

NEWSLETTER

101 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
www.kta-hike.org

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

August 2008



Summer Trail Crew Accomplishments!

Young Woman's Creek Bridge

By Rich Scanlon

It took four years, a lot of cooperation, and hard work to build the hiking bridge over the left branch of Young Woman's Creek during the June Trail Crew. A joint effort by KTA, Sproul District of the Bureau of Forestry, and the Susquehannock Trail Club, this bridge was one of KTA's biggest building projects.

The bridge, which serves both the Susquehannock and Donut Hole Trails, replaces a bridge that was damaged by flooding during a hurricane. Total cost was about \$5,000. A DCNR Bureau of Forestry grant provided \$3,000 and the Susquehannock Trail Club paid \$1,000. KTA and its members contributed the remainder.

Bridge Design

The bridge, designed by **Gert Aron** and **Ralph Seeley**, is a truss bridge 44 feet long, 48 inches wide, and seven feet tall in the center. It is built out of pressure treated lumber and has all stainless steel fasteners and bolts. The ends of the bridge are supported by timber cribbing set to keep the bridge above the 100-year flood plain, a requirement for construction.

Project History

A bridge project within a State Forest faces a complicated approval process. First the plans for the foot bridge were sent to Harrisburg, and permits for the replacement secured. DCNR engineers had to approve the design, the Fish Commission had to issue a per-

(Continued on page 15)



Photo by Rich Scanlon

Mid State Trail



Tom Thwaites, "Father of the Mid State Trail", and Joe Healey, KTA Trail Care Chair, smile proudly as they stand in New York State at the northern end of the MST.

Joe and Lorraine Healey painted the blazes. **Tom Thwaites** and his crew installed a sign. With these simple tasks, the Mid State Trail was "on the ground" at the New York border.

But, as every trail manager and maintainer knows, there were years of work behind these simple tasks. Potential trail routes were analyzed and scrutinized and land ownership researched in the county courthouse. Meetings and negotiations with public and private landowners were followed by trail construction.

MST Regional Manager **Pete Fleszar** is quick to point out that the trail is not "finished", since there is an unblazed road walk, efforts to move sections off road are ongoing, and work to improve the treadway continues (see page 7 for details).

Contents	Maintainers' News.....page 8, 15
Trail Crew Schedule.....page 2	Partners' News.....page 10
President's Message.....page 3	Ex. Director.....page 11
KTA News..... page 4-5, 11, 13	Plants and Animals.....page 12
Along Our Trails....page 6-7, 9	Around the Clubs.....page 14
My Favorite Trail.....page 9	Membership Form.....page 16

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Baltimore, MD
Secretary: Vacant

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NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Barbara & Al Wiemann
4782 Sylvan Dr., Northampton, PA 18067
610-262-6977
Bwiemann@verizon.net

This newsletter is published four times a year as a service to its members by Keystone Trails Association. Deadlines for submitting material are 1/1, 4/1, 7/1 and 10/1. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The Editors encourage submissions reflecting all viewpoints for publication, but reserve the right to edit for reasons of space or to prevent violent confrontation. You are encouraged to submit your material on disc or via e-mail.

New members are always welcome. A membership application is located on the page 16.

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Curt Ashenfelter, Executive Director
101 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-238-7017 (phone), 717-238-7019 (fax)
ktahike@verizon.net
www.kta-hike.org

2008 Trail Care Schedule

Trail Care weekends begin Friday evening at the designated campsite. A full day of trail work on Saturday is followed by an evening of campfire sociability and possibly a meal out at a local restaurant (Dutch treat). After a morning of additional trail work, the weekend concludes about noon on Sunday. If you can't spare an entire weekend, you can join the group for whatever portion is convenient. No experience or special skills are required. Tools and work gloves will be provided.

You must contact the trip leader in advance and register for Trail Care weekends.

August 15-17 – Baker Trail
Leader: Patty Brunner – 724-325-3224
Camp at Cook Forest State Park.

Leader: John Motz - 570-236-1462
Camp at Promised Land State Park.

Sept. 5-7 – Goat Hill in the Serpentine Barrens, Chester County
Leader: Joe Healey – 570-655-4979
Camp to be announced.

Oct. 24-26 – Mid State Trail— Everett Region
Leader: Deb Dunkle – 814-652-2227
Camp at Tenley Park in Everett.

Sept. 12-14 – Thunder Swamp Trail
One of the tasks will be to replace the washed out 40 foot Saw Creek Bridge

Nov. 7-9 – Quehanna Trail
Leader: Ralph Seeley – 814-355-2933
Camp at Parker Dam SP in cabins.

Upcoming KTA Meetings and Events

September 26-28 — Annual Meeting, Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry, PA. Hiking program planned and led by Pocono Outdoor Club

September 28-30 — Greenways and Trails Summit, Inn at Pocono Manor, Pocono Manor, PA (KTA is a sponsor)

January 3 — Board of Directors Meeting, Harrisburg, PA

April 24-26 — Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend, Coudersport, Potter County, PA. Hiking program by Susquehannock Trail Club.

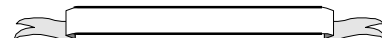
Contributions Received

(April 1-June 30)
Robert Davey, Flemington, PA
Philip Day, Harrisburg, PA
Laurence Galen, Bensalem, PA
Richard Hackman, Willow Street, PA
Steve Stroman, Harrisburg, PA

To Support the Endangered Hiking Trails Program:

Paul Feighner, Carrolltown, PA
Patricia Gussey, Pittsburgh, PA
Cass Janco, Schwenksville, PA
Norman Lacasse, Harrisburg, PA
William Pearson, Meadville, PA
Elizabeth Rigg, King of Prussia, PA
Michael Sausser, Schuylkill Haven, PA
John Shissler, Schuylkill Haven, PA
Kathleen Sieminski, Nazareth, PA
Judith Tanner, Mapleton Depot, PA
Herman Tease, Huntingdon, PA

To Support the Trail Care Program:
John Stein, Hershey, PA

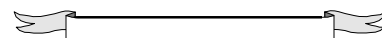


Member Deaths

Hudson A. Close
Big Flats, NY
Life Member #66

Raymond Moyer
High Point, NC
Life Member #6

Edward Shaffner
Harrisburg, PA
Member for 20+ years



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Six years ago, I first met **Charles Glanville** at a luncheon meeting on Endangered Hiking Trails. We were gathered together to determine the next steps to take to protect Endangered Hiking Trails and trail lands. This was the beginning of his professional relationship with KTA that included participation and many hours of work on the Strategic Plan, By-Laws revisions, Membership Development Program and Survey, development of the Heritage Society and Advisors to the Board.

Charles and I have had a lot of fun and enjoyment in our collaborations. Now Charles is stepping down from the Board, but will continue to be active as an Advisor to the Board and maintain an active role in the Heritage Society. He served on the first Board of Directors as an officer in the position of Secretary and completed two years of his second term.

He and his wife **Elizabeth Brecht** have hiked more miles with the **Chester County Trail Club** than any other member of that club (I understand that Elizabeth has hiked even more miles than Charles because Charles had to attend so many KTA meetings. Now he may be able to catch up.) Thanks Charles for your expertise, counsel, and devotion to KTA.

I look forward to continue working with four KTA members who are nominees for election to the board for the 2008-2011 terms. **Butch Davey** and **Tom Kelliher** will be serving their second terms, and **Jeff Mitchell**, who stepped forward to complete a partial term, will now serve a full term. **Paul Shaw**, former Executive Director, will begin a three year term.

Board member **Molly O'Brien** got married in late June. Our best wishes to Molly and her husband.

I am excited about our fall hiking and membership meeting which will be held at the end of September in eastern Pennsylvania in Dingmans Ferry, north of the Delaware Water Gap, at the Pocono Environmental Education Center. The **Pocono Outdoor Club** is planning the hike schedule. You can park your car, start hiking, and never have to drive anywhere until it is time to head for home.

