



BUSHWACK BULLETIN

The **BUSHWACK BULLETIN** is published quarterly in the months of February, May, August and November by the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club, Inc. (SATC) P.O. Box 61001, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1001.

VOLUME 51 – No 4 Web Site: www.satc-hike.org DECEMBER 2005 – FEBRUARY 2006

PLEASE WEAR REGULATION FLUORESCENT ORANGE VESTS IN DESIGNATED HUNTING AREAS UNTIL MARCH 15

OUR OBJECTIVES: GROUP HIKING + TRAIL MAINTENANCE + OUTDOOR RECREATION

Hiking and Activities Schedule

SEE END OF THIS SCHEDULE (PAGE 5) FOR GENERAL HIKE INFORMATION AND CODES FOR HIKES
MEETING PLACE IS FISHER PLAZA DOWNTOWN (NEXT TO STATE LIBRARY) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
PLEASE NOTIFY THE HIKE LEADER IF YOU ARE MEETING AT AN ALTERNATE SITE
ALWAYS BRING WATER AND WEAR BOOTS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES (CHANGES, ADDITIONS, DELETIONS) TO THIS SCHEDULE

Codes (See Page 5)

December 1

Thursday
9:00 AM

2-B-6.2
16 highway
miles

Appalachian Trail - Trindle Road, A.T. to Scott Farm

Hike on the new boardwalk constructed by CVATC, Mid-Atlantic Crew and various club volunteers. Bring water/snacks. Sneakers okay. MEET ONLY at Boiling Springs Post Office on Rt. 174 at 9:00 AM or Trindle Road trailhead at 9:30 AM. Fluorescent orange vests recommended. Leader: Thyra Sperry, 258-5261, hikesperry@aol.com

December 2

Friday
9:00 AM

2-C-5
10 highway
miles

State Game Lands #2II

This easy hike includes finding a rock outcrop in the Game Lands. Bring hiking boots, 2 quarts water, snacks, rain jacket. MEET ONLY at Cocomplex Front Parking Lot in Hershey on Rt. 743 between Rt. 422 and Rt. 322. **REGULATION FLUORESCENT ORANGE VESTS REQUIRED.** Leader: John Stein, Steinhike@cs.com

December 3

Saturday
7:00 PM

4-A-0

Annual SATC Holiday Party

Hike from your table to the potluck buffet line. See Club Notices for more information.

December 4

Sunday
10:00 AM

2-C-6
40 highway
miles

Kinter Point Hike via Victoria, Whitetail and Appalachian Trails

Leashed dogs permitted. 1000 foot climb. Panoramic vista. Boots recommended. Bring water and lunch. Alternate meeting place: parking lot at intersection of Rtes. 225 & 325 or Victoria Trailhead at 1:30 PM. Leaders: John and Pat Zinn, 697-0648; pzinn@comcast.net

NEXT BUSHWACK BULLETIN DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: FEBRUARY 1, 2006

Post to Editor - Bushwack Bulletin, S.A.T.C., 5226 Oxford Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Email: pzinn@comcast.net phone: 697-0648

<u>December 9</u> Friday 9:00 AM	2-C-5 10 highway miles	<u>State Game Lands #246</u> This moderate hike includes a view of air traffic from a hill near Middletown. Bring hiking boots, 1 quart water, snacks, rain jacket. MEET ONLY at Bullfrog Valley Park behind Milton S. Hershey Medical Center off Bull Frog Valley Road. Optional lunch locally after hike. REGULATION FLUORESCENT ORANGE VESTS REQUIRED. Leader: John Stein, Steinhike@cs.com
<u>December 10</u> Saturday 10:45 AM	2-A-10 0 highway miles	<u>Annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage</u> Walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Bring lunch, water and clothes for all types of weather. Sneakers okay. MEET ONLY at 520 E. Broad St., Bethlehem, PA for bus to Nazareth. For questions or car pooling possibilities contact leader. Leader: Barbara Van Horn, 834-6458, bvhbarb@pa.net
<u>December 11</u> Sunday 8:00 AM	2-C-12 50 highway miles	<u>Gunter Valley to Twin Tunnels</u> This is an in-out hike up a scenic valley past two PA turnpike tunnels. Bring hiking boots, 2 quarts water, snacks, rain jacket. Leader: John Stein, Steinhike@cs.com
<u>December 16</u> Friday 9:00 AM	2-C-7 40 highway miles	<u>Marberg Lake, Codorus State Park Shoreline</u> Since water level is down, this is a rocky, beautiful hike on part of the lakeshore at Codorus State Park near Hanover, PA. Bring hiking boots, 2 quarts water, snacks. Optional dinner at local place after hike. CONTACT LEADER FOR MEETING PLACE. Leader: John Stein, Steinhike@cs.com
<u>December 17</u> Saturday 9:00 AM	2-C-11 30 highway miles	<u>Appalachian Trail, Yellow Breeches to Conodoguinet Creeks</u> Joint hike with Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club. Relatively easy terrain but an all-day hike. Bring lunch and 2 quarts water. Second in a series of 4 hikes across the same trail in different seasons. Hunting is prohibited in the entire corridor for this hike, but WEAR FLUORESCENT ORANGE VESTS anyway if you have it. MEET ONLY at MJ Mall in Carlisle, Pa between Cinemas 8 movie theaters and street. Leader: Frank Bohn, 234-5169
<u>December 18</u> Sunday 9:00 AM	2-C- 7-8 60 highway miles	<u>Little Buffalo State Park</u> Hike in Little Buffalo State Park. Some climbs, hills, beautiful scenery. Bring water, lunch and hiking boots. Alternate meeting place is the Park Ranger Station at 9:45 AM. Leader: Lisa Seiders, 214-4598
<u>December 24</u> Saturday 8:00 AM	3-B-5 0 highway miles	<u>Appalachian Trail, Victoria Trail Rt. 225 to Rt. 325</u> Hike from parking lot off Rt. 225 atop Peters Mountain to the Victoria Trail and down to Rt. 325. Bring water, snacks, and hiking boots. MEET ONLY at the Rt. 225/Rt. 325 intersection parking lot. Fluorescent orange vests recommended. Leader: Karen Balaban, 232-3708 (day), KMBalaban@BalabanLLC.com
<u>January 1</u> Sunday 10:00 AM	2-C-7 0 highway miles	<u>King's Gap Environmental Center</u> This is a 7-mile circle hike. Wear proper footwear, bring water and lunch. MEET ONLY at Plantation parking lot near the King's Gap entrance. Leaders: Sam and Barb Harvey, 766-7868
<u>January 2</u> Tuesday 6:30 PM	Board Meeting	<u>SATC Winter Board of Directors Meeting</u> Members are welcome. NEW LOCATION: Giant Community Center, 3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill. See Club Notices for directions and additional details. Contact: Barb Harvey, 766-7868

