

BRUSHWHACKER

Spring 2008

Somewhat regular publication of the Mid State Trail Association



TRAIL CREW ON MID STATE TRAIL

Keystone Trails Association Trail Crew will return to Tioga Region for the sixth consecutive year, June 17-22, 2008. Base camp this time will be the pretty group campsite at Hills Creek State Park between Wellsboro and Mansfield. We hope to finish as much of the MST route as possible this year as the KTA Crew will not be returning to the north end of MST for the foreseeable future. Mike Sidell has lined up several landowners already between Hills Creek Park and the north end of continuous MST, and we are cleared to proceed north from Cowanesque Lake as well. We will also be improving treadway on some parts of the already opened route. Be a part of history on the final drive to the 42nd parallel! Sign up with Joe Healey to stay and eat and ask Pete Fleszar questions about the work. Contact information on page 2.

The KTA also sponsors trail care weekends and crew weeks on other trails and at other times of the year. For more information view their web site at www.kta-hike.org or contact the new headquarters at 107 North Front Street, Suite 112, Harrisburg, PA 17101, phone 717-215-8339.

11th Edition of the Guide to the Mid State Trail

The eleventh edition of the guide is being proof read in anticipation of being published soon. The guide will have distances in kilometers in both directions with north bound and south bound on the right and left margins, respectively and text in the center. The guide will be accompanied by color maps printed on tyvek. The maps will be capable of use with a GPS device, maps use the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid system. The guide also includes much other useful information on shuttle services, camping, food availability, and much more.

KTA Trail Care on the MST

July 11-13 State College Region
Leader - Tom Thwaites 814-237-7703
Camp at Greenwood Furnace State Park

October 24-26 Everett Region
Leader Deb Dunkle 814-652-2227
Camp at Tenley Park in Everett

Hiking Week in Pennsylvania

May 24 to June 1

National Trails Day

June 7

Meeting of the Mid State Trail Association

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday evening, June 21, at Hills Creek State Park, in conjunction with the Trail Crew working on the Mid State Trail. What better way to celebrate the first full day of Summer?

Mid State Trail
An Important and Scenic Part

<http://www.greateastertrail.org>



The Mid State Trail Association was founded in 1982. Our bylaws state: The purpose of this organization shall be the completion and preservation of the Mid State Hiking Trail System. To this end the MSTA will: Supervise, coordinate, and carry out trail work. Ensure that maps and guides are available for the hiking public. Enter into agreements with private landowners and public land managers to provide for the trail. Take such other actions as may be appropriate to further the purpose of the organization.

Adopted September 30, 1984

Elections are held every other year at the first meeting of the year.

Current officers, elected for two year term until winter 2009:

Tom Kelliher, President
kelliherATDhike-mst.org
410.931.2946

Ed Lawrence, Vice President
cathyedATDnationi.net
570.925.5285

Scott Adams, Secretary
scottATDtheadams.net

Kirk Bucynski, Treasurer
bucynskiATDverizon.net

Mid State Trail Association
PO Box 167
Boalsburg, PA 16827

The Mid State Trail is divided into four regions with a manager for each region. Managers are:

Pete Fleszar, Tioga Region
msttiogaATDepix.net

Joe Healey, Woolrich Region
JnlhealeyATDaol.com

Tom Thwaites, State College Region
Ttt2ATDpennswoods.net

Deb Dunkle, Everett Region
dhdunkleATDembarqmail.com

Steve Tuckerman, Webmaster
Stevetuckerman1954ATDmsn.com

MSTA web site
<http://hike-mst.org>

To join the MSTA please send your name, and address, with dues to the MSTA. Dues are \$10.00 per family per calendar year or portion thereof. Please indicate if you would like to oversee a part of Pennsylvania's wildest trail. ☺

This newsletter is published approximately once each season and distributed to members of the MSTA. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The Editors encourage submission 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 by email, disc, or CD.