In April of 2009, we will head north to Potter County, near Coudersport, and hike with the **Susquehannock Trail Club**. Recently, Dick and I spent a weekend enjoying that trail system and we camped in Cherry Springs State Park, which has the least light pollution and the darkest skies on the East Coast. We awakened to three inches of wet snow in early May.

Lots of wonderful things keep happening. On the Mid-State Trail Crew in June in Tioga County, **Krista Fleszar** got rave reviews for her cooking, and **Barb Wiemann** needed an umbrella to paint blazes. Young Woman's Creek Bridge is complete (see page 1 and our web site at www.kta-hike.org). **Rich Scanlon** and **Tom Bastian** and others put in a lot of hours.

The web site is up to date and a source of good information. Hope to see you in the woods on the trail in the Poconos, September 26, 27, and 28.

In the meantime,
Get outdoors and protect your favorite trail,

Thyra



Corporate Matching Funds and Grants

Does your employer make charitable contributions or grants to non-profit organizations such as KTA? If so, contact the KTA office and we can supply the information that you will need to apply for these funds.

Are you employed by a corporation or business that matches their employees' charitable contributions? Applying for the corporate matching funds can increase your gift to KTA.

Leave a Legacy

You can join the special individuals whose legacies ensure that the Keystone Trails Association will continue to connect people with nature for generations to come by putting KTA in your will. It's easy to do and won't affect your current cash flow.

By naming KTA as a beneficiary of your estate, you will help secure our future. You will have the great satisfaction of knowing that a portion of your assets will continue to work in perpetuity to help implement the mission of a group whom you warmly supported as a hiker and lover of the outdoors.

You can choose to donate a specific sum from your estate, for example \$5,000, or you may allocate a percentage of your estate. Please contact Advisor to the KTA Board, Charles Glanville, at glanvillehike@aol.com for bequest language or help with questions you may have.

KTA News

Endangered Hiking Trails One Step Closer to Protection

By Curt Ashenfelter

On May 17, over the course of a beautiful, sunny day by the banks of the Susquehanna River, nine volunteers learned the technical aspects of easements and land agreements. This begins their journey to provide trail access to hikers in perpetuity. Eight trails in Pennsylvania have been formally recognized as endangered -- that is, a trail that is in danger of being severed because it crosses private property with no written agreement.

Inform Landowners

Volunteers learned how to identify, build relationships, and work with landowners to secure written easements or other agreements. The class was taught by leading experts in the field. **John Stein**, a former Regional Trail Manager for the Mid State Trail, encouraged volunteers to inform landowners with brochures and identify their role, who they are, and what they represent. "Give the landowner as much information as you can about the trail and trail clubs. Landowners will wonder, what do trail clubs want from me. Trail clubs can put up signs, clean up trash and generally oversee the trail. Landowners appreciate what we have to offer. We can and do benefit property owners. Sometimes having hikers on your property, watching the property, is a plus. Volunteer as a mediator between neighbors to resolve disputes. We have name recognition as a hiking club or as KTA, use it."

Art of Selling

Volunteers learned the "art" of selling and that the job of contacting landowners is a big challenge and that some people are flat out rude, but that successful volunteers avoid antagonizing landowners. **Melanie Wertz**, who worked extensively to secure the Appalachian corridor through the Cumberland Valley, was chased off a property at gunpoint, but through patient sharing of information and a budding friendship with the farmer's wife, initiated while picking strawberries, eventually convinced the farmer of the

(Continued on page 11)

Future EHT Plans

As a result of the seminar and a post survey, eight areas for further action have been identified.

1. Exploring establishment of an "Easement and Property Fund"
2. Scheduling an Endangered Hiking Trails work group during the KTA Annual Meeting
3. Improving relationships with the Pennsylvania Game Commission
4. Recruiting additional volunteers for the Endangered Hiking Trails Program
5. Creating guidelines for information to be given to property owners
6. Creating a guide for acquiring data about properties, property boundaries and owners
7. Creating a mentoring program for volunteers for the Endangered Trails Program
8. Pursuing information about liability insurance

Dave Raphael Awarded Honorary Membership at Spring Meeting



Photo by Dick Martin

Dave Raphael displays his Honorary Membership certificate as **Maurice Forrester**, the Honorary member who presented the award, looks on.

Raphael served KTA as Vice President, President, edited four editions of *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails*, and two editions of the guidebook for the Tuscarora Trail (then a KTA trail).

KTA's other Honorary Members are **Mel Brinton** (deceased), **Nancy Heller**, **Mildred Forrester**, **George Spring**, and **Merritt Zimmerman**.

1100 Hikers Participate in Hiking Week

By Becky Schreiber

Pennsylvania Hiking Week ran from May 24th to June 1st, with 113 hikes scheduled in 38 different counties across the state. Sponsored by KTA and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Hiking Week promotes the thousands of miles of hiking trails in state parks, state forests, and communities throughout Pennsylvania.

KTA received follow-up information on 94 hikes (83.2% of the total). The survey responses stated that there were 995 participants on these hikes, an average of over 10 people per hike. Although several hikes were canceled due to inclement weather, it is estimated that over 1,100 hikers took part in the week's events.

Scheduled hikes ranged from short loop trails to strenuous long-distance hikes to provide hiking opportunities for people from all fitness and experience levels. Hikers appreciated the variety of terrain, the wildlife sightings, the scenic vistas, and the opportunity to meet other hikers.

Our many thanks go to the local hiking clubs and to DCNR for organizing hikes and for providing hike leaders throughout the state. Special thanks also to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for passing a resolution that designated May 24 through June 1, 2008 as "Pennsylvania Hiking Week." We hope to build on the success of this year's hiking week and improve participation next year.

KTA News

Tuscarora Trail Added to EHT List

The KTA Board of Directors has added the Tuscarora Trail to KTA's list of state Endangered Hiking Trails. This action was the result of a request by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, which maintains the 252-mile trail through Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Trail Problems

94 miles of the trail are located in Pennsylvania, running from the Maryland line to the trail's northern terminus at the Darlington Shelter on the Appalachian Trail. The trail has experienced a serious and significant disruption due to a landowner no longer allowing the trail to transverse his land. This disruption has taken the trail off undeveloped land and resulted in a long and dangerous road walk.

The trail has also been disrupted in Col. Denning State Park, resulting in a trail that dead ends. The Tuscarora Trail enters the state on roads and proceeds on roads for over four miles until entering Pennsylvania State Game Land. In other sections, such as Path Valley, a further road walk is required to connect the trail sections. In other areas, such as sections on Tuscarora Mountain and Knob Mountain, the trail leaves protected state land and enters privately owned land. Much of the trail in this area has no formal protection and can be closed by the landowners at any time.

- KTA Endangered
Hiking Trails**

 - Baker Trail**
 - Conestoga Trail**
 - Horse-Shoe Trail**
 - Mason-Dixon Trail**
 - Mid State Trail**
 - Standing Stone Trail**
 - Tuscarora Trail**
 - Warrior Trail**

Benefits of EHT Designation

PATC has and will continue to work on solutions to these disruptions, road walks and lack of legal protection for the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania. Adding the trail to the list of endangered trails in Pennsylvania will assist in informing the public and emphasize to state government the tenuous status of this wilderness hiking experience.

Board of Directors Nominees, 2008-2011

By Ed Lawrence

The KTA Nominating Committee has selected a slate of four candidates for the three open seats and one seat for the expanded board for the 2008-2011 term of the Board of Directors.

The Board will then consist of at least nine, but not more than fifteen members, serving staggered three year terms with at least three, but not more than five members, elected each year.

The election will be held at the Fall Council meeting on September 27 at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry, with elected Directors taking office immediately.

