



The Keystone Hiker - October 2020

Member's Corner

Richard Hiemenz Memorial Shelter



In honor of late KTA member Richard Hiemenz, the Keystone Trails Association has sponsored a shelter on the North Country Trail. The Chapel Fork shelter was built roughly one mile south of the Chappel Bay trailhead on Rt 321. A plaque will be put up to honor Richard Hiemenz in a dedication ceremony that will be held later this fall.

Member Spotlight - 100 Mile Challenge

Meet our newest participant taking on the [100 Mile Trail Challenge!](#)

Name: Deuane Hoffman

Age: 50

Hometown: Harrisburg

Trail Names or Nick Names: Raven

How long have you been hiking?: 40 years

What are your favorite things about hiking?

Being immersed in nature...I would consider myself to be an advanced amateur naturalist with a heavy focus on ornithology...which I am VERY skilled in.



What are some of your favorite hiking trails in PA?

Quehanna, due to it's remote feel and varied terrain. Chuck Keiper, for its relentless UP or DOWN nature and the trail system in the St Anthony's area (SGL 210 and 211) north of Harrisburg with the AT and Horseshoe Trails as the major trails as that is where I "cut my teeth" hiking as a young boy while an

What is your most memorable hiking experience?

The time our BSA assistant scout master (and retired Navy seal) hand picked a rattlesnake from between a terrified scouts legs while on the Tuscarora Trail in Perry County. More recently, our campsite at Dieble Run vista on the Quehanna Trail...to me it's the epitome of a bucolic, Pennsylvania forest view!

Why did you decide to take the 100-Mile Trail Challenge?

Since April 2019 I've lost 80 lbs (about 30% of my bodyweight) and have become MUCH more comfortable with hiking again! Additionally, my wife and I are Potomac Appalachian Trail Club members and volunteers overseeing a Tuscarora side trail, Bear Ponds Trail, in western Perry County near Hemlocks Natural Area. My interest in protecting and maintaining trails guaranteeing people access to the plethora of trails we are lucky to have here in Pennsylvania is important to me.

What are some trails you plan to hike to meet your goal?

Tuscarora, Appalachian, Susquehannock and Bucktail Path to name a few.

Who is sponsoring you so far for the 100 mile challenge?

Mostly friends and family.

Do you have any advice to new hikers?

Don't overestimate your abilities. Learn how to use and become comfortable with your equipment. If you ever find yourself in trouble remain calm, get as comfortable as possible, stay put and don't try to be a hero. Even though PA has a multitude of rural forest land nowhere in the state is more than a few miles away from a drivable road...plus with nearly 12 million people, someone will find you sooner than later!

What is one thing you'll never hit the trail without?

Optical equipment of some kind, I'm a dedicated bird watcher at heart, a good knife and a Sawyer mini .

Do you have a favorite nature/ hiking quote that you can share with us?

Life should be an unfinished business. -- Colin Fletcher

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Don't hesitate to do the things you want to do in life...as far as we know we only get one go around.

We Were There Too

The 2020 book by Gwen Loose, executive director of the York County Rail Trail Authority, explores untold stories of women who helped establish the Appalachian Trail.

Gwen Loose was hiking with a friend on the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) when a question crossed her mind.

While Benton MacKaye and Myron Avery are considered the founders and

fathers of the A.T., “Who was holding down the fort at conference headquarters?” she wondered.

Someone must have been keeping track of all the details that went into the planning of the 2,192-mile-long trail stretching from Maine to Georgia during its formative years, reaching back to 1925.

Loose’s friend encouraged her to search for answers while writing her thesis for her master’s degree. So, began an eight-year journey, which not only turned into a successful thesis but became the basis for a book.

Read the [full story here](#).

Dress for the Season

Hunting season is here, so be sure to stay visible in the woods with fluorescent orange. Remember that 3 Sundays will be open to hunting this year:

November 15th, 22nd, and 29th

[Find complete hunting season information from the PA Game Commission](#)

2020 Trail of the Year



Each year, the [Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee](#) designates a Trail of the Year to help build enthusiasm and support for both large and small trails, and raise public awareness about the value of Pennsylvania’s trail network. This year that honor goes to the [Ghost Town Trail](#) in Cambria and Indiana counties.

