

SUMMER 2009

Brushwhacker

Join Us and Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of The Mid State Trail

by Scott Adams

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Mid State Trail. In September of 1969, Dr. Thomas Thwaites and the Penn State Outings Club began the construction of the Mid State Trail. What started with the first clearing of trail on Little Flat in Rothrock State Forest soon reached from US route 22 in Huntington County to the small hamlet of Blackwell in Tioga County. Forty years later the trail now spans the entire state of Pennsylvania, stretching from the Mason-Dixon line to the Empire state.

To commemorate the Mid State Trail's 40th Anniversary, the Mid State Trail Association is sponsoring a party in honor of the trail. We invite you, and all hikers, to join us for this mixer and to share your experiences on Pennsylvania's wildest footpath.

The 40th Anniversary party for the Mid State Trail will be held on Sunday, July 12th, 2009 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM. The party will be held at the Elk Creek Café + Aleworks located in downtown Millheim, PA. Tim Bowser, the owner of the Elk Creek Café, has graciously offered to host this event for us. Not only is Tim providing a place for this event, he will also be tapping their latest seasonal beer, the Mid State Trail Ale.

Mark your calendars and prepare to join us in the celebration of the Mid State Trail's 40th anniversary. Good times and memories will be shared with all. You'll also be one of the first to try the new Mid State Trail Ale. Hope to see you there.

Support the Keystone Trails Association and the Mid State Trail Association

By Ed Lawrence

The Mid State Trail Association is a member of and supports Pennsylvania's umbrella hiking association, the Keystone Trails Association. For over 50 years the KTA has been building, maintaining, protecting and promoting hiking trails and the hiking experience throughout the Commonwealth. Individuals can now join KTA, membership is \$15 for individual and \$20 for family, and have \$5 dollars return to the MSTA. It is a win-win-win situation. Join KTA online at www.kta-hike.org and tell them the MSTA sent you.

The New Map & Guide Sets Are Now Available

by Scott Adams

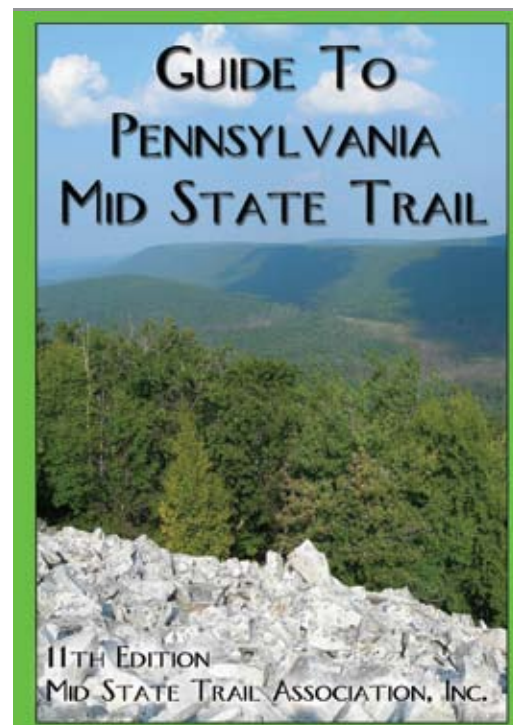
It was a long wait but the 11th edition of the Mid State Trail guide is now here. This latest edition, entitled "Guide To Pennsylvania Mid State Trail" covers the entire Mid State Trail, from Maryland to New York.

The new guide is formatted a little differently than the previous editions. Trail directions and features are now

presented in a table format. Also listed are distances for both north-bound and south-bound hikers. This new format, along with the addition of the Tioga region, has expanded the guide to 352 pages.

The new Map & Guide Set also features two full color maps. These water proof maps show the route of the MST from Waterstreet in Huntingdon County northward to the town of Blackwell in Tioga County. The Everett region, south of Waterstreet, is still depicted on four black and white maps. Maps of the Tioga region are not included with the Map & Guide Set but can be found on the MST website (hike-mst.org).

Copies of the Map & Guide Set can be purchased at many local outfitters. You can also purchase the complete Map & Guide Set, individual maps, or the trail guide only on the MST website (hike-mst.org). Your purchase of maps, trail guides, and the Map & Guide Set help support the Mid State Trail.



