



The Keystone Hiker - October 2022

Member's Corner

Three New State Parks Announced

KTA was honored to be invited to the announcement of three new state parks for Pennsylvania. Presiding at the announcement were Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, PA DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, PA State Representative Stan Saylor and Philip Wenger, President of Lancaster Conservancy.

The announcement was held at the site of one of the new parks, Susquehanna Riverlands State Park, located along the west shore of the Susquehanna River in Hellam Township, York County. The other two new parks are Vosburg Neck State Park, along the north branch of the Susquehanna River in Wyoming County; and Big Elk Creek State Park, in southern Chester County.



[Read More](#)

2022 KTA Trail Challenge

On September 10th, KTA held the annual Trail Challenge, a 25k and 50k trail run event in Lancaster and York Counties along the Susquehanna River.

Congratulations to everyone who came out and completed the challenge, with a special

acknowledgment for our fastest runners in both divisions of the run!

50K - 5:49:36.71

Chris Pabian

25K - 2:42:53.48

Sean Robbins



[The full results can be found here](#)

The Trail Challenge, sponsored by UPMC Health Plan, Wegmans Food Markets, Seltzer's Smokehouse Meats, and Brookfield Renewable, takes hikers and trail runners on an exciting and challenging course between Pequea Creek Campground, Peavine Island, Susquehannock SP, and the Pinnacle Overlook in this 12 hour event.

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

Brookfield

Renewable



Wegmans

Breathing caves, mad honey, and ancient rock carvings: Secrets along the KTA Trail Challenge

Article by Jamie Noerpel

The [Keystone Trails Association](#) recently hosted its 25k and 50k Trail Challenge. Runners and hikers lined up to race the gorgeous trails along the Susquehanna River (Lancaster side). My [Hometown History](#) partner and friend, Dominish Miller, competed in the challenge in 2018, 2019, and 2021. I wanted to learn more about the event, so I dove into the natural history of the racing route. Here are some interesting stories I uncovered.



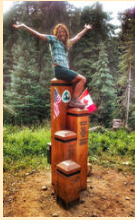
[Read More](#)

Fall Hiking Weekend on the Horizon

KTA heads to central Pennsylvania for the annual [Fall Hiking Weekend](#). Join us on October 14-16, 2022 at the Best Western in Lewisburg, PA for a weekend of awesome excursions from

rail trails to river trails and backcountry hikes.

Daily guided hikes will visit the Old Loggers Path, Loyalsock Trail, Weiser State Forrest, RB Winter State Park, and more. Check the [website](#) for updates. [Contact the KTA office](#) if you would like to volunteer as a hike leader.



The weekend program will also see a keynote presentation by **Heather Anderson** - a National Geographic Adventurer of the Year and the only woman who has completed the Appalachian, Pacific Crest and Continental Divide National Scenic Trails each three times.

Hike Beautiful Pennsylvania Stickers



This snazzy new sticker, created by the company [RepresentPA.com](#) is now available through the [KTA Store](#). It's a great way to show your pride in exploring Pennsylvania's oh-so-beautiful hiking trails, and support KTA. The company has generously offered to donate 10% of annual proceeds from sticker sales to Keystone Trails Association. Essentially, we benefit two ways from this partnership – via our own direct sales and the overall sales generated by the company. The sticker communicates well what KTA's

community already knows: Pennsylvania is the place for hiking. Be sure to check out the full line of products from [RepresentPA.com](#) – all designed to celebrate our magnificent commonwealth.

New Grants for KTA from REI and DCNR

REI, via their new Mechanicsburg store, has generously awarded KTA an \$8,000 grant towards our work in the coming year. The support will help us advance various programmatic and operational goals and we are quite grateful. REI is also interested in enrichment opportunities for their employees, such as assisting KTA and local clubs with trail maintenance. We look forward to facilitating these important, hands-on learning experiences.

Recently, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) announced a \$90 million grant round—the largest single investment in Pennsylvania recreation and conservation history. KTA was thrilled to learn it will receive \$175,000 towards planning, programs, and trail promotion. We appreciate this investment in KTA, trails, and hiking.

