

BRUSHWHACKER

Winter 2008

Somewhat regular publication of the Mid State Trail Association



Mid State Trail Association Receives Gift of Four Garmin GPS Receivers

The Mid State Trail Association has received a generous gift of four Garmin GPSMAP 60CSx GPS receivers from Garmin International, a leading manufacturer of GPS receivers. The offer of the GPS receivers came at an opportune time, as MSTA is forging ahead on the development of our GIS data set and is in great need of volunteers to walk the MST, recording trail coordinates on GPS receivers.

The Garmin GPSMAP 60CSx is widely recognized as the best consumer grade GPS receiver available today and the Association is extremely grateful to have received these versatile tools. The four donated GPS receivers have been distributed to the MSTA regions where we have the greatest need for recording GIS data. If you would like to assist in our mapping project by hiking the trail while carrying a GPS receiver, contact Peter Fleszar or the Association. Contact info on page two.

TRAIL CREW ON MID STATE TRAIL

The Keystone Trails Association will sponsor a Trail Crew week on the Mid State Trail in the Tioga Region from June 17 to 23. Crew will camp at Hills Creek State Park. Crews assemble on Tuesday evening and work Wednesday through Saturday, and a half day on Sunday. A place to camp, meals and equipment are provided..

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.

Life Membership Available and Dues are due.

Life membership in the Association is available for the paltry sum of 20 times the yearly rate. Currently \$200.00, but a bargain at any price. Help the Association further the Mid State Trail.

If you are not a life member then membership dues are due at the rate of \$10 for the 2008 calendar year. You may, of course, include a tax deductible contribution. Please send to the address on page 2.

Winter Meeting

The Winter meeting of the Mid State Trail Association will be on Saturday, January 26, at the Bald Eagle State Forest headquarters in Laurelton. Potluck at 12 noon with meeting to follow at 1 p.m. The headquarters is on state route 45 between Mifflinburg and Woodward on the south side just west of the intersection with state route 235. Alternate date, February 2, Groundhog Day.

Mid State Trail

An Important and Scenic Part

<http://www.greastertrail.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
kelliher**ATD**hike-mst.org

Ed Lawrence, Vice President
cathyed**ATD**nationi.net

Jean Aron, Secretary
shorthiker**ATD**aol.com

Andrea Commaker, Treasurer
Asci**ATD**psu.edu

**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
msttioga**ATD**epix.net

Joe Healey, Woolrich Region
Jnlhealey**ATD**aol.com

Tom Thwaites, State College Region
Ttt2**ATD**pennswoods.net

Deb Dunkle, Everett Region
dhdunkle**ATD**embarqmail.com

Steve Tuckerman, Webmaster
Stevetuckerman1954**ATD**msn.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.

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**

Favorite Hike in the Everett Region

Pam Hershberger, trail maintainer

Here is probably our favorite hike, we usually do it once a year. Spring or Fall are the best times to avoid brambles and green briar. It is in Section 12, which runs from SR2004 (Ashcom) to PA 326 (Rainsburg Gap) We like to park a vehicle at the lot on Route 326 and then drive down and start at Ashcom. There are some spots where you can pull off the road far enough and that are within 50 yards of where the trail starts up the hill. This section has a wide variety of terrain and we always see a lot of wildlife. One hike we took in early June was like a tour of Pennsylvania wildlife. We saw a fawn curled in a bed of grass right next to the trail, a mother bear with two cubs, a mother grouse with chicks, a mother turkey with poults, a snake, another bear farther down the trail and several turtles. The rock slab ledges are also neat to travel on and the views of the valley are beautiful. At the pipe line clearing you can see both ways for miles. It is a challenging section covering 14 miles and usually takes us 6 hours. We walk kind of fast. You should figure at least 8 hours making an all day adventure. Take plenty of water as there is only an intermittent spring and we've never tried it.

From Maryland DNR Trail Added to GET

Flintstone, MD The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service is pleased to announce that Green Ridge State Forest has become part of the Great Eastern Trail (GET). "Hopefully, trails like those found at Green Ridge State Forest and along the GET will help produce a growing corps of environmental stewards and outdoor recreationists who will continue to enthusiastically support forest conservation," said Francis Zumbrun, Green Ridge State Forest Manager.

The 43-mile circuit trail loop at Green Ridge State Forest to join the GET takes hikers past ancient geologic features and waterfalls while experiencing spectacular views from ridge tops. Along the trail, hikers will also experience a rich diversity of trees, wildflowers, and wildlife.

Regional News

Tioga Region, Pete Fleszar regional manager

Tool Cache in Tioga Region

Trail working tools are being stored at a cache at Cowenesque. 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

Route 22 Bridge Rehabilitation

At the Woolrich meeting the Association approved the plans for PennDot to relocate the Trail by rehabilitating a creek crossing using U.S. Route 22. The changes should make crossing Route 22 much safer by providing a longer sight distance and removing the temptation to cross at other places.