I Walked with Daniel Boone (aka: George Schubert) On the Mid State Trail

by Francis Champ Zumbrun

Thomas Thwaites, founder of the Mid State Pennsylvania trail (MST), had a vision more than 40 years ago to establish a trail in mid-state Pennsylvania to offer a more rugged wilderness

hiking experience as compared to the Appalachian Trail. Forty years later, I can attest that his vision became a reality, because on April

19, 2009, I hiked for the first time on a beautiful section of the MST through Buchanan State Forest on Tussey Mountain, just north of Flintstone, Maryland.

The MST is part of the Great Eastern Trail (GET) which extends from Florida north to near the Great Lakes. The MST trail is blazed with orange paint in Pennsylvania. This differs from the Maryland side, where the hiking trail is blazed with white paint at Green Ridge State Forest. The GET in Maryland connects with the MST in Pennsylvania just north of Flintstone, MD.

George Schubert was our trail guide. "George Schubert has become our new trail meister, the trail master extraordinaire. He brings trails back to life," said John Stein, past Everett regional manager of the MST for more than ten years.

Three members closely associated with the MST helped make the hike that day possible: John Stein organized the hike, George Schubert worked on the trails, and Debra Dunkle assisted with a variety of tasks, including providing tasty cookies for all to enjoy. Twenty-two people attended the hike and eighteen finished it.

George told the hikers that day that it brought tears to his eyes when he saw a trail that was not well maintained. He just had to open it up. He means business. George has the largest variety and arsenal of trail clearing tools I have ever seen one person own, stored lovingly in the back of his truck.

"I try to create trails that don't exist," George said. "I do have a favorite trail. It is much like asking if you have a favorite child, but if I must pick one, this is it," referring to the hiking trail on Tussey mountain.

George continued: "I'll tell you what I love best about this place; the ridge tops are full of fountains! At 2,000 feet you

can find springs and ponds. This hike passes by Big Pond and Little Pond, remarkable natural features on the crest of Tussey Mountain. There are springs that are still bubbling water even during dry periods 2000 feet above sea level on the crest of the ridge!"

These fountains and ponds are indeed amazing to see, especially when you realize that you are hiking in the ridge and valley province. In the rain shadow of the Allegheny Front, this region receives the least rainfall in the state. From my experience as a forester at Green Ridge State Forest in Maryland, I know that vernal ponds are fairly rare in the ridge and valley province, so I was pleasantly surprised to observe how remarkably abundant they were on this ridge.

Another feature of the trail is its remoteness. One hiker noted how unusual it was not to hear any traffic noise from the trail.

George would not allow the party to leave Tussey Mountain until they saw Pond Hollow, where all the mountain water from the ridge gathers and runs from the ponds and fountains on the crest



down to Pond Hollow, where on this day, cascading waterfalls could be seen falling down a steep mountain stream.

The place-names along the trail are interesting and stir the imagination. For instance, on this day we hiked or passed by place-names like Burnt Mills Road, Laurel Branch, Wildcat Hollow, Fetters Trail, Johnson Trail, Carnes Trail, Summerville Gap, Dickens Trail, and Morris Trail, named for a forest warden named McKinley Morris.

Perhaps we should name all our major trails on the GET after forest wardens, or for other individuals who have worked so hard to preserve and conserve areas like this for us and posterity to enjoy.

The imagination really awakens when you realize you are hiking near the ancient Warrior's Path on Warrior Ridge that parallels Tussey Mountain to

the east. Warrior's Path is one of the longest Indian trails in America that ran from central New York to the Carolina mountains.

The first woody plant to flower in spring in this region is serviceberry, and it was in full flower on the lower east-facing slope on the day of our hike. As we ascended up toward the ridge, it had not yet bloomed, illustrating that spring first occurs on the lower mountain slopes before progressing up the ridge.



One of the values of trails like the one on Tussey Mountain is that the hiking experience builds a support group of people who come to respect nature, outdoor recreation, and the environment. People new to hiking quickly realize that these trails and the surrounding natural community are priceless natural gems worthy of protection and conservation.

