

The Linkster

Spring 2008

The Official Newsletter of the

Standing Stone Trail Club

PRESIDENTIAL WORDS

Thanks to the renewals and welcome to all new members. Our trail is starting to take shape with new sections and relocations. Starting south to north, here is a list of the improvements:

- Our trailhead will be moved to the breast of the dam at Cowans Gap State Park. We will use the Lakeside Trail southbound and climb to the crest of Cove Mountain on Knobsville Road. Then it's northbound to Todd Trail and on to US522 for crossing and the Truett property, which we skirt up into SGL81 on Blacklog Mountain – eliminating 4.2 miles of roadwalk (when PGC approved).
- At Locke Valley Road we plan to go north on Blacklog Mountain to cross the Little Aughwick Creek at the Mathews Bridge and then continue on cross country to the Trail Town of Three Springs. This will eliminate the last road walking 5.2 miles if successful.
- There are other relocations planned but the most important is at the crossing of US 22 near the Trail Town of Mapleton. Here we have a permanent trail head with camping, parking, picnic benches, water, and privy planned as part of the Mapleton Park Plan and we are taking steps to include a crossing over or under US 22.
- Some may not know we are not only a stand-alone foot trail but also part of the Great Eastern Trail and the Tuscarora

Greenway (TT from the Mason-Dixon Line to Cowans Gap SP and our entire trail to Greenwood Furnace SP). Fulton and Huntingdon Counties have agreed to submit a Growing Greener Planning Grant to study the greenway, which will open the door to our getting access to private land and crossing the highway and lots of other resources.

- Our three grants for a shelter, GIS equipment, and tools have been approved however the funds have not yet been released by DCNR.
- Our special thanks go out to Trail Master Mel Cooper and Tom Scully (author of our Master Plan) for setting up our trail cares and Jack Bushey for taking on leadership of the Old Timers; to Joe Clark for GPSing and producing maps of the trail relocations; Treasurer Rich Scanlon for laying out an important investment strategy; Tom Miller for his successful dealings with landowners; Pete Fleszar our Webmaster, for building one of the most advanced and useable websites of any trail club; and Secretary Mike Sausser for publishing our Linkster newsletter.
- Our Annual Meeting is at Getty Ridge Camp near McAlevys Fort on Saturday evening, April 26 as part of the KTA trailcare weekend. We will elect our new officers for the next three years at this meeting – hope to see you there.

Club President; Carl Lorence

Word from the Woods

2008 brings a new year for trail work on the Standing Stone Trail (SST) and there is plenty to do. The Old Timers Trail Care Corps (OTTCC) will be run by **Jack Bushey** this year. For specific dates, times and meeting places contact Jack at happyjack52535@comcast.net or phone 717-249-4566. The OTTCC plans to begin on March 22nd and it will continue through October of this year. Work will be set up for each second Wednesday and the next to the last Saturday of each month. Again specifics can be obtained from Jack or from our SST Website calendar at www.hike-sst.org.

Many thanks to the section maintainers for your trail work last year. I have received good reports from certain sections of our trail. Remember your work is not complete until the paperwork is done. You must complete the KTA work sheet I sent you, sign it and return it to me and I will see that it gets to the KTA.

I would ask that you pay close attention to trail blazes this year. They must be 2" wide x 6" long no blotches and no double slants for turns. We will use two 2" x 6" rectangles, one on top of the other with the top one to the right or left of the bottom depending on which direction the trail turn is going. Remember we DO NOT need over abundance of trail blazes – they should be a little beyond the sighting distance of the hiker after he just passed a blaze. All old orange blazes must be checked out and browned out. Our first priority is the hiker's safety, and the assurance that he/she will not get lost. Any questions on blazes please contact me at lunchtime1@verizon.net or 814-643-2641. I need to know all sections are being maintained. If you are having difficulty let me know. I don't want to hear of problems from disgruntled hikers.

The OTTCC will be building new trail this year, placing in new signs and taking care of one section that does not have a maintainer. There will also be work done on logistics for a new through hiker's pamphlet. If you want to help welcome aboard! Please sign up with Jack.

In closing, please welcome new section maintainer **Ed McNeal**. Ed is from Cornpropts Mills, PA. Ed lives very close to his section, which runs from Frew Road to Frew Road. **Rick Bayer**, a new maintainer who has been with us about two years now, brought Ed to us. Ed is an avid hunter and fisherman. He has two sons who are PA State Foresters. He loves the outdoors and he is quite familiar with trail work and hard physical work in general! Welcome Ed McNeal.

Trail Master; Mel Cooper

It's 2008!

And dues are due.

It is 2008 and already it is heading for April. That means it is time to pay your taxes and your Club DUES. Yes, it is that time again! You may download a membership form from the clubs website at www.hike-sst.org, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click support. Then print out the form. It is that easy! Yearly membership is only \$10 bucks, yes it is that cheap! But hey remember we are a tax write off. So if you can, give a little more, its better then giving it to Uncle Sam.

