

MEMBER OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY AND THE KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOSCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Ann, my hiking inspiration...

As you may already know if you've been paying attention to the club calendar, a long-time Allentown Hiking Club member recently celebrated a milestone birthday on the Appalachian Trail, surrounded by fellow club members and hiking enthusiasts. Mary Ann started hiking later in life but started with gusto! Never having hiked a step previously, she reached out to the Appalachian Trail Conference (now Conservancy) to understand where to begin. It was suggested that she reach out to and join a local trail club and the rest, as they say, is history ... hiking history, that is. Mary Ann went on to hike the full length of the Appalachian Trail twice, once as a thru hiker and once as a section hiker. She has also completed a long list of other trails throughout the country... the list is several pages long!

I first really spoke with Mary Ann about ten years ago, shortly after she hiked the Pulpit and Pinnacle loop with her family in celebration of her 80th birthday. I was so in awe. After all, I had only just started hiking and knew that trek was quite the challenge. But she seemed unfazed and proudly told me that she would be making the same trek in ten years for her 90th birthday. I think from that moment forward I have always told her that I want to be like her when I grew up... and that's true even more today.

The day of the hike we could not have asked for more perfect weather... warm but not too warm and with minimal humidity. Mary Ann arrived at the hike start having already completed her 6 mile bike ride for the day. She was smiling from ear to ear and was ready to go! She was joined by 21 hikers ... mostly club members but some who wanted to come along because they saw her on a segment on WFMZ News the day before. We couldn't let the occasion pass without cake and before we started hiking there was cake with candles and a Happy Birthday banner. Everyone there joined in singing Happy Birthday and shared in the cake to help power us up the mountain. And then we were off ...

Slow but steady we trekked up the almost 1000' elevation gain to the Pinnacle, one of the most beautiful vistas on the Appalachian Trail, stopping only to drink some water or admire the flowing waters of Furnace Creek and an abundance of mushrooms along the way. And then before we knew it that big pile of rocks was in sight (if you know, you know) ... which meant the Pinnacle was just ahead. Mary Ann picked up a rock and tossed it to add to the pile, a long-standing tradition, and then settled in for a snack and a surprise birthday cupcake. She truly was beaming with happiness that the club helped to make her birthday trek happen. There were lots of pictures taken up at the top ... Mary Ann was a celebrity, after all, with an entourage ... and everyone wanted their picture taken with her.

After another slow and steady trek back down the mountain, with Mary Ann 'putting on the brakes' in the steeper spots, we made it back down to the Hamburg Reservoir and then the starting parking lot. Along the way we told every other hiker we saw about this milestone birthday and made sure Mary Ann got lots of Birthday wishes throughout the day ... and with the beautiful weather there were several dozen people out on trail that day so there were a lot of well wishes! Honestly, my face was sore at the end of the day after smiling so much, watching Mary Ann enjoy her day doing what she so loves to do.

They say age is just a number and I believe that even more now. I wouldn't doubt we will be making this same trek in ten years for Mary Ann's 100th birthday ... I truly would expect nothing less. And it just goes to show that hiking is indeed just one foot in front of the other, over and over, until you reach your goal. If this doesn't give everyone the needed inspiration to get to on trail, I don't know what does.

Happy Trails!

Paula Uhrin President Allentown Hiking Club



Allentown Hiking Club

P.O. Box 1542—Allentown, PA 18105-1542 Sponsored by City of Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation

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Deadlines for the Winter 2024 Newsletter & Schedule

Happy Hiker Newsletter Wednesday Dec 27th 2023

Activity Schedule Wednesday Dec27th 2023

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!

<u>June</u>		August	
Brian Newton		Blase Hartman	Lanadala DA
Silvana Dasilva	Catasauqua, PA	Blase Hartillali	Lansdate, FA
<u>July</u>		Howard Reid	Hatfield, PA
Leta Riddell	Whitehall, PA	Debbie Caffrey	Northampton, PA
Meijeong Han	Breinigsville, PA	•	•
Debra Schlosser	Emmaus, PA		
Sue Kern	Bethlehem, PA		
Marcella Scire	Brooklyn, NY		
Lynne Pouria	Jamison, PA		
Andrea Greene	Coplay, PA		
Douglas Wunderler	Whitehall, PA		

Milestone Birthdays

The Allentown Hiking Club congratulates honorary member

Harold Croxton

On his 103rd birthday on August 29th.

Harold has been a club member for 56 years and an honorary member since 1985.

