

BRUSHWHACKER

Spring 2006

Somewhat regular publication of the Mid State Trail Association



Mid State Trail and Great Eastern Trail

from Tom Johnson via John Stein

The Great Eastern Trail is an approximately 1,600 mile long non-motorized trail system stretching from the Florida/Alabama border to the Finger Lakes Region New York. While it is primarily a foot path, a few sections are multi-use. For instance parts of the Tuscarora Trail permit multi-use. The trail will pass through nine states, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York.

This trail system is the product of a cooperative grassroots effort coordinated by American Hiking Society. It provides an alternative to the beloved Appalachian Trail. The beauty of the Great Eastern Trail is that it provides connections to more than 10,000 miles of trails including four National Scenic Trails (Florida National Scenic Trail, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, and the North Country National Scenic Trail). The trail also passes through some spectacular and little-visited areas such as the Cumberland Plateau, Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia, and remote areas of Virginia and Pennsylvania. The trail will also pass through downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee as well. No plans exist at this time to pursue National Scenic Trail designation nor will eminent domain be used to acquire land.

Large segments of the trail are complete, such as the Tuscarora Trail, but several gaps need to be bridged. Trail groups are working hard to identify ways to connect existing trail to make a continuous route. As with any long distance trail system, it will take some time to complete this trail.

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It's not too late to come for all or part of the week!

Keystone Trails Association Trail Crew

The KTA will again sponsor a trail crew week on the Mid State Trail in the Tioga Region from June 13 to June 18, 2006. Crew will camp at Twin Streams Campground in Morris, PA. The crew will be building new foot trail. Crew leader Pete Fleszar. To register for trail crew contact Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702, or by phone at 570.655.4979 or by email at jnlhealey@aol.com

The KTA will be sponsoring other trail crew weeks and trail care weekends throughout Pennsylvania. Further information at their web site <http://www.kta-hike.org/>

Volunteer for a day, a weekend, a week, or all three weeks. There are tasks for everyone. The crew assembles on Tuesday evening for dinner and orientation, works full days Wednesday through Saturday, and a half day on Sunday. KTA provides a place to camp and supplies all the food, tools, and work gloves

The **Spring /Summer meeting of the MSTA** will be held on Saturday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Twin Streams Campground in Morris. This is the same location as the KTA trail crew. 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

Regional News

Everett Region, John Stein regional manager

Good-Bye Earl Mumma

John Stein, February 6, 2006

Earl Mumma and his wife have allowed the Horse-Shoe Trail on their lands for over seven years. During this time we have come to know them well as many times we stop on SATC and HSTC hikes to chat. What great people you meet when trying to secure a trail in perpetuity!

Since his recent death I have thought of Earl many times, and no doubt will look at the pictures of him often. Good by Earl; we will miss you.

Part of Mid State Trail No Longer "Endangered"

Yes, the Everett Region, Mid State Trail Association has not just an easement form but an easement in perpetuity (EIP) model. Four are now in effect - registered at the Courthouse. Hopefully, soon the 84 miles of Mid State Trail from Maryland to Rt. 22 will no longer be an Endangered Hiking Trail segment!

This pro bono work was provided to us by the top Trail Attorney in the country according to the president of a huge hiking group. We agreed to use it for "hiking trails"

Chicken Barbecue at Local Sportsman Club

The Southern Rod and Gun Club, a New Enterprise area hunting club, has volunteered to do a chicken bar-b-que sometime this summer at Loysburg and donate the proceeds to the bridge project if the MSTA will help by selling tickets and also volunteer to help at the bar-b-que.

Contact John Stein or the MSTA

State College Region, Tom Thwaites regional manager

Broad Mountain

Tom Thwaites

On Sunday 21 May Rob Tawse and a crew from the youth group at the State College Jewish Synagogue cleared the last damage from the January 2005 ice storm on the main trail east of Tricounty point on Broad Mountain. The crew braved intermittent wind blown rain but about 1 PM the sun came out and it turned into a glorious day.

