

Quehanna Trail

The **Quehanna Trail** is a 75-mile loop trail in the Moshannon and Elk State Forests. The Trail passes through some of the most wild and beautiful country Pennsylvania has to offer. The 9,790 feet of vertical rise may offer a real challenge to even experienced Backpackers. The main **orange blazed** trail begins on the western end at Parker Dam State Park. From Parker Dam the trail goes east into the Quehanna Wild Area toward Karthaus and Piper, then north toward Sinnemahoning and finally west through the Marion Brooks Natural Area back to Parker Dam.

There are **two blue blazed cross-connector trails** and numerous **blue blazed side trails** that add another 30 miles of trails so that the casual or avid hiker may spend a few hours or a few days enjoying the beauty of the Quehanna Wild Area. These additional 30 miles of blue blazed trails helps hikers to fashion shorter circuit hikes and enjoy many beautiful sights off the main **orange** trail.

Trail Location

Located in Clearfield, Cameron, and Elk Counties, the Quehanna Trail can be accessed by traveling north from the following exits of Interstate 80. Exit 111 to Rt. 153 North 5 miles to Parker Dam State Park (Trailhead), Exit 120 Clearfield follow Rt. 879 toward Karthaus and then Piper, and Exit 133 following Rollingstone Rd to Rt. 879 to Karthaus and then Piper.

Accommodations and restaurants can be found on the Western end at Clearfield, Exit 120. On the Eastern side of the trail the Quehanna Motor Hotel 814-263-4371, near Karthaus, has rooms and a restaurant. Toward the northern side of the trail is the Medix Run Hotel, and the town of St. Marys (about 15 miles north of the trail) has major hotels and restaurants.

Cross Country Skiing

In the Quehanna Wild Area there are over 50 miles of trails marked for cross-country skiing during the winter. The skiable parts of the orange-blazed trail are from Deible Rd east to the head of Porcupine Draft and from the head of Sanders Draft to the Wykoff Run Road. There are also a few miles out from Parker Dam that are skiable. **Almost all the blue blazed trails are skiable with the exception of the Sevinsky Trail.**

Check the Quehanna Trail Map for access points and be sure to sign the register; your comments are always welcome.

There are now 2 books for the Quehanna Trail.

"Foot Trails of the Moshannon State Forest"

This 68 page guide to the Quehanna trail (**8 1/2 X 11 soft bound**) describes the complete Quehanna trail system. Many of the camping spots along the trail and springs for water have been included in the trail description. This guide has been extracted from the larger "**Greate Buffalo Swamp** " and contains no history of the trail system; however, the trail information has been expanded to provide hikers with more detailed information about the trail.

\$10 postage paid

"**Greate Buffalo Swamp** " The third edition of this book has been expanded to 129 pages. This (**8 1/2 X 11 spiral bound**) edition now contains descriptions of the **Quehanna Trail, Allegheny Front Trail, Rock Run Trail System and the Rockton Mountain Ski Trails**. There is a greatly expanded history of the Quehanna Trail System as well as more regional history of the areas surrounding the Trails. Ten black and white pictures have been included that will aid the reader with the logging history of the area and several pictures of areas on the current trails.

\$17 postage paid

All the proceeds from these books, written and donated to the club by Ralph Seeley, are used for the improvement and maintenance of the trail system.

A map of the Quehanna Trail is included with each book. Orders should be sent to the following address with a check or money order payable to QATC.

QATC
882 Rollingstone Rd
Morrisdale, PA 16858

Backpack camping is permitted. However you should get a free camping permit from the Bureau of Forestry by calling 814-765-0821. This is for your protection in case of an emergency. A **free map** of the **Moshannon State Forest** and the **Quehanna Trail** is available by contacting.

Moshannon State Forest
RR-1 Box 184
Penfield, PA 15849
814-765-0821

Backpack camping is not permitted on State Game Lands, Marion Brooks Natural Area or within 100 yards of a road.

Why would you want to hike the Quehanna Trail? This is a short narrative from Andy Nilts's web page, 5 days on the Quehanna Trail.

Was Pennsylvania worthy of an extended backpacking trip? My review of the Pennsylvania Hiking Trails guide as I was putting together the PATC online store only reinforced what I already knew. The beauty of Pennsylvania trails is one of the best kept secrets on the East Coast. Our five days on the Quehanna also convinced me that the spectacular beauty in the Pennsylvania backcountry is known mostly to local users - which means particularly good opportunities for solitude and more of a "wilderness" experience. Oh, and the area certainly lived up to those expectations. In five days covering 50+ miles (most of which was on the Quehanna proper), we didn't see a soul on the trail. In return, the Quehanna offered up its greatest jewels - healthy hemlock forests thriving in gentle hollows, open woods where you expected moose to appear at any moment, open parks ringed in deciduous and evergreen, and noble oak forests unravaged by the pestilence of the gypsy moth. And was it reminiscent of Dolly Sods? In spots, it most certainly was. But the variety was much greater.