I was happy to have the privilege to hike along with George. I think of him as a modern day Daniel Boone, the pathfinder and trailblazer. In April he has already put in 50 days working in four

different states opening and maintaining hiking trails. Before the end of the year, if he does like he did last year, George will have donated more than 500-hours of volunteer time maintaining hiking trails in the four state area of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia, and Virginia.

I am a forester and I couldn't help but note the variety of forest diversity I saw on Tussey Mountain on this 12 ½ mile hiking jaunt. There were rocky cliffs and outcrops, vernal ponds with Jefferson salamander eggs, chestnut oak stands, heath-oak forest rich with mountain laurel in the under-story, cove forests with bass wood, yellow poplar, and sugar maple; and at the ridge tops, montaine pine stands consisting of table mountain, white pine, pitch pine, and virginia pine.

But like George, I just couldn't get over all the water running across the ridge top at 2,000 feet above sea level. The new friends I met that day and the beauty discovered along the trail made it worth the time and all the energy I expended hiking up that mountain slope on a beautiful spring Sunday afternoon.

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Mid State Trail Association runs from January 1st to December 31st. Individual and Family membership dues are \$10. Lifetime membership dues are \$200. 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.

In The Regions....

Everett Region

by Deb Dunkle

Priority News!

Grease up your elbows, start deep knee bends, then pack up your tent for FUN-- June 22 thru June 28, 2009 at Tenley Park for MSTA Everett Region KTA trail care.

The region has been missing about 7 overseers so it will help the area immensely if you could donate some time

to perform a good trim back! You will get free info to the access points, enabling you to come back and wander thru vistas and enjoy the quiet country

life in Bedford, Blair, and Huntingdon counties.

Camping accommodations have been arranged at Tenley Park in Everett, PA - Good foods by the Everett COB ladies are already lined up. Please register with KTA - Bossman Joe Healey for this much needed trail care in the MSTA Everett region.

News from the Everett Region

Kudos to George Schubert, Harpers Ferry, WV - he has been the trail master extraordinaire in clearing out the MSTA trail path to the Maryland border.

George maintains over 250 miles of different trails all over the east coast of the US.

George has admitted that the Ponds View Trail in Buchanan State Forest down to Wildcat Ravine is his all time personal fave trail. George birthed this route in March 2009 and, just in time for the MSTA April hike, he had managed to get the vistas put together for a fun hike. The highlight is the spring that he found that follows down into the ravine, rushing and roaring the spring thaw waters

towards Green Ridge State Park and onto the Chesapeake Bay area.

More news from the Everett Region

One of the Everett region trail maintainers has been selected as the Target 2010 Iditarod Teacher of the Trail. Herb Brambley, Breezewood, has been a gracious volunteer for the Everett region and a reliable volunteer that can be depended on for projects.

The last project in Oct. 2008 was clearing downed trees of large sizes, for a stretch of 4 miles. Herb handled the situation in stride; five hours later he checked in by phone that the job was complete, and all was done in the pouring rain!

Herb has worked as a machinist, tool and die maker, welder, farrier, blacksmith, sawyer and teacher for the last 10 years at Southern Fulton.

For the Iditarod Teacher, Herb completed 10 lessons from the Info Technology and Environment standpoint. This will be the first time the Iditarod uses IT and Environmental lesson plans for the race. He wants to give the MSTA an informative talk but will be in Alaska during the Everett region trail care. He has promised to schedule with MSTA for another time. Herb has donated his knowledge, hard work ethic, patience and enthusiasm to Pennsylvania's wildest foot path! Thank you Herb, and Good Luck during the Iditarod March 2010.

What's Happening to the YCB?

The Yellow Creek Bridge is still in the works - We haven't thrown in the towel yet!

Some unexpected delays with PENNDOT were encounter this spring, but these challenges have been worked out. We are currently working with landowners' concerns in the bridge area.

Extension papers need filed with the DCNR papers then monies will be needed. I expect an amount of \$50,000

to \$80,000 more will need to be raised for the 85' fiberglass walking bridge. The Yellow Creek is a Class 1 fishing stream and within a PENNDOT limited access area. DEP permit hurdles have been crossed and now monies will be needed.

