



Spring 2007

The Happy Hiker

The Official Newsletter of the Allentown Hiking Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Who are these people? / Misconceptions?

Several years ago, I was sent by my company to attend a school in California on a new piece of equipment. These schools were intense with small classes and students from around the world. I was only to attend this class for a few weeks to learn one aspect of this machine. However a Japanese engineer was there for several months to learn the complete operation of this equipment. He was struggling with our culture and I was struggling with the class. We soon formed a bond. He helped me with the class and I helped him adjust. I took him to places like Fisherman's Warf and Muir woods. Our conversations were quite animated as we worked on culture and language. Usually in the mornings my new friend was quiet and sad (probably depressed), as he spent all night talking to his girlfriend in Japan. I asked why she didn't visit. The company he worked for would have paid for her airfare and other costs. The answer was she was afraid of Indians.

INDIANS! I am seldom stunned into silence. I wondered how people get these misconceptions.

I had just been dabbling in the Allentown hiking club for a year or two when a former president, Mike Benyo, talked about attending an Appalachian Trail Conference gathering in Harrisonburg, Virginia. This was an awakening for me in several ways but the biggest, as usual for me, came from the doing. Several hikes were on my agenda. The first surprise came to me in the parking lot, when the hike leader asked for people to drive. My pickup truck could only hold two extra hikers for the highway, but I was told that for the one trail head it would be perfect. Would I be willing to do a key swap? Yes! A short time later, I was blasting down Route 81 trying to keep the hike leader's car in sight. I was driving someone else's brand new Cadillac filled with people I had only met a few minutes ago. In the meantime, my beloved pickup truck had been driven off by someone else, someone I would not be able to pick from a one man lineup. If anything went wrong, I figured that I had the better end of the deal. Who are these people, I thought?

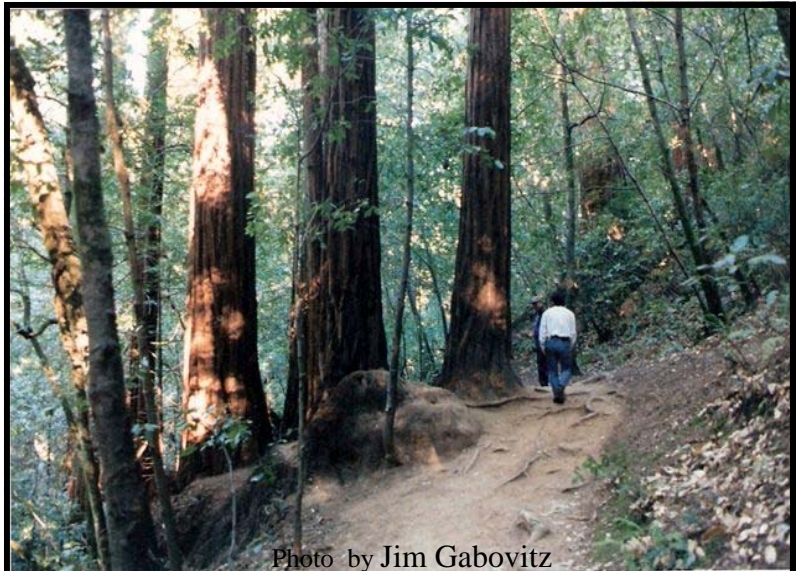


Photo by Jim Gabovitz

What stimulated this memory and other memories was a conversation on a recent hike. I was hiking with an experienced hiker who was new to the club. He and I were chatting about the usual outdoor stuff, scenery and weather. We talked, and questions were asked about the club and they were answered as best as possible. The conversation took a turn. I do not recall the question but remember the answer: I don't know you and you don't know me, but here we are! Today I would add, and having a good time.

Although he was experienced and familiar with the area we were hiking, his questions about the club were similar to many newcomers. I get lots of questions from those who want to get out with the club but just never hike with us. I wonder if any misconceptions about the club keep hikers away. I'm sure the question in some people's minds is, who are these people? I am one of those people and glad of it.

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.

