

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 129
Confluence, PA 15424
www.kta-hike.org



Dedicated to the Stewardship of Pennsylvania's Hiking Trails Since 1956

Fall 2005

Keystone Trails Association
Preserving Pennsylvania's Footpaths

KTA Council Elects First Board of Directors and New Officers

KTA Council, meeting on October 1 at Camp Conrad Weiser in Berks County, launched a new era in the Association's history with the election of KTA's first Board of Directors. From this Board, Council selected four individuals to serve as officers for the organization.

William (Bill) Dietrich, Jr. of Indiana, PA, assumes the office of President, succeeding High Downing of Pittsburgh, who served for five and a half years. Carol Witzeman of Camp Hill is the new Vice-President, while Charles

Glanville of West Chester will fulfill the duties of Secretary. Thomas Kelliher of Baltimore, MD, is now KTA's Treasurer. This is only the second time in KTA's fifty-year history that all four positions have changed hands at the same time.



Front row: Ron Stanley and Treasurer Tom Kelliher. Standing: Carl Lorence, Vice President Carol Witzeman, President Bill Dietrich, Thyra Sperry, and Secretary Charles Glanville. Not pictured are Robert Davey and Norman Lacasse.

Elected to the remaining five Director positions are Robert (Butch) Davey, Jr., Flemington PA; Norman Lacasse, Harrisburg, PA; Carl Lorence, Harrisburg, PA; Thyra Sperry, Boiling Springs, PA, and Ronald Stanley, Clearville, PA.

The terms of this new Board of Directors have been staggered, so that in future years, three directors will be elected each year. Term lengths were assigned in a random drawing. Serving one-year terms are Glanville, Stanley, and Witzeman, while Lacasse, Lorence, and Sperry drew two-year terms.

The new Board and officers began their term of office at the conclusion of the Council meeting.

Link Hiking Trail Club Assumes Responsibility for Link Trail

Trails Association has turned over total management responsibility for the Link Trail to the Link Trail Hiking Club. The LTHC was formed about three and a half years ago, with the hope and expectation that the group would one day be able to assume responsibility for the 72-mile trail.

About 15 years ago, the Link Trail, which extends from Greenwood Furnace State Park to the Tuscarora Trail, suffered from a lack of maintenance and was in danger of abandonment. Mike Sausser, of Schuylkill Haven, recognizing the beauty and potential of the trail, be-

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717-763-9276, Cwitzeman@aol.com

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Tom Kelliher, Treasurer

6 Turnmill Ct., Baltimore, MD 21236
410-931-2946, kelliher@goucher.edu

DIRECTORS

Robert Davey, Jr., Flemington, PA

Norman Lacasse, Harrisburg, PA

Carl Lorence, Harrisburg, PA

Thyra Sperry, Boiling Springs, PA

Ronald Stanley, Clearville, PA

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards.....Carol Witzeman, 717-763-9276

Budget/Finance.....Craig Dunn, 717-761-7723

Conservation.....George Robb, 717-393-7788

Education.....John Motz, 570-236-1462

Legal.....Craig Mayer, 814-726-0441

Maps & Guides.....Wayne Gross, 570-595-2904

Membership.....Steve Stroman, 717-233-7019

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Publicity.....Bill Dietrich, 724-463-6107

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Trails.....Lorraine Healey, 570-655-4979

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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 back page of this newsletter.

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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www.kta-hike.org

2006 Trail Care Schedule

March 17-19 – Keystone State Park

Camp in cabins in the park
Leader: Jack Leashor, 724-744-0675

March 31-April 2 – Link Trail

Camp at Getty Ridge Camp
Leader: Mel Cooper, 814-643-2641

May 12-14 – Donut Hole Trail

Camp at Hyner Lodge
Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

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.

Contact the trip leader to register for Trail Care weekends.

2006 Summer Trail Crew Schedule

June 6-11 – Nature Conservancy, Woodbourne Forest, Susquehanna County

Build new foot trail
Camp at a private cottage at a beautiful lake
Leader: Joe Healey, 570-655-4979

June 13-18 – Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

Build new foot trail
Camp at Twin Streams Campground
Leader: Pete Fleszar, 717-583-2093

June 20-25 – Chuck Keiper Trail

Build bridges on the cross connector
Camp at a private campground
Leader: Rich Scanlon, 717-242-1644

Crews assemble on Tuesday evening for dinner and orientation and work full days Wednesday thru Saturday, and a half day on Sunday. KTA provides a place to camp, meals, tools, work gloves, safety equipment, and instruction by crew leaders. Volunteers are accepted for one day, a weekend, all week, or the entire crew season. There are tasks for everyone. **To register, contact Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702, phone 570-655-4979 or email jnlhealey@aol.com.**

Future KTA Meetings and Activities

April 7-9, 2006 – Spring Meeting

Penn Wells Hotel, Wellsboro, PA
Celebrate KTA's 50th anniversary!

May 27-June 4, 2006 -- Pennsylvania Hiking Week

Co-sponsored by KTA and DCNR

July 21-23, 2006 -- Prowl the Sproul III

Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, Renovo, PA

Co-sponsored by KTA, WCSA, & Sproul SF

Oct. 6-8, 2006 – Fall Meeting

Camp Swatara, Bethel, PA

March 30-April 1, 2007 – Spring Meeting

Yesterday's, Renovo, PA

Sept. 28-30, 2007 – Annual Meeting

Blue Knob Ski Resort, Claysburg, PA

We're always looking for suitable meeting sites. If you know of a facility anywhere in the state that can accommodate 150-200 folks, contact Carol Witzeman, 832 Yverdon Ave., Camp Hill, PA 17001, 717-763-9276, Cwitzeman@aol.com

New Organizational Member

Asaph Trail Club, Wellsboro, PA

Member Deaths

John Gall, Narberth, PA

Norman Spiro, Centre Hall, PA

(Both were 25+ year members)



Lorraine Healey, Ginny Musser, Ed Lawrence, and Bill Dietrich with their Trail Care Awards. See page 12 for the complete list of awardees.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I first want to thank some folks:

First, to **Thyra Sperry** and the Nomination Committee for having faith in me to take on this office and for nominating such an able Board.

To **Hugh Downing** for his help and encouragement - and I hope it continues.

To the trail care people for keeping me rooted on the ground, literally.

And to all of the members of KTA for making me feel welcome when I first showed up.

As many of you know, my history with KTA is short. I started in KTA doing trail care - which I continue to do. If I have found out anything this summer, it is that there is a whole bunch of KTA stalwarts who I do not know. I will try to learn all of your names. Don't be afraid to make yourself known to me; after all KTA is a bunch of people who have a common love. Since I am relatively new, I will make mistakes or oversights; point them out to me. This is a learning process. And yes, I do have an ego, but it is not fragile. So let me know when I disappoint you, but allow me time to explain - maybe we can come to an accommodation.

2005 is the 50th year of KTA; we will celebrate in Wellsboro come spring - please get ready to participate. Ours is a time in which many of the "marching orders" of this organization no longer work as well as they once did. Our love of hiking and of the trails we have built and maintain is no longer enough. We are in a time of challenge for KTA. Trails no longer mean just hiking; we have considerable competition for Penn's Woods.

Further, our competition is often better funded and able to wield influence. Consequently, if we are to fulfill the promise of our new by-laws, KTA, its Board, the Council and the entire membership must, ever mindful of our traditions, stride around the next bend in the trail with confidence and extend ourselves into areas where we have just dabbled in the past.

To that end I have already taken some actions that, I hope, will be useful. I have decided that the KTA leadership should undergo a process leading to the writing of a comprehensive strategic plan. It will not be easy, for we will be searching for the soul of KTA. The new Board has set aside the weekend of December 9, 10 and 11 for a strategic planning retreat. Also, I have engaged the Non-Profit Clinic of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs of the University of Pittsburgh to aid us in this process. If we are successful, we should have a draft plan in writing by April 2006. There will be an opportunity for the entire membership to review and comment on a draft strategic plan; after all, it must belong to all of us.

