



# THE KEYSTONE HIKER

Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

August 2011

BELOW: 17 Super Hikers at the June 11 Preview Hike. Courtesy of Paul Shaw.



## ARE YOU UP FOR THE SUPER HIKE CHALLENGE?

On September 10, 2011, trail runners and hikers will have a chance to test their endurance and strength of will on the lower Susquehanna Gorge when KTA hosts the third annual 28.4-mile **Susquehanna Super Hike and Ultra Trail Run** in York and Lancaster counties.

This daunting run and hike on the Mason-Dixon and Conestoga Trails alternates steep descents into cool, dark hollows with strenuous climbs to breathtaking vistas. The Super Hike traverses both sides of the Susquehanna River in York and Lancaster counties, linked by the Norman Wood Bridge below Holtwood. Participants will begin at the Otter Creek Campground along Rt. 425 in York County and finish at the Pequea Creek

Campground along Rt. 324 east of Pequea. There are at least eleven significant climbs and descents along the route with a total elevation change exceeding 8,700 feet.

Just a few of the highlights include Otter Creek, Urey Overlook, Oakland Run, historic Lock 12, crossing the Susquehanna River on the Norman Wood Bridge, Kelly's Run, the Pinnacle Overlook, Tucquan Creek, and Wind Cave.

The registration fee includes bus transportation from Pequea Creek Campground to the starting point, snacks and beverages at three checkpoints along the route, a picnic dinner at the finish, a one-year membership to KTA, a t-shirt, and complimentary specialty drinks from Sheetz at the finish line.

Interested in participating in this memorable day, but not in busting your gut over 28.4 miles? We have space for over 100 volunteers to help in a variety of capacities. All volunteers receive a free event t-shirt.

To register, volunteer, or for more information, visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org). See you at the Super Hike!

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## SPRING MEETING & HIKING WEEKEND

Approximately 120 hikers attended KTA's annual Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend in Chester County from April 15-17. Over thirty hikes of varying lengths and difficulty were offered throughout the weekend by hike leaders from five local hiking clubs. Intermittent downpours did not dampen the spirits of the hikers! KTA thanks the **Batona**



ABOVE: Spring Hiking Weekend, Palmyra Nature Preserve. Courtesy of Susan Smolens.

SPRING WEEKEND Continued on p. 8

## OFFICERS

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This newsletter is published four times each 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 Editor encourages submissions reflecting all viewpoints, but reserves the right to edit material. You are encouraged to submit your material via email.

## KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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## KTA—YOUR HIKING ADVOCATE IN ACTION

by Curt Ashenfelter, Executive Director



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

**Multi-Use Trails:** It has been reported to me that all hiking trails in Maryland's state parks and forests (with the exception of the Appalachian Trail) are now multi-use trails. Maryland does not have a statewide advocacy organization like KTA. KTA will work hard in Harrisburg to protect your trails from those who would like to convert them to multi-use trails. Maryland hikers, with no statewide advocacy organization to represent their interests in state government, have suffered a great loss.

**Marcellus Shale:** KTA continues to voice your concerns with legislators and at public meetings for responsible use of state forest and state park lands, in the face of increasing pressure from the natural gas industry. Without a forceful push back from the hiking community, gas companies will seek to drill every acre. In a recent state Senate hearing, a senator stated that the state forests are in good shape because only two percent of the state forests have been leveled for gas drilling. I do not be-

lieve the two percent number is accurate, as most observers report a much higher number. However, if true, the math is discouraging because only one percent of the potential wells have been drilled. At this rate, every acre of forest land will be gone by the time only 50 percent of the wells have been drilled.

**Loyalsock Trail Extension:** A number of hiking enthusiasts in Pennsylvania are pursuing a plan to extend the Loyalsock Trail from its current eastern terminus near Laporte to Rickett's Glen State Park and have sought KTA's assistance. I have met with Sullivan County officials to help them develop a plan and offer our good services in Harrisburg. Next steps involve seeking access from the existing eastern terminus through private property to state game lands and resolving maintenance concerns expressed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The Game Commission believes that existing trail clubs may not have the capacity to maintain the extension over the long term.

**Primitive Camping on Game Commission Land:** The Mid State Trail has proposed approximately 20 sites for primitive camping to the Game Commission. The Game Commission has asked the Mid State Trail to approach nearby landowners prior to requesting approval for primitive camping sites. In those instances where nearby landowners have denied access, the Game Commission will consider use of game lands. The Game Commission is currently considering approval of three of the sites based on the long distance from private land holdings.

**Aggressive Gas Company Security Guards:** It has come to KTA's

*ADVOCATE Continued on p.14*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thyra Sperry, President



It's Sunday and we like to be outdoors. Most outdoor folks that I know work all week and look forward to time outside with the family and friends. I'm often in state game lands hiking and birding on Sunday in the wee hours of the morning. I'm not by myself, either. Usually it is a group hike/walk and a mixed bag of ages.

Other groups are outdoors too on Sunday. It is a day set aside for family activities. Just think of the economic impact of purchasing backpacks, fanny packs, hiking poles, hiking boots, hi-tech clothing, binoculars, scopes, cameras and travel; all add up to a big chunk of funds. As hikers, we have an economic contribution too.

State game lands provide a habitat

for enjoyable hiking. Most families take to the woods on Sunday after a week packed with deadlines, chores and other responsibilities. It's our day and we protect, preserve and enjoy. Hikers and other outdoor recreationists and photographers vastly outnumber hunters.

We are the only organization that provides trained volunteers to maintain trails on state game lands for public use. Volunteer trail builders and maintainers work in the woods on Sunday. A lot of KTA and hiking club time and personal money is spent on behalf of state game lands.

We want to continue to have this freedom on Sunday to be on game lands across the state. If you want to hike or bird, take photos or just enjoy the beauty of the land on Sundays with your friends and family, you must contact your state legislator. Contact information is listed in township newsletters and on [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us). Plug in your zip code and the address for your legislator will appear. Let's not lose our Sundays outdoors. Do this now, before your Representative signs on as a sponsor of HB 1760, which would allow Sunday hunting in PA..

In the meantime, get out and protect your favorite trail!

*Thyra*

## UPCOMING KTA EVENTS

September 10, 2011 - **Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run**, York & Lancaster Co., PA

September 30-October 2, 2011 - **Fall Meeting and Hiking Weekend**, Prospect, Butler County, PA. Hiking program provided by the Butler Outdoor Club and the North Country Trail Association.

January 7, 2012—**Board Meeting**, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA

April 27-29, 2012—**Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend**, Wellsboro, Tioga County, PA

June 30, 2012—**Board Meeting**, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA

## ADVERTISING

The *Keystone Hiker* accepts paid advertisements from organizations and individuals who want to present messages consistent with KTA's mission. Advertising rates start as low as \$125. For more information, contact Curt Ashenfelter at 717-238-7017 or [ktahike@verizon.net](mailto:ktahike@verizon.net).

## VOLUNTEER AWARD PROGRAM

KTA volunteers contribute so much to the PA hiking community! Their activities range from guiding hikes, to maintaining trails, to advocacy on the local and state levels, to community education, to leading hikes for member clubs. Regardless of *what* they do, their actions have enabled individuals and families throughout PA to have continual access to safe and accessible hiking trails.

KTA is seeking the names of members who have made significant contributions as volunteers for at least 25 and 50 years. If you know of someone that has had such an impact, we encourage you to submit your written nomination to KTA, 101 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17101 or to [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net). Please include a list of the member's volunteer activities.

KTA Volunteer Awards will be presented at the October 1, 2011 Fall Meeting in Prospect, Butler County.

## MAINTAINERS' CORNER

### KTA CODE ORANGE

On Saturday, May 7, 2011, the Friends of Pinchot State Park, in partnership with the Keystone Trails Association, conducted a one-day Trail Care Code Orange event. Twenty-one volunteers contributed over 125 work hours. Approximately 150 feet of muddy footpath on the Beaver Creek Trail was rebuilt using local rocks, limestone and trail mix. 84 feet of boardwalk were constructed across two chronically muddy sections of the trail. Various other trails were also pruned and cleaned, downed trees were removed, and the entire 1.7 miles of the Quaker Race Trail was blazed in both directions.

