

BRUSHWHACKER

Spring 2007

Somewhat regular publication of the Mid State Trail Association



Keystone Trails Association Trail Crew

June 20-24 Trail Crew on MST, Tioga

Workers will construct new trail as the Mid State marches north! Workers will camp at Twin Streams Campground in Morris, PA. Crew will be extending the MST north and east toward New York. Contact Joe Healey, Trail Crew Chief, for a Crew application (jnlhealey@aol.com or 570.655.4979). Experienced workers may contact leader Pete Fleszar, 717.583.2093, for further details on the week itself.

The KTA will be sponsoring other trail crew weeks in June and trail care weekends in other months 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.

Important Changes

New Web Site

<http://hike-mst.org/>

New Webmaster, Steve Tuckerman

stevetuckerman1954ATDmsn.com

(Replace ATD with @)

New e-commerce site for Guides and Maps
(no longer available from Amazon)

http://www.hike-sst.org/sst-mst_mapguide.htm

Board and member listserve now on Google

See inside for more information

Communications Director--Scott Adams

Hiking Week, May 25 through June 3

KTA and DCNR have set the ambitious goal of scheduling 100 hikes for this year's PA Hiking Week. Don't forget--it's May 25th through June 3rd and there will be something for everyone. Check DCNR's special events calendar for a hike in your area and hit the trail. Hiking Week is not just about the weekends either!

Mid State Trail Photos and Articles on the Web

Mr. Tim Segina has produced a professional quality 15 minute photographic presentation covering Mid State Trail in the Everett Region. Enjoy!

Just click: <http://backpack.phanfare.com/album/255630>

Ed. note: Thank you, Tim: we hope to have more articles and information from Tim in future issues.

Meeting of the Mid State Trail Association

The Spring/Summer meeting will be on Saturday, June 23 at the Twin Streams Campground in Morris, Pennsylvania at 7:00 pm. This is where the KTA Trail Crew will be camping for the annual trail crew week on the MST. B

Mid State Trail

An Important and Scenic Part

<http://www.greateasterntail.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
kelliherATDhike-mst.org
410.931.2946

Ed Lawrence, Vice President
cathyedATDnationi.net
570.925.5285

Jean Aron, Secretary
shorthikerATDaol.com
814.466.9260

Andrea Commaker, Treasurer
AsclATDpsu.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
msttiogaATDepix.net

Joe Healey, Woolrich Region
JnlhealeyATDaol.com

Tom Thwaites, State College Region
Ttt2ATDpennswoods.net

John Stein, Everett Region
SteinhikeATDcs.com

Steve Tuckerman, Webmaster
Stevetuckerman1954ATDmsn.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.
Newsletter editor, Mike Cosgrove, 610.449.4612
Hiking.midstatetrailATDsnip.net

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**

Regional News

Everett Region, John Stein regional manager

Reported '06 Hours: MST Everett Region Year 2006 Reported 571 Volunteer Hours total. Through your efforts Pennsylvania's longest hiking trail is alive and healthy. Many agencies and private property owners have indicated they appreciate our volunteer "eyes and ears" on property, pictures of issues and problems, reporting of observations, trash pickup, as well as trail work. Lands are safer with you out there. Trail Experience reports are quite favorable. THANK YOU.

A MST section north of Everett: on Snake Spring Road (SR 1005) from US 30 to SGL 73 has been replaced by a new trail section on Tussey Ridge. Many hikers, hunters, and others eager to walk this section were evident even before the official November 5, 2005 opening. Thank you Bill, Cheryl, and James Greenawalt, Bernard, Jane, and Rodney Hershberger for allowing us on your lands. In addition to the PA Game Commission, we are most appreciative of Charles and Jane Williams, Ross, Randall, Gloria, and Mildred Smith for providing a corridor on their lands for the trail in perpetuity.

OVERSEER openings: Two beautiful rugged sections are available for adoption.

Trail Event in "Trail Town" of Everett August 23

Mark this date: August 23, 2007 Tenley Park, Everett, Pa. from 4 to 7pm. The local Chamber of Commerce will hold a family day. Deb Dunkle will have a station to provide information on the Mid State Trail. Tim Segina will also be showing his slides of the trail. See Tim's article below. Please contact Deb or Tim for directions to the park..

Mid State Trail by Tim Segina

An older black Jeep with a "Rails to Trails Conservancy" license plate crossed choppy seas of blacktop as it sailed from Pittsburgh to the Mid-State Trail. When it arrived several hours later near a sign that read "Mid State Trail in Buchanan State Forest" the driver exited his vessel, gazed 360 degrees, smiled, and confidently stated - "we picked the right trail". The driver was Tim Segina, 39, a discharge planner at the University of Pittsburgh's Medical Center, who is now on a mission to tell the story of the Mid State Trail and the volunteers that made it possible.