President -----	Jim Gabovitz - (610) 262-3578 email: president@allentownhikingclub.org
Vice-President-----	Bernie Harris - (610) 767-0562 email: bernedna@verizon.net
Secretary -----	Dick Fink- (610) 865-3925
Treasurer -----	Maryann Wagner - (610) 262-4313 email: munchkinhiker@aol.com
Membership-----	Anne Griffin - (610) 760-0479 email:membership@allentownhikingclub.org
New Member Greeter -----	Edna Harris - (610) 767-0562 email: bernedna@verizon.net
Appalachian Trail Chair -----	Ed Ritter - (610) 261-1847 email: cridder@usadatanet.net
A.T. Monitor Coordinator -----	Barbara Wiemann - (610) 262-6977 email: bwiemann@verizon.net
Outerbridge Shelter Chair -----	Carl Griffin - (610) 760-0479
KTA Representative -----	M. Virginia Musser - (717) 626-0069
Program Committee Chair-----	Bernie Harris - (610) 767-0562 email: bernedna@verizon.net
Library -----	Barbara Wiemann - (610) 262-6977 email: bwiemann@verizon.net
Publicity Chair -----	Gene Scharle & Anne Griffin
Webmaster-----	Hal Wright - (215) 860-9732 email: webmaster@allentownhikingclub.org
Newsletter Editor -----	Bill Geiger - (610) 398-2601 email: newsletter@allentownhikingclub.org
Hiking Schedule Coordinator -----	Robin Horn - (610) 841-4491 email: rlhorn@rcn.com



Allentown Hiking Club

P.O.Box 1542

Allentown, Pa 18105-1542

www.allentownhikingclub.org



**Deadlines for the
Summer 2007
Newsletter-Schedule
Happy Hiker Newsletter
Wednesday, May 30, 2007
Activity Schedule
Wednesday, June 6, 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.

Did you Know?

A squirrel will eat about 825 acorns a year. However, they may miss up to 74 percent of the food that they've hidden, according to researchers at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre. The forgotten items are not wasted, however, since they become new trees.

Rabies on Upswing in State

Through the first eleven months of 2006 in Pennsylvania, rabies cases increased almost 24 percent – from 379 to 469 - over the 2005 totals. Raccoons are the animal most often infected (accounting for about half of all cases), while second place skunks account for about 14 percent of all cases. Afflicted animals included domesticated cows, goats, horses, and dogs, as well as deer, bobcats, foxes, ferrets, bats, groundhogs, coyotes, and fishers.

In late December, a coyote bit three people in Northampton County. Two men were attacked while walking dogs, and a woman was bitten on the finger in her yard. The animal was later shot by Game Commission officers.

ITEMS FROM THE JANUARY PA APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMMITTEE MEETING

Janet Goloub

The first meeting of the PA A.T. Advisory Committee in 2007 was at the DCNR building in downtown Harrisburg. The following are some items of general interest to AHC members.

The ATC is embarking on a visitor use survey for the entire trail, through a research group from the University of Georgia. A pilot study of 100 miles is planned from Harpers Ferry to Boiling Springs, possibly as early as this summer. The ATC will be looking for people from clubs to help with the interviewing; further information will be forthcoming.

The Mid-Atlantic office is pursuing a special A.T. license plate for PA, which will be done through the state legislature, specifically Rep. Mike Carroll. Such a plate has been a successful fund raiser in North Carolina.

The Bureaus of Forestry and State Parks in DCNR are working together on trail blazing and user experience in our forests and parks. The A.T. uses a small part of those lands in Pennsylvania.

The Committee meets quarterly, the next meeting tentatively scheduled for April 5 at PennDOT.



An Allentown Hiking Club History The 1980s, Part 1

By Barbara L. Wiemann

After the explosive growth in membership and weekly club activities during the 1970s, the 1980s were a decade in which the club maintained a full and varied schedule of activities and also looked in new directions as a steward of the Appalachian Trail.

Meetings and Paperwork

The club expanded its Appalachian Trail efforts, moving beyond the clipping, blazing, litter pickup, and shelter maintenance tasks of previous decades. In January 1981, two Appalachian Trail Conference employees came to Allentown to help the club plan management guidelines for the AHC section of trail. When ATC held its first Mid-Atlantic regional meeting in 1985, Sam Carlson, Harold Croxton, and Ginny Musser represented AHC. 1985 was also the year that ATC held its first Presidents Meetings in Harpers Ferry (for presidents of the AT maintaining clubs) and President Carlson attended.

The National Park Service purchased its first tracts of land in the AHC section of trail in 1979. As a result, in January, 1982 the club scheduled its first boundary hike to monitor and inspect these lands. Under the guidance of Harold Croxton, who also served as KTA's statewide AT Monitor Coordinator, the club began submitting the annual reports required by NPS.

