

BRUSHWHACKER

Winter 2005

Somewhat regular publication of the Mid State Trail Association



Mid State Trail Thanks Landowners

William Greenawalt (left) and Charles and Sara Jane Williams receive the thanks of officials of the Mid State Trail Association for providing the association with a trail corridor through their property. The Robert Greenawalt family owns mountain land on the east side of the family farm in Snake Spring Township that will be used for the wilderness trail; and Mr. and Mrs. Williams, of Hopewell, own land on top of Tussey Mountain over which the trail will pass. Expressing thanks for the association are Thomas Kelliher, of Baltimore, MD, president (right) and John W. Stein of Hershey, manager of the Everett section of the MST (second from right), which extends from the Maryland State Line north to Route 22. Mr. Greenawalt and Mr. and Mrs. Williams were guests of the association at a breakfast Saturday at the New Frontier Restaurant, Loysburg Gap, which preceded a hike over a section of the trail. The trail officials expressed appreciation to these additional land owners for their cooperation in developing this section of the trail: Bernard and Rodney Hershberger of Snake Spring Valley and Ross and Mildred Smith of Loysburg.

See related article on page 4

Keystone Trails Association Trail Crew and Care on the Mid State Trail

Trail Crew

June 8 to 12, 2005. MST Everett Region, Crew Leader John Stein

June 15 to 19, 2005. MST Tioga Region. Join the Crew in the Grand Canyon area of Pennsylvania. We will stay at Twin Streams Campground in Morris. Leader promises one of the best sections yet! Crew Leader Pete Fleszar, msttioga@epix.net

Trail Care Weekend

November 2005, MST Everett Region, camp at Woy Bridge Campground, Leader John Stein

Contacts: KTA trail crew, Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702, 570-655-4979, email: jnlhealey@aol.com and Keystone Trails Association at www.kta-hike.org or info@kta-hike.org

Trail Care, John Stein 717.533.3679 or Keystone Trails Association

The *Winter meeting of the MSTA* will be held on January 29, 2005, at the Bald Eagle District Headquarters in Laurelton. A potluck lunch at noon will be followed by the general meeting at 1:00 pm. Officers will be elected at this meeting. Changes to the ByLaws will be voted at this meeting. 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 fall meeting. Current officers, elected for two year term until fall 2004:

Tom Kelliher, President,
kelliher@goucher.edu
410.931.2946

Rich Lange,
Vice President,
r-lange@suscom.net
570.753.3647

Jean Aron
Secretary/Treasurer shorthiker@aol.com,
814.466.9260

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 midstatetrail AT DOMAIN snip.net

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

Mid State Trail Association
PO Box 167
Boalsburg, PA 16827

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. ☺

PennDOT Highway Occupancy Agreement: Current Developments

Tom Kelliher

On Dec. 16, 2004, MSTA retained Allan Fluke of Fluke Weiers, P.C., to write an opinion letter addressing the concerns we have raised with the PennDOT Highway Occupancy Agreement (HOA). Mr. Fluke has a great deal of experience in understanding the scope of PennDOT's authority. To summarize our many concerns with the HOA, as described in the article on the HOA in the summer Brushwhacker, we believe that the HOA is "illegitimate, irrational, and possibly illegal". We will continue our dialogue with PennDOT through Chris King of the PennDOT Montoursville office. DCNR is also working on our behalf, as well as staff within PennDOT itself. The opinion letter is an essential tool for furthering our cause in these discussions. We hope to have the matter resolved to our satisfaction in time to open a new section of footpath on the upcoming National Trails Day, June 4, 2005. By then, it will have been three years since Pete Fleszar began this effort involving the PA 49 right of way.

Mid State Trail near Route 26

Tom Thwaites

Beaver Pond Area on the Mid State Trail was hit very hard by hurricane Ivan back in September. Large numbers of red and white oaks were blown down, covering parts of the Mid State, Ironstone Loop, and Pine Grove Trails. (See map 202) Red and white oaks are the money trees in Rothrock Forest so forestry is going to salvage the downed trees. Consequently, trails in this area will be closed for one or even two years. Here are instructions for avoiding the Beaver Pond Area and trail junction.