Nominees are:

- **Robert "Butch" Davey**, Flemington, PA Butch has completed his first term on the KTA Board and is seeking re-election. He is a retired forester and hikes daily, competing in several Pennsylvania mega hikes each year.
- **Thomas Kelliher**, Baltimore, MD. Tom has served as Vice President and Treasurer of KTA and is completing his second term. He is President of the Mid-State Trail Association.
- **Jeffrey Mitchell**, Tunkhannock, PA. Jeff joined the KTA board in January 2008 to fill a seat vacated by a resignation last year. A lawyer in general practice, Jeff is an avid hiker and backpacker who has written several hiking guidebooks. Jeff is a member of the Standing Stone Trail Club and the Mid State Trail Association.
- **Paul Shaw**, Snyderstown, PA. Paul served as the first KTA Executive Director from October 2006 until February 2008. An avid backpacker, he is a long time member of KTA, trail maintainer for the Mid-State Trail, and former KTA Representative-At-Large.

Nominating committee members are **Ed Lawrence**, Chair, Orangeville; **Joe Clark**, Mt. Union; **Carl Davis**, Wellsboro, **Lorraine Healey**, Laflin, and **Elwood Loudenslager**, Trout Run.

KTA Welcomes New Program Administrator

Becky Schreiber is KTA's new Program Administrator. She replaces Kate Leventry, who accepted a position with DCNR at White Clay Creek Preserve in Chester County.

Becky is from south central Pennsylvania and grew up hiking the Appalachian Trail in northern Lebanon and Berks counties. A Penn State graduate, she worked for several years in education before moving to Vermont, where she worked in administration and marketing for an architectural firm that specialized in the sustainable design of education facilities.

After spending nearly a year traveling in New Zealand and visiting Fiji and French Polynesia, Becky has returned to Pennsylvania, where she is looking forward to reacquainting herself with the hiking trails of Pennsylvania. As Program Administrator, Becky will organize special events and meetings, maintain membership records, handle merchandise sales, and answer inquiries.

Becky began her duties on May 12.



KTA Awarded DCNR Grant

On April 17 DCNR announced that KTA had secured a \$31,700 Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant. The grant is funded with monies from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key 93), the Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener 1) and the Growing Greener Bond Fund (Growing Greener 2).

KTA will use the grant to prepare and publish 25,000 maps of Pennsylvania's 18 designated hiking trails and other significant hiking trails throughout the Commonwealth, prepare and publish 250 manuals for hiking trail-maintaining clubs and volunteers, and assist DCNR in the inventory of hiking trails in Pennsylvania.

As of press time, KTA is awaiting the grant contract.

Along Our Trails

Appalachian Trail

PA AT Protection Legislation

On June 11 Governor Rendell signed legislation that will require local governments to better protect the Appalachian Trail by requiring the 55 townships and three boroughs that contain portions of the trail to adopt, implement and enforce zoning ordinances as part of their responsibility to protect the trail. Rep. Bob Freeman (D-Northampton) introduced the original bill, House Bill 1281, in May 2007.

Municipalities will be required to enact zoning even if the remainder of the township has no zoning. Because zoning can be an expensive and onerous undertaking, the act also provides both technical and financial assistance from Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The language in the bill is designed to allow flexibility so that each municipality can determine for themselves how best to protect Trail values.

This legislation strengthens the 1978 law (commonly known as the Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Act) that was intended to protect the trail as a state scenic, historic and aesthetic treasure. The original law did not mandate the zoning requirement, which is critical to protecting the trail from inappropriate development.

The legislation was suggested by Easton environmental attorney Charles Elliot, who represented the Blue Mountain Preservation Association and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in their efforts to prevent a developer from constructing a private automobile driving club near Smith Gap in Monroe County. Since the township where this development was proposed had no zoning in place at the time, there was little that could be done to block the inappropriate use.

Illegal Structures Removed Near Little Gap

On May 17th, ten AMC Delaware Valley Chapter volunteers assisted fifteen Blue Mountain Ski Area Ski Patrol volunteers in removing an elaborate complex of structures on National Park Ser-



Two of the three illegally constructed structures removed from National Park Service Appalachian Trail corridor land near Little Gap. Photo by Bill Steinmetz.

vice Corridor land near at the Little Gap ski resort. Ski Area management coordinated and participated in the work trip, and Blue Mt. provided two ATVs, a front end loader, two pickups, a large stake body truck, hand and power tools, and food and drink for the clean-up efforts.

The illegal construction had apparently been in development for several years when it was discovered in 2007 by corridor boundary monitors.

Bear Box at Quarry Gap Shelter

The PATC North Chapter Yankee Clippers work crew installed the first bear box at an AT shelter in Pennsylvania. The oversized steel box was fitted with temporary wheels and hauled about one mile by a team of volunteers hitched to the box.

The box was retrofitted with a false bottom that can be locked to store shelter supplies. The finished box sports a roof and supporting structure.



Photo by Jim Stauch

Water Quality Testing

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will conduct its second annual water quality monitoring event from September 18 to October 18. This is an opportunity for hikers to contribute to scientific knowledge about the environment along the entire trail.

Participating trail clubs and individuals receive water quality test kits to measure water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and nitrogen concentration in water sources along the trail. In 2007, 225 sites were tested.

Old Dresher Side Trail Closed

The land owner of the lower section of this side trail has closed off and posted a sign stating that the trail is closed. The trail follows an old woods roadbed connecting the AT at Tri-County Corner to the valley at Dresher Rd. in Lehigh County and was the route used by the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club on the first work trip to clear and blaze the AT in Pennsylvania in 1926.

AT Hiker Survey

An Old Dominion University student is surveying the attributes, benefits, and outcomes associated with the AT hiking experience for her thesis and invites anyone over the age of 18 who has hiked on the AT to participate in her research. The information gathered will be shared with maintaining clubs and ATC. The survey is available at <https://periwinkle.ts.odu.edu/surveys/PWXZAR>.

The official center point of the AT has been recalculated to be 2.2 miles south of Pine Grove Furnace

(Continued on page 7)

Along Our Trails

(Continued from page 6)

Baker Trail

Armstrong and Clarion Counties are both developing recreation plans and Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy members have attended many meetings to ensure that the Baker Trail is included. The Conservancy is exploring connecting the trail to additional recreational areas with an eye toward eliminating some of the road sections.

Mason-Dixon Trail

Bicycles A Problem In MD

The Mason-Dixon Trail System is concerned over the extent to which bicyclists have taken over the section of the M-DT in Susquehanna State Park in Maryland.

A major relocation of a portion of the trail in the area of Open Run has been completed, and more work is anticipated.

M-DT Links York County Land Preservation

The Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County is using a \$1.4 million grant from DCNR to help acquire two properties, totaling approximately 59 acres, in Hellam and Lower Windsor Townships, and Wrightsville, York County. Earmarked for passive recreation and preservation of open space, the properties are linked by the Mason-Dixon Trail.

The DCNR grant is matched by the donation of a third 2.25-acre property that is known as Historic Pleasant Garden and is also in Lower Windsor Township. All three properties, along with the Highpoint Scenic Vista and Recreation Area, will be part of the new Susquehanna Heritage Park under development along the river.

Mid State Trail

Tioga Region Update

The Mid State Trail is now a continuously blazed trail except for an 8.3 mile section in Charleston Township, Tioga County. This gap, between Hills Creek State Park and the Tioga State Forest, can be navigated on public roads. A map of this unmarked road walk, as well as other updates about the trail, will be posted on the MST web site www.hike-mst.org this fall. The next edition of the Mid State guidebook, to be published this fall or winter, will describe the current MST route from Maryland to New York, including the un-blazed road walk.

Local volunteers have resumed work on land negotiation in the gap and there has already been significant progress.

Current Status of MST

Pete Fleszar has provided this summary of the current status of the MST. The trail is 312 miles long, from border to border. 252 miles of that distance are located on footpaths open to hiking only; two miles are on multi-use trails, while another 16 miles are located on rail-trails. 41 miles are on drivable roads.

The MST is located on land owned by many different governmental agencies, non-profits, and private groups and individuals. The landowner hosting the most trail is the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources with 174 miles. Next is the Game Commission with 54 miles of MST. The remainder is located on private land (17 miles); Army Corps of Engineers (10 miles); municipal, Fish and Boat Commission, and rail-trail owned lands; and public roads.