Newsletter editor, Mike Cosgrove, 610.449.4612

Editorial Note:

Apparently email addresses have been mined from the newsletters posted on the web site. Hence, email addresses will be listed with **ATD** (in bold) replacing the "@" symbol. Please replace the "ATD" with "@" when sending email. For example the address appearing as **myspamATDmyspam.com** would really be **myspam@myspam.com**

Regional News

Tioga Region, Pete Fleszar regional manager



On a hike on the MST near Haunted Vista at the April KTA meeting. A blow down was encountered and some people just can't resist. Always carry that saw with you. Pictured KTA trail care leader and Woolrich Region manager.

Northeast Ohio Backpacking Club Does MST

In fall 2006, an Internet-based Ohio hiking group, <http://neohbackpackingclub.com>, started section-hiking MST from north to south, starting at Bradley Wales Picnic Area on the West Rim Trail. These determined Buckeyes head out to quite a number of different places (WV high country, Michigan's U.P., out West) but their trip logs on the web site record their overwhelmingly favorable impressions of our footpath, and the Pennsylvania establishments they visit on their way to and from the trail. Here are some examples:

"[We] gathered ourselves and headed 4 miles south on 4001 to the Waterville Hotel. A lovely, non-smoking bar/restaurant/inn located right on Pine Creek. We all mowed down homemade blueberry pancakes and coffee, while reviewing our maps. At around 9:45 am, we left for Susque Valley Animal Hospital, which was our point of reference for the Mid-State Trail. We easily found it and the resident veterinarian was quite accommodating by allowing us to park one car in their lot overnight for free. Just after 10 am, we were off onto the trail heading toward the small town of Avis and the famous original Woolrich Factory Store. In this short 2 mile stretch, we chatted with 3 local bow hunters that were very nice. Minutes later, we doffed our packs on an outside bench and headed into Woolrich. WOW! I'm glad we hiked this direction on the trail. Otherwise, my pack would have been chuck full of goodies! Lots of sales, free food samples, 10 cent coffee and tons of hiking/backpacking gear waiting to ring up the credit cards." "We reached Poe Paddy State Park and dropped our packs and hiked a mile north on Mid State back to revisit the tunnel under Poe Mountain. We were all really glad we did. It was a nice day, although overcast. The birds were abundant. And coolest of all were the ice stalagmites and stalactites in the tunnel. It was eerie and cool."

“We didn't want to take any chances camping in State Game Lands. Additionally, there is no water. However, this ridge top is SPECTACULAR. I would call the views 320 degrees. The only place you don't have views is directly in front of or behind. There are places where cliffs drop sheerly from both sides as you make your way along the knife ridge. Good stuff.”

“RV's Mountain Top is above the town of Tioga, PA not far from the NY border. The Mid State trail actually runs right through the campground. We found the owner of the resort to be extremely hiker friendly. He offered directions, helpful advice, and was very accommodating. The resort actually sits right on the mountain top which was perfect for the hot weather we experienced. Temperatures were pleasant in the evening and a consistent breeze kept the humidity and many of the insects at bay.”

Generally fast cool season hikers, one carried a GPS the whole way collecting leaves-off track data that will prove very useful for our next generation of updated maps. They took photos, too, but I'll leave you to check out their website for those. Having completed even the disconnected Hills Creek to Tompkins section last September four of the NEOH group became possibly the first folks to finish the entire MST as presently constituted. They'll just have to come back later this year..

Tool Cache in Tioga Region

Trail working tools are being stored at a cache at Cowanesque. Just about anything you would need to build or maintain the trail. These tools are available for maintainers to use on the Mid State Trail. Contact Pete Fleszar.

Everett Region, Debra Dunkle regional manager

S. Woodby. Won't Take Footbridge

The article is reproduced in part from the Morrisons Cove Herald. This article was published in the Morrisons Cove Herald on March 6, 2008 and a correction to the votes by the Board of Supervisors on March 13 .

South Woodbury Township's Board of Supervisors, on the advice of their solicitor, turned down a request by the Mid-State Trail Association to assume ownership of a new footbridge to replace the swinging bridge in Loysburg Gap.

Deborah Dunkle, Everett Region manager of the trail, expressed disappointment but said Mid-State Trail would proceed with its plans to install an 80 foot fiberglass footbridge across Yellow Creek and search for another agency that might be willing to assume ownership.

