



The Happy Hiker

The Official Newsletter of the Allentown Hiking Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflections and Projections

There is a temptation to write about hiking in the snow. However after that President's Message about hiking in the rain, every hike from April until October I either cancelled a hike due to rain, or slogged around in a downpour. So let us simply say that the Allentown Hiking Club hikes in the snow, and we have adventures when hiking in the snow.

With Christmas and the New Year just with us, this may be a good time to take a look at the past year and the upcoming year. In spite of the rain, the hiking this past year has brought some very pleasant surprises. Some surprises were when doing work in Lehigh Gorge, the project took us to Penn Haven planes (it didn't rain). We did a little work, but also got a very unique and exciting view of Lehigh Gorge. On a work



Hiking in Lehigh Gorge - Jim Gabovitz

project on the Charcoal Trail at the Wildlife Information Center (WIC), summer storms kept attendance to a few people, but our small group had some very interesting experiences. Dan Kunkle took the opportunity to set up an insect trap and we had a great educational moment. We also did work on the trail and got wet in the process, but were rewarded with a great view of some thunderheads in the distance. Learning, getting wet, and great views, what a combination of experiences. On another occasion, a scheduled hike on the new Charcoal Trail was cancelled due to rain, but a club member and I hung around Osprey house until the weather broke. The other club member and I did the hike along with three youngsters from WIC. I don't know what the youngsters' experience was, but I sure got a few good lessons from them. I was reminded on how to just be curious about my surroundings, to let go and be childlike for a few precious moments. Those moments will not hurt a thing, but will be treasured for a long time to come. If I had to pick the one highlight of the hiking year, it was the D&L Picnic at Moore park. The picnic itself was probably pretty typical of most summer fare, but the high light was live music. When they played Bach on a hammer dulcimer I was ecstatic. I thought I had died and gone to heaven.

I don't know why other people hike, but regardless of the weather or other hardships we may encounter, it seems to me, that it is a rare hike that does not have that spontaneous, special moment, when we connect with Mother Nature, ourselves or better yet, another hiker. I have no idea what sort of weather we will be hiking in next year, but hopefully next year will bring more views and spontaneous connectedness. I am looking forward particularly to several hikes I have planned: the Summit Hill to Jim Thorpe hike on the Switchback, the Lehigh Gorge hike, some hikes on the AT, and most exciting of all the Appalachian Trail Conservancy conference in Ramapo, New Jersey. We have a lot to be thankful for, and a lot to look forward to.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Happy Hiking,
Jim Gabovitz

The Happy Hiker is published quarterly by the Allentown Hiking Club, Inc. The opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the AHC, but of the authors.

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**Deadlines for the
Spring 2007
Newsletter-Schedule
Happy Hiker Newsletter
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007
Activity Schedule
Wednesday, March 7, 2007**

Please forward all Club related articles, thoughts, and items to the editor by mail or, preferably, by email or disk using MS Word.

Send all hiking schedule activities to the schedule coordinator. You do not have to use the hike schedule form found on the club web site and in this newsletter, but if you choose not to, please include all the listed fields in your description of the activity.

AHC DUES INCREASE

At the September 2006 meeting of the Allentown Hiking Club, the annual dues for club membership were increased and a two tier dues system was introduced. The dues were increased to address the cost to the club of printing and mailing the quarterly newsletter. The club's publication cost increased after the city of Allentown stopped printing the newsletter for the club back in January, 2005.

The Household Membership was also created for when there is more than one member at the same address. The new annual dues structure is:

Individual Member:	\$10.00
Household Membership:	\$15.00



Allentown Hiking Club
P.O.Box 1542
Allentown, Pa 18105-1542



Tick Remover

To remove a tick, apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball, cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for 15-20 seconds. The tick will come out of its own accord and will stick to the cotton ball when you lift it away. (from Susquehanna Trailers Newsletter)

Rabid Coyote in Berks County

An eastern coyote killed September 21 in Sinking Spring, Berks county, tested positive for rabies. The private citizen who killed the animal reported that the coyote attacked his dogs and attempted to come through a door after attacking the dogs. According to the PA Dept. of Agriculture, this is the first confirmed case of rabies in this species in the state. The Department reminds everyone to be cautious if they encounter wildlife acting in an unusual manner.

Hazardous Hogweed

Trail maintainers should use caution when pulling or cutting the giant hogweed. This tall majestic plant, which grows to a height of 8-14 feet, can cause severe skin irritation in susceptible individuals. Plant sap produces painful, burning blisters within 24 to 48 hours after contact. In addition, plant fluids can also cause painless red blotches that later develop into purplish or brownish scars that may persist for several years. This adverse reaction, known as phytophotodermatitis, occurs when the contaminated skin is moist from perspiration and then is exposed to sunlight. Giant hogweed, originally from Asia, was introduced into this country as an ornamental in 1917. It is similar in appearance to the native cow parsnip, only it is much larger.

