



MEMBER OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY AND THE KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### Monuments, Markers, and Monitoring, Oh My!

I had an amazing experience this fall when I went along with Barb W. and other club members to do some of the annual corridor monitoring on two short sections of the AT. The AT "corridor" is the land owned by the National Park Service that extends a few hundred feet on either side of the trail. Corridor monitoring means walking along the border of this NPS land and the adjacent lands ( for example, privately owned lands, state game lands, municipalities) to assure that all boundary markers are in place and no encroachments have occurred. This involves leaving the AT treadway and bushwhacking over rocks and through dense vegetation to locate "monuments," i.e., the markers installed by surveyors years ago to establish a line between NPS lands and that of neighboring landowners. Encroachments, such as illegal dumping of waste, wood piles from forest clearing, rock piles, discarded machinery, or hunting blinds, are also documented. These discoveries are subsequently reported to the ATC and corrective action is taken, if needed. During the monitoring we also post signage along the boundary lines, indicating which areas belong to the NPS.

The process itself is not unlike a scavenger hunt, with a compass and a map to assist you. Our adventure on a sunny and brisk Sunday morning began with a short, easy road walk from the parking lot just off Rt. 309 east towards the tower. From there we headed through the woods for the boundary line and the first monument on our list, which was easily found with the help of clearly evident "witness trees" which triangulate the location of the monument. I would like to say that the rest of the day was as easy as that. However, the remaining 2-3 miles of our monitoring trip were significantly more challenging. Steep slopes, monstrous rocks, dead trees and blow-downs, missing witness trees, and fallen leaves covering everything slowed us to a crawl in many places. The pace was slow, but ultimately we located most of the markers, completed our evaluations, and headed back to the "real" trail to return to our cars via the AT itself. Never did the rocky treadway of the AT seem so comforting and pleasant as it did after being off-trail for so long!

My overwhelming reaction after this experience was a deep admiration for the many AHC



members who for years have diligently served the AT community and our club by monitoring the borders of our 10.3 mile section of the trail every year. Several of our people are actively involved each year, and each monitors about 4-5 miles, on average. Some have been doing their sections for upwards of 20 years! A sincere thank-you to those who have faithfully volunteered in this capacity for so long! Because of your hard work and dedication, the Allentown Hiking Club is well respected among its peers in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for completing our monitoring duties on time and *in toto* each year.

So as the new year begins, I want to commend all those on whom I rely continually for the smooth operation of the club: the chairpersons of all of the committees, the hike leaders, and all the trail volunteers. The new year will bring old and new challenges. There will be weeds to whack along the trail, trash to pick up, invasive plants to pull, overgrowth to cut back, repairs to the trail and shelters, and sometimes it will seem as though our work is never done. But each time we meet a long distance hiker on "our" section of the AT, and they tell us how much they appreciate how well we tend the trail, we'll know why we commit ourselves to this noble task. With this I wish you a wonderful winter hiking season, and a fascinating and adventurous New Year!

Lucy Cantwell  
AHC President



## Allentown Hiking Club

P.O. Box 1542—Allentown, PA 18105-1542

Sponsored by City of Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation

President..... Lucy Cantwell - (267) 664-3550 president@allentownhikingclub.org	Outerbridge Shelter Chair ..... Carl Griffin - (610) 760-0479 griffins2@verizon.net
Vice-President..... Karen Gradel - (215) 536-5857 kjgradel@gmail.com	KTA Representative ..... Ed Ritter - (610) 261-1847 critter888@verizon.net
Secretary..... Dick Fink - (610) 865-3925	Program Committee Chair..... Jim Gabovitz - (610) 262-3578 gabby@enter.net
Treasurer ..... Carl Griffin - (610) 760-0479 griffins2@verizon.net	Publicity..... Gene Scharle - (610) 432-5652
Membership ..... Paula Uhrin membership@allentownhikingclub.org	Webmaster..... Hal Wright - (215) 630-2008 webmaster@allentownhikingclub.org
New Member Greeter .... Jim Gabovitz - (610) 262-3578 gabby@enter.net	Newsletter Editor ..... Susan Meyer - (610) 462-1310 susanjeanne2101@yahoo.com
Appalachian Trail Chair ... Ed Ritter - (610) 261-1847 critter888@verizon.net	Hiking Schedule Coordinator Edna Himmler - (610) 797-5182 ehimmler@ptd.net
A.T. Monitor Coordinator Barbara Wiemann - (610) 262-6977 blwiemann@gmail.com	
Library..... Holly Vogler - (610) 820-0162	

### Deadlines for the Spring 2016 Newsletter & Schedule

**Happy Hiker Newsletter**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2015**

**Activity Schedule**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2015**

Please forward all club related articles, thoughts, and items to the Newsletter Editor by mail or, preferably, by email.