**“Our goal is, of course, to ensure the continuation
of current trails, build new trails where needed,
and get the whole state hiking them.”**

Once we know what we should be doing, and the time frame in which it should be done, then it is a matter of doing it. A well-drawn strategic plan should allow us to be focused in assigning actions to committees and in allowing us to ask the membership to share its talents with KTA. It will allow us better to employ an executive director and gauge the success of this person. We will strengthen the partnerships we now have and partner with new friends. Our goal is, of course, to ensure the continuation of current trails, build new trails where needed, and get the whole state hiking them.

This is where you, the membership, come in. First, we need your patience and encouragement; things won't change overnight. No doubt, some opportunities may pass us by as we engage in the strategic planning process. We also need you to feel free to communicate with the Board and officers; unless there is a free flow of information, we cannot be effective. Finally, remember that KTA belongs to all of us and we are all responsible for it. So, if I or a member of the leadership asks you to help in some project say YES. Say: "YES TO KTA."

Amblin' along,
Bill Dietrich

Fall Council Actions

MAFTC

After hearing a report on the formation of the Mid Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition and its goal of a long distance hiking trail from Florida to Lake Champlain, Council unanimously approved a motion to support the concept of a long distance trail passing through Pennsylvania. [For more information, see the article on page 11]

Committee Structure

Council also approved Bill Dietrich's request that KTA maintain the committee structure mandated by the old bylaws until such time as the new Board of Directors can implement the new committees specified in the current bylaws.

New Publications

Council adopted a 2006 budget that provides funds for publication of a new Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail guide, the next edition of Pennsylvania Hiking Trails, and the new Link Trail guide.

HOA Agreement

On Sept. 26, DCNR and PennDOT signed an amendment to their April 14 Memorandum of Understanding - Footpaths on DCNR Lands Crossing State Highways. Under the amendment, all state highway crossings on the 18 designated State Forest Hiking Trails, including those on public and private land not owned by DCNR, will be covered by the MOU. For details of the original MOU, see the Summer issue, page 12.

It's Time for a New KTA T-Shirt!

Submit the Winning Shirt Design and Win a Wellsboro Spring Meeting Weekend

By Pam Metzger

Calling all would-be fashion designers! There's no time like a 50th anniversary to update our T-shirt design. Get those creative juices flowing and submit your artwork to Pam Metzger at the KTA office (PO Box 129, Confluence, PA 15424 or by email to info@kta-hike.org). Designs may be hand-drawn or computer-generated (perhaps Adobe Illustrator or .pdf) and must be received in the office before February 1, 2006, for announcement in the Spring Newsletter.



The winning design will be reproduced on new shirts available for sale beginning at the Spring Meeting in Wellsboro. Best of all, the winner will receive a Weekend Package for Two to the Wellsboro meeting. Wellsboro is our most popular destination and what could possibly be better than a free hiking weekend? Only the acclaim to be bestowed upon you, our winning artist.



Lorraine Healey, left, of Laflin, PA, receives her Citation Award certificate from Carol Witzeman, Awards Committee chair.

Lorraine Healey 2005 Citation Winner

Lorraine Healey, the 2005 Citation recipient, has chaired the KTA Trails Committee for 11 years. Among her duties are compiling of the volunteer hiking trail work hours in the state. In addition to compiling the hours, Lorraine regularly contributes to those volunteer hours totals through her participation in Trail Care and with her local club, the Susquehanna Trailers.

The Citation Award is KTA's highest award, presented for long term service to KTA. With her award, Lorraine and her husband Joe, who received the Citation in 2002, become the fifth set of spouses to both earn the Citation Award.

KTA Receives Final Payment from DCNR Grant

KTA has received the final payment from the Recreational Trails Program grant that was awarded in July 2003. KTA used the grant monies to purchase tools and equipment for trail work and a trailer to store and transport the gear.

The letter from Scott J. Cope, Chief of the Planning Projects Section of the Grants Project Management Division of DCNR stated, "Based on our favorable review of the Final Payment Request documentation, there was \$19,917.26 in eligible project costs properly documented. Since the grant contract was for \$13,800 requiring a minimum total project cost of \$17,250 in eligible expenditures, we will now authorize the final payment for \$2,800. This is the balance of funds remaining in the contract since \$11,000 was previously paid to the Association."

Photographs Needed For KTA Publications; Submit Your Slides and Photos

By Wayne Gross

The Maps and Guides Committee is searching for either slides or digital photos of hiking trails throughout Pennsylvania for the covers and pages of the next editions of *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails* and the *Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Guide*.

The photographs should show those special places on Pennsylvania hiking trails. Photographers will be credited. Please indicate the location of the photo and the name of the trail where the photo was taken. Slides should be sent to Chair, Wayne E. Gross, PO Box 42 Cresco, PA 18326. Email digital photos to Wayne at wegseg@msn.com. Questions can be sent to my email address.

Hikers Contribute 31,500 Hours To Trail Maintenance in 2004

By Lorraine Healey

Once again, the state's hikers have logged more than 30,000 volunteer trail maintenance hours in a year's time.

The 31,500 hours submitted in 2004 match the hours reported in 2003. This steady level of time invested by hiking volunteers is vital to maintaining our hiking trails, since most trails are not cleared and improved by paid government employees.

KTA uses these figures in a variety of ways, and the totals are an invaluable indicator of the strength of our commitment to the hiking trails of Pennsylvania. So, to all maintaining trail clubs, thanks for your efforts in tallying those hours.

“Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless”

KTA Fall Meeting



Sarah Tateosian of the York Hiking Club and Anne Griffith of the Allentown Hiking Club show off the door prizes that they won at the Annual Meeting at Camp Conrad Weiser. Gene McCarney of the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club made and donated the birdhouse.

The Berks Community Hiking Club hosted the Fall Meeting. Friday evening's offerings included slide presentations about Neversink Mountain and All Night Hikes, a hog dog roast and hay ride, and entertainment by the Martin Family Band. After the annual meeting on Saturday evening, Rex Lord discussed zoonotic diseases. A full schedule of Saturday and Sunday hikes rounded out the weekend.

Promote Your Club and KTA

Here's a promotional idea from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Trailwalker (September/October 2005 issue) that any hiker can adopt to advertise KTA.

The next time you're out for a hike or maintenance trip, take a moment to remind the first hiker that you see, who it is who maintains and protects the trail you're on. Inform them that it is through the efforts of volunteers that the trails stay open and accessible. Remind them that your club and/or KTA are not a federally funded agency or an extension of a state forest or park system. And finally, convince them that they need to join your club and KTA to support our efforts.

A strong membership is the foundation for all that your club and KTA accomplish. Please help us strengthen our foundation by getting just one person to join KTA today.

If you would like membership brochures to hand out when you hike, contact Membership Chair Steve Stroman at steve_stroman@hotmail.com or 717-233-7019

2005 KTA Hiking Awards Youth Hiker Award

Zachary M. Smith, *BS Troop 233*

[Zachary is the first recipient of this award]

Appalachian Trail Award

Fred Bomberger, Allentown, PA

Diana DeFanti, Macungie, PA

Fred Kirch, Wilmington, DE

Wendy S. Thompson, Hatboro, PA

Carlton E. Windle, Swansea, MA

Merit Award

Diane L. Paxson, Bernville, PA

Carlton E. Windle, Swansea, MA

Western Award

Hollie Greene, Endicott, NY

Jim Greene, Endicott, N.Y.

Information on KTA's Hiking Awards is available on the KTA web site or from Awards Chair Carol Witzeman, 832 Yverdon Ave., Camp Hill, PA 17001, 717-763-9276, Cwitzeman@aol.com.

DUES ARE DUE!

The KTA membership year runs from October 1st through September 30th. Check your mailing label and if it shows an expiration date of 9/30/05, then your number is up.

If your mailing label shows an expiration date of 9/30/04, this will be the last issue of the newsletter you'll receive. Please don't let your membership lapse—bring your dues up-to-date by making your payment for 2005 and renewing for 2006.