<u>January 7</u> Saturday 9:00 AM	3-C-8 22 highway miles	<u>State Game Lands #156 Loop</u> An 8-mile loop hike between Turnpike, Rt. 72 and Rt. 322 in Penn Township., Lancaster County. Bring hiking boots, 2 quarts water, snacks, rain jacket. MEET ONLY at Cocoaplex front parking lot in Hershey on Rt. 743 between Rt. 422 and Rt. 322. Fluorescent orange recommended. Leader: John Stein, Steinhike@cs.com
<u>January 8</u> Sunday 9:00 AM	2-D-8 28 highway miles	<u>Stone Tower Trail</u> Hike in beautiful St. Anthony's Wilderness (if snow isn't too deep!). Bring hiking boots, 2 quarts water, lunch, rain jacket. Leader: John Stein, Steinhike@cs.com
<u>January 10</u> Tuesday 9:30 AM	2-B-3-4 30 highway miles	<u>Ned Smith Nature and Art Center near Millersburg</u> Leashed dogs are permitted on this hike. Moderate hike through a number of trails in wooded areas. Optional lunch stop following hike. MEET ONLY intersection of Routes 322 West and 147 (parking lot adjacent to Clark's Ferry Bridge). Leaders: Shirley McLaren, 526-4777, Frank McKniff, 832-1994
<u>January 10</u> Tuesday 6:30 PM	Winter Meeting for Members and Guests	<u>Winter Meeting for Members and Guests</u> Following refreshments we will review last quarter's activities, schedule hikes for March, April and May and conduct an interactive program with the focus on hike leadership and safety. NEW LOCATION: Giant Community Center, 3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill. See Club Notices for directions and additional details. Contact: Barbara Harvey, 766-7868
<u>January 14</u> Saturday 9:00 AM	4-C-8 0 highway miles	<u>Hershey Area Loop</u> Hike through Shank Park, woods and some roads. Bring water, snacks. Optional meal at local place near end of hike. MEET ONLY at Bullfrog Valley Park, behind MS Hershey Medical Center off Bullfrog Valley Road. Leader: John Stein, Steinhike@cs.com
<u>January 15</u> Sunday 10:00 AM	2-B-4-6 0 highway miles	<u>Cumberland Valley Walkabout</u> Walk a section of the Appalachian Trail in Cumberland Valley. Actual location and distance will depend on the mid-January weather. The AT in this area typically covers a combination of open fields and wooded areas with relatively flat terrain. Bring water and lunch/snacks. MEET ONLY at Mid-Atlantic AT office across from the Boiling Springs Post Office on Rt. 174. Leader: Bob Doren, 763-0667, cibob@aol.com
<u>January 16</u> Monday 10:00 AM	1-A & B-3 0 highway miles	<u>Wildwood Lake Sanctuary</u> Leashed dogs and strollers allowed. Walk through the wetlands and easy trails at Wildwood Lake. Bring water and snacks. Sneakers okay. MEET ONLY at Wildwood Lake Nature Center parking lot. Leaders: Jan Fisher, 545-9848, Susanne Donmoyer, 545-5308
<u>January 22</u> Sunday 1:00 PM	2-B-5 90 highway miles	<u>Box Car Rocks</u> An in-and-out hike to an outstanding formation of rocks, some old strip mining sites and a view of Broad Mountain. Moderate pace, flat terrain. Bring snacks and water. Leader: Katie Barker, 249-6727
<u>January 27</u> Friday 9:00 AM	1-A-6 0 highway miles	<u>Messiah and Grantham History Hike</u> History hike of Messiah College and Grantham. Bring water and snacks. Optional lunch at college dining room following hike. MEET ONLY at Starry Field parking lot at Messiah College near the covered bridge. Leader: Melanie DeMartyn, 795-8209
<u>January 29</u> Sunday 1:00 PM	2-B-5 30 highway miles	<u>Tuckahoe Loop</u> Hiking on trails. Wear hiking boots. Bring water and snacks. Leader: Susanne Donmoyer, 545-5308

<u>February 4</u> Saturday 10:00 AM	2-B-10 0 highway miles	<u>Across Cumberland Valley Hike/Snowshoe or Cross Country Skiing</u> Hike from Boiling Springs on the AT to the Scott Farm. Extreme cold weather will shorten the distance. Bring water, lunch/snacks. MEET ONLY at the Mid-Atlantic AT office opposite Post Office on Rt. 174, Boiling Springs. Fluorescent orange vests recommended. Leader: Sharon Shellenberger, 249-6575
<u>February 5</u> Sunday 11:00 AM	2-C-9 30 highway miles	<u>Super Bowl Hike – Hawk Rock and Cove Mountain</u> Leashed dogs permitted. Circle hike up Hawk Rock, along Cove Mountain and return along Sherman's Creek. Bring lunch and water. Alternate meeting place: Doyle Hotel, Duncannon. Hike leaders plan to eat, watch game and stay at the Doyle Hotel. Hikers welcome to do same. Leaders: John & Pat Zinn, 697-0648, pzinn@comcast.net
<u>February 11</u> Saturday 9:00 AM	2-B-7 28 highway miles	<u>Conoy Canal Trail Hike</u> Leashed dogs permitted on this hike. Hike along the Susquehanna and see the old locks of the Conoy Canal. Bring water, snacks/lunch. MEET ONLY at M & T Bank, Olmsted Plaza, Rt. 230, Middletown. Fluorescent orange vests recommended. Leader: John Zerphey, 939-9082
<u>February `12</u> Sunday 9:00 AM	2-C-7 18 highway miles	<u>Search and Find Hike near Mt. Gretna</u> Location depends on snow. One group will try to find the other group. Tracking in snow! Bring water, lunch, and hiking boots. MEET ONLY at Cocoaplex front parking lot in Hershey on Rt. 743 between Rt. 422 and Rt. 322. Leader: John Stein, Steinhike@cs.com
<u>February 19</u> Sunday 11:00 AM	3-C-6-7 45 highway miles	<u>Chickies Rock County Park</u> Good views of the Susquehanna River. Some steep climbs. Leader: Jeff Willard, 887-3819, Jeffwill44@aol.com
<u>February 20</u> Monday 10:00 AM	2-B-3 8 highway miles	<u>Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area</u> Leashed dogs permitted on this hike. Hike on a myriad of trails and woods roads. Bring water, snacks and boots. MEET ONLY at Fort Hunter parking lot near the barn. Fluorescent orange recommended. Leaders: Jan Fisher, 545-9848, Susanne Donmoyer, 545-5308.
<u>February 26</u> Sunday 9:00 AM	2-D-6 12 highway miles	<u>Rt. 850 to Sterrett's Gap – Snowshoe Option</u> Hike the Appalachian Trail to the top of North Mountain, and then take the Tuscarora Trail and a connection trail to Sterrett's Gap. No lunch break. Bring snacks and water. Bring snowshoes if snow is deep enough. MEET ONLY at AT parking lot along Rt. 850, outside of Marysville. Leader: Rod Manweiler, 776-3172

