

# BRUSHWHACKER

Autumn 2005

Somewhat regular publication of the Mid State Trail Association



## **New Foot Trail in Tioga Region**

*Pete Fleszar, Tioga Region Manager*

A new section of Pennsylvania's longest footpath, from Blackwell to Morris in Tioga County, climbs the East Rim of Pennsylvania's "Grand Canyon" to see where bald eagles soar over mountains that stopped prehistoric glaciers.

The path descends and fords a stream in the Pennsylvania Wilds, with deep pools, cascades, falls, chutes and slides.

Designed by Jeff Mitchell of Tunkhannock, author of the books *Backpacking Pennsylvania* and *Hiking the Endless Mountains*, this new section of Mid State Trail connects the Pine Creek Trail near Blackwell, with the end of Tannery Hill Road northwest of Morris.

The new path is located on Tioga State Forest land and a portion of State Game Land No. 268, with the support of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry, and Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Dr. Thomas Kelliher, President of Mid State Trail Association, said, "We're really excited about opening this section of Mid State Trail. There are incredible views of the Pine Creek watershed, and up-close looks at the water magic of Stony Fork. You can find clues along the path showing how this land was once used."

Hikers can now follow a continuous path from near Morris, to Maryland. The Association has now cleared over 280 miles of Mid State Trail across Pennsylvania from Tioga County to the Mason-Dixon Line in Bedford County.

A map and more information about this new section of footpath may be found on the Mid State Trail Association web site.

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## **We Have a New Web Site**

Thanks to Pete Fleszar, Tioga Region Manager, the Association has a new web site. The address remains, <http://phoenix.goucher.edu/MSTA/>, but the content has changed. The web site has information on membership, our vision statement and an extensive page of Frequently Asked Questions. Another page lists trail alerts and guide updates, with some downloadable maps and links to maps provided by the Commonwealth. Check the calendar page for upcoming events on the trail and notice of meetings. A number of links to organizations of interest are available. Lastly, copies of the "Brushwhacker" may be viewed using Adobe Reader. Check it out, we hope you like it and find it useful.

## **Keystone Trails Association Trail Crew and Care on the Mid State Trail.**

The KTA will again sponsor a trail crew week on the Mid State Trail in the Tioga Region from June 14 to June 18, 2006. Crew will camp at Twin Streams Campground. Crew leader Pete Fleszar.

The KTA will sponsor other trail crew weeks and trail care weekends. Further information will be available later.

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The *Winter meeting of the MSTA* will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2006 at Laurelton. Potluck at 12 noon, meet at 1:00 pm. B

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 2007:

Tom Kelliher, President  
kelliher@goucher.edu  
410.931.2946

Ed Lawrence, Vice President  
cathyed@nationi.net  
570.925.5285

Jean Aron, Secretary  
shorthiker@aol.com  
814.466.9260

Andrea Commaker, Treasurer  
Ascl@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@epix.net

Joe Healey, Woolrich Region  
jnlhealey@aol.com

Tom Thwaites, State College Region  
ttt2@pennswoods.net

John Stein, Everett Region  
Steinhike@cs.com

MSTA web site  
<http://phoenix.goucher.edu/MSTA/>

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  
[Hiking.midstatetrail@snip.net](mailto:Hiking.midstatetrail@snip.net)

## Regional News

### Everett Region News

*John Stein, Everett Region Trail Manager*

#### Mid State Trail Everett Region Route Improvement

On November 5, 2005 the Mid State foot Trail officially avoids about 8 km of Snake Spring Valley road walking just north of Everett, PA by locating on Tussey Ridge. Detailed information is available on the MST web site, and by contacting the Association.

#### Mid State trail Overseer Openings in the Everett Region

Three zones in the Everett Region-MST need an Overseer. Can you pass the word, and advise of any interest?