Life Membership is a bargain at \$250.00. Plus there is three optional ways to make payments. Full, yearly or quarterly. See how easy we are to get along with!

The Presidential Campaign

While the great debate is coming to Pennsylvania this April. The National Presidential Campaign is not the only contest going this year. The Standing Stone Trail Club Inc. is holding elections as well in April. While the SST election does not have national implications. It is important to the future and course direction the club takes. It is important that you get out and vote!

Running for office this year is *Carl Lorence for President.*

Vice President: Vacant, If you are interested in this position or would like to nominate someone contact Carl Lorence.

Running for the other offices are *Mike Sausser for Secretary* and *Rich Scanlon for the Treasurer.* Running for the *Trail Master* spot is *Mel Cooper.*

All position are unopposed, however if you want to run for office or want to nominate anyone for any position feel free! However you must submit your nominations by Apr. 15th, 2008.

The vote is open to all club members. To be able to vote, your dues must be paid up to date. The vote will be taken by ballot at the club meeting. The meeting and vote will be held on Apr. 26, 2008. The location for the meeting is Gettys Ridge Camp near Greenwood Furnace. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. You must be present to vote.

For more information about nominations or voting contact Carl Lorence.

The Club

President: Carl Lorence, 3812 Griffin Lane, Harrisburg Pa., 17710. Ph. (717) 234-1521 or E-Mail: pastumbler@aol.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Mike Sausser

Treasurer: Rich Scanlon

Trail Master: Mel Cooper, RR1 Box 433C, Huntingdon Pa. 16652 Ph. (814) 643-2641

Tool Master: Joe Clark, 410 s. Washington St., Mount Union Pa., 17066. Ph. (814) 542- 4467

Newsletter Editor: Mike Sausser, 1608 Long Run Rd., Schuylkill Haven Pa. 17972. Ph. (570) 739-4803

Club Website: <http://www.hike-sst.org>

Club Address: Standing Stone Trail Club, Inc., c/o Rich Scanlon, 27 Sandy Lane-Suite 206, Lewistown Pa. 17044

Club Events

April 11-13, 2007 – KTA/SST Chainsaw Training
Taught by John Motz at Gettys Ridge Cabin – limited to 25 – contact John at jmotz@enter.net .

April 25 – 27, 2008 KTA/SST Trail Care
Base Camp at R. Scanlon's Gettys Ridge Cabin.
Working in Martins Gap area. Contact Mel Cooper for more info.

April 26, 2008 SST Club Meeting and Elections.
Meeting to be held at Gettys Ridge, starts at 7:00 PM

Monthly Trail Care Outings: See the club website for dates and places or contact Jack Bushey

The Master Plan

Joe Clark, Mel Cooper, Tom Scully and Carl Lorence are rather busy exploring routes, talking to land owners, meeting with the DCNR, Game Commission officials, attending town meetings, Great Eastern Meetings and Greenway Meetings all in the attempt to produce a better trail.

The effort and work this group of people has done so far is phenomenal. They have been extremely dedicated to the task and their accomplishments are starting to add up.

While they have yet to produce a final document to the board and they seem to keep much of their current efforts and plans secret to themselves. However the information does slowly dribble out, letting us know that the group as big changes in mind and progress is being made towards that goal.

In fact phase two of the Master Plan trail route, will begin this spring (Phase one was the side hill work on Cove Mt. which was completed last year and received rave reviews from DCNR). The second trail reconstruction will be moving the trail route on Rocky Ridge. Work will be done to keep more of the trail on top of the ridge and then change the southern end of the route. Changes here will improve the overall quality and grade of the trail.

An according to Trail Master, Mel Cooper, after the work is completed, this section will have a brand new caretaker with Ed McNeal taking on the challenge of this lovely 1 mile long section. Ed this was always one of my favorite sections of the trail so please take good care of her!

Odds & Ends

KTA News & Events

Sad to say Keystone Trails Association's first attempt with an Executive Director came to a sudden end when Paul Shaw hit the trail and took on a new job.

KTA is looking hard for a replacement for Paul. It will be hard to replace him because he fit right into the organization and seemed to be a natural.

Two thumbs up must be given to KTA President (and SSTC member) Thyra Sperry for her efforts. I don't know if it was ever in her plans to become President of the KTA, but I'm glad she did. This gal seems to be working hard to turn the club around. It is time KTA moved from a small grass roots organization to a true voice to be heard in the wilderness of Harrisburg. Thyra is working hard to turn the clubs fortunes around and deserves our support.

PA Hike Week

This year is set for May 24 to June 1, if anyone wants to play tour guide on a section of the trail let me (Mike Sausser) know the particulars (date, time, where) and I'll try my best to get the word out. Hikes leaving from one of the State Parks seem to generate the most interest.

Section Review

The trail received a nice write up by **PAHikes.com**. I found this website to be well rounded with plenty of reviews on trails I know and don't know. The site had nice photos and was easy to navigate. The writer promised to spend more time on the Standing Stone, I'm sure he will be pleased with what he finds.