North Country Trail

ANF Chapter Re-route in Tornado Area

In November of last year, the Allegheny National Forest Chapter flagged a re-route around a long, open pipeline walk. This moves the trail back to its original location before the tornados of 1985 devastated the Tionesta Scenic Area, blowing over trees that were six foot in diameter and 400 years old.

Now, more than twenty years later, the new trees are up to 25 feet tall. Surprisingly, in laying out the new route, the crew found some old surviving blazes.

With the re-route in place, hikers can see how "Mother Nature" handles natural disaster. The new route is much like a green tunnel due to the tightly packed new trees.

Wampum Chapter Route Damaged by Motor Vehicles

The Wampum Chapter was forced to cancel its plan to host a community hike/ribbon cutting ceremony on its newest section of trail on the Gateway property on June 8th when motorized trespassers destroyed the newly built trail. Hundreds of hours of labor were ruined. However, dedicated trail workers immediately began constructing a reroute.



A section of the trail route (to the upper left of the bridge) that has been ground into a muddy, eroded morass by trespassing motorized vehicles. Photo by Dave Brewer.

The official ribbon-cutting ceremony has been rescheduled for October 19 at 1 PM. Several hikes of varying length will follow. Meet at the corner of Main St. and Darlington Rd. by the Wampum Bridge in Wampum, PA. Contact Gail Blakeley at 724-535-4662, gail2@zoominternet.net for more information.

The Wampum Chapter is responsible for building and maintaining the NCT in Beaver and Lawrence Counties, a distance of about 40 trail miles. Completed projects this year include the addition of a spur trail off of the new Gateway property section that incorporates an overlook of the Chewton, PA, area and the Beaver River Valley.

NCT Records 9th End to Ender

Bart Smith, who has set a personal goal of hiking and photographing all eight National Scenic Trails, completed the NCT on May 2. With this completion, he has hiked seven of the trails and has only the Continental Divide NST remaining.

(Continued on page 9)

Maintainers' Corner

2008 Summer Trail Crew Report

by Joe Healey

Pinchot Trail

Since we did not have a cook, the first week of the Summer Trail Crew was reduced to two and a half days. The Crew camped at the Manny Gordon Picnic Area in Lackawanna State Forest. The weather was very hot and humid. When the KTA gas powered shower broke, local volunteer **Diane Buscarini** took the women to her house for a shower. Thanks a million, Diane!

As crew leader, I directed the continuing construction of the trail that we started last year. We finished another mile, but there is still about two miles to go on the Watres Trail, a side trail off of the Pinchot Trail.

Volunteers were **Robert Best, Diane Buscarini, Carl Ganong, Anne Griffin, Carl Griffin, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Jerry Lehman, Dennis Morris, Kathy Sieminski, and Dave Walp.**

Donut Hole Trail

During the second week, the Crew had our best camp ever. We stayed at the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association near Renovo. Veteran cook **Mary Pitzer** was in her glory, since she had stoves, ovens, sinks, refrigerators, and a microwave. The Crew really appreciated the showers.

The group divided into a trail crew that I led and a bridge crew under the direction of **Rich Scanlon** (see page 1). The trail crew cut brush, lopped, and painted blazes on fifteen miles of trail from Jericho to Kettle Creek State Park.

Outside assistance came from several sources. The **Sproul State Forest** provided three employees who cut blow downs, a very big help. **Joe Clark** led a group of trail runners to build rock steps on the Garby Trail; this trail is on the Hyner Challenge route (see page 12). And, for a high school project, **Jonathan Coleman** and **Josh Unkleman** worked for twenty hours with the crew.

*Our trail crew
volunteers
amassed 1,543
hours of labor!*

The crew consisted of **Tom Bastian, Jon Bauer, Joe Clark, Jeff Clarke, Robert Davey, David Dougherty, Chris Dunlap, John Eastlake, Bob Farley, Craig Fleming, Carl Ganong, Carl Griffin, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Dave Hunter, Woody Loudenslager, Ginny Musser, Rich Scanlon, and Dave Walp.**

Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

For week number three, we headed to the hills – Hills Creek State Park in Tioga County, that is. Our new cook, **Christa Fleszar**, did one terrific job, working in a pavilion with no running water and electricity from a generator.

Crew leader **Pete Fleszar** did a great job, assigning 26 volunteers into as many as five different groups each day, each with different tasks. We had enough work for two DR trimmers, so a first time volunteer, **Bryan Finley** from Ohio, brought his own machine! We constructed new trail, improved existing trail, built a stairway in Hills Creek State Park, installed signs and mailboxes, and painted blazes. This will be our last trail crew in the Tioga Region for now (see report on pages 1 and 7).

In addition to Ohio, we had volunteers from New York and Virginia. The crew included **Tom Bastian, Paul Brach, Adam Bucynski, Kirk Bucynski, Joe Clark, Deb Dunkle, Randy**

Earhart, Bryan Finley, Christa Fleszar, Pete Fleszar, Carl Ganong, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Woody Loudenslager, Ed Lawrence, Carl Lorence, Don Muth, Jeff Richardson, Robert Ross, Duane Saxton, Harold Schneider, Tom Thwaites, Gary Tyson, Daryl Warren, Al Wiemann, and Barb Wiemann.



Kirk and Adam Bucynski ascend the newly installed stairway on the Mid State Trail in Hills Creek State Park.

Summary and Special Thanks

All in all, things went smoothly, except for the weather. Although the weather on the Donut Hole was great, we suffered from the excessive heat wave during the Pinchot week and endured rain every day in Tioga County.

Thanks are in order to a few people who contributed to the success of the Summer Crews: **Andy Dunkon**, Lackawanna service forester; **Ted Ligenza**, Sproul forester; and the Sproul employees who assisted us; **Ray Werts** and **Jim Nevins**, **Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association**, our host for week two; **Mary Pitzer** (I hope its not your last year); **Christa Fleszar**; and **Hills Creek State Park employees**. Without their help, these three weeks would never have been possible.

Chain Saw Safety Training

By Joe Healey

KTA and the Standing Stone Trail Club couldn't have asked for better weather for the Chainsaw Safety Training Workshop held April 11-13. While the morning was pretty chilly, we held an indoor classroom workshop. The afternoon weather was great for felling and bucking trees at the private hunting camp of long time KTA/SSTC member **Rich Scanlon** and the Getty Ridge Group. Everyone benefited, as there were a few old, rotten trees near the cabin that were the guinea pigs for the trainees. Instructor **John Motz** did his usual great job with the training.

Three rookies participated— **Carl Ganong, Dave Walp, and Andy Zadnik**. The rest of the participants were **Tom Bastian, Joe Clark, Joe Healey, Carl Lorence, Elwood Loudenslager, Rich Scanlon, and Tom Thwaites**.

On behalf of KTA, I want to thank Rich Scanlon for the use of the camp and to Carl Lorence for the grub.

For more maintainers' news, see page 15

Along Our Trails

My Favorite Hike . . . Standing Stone Trail

By Jeff Mitchell

I hiked the Standing Stone Trail from Greenwood Furnace to the 1000 Steps with a group from Pittsburgh and Ohio. They loved the trail.

We began Saturday morning under misty skies as we ascended the rocky ridge of Stone Mountain. The trail tunneled through beautiful hemlock forests with many views, which were mostly clouded over. Thankfully the rocks weren't slippery, and the bugs were never a problem.

We had lunch at Hawk Watch and descended from Stone Mountain to the valley. The clouds began to part to reveal sunny, humid skies. We entered the incredible Rocky Ridge Natural Area and made our way through the impressive rock formations. Many wildflowers were in bloom, particularly the dogwoods, which were everywhere.

We reached camp at 2:30 at a stream near Frew Rd. We could've gone further, but decided not to since the game lands were next, where camping is not allowed. We relaxed at camp and I hiked up to Hunter's Rock where there were climbers and more incredible formations, plus some nice views. The SST is being re-routed along this beautiful ridge to Hunter's Rock; when completed, it will be a very beautiful trail. We spoke to a trail maintainer who told us about the re-route.