“This substantial funding will strengthen our organization, expand our activities, and grow our staff,” says Brook Lenker, KTA Executive Director. “Our

advancement will benefit trails and hikers around the state as we welcome and engage more people in outdoor exploration and stewardship.”

DCNR Announces Recreation Engagement Coalition Aimed at Growing \$12 Billion Outdoor Recreation Sector in PA

On September 14, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and Pennsylvania Director of Outdoor Recreation Nathan Reigner joined Wolf administration officials and a new Recreation Engagement Coalition (REC) to kick off discussions on growing Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation sector. KTA's Executive Director, Brook Lenker, participated in the meeting, as an invited member of the REC.

The event at the Pennsylvania Governor's Residence convened the REC, which is a part of DCNR's efforts for Growing Outdoor Recreation for Pennsylvania (GORP). The REC will be primary advisers helping to build the commonwealth's Office of Outdoor Recreation. Outdoor recreation adds \$12 billion in value to Pennsylvania's economy and 150,000 full-time jobs, accounting for approximately 1.5% of the commonwealth's GDP. More information, plus photos and videos of the kickoff event, [can be found here](#).

Volunteer's Corner

KTA Trail Care Schedule 2022

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 Rd. 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

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](#)

Trail Care Report

September 15-18: Bucktail Path

Stationed out of Sizerville State Park, thirteen volunteers took on a variety of projects throughout the Northern section of Bucktail Path the weekend of September 15-18. The weather was sunny and comfortable, and the company around the fire was joyous. Over the weekend, we broke out into different groups to work on two main sections of trail between the Northern terminus and Mowray trail.



There were four crews out on Friday: one doing lopping and blazing, one brush cutting, another doing sidehill work, and one doing even more brush cutting. Thanks to Tony Robbins for making a ridiculously tasty tater tot casserole! Wanda Shirk also supplied much needed fuel for the remainder of the weekend by bringing a cooler with dozens of sandwiches!

Saturday focused on a different section of trail just to the south, and had us back out brush cutting, blazing, and clearing blow downs. Some crew members finished up Sunday by heading south to Kettle Creek State Park to complete a bridge project along Alice's Trail. The bridge now has two repaired handrails along with a few new planks.

All in all, the volunteer participants accomplished a lot: about 10 miles of the trail brush cut and cleared of nettles, nearly 6 miles lopped and freshly blazing,

while several sections of sidehill were benched and significantly improved, close to 100 blowdowns were cleared from the trail, and some much needed bridge repairs. Big thanks to all the volunteers who helped out this weekend: Ed Lawrence, Tom Bastian, Brian MacNamara, Shira Blady, Jenn Ulmer, Donna Thompson, Tony Robbins, Madeline Rosiek, Victoria Buckwash, Dave Schurr, Walker Gorsich, Polly Chatterton and Tom O'Donnell.

The crew even received some positive feedback from an appreciative hiker that following Monday!

There are two more opportunities to volunteer before the years end: Code Orange on Saturday, October 1 at Gifford Pinchot SP and October 27-30 at Pinchot Trail in Pinchot SF.

-Shira Blady



Wow I'm impressed by the quality of the trail in sizerville on the buck tail path. Nice not getting burned up by nettles. I give props to whoever whacked the trail down and dug the trail out of the bank, had to be very hard work. Ollie says thanks too.



You and 148 others

10 comments • 2 shares

What to Expect: October 27-30 Trail Care: Pinchot Trail System

The final scheduled Trail Care of the year will be held on the Pinchot Trail System on the last weekend in October. KTA volunteers have made significant improvements to this popular backpacking loop over the last decade.

This year, participants will be helping to upgrade some of the yellow blazed 'hiking only' trails that tie into the main trail and create shorter loop hikes used by day hikers. Brushcutters and loppers will be primary tools to trim back areas that have become overgrown. Other tasks, such as reblazing, may be developed in coordination with Forestry.

Open field camping will be available at the nearby Pocono Mountain Bible Conference Camp with showers and modern conveniences available. The meeting place each morning will be at the Manny Gordon Picnic Area near the main trailhead off Bear Lake Road / SR2016. Plan on being there by 8 in the morning to join a crew. This being on the western edge of the Pocono Plateau expect crisp weather and come prepared to dress for the weather and camp to sleep warm. Wrap up the Trail Care season with a weekend of stewardship on one of Pennsylvania's finest foot paths.