#### Danger and Endangerment to Diminish on the Mid State foot Trail

The Mid State Trail, Everett Region (an Endangered Hiking Trail) now has 68.6 of continuous foot trail corridor miles (110.6 km) protected from severing between PA Rt. 22 and Maryland because of the latest courthouse registered agreement (Sept. 12, 2005) providing a 100 foot wide easement in perpetuity. Of the total Everett Region hiking distance, the secure distance is now 75% including 8% necessarily on various roads. Thank you Ross, Mildred, Stanley, and Gloria Smith for gifting to MSTA this last key segment allowing a new safe above-flooding foot bridge across Yellow Creek. Hunters, Fishermen, Church Groups, Birders, Picnickers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Family Programs, Rehab. Groups, Maintenance Workers, Military as well as Hikers and Backpackers all have a need for a safe crossing bridge which avoids trespassing on nearby private property. The Mid State Trail Association is most appreciative of all the friendly assistance from so many people in the Everett Region as well as other regions of Pennsylvania and nearby states. Eight people have volunteered to take on major management aspects of this YCP02 foot bridge project. Anyone who desires to help in any way is welcome. Please get in touch with MSTA. The cash donations and pledges so far received by MSTA for this YCP02 safe bridge project are properly recorded and most appreciated. Funding grant applications are in process: donations and funding pledges received by MSTA count toward matching funding. The existing (now 3 cable) "Swinging Bridge" has served the Loysburg area well for many years. It is now very dangerous, and beyond repair. The goal is to complete a new safe bridge before someone is injured as a result of trying to use the existing foot bridge. MSTA trusts that the old bridge will be removed after a new safe bridge of proper height is in place. Please refer to Project YCP02 on any donation and send to MSTA Treasurer

### Everett Region Mid State Trail Overseers

*John Stein, Everett Region Manager*

Please file reports with your regional trail manager. Do you intend to continue next year?

Do you need signs or register box improvement?

Can you do it or do you need help?

For 2005 please report the number of hours worked and in travel and time spent on preparation, equipment, and repair.

Please confirm or update personal information.

According to new policy, make sure next year that road crossings are well marked and blazed, particularly where there is adequate parking.

Reminder that road crossings are well marked and blazed particularly where parking is ample.

Again this year you have done an excellent job if my various hikes in the region are any indication. All the volunteer effort is greatly appreciated by many people who have contacted me. Please report to me by Jan 15, 2006.

## News on the Mid-Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition

The MSTA has a proposal from Mid-Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition (MAFTC) that could address our concerns and help make the way for an alternative to the Appalachian Trail. For further information on the proposal please contact the MSTA.

### Excerpts From a Trail Register

*Everett Region*

*Names, where listed, are fictional, opinions are the writers and do not reflect the Association's position.*

10/31/04 Where are all the bears? Bear hunter (scouting)

12/5/04 To Bear hunter. Once again our great game comm. has ruined most of the wildlife in such a beautiful area. No deer, no bears. Nice trails. Keep up the good work. "Deer Hunter"  
P.S. Do bring more coyotes in, they help a lot. Shot several.

7/14/04 Noon. Hi John! day two of Prosperity Church to Everett on MST. Overcast but nice day.

10/28/04 Up from 326, Day trip south. Beautiful weather, beautiful leaves. Hope to do whole trail soon.

2/12/05 Called one coyote in this morning-big male. He's laying at the bottom of this hollow. I cut his tail off. Some people hunt coyotes and then there are coyote hunters! Nice day, windy but sunny. Go to go, car parked at tower. Manny, Moe & Jack.  
P.S. Not our real names

2/17/05 Down from Lewistown, Pa. to hunt wild pigs. First time here. Just scouting for now.

2/15/05 1400 hours. Nice day for a walk-haven't even seen a bird. At one time you couldn't walk thru here without seeing lots of deer and turkey-they must be on the other side of the mtn.