The skies clouded over and our plans for a campfire were extinguished when strong thunderstorms and rain moved through, so we all went to our tents.

The next morning was sunny as we hiked across many streams and springs gushing off of the mountain. We passed sinkholes and an awesome little valley where all these little streams converged under imposing rock outcrops. Next was an extensive stretch of moss-covered trail. The trail then followed a series of grassy forest roads and then reached an area with some logging; from there to PA 655 the trail wasn't well established, but blazed sufficiently well as it explored open hardwood forest.

We took a break at PA 655. Next was the long, hard ascent of Jacks Mountain, including "The Hump", a very steep part. We reached the ridge and enjoyed the view at Shorb's Summit. The trail descended steeply through a hemlock forest and reached the phenomenal Clark's Vista, offering breathtaking views. Next was a series of long switchbacks, remnants of narrow gauge railroads to the top of the 1000 Steps and the Dinky House, with even more views. We passed a seasonal waterfall and made our way down the steps to the cars at US 22.

This is a must-do trail that offers a lot of scenery, forest types, rock formations, sinkholes, tons of views, and history.

[Ed. Note: The Standing Stone Trail guidebook is available from KTA or the Standing Stone Trail Club (www.hike-sst.org).

(Continued from page 7)

Pennsylvania Highlands Trail

The Appalachian Mountain Club continues its efforts to extend the Highlands Trail, which currently includes more than 130 miles of footpaths in New York and New Jersey, through southeastern Pennsylvania to the state border with Maryland. The State segment is projected to be more than 100 miles long.

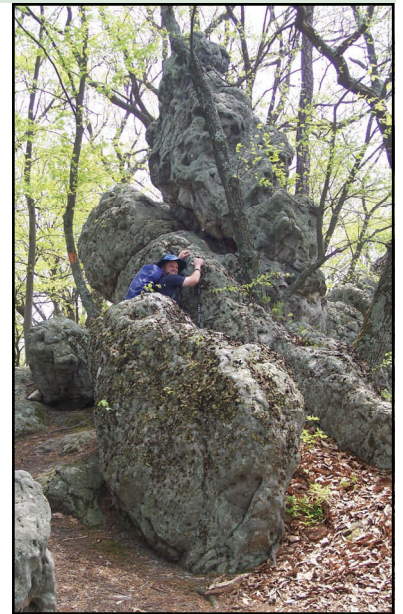
The Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network Project steering committee has decided to kick off the trail project in Bucks County, since the trail will enter the state from New Jersey at Riegelsville. In York and Lancaster Counties, the trail is working to co-align with the Mason-Dixon and Horse-Shoe Trails and move these trails off roads. Volunteers are scouting possible locations.

AMC's Mid-Atlantic office expects to complete a Highlands Trail Recreation Network map by the end of the year. For more information, see www.outdoors.org/conservation/wherewework/highlands.

Standing Stone Trail

Mapleton Trail Town Grant

The borough of Mapleton, in Huntingdon County, which has declared itself a trail town, has received a \$60,000 DCNR grant to develop a hiker park and trailhead at a grassy town site on the banks of the Juniata River. The site will include camping, picnic



Why did they name it the Standing Stone Trail?
Photo by Jeff Mitchell.

benches, water, a sanitary facility, pavilion and parking. A short side trail will connect this area to the SST, which goes through the borough.

Businesses in the Mapleton area are contributing equipment and supplies for the construction of the park. Mapleton and the Standing Stone Trail Club are working to acquire the needed matching funds. Hikers and hiking clubs wishing to support this hiker facility by contributing matching funds may send contributions payable to the Standing Stone Trail Club, c/o Rich Scanlon, 27 Sandy Lane - Suite 206, Lewistown, PA 17044-1236 with a note "Mapleton Trailhead Fund." Contributions are tax deductible.



This new sign was erected at the northern terminus of the Standing Stone Trail in Greenwood Furnace State Park by the trail. Photo courtesy of Don Coine, Park Manager.

News from Our Partners

DCNR to Build Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources plans to build a 16-room nature inn at Bald Eagle State Park in Centre County. The Inn is intended to highlight birding opportunities in the region and serve as an interpretive facility for bird watching.

Green features of the building will include a high efficiency geothermal heating and cooling system; solar collectors to heat water for showers and laundry; rainwater collection for flushing toilets; low water use plumbing fixtures; high efficiency lighting; Pennsylvania hardwoods from forests certified as using sustainable forestry for structure, finishes and furnishings; and direct access to hiking and biking trails to enable and encourage healthy interaction with the park resources.

Partnerships with conservation and artisan groups are being pursued to maximize the inn's educational and community benefits. In cooperation with Audubon Pennsylvania, guest rooms will feature limited edition prints of John James Audubon's paintings of birds found in Pennsylvania.

Groundbreaking for the inn is expected this fall.

Click a Mouse, Plant 5 Trees in a PA State Park



With just a click of your mouse, you can help to plant trees in Pennsylvania State Parks, courtesy of Odwalla, a juice company from Dinuba, California.

Working with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Odwalla will donate up to five trees for each person who visits their special Odwalla plant a tree website, www.parkvisitor.com/odwalla.

It's simple. Choose Pennsylvania as the state in which you want to plant trees and choose the number of trees you want to

have planted (up to five). For every tree selected, PPFF will get a portion of the \$50,000 that Odwalla has committed for tree plantings. This promotion ends Dec. 31, 2008.

Cherry Springs Designated As Dark Sky Park

Cherry Springs State Park has been designated as the second International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark-Sky Association. This certification recognizes Cherry Springs State Park's exceptional commitment to dark sky protection and restoration on public lands. The park is located in Potter County far from cities. The IDSP program was established in 2006 by IDA, a Tucson based non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the nighttime environment.



State Forest Management Plan Update

DCNR has completed a summary and response to public comments made on changes to the Bureau of Forestry's master management plan. The plan will chart the course of Pennsylvania's state forests for future generations.

DCNR received 292 written comments. About 340 people attended a series of nine public meetings on the plan this past fall. The response document describes how the comments will be incorporated into the framework of the management plan.

While the first resource management plan almost 50 years ago focused on timber management, the new plan and its recent revisions take an ecosystem approach, with a goal of future forest health in order to provide an array of resources, uses, and values. A key component of the plan remains the expansion of the state's wild and natural areas by more than 13,000 acres.

The summary of public comments about the plan can be found at www.dcnr.state.pa.us (choose Forestry, then State Forest Resource Management Plan 2007 Update).

2008-09 PA Hunting Seasons

CROWS: July 4-April 5 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only

ELK: Sep. 1-27, Nov. 3-8

DEER: Sept. 20-Nov. 15, Nov. 17-29, Dec. 1-13, Dec. 15-23, Dec. 26-Jan. 24

SQUIRRELS: Oct. 11-Nov. 29, Dec. 26-Feb. 7

PHEASANT: Oct. 11-18, Oct. 25-Nov. 29, Dec. 15-23, Dec. 26-Feb. 7

RUFFED GROUSE: Oct. 18-Nov. 29, Dec. 15-23, Dec. 26-Jan. 24

RABBIT: Oct. 25-Nov. 29, Dec. 15-23, Dec. 26-Feb. 7

BOBWHITE QUAIL: Oct. 25-Nov. 29

RACCOON, FOXES & BOBCAT: Oct. 25-Feb. 21

WILD TURKEY: Nov. 1-22

BLACK BEAR: Nov. 19-20, 24-26, Dec. 1-6

HARES: Dec. 26-Jan. 1

SPRING GOBBLER: April 18, April 25-May 25

WOODCHUCKS: No closed season, except: Sundays; during the regular firearms deer seasons; and until noon during the spring gobbler turkey season.

STARLINGS AND ENGLISH SPARROWS: No closed season, except during the regular firearms deer seasons and until noon during the spring gobbler turkey season.

OPOSSUM, SKUNKS & WEASELS: No closed season, except Sundays and prior to noon during the spring gobbler season

COYOTES: No closed season

All dates may not be valid in all Wildlife Management Units and/or for all classes of hunters.