Send all hiking schedule activities to the Hiking Schedule Coordinator.

### Welcome to Our New Members! - Winter 2015



Allister & Stephanie Jones      Macungie, PA  
Ted Kaleta      Nazareth, PA  
Stephen Markowitz      Allentown, PA





9 of our 2015 corridor monitors attended our annual meeting and received a "thank you" cap or shirt from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. From left to right, Ed Ritter, Bill Thomas, Susan Meyer, Carl Griffin, Barb Wiemann, Lucy Cantwell, Jim Gabovitz, Nick Rosato, and Mike Cantwell.

## 20 Year Corridor Monitors

Dedicated volunteers are the heart and soul of the Allentown Hiking Club. This is very evident in our National Park Service boundary monitoring program. This year the club is pleased to recognize three volunteers who have each served as monitors for 20 years or more: Ed Ritter (26 years), Mike Benyo (23 years), and Jim Gabovitz (20 years). Thank you for your extraordinary efforts!

## #TRASHTAG

Gene Scharle has made us aware that there is a twitter hashtag, #TRASHTAG, for any members who are interested in posting their pictures of trash they have cleaned off the trail.







# Winter 2016 Hiking Schedule and Upcoming Events

FOR THE MOST CURRENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT



## MEMBER OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY AND THE KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

The general public is invited to join us on hikes and other events. If a club or organization wishes to include one of our hikes as a formal activity on its schedule, we ask that it contact the leader in advance for permission.

Times listed are departure times; please arrive at least 15 minutes before the listed time. Starting times are strictly observed and appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes/boots should be worn at all times.

Generally, our pace is moderate with opportunities for resting and sightseeing. Every attempt is made to assist and encourage hikers, but we cannot be responsible for their safety on the trail. Any rugged outdoor activity entails risk, and we expect all participants to rely on their own judgment and good sense to take care of themselves and know their limitations. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Hikers are expected not to lag too far behind the main party.

We car-pool as much as possible to save fuel. PASSENGERS PAY DRIVERS 10 CENTS PER MILE TO DEFRAY FUEL EXPENSE. Drivers, please remember to check your mileage and let the passengers know how much mileage reimbursement they owe you.

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm the first Wednesday of the month at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, Pa. Meetings include a discussion of the previous month's activities, as well as upcoming activities. Scheduling meetings are held quarterly for members to coordinate hikes/trips, etc. for the upcoming schedule. All members are invited and encouraged to schedule activities; we are a 100% volunteer organization, and it is up to members to keep the schedule filled.

## AHC HIKE RATING SYSTEM

In an attempt to assist hikers, a hike rating system has been set up to allow the hiker to judge his/her ability to complete the hike. The rating system will precede the Allentown Hiking Club's usual hike description. On multi-day outings such as backpacks, the rating for the hike will reflect the distance traveled on a per-day basis. Remember that the hike ratings are assigned by the hike leader, and are therefore based on the leader's subjective opinion. The rating system is:

RATING	DESCRIPTION (distance,terrain,pace)
<b>A+</b>	<u>Up to 7 miles, little climbing and easy terrain, 2 mph or slower</u>
<b>A</b>	<u>Up to 7 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 mph or slower</u>
<b>B+</b>	<u>Up to 7 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
<b>B</b>	<u>7-10 miles, some climbing and easy terrain 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
<b>C+</b>	<u>7-10 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
<b>C</b>	<u>7-10 miles significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
<b>D+</b>	<u>10-12 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
<b>D</b>	<u>10-12 miles, significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
<b>E+</b>	<u>Over 12 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, over 2.5 mph</u>
<b>E</b>	<u>Over 12 miles, significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, over 2.5 mph</u>
<b>U</b>	<u>Hike unrated by hike leader</u>