*BELOW: Blazing the Quaker Race Trail. Courtesy of Friends of Pinchot State Park*



### IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR KTA MEMBERSHIP!

Help KTA keep costs down by renewing today *before* you receive a renewal letter in the mail (the KTA membership year ends September 30). Your support is essential for enabling KTA to continue to do the work of trail advocacy, organizing maintenance and statewide hiking club coordination. See p. 20 for details!

### MST-TIOGA REGION KTA TRAIL CREW by Pete Fleszar

Fifteen volunteers, from as near as Charleston Township and as far as South Carolina, helped out at some point during the week when the KTA Trail Crew came to Tioga County to work on the Mid State Trail, June 7-12, 2011. The group worked with DCNR employees on addressing some wet spots along the Sand Run Falls Trail, ending when DCNR's dump trailer broke. It limped out of the woods with a KTA shovel underneath where one wheel used to be. That was right after our group got hailed on, taking refuge under PA's state tree.

On Saturday, we worked with Wellsboro's Asaph Trail Club to install "bug" bridging on private land. The system of oak planks screwed to locust timbers, in addition to providing volunteers with an upper body workout, also serves to ameliorate the impacts of hikers' feet on the local native insect population by allowing the bugs to pass harmlessly underneath. Competing claims that someone didn't understand someone else saying the task was putting in "bog" bridging were cheerfully denied. Special thanks to Tom Bastian who came up early to work out the installation system and to buy the requisite hardware.

We also mowed a lot of the route, cleared and blazed part of an off-road relocation, and installed some trail signs. Recent windstorms dropped many trees on the ghosts of the abandoned mining town of Landrus - two days of work for the chainsaw contingent clearing the MST route.

The hard core who came out this week enjoyed the campsite by a pond provided by a local landowner, which someone remarked seemed like Maine with white birches by the shore. KTA Vice President Wanda Shirk cooked for the Crew. MSTA President Ed Lawrence, who recently visited the lost portion of the Appalachians in Morocco, shared his culinary education with the group by creating "Tioga Tagine" on Saturday night.

The group put in 312 hours of hard, quality work, much appreciated by all, and a definite step forward towards the completion of PA's longest and wildest footpath.



*ABOVE: Trail Crew installing "bug" bridging. Courtesy of Daryl Warren*

## MAINTAINERS' CORNER

### CHUCK KEIPER REPAIR

By Ed Lawrence

The weeklong Trail Crew on the Chuck Keiper/ Donut Hole Trails (June 14-19) had their work cut out for them! Going into the week, trip leader Carl Ganong, in consultation with long-time trails friend and Sproul forester Ted Ligenza, had made plans to spruce up the Donut Hole Trail. However, tornado-force winds at the end of May raked the northern tier, causing widespread destruction, blowing down hundreds of trees, forcing the closure of two sections of the Chuck Keiper Trail, and changing the week's focus.

By the week's end, the Keiper was once again open, with the battered sections along Boggs Run and Burns Run a hikeable maze of cut-throughs and root ball craters. Crews also did extensive lopping and brush-cutting along Eddy Lick, in the Fish Dam Wild Area, and on the cross connector.

Fourteen dedicated volunteers contributed to this outstanding effort, tallying a total of 412 hours of hard, but immensely satisfying, work. KTA's Trail Crew is deeply appreciative to the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association for allowing KTA to utilize their excellent facilities and environmental center, and to Alice for providing excellent meals for the Crew throughout the week.

KTA also thanks Forester Eric Probert and Forest Technician Todd Meyers for their efforts and assistance.

### 2011 KTA TRAIL CARE SCHEDULE

KTA's Trail Care program offers interested volunteers 3 types of "hands-on" trail work opportunities. No prior experience necessary; tools and training are provided. Volunteers must bring all personal camping gear.

**Trail Crew:** Weeklong events that begin on Tuesday evening and end the following Sunday at noon, with all meals provided. Participants can sign up for the entire week or by the day.

**Trail Care:** Work weekends begin Friday evening and end Sunday at noon. Participants provide their own meals. Visit the Trail Care Map on [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org).

**Code Orange:** A one-day event. Camping may be available and food is sometimes provided.

**Volunteers should contact trip leaders to indicate their intent to participate and get up-to-the-minute information. Visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) for complete schedule.**

#### August 12-14:

Mid State Trail, Woolrich Region  
 Leader: Joe Healey  
 Phone: 570.655.4979  
 Email: [jnlhealey@aol.com](mailto:jnlhealey@aol.com)  
 Camp: Ravensburg State Park

#### August 27: CODE ORANGE

Colonel Denning State Park  
 Leader: Ryan Donovan  
 Phone: 717.776.5272  
 Email: [rydonovan@state.pa.us](mailto:rydonovan@state.pa.us)  
 Camp: Col. Denning State Park Group Tenting Area (available Fri/Sat nights)

#### September 23-25:

Thunder Swamp Trail System  
 Leader: John Motz  
 Phone: 570.236.1462  
 Email: [trailbldr@hotmail.com](mailto:trailbldr@hotmail.com)  
 Camp: Promised Land State Park

#### October 7-9:

Reeds Gap Spur  
 Leader: John Stevens  
 Phone: 814.861.6664  
 Email: [stevens.john.e@gmail.com](mailto:stevens.john.e@gmail.com)  
 Camp: Poe Paddy State Park

#### November 11-13:

Bear Run Nature Reserve  
 Leader: Jeff Rosier  
 Phone: 724.329.7803  
 Email: [jrosier@paconserve.org](mailto:jrosier@paconserve.org)  
 Camp: Kirkpatrick House near Ohiopyle State Park



Crews work to repair damage to Boggs Run caused by May storms. Photos courtesy of Eric Probert, Forester.



## MEMBER CORNER

### CURT WEINHOLD WINS PA WILDS AWARD

The PA Wilds Initiative is a state/ local collaborative effort. It aims to grow the nature and heritage tourism industry across 12 counties of rural PA as a way to help diversify local economies, revitalize communities and improve quality of life. Each year, the PA Wilds Planning Team gives out a small number of “Champion of the Pennsylvania Wilds” awards to recognize outstanding efforts related to the Initiative’s main components—economic development, planning, community revitalization, community character stewardship and conservation.

This year, KTA Member Curt Weinhold, Potter County, was one of the award recipients. Curt says his “philosophy is to encourage preservation and wise usage of scenic and natural resources and to provide those who view [his] work with a sense of wonder and appreciation of our region’s natural beauty.” Curt is a past president and current advisory board member of the Susquehannock Trail Club. He is an avid hiker and backpacker and photographer of the wilds, and has been a KTA hike leader for decades. His nature photographs have appeared in dozens of national magazines, local newspapers, and hiker websites, to accompany stories on hiking, waterfalls, and wild flowers.

Congratulations, Curt Weinhold, and thank you for all you do!

### “NAME THE NEWSLETTER” CONTEST by Joan Drake



Dear KTA,

The Kemperdell trekking poles arrived!

They are beautiful with red, gold, and black colors in the shafts. I am so happy to see that they have cork grips. I do believe cork is the most comfortable grip over the long haul and, luckily for me, for short treks too. The straps on these poles are very easy to adjust, thank heavens--or really, Kemperdell and all of you. In addition, I find the adjusting joints work exceptionally smoothly. Such excellent craftsmanship....very, very nice!

It is a real boon to have such beautiful poles just for suggesting names for the newsletter. Many names came to my mind, and I had no idea which (if any) would be suitable. I am happy that *The Keystone Hiker* turns out to be your choice.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in setting up and executing the contest, and to Scott Adams, Board Member, for donating the poles. My best wishes to KTA and to each of you.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Duties include writing, gathering, and editing articles, laying out the issue, submitting it to the printer and checking the proof. *The Keystone Hiker* editor is also an ex-officio member of the KTA Board of Directors.

#### SPEAKER’S BUREAU

KTA strives to develop a network of knowledgeable and dedicated speakers who are able to give presentations on topics of interest to the hiking community, such as travelogues with slideshows, backpacking and hiking topics, trail building/maintenance, advocacy, environment and conservation issues, natural history, wildlife, volunteerism and outreach, etc.

#### VOLUNTEER SAAC REPRESENTATIVE

The Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee (SAAC) advises the Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on matters concerning the use and operation of snowmobiles and ATVs on public land. SAAC requires two representatives from the non-motorized community, including the KTA.

