

SPRING 2011

Brushwhacker

Bedford County Local History and the MST

by Deb Dunkle

Could you imagine being the first hiker through the rocks and briars on the Mid State Trail, back in 1625? In the April 2nd edition of the Shoppers Guide, a local historian, Jon Baughman, wrote

an article examining Bedford County place names. Below is part of his article, discussing trails that the Mid State now utilizes.

*Excerpt from
Jon Baughman's
article:*

"Southampton Township (Chaneyville south to MD border) was part of Bedford's three original townships (Bedford, Cumberland and Colerain)- named from the largest city in Hampshire, England. Southampton Township was organized in 1799. This region can be traced back to the settlement of Virginia colony by Captain Thomas Powell. In 1625 Powell set off on an expedition to explore the interior of Virginia. Indians told him there was silver and lead to the north. I only included the Bedford County part and the parenthesis are to help the reader. Following is Powell's report of Oct 25, 1625:

'And came to another water as though it came from the North Star, we followed it three days travel, we came to where three waters came together, one was near the star. The water had a sweetish taste, was full of the most beautiful speckled fish we had ever seen. There were lots of Indians here, they showed us all the friendship they could, we continued up this till we came to high ground, we went beyond that, where the water runs toward the

North Star, we then turned and came back to the big water we had crossed'...

There have been a number of attempts to retrace Powell's steps. The parts relevant to southern Bedford County are the water "as though it came from the North Star" is believed to be Town Creek (between Flintstone, MD and Chaneyville, PA). The three waters come together at the upper reaches of Town Creek near Chaneyville. The sweet water is Sweet Root Creek.

References to speckled fish - it is recorded that this stream was once so full of trout that you could catch enough in two hours to feed your family for a week - (local source, Regina Williams). The high ground is believed to be Martin's Hill, where Powell's party crossed into Friends Cove, then headed northward to present day Ashcom, where Powell expedition headed south again. Before leaving, Powell had been told that the Indians at this location were not friendly (must be those Everett Warriors!). It is possible that from Ashcom the explorers went east toward Juniata Crossing (towards Breezewood).

John HP Adams, Southampton Township businessman in the late 1800s is the source for the Powell narrative. Adams wrote down much of the early history of the region. Adams said the final report issued by Powell was given to one Martin Cresap as having been handed down by his ancestors. (Cresap town, MD)."

For the complete article, see Shoppers Guide Weekend Edition, Bedford, April 2 & 3, 2011. Upon writing Mr. Baughman and asking his permission to print part of his article in our newsletter, Mr. Baughman replies:

"Thanks for writing. I was not aware the trail covers this route, and I will mention it in the next article. You are welcome to use any excerpts from these articles in the newsletter. Of course, I "borrowed" this narrative from another

source and since it has been duplicated many times I doubt there is any "ownership" of it. The earliest reference I found to the Powell expedition was in copies of the Everett Republican from the early 1900s, but laid them away and can't find them. Best wishes! JON."

Hike On The Great Eastern Trail

By Pete Fleszar

MSTA will be hosting the first Northern meeting of the full Great Eastern Trail Board in mid-May. Woolrich, Inc., a long time partner of MST, has made our meeting possible through an exceptionally generous donation. Thanks to Bruce Heggenstaller and everyone at Woolrich, and of course Joe Healey who laid the groundwork and made the arrangements.

The day after our Board meeting we will have a hike for the Board and anyone who would like to join us, under the auspices of Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club <http://www.satc-hike.org> Details are:

May 15, Sunday, 9:30 AM. Hike with the Great Eastern Trail Board. Pace: Brisk, Terrain: Strenuous, Length: 7 miles (Lycoming County). This will be a strenuous loop hike on the Mid State/Great Eastern and other trails around the west side of Little Pine State Park. Meet the Great Eastern Trail Board which is meeting in nearby Woolrich. Slight variation of the hike found at <http://midatlantichikes.com/midstate-lp.htm>. Meet at main parking lot by stone bathrooms, Little Pine State Park, Waterville PA. Hike Leader: Peter Fleszar, 717 576-3112 (cell), gis@hike-mst.org

A dedicated Virginia volunteer, Tim Hupp, has started a newsletter for the entire GET. Check this out and other developments too on the web site <http://www.greateastertrail.net>.



In The Regions....