KTA Leading Trail Maintenance at Wildwood Park Workday



Postponed due to thunderstorms, a trail maintenance event planned for August 30 at Wildwood Park has been rescheduled for **Saturday, November 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The work will occur on the park's East Shore Trail. Tools, gloves, and personal protective equipment will be provided. Interested individuals should [register with the park at this link](#) or contact them at 717-221-0292.

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

Other Volunteer Opportunities

A.T. Mid-Atlantic Crew Volunteer Opportunities

The [Mid-Atlantic trail crew](#) is currently recruiting volunteers for [7 weeks this fall](#). Dates and length of sessions vary.

Session 4: [Tent Pad Construction](#) Oct 3-7

Session 5: [Tent Pad Construction](#) Oct 12-17

Session 6: [Trail Restoration](#) Oct 20-25

Session 7: [Trail Restoration](#) Oct 28 - Nov 2



AmeriCorps Seniors are looking to place people 55+ to help out the local communities and organizations in Clinton, Lycoming, Union, and

Snyder counties. Their focus is environmental stewardship and helping with trails is of great interest. If you are interested in working with these volunteers, please contact the applicable county representative listed below:

Mike Vail –Clinton County vailm@diakon.org (570) 419-5941

Chris Barton- Lycoming County bartonc@diakon.org (570) 419-7858

Jenelle Longacre- Union-Snyder Counties longacrej@diakon.org (570) 419-8044

Hiker's Corner

Get to Know Your Forests William Penn State Forest



Hunting Season Begins

As we enter fall remember that hikers and hunters will be sharing the woods. Hunters wear orange to keep safe, and so should hikers! Be aware of [hunting seasons](#) during your outings. Orange apparel to stay safe and visible is [available from KTA!](#)



Trail News

[Historic Investments to Improve Recreation, Community Revitalization Efforts](#)

[New Forester Named for Sproul State Forest](#)

[Lancaster Conservancy Receives Funding for Accessible Trail](#)

ATV Film Project

With the support of a Huplits Wildlife Grant through the Sierra Club, Keystone Trails Association – in conjunction with Stony Creek Films – is creating a short, educational documentary video highlighting ATV issues in Pennsylvania. The film will explore the impacts of ATVs related to forest health, wildlife habitat, water quality, hiking trails, and the overall character of public lands. The urgency of



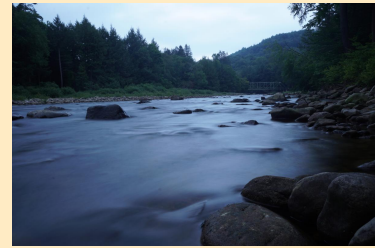
the project is prompted by legislative mandates to create more ATV riding opportunities in the state, including on and between DCNR lands, beginning with the “ATV Regional Trail Connector Pilot.” Information about this program formation can be found on the agency’s website.

When the film is available later this fall, viewing opportunities will be shared on the KTA website and in future newsletters.

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

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.

Fall Hiking Weekend

October 14 - 16th

KTA heads to central Pennsylvania for a weekend getaway filled with great hikes and fellowship. From rail trails to river trails and backcountry hikes, we are looking forward to a weekend of awesome excursions .

Community Events

Sierra Club City Hike

September 23 - October 10

City Hike is a nationwide hike aimed to get people outdoors and raise money to protect the planet. Join where you are, or at flagship events in Los Angeles or Boston.

A.T. Hall of Fame Induction

October 1

The Appalachian Trail Museum plans a full schedule of free events on the day the [2022 A.T. Hall of Fame class](#) is inducted. The Hall of Fame Induction ceremony will begin at 1:30 in the Furnace Stack parking lot. The ceremony will be a free event, but registration will be required due to limited space.

[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.

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](#)

[BATONA Hiking Club](#)

BATONA (BACK TO NATURE) is a Philadelphia based hiking club providing hiking and trail maintenance activities in Philadelphia; surrounding counties of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware; and beyond.

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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