The SAAC committee meets at least once per year; most meetings are held in downtown Harrisburg but sometimes occur in other locations throughout the state. The designated KTA representative would attend scheduled SAAC committee meetings and file a brief report at the KTA spring and fall council meetings.

For more information about volunteering with KTA, please contact Curt Ashenfelter at [ktahike@verizon.net](mailto:ktahike@verizon.net).

### MEMBER DEATHS



Stephen Van D. Chandler, Life Member #195, joined Keystone Trails Association in 1974. Stephen passed away on February 8, 2011.

## MEMBER CORNER

### CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED APRIL-JUNE 2011

Many thanks to all the individuals and organizations who contribute to KTA and support our efforts to preserve Pennsylvania's footpaths.

#### President's Circle (\$2,500 or more )

Ruth Ishida

#### Gold Circle (\$250-\$2,499 )

Cecil Dobbins  
Wanda Shirk

#### Silver Circle (\$100-\$249)

Cindy Bower  
Diane Buscarini  
Thomas J. Clayton  
Carol Easter  
Roger Eichner  
Rodney Glose  
Tim Grumbacher

Bobbie Hineline  
Jeffrey Mitchell

#### Bronze Circle (\$50-\$99)

Butch Davey  
Harry W. Fenton  
Mary E. Pitzer  
John R. Schieber  
Philip M. Tankel

#### Other Contributors

Chelsea Dunkle  
Debra Dunkle  
Scot M. Fleischman  
Mary Gall  
Patricia Gussey  
Barbara Isom  
Nancy Ellen Kiernan  
Angela Pany  
John Seville  
Robert Swope

### KEEPING TRAILS ALIVE

KTA's **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor program consists of individuals who commit themselves to giving a regular monthly contribution to sustain our work.

Giving to KTA is easy with a monthly automatic bank withdrawal! Please contact [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net) for additional information.

Many thanks to the following individuals who are a part of our **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor program:

**Keystoner**  
**\$1,200-\$2,499**  
A Friend  
Thyra Sperry

**Trustee**  
**\$600 - \$1,199**  
Dave Dalpezzo  
Ernest Werstler

**Advocate**  
**\$240 - \$599**  
Curt Ashenfelter  
Henry Frank  
Charles Glanville & Elizabeth Brecht  
Marshall Hamilton  
Phil Keener  
Ed Lawrence  
Richard Martin  
Wanda Shirk  
Phil Williams

**Additional Keep Trails Alive Donors**  
**\$100 - \$239**  
A Friend  
Cindy Bower

### HERITAGE SOCIETY

Are you concerned about preserving Pennsylvania's footpaths in perpetuity? Individuals who include KTA in their estate plans find that they receive a sense of satisfaction in knowing that a portion of their accumulated assets will continue to aid KTA in accomplishing its mission of protecting and promoting hiking trails in PA. KTA's **Heritage Society** recognizes persons who have named KTA in their estate plans with a commitment of at least \$5,000. If you would like more information about joining the **Heritage Society**, please contact Curt Ashenfelter at 717-238-7017.

The **Keystone Trails Association** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

To make a contribution, renew your membership, or become a **Keep Trails Alive** monthly donor, call 717-238-7017 or visit [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org)

### WORKPLACE GIVING

Did you know that you can designate your United Way donation to any 501(c)3 organization, not just the ones affiliated with United Way?

If your workplace participates in the United Way campaign, please consider writing in Keystone Trails Association!

The United Way's Fall 2011 Campaign is underway now, and will end in March 2012.

## EVENTS

### KTA HIKING AWARDS

by Thyra Sperry

Hundreds of individuals have demonstrated their dedication to hiking and to the preservation of Pennsylvania's trails by completing hundreds of miles on volunteer-maintained trails. Member hikers receive awards each fall at KTA's Annual Membership Meeting for their endurance on select PA hiking trails, and for acting as an inspiration to others:

**Appalachian Trail Award** for hiking the entire Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania

**Merit Award** for hiking the entire Appalachian Trail in PA plus 200 or more miles on eligible trails.

**Merit II Award** for hiking all of the Appalachian Trail between the Hudson River and the Potomac River plus 200 or more miles

*HIKING AWARDS, Continued on p. 18*

### NCT TRAIL CREW WEEK

by John Stehle

The Butler Chapter of the North Country Trail hosted the KTA Trail Care for the week ending Sunday, June 5, 2011. 26 volunteers showed up at various times from Tuesday to Sunday, putting an admirable 622 hours into the project during the week!

The project required extensive planning and preparation. Dan Bickel, manager of Moraine State Park, first needed DCNR approval to add a new trail. Tom Baumgardner, with the help of the Butler Chapter volunteers, then spent many hours planning the route, acquiring materials, and defining all of the steps in the process so that the KTA crew would be able to start the job as soon as they arrived.

The 2.6-mile-long new section of trail includes many points of interest, including a gorgeous view of the spillway from Lake Arthur, lovely views of the lake, nine bridges (including a 94-foot long bog

*NCT CREW, Continued on p. 18*

### SPRING WEEKEND *Continued from p. 1*

**Hiking Club, Chester County Trail Club, Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy, Philadelphia Trail Club, and Wilmington Trail Club** for presenting such a wonderfully diverse weekend hike schedule!

The General Membership Meeting was held immediately following a delicious dinner at the Fame Fire Company's Silsby Room. The meeting began with a lighthearted rendition of KTA's new "Theme Song," written by KTA Vice President Wanda Shirk (see p. 20). The guest speaker was State Senator Andrew Dinniman, who promoted the environment by quoting Article 1, Section 27 of Pennsylvania's Constitution: "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment....[Natural] resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people." The evening closed with an engaging presentation by Jim Foster, KTA Life Member, on his recent trip to Mt. Kilimanjaro.

*RIGHT:  
White Clay  
Creek Pre-  
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Spring Hiking  
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David Kop-  
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### 2011 PA HIKING WEEK

KTA and DCNR co-sponsored the tenth annual Pennsylvania Hiking Week from May 28 through June 5.

The event encourages PA residents to embrace healthy lifestyles while enjoying the state's amazing network of trails in State Parks, State Forests, and communities.

This year, the nine-day event featured over 100 organized hikes, ranging from an easy 1-mile hike at Promised Land State Park to an intense 17.5-mile challenge hike on the Rachel Carson Trail.

KTA wishes to thank DCNR and all of the local hiking clubs that organized and led hikes throughout the state for the 2011 PA Hiking Week!





# Keystone Trails Association Hosts 2011 FALL MEETING & HIKING WEEKEND

September 30-October 2, 2011  
Prospect, Butler County



## KTA HOSTS HIKING WEEKEND IN BUTLER COUNTY



ABOVE: *McConnell's Mill.* Courtesy of Joyce Appel.

KTA will be traveling West this year, to **Prospect, Butler County**, for its annual **Fall Meeting and Hiking Weekend!** Located in the rolling hills of western Pennsylvania, **Butler County** is filled with thriving businesses, gorgeous scenery, plentiful recreational activities and over

200 years of history.

**McConnell's Mill State Park** encompasses 2,546 acres of the spectacular Slippery Rock Creek Gorge. Created by the draining of glacial lakes thousands of years ago, the gorge has steep sides and the valley floor is littered with huge boulders. Visitors appreciate scenic **McConnell's Mill**, which dates to the 1800's.

**Moraine State Park** is a popular spot for boating, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, and—of course! - hiking. The gently-rolling hills, lush forests and sparkling waters of Moraine State Park are a testament to the restoration of a land once ravaged by continental glaciers and massive mining for gas, coal, and oil. Almost 29 miles of hiking trails wind through forests, fields and along the lake shore in this state park.

## WEEKEND OVERVIEW

From **September 30 until October 2, 2011**, KTA members and their friends will be able to enjoy hiking, activities, meals, meetings, and camaraderie at **Lutherlyn**, a comfortable, beautiful, peaceful, and family-friendly cabin retreat and rustic campground.

The **Butler Outdoor Club** and the **North Country Trail** have teamed up with KTA to offer a wide range of interesting and engaging activities for our Fall Hiking Weekend participants!