<p>Sunday 1-10-16 10:00 am</p> <p>Round trip road miles distance: 100 miles</p> <p>Hike rating: U</p>	<p><b>Farm Show Combo</b></p> <p>If consensus allows we will find the west end to Stoney Valley Rail Trail (St. Anthony's Wilderness) and briefly stretch our legs at Fort Hunter; then one hour walk around Wildwood Lake(handicap-accessible). Spend a couple hours at Farm Show. Leave bet 4-5pm - depending on consensus. Bring a bag for muddy boots. \$5.00 parking per car. Free entrance to Farm show. If you don't think this is a hike, you have not seen it all.</p> <p>Meeting place: Hummels Gathering Place, Rt. 143 Lenhartsville. 100 mile road trip (carpool-\$.10/mile to drivers)</p> <p>Posted on meetup.com? NO</p> <p>Leader: Ron Kieffer 610-562-8680</p> <p>Co-leader: Mercedes Jurkiewicz 484-515-8001</p>
<p>Sunday 1-17-16 10:00 am</p> <p>Hike rating: U</p>	<p><b>Recruitment Hike #1</b></p> <p>Recruitment Hike #1 for KTA Section of the Appalachian Trail.</p> <p>Check KTA-Hike.com</p> <p>Meeting place: Lehigh Gap Nature Center, 8844 Paint Mill Rd., Slatington, PA</p> <p>Posted on meetup.com? NO</p> <p>Leader: Ed Ritter 610-261-1847 critter888@verizon.net</p>
<p>Saturday 1-23-16 10:00 am</p> <p>Hike rating: U</p>	<p><b>Recruitment Hike #2</b></p> <p>Recruitment Hike #2 for KTA Section of the Appalachian Trail.</p> <p>Keystone Trails Association: The Voice of Pennsylvania Hikers. KTA would like to become the maintaining club for a ten mile section of the Appalachian Trail in the vicinity of Lehigh Gap. Check KTA-hike.com</p> <p>Meeting place: Lehigh Gap Nature Center, 8844 Paint Mill Rd., Slatington, PA</p> <p>Posted on meetup.com? NO</p> <p>Leader: Ed Ritter 610-261-1847 critter888@verizon.net</p>
<p>Sunday 1-24-16 9:30 am</p> <p>Hike / bike / on-water distance: 10 miles</p> <p>Hike rating: C</p>	<p><b>Hike to the Pulpit and Pinnacle</b></p> <p>Classic loop hike to the Pulpit and Pinnacle</p> <p>What better way to enjoy the crisp and clear winter air than by climbing a mountain? This is a 10 mile loop hike, starting at the Hamburg Reservoir parking lot, climbing to Pulpit Rock and then following the ridge to the Pinnacle for spectacular views of the Lehigh Valley. This is not a beginner's hike due to the 1000' ascent and very rocky terrain. Bring a least 2L of water and lunch / snacks. Steady rain cancels.</p> <p>Meeting place: Hamburg Reservoir parking lot; 410 Reservoir Rd, Hamburg, PA</p> <p>Posted on meetup.com? YES</p> <p>Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net</p>
<p>Sunday 1-31-16 10:00 am</p> <p>Hike / bike / on-water distance: 6 miles</p> <p>Round trip road miles distance: 84+ miles</p> <p>Hike rating: B+</p>	<p><b>Waterfalls annd Their Ice Formations</b></p> <p>Out and back hikes to several waterfalls in the DWGNRA.</p> <p>IMPORTANT NOTES: you will be required to wear either traction aids on your boots or snowshoes, depending on snow depths, on this hike. Bring water and snacks or lunch. Heavy snow or rain cancels.</p> <p>Meeting place: Meet at the Bushkill boat access on US 209 at about the 3 mile mark into the DWGNRA.</p> <p>Posted on meetup.com? NO</p> <p>Leader: David Povenski 610-462-7704</p>