Join us in this, KTA's 50th year. Exciting changes and opportunities are ahead for the organization and we need your participation and enthusiasm. Won't you take a moment to fill out the membership form on page 16 and send it in? *And thanks for your continued support!*



Along Our Trails

Appalachian Trail

Treadway Projects

The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club** will ask the Game Commission to allow the club to maintain four Appalachian Trail side trails on Game Land No. 211. The trails are the Yellow Springs, Cold Spring, Stone Tower, and Sand Spring Trails, all of which have serious maintenance problems.

The **York Hiking Club** has relocated the blue blazed Susquehanna Trail on Peters Mountain east of the Clarks Ferry Bridge. The new route is entirely on National Park Service land and provides a more gradual ascent. Day hikers use this trail to form a loop hike with the AT.

The **Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club** has rebuilt the Rausch Gap Shelter privy, which was destroyed by vandals in May.

The **Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club** has replaced 500 feet of bog bridging south of the Conodoguinet crossing with the spiral pier technology that was used for the Pochuck Marsh walkway in New Jersey. A specialized machine screws steel piers into the ground and a wooden walkway is built on them above the flood level.

The **Delaware Valley Chapter of AMC** is constructing a blue blazed side trail to a never fail spring about half a mile south of Smith Gap Road. This ridge top area has few water sources.

Dangerous Road Cross-



The new name, logo and tag line unveiled in July at the ATC Biennial Meeting in Tennessee.

ings

The Federal Highway Administration's has issued its report, complete with drawings of the sites and sketches of possible bridges, on the three most dangerous AT road crossings in the state: PA 248 in Lehigh Gap, US 30 at Caledonia, and PA 944 at Wertsville. Project costs range from \$460,000 to \$1.5 million dollars per site, and construction is probably 12-15 years away. The PA 944 crossing, with its heavy Harrisburg rush hour traffic, is the priority project.

Link Trail

New Guidebook

The long awaited new edition of the Link Trail guidebook is at the printer and should be available by year's end. Check the Link or KTA web sites to order a copy. The map set is still under development, with a targeted completion date of fall 2006.

Improving the Trail Location

Route changes may be the two most dreaded words for trail maintainers. But in an effort to improve the route of the Link Trail, President Carl Lorence has recruited Tom Scully to walk the Link and look for ways to get the trail off dirt forest roads and pipelines. Tom is starting the task this fall and will furnish a progress report in the spring. The scouting and reconnoitering could take two

years to finish. Anyone interesting in joining the explorers should contact Tom at scully@rjfisher.org.

Loyalsock Trail

New Maps and Guide!

The **Alpine Club of Williamsport** announces the 2005 revised edition of the Loyalsock Trail guide and maps. The new guide is totally rewritten and includes the seven mile Red X Trail (RX-6) that links World's End State Park to the iron bridge. The three maps are now in color and are printed on waterproof paper. Cost is \$7.00 (plus tax and shipping). Order from the Alpine Club of Williamsport, PO Box 501, Williamsport, PA 17703, call 570-322-5878 evenings, or visit the club's web site www.lycoming.org/alpine (which has great trail pictures and information for hikers).

With the 2005 State Forest realignment, the 59 mile Loyalsock Trail is now located entirely within the newly created Loyalsock State Forest. The trail runs from PA 87 (8.7 miles north of the PA 87 exit from I-180) to a parking lot on Mead Road, which is 2.4 miles north of US 220 and PA 154 near Laporte. The new State Forest district office will be located on US 220, between Laporte and Mead Road.

As a convenience to hikers, shuttle service for a fee can be arranged with Connie Wilson, PO Box 296, Dushore, PA 18614, 570-928-9475.

Mason-Dixon Trail

Adelgid Infestation

One mile of the M-DT passes through the Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation and the largest hemlock forest in Maryland east of the mountains. The oldest tree turns 300 years old this year, but may not make it to 302, due to an infestation of the woolly adelgid. The Maryland Dept. of Agriculture Forest Management Division has designed a "Save the Hemlocks" treatment program using pesticides, soil injections, and biological control. Since the site is private land, public funds are not available. Individuals wishing to help can donate to "Save the Hemlocks, Baltimore Area Council, BSA", Baltimore Council, BSA, 701 Wyman Park, Baltimore, MD 21211.

Brandywine River Walkway

Volunteers from the M-DTS and the **Wilmington and Chester County Trail Clubs** built 175 feet of elevated walkway on the Brandywine River floodplain. Materials, including 105 2x4x10s, had to be carried a half mile to the work site. The design of the walkway will keep hikers out of the muck, but allow floodwater to



Photo by Joan March

Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

flow over the structure without damaging it.

Mid State Trail Tioga Region

Pete Fleszar, Tioga Region Manager, reports that hikers have found the new sections of MST that the KTA Trail Crew built this summer. One group of backpackers posted to a national message board about the beautiful waterfalls and soaring bald eagles. Sections of this new trail will be on the hiking schedule at the KTA Spring meeting in Wellsboro.

Several folks from Charleston Township, Tioga County, have formed a committee to begin to figure out how to route the MST across private land in the township, which lies between Tioga State Forest land and Hills Creek State Park

The KTA Crew will be working on the northern extension again next summer. For a sneak peak at the planned work, check out <http://landrus.blogspot.com>.

Bedford Region (related story on page 11)

Thanks to an easement in perpetuity registered in Bedford County on September 12, the Everett (southern) section of the Mid State Trail now has 68.6 miles of continuously protected foot trail corridor between PA 22 and the Maryland border. Three quarters of the Everett section of the Mid State Trail is now protected. The Mid State Trail Association thanks **Ross, Mildred, Stanley and Gloria Smith** for their gift.

This latest easement will provide the route for a safe above flood level footbridge across Yellow Creek near Loysburg. In addition to hikers, the new bridge will serve hunters, fishers, birders, and the community.

With the easement in place, MSTA has formed an eight-member team to manage the footbridge project, dubbed YCP02. The Association is pursuing grants to help pay for the new bridge. However, donations are needed to meet grant matching funds requirements. Contributions, marked for YCP02, may be sent to MSTA, Box 167, Boalsburg, PA 16827.

North Country Trail

As part of a PA CleanWays organized trash removal effort, more than four tons of trash and four tons of scrap metal were removed from a heavily vegetated area along a 1.3-mile stretch of the North Country Trail in Lawrence County.

Potomac Heritage Trail

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Conference has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Potomac Heritage Trail Association, permitting PATC to furnish office space to PHTA. PHTA is working to complete the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, which will extend more than 450 miles from the Allegheny Highlands in Pennsylvania to the mouth of the Potomac River in Virginia. (For an account of hiking the PHT, see the Winter 2005 issue, p. 8-9).

The PHT moved another six miles nearer to completion in August when the Allegheny Highlands Trail of Maryland opened the Frostburg to Woodcock Hollow section of the Great Allegheny Passage.

Tuscarora Trail

PATC has taken significant steps to secure the route of the Tus-

carora Trail, spending more than \$41,000 to pay for land appraisals, surveying, and settlement costs for parcels critical to the trail.

New MOU for AT in PA

By John Luthy

The celebratory signing of the memorandum of understanding agreement for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in PA was held at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg on September 26, 2005. Incoming KTA president Bill Dietrich and nearly fifty representatives of the various partners attended the ceremony, which was described by **Karen Lutz**, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, as “not simply a perfunctory bureaucratic document signing exercise, but rather a true celebration and an opportunity to get acquainted and in some cases re-acquainted with one another.”

Referring to the series of maps and posters prepared for the event, Lutz continued, “This partnership, between the volunteer trail clubs who provide passionate daily stewardship for the A.T., our state partners including DCNR’s Bureaus of State Parks and Forestry, the PA Game Commission, PennDOT, with our stalwart National Park Service partner the Appalachian Trail Park Office keeping us on course with a steady hand on the rudder, has quietly and very efficiently provided an extraordinary recreational resource for Pennsylvania citizens, and indeed, visitors from around the world. Now we look forward to forging new relationships with the



Bill Dietrich, KTA president (right) and Jim Gabovitz, President of the Allentown Hiking Club, affix their signatures to the Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Memorandum of Understanding. Photo by John Luthy

new representatives from these agencies.”