Any amount of donations can be made to the MSTA, earmarked YCB, to the MSTA treasurer: MSTA, PO Box 885, Huntingdon, PA 16652 Once finished this bridge will be a diamond in the rough for MSTA and Bedford County. A completed bridge will keep the trail continuous in the Loysburg area for an expected 100 years!

State College Region

by Tom Thwaites

To all trail workers

Here's a recent report on trail blazes: "the blazes on old section 1 from US 22 to PA 26 are very hard to follow in the rougher, less traveled areas. You will never get lost up there but it is enough to make you stop and look around for the trail..... several times I walked off the trail and had to look behind me for blazes running the opposite direction to tell if I was even on the trail any more."

Old section 3 from US 322 to PA 45 again, blazes in the more remote spots and on several woods roads are few and far between. You wonder if you missed your turn to leave the road."

The trouble is that the maintainer is more familiar with the trail than any user! Try to put yourself in the position of one who has never seen the trail before. No easy task for the maintainer!

Woolrich Region

by Joe Healey

Not much has changed in the Woolrich Region, the wildest area in the state on the Mid State Trail. Thanks go out to Tom Bastian and Woody for cutting blowdowns along the trail throughout the Woolrich Region. If someone has an urge to do trail maintenance, the Woolrich Region needs three more overseers.



Tioga Region

by Peter Fleszar

We had a successful Trail Care event April 3-5, 2009, radiating from Hills Creek State Park between Mansfield and Wellsboro. Thanks to DCNR for supporting our work by letting us stay in their warm, modern cabins.

Thanks especially to Daryl Warren of Wellsboro's Asaph Trail Club for securing permission, scouting, leading work trips for ATC and finally KTA, resulting in a new off-road route from Hills Creek State Park Hills Creek Park south across Cobb, Orebed, Rt 6, Rice Rd, Rt 660, to the second encounter with Mudge Rd. We are deeply indebted to landowners Eric Malletz, Bill Wilson, John Erich, Dana Leach, Ron Waters, Emerson Rice, Gary Fish, and Alex Wimbrough for allowing us to pass special spots on their land in Tioga County, on the new section south of Hills Creek Park. A nearby church, River of Life Fellowship, graciously will allow hiker parking except Sundays in their overflow parking lot, located at mile 228.5 of Route 6, just east of the US 6/PA 660 "Y" intersection, about midway between Wellsboro and Mansfield.

The MST is also re-opened between Ridge and Elkhorn Roads west of Tioga avoiding a gas well, and re-routed between RV's Mt Top Campground and Smith Hill Rd to avoid the previous need to call ahead to hike through Tioga Hunting Preserve. Special thanks for making this possible to landowners Mike Gee, Wayne Virtue, and Jim Kwiatkowski, and volunteer John Potter (a recent recipient of the KTA/DCNR State Forest Hiking Trails award, giving back to our footpaths!).

New maps have been uploaded to the MSTA web site (hike-mst.org) - click on "Maps and Guidebook" then scroll down to Sections 18, 19, and 20. Revised guide sections are pending wheeled measure. Remember changes assume you already have the 11th edition dated 2008, if you still need to buy the new Guide, get it from Wild Asaph Outfitters in Wellsboro, your favorite local outfitter, or direct from the MST web site.

Only 9.4 km (5.8 miles) of un-blazed gravel roads now separate the northern blazed section extending to the New York State line and beyond, and the blazed portion of MST leading south across the rest of Pennsylvania to the Mason-Dixon Line and beyond. Download the map T18 from the MSTA web site to see how you can walk through rural southern Charleston Township between the blazed sections, while our local volunteers continue their hard work to seek permission and open a new footpath in Tioga County.

Please note our permission on these private lands allows us quietly to walk through, only on the marked footpath. Staying on the trail means leashing your dog through these areas. Some sections are closed for hunting, please note the dates on the downloadable maps and do not go through during these periods. Your cooperation will keep these paths open for you and future hikers to enjoy.