<p>Wednesday 2-3-16 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING</b> There will be a presentation by Paula Uhrin on her Greek Island Trek.</p> <p>Following the presentation there will be a break for refreshments and our monthly business meeting.</p> <p>Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Posted on meetup.com? NO Leader: Lucy Cantwell 215-855-2793</p>
<p>Sunday 2-7-16 10:00 am</p>	<p><b>Historic Leesport Breakfast Hike</b> Breakfast at Ontelaunee Grange (\$5-6). Hike leaves from Farm Store at 11:30 AM. We will tour the historical Lock Tenders House and the historical society on our way down the newly completed Schuylkill River Trail.</p> <p>Meeting place: Meet at Farm Store, "FS" on sign. Rt 61 to TL at Turkey Hill - turn Rt. onto Wall St., turn Rt at RR tracks. Posted on meetup.com? NO Leader: Ron Kieffer 610-562-8680 Co-leader: Mercedes Jurkiewicz 484-515-8001</p>
<p>Sunday 2-14-16 9:00 am</p> <p>Hike / bike / on-water distance: 14 miles</p> <p>Hike rating: E+</p>	<p><b>Dunnfield Creek, Sunfish Pond, Raccoon Ridge Hike</b> Classic loop hike through the Delaware Water Gap including Dunnfield Creek, Sunfish Pond, Raccoon Ridge, and the AT.</p> <p>This lot fills up quickly so please arrive early. From there we will hike the Dunnfield Hollow Trail to Sunfish Pond. This section includes multiple stream crossings that, depending on how fast the creek is running, may require getting your feet wet, so please plan accordingly. Trekking poles are strongly recommended. After a rest at a rock outcropping on the northeast side of Sunfish Pond we will continue on the Appalachian Trail to Raccoon Ridge for lunch. After lunch we will travel back down the Appalachian Trail to our cars. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended. Bring at least 3 quarts of water (you will thank me) and lunch plus snacks. Steady rain cancels.</p> <p>Meeting place: Meet at the Dunnfield Creek Parking lot, which is the second to last exit in NJ off Route 80 West. Posted on meetup.com? YES Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net</p>
<p>Sunday 2-14-16 12:00 noon</p> <p>Hike / bike / on-water distance: 15 miles</p> <p>Hike rating: A+</p>	<p><b>Valentine Days Arts and Parks of Lehigh Valley Series #25</b> Bring your sweetheart out on a cheap/romantic date.</p> <p>After our 1-1/2 hour walk we'll drive down to free parking at the prison lot (Penn St &amp; Linden St) and hear romantic Puccini songs with the Allentown Symphony. 20% Hikers discount for the symphony - mention HIKE 20, available day of concert; then have a romantic post concert brew at Allentown Brew Works - 8th &amp; Hamilton St; 10% food discount with concert stub - Miller Symphony Hall, 23 Sixth St, Allentown 610-432-6715. Hike leader and cellist in the symphony.</p> <p>Meeting place: Meet at Allentown Municipal Golf Course: 3400 Tilghman St., Allentown, PA. Posted on meetup.com? NO Leader: Mercedes Jurkiewicz 484-515-8001 Co-leader: Ron Kieffer 610-562-8680</p>
<p>Sunday 2-21-16 11:00 am</p> <p>Hike rating: U</p>	<p><b>Historic Dreibelbis Farm Breakfast Hike</b> Take Rt. 143 to Virginville, take First St. exit to red light district, \$5-6. 12:12 - will start the hike from the Fire Co. Easy flat 1/2 hr. walk to the farm. 1/2-1 hour walk around the farm. 1/2 hour back. Wear matching socks as you will have to remove your boots to tour the house (by donation).</p> <p>Meeting place: Virginville Fire Co. Posted on meetup.com? NO Leader: Ron Kieffer 610-562-8680 Co-leader: Mercedes Jurkiewicz 484-515-8001</p>