Rules for Hikes that permit dogs

1. Please only bring dogs that are capable of keeping up with the humans. Some small dogs and some older dogs may not be suitable for hiking.
2. Please Keep dogs leashed and under control.
3. Dog owners/handlers must clean up dog waste and carry it out of the hiking area.
4. Dog owners/handlers must stop their dogs from digging and immediately fill any holes dug.
5. Please do not bring more than two dogs per handler.
6. Please do not bring a female dog in heat.
7. Dog owners/handlers are solely liable for injuries and/or damage caused by their dogs.

Hike leaders should hand out a copy of the rules to dog owners/handlers before the hike begins. Susanne Donmoyer or Pat Zinn should have copies of the rules. These rules are also posted on the SATC website.

GENERAL HIKE INFORMATION

Special Note: Riders' Fees Increased

On April 5, 2005 the SATC Board, because the riders' fee was last set when gas prices were about half of what they are now, increased the riders' fees to ten cents per mile. If you ride with someone, you should give the driver ten cents times the highway (hwy) miles shown in the middle column of the hike schedule to help defray the cost of transportation as now noted below under "Transportation".



- 1. MEETING LOCATION** Unless otherwise noted in the hike schedule, all hikers meet at **Fisher Plaza** (entrance to the State Library, access from 7th Street) behind the State Capitol Building. Should Fisher Plaza be closed, the alternate meeting site is the parking island in front of the East Gate Office Center on 7th Street, near Herr Street. Five additional minutes will be allowed for arrival at the alternate site.
- 2. TRANSPORTATION** If you ride with someone, you should give the driver **10 cents** times the highway mileage shown in the hike schedule to help defray the costs of transportation.
- 3. REGISTRATION** All hikers are asked to register with the hike leader at Fisher Plaza or at the trailhead before starting any scheduled hike. Some hikes require advance registration with the hike leader. Please check the schedule for this requirement.
- 4. DOGS PERMITTED ONLY IF NOTED IN THE HIKING AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE**
- 5. PACK IN, PACK OUT (LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND)**
- 6. SMOKING GUIDELINES** SATC prefers that hikers refrain from the use of tobacco products during Club activities. Smokers are individually responsible for damage to the forests.

CODES FOR THE HIKES

The first number shows the hikers' expected PACE

- 1 - Leisurely: nature or historical walk; frequent stops for observation**
- 2 - Moderate: steady, 1 to 2 miles per hour (mph)**
- 3 - Brisk: steady, 2 to 3 mph**
- 4 - Fast: 3 to 4 mph; very short breaks; an anaerobic workout**

The letter (second code) explains the general TERRAIN

- A - Solid pavement/sidewalk**
- B - Soft ground/sand/carriage trails; nearly level; few rocks or obstructions (roots)**
- C - Some rocks/roots/obstructions; climbs and descents totaling up to 1000 feet possible**
- D - Steep hills, rocks/roots/obstructions likely; frequent climbs and descents with a total of more than 1000 feet**
- E - Extremely difficult; some or all of these features possible or likely: rough footing (rocks, roots); unbridged stream crossings; non technical rock climbing/scrambling; boulder fields; bushwhacking; individual climbs and descents over**

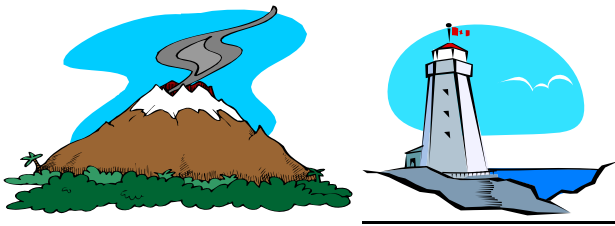
The second number (third code) shows the HIKING MILES.

Highway (hwy) miles are the number of roundtrip driving miles from the meeting place to and from the hiking area.



Hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. Starting in March look for hikes of approximately six to eight miles on two Saturdays each month. We plan separate hikes for fast and almost fast hikers. Hopefully, we will cover the entire State in two years. Look for the hikes in our next Bulletin issue or on our web site.

Happy AT hiking.



September 2006 Hiking in Northern California

- A National Seashore with a lighthouse, elevations to 14,000 feet, a tectonic boundary and 150 miles of hiking trails.
- A land of volcanoes, hot springs, lakes, waterfalls and another 150 miles of hiking trails.

If you would like to hike in places like these, you can find them in Northern California. I would like to know if there is interest in a group trip in September 2006. Particular possibilities would be Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Lassen Volcanic National Park (described above), Pinnacles



Spring in Tennessee, March 19 - 24

One week of hiking in Tennessee on the Appalachian Trail from US Rte. 19E near Hampton, TN to Damascus, VA. Six hiking days for a total of 73.9 trail miles. Limit of six hikers so I can find an appropriately sized cabin for the week. Hiking days would be March 19-24, with the 25th used as a weather option. Day hikes are the plan, but a backpack could be accommodated as an option. For more information contact:

Rod Manweiler
manweiler@pa.net
776-3172

My favorite hikes:



The Lassen Peak Trail

By Frank Bohn

The trail starts at a parking area 8,400 feet above sea level. The steady uphill climb, averaging a bit less than one foot in 5, begins almost immediately. The hiker first passes through a few trees but with rising elevation, the trees quickly give way to scrubby white bark pine beside the switchbacks, then a few small plants. For much of the highest part of the trail, the rocks dominate and little or no vegetation is evident. The increasing elevation also opens up vistas of forest, lakes, lava flows, multicolored dunes of volcanic ash, and cinder cone, the product of an 18th-century eruption and itself a rewarding hike.