Mary Ann's Birthday Hike



Birthday Party time



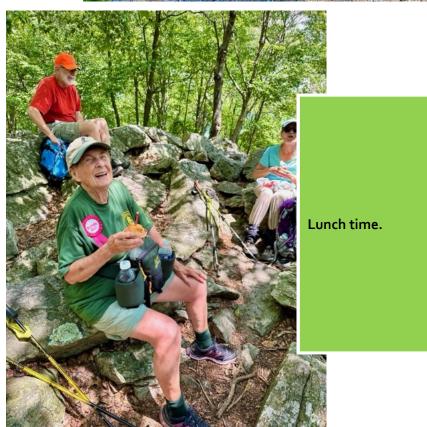




More from Mary Ann's Birthday Hike



Heading up



2023 Trail Magic

We did have cloudy and rainy weather and not as many hikers as usual but the ones who did stop by were happy to have a place to get out of the rain.

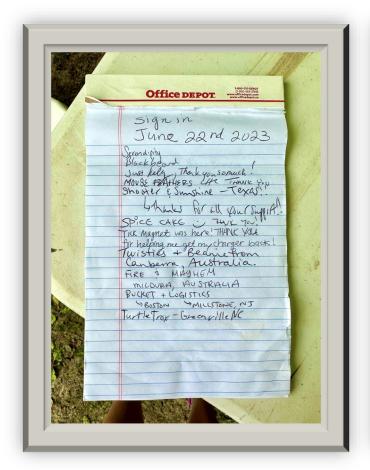
We also had Ron Gower from the

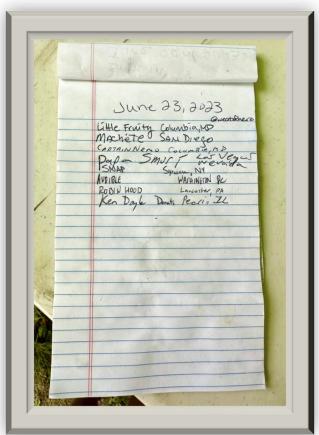
Times News in Lehighton

come by and write an article about Trail Magic.

It can be found at this link

https://www.tnonline.com/20230701/trail-magic-appalachian-hikers-get-welcome-in-carbon/





2023 Trail Magic







Fall 2023 Hiking Schedule and Upcoming Events

FOR THE MOST CURRENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, CHECK OUR WEBSITE

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. <u>Times listed are departure times</u>; 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)
A+	Up to 7 miles, little climbing and easy terrain, 2 mph or slower
Α	Up to 7 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 mph or slower
<u>B</u> +	Up to 7 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph
В	7-10 miles, some climbing and easy terrain 2 to 2.5 mph
C+	7-10 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph
С	7-10 miles significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph
D+	10-12 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph
D	10-12 miles, significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph
<u>E</u> +	Over 12 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, over 2.5 mph
<u>E</u>	Over 12 miles, significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, over 2.5 mph
U	Hike unrated by hike leader

	Please check our website for updates to the calendar
Wednesday 10-04-2023 7:00 pm	October Monthly Meeting Monthly Business Meeting and presentation TBD
	Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857
Tuesday 10-10-2023 10:30am	Monocacy Trail and Bach at Noon Concert Enjoy a hike in Bethlehem and a Bach concert
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 4 miles Hike rating: A+	From Illick's Mill, we will walk 2 miles on the Monocacy Trail, which generally follows the Monocacy Creek in Bethlehem. Our destination will be Central Moravian Church where we will enjoy a Bach at Noon concert presented by the Bach Choir. The concert is free, but free will donations are gratefully accepted. After the concert we will stop at a picnic table beside the Monocacy for lunch and then walk the 2 miles back to our cars. The trail is level and offers easy walking. Bring lunch and water. Steady rain on the morning of the event will cancel the hike.
	Meeting place: Meet at the parking lot at 100 Illick's Mill Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017 Leader: Barbara Wiemann 610-262-6977 blwiemann@gmail.com
Sunday 10-15-2023 9:30 am	Kittatinny Ridge Hike with the Keystone Trails Association A joint hike with the Keystone Trails Association
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 6 miles Hike rating: A	Please register using the KTA website: https://www.kta-hike.org/rambles.html Join us for a 6 mile hike through the heart of the AT's Rocklylvania. We will start at the parking lot closest to Bake Oven Knob and first hike east (AT north) to the vista at Bake Oven Knob and then onward to the Bake Oven Knob Shelter. After stopping for a break and possible snack we will backtrack and hike west (AT south) towards Bear Rocks and Knife Edge for several vistas along the long green tunnel. A final hike back to the cars will conclude the hike. This section of trail is at times a fire road and at times very rocky terrain, so please be prepared for both conditions. Sturdy hiking boots and trekking poles are recommended.
	Meeting place: Bake Oven Knob parking lot on the Appalachian Trail Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net
Saturday 10-21-2023 9:00 am	Nolde Forest Loop Hike (12 miles) Loop hike through the Nolde Forest
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 12 miles Hike rating: D+	Nolde Forest encompasses more than 665 acres of deciduous woodlands and coniferous plantations. A network of trails makes the center's streams, ponds, and diverse habitats accessible to all. We will hike most of the trails that wander throughout the park under tall trees and near creeks. Some trails are footpaths and others are remnants of gravel roads used by original owners of the mansion. We will stop at the Mansion to check out its unique architecture. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended. Bring at least 2L of water and lunch / snacks. Heavy rain or snow cancels.
	Trail map can be found here: http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1737446&DocName=NOLD_ParkMap.pdf#
	Meeting place: To my knowledge there is no street address for this parking lot. This parking lot is on Route 625 just a few miles south of the intersection with Route 724. You can refer to the link with the trail map and the Sawmill parking lot is very clearly marked. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net