There is no open season on other wild birds or mammals. Waterfowl and migratory game bird seasons are established in accordance with federal regulations.

Remember: Wear blaze orange

KTA News

Trail Mix by Curt Ashenfelter

It has been a busy three months since I joined Keystone Trails Association as your new executive director. I want to thank all of you who have so warmly and graciously welcomed me. One person noted that all the trails I had hiked were in the eastern part of the state. He was concerned that might bias me toward being an eastern trail hiker. He gently reminded me that we are the Keystone Trails Association representing the entire state. Having lived in Pittsburgh, I know the healthy tension that exists between eastern Pennsylvania and western Pennsylvania. I have hiked the Allegheny National Forest and the Tanbark Trail, although it was 15 years ago, and failed to report it in my opening message. So western Pennsylvania hikers fear not, there will be no bias towards those who hike in the west and since I gave my Pittsburgh friends the gift of a Keystone Trails Association membership, I hope to see you on those western trails shortly.

I enjoyed meeting over 165 members at the annual Spring Meeting in Wellsboro. If you did not attend you missed a great weekend with 28 different hikes. The weather cooperated with unseasonably warm days on Friday and Saturday and more typical April weather on Sunday. The format of the meeting, with the Saturday hikes in the morning, the council meeting in the afternoon and the member meeting in the eve-

*We will soon
institute
e-commerce
on our website*

ning was well received by all except for the extreme early-to-bedders.

We will soon institute e-commerce on our website, so encourage hikers that you meet on the trail, at work, or any place else, they can now join KTA online with their credit card.

The goals of the Keystone Trails Association are to provide, protect, preserve and promote over 3,000 miles of trails throughout Pennsylvania, year in and year out. Your board and I believe that these goals can be better accomplished if we can build our membership, day in and day out. To begin, we need to tell our story.

I attended a conference in April where people said they were afraid to go into the woods. That is not a strange reaction, really, to wild places. In the early days, when Penn's Woods was a land dominated by trees, the Indians, upon traveling great distances through the woods, would give thanks for safe passage through Penn's Woods.

We are in a competition for the hearts and minds of a new generation. We love the trail. We need to share that love with those who have never been on the trail. But we must remember we didn't love the trail day one. We either thought we would explore the trail or someone, a father, a mother, a friend or a stranger,

showed it to us. Think back to your first hike. Who introduced you to the trail?



This year, I would ask each one of you to show at least one person the trail. If each of us, all 1,395 members, can share with one person the trails we love so dearly, then collectively we can be an advocate for the trails to over 1,300 people. Next year, as we grow the organization, we can introduce even more people.

In addition to the one person you show the trail, I would ask you to give to one of your hiking friends a gift, the gift of a Keystone Trails Association Membership. Birthdays can be tough gifts to buy if you want to buy a unique gift year in and year out; now you have a solution. If we all do these two very simple acts, we can leverage the Keystone Trails Association from being a well kept secret to a more powerful voice for hikers' interests in Pennsylvania.

See you on the trail and be sure to say hello to all my relatives and friends who have received the gift of membership in the last three months!

(Continued from page 4)

benefits of trails and hikers. The farmer is now a leading advocate of hiking trails with his peers in the community.

Jim Peterson, the Lands Manager for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, provided instruction on the "tools of the trade," including various kinds of easements, donations and acquisitions. He explained that "while the pay is awful, if you like to meet people and have patience, as it is the rare deal that closes in months and most deals take two to three years with some taking six or more, the rewards are great."

Easements Cost Money

Easements and land donations don't come free however. **Phil Paschall**, Trail Land Acquisition Attorney for PATC and a land negotiator in Virginia, explained, "even with a donated recorded land easement, there are some costs involved, as the hiking club typically does the paper work at the county courthouse and will pay for the survey, just like a deed to your property. Surveys are not cheap; they can cost several thousand dollars."

Purchasing Land

Sometimes easements and land donations, despite all the benefits to the owners, are not possible. **Chuck Sloan**, General Counsel to PATC, said, "PATC has purchased land to protect trails to keep them off the road or serve as a lynchpin for other arrangements to convince next adjacent landowners to agree to an easement so others agree, and it will set off a chain reaction to protect entire sections of land."

Andy Loza, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Land Trust Association provided training and technical assistance on Pennsylvania conservation law, trail easement laws and working with township attorneys.

The nine volunteers who participated are **Joyce Appel, Patricia Brunner, Kevin Busko, Ingrid Cantarella-Fox, Debra Dunkel, James Hooper, John Motz, Ron Rice and Barbara VanHorn.**

To support the Endangered Hiking Trails Program, KTA continues to seek charitable donations. Gifts of \$35, \$100 or \$1,000 are tax deductible.

Plants and Animals

PA eBird Website For Birders

The eBird network, dedicated to helping birders throughout North America and the world record their bird observations and improve understanding of seasonal bird activities and movements, has been available at www.ebird.org since 2002.

Now, through the partnership of the Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, and Audubon Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania eBird has been launched at www.ebird.org/content/pa. Pennsylvania eBird has two very distinct responsibilities: to inform and to collect data. The website features a selection of articles on wild birds, ranging from the latest bird news and natural history to field research and conservation issues. In addition, it will serve birders interested in participating in ongoing efforts to collect field observations that will be used in a database that hopefully will quickly become a vital source of bird information that will improve with each passing year as more birders join the eBird team.

American Chestnut Survey

The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is partnering with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to study the remaining American chestnut trees along the AT. The data obtained will help scientists locate and document trees that produce flowers and whose genetic material might potentially be incorporated into the TACF breeding program to enhance genetic diversity of blight-resistant trees. Scientists will also be able to estimate population densities in a variety of conditions along the trail.



Surveying began in March. TACF hopes that the entire AT will be hiked and surveyed before TACF's 25th annual meeting October 24-26. Volunteers, including hikers and Scouts, receive training in tree identification, data collection techniques, and reporting forms. For more information, see www.acf.org/apprail/index.php.

Advisory Board Expanded

At its meeting on June 28 in Harrisburg, the KTA Board of Directors voted to add **Robert Freeman** and **Charles Glanville** to its Advisory group.

Rep. Robert Freeman, of Easton, represents the 136th district in the State House of Representatives. He was the prime sponsor of the recently signed law that enhances the protection of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. He serves as Chairman of the House Local Government Committee, and is widely regarded as one of the experts on land use law and planning in the General Assembly.

Charles Glanville, who in June resigned from the Board of Directors for family and health reasons, has expertise in fund raising, charitable giving, and membership development.

Advisors to the Board are appointed for five year terms. Each member has expertise and experience that they are willing to share with the Board of Directors when needed.

Peregrine Falcons Making a Comeback

Peregrine falcons, a state-endangered bird, have established three productive "wild" cliff nests in the state since 2003. While this qualifies as a success story, the birds will need to establish about 20 productive cliff nests to be removed from the state endangered list.

Crippled reproductively by the pesticide DDT, peregrine falcons stopped nesting in Pennsylvania in the late 1950s. With the banning of DDT in the early 1970s and reintroduction efforts in several northeastern states, including Pennsylvania, through the 1980s and 1990s, peregrines slowly began to reclaim their nesting range throughout the Northeast.

But there were obstacles. One of the most notable was the great horned owl, which readily preyed on young falcons that were being reintroduced on the cliffs peregrines had nested upon for centuries. Wildlife managers, therefore, began reintroducing falcons in urban environments, at elevations where great horns were not as much of a threat.

Since the early 1990s, peregrines have established about two dozen nests in Pennsylvania, mostly on buildings and bridges in the state's larger cities. Now it appears that the falcons are finally transitioning to the more than 40 cliffs on which they had previously nested.

Peregrines, once commonly called "duck hawks," are bird-eaters that specialize on pigeon-sized quarry, including flickers, cuckoos, jays and robins. They will prey upon waterfowl, shorebirds and small wading birds, too. Females are larger than males. They can live more than 20 years.

