



STC NEWSLETTER

“ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”

P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915

JANUARY 2003 ❄️❄️❄️

The purposes of the STC are to build and maintain trails; aid in the conservation of wetlands and wildlife and promote good fellowship through the medium of hiking and nature study.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

WINTER FROLIC **FEBRUARY 15**

Saturday Morning Activity:



Cross-Country Skiing
with Curt and Penny Weinhold
Date: FEBRUARY 15
Time: 9:30 am
Place: Meet at Denton Hill

STS Northern Gateway on Rt. 6

Curt & Penny say “We may ski in a different area depending on snow conditions, but this is the rendezvous spot. If there is insufficient snow cover for skiing, then we will hike. Bring lunch and water as we will probably eat along the trail.”

Let the Weinhold’s know if you’ll be joining them.
814-274-9858

In this issue:

- Time to pay 2003 dues
- Wild Game Harvest Dinner
- STS Trail Maintenance Report
- Adirondack Trip
- An Awesome Vacation
- And there’s more.....

WINTER FROLIC **FEBRUARY 15**

Saturday Evening:



Dinner, Meeting & Program
Date: FEBRUARY 15
Time: 6:00 pm Dinner
Place: St.Pauls Lutheran Church
Parish Hall on Allegany Ave in

Coudersport.

Dinner: Buffet dinner of Roast Beef & Baked Chicken Breast, vegetables and dessert.

Cost: \$8.50 for each adult dinner; \$4.25 children under 12 years of age. Prices include tax.

ALL DINNERS SERVED BY ADVANCE
REGISTRATION ONLY. Deadline Feb 8.

Use the enclosed registration form and envelope.

Donna Batterson will be in charge of door prizes and table decorations. Kaye’s Hometown Restaurant will be catering the dinner. They served a delicious dinner to our group last year.

After the dinner, there’ll be a short monthly club meeting and dues collection if you have not paid for year 2003. The evening program features Jim and Jean Leaman, STC members from York, PA. They have backpacked thousands of miles together throughout the U.S. and Canada. They will present a non-technical slide program on Colorado’s Alpine flora with a mix of habitat shots and mountain scenery with elevations of 9,000 to 14,000 feet.



KTA SPRING MEETING

April 4-6, 2003

Mark your calendars for the
Keystone Trails Association Spring
weekend in Renovo.



Come for Saturday only or the entire weekend.

Activities: Go hiking Saturday & Sunday morning or attend the KTA Council meeting all day Saturday to learn first hand about the issues affecting hiking clubs throughout Pennsylvania.

If you want registration information, contact
Keystone Trails Association
P.O. Box 129,
Confluence, PA 15424-0129
e.mail: info@kta-hike.org
814-395-9696



WILD GAME HARVEST DINNER

by Bob Knowles and Roxanne McMillan



Forty-nine members and guests enjoyed the 31st annual STC Harvest/Wild Game Dinner at the Luthern Church Parish Center, Coudersport, on Saturday October 12.

The first Harvest/Wild game dinner was held at Wil and Betty Ahn's Susquehannock Lodge on September 23, 1972 with 29 members attending.

Saturday evening activities began with a dish-to-pass dinner and then door prizes. Fred and Jean Reep, Wellsboro, assisted by George and Vivian Stover, Woodward, obtained door prizes & decorations and performed set-up work prior to the meeting.

Wil Ahn, president, conducted the October business meeting.

⇒ Applicants approved for membership were Ed Chiffons, Narvon; Irene Haas, New Holland; and Scott Vonderheide, Wellsville, NY.

⇒ Wil Ahn announced the Susquehannock Trail Club will be honored as Conservationist of the Year at the annual banquet of the Potter County Conservation District on October 23. Wil Ahn will accept the award on behalf of the STC.



(photograph of award by Curt Weinhold)

⇒ Roy Seifert, District Forester at Tioga State Forest, reported a connecting hiking trail between the Black Forest and West Rim Trails has been created by two Wellsboro Explorer Scouts.

⇒ An enlarged frame photo, prepared by Curt Weinhold, showing Bob out on the trail, was presented to Bob Webber in honor of his years of volunteer and maintenance work of local hiking trails. Previously, on May 23, 2002, Bob Webber was honored as the PA Bureau of Forestry Conservation Volunteer of the Year for 2001.

