

CHANGE TO *THE LINK TRAIL GUIDE*  
(Keystone Trails Association, 2006),  
NOW THE STANDING STONE TRAIL  
Sections 7 and 8  
July 31, 2011

There are changes to the Standing Stone Trail (SST) that affect the southern end of Section 7, as described in the 2006 *Guide*. The SST no longer follows the road walk along Sinoquipe Road (SR 1011), and US 522. From the Ramsey Path, the trail now crosses State Game Lands 81 to a new crossing of US 522.

The SST south of US 522, as listed in Section 8 of the 2006 *Guide* has been completely relocated. The trail now enters Buchanan State Forest from Sheepskin Hollow, climbs and follows the ridgeline of Cove Mountain, meeting the Tuscarora Trail at a new trailhead in Cowans Gap State Park. The Todd Trail on the eastern side of Cove Mountain is now used as an alternate route.

*GUIDE*, Section 7, Page 89 ff.

Mile 5.57: Southbound (SB) Standing Stone Trail (SST) turns right at trail register, to descend Ramsey Path on west side of Blacklog Mountain.

Mile 6.04: SB SST turns left (orange blazing) and begins a gentle ascent of the flank of Blacklog Mountain. Ramsey Path (yellow blazing) continues straight to Sinoquipe Road where there is access parking for 2 to 3 cars.

Mile 6.25 Reach the bottom of 2 switchbacks. The trail ascends more steeply through a rocky area.

Mile 6.29 Upper switchback. Trail continues climbing through rocks, passing through a narrow gap in the state game land boundary.

Mile 6.38 Trail skirts along the side of a bench, below a steep rock field.

Mile 6.71 Trail drops away from the bench and crosses rolling woodlands.

Mile 7.50 Trail reaches a jeep road on the top of a ridge. Turn left.

Mile 7.80 State Game Lands 81 boundary. Enter private land.

Mile 8.05 Bear left on another jeep road.

Mile 8.18 Turn right, off jeep road, onto a trail along a small stream.

Mile 8.28 Turn left on old road trace.

Mile 8.36 Reach fence corner at a field. Continue straight along the fence.

Mile 8.39 Climb over fence stile. Follow blazing across the lower field.

Mile 8.51 Cross drainage ditch.

Mile 8.57 Climb over second fence stile.

Mile 8.61 Turn right on a farm lane near the corner of the fence.

Mile 8.71 Bridge over the Little Aughwick Creek.

Mile 8.73 Junction of farm lane and US 522. Turn right.

Mile 8.87 Turn left, crossing US 522, onto Sheepskin Hollow Road.

END OF SECTION 7

*GUIDE*, Section 8, Page 93 ff.:

The trail no longer encounters Nine Mile Run and the dirt road to US 522. Additionally, Buchanan State Forest and three land owners have granted permission for a relocation that now eliminates 1.1 miles of road walking on US 522 as follows:

Mile 0.00: From US 522, the trail proceeds southbound on narrow paved Sheepskin Hollow Road. North on US 522, in 3.3 miles is the tiny village of Burnt Cabins, with a bar, post office (zip: 17215) and private campground with laundry and camp store nestled between a peaceful historic grist mill and the noisy Turnpike (no interchange).

Mile 0.20: SB SST passes straight under PA Turnpike/I-76 underpass, no interchange. Limited **parking** on west side of Sheepskin Hollow Road, south of the underpass.

Mile 0.34: Turn left on level dirt road into private land.

Mile 0.45 Bear right in a shale pit, cross a small stream and climb steeply up the ridge on an old logging trace.

Mile 0.49 SB Trail follows straight across the top of the ridge on old logging roads.

Mile 1.00: SB SST drops and turns left on a flat drivable trail, intended originally for the never completed South Penn Railroad, also known as “Vanderbilt's Folly”. See pages 15-17 of the 2006 *Guide* for the history of this feature.

