



November 2018

THE KEYSTONE HIKER

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths since 1956

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Member's Corner

Fall Hiking Weekend 2018!

October 12-14th KTA hosted our annual Fall Hiking Weekend in Williamsport at the Genetti hotel. With an excellent turnout, of over 75 people and (mostly) nice weather it was a great weekend. Saturday the Board meeting and general meeting were held, as well as many awards given out. The minutes from the weekend are linked here.

We also added two new members to our board, Ben Cramer and Carl Davis. Added to council were Gary Decker and Tom Schmick. Congratulations to these four!

Hik(e)u

by Ed Lawrence

First sun in one and 1/2 weeks
south bound through hiker says
beaming

2018 Hiking Awards

Recipients of 2018 awards are as follows:

PA Appalachian Trail: Ellen Dyer, Kathy Humphreys, David Lukes, Marielle Macher, Cathy Roden, Angela Snyder, Dawn Warden, Cheryl Williams

100 Mile Challenge Awards: Susan Henderson, Susan Kerlin, Careen Shafer

Merit Award: David Lukes

Merit Award II: David Lukes, Dory Peterson

Pennsylvania Award: Henry Bonson

Western PA Award: Henry Bonson

State Forest Trails Award: Jack Hauler

Certificate of Appreciation: Alice Tarr

Thyra Sperry Volunteer of the Year Award: Jenn Ulmer

Citation Award for Lifetime Achievement: Wanda Shirk (check out this awesome piece on her [here](#))



Congrats to all of our recipients!

Your Hiking Advocate

On October 15th KTA attended a meeting regarding Sunday hunting in the Chairman of the House Game and Fisheries Committee's office. Here are a few of the take-aways:

Participants: PGC, House Game and Fisheries Chairmen both R & D, Both R & D Executive Directors of the Committee, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Hunters United for Sunday Hunting, Governors Advisor on Hunting Fishing and Conservation, National Shooting Sports Foundation, and others On the anti-Sunday hunting side was the Farm Bureau and KTA. We understand the Humane Society was not invited because they are viewed as too "polarizing" to the sportsmen's community.

The Chairman started us off by saying that rather than a hearing he invited us to this discussion to air our positions and see if there is any common ground. The sportsmen's groups framed the discussion as not about SH, but who should be the decision makers - the General Assembly or the PGC. The pro-Sunday hunting groups want the PGC to decide because they of course will allow Sunday hunting. Bottom line was that both the FB and KTA did not offer any compromise or any softening of their position opposed to SH. We were accused of being anti-hunting since we have the same position as the Humane Society. Quite a bit of discussion revolved around tying trespass to Sunday hunting since that is a huge issue for the Farm Bureau. KTA stated it was not a huge issue for us since many of our trails are on public land. No compromise or consensus was reached.

Bottom line - they (sportsmen and the PGC) are going to have a major push for Sunday hunting next legislative session regardless of our opposition. Sportsmen's groups believe they can get the votes. So starting in January it appears we'll have a fight on our hands.

Joe Neville, Executive Director

Volunteer/Maintenance Corner

Trail Care Tackles Tuscarora Mountain (again)

as told by Ben Auer Trail Care leader

South of Cowans Gap State Park the Tuscarora Trail climbs back up on the spine of Tuscarora Mountain and passes through State Game Lands #124 on its way to the Maryland border. The remoteness of this section, along with its open canopy, has allowed it to become, over many years, a gauntlet of briars. Many a hiker who has dared to walk this section in shorts has not come out unscathed.

PATC is responsible for maintaining the Tuscarora Trail, but because of this section's location, which is a good distance north of their maintainer base, the KTA Trail Care Program responded to their call for assistance and has fielded crews the past several years in an effort to help win back the trail corridor. This September, 9 volunteers put in 120 hours of hard work to continue that quest.

The Trail Care was based out of the very (very) nice PATC Little Cove Cabin, which is nestled on the southern flank of the mountain. A big thanks to PATC's Pete Brown who secured the cabin for our use and also worked the connector trail up to and south of the Alice Trail junction. KTA volunteers picked up where they had left off last year, hiking up the aptly named Hells Hill access trail and working south towards the Yellow Trail running brush cutters to clear out the briars that were choking the trail. Over the course of the weekend they managed to meet up with where a PATC crew had worked north of the Yellow Trail a few weeks previously. The brush cutters then continued south of the Yellow access trail for another mile. Other members of the crew did some significant reblazing, lopping and clearing of debris from the trail, while KTA's sawyer cleared all of the numerous blowdowns. At the end of the weekend event the trail from Hells Hill Trail to south of the Yellow Trail was in outstanding shape thanks to the combined efforts and dedication of the crew.