For more information on peregrine falcons, visit the Game Commission's website at www.pgc.state.pa.us, choose "Wildlife" in the left-hand column of the homepage, then click on the "falcon" photo.



KTA is a Sponsor of Hyner View Challenge

By Robert Davey, Jr.

The second Hyner View Challenge was run on April 19, the same date as the Spring KTA meeting. 622 starters enjoyed the bright, sunny, hot April day as they hiked and ran the many hills and hollows on the 16.5-mile course. There were 534 finishers.

This year the committee incorporated more KTA maintained trails in the traverse. The trail in Johnson Run on Nature Conservancy land was added, along with Post Draft Trail and Cleveland Hollow Trail on the Sproul State Forest. These additions added diversity, difficulty, and fun to the challenge.

KTA volunteers worked on some of the trails to prepare them for the event and I helped with route scouting. President Sperry and I wrote articles for the program guide and KTA distributed membership flyers and Prowl the Sproul information to the participants.

The third Hyner View Challenge is planned for April 18, 2009 and the mountains of western Clinton County beckon. The event website is www.hikerun.com.

KTA News

KTA – Your Hiking Advocate In Action

By Curt Ashenfelter

Keystone Trails Association is your advocate for preserving, protecting, maintaining and creating hiking trails in Pennsylvania. Below are just a few examples of our recent efforts.

KTA Successful Opening Trail Blocked by Pipeline Work

Tom Thwaites called Monday, May 12, with concerns about the Mid State Trail near Detweiler Run. Dominion Gas is expanding a natural gas pipeline that will run from the Chesapeake Bay to Tioga County. Its route crosses the Mid State Trail near the Centre County/Huntingdon County line. Work crews expanding the right of way cut a large number of trees across the trail, making it impassable to hikers. By the time the trail closure came to our attention, the work crews had moved on to New York.

KTA researched the Dominion Gas website and learned of the project and Pennsylvania contact person, Jim Johnson. Jim was alerted to the problem and after numerous phone calls, had the site cleared of debris that Saturday.

If you become aware of similar problems where gas pipelines or other public utilities cross hiking trails and create problems for hikers, please call me at 717-238-7017.

PA Hiking Week

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives designated May 24 through June 1 as "Pennsylvania Hiking Week." Legislators were contacted and thanked for their efforts (page 4).

HB 1281

Rep. Bob Freeman (D-Northampton) introduced legislation that will ensure that Pennsylvania's portion of the Appalachian Trail is protected from inappropriate forms of development. Gov. Ed Rendell signed the law on June 11 (page 6).

During the legislative process, President Sperry attended several meetings with Rep. Freeman and KTA issued "action alerts" to keep our members abreast of developments and/or to request that members contact individual legislators to support passage.

At the request of Rep. Freeman, KTA sent a letter to Governor Rendell urging him to sign the legislation.

HB 1281 is model legislation that could help protect all of our

trails. In the coming months we will be exploring ways to apply the lessons learned from HB 1281 to other trails.

DCNR Grants

Keystone Trails Association has applied for three DCNR grants. The first consolidated DCNR grant was submitted September 24, 2006 and seeks \$64,039 for eleven projects with nine different hiking organizations. As of July 1, 2008, the grant was being reviewed by PennDOT before further action by DCNR. The second consolidated DCNR grant was submitted to DCNR on April 24, 2008 and seeks \$67,442 for nine projects with six different hiking organizations.

On April 18, 2008 KTA received a letter informing us that Governor Rendell has approved a grant of \$31,700 for the Keystone Trails Association (Statewide) PA Hiking Trails Map, Manual and Inventory Assistance project (page 5).

DCNR Bridge Catalog for Construction of Trail Bridges

Recently the Keystone Trails Association's leadership, administration and trail care representatives reviewed and discussed the draft copy of the DCNR proposed Bridge Catalog. This catalog is intended to give volunteer and state affiliated agencies guidelines for design and material requirements for wilderness bridges on DCNR managed property.

KTA has in the past, and hopes, in the future, to be involved with wilderness footpath bridges, either directly or by offering advice to our member clubs. As a result of the review, KTA has identified several concerns that we feel need to be addressed before the catalog can be effectively utilized as intended.

Generally, our goal is to create guidelines for footbridge construction in back country areas where moving equipment and materials into place would be very difficult, costly, or impractical for volunteer organizations. We also believe that for more remote and wild stream crossings, a rustic bridge design that is generally simple, safe, and visually complimentary to the environment is something that can be achieved and will be beneficial to all. KTA has requested a meeting with DCNR to continue the dialogue and initiate a process to resolve our concerns to everyone's satisfaction before the manual is adopted.

Volunteer Opportunities — Get Involved

Knowledgeable **public relations persons** to prepare "newsworthy" Public Service Announcements related to KTA's programs and services. Individual(s) would research the KTA website and other sources for appropriate opportunities, draft public service announcement for review, and submit final product to news organizations. Individual may or may not (depending on volunteer's preference) be tasked with contacting news organizations in their geographic region. KTA wants to educate the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment, contribute to the mentoring and recruitment of a new generation of hikers, and increase the public's awareness and appreciation of hiking as a healthy, low impact and family oriented activity.

All successful organizations need a strong volunteer base. But oftentimes individuals are reluctant to commit to open ended volunteer opportunities. In recognition of that concern, the KTA volunteer opportunities listed here will be for a limited term. The goals we seek to accomplish will require a six to 12 month commitment. For more information, contact Curt Ashenfelter at 717-238-7017 or kta-hike@verizon.net.

KTA has a short term need for **two volunteers in our Harrisburg office**. One volunteer is needed for six weeks, two days per week, approximately four hours per day. The volunteer should have a pleasant telephone voice, communication and some office skills. The volunteer will contact individuals concerning KTA membership. Training will be provided. The second volunteer is needed for approximately ten hours during one week in September. Hours are flexible; some office skills are required. Our office is located in downtown Harrisburg at the corner of Walnut Street and Front Street, across from the Walnut Street Bridge.

Around The Clubs

Allentown Hiking Club



AHC members removed 83 tires, a freezer, an air conditioner, a desk, and other assorted trash during their spring cleanup at PA 309 and Fort Franklin Road.

AHC members staffed the hiking and backpacking booth at a Boy Scout JAMBO, which attracted approximately 5,000 Scouts and leaders to a weekend event at Kutztown University in May. The gear display attracted many attendees, who also perused the maps and guides and talked to club members about local hiking areas.

Appalachian Mountain Club – DV Chapter

For the third straight year, Mike Helbing was recognized as the top hiker, completing 919 miles with the club in 2007 (averaging 18 miles in each of his 51 hikes). Bill Lotz took the award for leading the most hikes (63) during the year.

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club

BMECC will offer a special hike for Grandparents Day on September 7. The group will ride the WK&S scenic train to Wanamaker Station and walk back via Lover's Lane and the historic village of Trexler. Club members should bring their grandparents or grandchildren.

BMECC notes the death of two centenarian members: R. Kathleen Heisler, 102, and Edna F. Springer, 101.

Butler Outdoor Club

The Memorial Day Outdoor Extravaganza proved to be a membership boon to BOC, as 25 new members joined the club during the weekend.

Mid State Trail Association

Jean Aron, after many years of service (even before the MSTA was officially formed), has retired as MSTA Secretary. Jean kept the membership records, was instrumental in producing the early maps and guides, handled mail orders, and designed the orange Mid State Trail T-shirts with the caption "We are not outstanding, we are out hiking".

With the change of officers, the MSTA has a new address: MSTA, PO Box 885, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Pocono Outdoor Club

To increase public awareness and promote the club, POC members will enter a float in the Pen Argyl Labor Day parade. Hikers in hiking garb will walk alongside the float to hand out flyers with club activities and a membership form.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

PATC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Manassas (Bull Run) National Battlefield Park in Virginia to assist the National Park Service in maintaining and planning the trail system throughout the 5,000 acre site. For the most part, park features cannot be viewed except by hiking trails.