Weather is a factor. I first visited Mount Lassen in August 1979. On that day I realized that the precipitation above 8,000 feet was sleet, and I'd best bring the car down the mountain while I could still keep it on the twisting road. I would hike the Peak Trail on my second visit in October 1984. On that day, the weather was overcast but unremarkable at the trailhead. Two hours later and 2,000 feet higher, I was in the middle of a weather front. The wind was blowing at least 30 miles per hour, and the clouds enveloped the summit. They prevented all but a glimpse of the crater directly in front of me; indeed the visibility was perhaps 10 yards. It seemed wise to hike down the mountain while I could. About an hour later, back at the trailhead, the sun was shining, and as I looked up at the peak, it also had cleared. On the third visit, in September 2000, the weather was mild and sunny, and the end of the hike rewarded me with views in all directions, including Mount Shasta on the northern horizon. This time I saw the accumulated snow from the prior year still melting in the crater. The volcano, which erupted for several years beginning in 1914, is now quiet. It and Mount St. Helens in Oregon were the only volcanoes in the 48 contiguous states to erupt in the 20th century.

Lassen Volcanic National Park is a mini-Yellowstone with every kind of thermal feature except true geysers. Its Boiling Springs Lake, while not actually boiling, is fed by scalding hot springs. The park has 150 miles of hiking trails, including a section of the Pacific Crest Trail. The trails have splendid views; some are forested, others traverse scrubby vegetation, go above tree line, or cross un-vegetated volcanic terrain. The park is located in northern California at the southern end of the Cascade Range, adjoining the northern end of the Central Valley. For hikers the best times to visit are July through September. Snowfall may close roads and trails as early as October, and after a winter of heavy snow the trails might not open until July.

An early morning start is recommended for hikes on ridges and to Lassen Peak. The Lassen Peak trail stretches 2.2 miles each way with a climb of 2,000 feet to its end at 10,400 feet above sea level. As an SATC hike its rating would be 2-D(or E)-4. As a club hike it would be strenuous but rewarding for both the views and the physical challenge, but the 5,000 highway miles form something of a deterrent.



Darlington Shelter Nearly Finished

The Mountain Club of Maryland's work on the Darlington Shelter, which was begun last year, is nearly done. The facility has four bunks and has already been used by many hikers. The privy appears nearly finished, but is presently locked. The Shelter's log contained many references to wolf spiders in the old privy so the opening of the new privy will be gladly welcomed.

The new Darlington Shelter is located on a short blue-blazed side trail off the AT near the top of Blue Mountain. The Shelter is about 2 miles south of Rt. 850 outside of Marysville and within 200 yards of the Darlington and Tuscarora Trails.

Fluorescent Orange required in State Game Lands Between November 15 and December 15 except Sundays

Those using State Game Lands who are not engaged in hunting, trapping, or fishing must wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on head, chest, or back combined, visible 360 degrees, or in lieu of the above, a hat of the same color. Blaze orange also should be worn anywhere else that hunting is allowed (State Forests, Conservancies, etc.).

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SATC Members,

The Middle Atlantic Trail crew with help from club members started to turnpike or raise and create drainage in a wet area on our newly acquired trail maintenance section of the AT (about 2 miles west of the Cold Spring Trail). Big thanks to all who worked with the crew and to those persons who came and contributed to the picnic. The club is going to request the crew to finish this project for next year as well. Mark your calendars a year in advance (September, October) and plan to help.

The Keystone Trails Association has a newly elected board of directors. There is an application for membership in the KTA in this Bulletin. Please consider joining. KTA provides publications and speaks for the hiking community in PA. KTA has become active in trying to preserve endangered hiking trails. Please support the KTA. Thank you.

A suggestion was made to publish the Bushwack on-line. Think about receiving your Bushwack by email and viewing it on our web site.

The Cumberland County Commissioners have shot down the commuter train in "Corridor One". As a club we need to be proactive for the commuter line. Just think of the positive benefits of not driving as much. Lower fuel prices, insurance and less traffic would result. Another help that many people do not consider is that we would lessen our financial aid to the Middle East. Let's write letters to the

Commissioners and the other officials not supporting the program and ask them to change their minds. The Club must become proactive for energy conservation!

Happy Trails, Barb Harvey



A special thanks to Casey Bicanich and the rest of ATC's Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew.

A special thanks to those who helped the Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew and to Louise Sis who organized the picnic for the Trail Crew.

To our August, September and October trail work crew volunteers (includes those who helped the Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew): Tim Bachmann, Karen Balaban, Leo Boyer, Jeff Buehler, Lee Casher, Suzanne and Carl Donmoyer, Peter Fleszar, Barb and Sam Harvey, Carolyn Jones, Gary LaBelle, Lauren McWhorter (ridge-runner), Mike Peresolak, Fred Rodgers, Tom Scully, Erich Shellenberger, Bob Sickley (ATC), Louise Sis, Bill Slabonik, John Slotterback, Daryl Stahl, Park Trullinger, Will Webster, Jeff Willard, and Pat and John Zinn.

To our trail maintainers: John & Pat Zinn, Bill Slabonik, Park Trullinger, Will & Jane Webster, Jeff Willard, Susanne Donmoyer, Joshua McKinney, Charles Paul, Pete Fleszar, Pat Markovic, Dave Hrobuchak, Tim Bachmann, Marty Gromulat, Barb & Sam Harvey, Gary Alleman, Jack Bushey, John Lenahan, Gary LaBelle, Debbie Mabry, and our Trailmaster, Jeff Buehler.

To our September, October and November hike leaders: Kelly Barker, Karen Balaban, Frank Bohn, Dot Brown, Loretta Cairo, Lee Casher, Krista Cessna, Susanne Donmoyer, Janet Eshleman, Laurel Fleszar, Peter Fleszar, Jan Fisher, Sam and Barb Harvey, Kris Kyler, Rod Manweiler, Dick Martin, Sylvia Miller, Louise and Rick Sis, Thyra Sperry, Daryl Stahl, Barbara Van Horn, Bob Wakefield, Ralph, Annette and Brandy Watts, Pat and John Zinn.

Thanks to all of the officers and board members, those serving on committees and those doing specialized tasks.

A Message from the KTA



Dear Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club Member:

The leadership of the SATC, an organizational member of the Keystone Trails Association (KTA), has graciously agreed to allow KTA to include a membership letter and application in this newsletter. The KTA Council appreciates this support as we strive to build a larger and stronger organization that can do even more for Pennsylvania's hikers and hiking trails.