There are twenty-seven signatories to the document, including the eleven maintaining clubs, KTA, and many government partners – truly an extraordinary example of public/ private partnership. This partnership will provide the foundation on which the ATC can forge ahead for the next ten years.

Lutz explained, “We’re now looking at the formidable task of caring for the significant natural and cultural resources that were acquired in that protection effort. We’re looking to engage new partners, to recognize the A.T. as an educational resource and to influence local land use planning organizations. While we remain committed to the traditional activities related to maintaining the

The Second Ten Years of KTA: 1966-1975

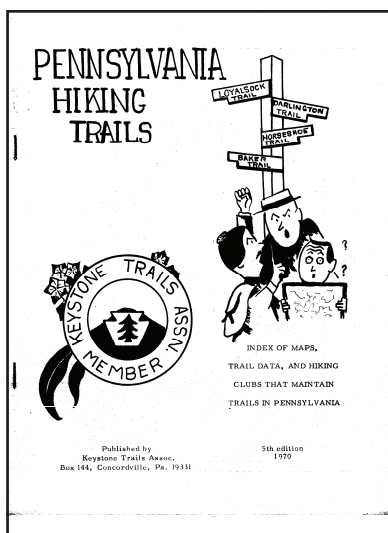
By Maurice J. Forrester, Jr.

Publications

KTA's second decade began with a determined focus on the group's publication program. The organization's first ten years had already seen three editions of *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails*. Although these were all relatively modest 8½" x 11" booklets with simple sketch maps, they were enthusiastically received by the Pennsylvania hiking community, as witnessed by the need for three editions during KTA's first ten years.

Now the group was ready to move ahead with the publishing project that had motivated many of the founders from the beginning: the publication by KTA of a guide for the entire Appalachian Trail within the boundaries of Pennsylvania. At that time, the Pennsylvania section of the trail was divided between two guide books: the portion north of the Susquehanna River was included in the book published by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, while the stretch south of the river was included in a guide published by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Although one key founding member of KTA strongly opposed the publishing project, a decision was made to proceed.

The first hurdle involved coordinating the publication date of the new guide with the existing stocks of the other two guides so as to minimize overlap. This problem was eventually worked out, as well as some issues relating to the format of the new book. The latter concerns had to do with whether trail distances should be listed in tenths or hundredths of a mile, and also whether the trail description should be in a tabular form or in the narrative form that had characterized the earlier guide books. It was decided to list mileages in tenths and to use the tabular format with which we are now all familiar. At last, in 1968 the first edition of *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania* was published by Keystone Trails Association. This was followed by a second edition in 1970, and a third edition in 1973.



Cover of the 5th edition of *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails*, 1970.

Meanwhile, demand for *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails* continued to grow. In response to the enthusiastic hiker acceptance of this guide, a fourth edition appeared in 1968, followed by a fifth in 1970, a sixth in 1972, and a seventh in 1974. At 96 pages, the seventh edition was more than double the size of the earliest efforts. In addition, the book had become substantially more polished. The maps were by now either professionally drawn specifically for KTA or were photo-copied from USGS topographical maps. The number of trails covered was likewise greatly expanded.

Organization

In 1967, George Spring announced his intention to leave the KTA presidency after serving in that capacity for ten years -- still the longest presidential tenure in the history of the Association. George was succeeded by Dick Kimmel who, in turn, would serve nine years as KTA president. Subsequently, in 1972, Mel Brinton asked to be replaced as Secretary, a post he had held continuously since the founding of KTA. Maurice Forrester was selected as the new Secretary.



Mel and Mary Brinton, Dick and Hulda Kimmel, and George and Mary Spring at the 1965 Fall Meeting at Camp Michaux. Photo courtesy of George Spring

Also in 1967, the Appalachian Trail Conference assigned to KTA overall responsibility for the A.T. in Pennsylvania, including the right to assign sections for maintenance.

After 16 consecutive years of holding the Annual Meeting at Camp Michaux, a new site was selected for the 1972 meeting: Camp Swatara in northern Berks County. Although many members felt sentimental links to Camp Michaux, there was a strong and steadily growing desire for new surroundings and, above all, new hiking territory. Camp Swatara proved popular with KTA members, and the Annual Meeting returned there at various times for a total of nine visits -- still a far cry from the Camp Michaux record. At the end of KTA's second decade only two sites had ever served as settings for the Annual Meeting. This was to change dramatically in the coming years.

Another change in the meeting routine was implemented in 1973. Up to this time, the fall meeting of the KTA Council had always been held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Over time, objections to this practice had been raised. Foremost among these was the fact that the Council meetings were attended essentially by the same people every year, with many member clubs never or rarely represented at the meetings. It was thought by many that if the Council meetings were held in various parts of the state, some of these clubs might be induced to become more active

in the affairs of KTA. This practice was implemented in 1973 and proved to have only limited success. After a number of years, this effort was abandoned, and the fall Council meetings were once again held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.

In 1973, the annual dues for individual members was doubled -- from \$1.00 to \$2.00. The one-dollar level had been set at the founding of KTA, and remained unchanged for the intervening 18 years.

Also in 1973, a committee was appointed to undertake a complete revision of the KTA Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution originally adopted in 1956 was a very basic document which by this time had long since been outgrown by the thriving association. In 1975 the draft presented by the committee was reviewed and revised by the KTA Council before being accepted by the full membership. Perhaps the most noteworthy change in the new Constitution was a greatly enhanced role for individual members in the management of the organization.



The Bylaws Committee gathers around Chair Dick Kimmel (seated). Standing, left to right, are Madeline Fleming, Bob Wolfe, Clarence Boyer, Paul Wagner, Nancy Heller, Al McDonald, and Merritt Zimmerman. Photo from the KTA Newsletter, January 1975.

Tuscarora Trail

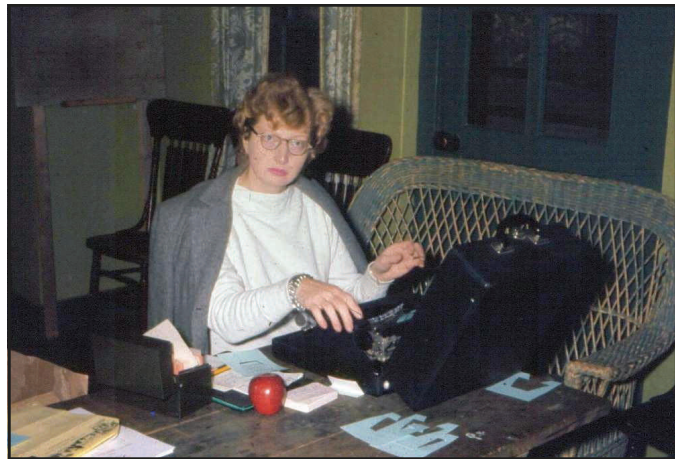
The Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania, which had been many years in the making, was finally completed in 1973. This was the first trail created entirely under the auspices of Keystone Trails Association.

Partnerships

As KTA matured and gained in self-confidence, it lost its early hesitancy about cooperating with other groups in matters of mutual interest. Among other such cooperative efforts, KTA joined the Stony Creek Valley Coalition, which was dedicated to blocking the pump storage power project that was planned for the St. Anthony's Wilderness area of Stony Creek Valley in Dauphin County. This conservation effort was ultimately successful.

KTA also joined the Save-the-Delaware Coalition which was working in opposition to the dam that had been proposed for the

Delaware River. This effort too was successful.