Almost two dozen volunteers came out during the two work days, from as close as Mansfield and as far as Philadelphia. Bob Bernhardt, Jeff Clarke, Peter Fleszar, Carl Ganong, Linnae Goda, Joe Healey, Diane Kalotta, Pat Kirkonski, Ed Lawrence, Elwood Loudenslager, Pat Monahan, Ginny Musser, Don Muth, Shellie Northrop, John Potter, Martha Quigley, Louise Sis, Leon Smith, Nina Smith, John Stein, Daryl Warren, Phill [yes two L's] Williams and Dave Walp. Your work is greatly appreciated!

Comments from a KTA volunteer

A first time volunteer with the KTA weekends, Shellie Northrop of the "Trailblazers of the Southern Tier," said of her outing:

"If you've never worked a KTA Trail Care before, I highly recommend it. Liz had told me she heard these were a lot of fun & hard work and that was spot on!

"The KTA'ers are a great bunch of folk. Some of them have been building trail together for over 20 years. I was initially intimidated by that, but shouldn't have worried. Not only did they tolerate this here "rank beginner," but they were incredibly warm, friendly & welcoming to all who showed up. It was great comparing notes on trails across the state also.

"The DCNR also let us bunk in style, with 3 cabins for us at Hills Creek State Park. I got to watch the sun rise over Tauscher Pond! Thank you! (I recommend cabin #3)

"I also made sure they knew that some ATC'ers had done the initial hard work making the new trail that Daryl scouted out. Remember that, back in January in 'teens temps???? Or was it even colder? Who could forget that picture of Daryl after his epic battle with the roses?

"Thank you to everyone who has ever helped out in whatever way keeping trail open for we hikers to enjoy!"

MSTA News

by Scott Adams

New Officers

At the Winter MSTA meeting this past January, new officers were elected. MSTA officers are elected for two year terms, until Winter 2011. President, Ed Lawrence; Vice President, Tom Kelliher; Secretary, Scott Adams; Treasurer, Kirk Bucynski.

New Postal Address

The MSTA has a new mailing address. Please send all membership dues and correspondence to: Mid State Trail Association, PO Box 885, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

State of the Treasury

As of 4/30/09 Money Market Checking Account \$1,780.54, CDs: \$17,955.87 and \$10,353.31 and Yellow Bridge Account \$7,025.17.

Trail Reroute Updates Online

The 11th Edition of the Mid State Trail Guidebook is now available. We also have two, full-color maps extending from route US22 to Blackwell. There has been some rerouting of the trail in the Tioga region since the guidebook was printed. Always check the website (www.hike-mst.org) for updates before you hike.

Elk Creek Café + Aleworks Crafts a Beer in Honor of the Mid State Trail

By Scott Adams

You may have heard of Long Trail Ale, or perhaps the Glacial Trail IPA. You may have enjoyed a Rugged Trail Ale. However, the number of beers named after hiking trails is a relatively short list. Come summer this list will get a little longer.

The Elk Creek Café + Aleworks will be releasing the Mid State Trail Ale this July. The first pouring of the beer will occur during the Mid State Trail's 40th Anniversary party being held at the Elk Creek Café + Aleworks on July 12th, 2009. The beer will then be available for the enjoyment of hikers and non-hikers alike.

Tim Yarrington, brewmaster at the Elk Creek Café + Aleworks says the Mid State Trail Ale will be a Northern English Brown Ale. With a profile designed for balance, Brown Ales pair well with all types of foods. The Northern English Brown Ale style is a rich yet approachable English style ale, brewed with English malt and Fuggle hops. The Mid State Trail Ale will be well balanced, with moderate alcohol content, making it a drinkable and satisfying beer.

Stop by the Mid State Trail's 40th Anniversary Party to be one of the first to try the Mid State Trail Ale. If you can't make it on July 12th, don't worry, as the Mid State Trail Ale will be on tap at the Elk Creek Café + Aleworks for all to enjoy.

An Easier Way to Keep Current With Your MSTA Membership

by Scott Adams

A membership in the Mid State Trail Association now runs a full calendar year. Individual and family memberships are good from January 1st to December 31st. We hope that by using a calendar year it will be easy for everyone to remember when to renew their membership.