Over **20 hikes** of varying difficulty and length will be offered throughout the weekend, including a geo-cache hike, an 8-mile hike in Slippery Rock Gorge with waterfall vistas, a 10-mile hike on the Rachel Carson Challenge course, a trip through Todd Sanctuary, and a 12-mile gut-buster from McConnell's Mill to Hell's Hollow! Short, easy, and kid-

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## FOR THE YOUNG (AND YOUNG AT HEART!)

KTA's 2011 Fall Hiking Weekend will be exceptionally perfect for families with children or grandchildren.

**Hiking trails**, a playground and sand **volleyball** court, **fishing and boating lake**, recreation field, **Frisbee golf** course, **archery range**, and more await you and the inquisitive children—or children-at-heart—in your life. Explorers will enjoy the chance to seek out the hidden treasures of Lutherlyn's sprawling and diverse grounds, such as the straw-bale

chapel (work in progress), stables, the self-sustaining Terra Dei Homestead, and so much more!

Everyone will enjoy Friday night's **bonfire** and **Weiner Roast Picnic** (with **S'mores** for dessert!), at Lutherlyn's **Shaulis Fire Circle**. "Kids" of all ages will also appreciate the opportunity to learn about **bat behavior** at Moraine State Park Friday night.

Bring your family, bring your friends, and most importantly, bring **yourself** to our 2011 Fall Hiking Weekend!

## WEEKEND SCHEDULE

### Friday, September 30

**1:00 PM—7:00 PM:** Registration and hike sign-ups (Redwood Lodge)

**2:00 PM—4:00 PM:** Hikes & excursions depart

**4-5:30 PM:** Trail Ride (by horse) on Lutherlyn Grounds\*\*

**6:00 PM:** Bonfire & Weiner Roast Picnic, and presentation by Joyce Appel & Paul Henry

**7:00 PM:** Bat Habitat educational program at Moraine State Park

### Saturday, October 1

**7:30-8:45 AM:** Breakfast, registration, hike sign-ups, and bagged lunch pickup

**9:00 AM:** Lake Arthur Kayak Trip\* and Nautical Nature Lake Arthur Boat Tour & NCT Hike\*\* depart

**9:00 AM & 1:00 PM:** Hikes depart

**10:00 AM-12:00PM:** Youth "Arena Program" \*\*

**1:00-4:00 PM:** Children's crafts, activities & pony rides\*\*

**1:00-3:00 PM:** Board Meeting

**4:00-6:00 PM:** Council Meeting

**6:30-9:00 PM:** Dinner, Presentation, and General Membership Meeting

*Note: All Saturday meetings will take place in the Dining Hall*

### Sunday, October 2

**7:30-8:45 AM:** Breakfast, hike sign-ups, and bagged lunch pickup

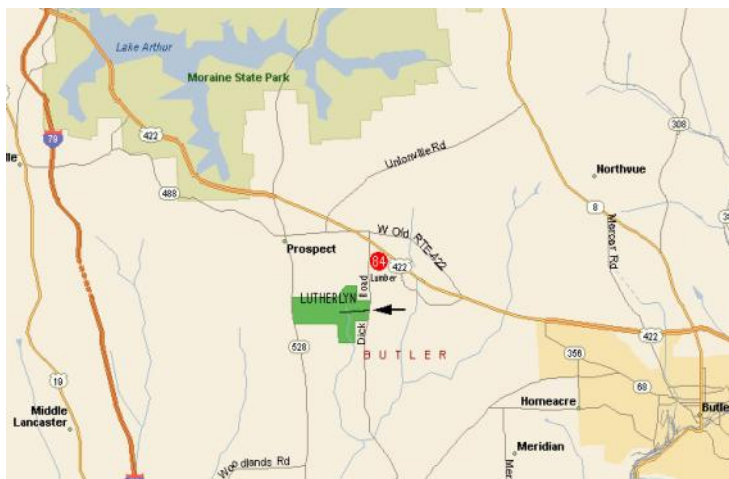
**9:00 AM:** Hikes, excursions, and Slippery Rock Creek Kayak/ Canoe Trip depart\*

**\*Kayak and Canoe Excursions:** Bring your own kayak or canoe! If you need to borrow one, a limited number are available for a small donation. Reserve one on p.12.

**\*\*Extra fees and registration minimums apply. Pre-registration may be required.** See p.12 for details.

## DIRECTIONS & MAP

**From the West:** Take I-79 to Rte 422 (Butler/New Castle exit) and head east 8.2 miles. Turn right at 84 Lumber onto Dick Rd. Follow road 1.5 miles to Lutherlyn.



**From the East:**

Take Rte 8 to Rte 422 and head west (towards New Castle) 7 miles to 84 Lumber. Turn left onto Dick Rd. Follow road 1.5 miles to Lutherlyn.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

For parents/ grandparents seeking a break on Saturday, or children seeking more than what the hiking trails and excursions can offer, there will be **crafts, games, and activities** offered on Saturday afternoon, as well as **pony rides** (\$2) at Lutherlyn!

For older children (age 8+), Lutherlyn's stables will be providing a 2-hour **"Arena Program,"** teaching horse-care and riding, will be offered on Saturday from 10 AM-noon (\$30/child, minimum 5 registrants; pre-registration necessary).

## WEB RESOURCES

**Butler County Website**  
<http://www.co.butler.pa.us/>

**Butler County Tourism Bureau**  
[www.visitbutlercounty.com/](http://www.visitbutlercounty.com/)

**City of Butler website**  
<http://www.cityofbutler.org/>

**Moraine State Park**  
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/moraine.aspx>

## IT'S RAINING, IT'S POURING... BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT BORING

Worried about the potential for inclement weather? Rest easy, knowing that Lutherlyn has plenty to offer even if rainstorms dampen the day!

**Vezzetti's Venture Shelter**, complete with lights, outlets, running water, and nearby restrooms, has picnic table seating for 50 people with an "indoor" fireplace and grill. The **Octagon Shelter** can seat up to 60 people with a **fire circle** in the middle — even storms can't come in the way of our Friday night campfire and Weiner Roast picnic, with this as our back-up location!

**Redwood Lodge** offers a cozy gathering space for people wanting to read, play **board games** from Lutherlyn's stash, or chat the afternoon away! In addition, wide, **spacious porches** on the dining hall and cabins offer a comfortable, fresh space for those who wish to **bird-watch**, read, or simply relax outside without rain—or even a hot, relentless sun - getting in the way.

## LODGING

### Lutherlyn

500 Lutherlyn Lane  
Prospect, PA 16052  
724-865-2161  
www.lutherlyn.com/

Lutherlyn is located 40 miles north of Pittsburgh off of Route 422 between Butler and Prospect.

### CABINS

KTA has reserved all four of Lutherlyn's charming and unique cabin "villages" for the entire weekend.

Each village contains five "modern" cabins, equipped with porches, central heating, carpeted floors, and beautiful wooden construction. Each cabin is divided into two separate, private, and cozy sides, with a spacious restroom/shower on each side. Each side has ample space for four adults, but upon request could accommodate up to six individuals.

Comfortable twin-size and bunk-beds have brand-new innerspring mattresses, ensuring a sound and restful night's sleep!

By request, both sides of a cabin may be rented completely by one party, with the divider removed, so that up to 8-12 adults and children could share the entire cabin.

**Note: Guests must bring their own linens (towels, sheets, pillows, and blankets) for the weekend.**



Above: Interior of Locust Cabin in one of Lutherlyn's Cabin Villages.

## RUSTIC CAMPING

KTA is excited to offer campsites on the Lutherlyn grounds (the "Rustic Retreat") for our more 'outdoorsy' hikers. A limited number of sites have electrical hook-ups (please indicate on your registration form if you require one of these).

Sites are close to a modern toilet facility, but a 10-minute walk from the shower-house; please take this into consideration when making your reservation.

*Below: A cabin in Lutherlyn's unique A-Frame Village.*



## MEALS

KTA is offering something new on Friday night: a **Wiener Roast Picnic** (Hotdogs, sides, drinks, and S'mores) and bonfire! Also included in the Meal or Weekend Packages:

**Breakfast** (Saturday/ Sunday) includes the typical 'continental' fare and a hot component (ie, hot cereal, eggs, breakfast casserole, and/or pancakes).

Tasty and filling bagged **lunches** will be available for hikers that choose the meal plan.

A delicious and hearty **buffet** and salad bar will be offered on Saturday night as part of the meal package (tickets may also be purchased separately, in advance). Alcoholic drinks are permitted at Saturday's dinner (BYOB) but not at other times.