Mile 1.04 Where the road makes a 90 degree turn uphill, continue *straight* ahead on the railroad bed

Mile 1.08 SB Unfinished railroad culvert on left – bear left and pass through a railroad cut

Mile 1.16 SB Northeast end of the railroad cut, trail continues straight. Road rejoins from the right.

Mile 1.18 Railbed crosses a cut-and-fill bridge

Mile 1.24 Pass through a railroad cut

Mile 1.37: At a cut-and-fill bridge, the SST turns right, dropping steeply off the rail bed, passing a finished cut-stone railroad culvert on the left.

Mile 1.42 SB cross a small stream and ascend gently entering Buchanan State Forest.

Mile 1.84 SB Trail follows the State Forest boundary, paralleling Scrub Ridge.

Mile 2.40 Trail descends into the “Narrows” and crosses Nine Mile Run (**water**, undeveloped watershed but filtering still recommended).

Mile 2.41 SB cross the old woods road and rise along the north flank of the Narrows

Mile 3.00 Cross a small tributary of Nine Mile Run and ascend the west side of Cove Mountain

Mile 3.68 Reach the top of Cove Mountain. A yellow-blazed side trail leads 75 feet to a view.

Mile 3.81 Junction with the split-blazed, orange/red Todd Trail. SB turns right and ascends to follow the crest of Cove Mountain. This route crosses 2 tracts of private property that are closed to hiking, during hunting season, November 15<sup>th</sup> to January 15<sup>th</sup>, yearly. During these dates, take the alternate SST route by turning left, down the Todd Trail on east side of Cove Mountain, on newly constructed switchbacks. Follow red/orange split blazing to the Tuscarora Trail (1.44 miles) and south to Cowans Gap State Park (5.69 miles total).

Mile 3.87 Orange-blazed SST continues south, staying on Cove Mountain’s ridgeline. Red-blazed Todd Trail turns west and descends down the old SST route.

Mile 4.86 Junction with the red-blazed Sharpe Trail. The Sharpe Trail drops VERY steeply down to a junction with the Tuscarora Trail (.54 mile).

Mile 5.07 North boundary of private property. Please respect closure November 15 to January 15!

Mile 5.56 Boundary line of crushed stone built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Mile 5.71 Southern boundary of private property. Please respect closure November 15 to January 15! Junction with the red-blazed Fox Trail. Fox Trail drops VERY steeply to a junction with the Tuscarora Trail (.46 mile)

Mile 6.05 Junction with the red-blazed Wagner Trail. The Wagner Trail drops VERY steeply to a junction with the Tuscarora Trail (.39 mile).

Mile 6.46 SB trail drops off ridgeline to avoid a rock field, drops slightly in elevation, then climbs steeply back to the ridgeline.

Mile 6.55 Top of the “dip” around the rock field. Short yellow-blazed trail to view.

Mile 7.73 Junction with the Horseshoe Trail – Horseshoe Trail drops VERY steeply down to a junction with the Tuscarora Trail (.39 mile).

Mile 7.88 Junction with the Knobsville Road. Bear left (east) on the grassy road, descending Cove Mountain.

Mile 8.12 Overlook of Cowans Gap State Park. Viewing deck.

Mile 9.13 Enter Cowans Gap State Park. Pass forestry road gate.

Mile 9.15 Road to group campground on right.

Mile 9.19 SB go straight onto paved road. Paved road to left goes the park's boat launch.

Mile 9.23 Bridge over Little Aughwick Creek. Crossing the bridge leads to CGSP headquarters and campground. Turn left onto Lakeside Trail before crossing bridge.

Mile 9.40 CGSP boat launch

Mile 9.83 Trailhead and southern terminus of the Standing Stone Trail at the west end of Cowans Gap State Park dam at a foot bridge over the spillway. Junction with the Tuscarora Trail and alternate route of the SST. Cross the foot bridge and dam for parking, adjacent to the swimming area and beach.