State College Region

by Kevin Busko

The KTA sponsored the first weekend trailcare of 2011 during the weekend of March 25-27. The State College Region of the Mid State Trail was the location for the event. The volunteer crew bunked once again in Rimmey Lodge at Seven Mountains Boy Scout Camp. Unlike the 60 degree sunny weather of last

year's trailcare, this year brought ice covered trees and brush and the temperatures didn't get out of the low 30's. This did not prevent 26 volunteers

from showing up for the Saturday work schedule. Several workers were Boy Scouts who were coming out for some conservation time required for advancement and/or a 50 miler award.

Saturday saw five crews headed out to the trail. One crew performed lopping, brush trimming, and chainsaw work on the trail from Laurel Run Rd. on top of Tussey Mountain north past Little Flat fire tower to just past the Tom Thwaites monument. The second crew worked just north of the first crew and lopped, brush trimmed, and chainsawed from North Meadows Trail junction to North Meadows Rd.. Crew three cleared the Indian Trail from Crowfield Rd. to the MST between Penn Roosevelt S.P. and US 322. Crew four hiked up the Eagle Trail from the Scout Camp and cleared the trail from the Eagle Trail junction north to Stillhouse Hollow. The fifth crew replaced a trail junction sign at the north end of Green's Valley.

After a productive day's work some folks headed for home and a shower and most of those who were staying the night headed up to Centre Hall for a well deserved supper at Brothers Pizza.

Sunday saw a small crew clearing out the Big Valley Vista and the rest of the workers finished up some lopping and brush cutting in Green's Valley that had been started the year before.

Thanks again to everyone who took the time to come out a give us a hand. Thanks also to the Keystone Trails Association for sponsoring the event and providing tools and manpower. There are still several sections of trail available for adoption by a caring maintainer. Contact Kevin Busko by e-mail at kbusko@verizon.net or by phone at 814-643-4238 if interested.another.

Woolrich Region

by Joe Healey

Gas drilling is going strong in the Woolrich Region. I was told there will be 40 gas well pads up on the top of Houselander Mountain. There also will be a new pipeline crossing the top of the mountain which will impact the Mid State Trail in the vicinity of where it crosses Ramsey Road. This is where one of the reroutes has to be done once the pipeline is finished. Speaking of Ramsey Road, I was also informed that Ramsey Road was widened to 40 feet from 14 feet. That alone impacts Houselander Mountain very negatively.

After a few years of using the KTA DR trimmer, the Mid State Trail Association finally decided to purchase one of their own. A big thanks to KTA for use of their trimmer!! When I ordered it, I was told I would either have to go to Allentown to pick it up or, even worse, drive up to Vermont where they are made and that was just too far. With a little persuasion, I talked the company into having it delivered to Wilkes-Barre, which is only about three miles from where I live. When I got the call from ABF Freight to pick it up, off I went, anxious to get another DR trimmer again back in my garage where the original KTA monster, now departed to Ed's house, left a big empty space. When I got there to take

it home with me, it was safe and sound in a very large box weighing 530 lbs, not kilos. With the aid of a forklift, it wound up on the back of my truck. I had to assemble the trimmer on my truck, which was quite a project, I might add. Once I got it together, I then had to buy a set of aluminum ramps to get it off my truck, but I needed the ramps anyway as the other ones went along with KTA's trimmer to Ed's. Now The Woolrich Region and any other Mid State Trail region can use the 18 hp. machine. Only thing that is needed now is a truck for transport. The Mid State Trail should get many years of service from this machine. It will only be used on old logging roads and sections of trail with no rocks. Coincidentally, a lot of the Mid State Trail is on old logging roads with no rocks. If any of the overseers need to have their section mowed, let me know and something could be worked out.

The MSTa has also authorized me to purchase 10 new support packs for the regions and I got a very good price from Campmor. They are Kelty packs with side pockets and should all be divvied out to the regions soon. Thank you again for all the great help.

Everett Region

by Deb Dunkle

Chris Dunlap, Shirley Lentz and John Stein, Joe Clark, and Dave Wittmer hope to come out and begin scouting out areas in April 2011 to get ready for the KTA Everett region trail crew week June 21-26, 2011. If you haven't visited this part of the MST, you really need to sign up for this year's crew for a day or all week. Good work, good vistas, good company but the best part is the meals cooked by the Everett COB ladies crew - they almost outdid me! Primitive camping at Tenley Park and guaranteed evening fun conversation. Lots of work does occur and lots of fun memories.