Rich with the history of railroading and former coal mining towns along its 46-mile route, the Ghost Town Trail captures the spirit of an industrial past and the promise of a recreational future.

The trail draws thousands of bicyclists, hikers, runners, walkers, birders, and in winter, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and fat-tire biking enthusiasts.

Named for long-gone coal-mining communities that once dotted its right-of-way, the Ghost Town Trail flows past two massive iron furnaces, old coal-loading tipples, and other traces of industrial history.

Favorite Hiking Trail Survey

KTA is conducting a member survey of our favorite PA hiking trails and we want to hear from you!

Visit kta-hike.org/trail-survey or email us listing a few of your favorite trails.

Please include location, brief description, approximate distance, and why you think it's special, and please include any rail trail or historic trails as well. We will compile a list of these trails for our membership and it will help KTA in promoting and protecting trails in the Keystone State. Thank you!

Volunteer's Corner

GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK CODE ORANGE HAS GREEN LIGHT

The Saturday, October 3rd work day at Gifford Pinchot State Park is a go. Take note that the 8:30 meeting place for volunteers has changed to the extra car parking lot at the campground entrance 800 East Camping Area Road, Wellsville. Boxed lunches will be provided by the Friends of the Park so be sure to give Steve Stroman a call (717-350-0437) so he has an accurate trailhead count. These updates can be found on the Trail Care section of the KTA website.

Ed Lawrence

BUCKTAIL PATH TRAIL CARE CANCELLED REPLACED WITH REEDS GAP SPUR TRAIL

The November 5-8 trail care event on the Bucktail Path is being cancelled for this year. The Brooks Run Fire Tower Cabin is too confined an indoor space to fill with volunteers gathered around the fireplace this season. We hope to return next fall to continue our work in Elk State Forest.

All is not lost however. The final Trail Care of this unusual season has been relocated to work on the 14 mile long Reeds Gap Spur Trail that connects Reeds Gap State Park to the Mid State Trail at Poe Paddy State Park. This is a wild trail that ascends to, then follows, the spine of Thick Mountain, descends into Treaster Valley passing through the Bear Gap Picnic Area before climbing Treaster, Strongs and White Mountains in succession.

THE DETAILS;

This event has been moved up a week as well, and will take place the last weekend of October (Oct.29 –Nov. 1) at the intersection of a full moon and Halloween. The base camp will be Site #61, which is a car camping site off Hoofnagle Road in Bald Eagle State Forest (Reeds Gap State Park is closed to camping at this time of year). This is the only such site In Bald Eagle SF with a lean-to. This is a primitive camping site with no water available. It can be accessed from the north via Weikert or from the south via Milroy. It is somewhat off the beaten track. There will be a map and directions posted on the KTA website prior to the event.

Oct. 28 – Nov. 1: Trail Care BTB
Reeds Gap Spur Trail
Bald Eagle State Forest
Leader: Ed Lawrence

2020 Trail Care Schedule

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

Oct 3: GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK - York County

Oct 28 - Nov 1: REEDS GAP SPUR TRAIL

Nov 5 – 8: BUCKTAIL PATH - Cameron County- Cancelled

Additional Opportunities

Pick Up Michaux

Saturday October 10 - 9:00-12:00

DCNR and the Friends of Michaux will be coordinating litter clean up along Old Forge Road. Join us in giving some much needed TLC to this highly trafficked area in Michaux State Forest.

Great Plastic Purge of the Lower Susquehanna

Saturday October 31 & November 7 - 8:00-2:00

The Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association and partners will be hosting the 1st Annual Plastic Purge of the Lower Susquehanna. This large scale cleanup will take place around Lake Clarke on the Susquehanna River on both sides of the River and everywhere in between.