In 2006, KTA will celebrate its 50th year of building, maintaining, promoting and protecting Pennsylvania's footpaths. Volunteers in KTA's trail care program spend 10 weekends a year and three weeks in the summer maintaining hiking trails around the state. A number of long distance hiking trails, such as the Donut Hole Trail, Link Trail and Chuck Keiper Trail, would not exist in their present condition if it were not for Trailcare. Thanking KTA's trail care efforts, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) recognized KTA as the Conservation Volunteer Organization of the Year in 1999.

KTA volunteers also safeguard and promote Pennsylvania hiking trails. We work to protect footpaths from those who want ATVs to have unfettered access to public lands, and are a respected voice with public officials on a range of issues important to the hiking community. KTA played a critical role in the preservation of public access to the famous Thousand Steps in Huntingdon County. We coordinate the activities of several dozen of our member clubs and, since 2002, have sponsored Pennsylvania Hiking Week in conjunction with DCNR. KTA members also enjoy the fun and fellowship of hiking weekends around the state.

With your help, KTA can do even more. The KTA Council has approved a new organizational structure and committed itself to the hiring of an executive director. These steps will not only enable KTA to do more of what it is already doing, but enhance our ability to work with land trusts, conservation organizations and public officials to secure the long-term protection of hiking trails all over Pennsylvania.

Please consider joining KTA as we look to build on our nearly half-century of work on behalf of Pennsylvania's hikers and hiking trails. A membership form is included on the following page. There are a range of membership options, including special categories for youth and youth organizations. If you have questions or would like additional information, please visit the KTA web site at www.kta-hike.org, or contact the KTA President Bill Dietrich (wdietrich@adelphia.net) or KTA Administrator Pam Metzger (info@kta-hike.org).

Sincerely,

Steve Stroman
KTA Membership Chair
stevestroman@hotmail.com
Home: 717-233-7019/Cell: 717-350-0437

See KTA Membership Application after page 17.

ABOVE THE TREE LINE In Memory of Anna Kinter

Anna Kinter died on Wednesday, November 2 at the age of 91. She was the widow of Ralph H. Kinter, one of the original founders of our club in 1954. They are survived by their son, Ralph R. Kinter. A viewing was held at Musselman Funeral Home in Lemoyne on Tuesday, November 8.

Anna met Ralph on the Club's first hike in 1954. She was elected and served as SATC's second treasurer and worked as a tireless volunteer for much of our Club's life. We remember how she and Ralph collated, folded, stapled and addressed the Bushwack Bulletin completely on their own for many years, and then, when membership grew even larger, organized popular "folding parties". The ATC awarded her the Silver Volunteer Award for her volunteer work on the AT for over 25 years.

Memorial contributions in her behalf may be made to the Wildwood Park Nature Center, 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg 17110.

Jennie Riggio is now the only surviving founder of SATC.

NEW MEMBERS

Compiled by Lisa and Chris Seiders of the SATC

Please join us in welcoming these new members:

Janet & Bob Bargh

Mechanicsburg

Christina & Michael Papson

Mechanicsburg

Kathy Burrows
 Charles & Deford Davis
 Micah Davis
 Joette Derricks
 Jeff Fisher
 Suzie & William Hilborn
 Deb Hodges
 Jonathan Hollenbach
 Andrew Kirkpatrick
 Carole Knisely
 Timothy McMahon
 Joy Myers
 Kyle Ohlson

Jonestown
 Hummelstown
 Harrisburg
 Lewisberry
 Harrisburg
 Mechanicsburg
 Carlisle
 New Cumberland
 New Cumberland
 Mechanicsburg
 Harrisburg
 Harrisburg
 Mechanicsburg

Cambria Peck
 Steve & Lydia Peddicord
 Lorrie & Bob Preston
 Susie Seighman
 Larry & Cheryl Sinoway
 Bill Slabonik
 David Waltman
 G. Neal Watson
 Jane Wilhusen
 Fern Wilson
 Daniel Wuchterl

Mechanicsburg
 Harrisburg
 Mechanicsburg
 Mechanicsburg
 Harrisburg
 Elizabethtown
 Harrisburg
 Delta
 Harrisburg
 Lemoyne
 Harrisburg

**Our Treasury, September 30, 2005
 As Reported by Richard Sis, SATC Treasurer**

Checking Account		\$ 595.12
Interest bearing Checking		1,775.93
Vanguard Fund		11,548.80
Sovereign Certificate #1		2,611.46
Sovereign Certificate #2		<u>3,379.92</u>
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED		\$19,911.23
Land Purchase-Restricted		\$ <u>3,104.44</u>
TOTAL ALL FUNDS		\$23,015.67



Next Year's Budget

At the October 13, 2005 Board Meeting, the Board approved a budget for the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. The Board budgeted \$9,175 expenses and \$6,750 revenue for the fiscal year. The shortfall will be met with our fund balance shown in the Treasurer's Report. We budgeted \$3,825 for the Bushwack Bulletin and Directory, which is the largest budgeted item. We will be looking into putting the Bulletin on our web site and/or emailing the Bulletin to members to save costs. The expenses approved at the October 13, 2005 Board Meeting to reimburse members for attendance at the Harrisburg Wilderness First Aid Course were not included in the budget.

Where to send address, name, phone number, and email changes

The Club maintains a database consisting of your name, address, phone number, and email address. Please check our latest directory to make sure the information is correct. If not please email the correct information to our Database Managers, Lisa and Chris Seiders at l-and-c@adelphia.com or call them at 214-4598. You are not required to have any or all of this information posted in the Directory, but please be sure what is in there is correct. Also, our Club Secretary, Dick Martin, needs your current email address in order to pass on timely information about Club activities that are not included in this publication. Please email updates to your email address to hikemartin@aol.com or call him at 258-5261. **Members should have a Directory attached to this Bulletin publication.**

Wilderness First Aid Course – March 18-19, 2006 in Harrisburg



An eighteen-hour class in Wilderness First Aid, a program of the Wilderness Safety Council, will be conducted in Harrisburg, PA. The course includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$160. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information phone (703) 836-8905 or visit <http://wfa.net>. Our Board covered \$120 of the cost of the Harrisburg course on November 5-6. Our Board President indicated that SATC intends to pay for part of the costs of this course, however, the Board may need to approve these expenses at the next Board Meeting. If you are interested in attending one of these courses, please contact a member of our Board prior to registering.