The **General Membership Meeting** will follow dinner.

## OVERVIEW, *Continued from p. 9*

friendly hikes will also be offered each day.

Along with our typical schedule of hikes, this special weekend will also include **historical** excursions, **birding** opportunities, a Lake Arthur Nautical Nature **Boat Tour** & NCT Hike, horse-back riding, guided **kayak and canoe** trips, group **biking**, and **children's activities!**

Join us for a trip to 200-year-old **Davis Hollow Cabin**, which will include a demonstration of an historic oil pump, a visit to a stagecoach stop and inn dating to the early 1800's, and a tour of a working grain mill.

Whether you come to every hiking weekend, or have never attended a KTA event, we hope you will join us for our 2011 Fall Meeting and Hiking Weekend in Butler County!

## WHAT TO BRING

- Kayaks, canoes, and bikes
- Camping gear (for tents)
- Binoculars & cameras
- **Linens (sheets, towels, pillows)**
- Instruments (ie, drums) for Friday's campfire
- Money for extra activities
- Rain gear—just in case!

## ADDITIONAL LODGING

### Fairfield Inn & Suites By Marriott

200 Fairfield Lane  
Butler, PA 16001  
724-283-0009

### Locust Brook Lodge Bed & Breakfast

179 Eagle Mill Road  
Butler, PA 16001  
724-283-8453

### Moraine State Park - Campground

225 Pleasant Valley Road  
Portersville, PA 16051-2031  
724-368-8811



# KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

## 2011 Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all individuals covered by this reservation (**including children under the age of 18; please include their ages**), or with whom you will be sharing your lodgings, even if his /her reservation is not enclosed with yours:

KTA Member?  Yes  No  Joining Now  Renewing Now

Vegetarian Meal option?  Yes \_\_\_\_\_ # Adults \_\_\_\_\_ # Children

My child(ren) plan to participate in Saturday's kid's activities. # of children: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEKEND PACKAGE PRICING INFORMATION:** The price listed is **per person** and includes **two nights lodging** (Friday and Saturday night), as well as **six meals** (Friday picnic dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast and lunch) and the **registration fee**.

Please circle selected option:	KTA Member	Non-Member	# people	Total
Cabin—Single (1 person/ room)	\$250	\$270	X _____	= _____
Cabin—Double (2 people/ room)	\$160	\$180	X _____	= _____
Cabin—Triple (3 people/ room)	\$140	\$160	X _____	= _____
Cabin—Quadruple (4 people/ room)	\$120	\$140	X _____	= _____
Rustic Tenting Package (site & meals)	\$100	\$120	X _____	= _____
Children's Weekend Package (age 3-11)	\$65	\$85	X _____	= _____
<u>Rustic Tenting ONLY</u> (per site; up to 4 people)	\$50	\$75	X # sites _____	= _____
<u>Meal Package ONLY</u> (6 meals/no lodging)	\$65	\$90	X _____	= _____
<u>Saturday dinner &amp; annual meeting ONLY</u>	\$20	\$35	X _____	= _____

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES/ EXTRA FEES:** (Pre-registration required, minimums apply, and space is limited)

Saturday Nautical Nature Boat Tour/hike	\$10	X _____	= _____
Friday 4-5:30 PM Trail Ride (horseback) at Lutheryn	\$30	X _____	= _____
Saturday 10 AM-12PM: "Arena Program" for older kids/teens	\$30	X _____	= _____
1-Seater Canoe/ Kayak reservation for Saturday/ Sunday (circle which)	\$20	X _____	= _____
2-Seater Canoe/ Kayak reservation for Saturday/ Sunday (circle which)	\$15	X _____	= _____

**NEW MEMBERSHIP OR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** I'd like to join KTA or renew for another year:

New Membership	\$15 single	\$20 family	X _____	= _____
Membership Renewal	\$30 single	\$35 family	X _____	= _____

**REGISTRATION FEE:** Please **omit** the registration fee if you selected a **Weekend Package** or if you are **only** attending the Saturday dinner and evening program

KTA Member	\$20	X _____	= _____
Non-Member	\$40	X _____	= _____

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form with your check or money order to:

**Keystone Trails Association**  
**101 N. Front Street**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17101**

RESERVATIONS FOR LODGING, MEALS, AND "EXTRA" ACTIVITIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY **SEPTEMBER 9.**

**NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER SEPTEMBER 16.**

Reservation requests filled on a first come, first served basis.

**Questions?**  
 Contact KTA at **ktadmin@verizon.net** or 717.238.7017

## ALONG OUR TRAILS

### LAUREL HIGHLANDS TRAIL

Construction began on May 31 on the new Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail bridge over the PA Turnpike near Somerset. "Everyone involved in this project knows just how vital a new span is to the recreational enjoyment and economic vitality of the Laurel Highlands area," DCNR Secretary Richard Allan said.

The old span (built in 1970) was closed and dismantled in 2009 after an inspection found conditions that could endanger hikers on, and drivers below, the bridge. Work on the 10-foot-wide, 184-foot-long span is scheduled to be complete in early December. The replacement structure will reconnect various trail systems in the Laurel Highlands. It is located midway between the Turnpike's Somerset and Donegal interchanges. For more information, call Laurel Hill State Park at 814-445-7725.

### TURKEY HILL TRAIL

The Turkey Hill Trail has been closed by the Lancaster Solid Waste Authority from the wind turbines to the southern trailhead parking lot. That leaves the trail open only for one mile, from the northern parking lot, at the base of Turkey Hill, to the wind turbines and overlook at the top. The closure is due to the relocation of electric transmission towers and earthmoving activities and is expected to last for about two years.

### CHUCK KEIPER TRAIL

Storms on May 26 caused severe blow-downs for 1,000' on the trail in Boggs Run, leaving the trail virtually impassable.

From June 14-19, Trail Crews worked tirelessly to remove the downed trees and repair the damage to this section of trail. Thanks to their efforts, the trail was re-opened June 20.

### TUSCARORA TRAIL

The Bill Miller Trail and the Phoenix Trail which intersect the Tuscarora Trail in Tuscarora State Forest (Section 3 (Blue Mountain) of the 2011 Tuscarora Trail Guide to the North Half) have been partially relocated by DCNR to alleviate private property concerns.

The Bill Miller Trail now intersects the Tuscarora Trail approximately one-quarter mile south of the original location. It is blazed red and allows access to a new section of Tuscarora State Forest on the east side of the Blue Mountain. The Bill Miller Trail sign has been relocated to the new intersection.

The Phoenix Trail now turns north at the old intersection with the Tuscarora Trail and follows the Tuscarora Trail for approximately 150 yards. It then leaves the Tuscarora Trail, which allows access to the new section of Tuscarora State Forest on the east side of the Blue Mountain. It is also blazed red. A new Phoenix Trail sign will be installed in the coming year, where Phoenix Trail relocation now leaves the Tuscarora Trail.

### YOUR FAVORITE TRAIL

Would you like to tell us about your favorite trail? Do you have pictures or updates about one of the trails you have hiked recently? We'd love to include your stories, updates, and photos in the next *The Keystone Hiker*! Please send your contributions to [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net).

### MY FAVORITE TRAIL

by Heather Frank

The Hyner View Trail is a secluded beauty in north-central Pennsylvania. It starts out relatively flat, crossing near the base mountain, giving you a beautiful view of the train tracks and the Susquehanna River flowing below. It then starts up a hill aptly named "Humble Hill" that brings you to two false summits before finally reaching the Hyner View Lookout at the top of the mountain, 1300-feet above the river below. The amazing view at the top is well worth the burning legs.



The remainder of the trail allows you to truly enjoy the beauty of central PA, working your way through Reickert Hollow and up Johnson Run before bringing you to a number of switchbacks in Cleveland Hollow before hitting the last of the summits at the top of the power line. The trail ends on a nice descent along the waterfalls of Huff Run, a beautiful sight to take in.

When you reach a summit, you feel like you've truly earned the reward of the view. You must be prepared both mentally and physically; strong legs and a strong mind will lead you to a successful climb.

## KTA NEWS

### ADVOCATE *Continued from p. 2*

attention that security guards are chasing hikers off hiking trails. We are working with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to stop this practice. We are also concerned that many conflicts never come to our attention. If you have a run-in with a security guard, please report your encounter to us and we will follow up with the appropriate authorities.