Hiker's Corner

Old Loggers Path



The Old Loggers Path is a remote trail in Loyalsock State Forest, PA. The "path" is a 27 orange blazed loop trail through thick forest, visiting beautiful streams and a few nice vistas. I was greeted on Sullivan Mountain by a rattler and spent the night with coyotes nearby including getting poked in my bivy

Jeff's Jaunts - Vistas of Kellogg Mountain



Kellogg Mountain in SGL 36, south of Towanda, has some incredible views that any hiker should check out. The hike is relatively straightforward. The views are stunning, ideal for sunrises, and feature beautiful mountainous terrain. Kellogg Mountain has a lot more than just this hike, there are waterfalls on Satterlee Run, chasms, caves, rock

outcrops, Split Rock vista and maze, and Deep Hollow Falls. There is so much to see here.

You can hike to these views, also known locally as English Rocks, from the north or south. When the gates are closed, the north route is shorter but harder with more climbing. The south route is longer but easier. During hunting season, this hike either way is shortened considerably when the gates are open. On the north route, you can drive to the top of the mountain (a vehicle with some clearance is recommended) when the gates are open. Do not miss the unique stone cabin at the top of the mountain. When the gates open, you can also drive more of the south route. Again, a vehicle with some clearance is recommended. Most of this hike follows forest roads. Overall, I think the north route is more scenic even though it can involve climbing. The south route is ideal if you also want to include the waterfalls of Satterlee Run.

Either way you go, look for a meadow with trees protected with fencing (41.664050, -76.476662). Notice an unmarked ATV trail heading east. Follow it through laurel. Reach some bedrock outcrops, here it can be confusing. Turn right and hike over the outcrops then veer left on a footpath which can be obscured by brush. This will lead you to the first view, a dramatic balcony of white rock (41.662784, -76.475224.) Continue up the cliff line along herd paths to two more views. Be careful along the cliffs as a fall would be fatal. My favorite is the middle view. The views are stunning and the mountainous terrain is impressive. You can see SGL 57 and even New York from these cliffs. This place is incredible in the Autumn. This is truly one of the finest views in Northeast PA. Return the way you came.

[by Jeff Mitchell](#)

Your Hiking Advocate

HB 1706 – Gabler (R- Clearfield/Elk)

Off Highway Motorcycle (OHM) riding is and has been very popular in Pennsylvania. However, current law provides no means to insure OHM's or provide legal access to trails on public lands.

This legislation will enable OHM owners to register their bikes with DCNR if they would like the ability to purchase insurance or seek access to public trails. The legislation will add OHMs to Chapter 77 of the Vehicle Code which currently regulates the use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATV's). Providing for the optional registration of OHMs in a similar manner as ATV's and snowmobiles will provide the impetus to create more recreational and trail riding opportunities, jobs and economic growth in many areas of the Commonwealth.

The revenues generated from OHM registrations will be used for trail development and maintenance.

With the passage of this program, the state's reputation will grow as a great place to go for this type of outdoor recreation. It is Rep. Gabler's belief that this program can be a significant boost for tourism in many rural counties.

In drafting this legislation, it has been Rep. Gabler's intention to create opportunities without creating additional mandates or requirements on citizens or recreational riders. This registration program is intended to be entirely voluntary based upon the desire of individual OHM owners to seek state registration on their bikes. Those who do not desire to participate would not be required to do so under this bill.

KTA Position: KTA opposes, see policy below:

KTA Motorized Vehicle Policy (4/18/2020)

The Keystone Trails Association (KTA), on behalf of its members and member organizations, seeks to preserve and protect the scenic, cultural, historical and natural resources of Pennsylvania. High impact recreational uses such as motorized vehicles are incompatible with the protection and preservation of the scenic and conservation values of our public lands and trails. To safeguard the features in the surrounding environment that contribute to the hiking and trails experience, KTA will support all measures that minimize or eliminate the environmental, visual and auditory impacts caused by all-terrain vehicles and other motorized uses.

HB 2806 – Heffley (R – Carbon)

The general rule will be amended to read, whenever the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources imposes fees or charges for activities, admissions, uses or privileges at state parks, all charges or fees will be used solely for the maintenance, operation or administration of the state park system.