Membership in the MSTA, individual or family, is only ten dollars. We are also offering a Lifetime membership. Lifetime memberships are currently two hundred dollars. All membership monies go to supporting the Mid State Trail.

Aside from supporting the Mid State Trail with membership dues and donations, you can also volunteer to help as a Trail Overseer. Trail Overseers are responsible for maintaining a specific section of the MST. Trail Overseers clear the trail of obstacles by pruning limbs, removing fallen trees, and clearing the trail of low lying brush and weeds. Overseers are also responsible for making sure the trail is marked with visible, orange blazes, strategically placed along the trail to make it easier for hikers and backpackers to follow. Donating a few hours a year to help maintain the trail as an Overseer grants you membership in the MSTA. If you are interested in being a Trail Overseer, please contact one of the four regional managers to see what sections of the trail are open in your area.

Your membership status in the Mid State Trail Association can be determined by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter. In the lower right-hand corner of the mailing address label you will see

an indicator informing you of your status. If you see a date/year in the lower right-hand corner, this tells you when you're membership will expire. For example, if you see '2009' in the lower right-hand corner, this means that your membership in the MSTA will expire on 12/31/2009. You may see '2009' if you have paid membership dues for the current year or if you are an Overseer of the trail and volunteered to do trail maintenance last year. 'LIFE' indicates that you are a lifetime member. Friends of the Mid State Trail will see 'FOT' on their labels. If you see 'PD' in the lower right-hand corner of the address labels, this indicates that your membership is 'Past Due'.

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. Please indicate if this is an individual or family membership.

A heart-felt "Thank You" goes out to all MSTA members, past and present, for helping make the Mid State Trail the premier long distance footpath in Pennsylvania, and dare I say, the East Coast. Your contributions, either monetary or hours, have made the MST what it is today. Your belief in the trail, and willingness to support it, is what keeps many outdoor enthusiasts coming back to explore and enjoy the Mid State Trail.

MSTA LifeTime Members

Tom and Barbara Thwaites
Jean and Gert Aron
Thomas Bastian
Betty Cambell
Andrea Commaker
Debra Dunkel
Rodney and Karen Hershberger
Thomas Kelliher
Marc and Pam Reese
Burgess Smith
John Stein
Daniel Styer



"January Thaw" Hike on the MST - Muttersbaugh Gap Circuit Hike

by Scott Adams

An event that typically occurs every year that I always look forward to is the "January Thaw". This is a day where the temperatures climb above freezing and offer a glimpse of the upcoming spring and a break from the cold weather. During this time I try to get out a do a day hike. However in January of 2009 I didn't hike as we did not have a "January Thaw" this year.

As luck would have it, during the second week of February we received our "January Thaw" in Central Pennsylvania, albeit a little late. When the temperatures were forecasted to reach sixty during the middle of the week, I decided to take some vacation time from work and do my annual hike.

I was able to convince a fellow co-worker to do this hike with me. We decided on doing a loop hike that would incorporate a moderate climb and a short section of the Mid State Trail.

This hike was a loop hike, starting and finishing at Muttersbaugh Gap, just off route US322 near the Laurel Creek Reservoir. There is plenty of room to park here and this is where our hike would start.

After Tim and I were all geared up with trekking poles in hand, we headed down Stone Creek Road. Even though the road is paved, it does not have winter maintenance, and the road was slushy and icy today. We hike about 0.15 miles and made a sharp right, still following Stone Creek Road. After another 0.2 miles we came upon a gated dirt road on our right. We turned off Stone Creek Road and followed the gated dirt road.

After a half mile we came upon an old cabin. We looked around and observed what looked like a trail leading north, away from the cabin, and towards a small stream. It turns out this is Muttersbaugh Trail. The trail is not blazed. It is quite easy to follow in some places,

but other times it is not. After 0.9 miles of hiking the trail seemed to disappear. Since we were in the gap, with steep rock-strewn mountainsides to our left and right, we just continued to follow the small stream.