**Conservation Easements:** The Standing Stone Trail Club has asked for KTA's help in facilitating conservation easements in Fulton County near the PA turnpike. Landowners have expressed interest in giving the easements, but the Standing Stone Trail needs expertise and funding to procure land easements. KTA will work with the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and the PA Land Trust Association to provide assistance to the Standing Stone Trail Club.

**Grants to Clubs:** A \$13,500 check from DCNR arrived in our offices in June. Clubs who participated in the Round Two Grant Program now have the go-ahead to expend funds for various projects, ranging from shelters to trail maintenance.

**May Appeal:** Fifteen KTA members donated almost \$900 to KTA's Trail Crew and Trail Care efforts. KTA's 1,200 members thank you.

**Health Fairs:** I recently had the opportunity to attend a health fair to extol the virtues of hiking for physical and mental wellness. I learned that many people are intimidated by the idea of hiking, as misconceptions of what "hiking" entails are prevalent. I spent much time discussing the range of hiking options to attendees, to encourage their participation in this family-friendly activity.

**School Outreach:** Recently, I visited the Mechanicsburg Middle School and met with approximately 40 teachers attending an environmental seminar. The teachers were interested in learning more about how to build trails on school grounds and had asked for KTA's assistance. I encouraged the teachers to participate in KTA's Trail Crew and Trail Care events. KTA will share our trail expertise if and when they decide to create more trails on their land.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

KTA is seeking five members to serve on the Nominating Committee. If interested, contact Wanda Shirk, Chair, at [wshirk@pennswoods.net](mailto:wshirk@pennswoods.net)

In odd-numbered years, the Nominating Committee is responsible for presenting the KTA Council with the names of three to five qualified candidates for three-year terms on the Board of Directors, a slate of officers, and a list of 12 persons to serve two-year terms as Representatives-at-Large.

Individuals interested in serving on the Board may send a letter of interest to [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net).

### THE BACKPACKING TRIP

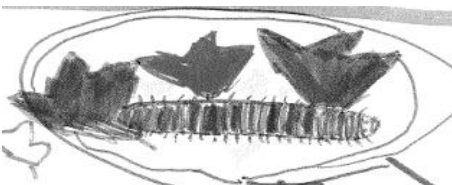
by Kelly Anne Barker (age 7)



In June, me, Laurel, Mommy, Laurel's mom and Laurel's Dad went on a backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail. It was four miles. I packed lots of things.



We hiked and hiked and hiked until... we saw a HUGE bug! It was gray with orange stripes!

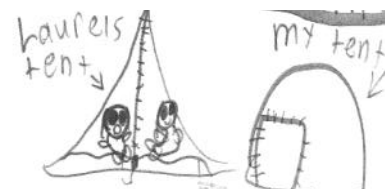


For dinner, we ate ramen noodles, with fruit snacks for dessert.



We set up our tents and heard thunder! We decided to go in Laurel's tent. We talked about TV shows.

It started to rain. Then we went back in our own tent and went to sleep.



Then it was morning. Laurel got a bug in her mouth. We had breakfast and we headed back. There was a mini waterfall. We had a great time!



## KTA NEWS

## PROPERTY OWNER PROTECTION

In May, the State Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee passed legislation that would encourage property owners to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational purposes. Senator David G. Argall's (R-29) legislation (the "Argall Bill") would limit property owners' liability when they open their land for recreational activities. "This legislation seeks to open more land in Pennsylvania to the public, while protecting property owners," Argall said. Senate Bill 469 will allow property owners to open their properties to individuals for, but not limited to, bicycling, horseback riding, hunting, camping, and hiking. Senate Bill 469 is currently being considered on the Senate floor.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS &amp; R.A.L. NOMINEES

The KTA **Nominating Committee** has submitted a slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors. The election will be held at the **Annual Meeting on October 1**. Current Board members Robert Davey, Jeffrey Mitchell, Paul Shaw and John Stevens have been nominated for the **Board of Directors** (for the term ending October, 2014). **Officer** nominees include Thyra Sperry, President; Wanda Shirk, Vice-President; Norman LaCasse, Secretary; and Ernest Werstler, Treasurer. Officers are elected by Council and serve one-year terms.

*NOMINEES Continued on p. 20*

## NEW DCNR DEPUTY SECRETARY

On June 13, Ellen Ferretti was named DCNR Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry.

"Ellen has tremendous experience in the private and non-profit sectors," Richard Allan, DCNR Secretary said.

"In her most recent position as president of the northeast regional office of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, she worked very closely with DCNR and its partners on landscape conservation efforts. Her wealth of knowledge will be a valuable asset to the department."

As deputy secretary for Parks and Forestry, Ferretti will assist the secretary in managing and directing the operations of the bureaus of State Parks, Forestry, and Facility, Design and Construction.

Ferretti will also work to develop policy on a variety of issues, including Marcellus Shale oil and gas development and drilling, along with maintaining relationships with stakeholders, enhancing outdoor recreation activities, establishing or revitalizing best practices for environmental education, and ensuring the ongoing maintenance of the infrastructure in state forest and state park lands.

## DEATH AND TAXES by John Stevens, KTA Board Member

Death and taxes. I'd like to add KTA to that very short list of certainties, by endorsing membership in the **Heritage Society**.

Since its founding in 1956, KTA's strategy and structure has changed to meet changing environments: incompatible use of hiking trails, proposed construction projects, gas drilling, and Sunday hunting – evidently as certain as death and taxes, it has again arisen as I write these words. We've reached out to trail runners and grown the Super Hike. Our Trail Care and Trail Crew not only sustain trails, they earn us legitimacy that only sweat equity can buy. During 55 years of change, however, KTA's mission remains constant: *To provide, preserve, protect*

*and promote recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania.*

We now live in a more tightly coupled, interdependent world than ever before. One party's opportunity can pose a threat to another party's interests. Coalitions form and seek to influence policy. Interest groups, regardless of their legitimacy, have no influence if they are not part of the deliberations. Our full-time presence in Harrisburg affords us timely awareness to influence outcomes that would surely affect us. At our heart we will always be a volunteer-based organization, but the scale and scope of the issues before us are beyond the ca-

capacity of even well-informed, committed volunteers. This is a normal evolution in the life of a nonprofit organization.

The scale and scope of our revenue streams, too, have evolved to stratified membership contributions, donor and patron opportunities, and grants. The Heritage Society is another way to invest in our values and the future of KTA; they are one and the same.

As I wrestled with estate planning last year, I included a bequest to KTA as a way of giving long life to my values. I encourage you to also consider a bequest to KTA in your estate plan.

## AROUND THE CLUBS



ABOVE: Ironmaster's Challenge. (Standing) SATC members Jeff Willard, Gary Labelle, Sharon Shellenberger, Rick Stahl, Stacy Simmers; (seated) Rob Shaw, Tara Shade, Paul Wummer, Jennifer Hollinger, Karen Balaban. Photo courtesy of Karen Balaban

### IRONMASTER'S CHALLENGE & MARCH by Karen Balaban

The Central PA Conservancy and Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club co-hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Ironmaster's Challenge" and "March for the Mansion" on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day after a week's worth of rain. The volunteers worked long days and early mornings to change/tweak portions of the trail at the last minute due to the excessive rain that occurred during the week.

The "Challenge" was a 27.5-mile hike and trail run, and the "March for the Mansion" was a 9.7-mile hike designed for the fitness walker or the more moderate-distance hiker. Over 100 hikers participated in both events. Volunteers staffed checkpoints and provided first aid and radio communication services. Registration fees and sponsorship proceeds benefited the Ironmaster's Mansion renovation efforts.

Volunteers and hikers celebrated a successful event with a delicious finish-line picnic, topped-off with a cold beer.

### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY By Karen M. Klos

The North Country Trail in the Allegheny National Forest volunteers celebrated National Trail Day (June 4, 2011) by camping at Amsler Springs Shelter. On Saturday, 18 volunteers drove to the work site near Guiton Run, off of Salmon Creek. All tools and hard hats were provided by the ANF Chapter of the NCT. The Trail Crew worked on a half-mile of trail, brushing and side-hill benching. The Student Conservation Association crew worked on a deep ditch until afternoon thunderstorms drove both crews off the mountain. The crew continued their work on Sunday morning, and completed their efforts by noon.