A specific state park may impose fees or parking charges in such amounts necessary to provide for maintenance, operation or administration of that state park.

KTA position: Oppose

HB 2724 – Oberlander (R- Clarion/Armstrong/Forest)

Rep. Oberlander is aware of at least one instance where a private entity (RCTC) has commenced litigation to obtain a prescriptive easement (right to access another's land) for the benefit of the "public." If property rights are to be surrendered for "public" use, then it is the public, through our state and local

government entities, that should hold those rights.

Her legislation would amend the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act to provide the following:

- Only a “public entity” can make a claim for a prescriptive easement for the benefit of the public. (KTA – not a trail club)
- “Public entity” includes the Commonwealth, a Commonwealth agency, a political subdivision or a local government agency.
- These changes apply retroactively to any claim which arose in the last 21 years.
- For any existing litigation, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources would be substituted for the private entity trying to claim the public easement.

KTA position: Oppose

Dear Fellow Hiker,

The Dictionary defines “*advocate*” as a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. An advocate can help fund a cause, spread the word about important upcoming decisions, urge friends, neighbors, and elected officials to take action, and volunteer time to help protect something they love.

Advocacy is one of the primary roles of the Keystone Trails Association, and our trails remain protected and preserved thanks to thousands of dedicated individuals, like you, helping us with this important work.

KTA advocates on behalf of hikers by:

- Supporting legislation on easements to preserve and provide access to trails
- Opposing DCNR’s plans to expand ATV trails in our State Forests
- Recruiting a new generation of hikers with the Kids Trail Ambassadors Program
- Promoting hiking to new enthusiasts through a variety of new and exciting opportunities and information
- Ensuring that hikers’ voices are heard in the strategic plans of state agencies

None of this would have happened without the support and persistence of thousands of KTA advocates invested in protecting our trails and hiking’s future.

As a champion, supporter, backer, promoter and proponent and yes an advocate of our trails, please consider a gift of \$50 - \$100 or whatever you can give. Your donation goes a long way toward assisting with our important efforts.

We’re counting on loyal friends like you now more than ever! KTA’s mission is possible with your support. Thanks to you, KTA can make a real, lasting impact on the preservation and protection of Pennsylvania’s trails.

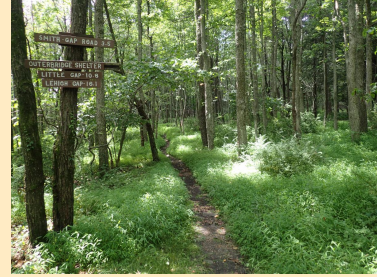
[I hope you can consider donating to help us continue this important and vital effort.](#)

Yours in Hiking,

2020 Summer/Fall 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

[Black Forest Trail Slackpack - Oct 23-26](#)

Filled - waitlist registrations only

Hike through the 42 mile BFT in 4 days with just a day pack. Stay in comfortable cabins at Pettecote Junction Campground.

Community Events

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club Banquet - Nov 14

Heidelberg Country Club, Bernville, PA

[Click here for more info and a form to RSVP](#)

Delaware Highlands Conservancy Gathering - Oct 15, 4:30-6:00 PM

Conservation Conversations - protect your land with conservation easements

[Free Zoom gathering : Registration Required](#)

Pennsylvania Forestry Association Annual Symposium- Oct 26-30

[Join in by phone or by Zoom](#)

Cancellations

To protect the health and safety of our members and help reduce the spread of COVID-19, KTA events have been cancelled through June. Later events are set to go on as normal and will be reevaluated closer to the date.

Many events from member clubs and outside organizations have also been

cancelled or postponed. Please check for the latest information from event organizers before attending.

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

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club



The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) is a 100% Volunteer-Supported 501c3 non-profit formed in 1927 for the purpose of building and maintaining the Appalachian Trail (AT), a 2190-mile footpath from Maine to Georgia, the longest hiking-only trail in the world. We were the 1st club of the now 31 clubs who preserve the AT & its side-trails from Maine to Georgia.

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.