The damage on Broad Mountain was not reported until fall of 2005 but the ice storm was on 4 January of that year! Surely many hikers had encountered the downed trees and branches but hadn't bothered to report them. In the absence of reports we simply assume that all is well.

(There may still be ice storm damage on the new sections south of Little Flat and possibly elsewhere but it hasn't been reported.)

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program has been assisting in the creation of this trail for over 4 years. Other federal agencies such as the USDA Forest Service manage lands that the trail passes through. The Cumberland Trail is a linear State Park in Tennessee. Similarly, the Pine Mountain Trail is a linear State Park in Kentucky. The trail also passes through a patchwork of state lands including parks, game lands, and forests.

Trail groups involved include: Alabama Hiking Trail Society, Alabama Trails Association, Georgia Pinhoti Trail Association, Inc., Cumberland Trail Conference, Pine Mountain Trail Conference, West Virginia Scenic Trails Association, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Mid State Trail Association, Link Trail, and Keystone Trails Association. Members of the Finger Lakes Conference, North Country Trail Association, and the Florida Trail Association have also been involved in this cooperative effort.

Governance of the trail will follow the paradigm that Local rule applies. The fact that the Great Eastern Trail is being created and publicized does not change the identity of the existing trails that comprise the greater system. Those trails will maintain their identity and method of blazing.

Further information is available at <http://www.greateastertrail.org>. The American Hiking Society (AHS) will also post information at <http://www.AmericanHiking.org>. Jeffrey Hunter of the AHS is the Great Eastern Trail Coordinator. and may be contacted by website or 175 Hamm Road, Chattanooga, TN 37405. (423) 266-2507

Fire on Tussey Mountain

Jean Aron, Richard Mitchell and keystonehiker.com

The fire started along Treaster Kettle Road, and burned to the top of the piece of Tussey Ridge which runs SW to NE from Bear Meadows Natural Area to Colyer Lake. Treaster Kettle Road parallels this ridge. It is between Big & Little Flat and Thickhead Mountain. The fire area is 1 to 2 miles from Mid State Trail and would have been easily visible from Little Flat Tower.

Photos show the fire area along "Tussey Mountain Trail". This old ridge-top trail is not part of our official trail system, but is used occasionally by hikers and hunters. I am guessing that the firefighters could have used Kettle Trail from Bear Meadows Road as the easiest access. Kettle Trail runs steeply south, from MST at the Tom Thwaites Monument on "4th Mountain", and crosses Bear Meadows Road and then climbs briefly up to the top of the next

ridge. Fillmore Trail would have been another access possibility. Once on top the firefighters hiked in along Tussey Mountain Trail, and the fire burned a big piece along the top of that ridge. They said when it flared up again on Tuesday, that it was heading east towards the pipeline clearing. So I am guessing it was between Reichley Trail and Shingle Path Trail.

An estimated 436 acres have been destroyed and as of this afternoon, fire officials are said to have the blaze under control, but warn that the conditions are conducive for a flair up.

Pictures and a longer account can be found at the keystone hiker website.
website: <http://www.keystonehiker.com>
Direct link to the account of the fire:
[Http://www.keystonehiker.com/2006/05/02/forest-fire-in-rothrock-sf/](http://www.keystonehiker.com/2006/05/02/forest-fire-in-rothrock-sf/)

Treasurer's Report

Funds as of April 30, 2006

Money Market Checking Account \$ 7,157.39
Time Deposit CD 16,228.67
Land Account CD 15,806.36
TOTAL \$ 39,192.42

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>
Alternately or concurrently report to the regional trail manager or the MSTA website. If it isn't reported we may think everything is fine!

Yellow Creek Bridge, Loysburg

Contributions for the Yellow Creek Bridge Project are still being sought. To contribute or for further information contact John Stein, Everett Regional Manager.

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

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.



Bear Meadows, March 1990. The Mid State Trail passes around the back of Bear Meadows and climbs the ridge to the right which it follows to Little Flat fire tower.. There are many spectacular views from this ridge, the fire would have been visible from this section of trail. *Photo Mike Cosgrove*

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