Pennsylvania's Wild Elk occupy our trails. The Quehanna Trail System is one of the few trails that you can hike in Pennsylvania and see wild Elk. The Elk Range has been expanded from Benezette up into the Quehanna Plateau and increasing numbers of Elk are being seen. Early morning and late evenings are the best times to catch a glimpse of these majestic animals.

Late August and early September make finding them easier, if you listen for bugling in the following areas: the food plots at the intersection of the Lincoln and Hoover Roads (Sanders, Old Hoover, and Bailey Log Trails); the food plots around the Beaver Run Impoundment near mile marker 9 on the Quehanna Highway, (eastern cross connector); the Duck Marshes just off the Ardell Road; and the Parker Dam Area.

In the early morning and late evening you may also hear Coyotes howling as they get together for a hunt. A multitude of wildlife awaits the careful and observant hiker. You may also see fox, beaver, deer, and bear along the trail.

The Quehanna Trail goes through the largest wild area in Pennsylvania, and some very remote areas of the Moshannon State Forest. You should be aware that there are Rattle Snakes in this region. They are seldom seen and they generally warn you of their presence. It is a fact that most people are bitten when trying to pick up or handle a snake. In the Kunes Camp Photo below, there is a yellow rattle snake on the rock at the bottom corner of the camp.

The **Quehanna Area Trails Club** is an informal network of trail maintainers, hikers, skiers, and other outdoor enthusiasts concerned about the appreciation; enjoyment and care of the Quehanna and Allegheny Front trail systems in the Elk and Moshannon State Forests. The club was started in 1994 as a volunteer organization.

Our only source of income is from the sale of the trail guide *Greate Buffalo Swamp* that was written and donated to the club by Ralph Seeley, our trails overseer. **There are no set dues, but donations are gratefully accepted for communication expenses involved (newsletter)** as well as materials needed for special work projects.

We would like to thank all the individuals and businesses that have made donations. These donations have made it possible for the QATC to maintain and improve the Quehanna trail system.

Club activities, with the guidance of the District Forestry office and Ralph Seeley, include occasional workdays and hikes on the second Saturday of each month, April through October. A planning committee meets once a year to set workdays and the hike schedule for the year. This information is shared with our members through a newsletter sent out in March of each year. If you want to be added to the mailing list to receive a newsletter, see the contact information below.

Hikers and Backpackers should be aware that there are Ticks on the Quehanna Plateau, as there are throughout the Northeast. The prudent Hiker should check at the end of each day for ticks. The best prevention is to spray your **clothing** with Duranon tick repellent, Permanone tick spray, or any repellent containing Permethrin. These products can be purchased at most Wal Mart, K-Mart, and sporting good stores.

Maintainer Information

The Quehanna Trail is maintained by an all volunteer force of dedicated maintainers. Each maintainer is asked to check their section of trail at least once a year for blow downs and to make sure the blazes are in good condition. The club has purchased a brushwacker for those in need of clearing berry bushes or small brush from their section of trail. The brushwacker is stored near the eastern side of the trail in Frenchville.

Quehanna Trail Maintainers are from throughout the Keystone State and as far away as Ohio and South Carolina. **We are always in need of maintainers.** If you enjoy hiking and backpacking and would like to make a difference in the trail systems in Pennsylvania, please consider volunteering to be a trail maintainer by

contacting Ralph Seeley at 814-692-8223 or by e-mail rsbb2025@vicon.net .

Every hiker on the Quehanna Trail can assist in maintaining the trail. If you would, please, throw small sticks and limbs off the trail as you are hiking. If it is possible for you to move a small blow down, try to do so. If there is a problem in an area, let us know. Use a trail map to pinpoint the area and notify us using the email address in the contact information below.

Kunes Camp Trail

The Kunes Camp Trail, which starts at Mile Marker 3 on the Quehanna Highway, was extended in 2001. The trail now connects to the Bellefonte Posse Trail at the Chipper Road. The new trail is marked on the 2000 Quehanna Trail Maps. This trail is also designated as a cross country ski trail.

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814-263-4286

Brought to you by http://www.kta-hike.org/Quehanna_Trail.htm and Pa-conservation.Org