Financial Support

AHC continued its support of the Appalachian Trail Conference. In 1983 the club donated \$400 to fund ATC's expanding programs and increased personnel costs and began to support efforts to protect Appalachian Trail lands along the Blue Mountain, donating \$100 to the Wildlands Trust Fund.. The next year AHC upped its financial support to WTF; the club gave \$250 and individual club members kicked in another \$250. This money was matched by the Trust for Appalachian Trail Land, doubling the club's contribution. In 1985, AHC joined three other AT maintaining clubs to raise \$1500 to help the Lehigh Valley Conservancy purchase the Loch property to protect the view shed from Baer Rocks. When the effort came up \$205 short, AHC members voted to make up the shortfall from the club treasury.

Maintaining and Protecting the Trail

On behalf of AHC, Earl Raub organized 35 hikers who conducted the Susquehanna-Delaware River portion of Operation Walkthrough on the Appalachian Trail in May 1980. The purpose was to have hikers cover the entire Trail from Maine to Georgia at one time and submit reports detailing needed trail maintenance work to ATC and the maintaining clubs.

The Spring Maintenance Hike on the first Sunday in May was an annual schedule staple. In 1987, an after work picnic at Leaser Lake was added.

To encourage responsible trail use and educate hikers, Trails Chair, Harold Croxton, organized a schedule of weekend shelter caretakers. In 1989, a picnic table was added to the Allentown Shelter to offer a level alternative location to encourage backpackers not to cook inside the shelter. A gate and boulders were placed west of Ft. Franklin Road to block vehicle access to the AT in 1988. The gate east of PA 309 was installed the next year.

Earl Raub organized three more club airplane wreck clean ups along the AT during the decade – at Bake Oven Knob, Wolf Rocks, and near PA 325. Funds realized from the sale of the scrap metal (\$314.85) was donated to ATC and AHC garnered publicity in local newspapers and in the Appalachian Trailway News.

After a major vandalism incident at the Outerbridge Shelter resulted in three large holes in the shelter roof, 23 members devoted a weekend to repairing a significant portion of the roof (1984). In 1988, the club totally replaced the roof, installing a metal roof.

.Keystone Trails Association

AHC members were actively involved in KTA. Ginny Musser was elected KTA President in 1986 and served four years. In 1987 Merritt Zimmerman, who had served KTA in several capacities, including nine years as an officer, was awarded KTA highest honor, the Citation Award.

When KTA hosted the ATC biennial meeting at East Stroudsburg in 1989, AHC volunteered to staff the Information Desk during the week. To help prepare members to answer attendee questions, AHC conducted a pre-Conference 7-mile club hike around town to familiarize members with the town and its facilities. The Club also handled Housing for the Conference.

Next installment: The 1980s, part II (other club activities and events)



KTA KORNER

Submitted by: M. Virginia Musser, KTA Representative

One of the trademarks of KTA has been its Trail Care program whereby volunteers work on hiking trails around the state one weekend a month from March thru November. In addition to the weekend Trail Care events, three weeks in June are dedicated to 5-day work trips on designated trails. Listed here are some dates and trails that KTA will be working on during 2007.

April 27-29 – Standing Stone Trail (formerly known as the Link Trail)

Camp at Cowans Gap State Park Group Campground

Contact leader: Mel Cooper, 814.643.2641 or lunchtime@pennswoods.net

May 18-20 – Donut Hole Trail

Camp at Hyner Run State Park

Contact Leader: Joe Healey, 570.655.4979

June 12-17 – Pinchot Trail

A 5-day Trail Crew will be working on the Pinchot Trail and camping at the Manny Gordon Picnic Area. This crew will be building a new seven-mile section of the Pinchot Trail on recently acquired land in the Watres Water Shed. Volunteer for 5 days or 1 day! Enjoy breakfast and dinner prepared by a super cook. Bag lunches are provided as well because you do get a lunch break while working on the trail!

For work trips in other parts of the Commonwealth refer to the KTA website, www.kta-hike.org or the Winter 2007 issue of the KTA newsletter.

