[Read more](#)

KTA Leading Trail Maintenance at Wildwood Park Workday



Help give Wildwood's East Shore Trail some TLC! Lend a hand to improve this popular footpath. Tools, training and personal protective equipment are provided. Please bring a water bottle and wear long pants and boots or sturdy closed-toe shoes. Be prepared to get dirty. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. [Pre-registration required](#). Meet in front of the nature center.

Wildwood Park, part of the Dauphin County Park System, is found at 100 Wildwood Way, off Industrial Road north of Harrisburg.

Hiker's Corner

Public Comment Sought on

ATV Connector Pilot

DCNR is seeking feedback about the 2022 [Regional ATV Connector Pilot](#) summer riding season with an [online survey](#). Responses are due by Friday, November 18, 2022.

The 2022 pilot area provided ATV riding opportunities on designated state forest trails and roads, designated local (township, borough) roads, and specific state routes in Potter and Tioga counties and parts of Clinton and Lycoming counties in the [Pennsylvania Wilds](#).

The riding area also provided opportunities for accessing ATV trails, local businesses, and points of interest.

The results of the survey will be used to improve the administration and guide potential expansion of the ATV Regional Connector Pilot for the 2023 riding season.

We would like to encourage our members to submit comments on this pilot program at the link in the press release above. Expanded ATV activity that utilizes or intersects hiking trails has the potential to be destructive to trails, disruptive to the experience of non-motorized recreators, and hazardous to the safety of hikers.

KTA has been working to document the impacts of this program. Please view this trailer for more information. The full documentary will be available soon



Hunting Season Continues

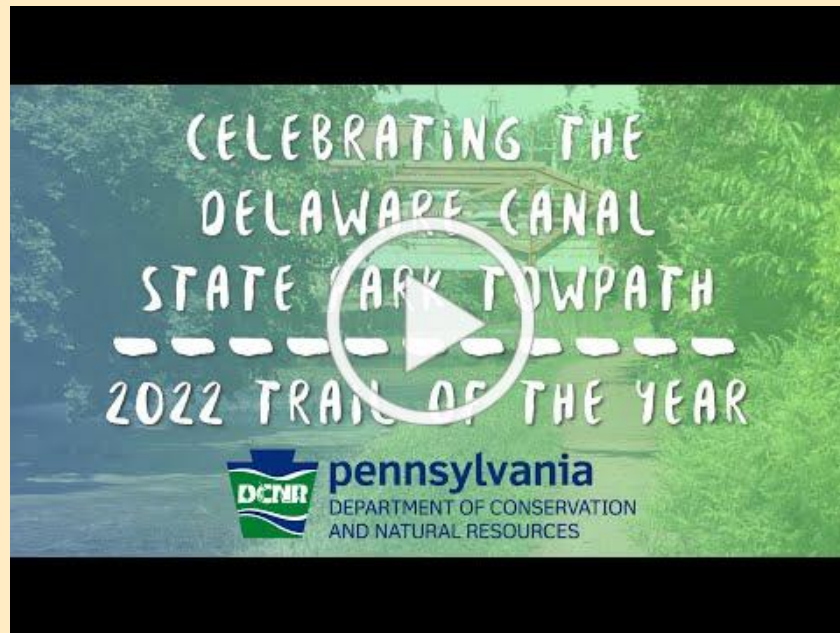
As we enter fall, remember that hikers and hunters will be sharing the woods. Hunters wear orange to keep safe, and so should you! Be aware of [hunting seasons](#) during your outings. Three Sundays will be open for hunting this November:

- Small game and archery deer on Nov 13
- Small game and bear on Nov 20
- Deer and bear on Nov 27

Orange apparel to stay safe and visible is [available from KTA!](#)



Delaware Canal State Park Towpath 2022 PA Trail of the Year



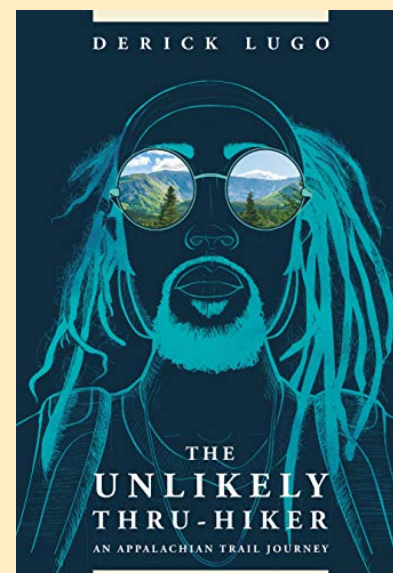
Book Review: The Unlikely Thru-Hiker

Book Review: The Unlikely Thru-Hiker

These days it seems that everyone wants to write a book about their AT/PCT/CDT trek. Many play on some riff or eccentricity - the first is those who are out of their element and have never hiked nor shouldered a pack. Examples: Cheryl Strayed and Bill Bryson. The former tackles the PCT largely to escape inner demons, the latter an out-of-shape guy looking for laughs on the Appalachian Trail.

The other genre getting a lot of attention fall to the opposite extreme: Fastest Known Time (FKT) attempts, multiple "Triple Crowns", calendar-year records; yes, all in plentiful supply.

I'm not convinced we need any more books detailing either the clueless or the extreme viewpoint. The much greater in-between majority of thru-hikers don't get a voice because, well, they're boring, at least from a literary standpoint. There's just no market for folks who complete a trail in six months and get



rained on and don't get mauled by bears.