For more information, visit the PA Dept. of Agriculture web site. At <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?q=128383>



Allentown Hiking Club

The Fifth Decade, 1971-1980

By Barbara L. Wiemann

In 1971, Ed Garvey published *Appalachian Hiker: Adventure of a Lifetime*, an account of his Appalachian Trail thru-hike, spurring interest in the AT and thru hiking. New innovative, lightweight outdoor gear began to appear in stores, making it easier for people to get out on the trail.

The Allentown Hiking Club was a beneficiary of this enthusiasm for hiking. In December 1970, the club had 129 members. By December 1975, membership climbed to 333, and in December, 1978, AHC boasted 591 members.

Hiking Activities

This decade was the decade of the series hike. In the fall of 1971, Earl Raub began a series of Appalachian Trail hikes covering the Susquehanna to Delaware Rivers. The following year Raub offered an AT series from the Delaware to the Hudson River.

Raub, who led more AHC hikes during this decade than any other member, again led hikes covering the entire AT in Pennsylvania in 1974 and 1976. In between, Dick Snyder led a New Jersey/New York AT series in 1975. Raub repeated the NJ/NY series again in 1977. Several club members co-lead the Pennsylvania AT series once more in 1978.

The enthusiasm for series hikes spread to other longer trails. In 1972, and again in 1975 and 1978, club members had the opportunity to hike the entire Horse Shoe Trail.

As a result of these hikes, quite a few club members earned Keystone Trails Association hiking awards.

Raub also organized two "all in one day" hikes. On May 2, 1976, club members divided into teams to hike the entire Horse Shoe Trail, and on April 4, 1977, the club covered every foot of the Appalachian Trail in the Commonwealth. After each hike, Raub compiled trail condition reports that were submitted to the maintaining clubs.

To celebrate the U.S. bicentennial in 1976, Dick Leach volunteered to organize historic hikes. This series culminated in a chartered bus trip to Philadelphia and Valley Forge, where club members hiked through the city's historic district and park.

Appalachian Trail

Harold Croxton was appointed Trail Chair in 1974. In an effort to curb litter and inappropriate shelter usage, he initiated a schedule of weekend shelter caretakers, whose presence deterred misuse. A half-mile trail relocation between Jacksonville Road and PA 309 was completed in May, 1976.

The increase in overnight shelter usage had an impact on the Allentown Shelter, which was equipped with four wire bunks and had a dirt floor. In October, 1973, Dick Snyder organized a shelter work trip to replace the deteriorating back wall of the shelter and tear out the bunks and install a wooden floor that would double the sleeping capacity of the shelter. In July, 1975, club members rebuilt the fireplace, packing in 80-pound bags of concrete two miles.

The Allentown Shelter spring dried up each summer, presenting problems for backpackers. In April, 1978, Croxton reported that a never fail spring had been located and a yellow trail would be blazed to it.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Trail Club was planning to abandon the Outerbridge Shelter on the west side of Lehigh Gap. AHC voted to assume maintenance of the shelter, and Nick Rosato volunteered to chair the rehabilitation effort, which included work trips to install a floor, replace the roof, rebuild the fire ring, and clean up the shelter area.

The New Tripoli Shelter, maintained by the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club, was torn down in August, 1979, and AHC agreed to assume responsibility for maintaining a campsite at that location.

In October, 1977, Raub organized a weekend work trip to remove the debris from an airplane crash near Little Gap. More than 1400 pounds of metal was salvaged and sold for \$301.85. The club added \$100 and sent the proceeds to the Appalachian Trail Conference.

In addition, to support the ATC move from Washington, DC to Harpers Ferry in 1976, club members raised more than \$320 to contribute to the purchase of the new headquarters building.

In July, 1974, Earl Raub became AHC's first AT 2000 Miler. One month later, Bob Reinhard also earned End-to-End status. They were followed by Croxton (1976) and Barbara Wiemann (1977). In 1977 Reinhard became the first AHC member elected to the ATC Board of Managers.

As the decade drew to a close in 1979, the National Park Service acquired its first tracts of land in the AHC trail section (four parcels near the Jacksonville-Snyders Rd.) to protect the AT corridor.

AHC Organizational Developments

In 1975 the club obtained permission to meet at the Pioneer Community Center and built a storage cabinet. With an available meeting room and an increasing membership, the club began holding monthly meetings the next year and Gene Scharle organized a club library.

The Allentown Recreation Bureau presented the Senator John Van Zant Memorial Award to the club in 1976 in recognition of AHC's outstanding recreation program (in 1976 the club offered 140 activities).

AHC offered its first club T-shirt in 1978.

Finally, the club made an important financial decision late in the decade, doubling the club dues from one dollar to two dollars for 1979.



KTA KORNER

Ginny Musser

Beautiful Camp Swatara at the foot of the Blue Mountain was the setting for the annual meeting of Keystone Trails Association the weekend of October 6-8. The Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club planned numerous short and longer hikes, some of which began their trek right from the camp parking lot. Sunday was an especially glorious day for hiking—crisp, cool, with clear blue skies and bright sunshine.