1. From Joe Hays Vista on top of Tussey Ridge. Avoid Pine Grove Trail and take blue blazed Jackson Trail. Jackson Trail was cleared and blazed in August of 2004 but the burn area will have to be cleared again in 2005.

2. From junction of Ironstone Loop and Pine Swamp Road. If you are headed east on the Mid State follow Pine Swamp Road east for 3.2 km ignoring unblazed trail to Beaver Pond and gated drive way to Metz Manor hunting camp (5C366 noted on roadside post) both on your left. This is followed by two old roads to old sawmill sites blocked by piles of earth and a third old road blocked with a pile of boulders all on your left. (These sawmills were operated back in the 1960s and are marked by piles of rotten slab wood.) Take this third old road and follow it across Shavers Creek, just a step over this far up the valley. The rotting pile of slab wood marking the sawmill site can be seen to your left. Continue to orange blazed Mid State and turn right.

3. From junction of Ironstone Loop and Pine Swamp Road. If you are headed to Joe Hays Vista, you can't get there from here. You may think you see a route near PA 26 on Map 202 and all goes well up to Harry's Valley Road. This is a snowmobile trail along PA 26 which is maintained by license fees and should only be used out of season. There is even a view over Stone Valley where you cross the large power line. The trouble is the Campbell Trail beyond Harry's Valley Road has ceased to exist. This is the fate of unmaintained trails in Pennsylvania.

4. From signed junction of Mid State and Jackson Trails, 4.8 kilometers east of PA 26. if you are headed for Joe Hays Vista, continue on blue blazed Jackson Trail to west. If you are headed for Stone Valley, turn left on Mid State and follow it to sawmill site #3 in paragraph 2. Turn left and follow old road out to Pine Swamp Road and turn right for 3.2 km to a junction with blue blazed Ironstone Trail at crossing of Roaring Run. Bear left on Ironstone Trail.

Temporary signs have been placed at the top of Pine Grove Trail, Ironstone Loop near Roaring Run and at the third sawmill site. All these routes can be seen on map 202 but the sawmill sites and the old roads between them and Pine Swamp Road are not shown. Both the snowmobile trail along PA 26 and Campbell Trail are shown.

Mail Bag

A "They" Responds

Pete Fleszar

Recently in Wellsboro I was asked: "When are they going to finish the trail?" referring to the Tioga Region MST. I recalled another volunteer trail group's response, applying with even greater force to MSTA. Here it is, quoted from the Montour Trail Council's brochure dated June 2001:

"Be a "They", It never fails.

One of our volunteers will be working on the trail and someone will stop and ask, "When are THEY going to finish the trail?"

When asked, "who do you think THEY are?" the answer is almost always "the government," be it federal, state or local. A project as big as the Montour Trail has to be a government job. Right? Wrong! "THEY" are the volunteers - people like you who volunteer their time to cut the grass, install the fences, deck the bridges, put up the signs, and do the dozens of other jobs, seen and unseen, that make the Montour Trail possible. "THEY" are also the people who donate money and in kind contributions to the cause. But whatever the contribution, time or money or both, the bottom line is: no "THEY," no Montour Trail.

We need more "THEYS" to get this great project finished and keep it open for future generations to use and enjoy. We need you to be a "THEY." "

News from a "They"

As many Brushwacker readers know, Wanda Shirk has been the lead land negotiator for Tioga Region MST. Her dedication and perseverance have been the single critical factor making both the Tioga Region MST and the western alternative to the Appalachian Trail possible. And we continue to thank her. She has been a hard worker and darn good cook for KTA Trail Crew, too!

Wanda has applied the same skill and resolve to her many other fields of endeavor, such as civic responsibilities, a successful Amsoil distributorship, hosting hunters and others at her Potter County cabin, and offering love and guidance to many foster children. As if teaching junior high school English and raising two children of her own wouldn't have been enough for most of us!