The YCB Project is still progressing forward. Currently MSTa is in the midst of the DEP permit process. Some DCNR challenges still need to be met and we hope to have a new bridge at some point in time. Anyone interested in making any donations towards the Yellow Creek



Bridge project can contact Debra H Dunkle Everett region manager. Easiest contact is via email: dhunkle@embarq-mail.com

Tioga Region

by Peter Fleszar

The MST Tioga Region Trail Crew, June 7-12, 2011 will be working on improving drainage along Sand Run Falls Trail and extending it by clearing new footpath along a new off-road relocation of MST. We will also be assisting overseers of existing trail throughout Tioga County (PA) with chain saw, drainage, mowing, blazing, sign installation, and other tasks too big for individual overseers.

Folks coming out for the day should join us a little before 8 am any day from Wednesday, June 8, through Sunday, June 12, at the KTA crew campsite, which by courtesy of a private landowner friend of MST is located at the west end of Arnot, on Arnot Road opposite the end of Landrus Road. From Wellsboro take US 6 east, then turn right and right again at large signs for "Church of Christ," but continue considerably further than the church, around the bends and through the woods to Arnot, we will be on the left coming into town. While the Crew is in residence KTA signs will be up at the end of the driveway to confirm the location.

If anyone would like to meet us at a particular work site rather than at the

campsite, call me the evening before to find out where we will be, cell phone 717 576-3112 or my camp 570 835-5954. On one or another day we might be at sites ranging from Cowanesque Lake to Blackwell.

People who are staying at the campsite and/or expect to eat with the Crew should so arrange as provided on KTA website – note we are week #2. Directions are also noted there coming from US 15 at Blossburg for the sake of out-landers.

In other news, we will host a group hike for GETA Board members and open to all, on the MST and other trails in the Little Pine area on Sunday, May 15. Watch the msta-members mailing list for further details as the time gets closer.

State of the Treasury

by Kirk Bucynski

Account balances as of 4/10/11 are as follows: Money Market Checking Account \$35,170.04 and YCB Savings Account \$100.00.

The YCB account reflects the minimum balance required to avoid monthly service charges - the rest of the money there was spent on the project. Power tools and other items approved at January meeting have all been purchased.

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CONTACT THE MID STATE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

For additional information about the Mid State Trail Association, the Mid State Trail, or any articles written in this newsletter, please send all inquiries (via postal or electronic mail) to:

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Mid State Trail Association runs from January 1st to December 31st. Individual membership dues are \$12 and Family membership dues are \$15. Lifetime membership dues are \$250. Trail overseers are also needed for sections of the trail. Please contact one of the regional managers if you have interest becoming a trail overseer.

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The Three Rs of Maintaing the Mid State Trail

By Ed Lawrence

As the hiking season comes into view section maintainers need to thaw out their "fundimentals". The 3Rs of MST trail work are: Workers Comp forms (2) to DCNR, safety and safety.

Each year the Mid State Trail Association, as an organization, becomes a Conservation Volunteer partner with DCNR as the first step in a two step process that allows us to continue our mission of keeping the MST the wildest walk in Penn's woods. The second step requires individual maintainers to sign off on two Workers Comp forms and to deliver them to a District Forest or State Park office, either by hand or in the mail. Signing and delivering these forms is very important because it means that Workman's Compensation will cover individu-

als should they be injured while working on land managed by DCNR. These two forms can be found on the MSTA website by clicking on 'Maintainer's DCNR forms'. Hand delivering these forms is also a good way to meet and introduce yourself to the dedicated public land managers of our state forests and parks. The MSTA is justly proud of the excellent working relationship that we maintain with DCNR and its employees.

Safety and Safety are the remaining two Rs that maintainers should always keep in mind when out on the trail. Make sure that someone knows where you will be working and when you expect to be back, and always wear the appropriate safety equipment for the tools being used.

Membership Fees

By Scott Adams

At our latest meeting, members of the MSTA agreed upon increasing membership fees. The current fees have been in place for over 10 years and it was decided that a modest increase was needed to keep up with ever increasing expenses.

Effective June 1, 2011 membership in the MSTA will now be \$12 for an Individual, \$15 for a Family, and \$250 for a Lifetime membership. You still have time to renew your membership at the lower rates. If you'd like to renew your membership, simply send a check or money order (made out to the 'Mid State Trail Association') for \$10 to: MSTA, PO Box 885, Huntingdon, PA 16652. We will also begin to accept membership renewals via the website. An announcement will be made on the hike-mst.org home page when this payment option will be available.

www.hike-mst.org

If you haven't done so, don't forget to renew your MSTA membership.

Place
Postage
Here.

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