A **Basic Wilderness First Aid Training** workshop will be held on **May 12** at ATC's Scott Farm near Carlisle. John Buburchuck from Windbar will teach this 8-hour course under the auspices of Bucks County Community College. The course is free, thanks to DCNR's Matt Beaver, who provided funding for the course. Pre-registration is required and the group is limited to 25 students. Contact Joe Healey at 570.655.4979, jnhealey@aol.com or Carl Lorence, 717.234.1524, or pastumbler@aol.com

If working on trails isn't your cup of tea and you would rather hike, plan to go to **Hickory Run State Park** on **June 2** for a day of hiking. Or, **Prowl the Sproul on July 20-22.**, camping at the Western Clinton Sportsman's Association south of Renovo. Usually a pancake breakfast and a scrumptious buffet dinner are available for a nominal fee.

Last but not least, mark your calendar for **September 28-30** for the **Annual Meeting and Hiking Weekend** to be held at Blue Knob State Park.

Climate Change

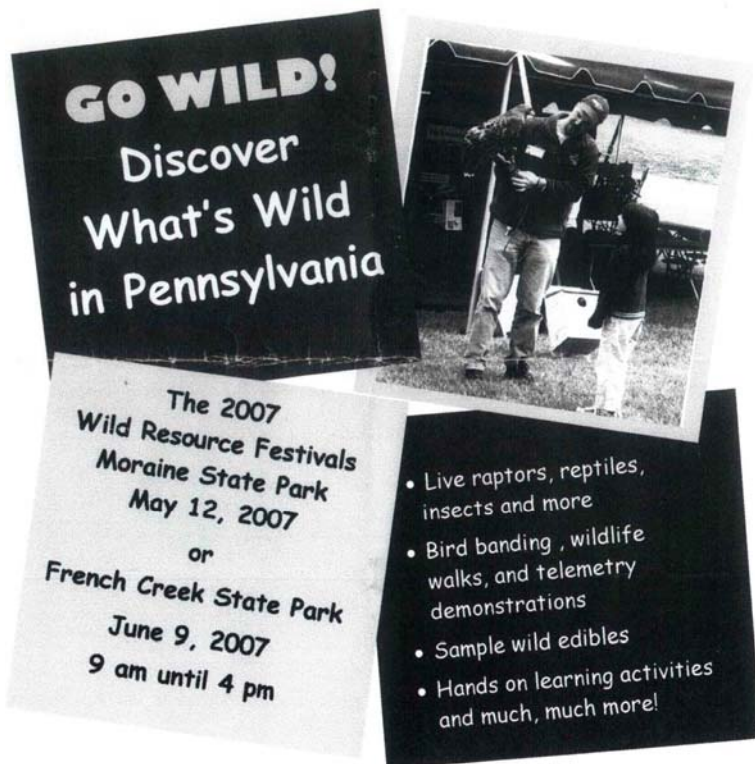
The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and a team of independent experts have joined forces to form The Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment (NECIA), a group dedicated to developing a new assessment of climate change and its impacts on the northeastern United States. The group's research and findings are presented in a report, "Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast" <http://www.climatechoices.org/assets/documents/climatechoices/NECIA_climate_report_final.pdf>, available at www.northeastclimateimpacts.org <<http://www.northeastclimateimpacts.org>>.

For those who would prefer a less technical presentation, the UCS offers a user friendly animated presentation of its findings at www.climatechoices.org/ne <<http://www.climatechoices.org/ne>>. The report projects climate changes using two scenarios for greenhouse emissions. In the higher emissions model, emissions continue to increase at the current rate. With the lower emissions model, emissions are reduced 75 percent from current levels. For example, Philadelphia currently averages 2 days with 100 degree plus temperatures each year. Under the lower emissions model, this would rise to 9 days per year by 2070, but soar to 28 days per year with higher emissions. Summer in eastern Pennsylvania could feel like the current typical summer in southern Georgia under the higher emissions scenario.

New Offices for Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor has moved to 2750 High Moore Park Road, Easton, PA 18042, 610-923-3548. The office formerly located in Slatington is now in Lehigh at the Lehigh Borough Annex, 110 North Third St., 2nd Floor, Room 220, Lehigh, PA 18235, 610-377-4063. AHC participates in the D&L Trail Tenders program.





For more information on the festival go to www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf.

The Wild Resource Conversation Program is a partnership program dedicated to the conservation and understand of native non-game wildlife and plant species in Pennsylvania. Support WRCP through a state-income tax donation, purchase conservation license plate, or a voluntary donation any time of year.

See you at the festival; you can Discover What's Wild in Pennsylvania.

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. HOUSEHOLD 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 _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SML	MED	LRG	XLG

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SML	MED	LRG	XLG

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

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

QTY

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