Nancy Heller of the Lancaster Hiking Club at her typewriter at Camp Michaux. Heller served at KTA Treasurer for 20 years, 1956-1975. Photo courtesy of George Spring

Changing of the Guard

The final year of KTA's second decade unquestionably marked a watershed for the Association. Between 1975 and 1976 was the only instance (so far) when all of KTA's officers changed at the same time. Except for the first year when Ralph Kinter was president, George Spring and Dick Kimmel between them had served as president for the remaining 19 years. Four individuals had served as vice-president: John Gale for one year, John Lloyd for three years, and Arthur Humphrey and Merritt Zimmerman for the remaining 16 years. Nancy Heller, as treasurer, had served for the entire 20 years, and Mel Brinton as Secretary had served for the first 16 years, before being replaced by Maurice Forrester.

By 1976, all four incumbent officers had been replaced. This new leadership cadre would face the challenge of maintaining the high standards established by the pioneers who preceded them.

KTA's Founding

Organizational Members

Alpine Club, Williamsport
Batona Hiking Club, Philadelphia
Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club, Reading
Boy Scout Troop #67, Wilmington, DE
Lancaster Hiking Club, Lancaster
Mountain Club of Maryland, Baltimore, MD
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Washington, DC
Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club, Harrisburg
Wilmington Trail Club, Wilmington, DE
York Hiking Club, York

All are still members except Boy Scout Troop #67

Fellow Hikers,

I joined KTA back in the late 1970s, but didn't attend a meeting until nearly 10 years later when I went to Camp In-nabah down near French Creek State Park. I don't remember much about it other than it rained, we hiked at French Creek and saw a trail that was blazed in **black** paint, the bus didn't come to pick us up, and Thurston snored.

I haven't hiked on a Saturday since that time.

I met people at that meeting that I'd read about in the KTA Newsletter and the AT News, people like Thurston Griggs, Ray Fadner, Tom Thwaites, Dave Raphael, Maurice Forrester, Dick Kimmel, Wilma Flaig, Vic Decker, Dick Tobias and Ginny Musser, to name just a few.

I was starstruck.

I managed to get myself named as the club representative for the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club and started attending Council meetings. I loved it!

But it wasn't until the 1987 AT Conference in Poultney, VT, when Maurice Forrester and Dave Raphael cornered me and asked if I would help to promote the 1989 AT Stroudsburg Conference, that I really became actively involved. (Maurice Forrester & Dave Raphael asking *me* for help? I was really flattered. Of course, I guess I was also the only KTA member who worked as a TV producer-director.) From this encounter came "ESU-89, A Keystone Adventure", a 14-minute video that we sent out to all the AT clubs to promote the Conference. After ESU-89, Maurice decided that he wanted to ease back on his KTA work, so he asked me if I'd be interested in taking over the newsletter. That sounded like fun, so after a couple of shared issues, I took over in the Summer of 1990.

Hugh's Farewell Address at Fall Meeting

By Hugh Downing

The newsletter **was** fun, because I got to find out what all the clubs around the state were up to, and I got to play with Microsoft Word and I got to insert my personal comments at the end of articles.

In 2000, Carol Witzeman browbeat me, as only Carol can browbeat, into accepting the



Outgoing President Hugh-Downing displays the handcrafted hiking stick presented to him at the Fall Meeting.

nomination for President, and the rest, as they say, is history.

In the 5½ years that I've been doing this, we've accomplished a number of things, but now, we stand at the beginning of a new phase in the history of KTA.

The new officers and Board of Directors have some big challenges ahead of them and I'm sure they'll be coming up with bold new ideas to deal with them.

One of the things that we've already decided to do is to hire an Executive Director to give us a presence in Harrisburg and to manage our day-to-day affairs. But deciding that we

need an ED is not the same as actually hiring one.

This brings us to the **first** challenge the new board will face: **Money**.

My personal guess is that it will take from \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year to hire an ED and to run the office. Maybe more, maybe less. At the moment, we could probably operate an office for one year, but without a reliable ongoing source of income, we couldn't continue much beyond that point.

One of the best ways for us to increase our income would be to increase our membership. For years, our individual membership has hovered around the 1,000 mark. 1,000 members times \$15 a year = \$15,000. If we could somehow raise our membership to **5,000**, and perhaps raise the dues to \$20, we'd be talking about \$100,000 a year, enough to fund an ED office **and** run our other activities.

So the **second** challenge becomes: **New Members**.

New ways of recruiting members will certainly be explored. Very shortly, many of you will be seeing appeals in your local newsletters, urging KTA membership. I hope you'll all go back to your clubs and work on your fellow members to get them to join KTA. If they ask you why they should join, don't just tell them about our semi-annual get-togethers, which are nice. Don't just tell them about our Trail Care teams or our Maps and Guides program, both of which are outstanding.

Tell them, instead, about the nearly 200,000 ATVs that are now owned in our state and the vocal and well-funded groups

seeking more and more places to ride, including our hiking trails.

Tell them about the need to educate other user groups about the damage that they can do to our trails.

Tell them about the growing number of endangered trails under pressure from development and changing landowners resulting in long roadwalks, broken trails, or no trails at all.

Tell them about the need to constantly interface with the agencies of government, who, while seeking to serve all citizens, may overlook the quiet hikers who leave no tire marks, hoof prints, or 2-cycle fumes behind them.

KTA **must** become the central focus for hikers all across the state. KTA **must** become the voice of hikers in Pennsylvania. And that voice needs to be backed up with the support of every hiker and every hiking group in Pennsylvania. That's why we must grow, and grow vigorously.

This brings us to the **third** challenge: **Participation**.

KTA **cannot** function in a **vacuum**, as a freestanding entity. The participation of member clubs in the business of KTA is essential. KTA cannot serve the hiking community unless it knows the problems the hiking community faces. Without the clubs, there is no KTA. KTA is **your** organization. It exists for **your** benefit. KTA's priorities should be **your** priorities. We **must** work together, not in isolation from one another.

That's why it's important that **every** club, no matter how small or large, should appoint a representative to be a member of the KTA Council. That representative should either be a member of your club's governing body or someone closely involved in the activities of your club, and that person

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

should be charged with attending **all** KTA Council meetings, with financial support for travel from your club, if needed. Your membership in KTA should be **that** important. Your representative should come back to your club from a KTA Council meeting and report on what **we** did, not on what KTA did.

And, KTA needs the participation of individuals as well. We're all busy, I know, but if you have skills that could be put to work for KTA, then you could be helping **every** Pennsylvania hiker. Do you take pictures? Are you a CPA, a lawyer, a fundraiser, an administrator, a gardner...? Everyone has some skill they can share with others. I made a video and look what happened to me! I urge you to get in touch with the new Board and offer your services. **We need you!**

In closing, let me say that it has been a **tremendous honor** to serve as your President. I've always said that hikers are absolutely the **best** people on earth, and my association with all of you has proven that beyond a doubt!

MSTA Will Join Mid Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition

By Tom Kelliher

One of the Mid State Trail Association's hopes when we began the project to extend the Mid State Trail to link to a spur of the Finger Lakes Trail was to enable the creation of a long distance hiking trail. That hope may be realized sooner that MSTA might have thought, although there are some outcrops to negotiate before we possibly reach the summit.

Potomac Appalachian Trails Conference (PATC) member **Lloyd MacAskill** brought new life to an old idea -- building a long distance footpath parallel to, and west of, the Appalachian Trail. **Pete Fleszar** followed up on this idea by suggesting that the proposed trail be extended north, following the Mid State and Finger Lakes Trails.

Two coalitions, the Southeast Foot Trails Coalition and the Mid Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition (MAFTC), have been formed to pursue this trail idea. MAFTC was formed during a May meeting at PATC's Gypsy Spring cabin. MAFTC is comprised of MSTA, PATC, the Link Trail Club, and the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, with assistance provided by the American Hiking Society and National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance division.

Current activities are finalizing a name for the trail and signing a Letter of Agreement (LOA). This LOA will formally create the MAFTC and was drafted by PATC President Tom Johnson. Following a comment period during which partner clubs voiced their concerns, the letter has been amended. MSTA had concerns over such items as the nature of overnight facilities, local control versus MAFTC control of the individual trails making up the greater trail, and how each partner club will provide economic resources for the project.