Warrior Trail Association

The WTA has adopted a new club policy - if you are over 100 years old, you don't pay dues. Two members, Margaret Moninger and Edis Allison, qualify for the new membership category.



Wilmington Trail Club

WTC offered two enticing hikes in May. The club hiked ten miles to a horse cemetery, where they stopped for lunch, so that hikers could enjoy lovely views of the countryside. On another trek, hikers visited three forts - Fort DuPont (DE), Fort Mott (NJ) and Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island (DE), traveling by ferry and foot.

WTC's three hikes on NTD, ranging from 3 to 15 miles in White Clay Creek Preserve, all met up for lunch provided by the Preserve.

WTC scheduled 332 hikes in 2007. An average of 14 members participated in each event.

York Hiking Club

One recent new member met the requirement for membership by performing 35 hours of trail maintenance with the club (instead of the more common method of hiking 30 miles with the club).

Chuch Keiper Trail Weekend Trail Care, May 9-11

By Joe Healey

Rich Scanlon was in charge and had a lot of work lined up for the weekend. The main tasks were completing two reroutes. One was a short reroute to avoid a small stream crossing. However, in the spring, this creek really roars. The second was a one mile reroute to eliminate the road walk on Penrose Road. At this point, KTA just about has the whole trail off of the roads and into the woods. There also was quite a bit of DR Trimmer work to get ready for the upcoming Sproul Prowl in July. The group camped at the site of the old CCC camp on Coon Run Road. Thanks to camp owner **Dale Brenner** for the use of his privies.

Those in attendance were **Tom Bastian, Jack Bushey, Joe Clark, Robert Davey, Joe Healey, Ed Lawrence, Elwood Loudenslager, Catherine McLaughlin, Rich Scanlon, Dave Singer, and Dave Walp.**

Maintainers' Corner

Maintainer Opportunities

Learn Rock Rigging with NCTA Volunteer Vacation, Sept. 20-25



Photo courtesy of Andrew Bashaw

Join the North Country Trail Association and its Allegheny National Forest Chapter for a backcountry project in the Allegheny National Forest. The week will begin with a two-day rock rigging and handling workshop led by rock guru Lester Kenway of the Maine Conservation Corps and owner of Trail Services LLC. After the rockwork instruction, the group will head out for three days of trail work, camping at a primitive campsite. NCTA will provide all food, cooking equipment, tools, training, and safety equipment. The nearest town to the project site is Sheffield, PA. For more information see www.northcountrytrail.org/volvac/index.html.

(Continued from page 1)

Young Woman's Creek Bridge

mit for a scaffold to be used in the streambed for support during construction, and the EPA had to issue a permit. **Ted Ligenza**, Recreational Forester for Sproul District Forest, and **Matt Beaver**, State Recreational Forester, were the driving forces behind the permitting process, which was finally completed this spring.

Construction Details

Actual construction began on Sunday, June 8, with the arrival of three crew members. The cribbing was the first step in the construction. Six members of the **Susquehannock Trail Club** assisted us, and with their help in excavating, setting the timbers, and filling one side with stone, we completed both sides of the bridge cribbing by Monday evening.

Since the bridge site was not large enough for a proper work area, we laid out the bridge trusses at the DCNR Hyner maintenance yard on Tuesday. It took over eight hours to accomplish the layout, since the fitting of the wood members is critical to the strength of the bridge. On Wednesday, a crew from **Sproul Forest District** arrived with a flat bed truck and a forklift to assist in the transfer of the trusses to the bridge site and to deliver the remaining wood needed to complete the bridge. Without their help, it would have been a very difficult task to break down the bridge and transport it to the site. We were really appreciative of **Jason Bratton**

ATC Mid Atlantic Crew, Sept. 4-Oct. 27

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Mid-Atlantic Crew will be working for eight weeks. Projects include building new trail on Bear Mountain in New York, constructing a bridge near Boiling Springs (with the Mountain Club of Maryland) and a boardwalk near Pawling, New York, and rerouting trail segments at Wind Gap (with the Batona Hiking Club) and Harpers Ferry (with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club)

The crew works Thursday thru Monday. To apply, see the ATC web site at www.appalachiantrail.org and choose the "Volunteer" button, call 540-953-3571, or email crews@appalachiantrail.org.

New Tool for Maintainers

Invasive Brush and Shrub Remover

Trail maintainers (and homeowners) who need to remove invasive bushes such as honeysuckles, privet, buckthorn, autumn olive, burning bush, and holly might want to investigate the Honeysuckle Popper. This hand tool will work on woody bushes and shrubs with a crown root structure of shallow spreading roots. Unlike lopping or pruning which allows the roots to regenerate, this tool removes the roots. Information is available by calling 1-877-POP-M-OUT (767-6688) or visiting www.misterhoneysuckle.com.



and his crew for their assistance in transporting the trusses and for assisting in the placement at the site.

Placing the Trusses

After the four trusses arrived at the site, they were lifted off the truck. Using the KTA highline stretched over the creek, the trusses were swung into place and temporarily set on the 20-foot scaffold in the center of the creek bed. This was probably the most difficult procedure in the construction of the bridge, and some were doubtful that it could be accomplished. However, with forestry's assistance, all the trusses were in place and glued and bolted together by the end of the day.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday were spent placing intermediate supports for the trusses, and attaching the decking, diagonal supports, handrails and steps for the cribbing. With the help of two additional KTA members on Saturday, we moved (with five gallon buckets) seven tons of rock from one side of the ridge to the cribbing on the opposite side of the stream.

Naming the Bridge

In honor of **Ted Ligenza**, the Recreational Forester who was the driving force behind the bridge for the past four years, the bridge was formally dedicated and named "Ted's Truss" in his honor.

The KTA volunteers were **Tom Bastian** (chief builder), **Joe Clark**, **John Eastlake**, **Carl Ganong**, **Woody Loudenslager**, and **Rich Scanlon** (general contractor).

Spring Meeting Draws a Crowd to Wellsboro

The 165 hikers who attended the Spring Meeting in Wellsboro were not disappointed. The weather was warm, the **Asaph Hiking Club** assembled an outstanding selection of hikes, and the buffets at the Penn Wells provided fuel to keep everyone energized.

There were 28 hikes to choose from, including a moonlight hike, a tour of Wellsboro, a CCC history hike, climbs to outstanding viewpoints, rail-trail strolls, and hikes to waterfalls.

Thanks to **Jennie Bormeman** for co-ordinating the hiking program and recruiting leaders.



Photo by Dick Martin

Hikers display teamwork navigating slippery stones in a stream.

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Wildlife Media Resource Center

Need a photo of a porcupine for a school report? Interested in changing your computer screen-saver to highlight Pennsylvania wildlife? Then check out the Wildlife Media Resource Center, the latest addition to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's website (www.pgc.state.pa.us).

The resource center provides information, photographs and streaming videos that showcase Pennsylvania's amazing wildlife resources. It is available to news media, students and others interested in wildlife and may be used in articles, school reports and as a desktop display or screen-saver on your computer.

KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliations (if any): _____

_____ Receive newsletter in full color via e-mail by 1st of issue month instead of by postal mail and save KTA paper and mailing costs

Member organizations are welcome and should forward the name and contact information for the group's designated KTA representative along with appropriate dues: \$50 per year for clubs; \$100 for commercial enterprises; \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All dues payments and correspondence should be mailed to: 101 North Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17101.

**KTA is an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are deductible to the extent permitted by law.*

Basic Membership (New Member Only) Individual - \$15 Family - \$20	\$
Basic Membership (Renewal) Individual - \$25 Family - \$30	\$
Brush Cutter Membership Individual - \$35 Family - \$45	\$
Blaze Painter Membership Individual - \$50 Family - \$75	\$
Trail Builder Membership Individual - \$100 Family - \$125	\$
Life Membership Individual - \$500 Family - \$750	\$
Youth Membership Individual - \$5	\$
Additional Contribution In Memory Of/In Honor Of _____	\$
Total Enclosed	\$