Stony Valley Land Swap Update

According to Bruce Smith, Majority Chairman of the House Game and Fisheries Committee, the proposed land swap is not "solely a state issue." Although the Game Commission originally purchased the land known as Game Lands 211, some of the funding for the purchase was acquired through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act). The Act provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research and the distribution of information produced by the projects. In a response to those who wrote him to express their opposition to the land swap, Mr. Smith states "the Pittman-Robertson Act and the federal government itself may have a significant role in the outcome of this issue." In other words, the federal government may interfere with any deal between the National Guard and Game Commission.

Earlier this year, National Guard officials expressed their desire to swap 2,100 acres of Harrisburg City Authority land around DeHart Reservoir with 2,100 acres of land owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission on State Game Lands 211. The 2,100 acres stretch from the top of Second Mountain to 150 feet short of Stony Creek and from Cold Spring Road on the east to line extending north from the western boundary of the Guard's training post. The Guard wants to create a buffer zone and safety zone for firing ranges. Although the Pennsylvania Game Code allows the Game Commission to exchange or swap land, the City Authority refused to sell any of its land to the National Guard so it could potentially be exchanged or swapped.

In September, a Department of Military Affairs official stated that the National Guard will make a new land exchange proposal, however, no known proposal has been made. It is likely, as reported in the Patriot-News on September 1, that the new proposal will ask for less than 2,100 acres. The Game Commission and National Guard are still discussing this issue and an agreement, at the date this issue went to print, has not been reached.

CLUB SNIPPETS

Carl Lorence heads Link Trail Hiking Club

Long-time SATC member, Carl Lorence, has been elected recently to a three-year term as President of the Link Trail Hiking Club. The trail is a 72-mile long footpath on scenic ridgelines in Huntingdon, Mifflin and Fulton Counties in the middle, south part of Pennsylvania. The trail "links" the Mid-State Trail on the northern end with the Tuscarora Trail on the southern end. The club recently held a chainsaw training course in October that a number of SATC members attended.

On Oct 1, 2005 the KTA Council voted to turn the trail over to the Link Club. A brief history: both the Tuscarora and Link Trails were under the control of the KTA but without supporting organizations. Consequently, when the Tuscarora Trail became unhikeable a motion was made to abandon the trail. Later, the Potomac ATC picked it up, forming the North Chapter. According to Carl, the trail is now in AT or better condition. In 1990, a motion was made to abandon the Link for the same reason. Carl

eventually formed the Link Club with a small group of people and after 3+ years, KTA gave management of the Link Trail to the club. The club currently has approximately 40 members.

The Club Constitution requires membership in both the KTA and Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC). The CPC helped the Link Club buy the land for the Thousand Steps and a number of SATC members bought steps and made donations to that.

Next year, club members plan to hold rock training much like the chainsaw training they had this year. Ron Kutz is the Vice President, Dr. Rich Scanlon is Treasurer, and Mike Sausser is Secretary. Mel Cooper is Trailmeister, Joe Clark Toolmeister and SATC member Tom Scully is building a Master Plan to retrace and relocate the trail to optimize backpacking and become the premier trail in PA. Our webmaster, Pete Fleszar, is also the Link Trail webmaster for <http://geocities.com/linktrail> where the monthly schedule and other information are posted. Pete also maintains a section of the Link Trail.

Carl urges you to visit the Club website and to join and become involved with the Link Trail Hiking Club.

Dogging It

One of Sylvia Miller's hikers on her September 17 Conewago Trail hike was Monica Von Dobeneck, a reporter for the Patriot-News. She interviewed the hikers with dogs in order to write a feature article on overweight pets.

Chantal Wagner of Shippensburg and her dog Meg Ryan, who have frequented many of the Club's dog-friendly hikes, was featured in the article entitled "Dogging It" which appeared in the Patriot-News on the following day. The article mentioned that the 'local Appalachian Club' recently opened some of its hikes to dogs. Six of our twenty-seven hikes scheduled for this quarter now allow dogs.

Harrisburg Inner City Outings Update

A number of our SATC members work with an inner city group known as Harrisburg Inner City Outings. SATC supports the work of this organization with an annual \$500 donation. Jane Webster submitted the following report on Harrisburg Inner City Outings at the October Board meeting:

So far, we have completed 15 outings in 2005. We are currently working with two groups of youth and the number attending each outing varies from 5 to 12. Will and I have been working with a group from the Cumberland Road Boys and Girls Club for the last 4 years. Each August we have our annual camping trip. Many kids look forward to this and talk about it in anticipation all year. This year the Cumberland Road group went to Hickory Run State Park. About half of the kids in the group were veterans of several camp-outs, but there were two who had never been camping and several who had very little experience. We were gratified to see how well they worked together at tasks like setting up tents and preparing meals. The experienced ones showed the others what to do. We have felt wonderful about observing the development of teamwork and a sense responsibility in these youth.

Over the years, we have seen an increase in their comfort level in being in the woods as well as a growth of their confidence in their outdoor skills. In the van on the way home we discussed our favorite experiences of the weekend. Most mentioned jumping off the waterfall into the very cold water in the pool below. But one young boy said his favorite part of the trip was when he got to help cook. It is hard to predict what impact different activities will have on the kids. We know that we are making a difference in their lives.

Sam Barker to go to Kuwait

Sam Barker, an avid hiker and former SATC director, will be serving with the Air Force Reserve in Kuwait for five and one-half months beginning in early December. The Club wishes him well while he serves his country. Sam hopes to make it to the Holiday Party on Saturday, December 3rd before leaving.

Special Mailing reels in forgetful members

On October 7, Fred Cox reviewed our database and found our membership down significantly from a year ago to an even 500. He organized a special mailing that reeled in at least 25 renewals within a couple weeks (our post office box was overstuffed). Please remember to pay your dues by April 1 of each year. Single memberships are still only \$10 and joint memberships are still \$15. Membership forms are included on the inside of the back cover page in all issues of the Bulletin.

Our polluted trails

Jean Pelletier, an SATC member who lives in Mechanicsburg and is the Dillsburg Library Director, woke up along with the rest of us to a number of news articles last August that have measured pollution levels in the Miracle Mile area near Carlisle as higher than in New York City. The American Lung Association ranked the Harrisburg-Carlisle-Lebanon region as the 24th highest region for "short-term particle" pollution. As an outdoor person, she is concerned about the high levels of pollution. In short, the air around here could affect our health and shorten our lifetime. She would like our Club to take this issue seriously and take a stand as we did for Stony Valley. After all, the AT passes less than 10 miles from the Miracle Mile.