At its September 24 meeting, MSTA voted to join the MAFTC; I will be signing the LOA at a meeting of MAFTC partners in November at the Blackburn Trail Center in West Virginia.

[Ed. note: information about this new trail project in Virginia and West Virginia is available at www.TT-Link-ALT.net.]

Bedford County Borough Eager to Become a Trail Town

Pennsylvania has a new candidate eager to join the ranks of state trail towns. The borough council of Everett, in Bedford County, has expressed the desire to have the Mid State Trail include a town park as part of the trail route. Here is the Council resolution:

Resolution No. 2005-07-02 Everett Borough Council, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. A resolution to Support Routing the Mid State Trail Through Tenley Park.

Whereas, the Mid-State Trail now extends through portions of Everett Borough; and **Whereas**, Everett Borough is one of only two "trail towns" on the Mid-State Trail; and **Whereas**, the Everett Borough Council and the Everett Recreation Board wish to promote recreation and tourism in Everett Borough and the surrounding area; and **Whereas**, the Everett Borough Council owns and maintains Tenley Park as a public recreation area; and **Whereas**, the Everett Borough Council and the Everett Recreation Board believe that routing the Mid-State Trail through Tenley Park would benefit people using both the Mid-State Trail and Tenley Park; **Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Everett Borough Council supports routing the Mid-State Trail through Tenley Park. Duly adopted this 11th day of July, 2005, by the Council of the Borough of Everett, in lawful session duly assembled. Everett Borough Council, Bedford County, Pennsylvania.



This abandoned rail bridge, decked for the Pine Creek Trail, now also carries the Mid State Trail over Pine Creek at the village of Ramsey. The previously used footbridge about a mile south at Camp Kline was washed out in 1973. As a result, the MST was initially rerouted along and on PA 44, and later rerouted again to avoid the road walk.

The old MST route climbing Houslander Mountain is a blue blazed trail. By parking a car at the small space near the blue trail, day hikers can ascend Houslander, take in its spectacular vistas, including the "Gates of Tiadaghton" and "Oxbow" in Pine Creek, continue to the junction with the MST at the birch grove, and then follow the MST south to Ramsey. The road walk back to the car can be eliminated by leaving a second car in the lot near the canoe take out in Ramsey.

Hiker Alerts

Big Pocono State Park

The Pocono Outdoor Club has received permission from DCNR to reopen the lower loop trail at Big Pocono State Park. The lower loop is formed by the lower section of South Trail, below the North Trail intersect, the Railroad Grade (which is on the KTA Endangered Hiking Trail list) and the North Trail. It provides a 1.26 mile looped end to three hikes on Camelback Mountain. The Club is still working with DCNR and the private property owners to secure permanent public access to the Park via the WB&E (Old Railroad Grade) Trail.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Dunfield Creek

The bridge across Dunfield Creek at Delaware Water Gap, damaged by flooding, has become increasingly unstable. Warning signs are repeatedly removed. The former stepping stones in the creek are unusable. Expect a wet foot crossing or use the overflow parking area and access the Appalachian Trail and the recently reopened Dunfield Creek Trail through the gate at the back of the field. The damaged bridge will be removed soon and negotiations are under way to have a new one built.

Raymondskill Area

Heavy infestation by the hemlock woolly adelgid in the Raymondskill Fall area of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation in Pike County has resulted in the closing of parking lots and hiking trails in that area. Weakened affected trees may topple or lose branches, raising safety concerns for visitors. The area will reopen after the diseased trees are removed.

Mason-Dixon Trail

The Mason-Dixon Trail System is pleased to announce that, after 1600 hours of hard labor over the past two and a half years, the two mile relocation between the rocky promontory south of Cuff's Run and Apollo County Park (map 4, west to east mile 7.6-9.7) is open. The new trail is nearly all side hill in very rocky terrain.

Permission to hike through the Peach Bottom Power Station (map 5, west to east mile 24.9-26.4) is required. Call Peach Bottom Security at 717-456-4212 before your hike. Hikers must stay on the trail. This is a new number.

On the western section, the M-DT is temporarily closed between Rt. 425 and Kline Rd. due to logging by PPL. The trail will be relocated after the logging is completed.

Mid State Trail

The entire Greenwood Spur is open for hiking. Both bridges in the Alan Seeger Natural Area have been repaired by the Bureau of Forestry, and the loop trail and Collier Trail are both open.

Reeds Gap Spur is not being maintained and should be avoided. Most trail signs have been destroyed by vandals.

Caterpillar Stripes Predict Severe Winters



Most people have heard, and perhaps scoffed at, the folklore regarding the woolly bear caterpillar's stripes and winter – if the woollies have thick brown stripes, winter will be mild, but if the brown stripes are narrow, winter will be harsh. Well, now you can believe, because studies have shown that



Newly cleared section of the Pinchot Trail after a KTA crew removed a large blowdown during the August Trail Care weekend.

Trail Care Awards

Attended 5 or more weekends

Tom Bastian (attended all 9 events)

Tom Kelliher

Elwood Loudenslager

Ginny Musser

Attended 3 or 4 weekends

Bill Dietrich

Ginny Owen

Jack Bushey

Jim Owen

Jeff Clark

Kathy Sieminski

Lorraine Healey

Louise Sis

Pete Fleszar

Tom Thwaites

Ed Lawrence

Dave Walp

Link Trail Hiking Club

(Continued from page 1)

gan a one-man crusade to save the trail. With financial assistance from KTA, Sausser cleared trail, recruited volunteers, scouted route changes, and publicized the trail.

At Sausser's urging, KTA undertook a campaign to "Save the Steps." This successful effort resulted in the protection of the 1000 steps near Mount Union, PA. Today, this Link Trail section is one of the most heavily hiked sections of trail in the state.

As part of this transfer, KTA Council approved a \$2,000 grant to LTHC to purchase trail maintenance tools and a \$500 payment toward club operating expenses.

This transfer marks the second time that KTA has reassigned responsibility for a trail to another club. In the 1990s, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and its North Chapter took on the task of opening the overgrown Tuscarora Trail, merging the Tuscarora with the Big Blue Trail. Today, PATC is vigorously working to protect the trail route through land purchases and easement, and is constructing a chain of shelters for hikers.

According to President Hugh Downing, KTA is now in the position of maintaining no specific trails, but will be able to concentrate its energies on advocating for all state trails and assisting maintaining clubs in protecting and preserving their trails.

DCNR Realigning Forest Districts

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) realigned the state's forest district boundaries in July. "The realignment allows DCNR to more effectively manage our state forests, realign personnel for greater efficiency and program delivery, and better plan for future infrastructure needs," according to DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis.

The state forest system is divided into 20 forest districts, each with a district office, led by a district forester. The districts most affected by the realignment are in the eastern half of the state.

The most significant changes include:

- The new Loyalsock Forest District, comprising Sullivan, Lycoming, and Bradford Counties, will be headquartered in Sullivan County. The Loyalsock State Forest includes tracts formerly managed by the Tiadaphton, Tioga, and Wyoming Districts.
- The Tiadaghton District office will be relocated from South Williamsport to the Pine Creek Valley area.
- The Weiser District now includes Columbia, Montour and Northumberland Counties (formerly in the Wyoming District), and manages the Roaring Creek (Brush Valley) tract in Co-

More DCNR News

PA Parks and Forests Foundation

Marci Mowery of Lancaster County is the new president of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF), a statewide nonprofit organization that supports the Commonwealth's 117 state parks and 2.1 million acres of state forest. Part of the foundation's mission is to support DCNR in enhancing public enjoyment of state lands and resources; protecting important natural, scenic and recreation areas overseen by the state; and encouraging public support of these resources so that they may be enjoyed by future generations. For more information about PPFF, visit www.paparksandforests.org or call 717-236-7644.