2/9/05 08:55 Cloudy, rain last nigt, trying to call in all the coyotes they says around. Also tried 2 nights ago. Never herd a sound from artamas to here to Everett. Used elec. calls & mouth calls, also hand calls. Not a sound from them. Wondering if as many as they say. Wonder about all them pigs to. Lots of bear sign wish I'd see one. "its just great to be out here" "Hike, hike, hike" from The Lost Man  
P.S. What happend to the old book?

## State College Region

*Tom Thwaites, regional manager*

I visited Beaver Pond, yesterday 14 Nov. The good news is I ran into Larry Moore who has made an excellent recovery from his rotator cuff injury and subsequent surgery. He is back at work clearing trail with a beat up old limb lopper.

The bad news is the logger who bought the timber leveled by Ivan has done absolutely nothing. It has been 14 months since Ivan. Checking with Randy White, ADF for Rothrock State Forest, I found the expiration date for his contract is 30 Sept 2006. The logger can extend the contract by an additional payment but the sap wood in the downed oaks will be starting to turn into powder by then. Logger has a number of other contracts and the market for oak, even red and white oak is down.

### Trail Rockers

*Tom Thwaites*

The rockers arrived yesterday from AB\_Emblem. They look great! We now have over 300 of them so we can afford to be generous in passing them out. Cost of \$161 was under budget! I was reported for suspicious activity(installing a trail sign) earlier this summer.

### Treasurer Report

*Andrea Commaker, Treasurer*

Mid State Trail Association funds as of October 31, 2005:

Money Market Account: \$6,390.59  
CD- \$15, 990.01  
CD Land- \$15,573.90



## Keystone Trails Association Offers Complimentary Membership

The Mid State Trail Association is a member of the KTA. The KTA and MSTA support each other in many ways. If you are not a member of the KTA please consider this offer to join by using the insert accompanying this issue.

# **WOOLRICH REGIONAL MAINTAINERS FROM R. B. WINTER STATE PARK TO BLACKWELL.**

*Joe Healey Woolrich Regional Manager*

Trail Maintainers will meet on Saturday, March 25 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be at Little Pine Creek State Park in the pavilion by the lake. I have new MST maintainer rocker patches and paint, if anybody needs any. Let me know.

*The following is excerpted from an article published in the Bedford Gazette on August 17, 2005*

## **Hiking Club Previews Trail**

*by Kristie Giles of the Bedford Gazette*

EVERETT--eleven members of the Bedford Hiking Club gathered for a 3.5 hour trek along a rugged section of the Mid State Trail before the annual club meeting Saturday. The hikers made a diverse group, but they all had something in common: a passion for the outdoors.

"The social aspect is more important to me than the actual hike," explained hike coordinator Ron Stanley. "We build a lot of camaraderie when we're climbing over rocks together."

Before its annual meeting, the club had a unique chance to preview the new Everett section of the Mid State Trail, a wilderness hiking trail built and maintained by volunteers.

The Mid State Trail is the commonwealth's longest continuous foot path, stretching 261 miles from the Maryland border to the West Rim Trail north of Blackwell. The Everett section is an improvement to the route that was made only this past June.

"I'm excited to have a trail so close to home that can be used by a lot of different people," said Debra Dunkle of Everett. The Bedford Hiking Club had access to the new section by special permission; it will open on Nov. 5.

Saturday's heat was sweltering, but temperatures didn't keep the hikers from enjoying reptile encounters and scenic vistas on the narrow ridge.

"It was beautiful," raved Donna Brosky. "The views were gorgeous."

"I'm positive that we heard a rattlesnake under one of the boulders," said Mike Jackson. "That was the most interesting part for me."

"I really enjoyed seeing new areas of Tussey Ridge," added his wife Laura, a biology teacher at Bedford High School.

John Stein, Everett regional manager of the Mid State Trail Association, explained trail markings and pointed out features with natural and cultural historical significance, like trenches remaining from the Civil War.

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**Mid State Trail Association**

**PO Box 167**

**Boalsburg, PA 16827**