RIGHT: Trail Day Crew near Guiton Run. Courtesy of Karen Klos.

### AT HALL OF FAME by Jim Foster

Thousands dream of hiking the Appalachian Trail each year, but only a few actually hike all 2,181 miles between Maine and Georgia. It takes them typically four to six months and five million plus steps over rugged, mountainous terrain to complete the journey through 14 states.

Those who become successful "thru hikers," as these end-to-end hikers are known, owe their experiences to six pioneers who are being named to the first class of inductees to the AT Hall of Fame. "Some have hiked the entire length of the Appalachian Trail, and some multiple times. Some were instrumental in establishing the trail. All have helped create the unique culture that exists on the Appalachian Trail today," said Larry Luxenberg, president of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society. Inductees included Myron Avery, Gene Espy, Ed Garvey, Benton MacKaye, Arthur Perkins, and Earl Shaffer.

The AT Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony was part of the first Appalachian Trail Museum Festival held June 17-19 at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. During its first year, the museum attracted more than 8,000 visitors from 47 states and 18 countries.





## AROUND THE CLUBS

### THE A-100 CHALLENGE By Karen M. Klos

The Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country Trail held the second annual Allegheny 100 Challenge during the weekend of June 10. The Allegheny 100 Challenge is the ultimate hiking challenge. Participants hike 100 miles in two days or 50 hours, at an individual pace. It is a test of one's stamina, determination and resilience.

The adventure takes place on a 100-mile stretch of the NCT that meanders through the rolling hills and valleys of the Allegheny National Forest. The course extends from the New York border to a point just south of Marienville, PA.

This year there were 51 registered hikers. The Challenge event promotes awareness of the NCT, Allegheny National Forest and McKean, Warren and Forest Counties.

BELOW: A-100 Challenge participants. Submitted by Karen Klos.



### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Has your club conducted an unusual hike? Offered an outstanding program? Held a community service project? Celebrated a milestone event? Please let KTA know so that we can share your news!

All organizational members should send copies of their publications, either in print or electronically, to *The Keystone Hiker's* editor (see p. 2)

BELOW: Tour de NCT participants. Photo courtesy of Tammy Veloski.



### TOUR DE NCT by John F Stehle

On June 12, 2011 the final stage of the Tour de NCT of PA was completed by 20 hikers on the section running from Miola and Highland Road to Brenimen Road. It was over eight miles through beautiful woods of hemlock and deciduous trees. Considering this was the 22nd outing for some of us, the eight-mile hike was a breeze.

This section was completely on private lands. Dave Galbreath, Ed Scurry, and Clarion Chapter volunteers have done a masterful job of working with land owners to gain permission for passage of the trail. This points to the future of trail growth in the state, considering that almost all the public lands have been used along the route. These trails require constant attention which they get thanks to all the great work done by the Wampum, Allegheny National Forest, Butler, and Clarion chapters.

The Tour started in March, 2009, and took 28 months to complete. It measured 252 miles for the sections that were initially in place. Since the tour started, though, several more miles have been added. Five hikers completed "The Tour" as a group: Steve and Carol Bickel, Jan Berg, Tammy Veloski, and John Stehle. Over 100 hikers participated at some point in time.

## FOR HIKERS

### FIND FELLOW HIKERS ON THE WEB



Interested in finding people to hike with in your neck of the woods? A promising online tool is **Meetup.com**, the world's "largest network of local groups."

The website hosts 79,000 local Meetup groups made up of over 7 million people in 45,000 cities worldwide - with hiking and other outdoor enthusiast groups among them.

To get started, visit the website at [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) and sign up for an account. Registration is fast and free. Select your location and search for groups interested in hiking or the outdoors. Chances are there will be a group already organized in your area.

Meetup groups often ask for a small donation to help run their group's website. Group organizers will also set some basic guidelines for hike participants. When signing up for a hike, it is important to read the itinerary and pre-determined pace and determine if the hike is right for you.

If you find a hike or event that interests you, RSVP and attend. According to Rob Shaw, a Meetup user since 2009, "Don't worry about being a new member. The attendance at most Meetup events changes frequently and new members are constantly joining."

Setting up a Meetup group could also be a good option for a local hiking club trying to promote their activity schedule to new hikers in their area.

Shaw has led full moon hikes, after work hikes and several other Appalachian Trail hikes. He states, "I like being able to schedule a hike at any time without having to coordinate with a formal hike schedule. The RSVP feature is also handy to have an idea of the expected attendance."

Lauren Weldon, a Meetup user from Harrisburg, adds, "[the website] is successful because it offers a centralized web source where I can quickly see a calendar that lists group hikes that are going on for three or four different groups over the next few weeks. The web site also allows users to choose to receive e-mail updates when new hikes are posted. This feature is terrific because it allows me to quickly know what's going on in any particular week."

For the Internet-connected hiker, Meetup can be a great way to find outdoor activities and new hiking partners in your area.

### NCT CREW *Continued from p. 8*

bridge!), and a passage under Route 422.

The work involved a lot of side-hill digging, a good deal of brush clearing and stump removal, the building of bridges and a few water control structures, hauling and spreading wood chips, as well as blazing and signage. Several workers enjoyed using the park's and NCT's power equipment and trail vehicles; the Park's Bobcat proved to be an especially effective stump remover.

Those staying overnight found the Davis Hollow Cabin, operated by Moraine State Park's NCT volunteers, to be a perfect place to eat, sleep, and relax after a hard day of trail work.

On Sunday afternoon, the final blazes were painted and the last of the wood chips were spread. Everyone felt a great sense of accomplishment for having contributed to this truly beautiful trail.

Thanks, KTA, for your support!

### HIKING AWARDS *Continued from p. 8*

on eligible PA trails in addition to those submitted for the Merit Award.

**Pennsylvania Award** for hiking 200 miles or more on any of the eligible trails.

**State Forest Trails Award** for hiking 780 miles on PA's eighteen state forest hiking trails

**Young Hiker Award** (12 and under) for hiking 25 miles on any trail in PA.

#### PENNSYLVANIA ELIGIBLE TRAILS

Allegheny Front Trail, Baker (SF), Batona, Big Pocono (SP), Black Forest (SF), Blooming Grove, Brandywine, Bucktail Path (SF), Catawba, Chuck Keiper (SF), Conestoga, Darlington, Donut Hole (SF), Golden Eagle (SF), Hickory Creek, Horse-Shoe, John P. Saylor (SF), Joseph Gmitter, Laurel Highlands, Lehigh River, Lost Turkey (SF), Loyalsock (SF), Mason-Dixon, Mid-State (SF), Mill Creek, North Country, Oil Creek, Old Loggers Path (SF), Pinchot Trail System (SF), Quebec Run Wild Area, Quehanna Trail System, Ricketts Glen (SP, SF), Rachel Carson, Raccoon Creek Trail System, Rimrock-Morrison, Rocky Knob (SF), Rock Run Trail System, John P. Saylor, Shenango, Standing Stone, Susquehannock Trail System (SF), Tobyhanna Lake, Thunder Swamp (SF), Tuscarora (SF), Twin Lakes, Warrior, and West Rim (SF).

For more details, e-mail [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net).

**FOR HIKERS**

**GADGETS & GIZMOS**

When I'm out hiking, I like to hear the rush of the stream, the creak of the trees, and the songs of the birds. I *don't* like to hear the ringing of a cell phone.