The culprit that has caused the high levels is the high number of trucks in the area and the fact that truckers idle their engines to obtain power for heat, air conditioning, and phone and internet access. The State provided a \$900,000 grant to install a 73-unit system that will provide truck drivers with electricity to heat or cool their trucks. To clean our air, we need legislation that requires these systems at truck stops and legislation that requires truckers to turn off their engine. Cleaning the air around this area would not be difficult.

SATC supports area Wilderness First Aid Course

The SATC Board unanimously voted to allow five Club members a one-time \$120 reimbursement for

attending the Wilderness First Aid Course conducted in Harrisburg on November 5 and 6. Those who took the course needed to pay \$40 out of their pockets to cover the \$160 course fee. Those who completed the two-day course were awarded certifications in wilderness first aid for two years. The Wilderness Safety Council conducts these courses frequently throughout Pennsylvania and the nation. A course is generally given once a year in Harrisburg. The next Harrisburg course is March 18, 19, 2006. Our Board President indicated that SATC intends to pay for part of the costs of the March course, however, the Board may need to approve these expenses at the next Board Meeting. If you are interested in attending one of these courses, please contact a member of our Board prior to registering.

Membership Meeting program a success

Sylvia Miller led an interactive program, "How to get the most out of hikes" on a myriad of hiking topics. After short talks and demonstrations on lacing boots, alleviating aches and pains, positioning the backpack, and other topics, the floor was open to questions and comments. The experienced hikers gave numerous suggestions on these topics that benefited all especially the newer hikers. Sylvia included a stretching demonstration and required full audience participation. An interactive program

on hike leadership is planned for the next Members Meeting at the Giant store on January 10, 2006.

Spooky Hike features the ghosts of Goldmine

Hike leader, Brandy Watts, led a "spook hike" on the old railroad bed in Stony Valley. Fifteen flashlight-toting hikers gingerly walked to the old Goldmine cemetery about three miles in from the parking lot. Once there, Brandy treated us with numerous local ghost stories. According to Brandy, many headless ghosts haunted the area. We learned about the ghosts of Mason English who was decapitated by a train in the 1930's between Yellow Spring and Rattling Run. His ghost is supposed to roam the railroad bed on the anniversary of his death forever looking for his head. Then there was the headless railroad worker at Kalmia who wheels his head around in a wheelbarrow on the old Kalmia Switchback. She told us of more than a dozen different ways to find ghosts of the "blue-eyed-six" at Moonshine Church and St. Joseph's spring in Stony Valley. Then there was the woman who was buried alive only to be rediscovered when the coffin was re-entered. After a number of other stories such as these, we rushed amazingly fast down the railroad bed, quietly trying not to disturb the ghosts, back to the parking lot.

In addition to the "spook hike", Brandy has led a number of history hikes in the Goldmine area.

CLUB NOTICES

Holiday Party

When: Saturday, December 3 at 7:00 PM
Where: West Shore Senior Citizens' Center, 122 Geary Street, New Cumberland, PA
What to bring: A generous covered dish to share (hikers are big eaters)

Please join us for our annual potluck holiday celebration. Please contact Kris Kyler at 439-8540 if you are planning to attend. If you are not sure what to bring, Kris will offer suggestions.

Members are asked to bring favorite slides taken on this year's hikes or vacation trips. Please limit your presentation to 10 minutes and identify slides with your name.

If you wish to help with the party decorations, please arrive about 1 and ½ hours prior to the start of the party. If you have greens or holly that you are willing to share, please bring them along.



Winter Board Meeting (All SATC Members Invited)

Monday, January 2 @ 6:30 PM

Giant Community Center, 3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA, Community Room A

Inquire at customer service desk for location of meeting. No food allowed. If you want an item on the agenda, please contact Barb Harvey, 766-7868. Future meetings are scheduled for April 3, June 26, and October 2.

Winter Meeting for Members and Guests

Tuesday, January 10 @ 6:30 PM

Giant Community Center, 3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA, Community Room C

Inquire at customer service desk for location of meeting. No food allowed.

We will have an interactive program with focus on hiking leadership and safety.

Future meetings are scheduled for April 11, July 11 and October 10.

Special Note: All of our 2006 Board and Members and Guests' Meetings are scheduled for the Giant Community Center at the new Giant Food in Camp Hill. Board Meetings are the first Monday of the month (except July) and Members and Guests Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month.

Directions: From Harrisburg – Take I-83 South across the Susquehanna River then merge onto Route 581 (Exit 41A). Proceed two miles to Camp Hill exit (Exit 5A). Proceed ¼ mile and turn left at Trindle Road.

From the south – Take I-83 North to Exit 41A (Rt. 581). Proceed two miles to Camp Hill exit (Exit 5A). Proceed ¼ mile and turn left at Trindle Road.

From the west – Take Route 15 North into Camp Hill. Turn Left on Trindle Road.

For additional directions, please contact Kris Kyler, 439-8540.

The Conodoguinet Wetlands Walkway Project

By Frank Bohn, President CVATC

The walkway is complete! Two weeks of work by the ATC Mid-Atlantic crew and club volunteers finished the structure and deck on October 17th. Subsequent Cumberland Valley AT Club workdays (including volunteers from the Dickinson College Outing Club and the Lacrosse Team) finished the edge rail and end ramps. CVATC thanks the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the volunteers--including some SATC members--who made the project possible.

The walkway, just over 500 feet in length, is on the Trail directly south of the Scott Farm on Bernheisel Bridge Road near Carlisle. Thyra Sperry's December 1st hike and my joint CVATC/SATC hike on December 17 will cross the walkway.

Trailmaster's Report by Jeff Buehler, SATC Trailmaster

ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew Project with SATC a Success



In the first two weeks of September, our club hosted the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Mid-Atlantic Crew (MAC) for the first trail project in that seasonal trail crew's fall schedule. The MAC helps the various trail-maintaining clubs tackle difficult and challenging trail projects that they might not be able to accomplish on their own.

The weather was perfect, cool and dry, for the entire time that we worked with the MAC on the trail project on our newly assigned section of the AT on Sharp Mountain in State Game Lands #211, Dauphin County. The trail on the mountaintop between the Yellow Spring village site and the Cold Springs Trail, which follows the path of a historic former stagecoach road, had become very wet, muddy, and wide over the years due to poor drainage conditions.

Our remedy for the drainage problem was to construct "turnpike" and drainage ditches at various intervals along the trail where seasonal springs seep into the trail. Turnpike refers to a technique used in trail building to raise the level of the trail tread way in wet areas to provide a long lasting firm tread. It utilizes low rock walls (cribs) to retain site-made gravel backfill and mineral soil to make a stable walking surface.