Now we know, courtesy of Ginny Musser, that on December 18 Wanda returned from the filming of "Survivor 10" in Palau (southeast of the Philippines). She left October 25, shortly after negotiating her most critical trail access agreement. Many of us were privileged to view her wonderful audition video at KTA Trail Care last spring, so some were not completely surprised.

Our friend will soon be famous beyond the northern tier of Pennsylvania! Let us share in her and George's (her husband) joy as friends in the footpath community, and together with her children and students, seek inspiration from her patience and persistence.

There is only one Wanda but we can all be a "they" in our own special way. Contact msttioga@epix.net to tell us how.

Tioga Region Trail Care Report

Pete Fleszar

On November 5-7, 2004 KTA Trail Care visited the modern cabins and magnificent mud at Hills Creek State Park. Most of us continued last year's mud remediation along Lake Side Trail, a footpath in the State Park connecting to MST. A few folks cleared, dug, and blazed MST in SGL 37 and the Elkhorn Valley. Greg Schoonover, one of our landowner partners, joined us on Saturday for dinner and long conversations .

November's dedicated volunteers were: Tom Bastian, Henry Berkowitz, Jeff Clark, Bill Dietrich, Pete Fleszar, Dillon French, Joe Healey, Ken Horting, Ed Lawrence, Elwood Loudenslager, Duane Mattison, Catherine McLaughlin, Ginny Musser, Ed Rakowski, Jeff Richardson, Tina Richardson, Mike Sidell, Louise Sis, and Tom Thwaites. Liz Berkowitz and her crew from Wild Asaph Outfitters, and Mike Sidell, will stick around as overseers tending to needy sections of MST. The trail wouldn't be there without ALL of you! Many thanks to everyone!

Next year, we look forward to an ad hoc crew to finish the trail in Elkhorn Valley. Let Pete (msttioga@epix.net) know if you might be willing to head up to the Elkhorn in early spring so we can let you know when we are working.

Greenwood Spur in Alan Seegar Natural Area

Reported to Lorraine Healey, KTA, by Ben Cramer on Dec. 23, 2004

On the loop trail through the Alan Seegar Natural Area, traveling clockwise, two of the four footbridges have been badly damaged by fallen trees, which I assume were caused by the hurricanes in the autumn. The first footbridge has been totally demolished by a direct hit from two large trees. At the fourth bridge, the southern end was destroyed by a very large white pine of about two feet in diameter. The northern half of this bridge is intact. Also, between the second and third bridges (which themselves are fine), other fallen trees in the creek have caused the stream to flow over the trail, so a short section in this area is under water and impassable. There are also two more typical blowdowns along the trail, one near the beginning along Stone Creek Road, and one near the end near Seegar Road.

The PCC trail care crew will attempt to clear the trail this winter, weather permitting. If you are interested in helping contact Joe Healey. Contact information on page 1.

Attention Overseers

Please submit reports of work done on the Mid State Trail during 2004 and hours spent and any other information you may feel to be of interest to the appropriate regional trail manager. If you have pictures or would like to contribute an article about your section please send to the editor. For further information on how best to submit material for publication please contact the editor.

A Most Generous Gift

Tom Kelliher

During the morning of Saturday, Oct. 16, five members of the Keystone Trail Association Trail Care team, bedecked in blaze orange, slowly ascended Tussey Mountain through the mist in State Game Lands 73 along a newly flagged route of Mid State Trail in the Everett Region. Once on top of the ridge a brief respite in the weather allowed the group, composed of three members of the Stover family, along with Louise Sis and the author, to pause and take in the breath-taking view to the east. Numerous farms dotted the valley below, with Warrior Ridge rising on the opposite side of the valley. Soon the group put the white blazes marking the Game Lands boundary behind them and began breaking new trail on private land on the east side of the ridge top. When completed, this new trail will eliminate much of a long and tedious road march through Snake Spring Valley.