For hikers who consider their iPhones to be more of a travel companion than an intruder, however, one of these applications (or "apps," as they are often referred to) may be just for you:

**Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests "Pocket Ranger"** (\$3.99) — This new app allows users to search for park and forest locations, activities and events, get directions (including GPS mapping features), share photos, and make reservations. It has a built-in compass and an alert communication feature, and can record tracks and waypoints. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-official-guide-for-pennsylvania/id435566050?mt=8>

**Trails** (\$2.99) – This GPS app lets hikers record, import and export hiking and biking maps. <http://trails.lamouroux.de/>

**Compass Go** (\$.99) – This simple GPS compass allows you to set a certain location in its memory so you can find your way back with ease. <http://agiledimension.com/compassgo/>

**The Snow Report from The North Face** (free) – This app updates you on snow conditions, five-day forecasts, trail maps and more. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-snow-report/id297613771?mt=8>

**iBird Pro** (\$29.99) – iBird Pro includes photos, drawings, and latest information regarding 924 species of birds. <http://www.ibirdexplorer.com/>

**MyNature** (\$6.99) – This comprehensive guide helps you identify 43 different tracks and animals by their appearance, color and gait. [www.mynaturesite.com/](http://www.mynaturesite.com/)

**Trailguru** (free) – This app tracks your movements on the trail giving you vital statistics such as distance traveled, duration, pace/speed, elevation, and latitude and longitude. [www.trailguru.com/](http://www.trailguru.com/)

**Army Survival** (\$1.99) – A comprehensive guide pulled from the U.S. Army Field Manual 21-76, titled "Survival." Includes basic survival medicine, shelters, water procurement and more. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/army-survival/id343747489?mt=8#>

If **you** have experience with a hiking-related gadget, gizmo, or iPhone app, and would like to share it with the KTA hiking community, please e-mail us at [ktaadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ktaadmin@verizon.net).

**KTA HIKERS' MARKET**

KTA Member? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> JOINING NOW			
Please order by circling price:	Member	Non-Member	Total
<b>Appalachian Trail Guidebook &amp; Maps</b>			
Pennsylvania AT Guide (2009)	\$8.40	\$11.55	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 1-6: Delaware Water Gap to Swatara Gap (2010)	\$11.35	\$12.60	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 7-8: Swatara Gap to Susquehanna River (2004)	\$5.65	\$6.35	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 9-11: Susquehanna River to PA Route 94 (2009)	\$6.10	\$6.75	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 12-13: PA Route 94 to US Route 30 (2009)	\$6.10	\$6.75	_____
PA AT Map Sec. 14: US Route 30 to the Maryland line (2009)	\$6.10	\$6.75	_____
Complete AT set of maps and guidebook	\$39.90	\$46.20	_____
<b>Other Publications</b>			
Pennsylvania Hiking Map (2009)	\$5.20	\$6.25	_____
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails, 13th ed.	\$9.45	\$10.50	_____
PA Hiking Trails Book & Map Set	\$12.85	\$14.95	_____
Mason-Dixon Trail Maps (2009)	\$14.20	\$15.75	_____
Standing Stone Trail Guide (2006)	\$7.35	\$10.50	_____
Guide to the Horse-Shoe Trail (2011)	\$13.65	\$15.00	_____
Guide to Pennsylvania Mid State Trail (2010)	\$35.90	\$39.90	_____
Hiker's Guide to the Bucktail Path (1998)	\$5.20	\$5.80	_____
Loyalsock Trail Guide (2008)	\$10.80	\$11.70	_____
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the North Half in MD & PA (1997)	\$8.40	\$10.50	_____
Tuscarora Trail, A Guide to the South Half in WV & VA (1997)	\$8.40	\$10.50	_____
Tuscarora Trail Map J (AT Junction in PA to PA Route 641)	\$4.75	\$9.45	_____
Tuscarora Trail Map K (PA Route 641 to Hancock, MD) (1997)	\$4.75	\$9.00	_____
<b>Patches</b>			
KTA Logo Patch	\$1.58	\$1.75	_____
Old Logger's Path Patch	\$2.70	\$3.00	_____
<b>Shipping:</b> (\$3.50/first item, \$1.00/each additional item)			
			<b>Subtotal:</b>
			<b>Pennsylvania residents add 6% tax:</b>
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b>			
<b>Ship to:</b>			
Name:			
Address:			
Phone:			
Make check or money order payable to Keystone Trails Association and mail to: 101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 717.238.7017. Prices are subject to change. <b>Order online at <a href="http://www.kta-hike.org/shop">www.kta-hike.org/shop</a></b>			

## FOR HIKERS

### RATTLESNAKE SYNOPSIS

Join the **Appalachian Trail Museum** in Pine Grove Furnace State Park on August 28 at 1 PM for their free program: "Rattlesnakes: Friend or Foe." Learn about the habits and habitats of one of PA's often encountered and widely misunderstood residents - the timber rattlesnake. Presentation will include information applicable to the everyday hiker. Visit [www.atmuseum.org](http://www.atmuseum.org) for details.

### BUGS STINK!

Penn State researchers have developed a website to help explain the behaviors and biology of the brown marmorated stink bug.



Homeowners, growers, and nursery operators are invited to participate in this "citizen science" project funded by the state Agriculture Department. People can add details about the stink bug population around them, what plants the pests are eating, and estimate how much damage the bugs are causing.

It is hoped that this tool will provide a snapshot of where and when people see the bug, to help predict which crops are most at risk. Although it has been about 20 years since brown marmorated stink bugs were first reported in the state, last summer was really the first time they became a widespread danger to crops. Populations are expected to increase again this year.

### NOMINEES, Continued from p. 15

Currently serving Representatives-At-Large seeking re-election are **Joyce Appel**, East Brady, PA; **Kathryn Baker**, Carlisle, PA; **Diane Buscarini**, Gouldsboro, PA; **Carl Davis**, Shippensburg, PA; **Cecil Dobbins**, Akron, OH; **Linda Enders Roxberry**, Shillington, PA; **Henry Frank**, Philadelphia, PA; **Wayne Gross**, Canadensis, PA; **John Motz**, Stroudsburg, PA; **Thomas Thwaites**, State College, PA; **Barbara Van Horn**, Duncannon, PA. **Vicki Porto**, Carlisle, PA, is a new nominee.



## KTA ADVOCACY ALERT



Dear Trail Enthusiast,

This year, Sunday hunting is being promoted by hunting interests as an economic panacea for the Commonwealth. Sunday hunting would have a significant impact on your hiking in October, November, December and at other times of the year. Keystone Trails Association is visiting with more legislators in Harrisburg than ever before, to ensure the concerns of Pennsylvania hikers are included in the debates over issues like Sunday hunting. Our visits pay handsome dividends in reinforcing legislators core opinions in opposition to Sunday hunting.

The expense of conducting expanded advocacy programs is significant. Please consider supporting KTA's efforts to advocate before state government on behalf of not only your favorite trails, but for trails all across Pennsylvania, with a financial contribution today.

- I want to join the **President's Circle** (\$2,500 or more)     I want to be a **Gold** supporter (\$250-\$2,499)
- I want to be a **Silver** supporter (\$100-\$249)     I want to be a **Bronze** supporter (\$50-\$99)
- I want to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly by enrolling in automatic deductions (please enclose a voided check)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable and send to:**

Keystone Trails Association  
101 N. Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

## KTA THEME SONG by Wanda Shirk

(To the tune of "It's a Grand Old Flag")  
 We're the KTA, and we're forging ahead  
 On the footpaths we build to our dreams.  
 We appreciate  
 The Keystone State --  
 Penn's Woods with its mountains and streams!  
 We associate  
 For a cause that is great:  
 To protect and promote outdoor ways.  
 So for trees and skies  
 And natural highs  
 Hike the trails with the KTA!



**KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION**  
 101 N. Front Street  
 Harrisburg, PA 17101

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 Harrisburg, PA  
 Permit #891



### Inside this Issue:

- 3rd Annual **Susquehanna Super Hike**, Sept. 10 (p. 1)
- **Spring Hiking Weekend**, Chester County (p. 1)
- **Advocacy** updates (p. 2)
- **Trail Care and Trail Crew** reports & schedule (p. 4)
- **Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend**, Butler county, Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (p. 9 -13)

## KTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliations (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Receive the *KEYSTONE HIKER* in full color via email 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 contribution: \$50 per year for clubs; \$100 per year for commercial enterprises; \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All member contributions and correspondence should be mailed to: 101 N. 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.*

<b>Basic Membership (New Member Only)</b> Individual - \$15      Family - \$20	\$
<b>Basic Membership (Renewal)</b> Individual - \$30      Family - \$35	\$
<b>Brush Cutter Membership</b> Individual - \$40      Family - \$55	\$
<b>Blaze Painter Membership</b> Individual - \$75      Family - \$100	\$
<b>Trail Builder Membership</b> Individual - \$150      Family - \$125	\$
<b>Life Membership</b> Individual - \$750      Family - \$1,000	\$
<b>Youth Membership</b> Individual - \$5	\$
<b>Additional Contribution</b> In Memory Of/In Honor Of	\$
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	\$