The building of the turnpike was labor intensive and involved a lot of rock gathering and digging for the placement of the rocks along the trail. There was also a lot of manual rock crushing, using sledgehammers, for the backfill needed during the construction process. It's a slow process, but MAC leader Casey Bicanich

emphasized quality over quantity and he was an excellent instructor to crew and club volunteers alike. Casey indicated that our club was one of the best for volunteer participation with the crew in his many years of crew work.

We had over twenty different club volunteers give about 300 hours of their time to the project in addition to that of the members of the MAC. We'll definitely request the crew again next year to help us again on this ongoing project. As a show of our appreciation for the Crew and club volunteers' hard work, a picnic was held at nearby Memorial Lake State Park to thank everyone involved near the end of the work project.

Club Trail Work

During a couple of club work trips this summer we continued with some erosion control work on the AT north of PA Rt. 325 where the trail ascends Stony Mountain on an old dirt road. More rock waterbars were installed and at the site of a former coal mine where acidic yellow water constantly streams out and across the trail, we did some drainage/rock work to enhance the appearance of the area.

This was our club's first year using trail maintainers to help keep our assigned trails maintained properly. Most maintainers reported working on their sections over the growing season. The Club is counting on these volunteers to check out conditions along their trail sections periodically and to do routine maintenance tasks. We thank them all for their hard work.

SATC has received approval from our trail partners, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, and the PA Game Commission on a couple of trail relocations. One is about a mile long AT relocation that is a short distance north of the trailhead at PA Rt. 325 (Clarks Valley Rd). It will eliminate some of the existing stretch of trail that follows an old dirt road up Stony Mountain. Some sections of the road have become extremely eroded over the years and the relocation will bypass the worst parts. The new trail, when built, will travel through some interesting boulder strewn areas of the mountain and will be situated almost entirely on National Park Service protected land.

The other relocation involves an AT side trail, the blue-blazed Shikellimy Trail. This one-mile long access trail connects the AT on Peter's Mountain with PA Rt. 325. Currently, a short section of the trail runs across private land from its Rt. 325 terminus. The relocation will place the entire trail within protected Game Commission lands and also will eliminate walking along Rt. 325 to get to the parking area. We will begin trail construction on these two projects soon with club scheduled trail work trips. Come out and lend a hand. There is always something everyone can do and it's fun too!

Chainsaw Training and Certification by Jeff Buehler, SATC Trailmaster

A Chainsaw Safety Training Workshop sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) was held on the weekend of October 22 & 23, 2005 at the National Park Service (NPS) owned Scott Farm in Cumberland County. This two-day course is designed to provide volunteers using chainsaws on the Appalachian Trail (AT) with the knowledge of safe chainsaw use, identification and mitigation of hazards associated with chainsaw use along the trail, and practical experience using chainsaws. Successful completion of the course results in a 3-year certification for chainsaw use on the trail. Basic first aid and CPR are part of the requirements for chainsaw certification as well.

Four SATC members, Jeff Buehler, Pete Fleszar, Gary LaBelle, and Will Webster were among the class of ten volunteers that took the course, which is given periodically at the request of AT maintaining clubs such as ours. All are active AT maintainers and will receive free Personal Protective Equipment (chaps for leg protection, hardhats with hearing protectors and visors, safety glasses, and first aid kits) supplied by the ATC for certified chainsaw operators.

Operation of chain saws by volunteer trail workers is an essential task for AT maintenance and construction. The ATC, through its chainsaw training and certification policy, strives to provide effective training for volunteers to enable them to work safely and to meet the certification requirements that are now mandated by the NPS and the U.S. Forest Service.

Shelter Committee Chairperson Needed – Contact Jeff Buehler, Trailmaster
Club Historian Needed – Contact Barb Harvey, President



NPS Hours of Service Awards Program

The National Park Service has created an Hours of Service Award program designed to show its appreciation for the incredible number of hours that volunteers have dedicated to the AT. There are four levels of awards:

- 8-99 hours – AT volunteer pin;
 - 100 – 499 hours – AT volunteer patch;
 - 500-999 hours – AT volunteer baseball cap;
 - 1000+ hours – AT volunteer fleece vest
- Eligible hours *must* relate directly to the oversight of the Appalachian Trail.

If you would like to submit your hours to the National Park Service for an award please contact Pat Zinn, Awards Committee Chair. If you need help determining the number of maintenance or conference hours you have volunteered, please contact Jeff Buehler.

KTA News

KTA Offers Testimony to House Game & Fisheries Committee

KTA President Hugh Downing represented the state's hikers at a Pennsylvania House Game & Fisheries Committee hearing on June 9. He delivered prepared comments to, and answered questions from, the Committee considering House Bill 904, which would remove the current state law prohibition on Sunday hunting. He explained KTA's position on the issue of Sunday hunting. His complete testimony is posted on the KTA web site. Here are excerpts from his statement:

We feel that permitting hunting on Sundays would be dangerous and unfair, not only to hikers, but also to the tens of thousands of others who seek recreation in Penn's Woods: photographers, birdwatchers, picnickers, pet-owners, cross-country skiers, mountain bikers and equestrians, to name but a few. Allowing Sunday hunting would force those people, this larger constituency, to stay at home on the one day a week currently available to them for hunting-free recreation. The forest cannot be all things to all people at the same time. Many hikers avoid hunter interference by scheduling the vast majority of their hikes on Sundays and leaving the woods to the hunters for the rest of the week. We consider Sundays to be the prime day for our sport. Hunters have the woods for six days a week. Please keep one day safe and available for the rest of us...the larger constituency."

KTA Summer Trail Crew

KTA's volunteer summer trail crew completed another successful season, building over 16 miles of trail for the Mid-State Trail and relocating the Chuck Keiper Trail completely off PA 144. In Tioga County, almost ten miles of new trail north from Blackwell moves the Mid-State Trail closer its New York State border destination. In Bedford County, the almost seven miles of new trail eliminates a long road walk. Under the leadership of Trail Care Chair Joe Healey, 52 volunteers worked over 1800 hours during the three weeks in June. Anyone interested in joining KTA's efforts to "preserve Pennsylvania's footpaths" can check the KTA web page www.kta-hike.org for the schedule or contact Joe at 570-655-4979 or jhlhealey@aol.com. No experience is needed; KTA provides instruction and tools.

T-Shirt Design Contest

Calling all would-be fashion designers! KTA will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2006 and this

milestone calls for a new 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 December 15th for announcement in the Winter 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 our winning artist.

THE SUSQUEHANNA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB, INC.

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