<p>Saturday 2-27-16 10:30 am</p> <p>Hike / bike / on-water distance: 5.5 miles</p> <p>Round trip road miles distance: 26 miles</p> <p>Hike rating: A</p>	<p><b>Merrill Creek Reservoir Hike</b> Hike around Merrill Creek Reservoir. Sections of the trail may be muddy. or wet so wear proper footwear.</p> <p>Bring lunch and water. Driving and trail conditions will be considered. No pets please.</p> <p>Meeting place: Parking lot near McDonalds in Easton at the intersection of Routes 22 and 248(25th St.) Posted on meetup.com? YES Leader: Jim Gabovitz 610-262-3578 gabby@enter.net</p>
<p>Wednesday 3-2-16 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>MARCH MONTHLY MEETING</b> To be announced.</p> <p>Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 10 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA Posted on meetup.com? NO Leader: Lucy Cantwell 215-855-2793</p>
<p>Sunday 3-6-16 10:00 am</p> <p>Hike rating: U</p>	<p><b>Nolde Forest and Middle Creek</b> 10:00 AM Breakfast at Ontalaunee Grange 12:00 Noon 2nd mtg: Sawmill Parking Lot at Nolde Environmental Center</p> <p>We will hike the 4 mile Millstone trail at Middle Creek. Time to coincide with tundra swans, snow geese, family friendly; bring children, no pets. Trail is moderately difficult.</p> <p>Meeting place: Please contact the event leader Ron Kiefer. Posted on meetup.com? NO Leader: Ron Kieffer 610-562-8680 Co-leader: Mercedes Jurkiewicz 484-515-8001</p>
<p>Sunday 3-13-16 9:00 am</p> <p>Hike / bike / on-water distance: 13 miles</p> <p>Hike rating: E+</p>	<p><b>Green Lane Reservoir</b> Loop hike around the Green Lane Reservoir</p> <p>What better way to welcome the longer days of Spring? This loop hike will circle the Green Lane Reservoir, affording views of both the lake and countryside. There will be several short climbs and stream crossings. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended. Bring at least 2 liters of water, lunch and snacks. Rain cancels.</p> <p>Meeting place: Meet at the Park Office at the dead end of Snyder Road, just south of the dam. 2144 Snyder Road Green Lane, PA 18054 Posted on meetup.com? YES Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net</p>
<p>Sunday 3-13-16 12:00 noon</p>	<p><b>Haines Mill Museum &amp; Concert at Allentown Symphony Hall</b> Winter tour inside Haines Mill Museum and 3:00 Concert with the Allentown Symphony.</p> <p>Enjoy a warm winter tour inside a historic mill before hearing the concert with the Allentown symphony and dancers from the Ballet guild. Hikers discount 20% off tickets: mention Hike20 when calling the box office at 610-432-6715; (tickets also available day of hike). Then enjoy a post concert brew at Allentown Brew Works; 10% food discount with concert stub; free parking at county/prison lot at 5th and Penn Streets.</p> <p>Meeting place: Haines Mill Museum, 3600 Haines Mill Rd., Allentown, PA 18104 Posted on meetup.com? NO Leader: Mercedes Jurkiewicz 484-515-8001 Co-leader: Ron Kieffer 610-562-8680</p>
<p>Saturday 3-26-16 9:00 am</p> <p>Hike / bike / on-water distance: 23 miles</p> <p>Hike rating: E+</p>	<p><b>Loop Hike of Blue Marsh Lake</b> This is a 23-mile loop hike around the lower portion of Blue Marsh Lake. No significant elevation, though the distance does make this a not-for-beginner hike. Bring at least 2+liters of water plus lunch and snacks. Steady rain cancels.</p> <p>Meeting place: Dry Brooks Day Use Center, park at the end of the road near the concession stand; For GPS: 1364 Palisades Drive, Leesport, Pa 19533 Posted on meetup.com? YES Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net</p>





# 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

Paula Uhrin: 283 Ridgeview Drive, Alburtis Pa. 18011

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Club T-shirt @ \$6.00 + \$3.50 shipping ea.

\_\_\_\_\_ Club golf shirt @ \$12.00 + \$3.50 shipping ea.

\_\_\_\_\_ Club Embroidered patch @ \$1.50 + \$.75 shipping ea.

\_\_\_\_\_ Club window decal @ \$2.50 + \$.75 shipping ea

\_\_\_\_\_ Club window cling decal @ \$2.50 + \$.75 shipping ea

Checks payable to "Allentown hiking Club"

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Yes - Please sign me up for the Allentown Hiking Club's email list --- the AHC Forum

## Live Music at December Meeting!

A shout-out to Mercedes Jurkiewicz for bringing her cello and concertizing us at our annual covered-dish dinner in December! This may have been the first time ever that we have had live music to enhance our holiday celebration. The sound of traditional Christmas carols in the mellow tones of this beautiful instrument added a classy touch to a very special get-together. Thank you, Mercedes, and feel free to play for us whenever you like!



**AHC Hike / Event Form - Please fill out all fields and give this to the Hiking Scheduling Coordinator at the scheduling meeting or see page 2 of The Happy Hiker for email and phone contact information.**

Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Co-Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type Of Event (circle one): hike / meeting / maintenance / backpack / other  
 Round trip road miles: \_\_\_\_\_ Hike distance: \_\_\_\_\_ miles  
 Meeting Place: check \_\_\_\_\_ contact hike leader, or enter directions

Hike Rating (from AHC Hike Rating System): \_\_\_\_\_

Add this hike to Meetup.com ? yes / no (select one)  
 If yes limit hike to \_\_\_\_\_ hikers or no limit.

Event Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: A one-sentence description of the event that appears on the website Activities page, the main page, and in the AHC Weekly Update email.

Additional details that appear only on the Activities page



**Please Rush-Dated Material**

Allentown Hiking Club  
 P.O. Box 1542  
 Allentown, Pa 18105-1542  
[www.allentownhikingclub.org](http://www.allentownhikingclub.org)