Everett Get Together with the Chamber of Commerce at Tenley Park

The Mid State Trail Association extends deepest appreciation for the support from the Bedford County Association of Real Estate Agents: Allquest Real Estate-Central PA, Bedford County Real Estate, Blackburn-Johnson Realty, Century 21 Realty, Coldwell Banker SKS Realty, Howard Hanna/Johnston Realty, Juniata Realty, and West Real Estate. Not only financial backing but pure hiking determination and parking abilities were found among the realtors. This event was organized by Debra Dunkle, Everett regional manager (MST) and Vivian Koontz, Tenley Recreation Board member.

The food prepared by Dreamers Catering was fantastic (note: Trail Crew wants them for trail care week!). Bedford County Beverage Company, Pepsi Bottling Co, and Roaring Spring Water supplied the refreshments.

Tenley Park grounds assistance was provided by Don Miller and Everett Borough crew. Bedford True Value provided tent rental. Walmart and Weis Markets also made contributions. The Pennwood Bible Church, Pastor Lloyd Rinehart, and driver, Ron Lambert, got the 30 some hikers over to the Ashcom trailhead of the MST. This family event goal was intended to give Bedford County Chamber members information about the MST and to hike on the trail in the Ashcom area.

After the hike participants enjoyed several presentations under the "Big Top." Tom Kelliher, spoke on the Great Eastern Trail and its relation to the Mid State Trail. Bedford County Wilderness Search Team, John Boburchuk, Dog Rescue, Carole Thompson, Command Search Truck, Dustin Miller, and Search Team Member, Gordon Trexler gave demonstrations. Tim Segina, Art Hiem, and John Stein showed slides featuring the Mid State Trail. This was about the time lightning was noticed in the distance. Despite this, Ron Stanley from Woodlands/Streamkeepers, PA spoke on his subject in the local area, John Zack, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Steve Keiper, Buchanan State Forest also spoke. John Hermann, storyteller, gave his show. Carl Ganong, MST, gave a hammock demo, Season Consiglio, REI outreach specialist gave a tent PEAK demo. John Stein, MST Everett region, braving himself as a lightning rod in the center of the tent, ended with trail town information.

Prizes were donated by REI, BC Stone, Zimmermans Hardware, Fat Jimmys Outfitters and First Commonwealth Bank.

The fun evening all happened because of the high level of community support for Everett as a Trail town. It may take awhile to join the ranks of famed trail towns but this was an exciting start for Everett!

If you are in Everett start looking for the orange blazes from behind the ambulance building following to the west bridge and around to the Ashcom trailhead, then be mindful of regulations and courteous of private landowners. As from the MST site: "If you dare, or if you can imagine"

Everett just completed, with assistance from Penn State station WPSU, a DVD titled "Our Town Everett". A lot of local people filmed a day in Everett and by chance the Mid State Trail had an interview!

Yellow Creek Bridge Project Update

At the November MSTA meeting in Everett, a task force was charged with completing the Yellow Creek bridge project. The original bridge, an old hunter's bridge providing access to the adjacent State Gameland, has become rather unsafe in recent years and is thought to have been the cause of at least one flood, when debris hung-up on the bridge. Ross, Mildred, Randall, and Gloria Smith generously donated an easement in perpetuity to MSTA for a trail corridor through their property and for siting a much improved bridge in the vicinity of the unsafe bridge.

Members of the task force include Ralph Seeley (chair), Deb Dunkle, Kirk Bucynski, Peter Fleszar, and Tom Kelliher. MSTA applied to DCNR for a \$70,933 grant to help cover the costs of the project in October, 2005. In July of 2006, we received word from DCNR that we had been awarded \$51,400, with the difference to be made up by us as a match. We received a "go ahead" letter in April, 2007.

Earlier this year, we had been studying the feasibility of recycling a historic bridge in Armstrong County for the Yellow Creek crossing. Ultimately, Armstrong County decided to reuse the bridge themselves. At the same time, the ongoing maintenance costs associated with the historic bridge appeared to be too much of a burden to MSTA.

Several individuals and one business have already made donations toward the match. If you are interested in helping with the project itself, or would like to make a donation toward the match, please contact Tom Kelliher at the MSTA.

New Assistant Manager in Everett Region

The Association gladly welcomes Kirk Bucynski as Assistant Manager in the Everett Region covering from state route 36 to state route 22.

Internet Slide Show of the Mid State Trail

Tim Segina has produced a slide show of the southern portions of the Trail. You may view the slides at the following link.

<http://www.backpack.phanfare.com/>

Enjoy photographs of the trail in winter in the southern section and some in summer along Tussey Mountain. *Tim Segina comments "What a challenging trail coming up to Tussey Mtn. from the Hershberger Farm. The knives edge is really severe up there. Maple Run was absolutely beautiful. Had a great trip. We went from the farm to Williamsburg in 4 days."*

Contributions to the Brushwhacker

See your writing in print or view your photography. Articles and pictures of or about the Mid State Trail are welcome. Do you have some historical knowledge you would like to share. Please submit to the address listed on page two.

New Mid State Trail Decal

After some discussion the Association settled on the Raccoon with the map of Pennsylvania and the Mid State Trail as representative of the Wild nature of our trail. Anyone who has witnessed this critter in action at a camp site where food was left out or who has been awakened by one foraging in metal trash cans can appreciate its Wild disposition.

A decal is enclosed with this edition of Brushwhacker. Display it with pride!

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!

Mid State Trail Association

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