The elimination of the road walk is the result of the generous gift of Sara Jane and Charles Williams. They have granted Mid State Trail Association a trail corridor in perpetuity along the boundary of their land on the Tussey Mountain ridge top. John Stein, Everett Regional Manager, and Charles Sloan, a prominent attorney with experience in securing trail corridor gifts, ably represented MSTA during the discussions. We thank the Williams for their generous gift and acknowledge their part in helping to preserve MST, Pennsylvania's wildest footpath.

In addition to the Williams, MSTA is grateful to several other landowners who have allowed MST to pass through their property. In the Everett Region these generous landowners are Bernard Rodney; Jane Hershberger; Ross, Mildred, and Randall Smith; William and Cheryl Greenawalt; Jake Baker; and Mark Farmer. In the Tioga Region these generous individuals are Greg Schoonover; Russell and Betty Young; Krista Cessna; Pete Fleszar, Tony Verrillo; and Marc and Pam Reese. We are also grateful to Dominion Transmission; Tioga Hunting Preserve; and RV's Mt Top Campground. Finally, we acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of our State and Federal agency partners: DCNR Bureaus of Forestry and State Parks; PA Game Commission; and US Army Corps of Engineers. Without the generosity and cooperation of these individuals, companies, and agencies, MST would not be the place of peace and solitude that it is. Thank you, all.



Treasurer's Report

Your Treasurer's 2 Cents Worth:

Not including December interest on our bank balance and Time Deposit, *for which we don't know the amount yet -- around \$30 perhaps*, here are the total monetary assets of MSTA :

\$20,401.66 Money Market Check/Savings Account
\$15.47 Petty Cash
\$15,671.57 Time Deposit on 11/29/04

\$36,088.70 Total Assets 12/31/04

Total net gain for the year was \$15, 634.10. Most of that is due to a very large donation (\$13,000) in the second quarter of 2004.

YTD total donations were \$14,197.15
4th quarter donations were \$671.

Total income for the year \$18,518.82 (*plus Dec. interest*)
Total expenses \$ 2884.72

The complete 4th quarter/ yearly spreadsheet report for will be available soon.

Jean Aron, MSTA Treasurer, January 2, 2005

Notice of Election

Officers will be voted at the Winter meeting to serve a term of two years. Offices to be voted are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer can be held by the same individual. Also to be voted are the proposed new by laws of the Association. The proposed by laws follow on pages 5 and 6.



View from Indian Lookout above Colerain Picnic Area March. 1990. This was formerly on the main trail when the trail began at Colerain. It is now on the blue blazed side trail leading to the top of Tussey Mountain.

photo Mike Cosgrove

Proposed ByLaws of the Mid State Trail Association

To be voted at the meeting on January 29, 2005

BYLAWS OF THE MID STATE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Adopted September 30, 1984

Revised : : :

Article 1 Name

The name of this organization shall be the Mid State Trail Association.

Article 2 Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be the completion and preservation of the Mid State Hiking Trail System. To this end the MSTA will:

1. supervise, coordinate, and carry out trail work
2. ensure that maps and guides are available to the general public
3. enter into agreements, including purchase of easements and property, with private landowners and public land managers to provide for the trail.
4. Take such other actions as may be appropriate to further the purpose of the organization.

Article 3 Members

The MSTA shall have two classes of members.

1. Individuals, and person shall be accepted as an individual member upon payment of the annual dues fixed by the association for individuals.
2. Any organization shall be accepted as an organizational member upon payment of the annual dues fixed by the association for organizations.

Article 4 Officers

Officers of the Mid State Trail association shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of two years at the annual membership meeting. For the purposes of elections, the annual meeting shall be the first one held in each calendar year. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined. The board may approve the creation of other officers. The duties of the officers shall be those usually pertaining to those offices. The officers shall constitute a Board of Trustees to transact affairs of the association calling for action between membership meetings.

The signatures of the President and Secretary are required for any legal documents.

Article 5 Regional Managers.