Tuscarora Trail volunteers were: Tracy Goldy-Kahn, Patty Brunner, Kevin Busko, June Ecker, Scott Bliss, Tony Robbins, Tom Bastian, Pete Brown and leader Ben Auer. Their work will be much appreciated by hikers on this part of the Tuscarora Trail and is by the KTA Trail Care Program as well.

KTA helps protect Loyalsock Trail

KTA teamed up with The Save Pennsylvania Forests Coalition to discuss and start a conversation about Pennsylvania General Energy's problematic plans regarding sections of the Loyalsock Trail. Read the letter [here](#).

Hikers' Corner

New 100 Mile Trail Challenge Participant!

Say hello to our newest participant taking the ultimate trail challenge!

Full name: Karen Miller

Nickname: K

Age: 53

Hometown: State College/Port Matilda

How long you've been hiking: I've been hiking pretty much as long as I can remember. I enjoyed camping as a kid, and as a teenager, I spent many hours in the woods (Scotia State Game Lands #176) on trails with my horse. My father introduced me to competitive trail hiking about 10 years ago. When he stopped hiking/racing a few years ago (at age 77), I started trail running. Earliest memory of hiking or most memorable hiking experience: Hiking from Pine Grove Mills to Whipple Dam through the woods on no trails, with neighborhood kids - 1975ish.

Why you decided to take the 100-Mile Trail Challenge: I sponsored a friend last year, and checked it out and wanted to join in the fun.

Some trails you plan to hike to meet this goal: I want to explore some trails at Pine Creek State Park and McConnells Mills State Park.

Your #1 favorite hiking trail in Pennsylvania, and why it's your favorite: Rothrock (Boalsburg-Tussey Mountain area): Spruce Gap to Midstate Trail, to New Laurel Trail, to Fleet Foot Trail, to Midstate Trail, to Old Laurel Trail, to Three Bridges - This 6 mile loop is a favorite and year round staple. I love the climb to the fire tower, the mountain laurel, rocks, moss and ferns along the way to Three Bridges where I stop to drink some spring water, then it's all downhill from there back to my car!

Your favorite thing about hiking: Connecting with nature.

Who's sponsoring you so far (friends, family, co-workers, hiking club, etc.): No one knows yet! But I'll be hitting up my workplace and friends for sure!

How you heard about KTA or first got involved with KTA: A friend asked me to sponsor her last year. I just joined KTA!

Advice to new hikers: Any day is a good day on the trails! It doesn't have to be sunny and 70 degrees. I'm an all-season person, and enjoy most days regardless of the weather.

The one thing you'll never hit the trail without: I usually take a Purple Lizard Map with me! I have multiple copies of some of their maps!

Favorite nature/hiking quote (your own or someone else's): I'm a Mary Oliver fan. Two of my favorite poems are from Thirst, "Messenger" and "When I Am Among the Trees." Favorite quotes are, from Messenger, "my work is loving the world....Let me keep my mind on what matters, which is my work, which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished." And from When I Am Among the Trees, "When I am among the trees,I would almost say that they save me, and daily." Full poems attached for your enjoyment!!! (you can find that [here!](#))



Anything else you'd like to share: My father, David Andersen, was an Appalachian Trail thru-hiker in 2000. Trail Angels are real.

Picture is from 2018 Hyner Trail Challenge.

Journey On!



Jeff's Jaunts

Hiking to Deep Hollow Falls and Split Rock-SGL 36

Click the photo to check out Jeff Mitchell's latest photos and experiences! See stunning formations and falls at Deep Hollow and Split Rock. *"SGL 36 is located south of Monroeton and features a surprising array of natural beauty. There are cliffs, excellent views, waterfalls, gorges, and rock mazes. Off of Deep Hollow Road, there is an unblazed, unsigned trail that goes up to a unique rock maze called Split Rock with a view and impressive chasms and mazes."*

KTA/Community Calendar

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Spring Hiking Weekend 2019- April 12-14; Camp Ladore Waymart, PA

Laurel Highlands Trail Slackpack- May TBD

Trek the Tiadaghton- June 14th-16th

August in the Allegheny National Forest- August 9th-11th

Trail Challenge- September 7th

KTA Treks & Trails Trip to Wales-Sept. 15th-27th

Quehanna Elk Quest trip 1- October 4th-6th

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KTA publishes and sells maps, guidebooks, and patches related to hiking trails in Pennsylvania.

Members receive at least a 10% discount! Click the link to check out our online bookstore.

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

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