

BRUSHWHACKER

Summer 2007

Somewhat regular publication of the Mid State Trail Association



Mid State Trail Association 25th Anniversary

The Association will celebrate its 25th anniversary at the Fall meeting at the new Woolrich Shelter in Woolrich, Pennsylvania. Although the Mid State Trail began much earlier under the auspices of the Penn State Outing Club in the late 1960's the current MSTA was formed in 1982 and the Mid State Trail began its expansion out of the Seven Mountains Region. **Come celebrate on August 22, pot luck lunch at 12 noon followed by meeting at 1 pm.** The shelter is located in the town park near the Woolrich Company store.

TRAIL CARE ON MST

The Keystone Trails Association will sponsor a trail care weekend in the Everett Region November 2, 3, and 4. Camp at Tenley Park in Everett, PA. Leader John Stein, 707-533-3679.

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.

New Trail Map Available

The Trail has a new map covering maps 307 to 310 and replacing maps 201 through 204 and 212. It shows the trail from US Route 22 in Water Street to Poe Paddy State Park. The map is printed on waterproof and tear resistant material, in color. It shows many side trails, including the Reeds Gap Spur, Greenwood Spur, and Ironstone Loop. Many very favorable comments have been received. Many thanks to Pete Fleszar for putting this all together. The maps and guides are available through the MSTA web site or by writing to the Association.

WOOLRICH CELEBRATES OPENING OF J. WOODS RICH SHELTER ON THE MID STATE TRAIL

Press Release from Woolrich June 8, 2007 – Woolrich continued its commitment to the outdoor community by opening the J. Woods Rich Shelter on the Mid State Trail today. Together with the Mid State Trail Association

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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

Ed Lawrence, Vice President

Jean Aron, Secretary

Andrea Commaker, Treasurer

**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

Joe Healey, Woolrich Region

Tom Thwaites, State College Region

Deb Dunkle, Everett Region

Steve Tuckerman, Webmaster

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.

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

Tioga Region, Pete Fleszar regional manager

By my tally this brings the completed MST to 503.2 km, when PENNDOT is done with the closed section of SR 3009 we are on briefly, we can say 504 km total, of which 460 km is MD border to Arnot Road in Charleston Township, and 44 km Hills Creek SP (also in Charleston Township) to Tompkins Rec Area.

And, between HCSP's Lake Side Trail we will be using on the west side of Hills Creek Lake, and path cleared by Mike Sidell from HCSP to Orebed Road, there is approximately 5.6 km more that is cleared and may be blazed soon.

The road walk between the intersection of Warren Lane and Orebed Road, and the intersection of South Elk Run Road and Arnot Road, is 13.4 km, our target to get permission to be off road if possible, before next year's Trail Crew at HCSP.

Thanks to all, Pete Fleszar

Tioga Region Trail Crew

We had 33 volunteers for this year's Trail Crew in Tioga Region: Joe Healey reports this is the highest number ever for a KTA Summer Crew. Scott Adams, Tom Bastian, Jack Bushey, Daniel Bougherty, Betty Clark, Joe Clark, Jeff Clarke, Mike Cosgrove, Deb Dunkle, Brandon Eddinger, Pete Fleszar, Carl Ganong, Joe Healey, Lorraine Healey, Tom Kelliher, Elwood "Woody" Loudenslager, Jerry Lehman, Dave Maxwell, Pat Monahan, Don Muth, Sheila Oswald, George Reistad, Christine Richardson, Jeff Richardson, Bryon Robinson, Harold Schneider, Paul Shaw, Louise Sis, John Stein, Tom Thwaites, Steve Tuckerman, Barb Wiemann, and John Zerphey came from as near as Wellsboro and as far as Virginia to continue clearing the route east of PA 287. Mike Sidell, Sarah Gilkinson, and Tom Kelliher offered critically valuable assistance beforehand, preparing the way for the Crew. Scott Adams proved Tom Thwaites' aphorism that if you hike alone on MST you will meet more bears than people, see <http://www.pahikes.com/trails/ktatrailcrew07mst.asp>. A reporter for the Elmira Star-Gazette joined one of the clearing crews to prepare a story on Great Eastern Trail, see <http://www.star-gazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070708/LIFE/707080303/1035>. In addition to wildlife, the newly opened path features waterfalls, the ghost town of Landrus, and subtle reminders of long-past loggers and miners. By my reckoning, MST now exceeds 500 km in length. Special thanks to Tioga State Forest, Danzer Forestland, Inc., Wellsboro Municipal Authority, and Marc & Pam Reese for making the path possible, by graciously allowing us to use their properties. More thanks to our new overseers, Sarah (Gilkinson) Nevin, Carl Ganong, and Joe Healey. Look soon at the MST website for temporary map and guide. Next year, KTA Trail Crew moves north, June 17 through June 22, 2008, to Hills Creek State Park (tentatively). Dare we say we will then be DONE?!?! (No, our work is never done...)