At 1 mile into or hike we came across what we later learned to be Ben Jacobs Trail. This is actually an old camp access road. The road forded the small stream at this point to a white cabin just off to our left. There was also a metal bridge that Tim and I used to cross the stream. We hiked around the northern side of the cabin where we picked up the Muttersbaugh Trail.

As the Muttersbaugh Trail ascended to the top of Bald Mountain, the trail became very difficult to follow at times. During the summer I would think that this trail would be near impossible to follow.

After a half mile of hiking and a 400 foot ascent, we emerged on the orange blazed, and well maintained, Mid State Trail. We had the hardest part of the hike behind us and looked forward to a nice leisurely stroll across the ridge top.

We came upon our first vista about 2.2 miles into the hike. The view was towards the north and we could see Boal Gap in the foreground with Penns Valley and Mount Nittany beyond that. The sky was a bit hazy and had a bit of a blue tint to it. It reminded me a little of the views in the Smoky Mountains.

Our second vista was in another 0.2 miles. This one looked a little more towards the north where the first was towards the north-west. After a few minutes enjoying the view, we were soon back on the trail.

At 2.8 miles we began our descent from the top of Bald Mountain. The going was a little slow as there was still snow and ice on the ground and some of the rocks were still quite slippery. After 2 switch backs and a quarter mile we found ourselves back on leveler ground. The trail made a sharp right at 3.1 miles,

at the border of the state forest land.

We came across the dirt road known as Ben Jacobs Trail at 3.3 miles into our hike. The Mid State Trail continued straight ahead but we turned right. Hiking along the flat road was difficult at times as both Tim and I often slid off the center crown. For the next 1.5 miles we hiked, slipped and slid as we followed Ben Jacobs Trail back to Muttersbaugh Gap.

After 4.8 miles we turned left and retraced our steps back down Muttersbaugh Gap. Heading back down was more difficult then hiking up it. The slippery conditions that we encountered during our hike up were much worse as we descended. With a little patience we finally made it back to Stone Creek Road. A quick little jaunt and we were back at the trailhead and our cars.

With temperatures nearing sixty, this was a much needed outdoor escape. The trail conditions weren't ideal, none the less, the hike was quite enjoyable. I was glad to be able to do my annual "January Thaw" hike, even if it did come in February.



Reflecting on the Enchantments of the Mid State Trail

By Ed Lawrence

Hiking through a short section of trail can be a physically fleeting endeavor, taking scant time in traverse. The impression that such a transient interim can etch in the eye of the imagination, however, can be as lasting as a fossil.

On the far side of R.B. Winter State Park in the gap just below Rendezvous Spring on Naked Mountain there is a brief section of the Mid State where water rushes unseen beneath the surface scree on its way to White Deer Creek. The splash, gurgle and rush of this hidden stream flowing beneath my feet, audible but invisible, filled me with delight the first time we stumbled upon it some ten years ago. That fascination, now alloyed with familiarity and anticipa-

tion, has maintained its undiminished hold on subsequent trips and remained in force even as we passed over it again last weekend. This secreted torrent, too bashful to be seen but not to be heard!,

The very voice of hydrology, is only one of the myriad enchantments readily available to all who take to the Mid State Trail.

Our Very Own Joe Healey Receives the Keystone Legacy Award

by Scott Adams

Joe Healey, overseer of the Woolrich Region of the Mid State Trail and head of KTA's Trail Care and Summer Trail Crew programs, was the recipient of Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation's Keystone Legacy Award. The award was

presented on May 5 at a Foundation dinner at the Harrisburg Country Club.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation recognizes groups, facilities, and individuals for exemplary service, programs, and work to protect and enhance state parks and forests.

Not only has Joe spent many years and countless hours overseeing the Woolrich region of the Mid State Trail, he has been organizing the KTA Trail Care and Summer Trail Crew events since 1998. Joe's contributions to the trails of Pennsylvania have made it easier for all of us to enjoy the beauty of Penn's Woods.

Great job Joe, and many thanks from all the members of the Mid State Trail Association.

Mid State Trail Association
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Place
Postage
Here.

**Join us for our
next MSTA meeting
on June 27th in
Tenley Park
Everett, PA**

www.hike-mst.org