The Unlikely Thru-Hiker is about Derick Lugo, a NYC dude, stand-up comedian and self-described “metrosexual”. Cutting right to the chase: his bestowed trail name is “Mr. Fabulous”. Really. Here’s a guy that is clearly out of his comfort zone, venturing onto the AT, taunted by friends about not being able to bathe, or groom his goatee on a daily basis. While he is, essentially, clueless, his journaling is decidedly different. Lugo writes from the heart, in a human-connection vein. Much more than most, he’s tuned into his personal feelings and inner dialogue and unabashedly shares it all with the reader. Likewise, he’s a keen observer of people and their interactions with others. All this while slogging along the AT, which becomes almost a secondary pursuit.

Lugo takes to signing his register entries “Peace, Love, & All That Good Stuff” which becomes noticed and quite popular with other thru-hikers, further widening his circle of acquaintances. He plays up the engaging cast of characters he encounters with wit and warmth. In the end, this book is more about personal interaction with others than about the nuts and bolts of a thru-hike, and it’s a truly refreshing approach.

One of the more interesting reflections of his hike is Lugo’s realization that he is uniquely a person of color on the AT, and fellow hikers do comment on this, in a consistently positive way. His own observation: “I’ve come to discover we’re a rare sight out here. Diversity has not yet reached the AT, though the trail does seem ready, wide-eyed, and with open arms.”

Rating: 4 boots

Review by Jack Hauler



Get to Know Your Forests Clear Creek State Forest



Nominations Being Accepted for 2023 PA Trail of the Year

DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn encourages Pennsylvanians to again nominate their favorite trail for the 2023 Trail of the Year.

“Trails are important connectors in our natural spaces, which is why we are excited to receive nominations that share the impact our wonderful trails bring to communities across the commonwealth,” Dunn said.

The Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee designates a Trail of the Year to help build enthusiasm and support for trails, and raise public awareness about the value of Pennsylvania’s trail network.

DCNR recently honored the Delaware Canal State Park Towpath as the 2022 Pennsylvania Trail of the Year and department officials are eager to see nominations for 2023.

[Read more](#)

New Trail Patch Available



The Bucktail Path is now represented in the KTA patch collection. The 33.5 mile Bucktail Path is an isolated and demanding trail in Elk State Forest. The trail is a rewarding experience for seasoned hikers seeking a challenge, because it offers extra loneliness and solitude, even for wild Pennsylvania.

Commemorate your treks on this and nine other trails with a high quality patch available from the [KTA store](#).

Trail News

[Annual Report on Pennsylvania Trails Now Available](#)

[WeConservePA Publishes Model Trail License](#)

[Hall of Fame Induction Day Honors Four Trail Legends](#)

[Details On Three New State Parks Released](#)

[Hiking 101: Start a Hiking Club](#)

[This Hidden Trail In Pennsylvania Leads To Magnificent Abandoned Ruins](#)

[Apply for National Recreation Trail Designation](#)

[You Can Now Get a Free AllTrails Pro Membership—Here's How](#)

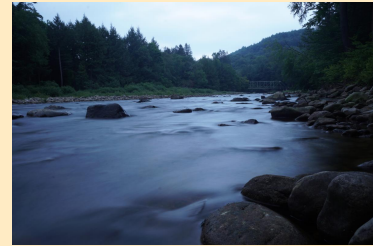
[Falcon Bridge Opened on The Bald Eagle Valley Trail](#)

[Founder of Patagonia Has Given Away His \\$3 Billion Company](#)

2022 Summer/Fall KTA Photo Contest

Submit your photos at <https://www.kta-hike.org/photo-contest.html>

The winner will be announced in January and will receive a free 1 year membership and KTA hat.



Community Calendar

KTA Events

Trail Maintenance at Wildwood Park

November 12

Help give Wildwood's East Shore Trail some TLC! Lend a hand to improve this popular footpath. Tools, training and personal protective equipment are provided. Please bring a water bottle and wear long pants and boots or sturdy closed-toe shoes. Be prepared to get dirty. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required. Meet in front of the nature center.

Community Events

2022 National Trails Workshop

November 2-4

Three days of learning, collaboration, and networking amongst seasoned trails and tourism professionals, emerging leaders and people who are interested in getting involved with trails in their communities and across the nation.

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club Banquet

November 13

The Banquet includes a social, buffet, awards presentation, silent auction, and presentation on "A Spinal Cord Injury Individual's Rehabilitation Journey" by the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital Staff.

[A.T. Vista 2023](#)

August 4-7, 2023

Mark your calendars. The 2023 conference will be held in Johnson City, TN.
More information to come.

Hike the Hill 2023

February 12-17, 2023

Celebrating its 26th year, **Hike the Hill®** is a joint effort between **American Hiking Society** and **Partnership for the National Trails System** to bring together the trails community to advance shared trail priorities with congressional and federal agency leaders including: trails funding, public lands management and conservation, equitable access, and other top priority issues that sustain trails and improve access to public lands.

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

Central Pennsylvania Conservancy



Central Pennsylvania Conservancy is a nonprofit, charitable organization with a mission to acquire, preserve, and protect local land and natural resources in South-Central Pennsylvania. Active for over 35 years, the organization serves as the local land trust for a 5-county region (Cumberland, Franklin, Perry, Dauphin, Juniata Counties), plus Northern York County.

Our vision is to create a local network of permanently protected and preserved lands by fostering a community committed to conservation and acquiring key lands and easements.

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.



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