State College Region, Tom Thwaites regional manager Musser Gap Access Open--Important Birding and Hiking Area

Jean Aron

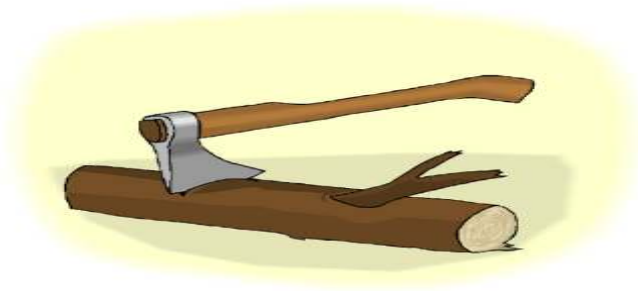
Musser Gap is now officially open for public exploration. The entrance is located about 3 KM east of Pine Grove Mills on PA 45. DCNR has improved the old farm lane and installed a gravel parking lot. **Please do NOT park along the Highway.** There may still be a "Road Closed" sign on the gravel entrance,

(MSTA), the nonprofit organization founded in 1982 to build and maintain the trail in Pennsylvania, Woolrich celebrated the opening with a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:00am, attended by notables including Woolrich President Jim Griggs; Tom Kelliher, president of the Mid State Trail Association; grandchildren of J. Woods Rich; and Clinton county officials.

Located in Woolrich Park, the J. Woods Rich Shelter is the first dedicated shelter along the Mid State Trail, the longest footpath in Pennsylvania. Named for a former president of Woolrich (1964 – 1968), the log cabin-inspired shelter is a much-needed break on what had been a 26-mile hike between shelters currently located at Ravensburg State Park and Bonnell Flats. The shelter features a slanted roof to protect hikers from harsh sun and winds and offers nearby restrooms and drinking water for the majority of the hiking season.

“Woolrich maintains an interest in preserving the natural beauty of the Pennsylvania Mid State Trail and support of outdoor recreation,” said Griggs. “It is our hope that hikers from our area, as well as those visiting from out-of-state will be able to enjoy this shelter and the trail for years to come.”

The shelter is the latest contribution in a list of local, regional and national conservation and outdoor recreation efforts supported by Woolrich, an authentic American brand known for outdoor lifestyle apparel and accessories for more than 176 years.



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

E-Mail Newsletter?

The Association will be considering the launch of an email newsletter as an addition, not a replacement, to the Brushwhacker. If you would like to receive notices about the trail please send your email address to the webmaster,

The new shelter in Woolrich
Photo Scott Adams



because Penn DOT does not approve the sharply angled exit. This will be corrected at a later date. Meanwhile please be extra cautious entering and leaving Musser Gap. The new Mid State Trail Color Map shows it as "Proposed Musser Gap Trailhead". There may be an opportunity for some of you to participate in locating and building trails there.

ClearWater Conservancy's acquisition was complete a few weeks ago, and now ownership & management (and liability) has been transferred to DCNR's Bureau of Forestry. It will be designated a "Recreational Gateway to Rothrock State Forest".

This land transfer and Conservation Easement has taken a couple of years to complete, but it is beautiful in many ways. The natural beauty, of course, is obvious. But the beauty of cooperation among so many diverse groups, government bodies, and all of the people who understand and care for this important area is another kind of beauty that is thrilling to see. Musser Gap was recognized for it's value as a watershed recharge area, collecting water from 1900 acres and keeping the State College well fields viable. It was recognized as an Important Bird Area, as many migratory birds travel the updrafts along Tussey Ridge. It was recognized as a diverse forest habitat for many species of animals and plants, and a potential recreational destination for hikers, x-c skiers, hunters, birders.

THANK YOU NOTE

Hello all-Happy New Year. The Association received in the mail a note from Jeff Taisch, Volunteers Coordinator, Bureau of Forestry in Williamsport. It is addressed to Volunteers and is a thank you note for time MSTA volunteers put in on the Tiadaghton State Forest throughout last year (2006).

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.

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
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