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	Lehigh Furnace Gap Boulder Field and AT Hike A challenging 10-mile hike along the Appalachian ridge which includes 1.1 miles on an exposed and rather unstable boulder field. Many fine views north and south! Not for beginners or people with balance issues
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 10 miles Hike rating: D	Leaving from Lehigh Furnace Gap on the AT, this "loop" hike will include portions of the AT as well as blue-blazed side trails. We will be moving at a good clip when the trail is easy, but taking our time thru the boulders and stopping to enjoy the vistas and sights along the way. Numerous views both north and south of the Northeast Extension and Lehigh River. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring at least 2 liters of water, lunch and snacks. No pets. Rain cancels. This is archery season for deer and black bear, so try to wear some blaze orange.
	Meeting place: Please contact the event leader via text or at ksnyd82@gmail.com. Parking limited (may need carpooling). Leader: Kerry Snyder 610-737-7768
10-27-2023 9:30am	Pulpit Rock and Pinnacle Loop Hike 9-mile loop hike on the AT and connecting trails offering breathtaking views at what should be the peak of foliage season. Not for beginners due to considerable rocky terrain and 1000ft+ elevation gain.
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 9 miles Hike rating: C	This challenging loop hike will include portions of the AT and blue-blazed side trails. The ascent to Pulpit Rock on the AT is fairly steep, but it's rewarded with great views of farmland and the Blue Rocks formation. At the Pinnacle, we'll take time for lunch, to explore the rock formation, and to enjoy the spectacular views (considered the best from the AT in Pennsylvania). After heading west via the AT, we'll then return on the blue trail along Furnace Creek and past the reservoir. Sturdy hiking boots are a must. Bring at least two liters of water and food/snacks. This is archery season for deer and black bear, so try to wear some blaze orange. Binoculars recommended. No pets please. Rain cancels.
	Meeting place: Hamburg Reservoir parking lot, 400 Reservoir Road Hamburg, PA GPS: 40.58319, -75.94184 Leader: Kerry Snyder 610-737-7768
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Saturday 10-28-2023 8:00 am	Loop Hike of Blue Marsh Lake (23 miles) Loop hike around Blue Marsh Lake
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 23 miles	This is a 23-mile loop hike around the lower portion of Blue Marsh Lake. Total elevation gain is 2400' which includes several steep climbs. The distance and pace make this a not-at-all-for-beginner hike. Bring at least 2+liters of water plus lunch and plenty of snacks to stay fueled. Steady rain cancels.
Hike rating: E	Meeting place: Meet at the Dry Brooks Boat Launch: 1336 Palisades Dr, Leesport, PA 19533 Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj 168@ptd.net
11-01-2023 7:00 pm	November Monthly Meeting Monthly Business Meeting and presentation TBD
	Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857
Saturday 11-04-2022 9:30am	Walking Purchase Park Loop Hike This is a pleasant, moderately challenging 8-mile loop hike along various mountain bike trails in a section of old growth forest in the slopes above the Lehigh River in Fountain Hill.
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 8 miles Hike rating: C+	As we traverse the network of mountain bike trails up and down the sloping ground, we will rack up a fair amount of elevation gain along the way. There are some wet areas and plenty of rocks, so please wear sturdy shoes and bring at least a liter of water, and food/snacks. No pets. Rain cancels.
	Meeting place: Dodson Street Park, Dodson St, Fountain Hill, PA GPS: 40.60576, -75.40370 Leader: Kerry Snyder 610-737-7768
	Hike Jacobsburg State Park (15 miles) Hike the rolling hills of Jacobsburg State Park
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 15 miles	We will cover many of the 18 miles of trails this park offers. Trails of varied surfaces are through meadows and forests with rolling hills. Hiking boots recommended. Bring water and lunch/snacks. Steady rain cancels.
Hike rating: E+	Meeting place: Meet at the large, triangular parking lot, just south of the park's Environmental Education Center, on Belfast Road. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net