Tim, accompanied by his childhood best friend and a friend from work, backpacked the section of the MST from the Maryland border to Everett on April 7 through the 12th. The trip was held during some very frigid days when the temperature plummeted below the freezing point and a blanket of snow covered the ground. But, that is not what made this trip so unique. Other more and less experienced backpackers have completed the Everett section of the MST in far less time and under even more unfriendly climatic conditions. What made it so unique was that Tim Segina, a naturalist and photographer, was armed with a 35mm lens that captured the trail's beauty in a way that a Google search had never before uncovered. His MST pictures are now in the public domain and can be accessed at <http://backpack.phanfare.com/album/255630>.

Tim will also be giving an oral and visual presentation of the MST to the Everett Chamber of Commerce on August 23. Anyone wishing to attend the event can contact him via e-mail at seginatj@upmc.edu. The pictures and the Chamber event are just a small way to give "thanks" a thank you to the many volunteers who have made a walk on Tussey Ridge possible. Your volunteered time means a great deal.

State College Region, Tom Thwaites regional manager

Fire Tower on Little Flat Closed

Little Flat Fire Tower has been closed to public access due to vandalism. The steps have been removed to enforce this closure.

Tioga Region, Pete Fleszar regional manager

Hiking Weekend on the Mid State Trail

SATC, MSTA, and the Three Rivers Outing Club of Corning, NY are jointly hosting a special weekend event, July 4 to 8, 2007, day hiking portions of the MST and other footpaths in and near northern Tioga County PA. For details, see <http://www.fleszar.org/topoftioga07.htm>

A Hike in the State College Region

by Scott Adams. Scott also has articles and photos on the Mid State Trail which can be found at www.pahikes.com

The Great Eastern Trail is a new trail that stretches approximately 1,600 miles from Florida to New York. Though not entirely completed, the Great Eastern Trail uses many trails already in existence such as the Pinhoti Trail, Cumberland Trail, Tuscarora Trail, Link Trail, Mid State Trail, and the North Country Trail. One of the shorter connecting trails found along the length of the GET is the Greenwood Spur of the Mid State Trail. The Greenwood Spur connects the Link Trail at Greenwood State Park to the Mid State Trail along Detweiler Run in the Detweiler Natural Area.

The Greenwood Spur is officially a side trail of the Mid State Trail system, and as such, is maintained by the volunteers of the Mid State Trail Association. The Greenwood Spur is 6.7 miles in length and was the first side trail of the Mid State Trail system, opened in 1974. The trail features the historic landmarks of ore production at Greenwood, as well as the Greenwood fire tower on top of Broad Mountain and the Alan Seeger Natural Area.

I decided to venture out this past summer to do a hike after work. Being early summer when the sun doesn't set until well past 8:00, I knew that my girlfriend and I could probably handle a hike of about 4 miles before it got dark. We decided on hiking along Detweiler Run, on the Greenwood Spur, to Alan Seeger, and then follow the forest roads back to the trailhead and our car.

There are many ways to reach the trailhead for this hike. Depending on your mode of transportation, and how much you like, or dislike, driving on dirt roads, will help in determining the best way to approach the trailhead. To stay on paved road for the majority of the trip, you will want to make your way to Stone Creek Road. This is a paved road that travels through the heart of Rothrock State Forest from route US 322 to route PA 26. It passes Penn Roosevelt, Alan Seeger, and Seeger Place, and is worth a trip of it's own, for those days when you don't feel like hiking, but just want to go for a ride. From route US 322 you will want to travel down Stone Creek Road for about 7.9 miles. Along the way you will pass Alan Seeger Natural Area, at about 7.4 miles, and then you will pass Seeger Place on your right. Just after Seeger Place you will turn right onto Detweiler Run Road [Bear Meadows Rd.-ed.]. This is where the pavement stops and you will need to drive for a short distance on a well maintained, stone forest road. Once on Detweiler Run [Bear Meadows] Road, travel for another 1.8 miles to reach the trailhead. The road switchbacks to your right and there is room to park by the gated road here. Don't block the gate as these old roads are used for emergency access in case of forest fires.

The hike started by following the orange blazed Mid State Trail down the side of Thickhead Mountain to Detweiler Run. At this juncture, 0.25 miles from the trailhead, the main artery of the Mid State Trail continues on to your left. My girlfriend and I did this hike last year. On that hike, as we followed Detweiler Run to its

Continued on page 4

Treasurer's Report (As of March 23, 20077)

Money Market Checking Account \$ 9,261.70
Time Deposit CD 16,851.11
Land Account CD 16,412.60
Total \$ 42,525.41

Special Northwest Bridge Account : \$5,765.78

Mid State Trail Association Google Group.