The township supervisors based their decision on the advice of Atty, ..., that ownership of the bridge would create a liability for the township, noting it would cross a stream that sometimes floods.

...
The supervisors indicated that they would be willing to make a donation if the trail association comes back to them after plans are finalized.

Ed. Note: The Association is looking into several ways of crossing Yellow Creek, not just the bridge mentioned above.

State College Region, Tom Thwaites regional manager

When a Birder Hikes

ed. note: we don't know the identity of the birder who noted these many birds along the MST, the information was provided by Jean Aron, an avid MST birder as well.

A birder hiked 11-mile section of Mid-State from Rt. 45 to R.B. Winter State Park. And noted the following birds present: Hooded Warbler -- a few, Canada Warbler -- a few, Blackburnian Warbler many, BT Green Warbler many, Blackburnian Warbler many, BT Blue Warbler many, B&W Warbler many, Chestnut-Sided Warbler several, Magnolia Warbler -- a few, Golden-crowned Thrush (Ovenbird) many, Solitary Vireo many, Common Yellowthroat -- a few, Hermit Thrush -- a few, Broad-Winged Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, YB Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Raven, Blue Jaymany, Robinseveral, Eastern Towhee many.

State of the Treasury

Andrea Commaker, Treasurer (former)

As of 3/31/08 Money Market Checking Account \$6,724.98, CDs: \$17,560.25 and \$17,119.24 and Yellow Bridge Account \$6,964.06. I will tell you that we have had 4 individuals/couples become life members (\$200.00) during the last three months.

Jean Aron Retires as Secretary

After many years of service to the Mid State Trail, even before the MSTA was formed, Jean Aron has stepped down as Secretary. Over the years Jean has kept the membership records, helped with many publications, been instrumental in producing the earlier maps and guides, and maintained the mail order of maps and guides and other Mid State items. Jean was in on the beginning of the Mid State Trail as a member, along with her husband Gert, of the Penn State Outing Club. We will wear our orange Mid State Trail T-shirts, which Jean designed, with the caption “We are not outstanding, We are out hiking” in fond memory of her many contributions. Thank You and Many Happy Trails.

Andrea Commaker Resigns as Treasurer

For the last few years Andrea has kept the finances of the Association. We would like to thank Andrea for her years of service and wish her Many Happy Trails.

Replacements

Scott Adams, has been elected by the board to act as secretary, and Kirk Bucynski, as treasurer until the end of the current terms of office. Welcome Scott and Kirk.

Local Native American Place Names in New York and Pennsylvania

Susquehanna-Algonquin word meaning “muddy current”
Cowanesque-meaning “overrun with briars”



MSTA meeting in Laurelton

photo Penny W. Staver

Ralph Seeley front, and Pete Fleszar working on plans for routing and building the Mid State Trail.

Audubon Society, Mid State Trail, Tioga Region

Pete Fleszar

I thought you'd like to see the very nice write-up that Gary Tyson, volunteer webmaster for the Tiadaghton Audubon Society, placed on the Tioga Audubon Society web site featuring the Mid State Trail as it passes nearly all the listed birding hot spots of Tioga County: Web site <http://www.tiaudubon.org/index.html>
Perhaps in the future TAS and MSTA can do more together mutually supporting our common objective of enjoying the outdoors in Tioga County.

Mid State Trail Association Google Group.

The Association no longer maintains the members list serve. Members may receive and post notices to the google site. The URL is <http://groups.google.com/group/msta-members>. If you do not want to set up a Google Groups account please send a request to subscribe@hike-mst.org

Make the Mid State Trail Yours

Opportunities continue for new overseers for sections of the 430 or so kilometers of the Mid State Trail. It's a wonderful excuse to get out and hike the trail at least three times per year. We will help you if you run into situations you can't handle yourself.

Comments, questions, suggestions, and volunteers to help with all aspects of trail care are always welcome. Please contact the Mid State Trail Association or msttioga@epix.net

Report Trail Damage

The best way to report trail damage or maintenance issues is through the Keystone Trails Association website according to Tom Thwaites. The address is:

[Http://www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org)

Alternately or concurrently report to the regional trail manager or the MSTA website. If it isn't reported we may think everything is fine!

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