Community Planning Book Available

Better Models for Development in Pennsylvania, a 134-page guide intended to help local governments encourage development that leads to attractive, livable and prosperous communities, is being distributed to government planners, public officials, developers and interested citizens to use as a guide as they design and plan the future of their communities.

The book is a collaborative effort by the DCNR, the Dept. of Community and Economic Development, and the Conservation Fund. To obtain a copy, contact DCNR at 717-787-7672.

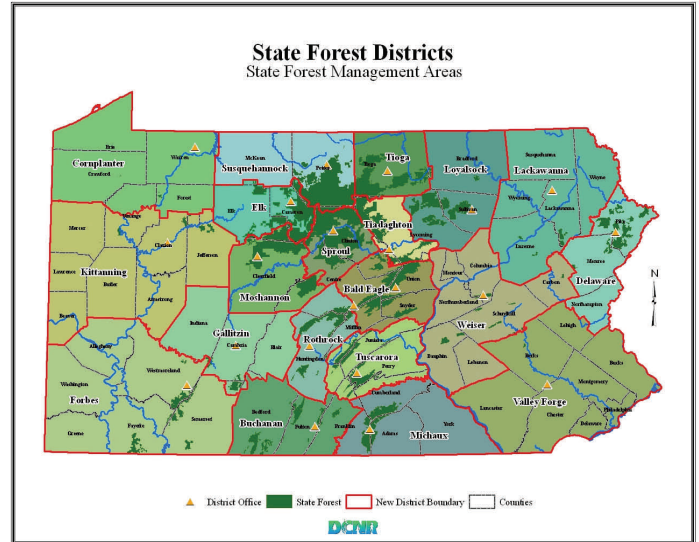
Wilderness First Aid

Venture Outdoors is offering Wilderness First Aid (WFA) classes through the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS on March 4-5 and June 3-4, 2006. All classes run from 8 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and Sunday at the Environmental Learning Center at Crooked Creek State Park. Overnight accommodations in the park are available. Successful completion carries a national certification from WMI. For more information or to register, please visit www.ventureoutdoors.org or call 412-255-0564.

lumbia and Northumberland Counties.

- The Valley Forge District now includes all of Berks and Lehigh Counties (formerly Weiser District).
- The Lackawanna District now includes Luzerne County and the newly acquired Theta land. The district office will move from Scranton to Lackawanna State Park.

In addition to managing the state owned tracts within its territory, each forest district protects all forest land from fire, destructive insects, and diseases, and provides professional forestry leadership and technical assistance to private forest owners.



Game Commission News

Ross to Retire

Vernon Ross, Game Commission Executive Director for the past six years, will retire at the end of 2005. During his tenure, the Game Commission established a Deer Management Section to focus greater attention on the agency's deer program and implemented new deer hunting policies. Some of these changes, such as longer doe seasons, have proved controversial.

The Commission has launched a nationwide search for a successor. The executive director, who reports to the Board of Game Commissioners, is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating all activities of the Commonwealth's wildlife management program, including the management of more than 1.4 million acres of State Game Lands. The Executive Director ensures that the Commission's activities consider the best interests of the state's wildlife, sportsmen and the public, and that the Commission protects wildlife as a renewable resource.

Game Commission Calendar

The 2006 Game Commission calendar, featuring ten wildlife photos and two landscape scenes, is now available for purchase through the Commission web site www.pgc.state.pa.us or at Commission offices. Cost is \$8.95 plus tax and shipping.

Featured species are blue jay; red-tailed hawk; black bear; killdeer; black-throated green warbler; eastern cottontail; cedar waxwing; eastern fox squirrel; ruffed grouse; and white-tailed deer. The scenic views are a winter view of Little Pine Creek on State Game Land 75 in Lycoming County; and a summer shot along a stream on State Game Land 13 in northeastern Pennsylvania. The full color photos were taken by agency employees.

Around the Clubs

Mountain Club of Maryland

MCM's 2005 Hike Across Maryland was a great success, with 91 of the 101 hikers finishing the approximately 40-mile trek on May 7. The next HAM will be held in 2007.



Pocono Outdoor Club

As part of their National Trails Day activities at Big Pocono State Park, POC conducted hikes, held lectures and discussions on subjects ranging from invasive plants to staying healthy on the trail, and raised \$51.00 to support KTA's Endangered Hiking Trails Program.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

Western Strategy

President Tom Johnson has challenged PATC members to embrace the club's "Western Strategy" that mandates that most future expansion of club efforts be to the west (the Tuscarora Trail). In the past PATC handled western trails by importing trail crews from eastern urban areas where the club's membership base resides. However, to make the Western Strategy work, Johnson says PATC must recruit local area members and volunteers who will fill trail crews, become trail overseers, build shelters, check land records, contact landowners, represent PATC at community events, and further involve other locals residents.

Trail Patrol Information

The mission of PATC's Trail Patrol is to educate others on safe and responsible enjoyment of the outdoors. To carry out this work, the Patrol has updated and expanded its section of the PATC web site. Of interest to all hikers will be the information on hiking gear, hiking safety, backpacking, and Leave No Trace practices. The web address is www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol

Personal Locator Beacons

Just five months after gaining approval in July 2003 for personal use in the lower 48 states, a personal locator beacon signal led to its first rescue, a stranded canoeist in the Adirondack Mountains.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellites detect the unique signal of each registered PLB. NOAA personnel alert the Air Force Rescue Command Center in Virginia, which coordinates all land based rescues in the lower 48 states.

PLBs weigh less than a pound, cost \$600-700, and can pinpoint a user's location anywhere on earth to within 100 meters. Less than 6,000 of the devices were registered in the first two years of use, and 103 were activated, but only four signals led to actual rescues.

Three weeks after his rescue, the Adirondack canoeist went out to retrieve his canoe. Pinned down once again by bad weather, he again activated his PLB. However, following this rescue, authorities arrested him for falsely reporting an incident, claiming he was healthy and not in a life or death situation.



Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club

SATC has a new web address: www.satc-hike.org.

Leashed, well-controlled dogs are now allowed on club hikes. The accompanying human is responsible for injuries or damage caused by the dog and must clean up dog waste and carry it out of the hiking area.

SATC has donated \$500 to Harrisburg Inner City Outings, an organization that introduces city children to the thrill of nature through hiking, camping, backpacking, and environmental education. A half dozen club members are active volunteers in the program.

4,000 copies of a new "Take a Hike" membership brochure, which explains the club's purpose and activities, have been printed. Copies have been distributed to locations such as libraries, schools, fitness centers, and trail boxes.

Venture Outdoors

Venture Outdoors raised over \$4500 in matching funds for the Scholarship Fund of the Youth Outdoor Adventure Program, allowing VO to claim a Grable Foundation grant. YOAP enables underserved and low-income youth to get outside and participate in outdoor sports. For more information about YOAP, contact VO at 304 Forbes Ave., 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, 412-255-0564, or www.ventureoutdoors.org/yoap.shtml.

Venture Outdoors will hold its first annual fashion show, featuring eco-friendly and outdoor recreational clothes, on November 19. Details are available at www.ventureoutdoors.org.

Wilmington Trail Club

The Wilmington Trail Club now publishes Old Trails Anew (write-ups of completed hikes) on the club web site at www.wilmingtontrailclub.org.

Singles and the SATC

According to member Dick Martin, the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club has come to the realization that perhaps it is a singles club in disguise.

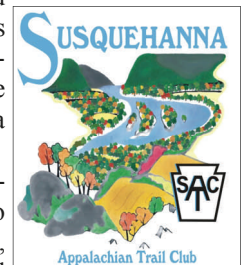
Ralph Kinter, one of SATC's founders, met his wife through their mutual interest in the hiking club. They set the tone fifty years ago, and current club members are carrying on the tradition.

Twenty active hikers have found a spouse through the club. It was not just paying dues, but getting involved and going on hikes that caused these couples to meet. There is a lot of time for conversation during a hike, Martin avers, and he should know, since he met his wife, Thyra Sperry, on the Appalachian Trail.