The Council meeting was convened by President Carol Witzeman with reports from Agency partners including the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Bureau of State Parks, Penn Dot, Bureau of Forestry as well as a Legislative report. (Note: Carol, as Vice President, became the acting President with Bill Dietrich's resignation effective 8/30/06.)

The Spring Council will meet at King's Gap Environmental Center on March 30-31, 2007. The hiking program at the spring meetings is being discontinued; however members are encouraged to participate in at least one hiking event during the year such as at Hickory Run (6/1-3/07), Prowl the Sprawl (7/20-25), or in the Forbes State Forest in August. Hiking will still be a part of the fall meetings.

An **Erosion Control Seminar** is planned for 4/13-15/07 at Getty Ridge Camp south of State College. The seminar will be limited to 30 persons. A **Wilderness First Aid Training** course will be offered 5/11-13/07. Watch the KTA newsletter for details.

Paul Shaw has accepted the position of Executive Director beginning 10/23/07 and will have an office in Harrisburg. He has been associated with KTA for 30 years and was the Director at Camp Innabah in Chester County, a KTA meeting site when a significant hurricane blew through canceling hikes and flooding roads.

The Council voted to increase membership dues effective immediately. What's new with the dues increase is an introductory membership at \$15 for one year.

The Nominations Committee, Chaired by Lorraine Healey, presented a slate of prospects for the Board. These include:

Charles Glanville for a 3-year term
Steve Stroman for a 3-year term
Mary Young for a 3-year term

In addition, the slate for officers was:

President – Thyra Sperry
Vice President/Treasurer – Tom Kelliher
Secretary – Charles Glanville

Alpine Rose Update

A State Environmental Hearing Board has revoked the storm water discharge permit for Alpine Rose Resorts, deciding that the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had erred in issuing it.

The resort/sports car racetrack, planned for Eldred Township in Monroe County adjacent to the Appalachian Trail, would have added more and warmer water to the high quality Aquashicola Creek and the developer could not prove that their project would not degrade the creek. As a high quality cold-water fishery, state law permits no degradation.

The hearing board had harsh language for DEP, saying the state agency charged with protecting the environment failed to do so in this case.

Revocation of the permit had been sought by the Blue Mountain Preservation Association (BMPA), which has been fighting for years (with much help from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy) to block the sports car track. The Sierra Club supported BMPA in this appeal. The developer's conditional final plan approval from Eldred Township was valid only if he obtained all required permits. BMPA hopes this latest setback will convince Alpine Rose to abandon the project.

Reminder

This will be your last issue of the Happy Hiker and Schedule if you do not renew your dues before January 31, 2007. The only exception is if you joined the AHC in 2006 between November 1st and December 31st.

Please use the membership form on page 5.



STARTING JANUARY 3, 2007 THE ALLENTOWN HIKING CLUB HAS A NEW MEETING PLACE!!

ST. TIMOTHY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
140 SOUTH OTT STREET, ALLENTOWN, Pa.

DIRECTIONS

For those familiar with Allentown, Ott Street is one block west of 26th Street. St Timothy's is one block south of Hamilton Boulevard on South Ott Street. A reference landmark is that it is near Cedar Beach Park where Mayfair is held. A driveway will take you to a parking lot in the back of the church. The entrance to the meeting room is at the lower level of the church.

For those unfamiliar with Allentown, the KEY is route 309. From the south, Routes 78 and 309 are one. From the north, east, or west take Route 309 to the intersection with Hamilton Boulevard. Take Hamilton Blvd east 2 miles to Ott Street. St Timothy's is on the west side of South Ott St.

THERE IS NO LEGAL RIGHT TURN ONTO SOUTH OTT STREET FROM HAMILTON BLVD.

Coming east on Hamilton Blvd from route 309 you will cross Cedar Crest Blvd and thru another traffic light and then come to small side streets of Edward, Miller, and Emerson on the right. Turn right on Emerson, the parking lot will be on the left behind the church. If you miss Emerson, the next right will be Walnut and will bring you to South Ott. Turn right in front of the church, next right will be a driveway to the parking lot in the rear of the church.

(See Map on the last page of the newsletter - Page 10)



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$10.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, AND RENEWALS MUST BE MADE BEFORE JANUARY 31ST TO STAY ON THE CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP ROLLS. DUES CAN BE PAID AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OR MAILED TO THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. HOUSE HOLD DUES (MORE THAN ONE MEMBER PER ADDRESS) ARE \$15.00.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Anne Griffin 4933 Washington St. Schnecksville, Pa 18078

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP: —

PHONE: ()

RENEWAL

NEW

EMAIL:

Dues @\$10.00 / \$15.00 Household _____

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SML MED LRG XLG

QTY

CLUB T-SHIRTS @ \$6.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA _____

CLUB GOLF SHIRTS @ \$12.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA _____

CLUB PATCH @ \$1.50 + \$.75 SHIPPING EA _____

ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "ALLENTOWN HIKING CLUB" TOTAL ENCLOSED _____