The Association no longer maintains the members list serve. Members may receive and post notices to the google site. The URL is <http://groups.google.com/group/msta-members>. If you do not want to set up a Google Groups account please send a request to subscribe@hike-mst.org

New Web Site for the Association and Webmaster and e-Commerce

Steve Tuckerman will be the new webmaster. We thank Pete Fleszar for his efforts in the past, in particular, setting up the e-commerce site. To improve its presence on the web the Association has acquired a domain name and hosted web site. Please visit and if you would like [and cc to "Brushwhacker"] send information to Steve for the web site.

The arrangement with Amazon to carry maps and guides did not work out for the Association. As a result Pete has set up an e-commerce site. Maps and guides to MST and the Standing Stone Trail can be purchased there.

See front page for site and email addresses.

Communications Director Appointed

Tom Kelliher

During last June's meeting at Twin Streams, we approved creating the position of Publicity Director. I'm extremely pleased to appoint Scott Adams to the position of Communications Director. (I decided to change the title from "Publicity Director" to "Communications Director" in accordance with current practices) Scott will be working with Mike, Steve, and the rest of us to communicate the Mid State Trail's story to our varied constituencies. The projects that Scott and I have already discussed are: providing content that our partners can include on their Web sites (specifically, the Everett Area Recreational Opportunities site), the GET's first thru-hiker, the Woolrich shelter dedication later this summer, and, perhaps, membership growth. If you have other ideas, please send them to Scott for consideration. Scott's e-mail address is scottATDtheadams.net. I've added him to the msta-board mailing list.

Ed. Note: This came through at the last moment to be included in this newsletter. Please see Scott's article in this issue.

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

headwaters, we walked on the remnants of the Reichley Brother's railroad grade. This was nothing more than a bunch of small rocks and the mile and half of walking that we did on it did a number on our feet. We were hoping that this hike along Detweiler on the Greenwood Spur was not a repeat of that a year ago.

We left the orange blazed Mid State Trail and continued southwest on the blue blazed Greenwood Spur. There were a few sections at the start that were somewhat rocky, but they were short lengths and not at all that bad. We followed the northwest bank of Detweiler for the next 0.5 miles. A few instances we came very close to the stream. We had just had a week of heavy rains and the night before featured a typical summertime deluge. With all of this recent rain, Detweiler was full in it's banks and we paused many times to enjoy the sites and sounds of the water.

We crossed over Detweiler many times on this hike, but none of the crossings were quite as unique as the bridge that we encountered one mile into our hike. This bridge led over the stream to a camp. The bridge was quite long as the stream spread out at this point making for a wide swampy area on both sides of the main stream. What was unique about this bridge was that it was covered in red carpeting. It was an odd sight to see in the middle of the woods.

Around 1.25 miles into our hike the trail merged with what appeared to be an old abandoned forest road. The road was grown over with grass but you could tell it was a road once because of the gradual grade, width, and obstacle free state of the trail. My girlfriend and I were able to walk side by side along this part of the trail and enjoy the rhododendron that were just beginning to bloom. We emerged from the woods onto Stone Creek Road after a half mile of walking on this nicely groomed trail. We crossed Stone Creek Road and soon found ourselves on another well groomed trail. This trail is within Alan Seeger Natural Area and took us through rhododendron tunnels, across Standing Stone Creek, and

along side some ancient hemlock trees. At about 2.2 miles of hiking we came out on Seeger Road which connects Greenwood Furnace State Park with Alan Seeger Natural Area. From here the Greenwood Spur continues to the top of Broad Mountain, but we had to head back to the car. This marked the end of our trail walking with the remaining 2.5 miles of hiking being done on forest roads.

We finished the last 2.5 miles of the hike in a little under one hour even with the fact that we saw an elevation gain of 500 feet on this part of the hike. Hiking along forest roads may not be as nice as hiking the trails through the heart of the woods, but it does allow you to make good time. And even if we weren't walking on the trails we were still out in woods enjoying their serenity.

This circuit hike was about 4.7 miles in length and we did it in just a little over 2 hours. It was nice to get back out into the woods for a hike. This hike along Detweiler was also much more enjoyable than our last. Even though this is a side trail of the Mid State Trail it didn't feel as if I was hiking on the Mid State. It did feel like I was hiking on the Great Eastern Trail and I'm looking forward to getting back out to finish the rest of the Greenwood Spur.

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!

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.

Mid State Trail Association
PO Box 167
Boalsburg, PA 16827