At least two of these ten couples were married "on the trail." Randy Greber led a hike to the fire tower in State Game Land No. 211, inviting a minister to join the group. He and Jane, his wife-to-be, did not inform the other hikers that they would tie the knot at the tower. Fittingly, they lead an anniversary hike to their wedding site atop Third Mountain each year.

Martin and Sperry were married in a gazebo on the Appalachian Trail in Boiling Springs. Since weddings are not a "normal" use of the AT, they had to obtain a Special Use Permit from the National Park Service.

[Adapted from an article by Richard Martin in the SATC Bushwack Bulletin]



Letter to the Editor

Sept. 14, 2005

Keystone Trails Association Newsletter,

I am appalled at the testimony reportedly given for KTA by the President Hugh Downing on the Sunday hunting issue.

There has never been one hiker shot in mistake for game. Hunting is safer than hiking. One million hunters play safely together in Penn's Woods. Be safe, be seen! Wear bright colors.

If hikers want to play on the playground we hunters bought, perhaps they should be required to pass the Hunter Safety Course and buy a license.

On any Sunday all the hikers, photographers, bird-watchers, picnickers, pet owners, cross country skiers, mountain bikers and horse riders using our public lands would not equal the hunters that would hunt, if permitted.

I am a KTA member and supporter. But not for long. I'm disgusted.

Sincerely,
Bob Steiner
Cooperstown, PA

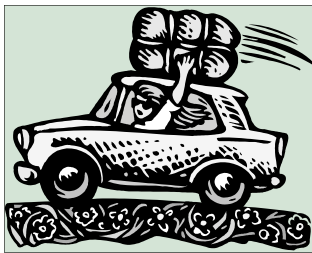
The Trailhead Car

By Greg Tothero

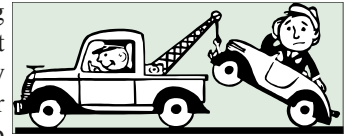
As a hiker, it is important to have the proper gear. Hikers will put forth a great deal of effort to find the perfect pair of hiking boots, because the wrong pair of boots can take all of the enjoyment out of a hike.

One thing that hikers don't often think about is transportation to the trailhead. The right car can make an outing much easier. There are several considerations:

1. **Space for gear** - When I bought my last car, one criterion was that it has space for four backpackers and their backpacks.
2. **Ability to handle dirt roads** - Many trailhead are on poor roads. This doesn't mean that you need a monster truck capable of squashing econo-boxes in their tracks. On the other had, a Corvette is probably not the right choice either. On one trip to the west, my rental car was a Neon with a sticker that said "It is forbidden to take this vehicle off the paved highway." Getting to the trailhead involved forty miles of dirt roads and fording a river. Although it made it, I probably should have requested a different rental car!
3. **Doesn't attract vandals** - When you leave your vehicle in a remote place, you are counting on it still being there, with all four wheels still intact, when you return. It can ruin your day to return, tired, to a remote trailhead only to find out that you have no transportation back to civilization. I would probably avoid a \$50,000 vehicle for that reason. Of course, this is not the only reason that I don't drive a \$50,000 vehicle!



4. **Reliability** - When driving in remote places, you don't want to be stranded. Many trailheads don't have cellular phone reception, and help can be a long walk away.



5. **Economy** - One advantage to backpacking is its minimal impact on the environment. It doesn't make sense to negate that by driving a gas hog to the trailhead. Another advantage to backpacking is that it is inexpensive. At \$2.20 a gallon, it would be easy to spend a lot of money getting to a far-away trail in a big SUV.

Publications For Hikers

New Lehigh Valley Guide

The Wildlands Conservancy's has issued two sets of trail maps, entitled **Walk for Wellness**, for the Lehigh Valley area. Set I includes 25 trails within the Valley, while Set II consists of 30 trails within a short drive of the Lehigh Valley. Each set is \$20 plus \$3.95 shipping and handling. Order from Wildlands Conservancy, Walk for Wellness, 3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, PA 18049, 610-965-4397, ext. 40, or from the web at www.wildlandspa.org/programs/parks/walk/html.

Bear Run Trail Guide

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is developing a long-term management plan for the conservation of natural resources on the over 4700 acres of the Bears Run Nature Reserve. The WPC has issued a new guidebook, **The Poetry of Nature**, to "inspire a full appreciation of the trails at Bears Run Nature Preserve."

The guide, available at the Fallingwater Museum Shop or on the WPC web site www.wpcshop.com provides a detailed guide to Poetry Trail, which is mostly used as a connector to the longer uplands trails.

Highlands Conservation Update

In August, the Appalachian Mountain Club received an \$80,000 DCNR grant to fund the completion of a map of the high conservation value areas across the 10 counties of the Pennsylvania Highlands. The grant is part of the almost \$5.5 million in greenways, open space, and community park and recreation projects funded by DCNR this year.

The Highlands Conservation Act passed by Congress in November 2004 authorized Congress to appropriate \$110 million over the next ten years for conservation and ecological study in the Highlands region of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

However, Congress failed to appropriate anything for HCA in fiscal year 2006. The governors of all four states have jointly submitted letters of support to the Dept. of the Interior outlining the projects that need funding, and Appalachian Mountain Club Highlands Advocate Kristen Sykes is optimistic for future funding.

NY-NJTC Study Results: Hiking Trails Don't Impact Birds

Although single track hiking trails are the most environmentally benign and least expensive way to provide public access to nature, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference wanted to scientifically study issues related to recreational carrying capacity and ensure sustainable use in eastern deciduous forests. So, four years ago they hired a science director and began trailside monitoring and research projects.



One two-year study examined the impact of a hiking trail on the abundance and diversity of breeding birds. Experienced birders conducted surveys at 18 field sites (six trailside, six roadside, and six forest interior) to assess the human impact of hiking trails and their human users on breeding

birds and bird diversity. Study results showed that there was no correlation between human trail use and bird diversity/abundance. Further studies could look at other species and perhaps access more subtle effects on nesting success and site preference.

According to Ed Goodell, NY-NJTC Executive Director, "As a hiker, it is gratifying to know that there is no indication, in this study at least, that trails or hikers fragment the ecological integrity of the landscape. I firmly believe that, under real hiking conditions of the northeast, the environmental impacts of hiking are negligible and far outweighed by a powerful conservation ethic rooted in the direct experience of nature found on a hiking trail."

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Elk Scenic Drive Guide

The state is offering a free travel guide to the 127-mile Elk Scenic Drive in Clinton, Clearfield, Centre and Elk Counties. In addition to maps and directions, the guide highlights 23 locations with historic sites, natural features, elk viewing areas, and recreational opportunities.

Twenty-four new interpretative panels have been installed at six newly developed locations, and 150 guideposts have been erected along the drive to keep people on track and point out areas of interest. To obtain a guide, call 800-577-2029. This area is part of the Pennsylvania Wilds initiative, a strategy to encourage the growth of tourism and related businesses based on outdoors experiences in the 12 counties in north central Pennsylvania. For the latest news on PA Wilds, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us/info/pawilds/wordonthewilds.aspx.

KTA Membership Form

Name: _____

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Basic Individual Membership One Year—\$15	\$
Youth Membership (Under Age 18) One Year—\$5	\$
Brush Cutter Membership One Year—\$20	\$
Blaze Painter Membership One Year—\$30	\$
Trail Builder Membership One Year—\$50	\$
Life Membership One-Time Payment—\$375	\$
Additional contribution*	\$
Total Enclosed	\$

PLEASE NOTE: Organizational members are welcome and should forward the name and contact information of the group's designated KTA representative along with appropriate dues of \$25 per year for clubs and commercial enterprises and \$10 per year or \$25 for three years for youth groups. All dues payments and correspondence should be mailed to: P.O. Box 129, Confluence, PA 15424.

*KTA is certified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. As such contributions are deductible to the extent permitted by law.