Regional Managers are appointed by the Board, and serve until they resign or are removed by written notice from the President. Regional Managers are responsible for the condition of their sections, the leadership of any special trail crews on their sections, and the actions of their maintainers/ overseers. Regional Managers will distribute written instructions for their maintainers, and a clear understanding of the boundaries of the maintenance assignment. Regional Managers will interact with government agencies or any private landowners in questions of trail location, trail condition, and special additions (such as bridges) on their sections. Regional Managers will ensure that up-to-date maps and trail guides are provided to the association officer charged with publication. Regional Managers will maintain computer records of their maintainers and provide such records to the association officers on request. Regional Managers will make timely reports to council, and will provide summary statistics of annual work to council and Keystone Trails Association on request.

Article 6 Meetings

There shall be at least one membership meeting each year at a time and place set by the Board. A minimum of seven members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. Organizational members are entitled to one voting representative.

Article 7 Committees

Any committee authorized by the members of the association shall be appointed by the president.

Article 8 Property

The president or a person appointed by the president shall be custodian of all properties other than money.

Article 9 Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this association, the property of the association shall be conveyed to the Keystone Trails Association or a similar organization at the discretion of the Board. The Penn State Outing Club shall have right of first refusal for maintaining the Mid State Trail System and producing maps and guides.

continued on next page

Article 10 Parliamentary Authority

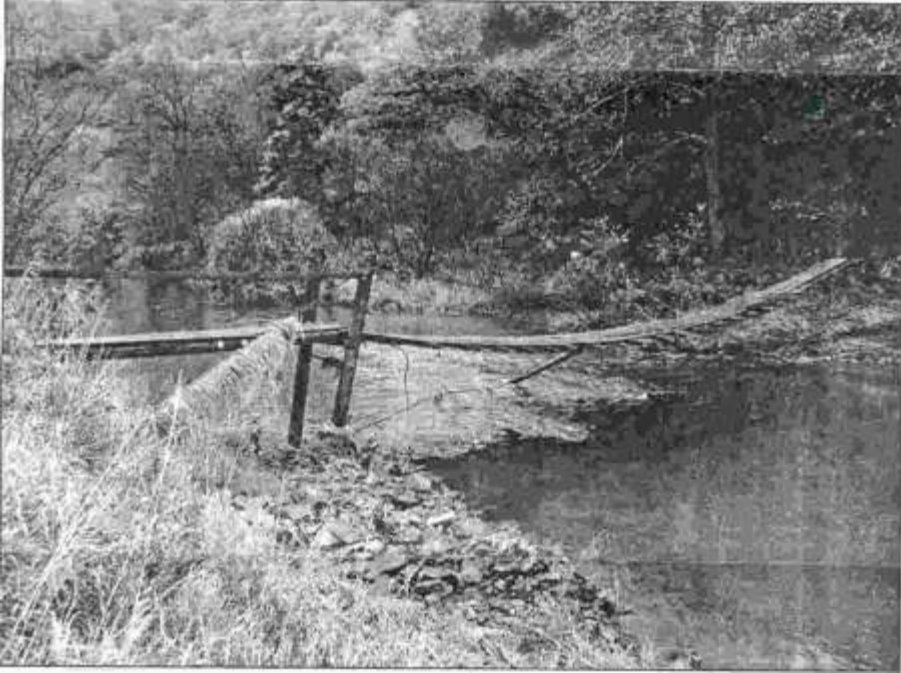
The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be followed by the association for all matters not contained in these bylaws.

Article 11 Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present at a general membership meeting, providing, that the substance of the changes has been published in the MSTA newsletter at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Article 12 Donations to the MSTA

The MSTA may accept donations which further the purposes of the association. Donations earmarked for corridor preservation or for capital improvements shall be spent only for those purposes. The treasurer or his/her designee shall track these funds and report to the membership.

**Yellow Creek Bridge in Everett Region**

Failed bridge over Yellow Creek. If you are interested in helping with the Yellow Creek Bridge project and Mid State Trail please contact John Stein, Everett Region trail manager (see page one).

Mid State Trail Association
PO Box 167
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