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Saturday	Hike the Switchback Railroad in Jim Thorpe (11 miles) A loop hike of the switchback railroad at Jim Thorpe.
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 11 miles	This rugged hike will start at Mauch Chunk Lake Park. We will hike on historic rail beds with a graded ascent to a vista followed by a steep descent back into town. And a swingset! After a break in town we will follow Mauch Chunk Creek back to our cars. Please bring 2+ liters of water plus lunch and snacks and wear sturdy hiking boots. Trekking poles are recommended.
Hike rating: D+	Meeting place: Meet at Mauch Chunk Lake Park; 625 Lentz Trail, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229 Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net
Wednesday 12-6-23 6:30 pm	DECEMBER HOLIDAY FEAST, MONTHLY MEETING & WINTER HIKE SCHEDULING We will have our potluck holiday dinner followed by our monthly business meeting and winter hike scheduling.
	NOTE: START TIME FOR THIS EVENT IS 6:30 Bring your favorite dish to share with others. Following the business meeting we will be scheduling hikes and other winter events. Please complete the AHC Hike/Event form and give to the Hike Scheduling Coordinator.
	Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot.
	Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857
Tuesday 12-26-23 12:45 pm	Hike to the Pulpit and Pinnacle under the Full Cold Moon (9 miles) Watch the moonrise from the Pinnacle
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 9 miles	Please arrive by 12:45pm for a 1:00pm departure. Come and watch the Full Cold Moon rise from the Pinnacle. This is a 9 mile loop hike, starting at the Hamburg Reservoir parking lot and then going up to the Pulpit and Pinnacle for spectacular views of the rising full moon. Moonrise is at 4:09 pm and sunset is at 4:44 pm. This is not a beginner's hike due to the ~1000' ascent, rocky terrain and nighttime conditions. Sturdy hiking boots and trekking poles are
Hike rating: C	recommended. Bring a headlamp or flashlight, at least 2 liters of water and food/snacks. Extra layers are recommended as we will be waiting at the Pinnacle for the full moon to rise. Rain or cloudy conditions may cancel.
	Meeting Place: Hamburg Reservoir parking lot, 420 Reservoir Road Hamburg, PA Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net
Sunday 12-31-23 11:00 am	News Year's Eve Hike to the Allentown Shelter (8 miles) End the year with a hike on the Appalachian Trail
Hike / bike / on-water distance: 8 miles	PLEASE WEAR BLAZE ORANGE AS WE WILL BE ON STATE GAME LANDS AND SHARING THAT SPACE WITH HUNTERS.
Hike rating: B	We will meet at Rt. 309 for a 4 mile hike to the Allentown Shelter. At the shelter we will eat lunch before returning to our cars. We will once again share food at the shelter and so if you're comfortable doing so feel free to bring a snack or goodies to share around the shelter's picnic table. After a suitable time for socializing, we will hike 4 miles back to our cars. Anyone who would like a shorter 2 mile hike to the Shelter may join us at Fort Franklin Road and that hike is listed separately in the schedule. Since we will be spending time at the shelter, bring an extra layer of clothing to stay warm. No dogs or alcoholic beverages. Steady rain or snow on morning of hike cancels this event.
	Meeting Place: Rt. 309 at the south end of the Thunderhead Lodge Restaurant parking lot, 2520 West Penn Pike, Andreas, PA 18211 Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net
Wednesday 1-03-2024 7:00 pm	January Monthly Meeting Monthly Business Meeting and presentation TBD
	Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot.
	Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857
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Help Wanted

Trail Chair Person

Contact Ed Ritter @ critter888@verizon.net for more information

Membership Secretary

Contact Paula Uhrin @ jcnj168@ptd.net for more informtion

Membership Dues for 2023

It is once again it is time to renew your annual club dues. Dues are still a bargain @ \$15.00 per individual or \$20.00 per household per calendar year. Simply complete the form contained in this newsletter and mail it to the membership secretary, or pay in person at a club meeting. Thanks for your continued support of the Allentown Hiking Club!

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$15.80 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)

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MEMBERSHIPPaula Uhrin: 283 Ridgeview Drive, Alburtis Pa. 18011			
NAME(S):			
ADDRESS:			
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP: —	
PHONE:	RENEWAL	NEW	
EMAIL:Dues @\$15.00 / \$20.00 Household			
SML MED LRG XLG Club SML MED LRG XLG Club	Club golf shirt @ \$12.00 + \$4.80 shipping each		
Check Yes - Please sign me up for the Aller		otal enclosed	

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 Round trip road miles Meeting Place: check	e one): hike / meeting / mainter s: Hike distance: k contact hike leader, or	nance / backpack / oth miles - enter directions	er	
Hike Rating (from AF	IC Hike Rating System):		ike to Meetup.com? yes / no t hike to hikers or no limit.	
Event Title:				
Description: A one-se AHC Weekly Update		nt that appears on the	website Activities page, the ma	ain page, and in the
Additional details tha	t appear only on the Activities	page		
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Please Rush-Dated Material