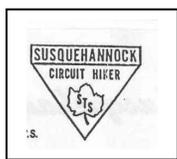
For the evening program, STC honoree Bob Webber narrated a slide show assembled by John Eastlake, S. Williamsport and projected by Curt Weinhold. The slides spanned Bob's many years of trail work. He helped build the Black Forest Trail, Golden Eagle Trail, numerous cross country ski trails and personally created a trail later named for him, the Bob Webber trail, located near the Golden Eagle Trail. A Bureau of Forestry retiree, Bob continues to do trail maintenance on the above named trails. During winter months he performs set-track work on the ski trails using his old-fashioned wide wooden skis.

During a question and answer period, Webber revealed how over the years his knee-high leather boots protected him from several surprise rattlesnake strikes. During 2002, Webber sighted 26 rattlesnakes during his trail maintenance work.

Responding to an audience request, Bob performed his excellent Al Jolson impersonation by singing "Mammy", "Toot Toot Tootsie" and several patriotic songs. Webber and his wife Dorothy live in a woodland log cabin two miles from the nearest blacktop road. Bob and Dottie posed for this portrait after the meeting, taken by Curt Weinhold.



(photograph by Curt Weinhold)



CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

From Lois Morey,
STC Archivist

The Circuit Hiker Committee reviewed and approved 5 logs and awarded 6 circuit hiker numbers - 900 through 905.

Our neighboring state of New York was well represented in this quarter's logs.

#900 - Thomas VanEtten, Lathan, NY – Completed STS on several hikes between September 1999 and September 2001.

#901 - James Greene, Endicott, NY – Hiking "companion" was Hollie, his border collie, August 28 to September 3, 2002.

#902 - Scott Vonderheide, Wellsville, NY – Circuit Hike accomplished in four days, August 25-28, 2001, hiking 25 miles the first day!

#903 - Paul Schleich, Danville, PA

#904 - Laird Allen, Selinsgrove, PA – Very good log submitted from these two with some excellent photos of their circuit hike.

#905 - John Clark, Belmont, NY –

Long time STC member had hiked and cross-country skied the trail several times but did not keep complete records. So after reading my article in one of the STC Newsletters, he decided to day hike the trail again and this time keep a log. Wouldn't it be nice if someone else would read this and do the same? Sometimes we need just a little inspiration...

2002 STS Trail Maintenance



by Bob Knowles

Volunteer trail maintenance on the Susquehannock Trail System reported for the year 2002 totaled 1204 hours.

The total hours include 945 work hours and 259 hours of travel time. In comparison, reported hours for the year 2001 were 1070 total hours with 743 work hours and 327 travel hours.

Reported trail work was performed by Wil Ahn, Joe Allis, Bill Boyd, Raymond Buck, Robert Buck, Roger Buck, John and Pat Clement, Ray Eisenhart, Don Gulvin, Charles Kern, Hugh Kistler, Bob Knowles, Arnold Larsen, Tom Leete, Dave and Roxanne McMillan, Joe Nachtwey, Fred and Jean Reep, Wanda Shirk, Dave Singer, George and Vivian Stover, Potter County Trailblazers led by John Northeimer and leaders & scouts of Boy Scout Troop 32.



ALONG THE TRAIL...by Wil Ahn

IT WOULD BE NICE TO HEAR FROM YOU

It would be nice to hear from you. Many of our members and friends have been hiking and backpacking on the 85 mile STS this year 2002. Most of us are familiar with the variety of wildlife seen along the trail. Potter and N. Clinton Counties are well known for populations of wild animals and birds. I enjoy hearing from STC members their observations of wildlife during trail walks and I think others would too.

I am particularly interested in hearing of your sightings while hiking the STS of elk, black bear, bobcats, coyotes, rattlesnakes, otters, fishers and eagles. Location, day and month of the sightings are important. Although most of us see deer, wild turkeys and ruffed grouse when we are on the STS, I have chosen the animals and birds mentioned because they are more rarely seen by the hiking public.

It would be nice to hear from you that we may share your experience with others in upcoming newsletters. Write to Wil Ahn, STC President, PO Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915

HEADWATERS COUNTRY

Many authors have written articles appearing in newspapers, magazines and books over the years concerning the location of the headwaters of three main river systems beginning in Potter County. I am speaking of the Allegheny, Genesee and Pine Creek Watersheds.

A retired country doctor, George C. Mosch, M.D., having served the Potter County public for over 50 years and having delivered well over 1,000 babies to local parents, has taken it upon himself to search out the true sources of the Allegheny which ends up in the Gulf of Mexico, the Genesee which empties into Lake Ontario, and the Pine Creek which feeds the Susquehanna River. All three headwaters finally end up in the Atlantic Ocean.

Dr. Mosch, a native of Galeton, Pa., walked many miles in the rivers headwaters area in northern Potter County in search of their starting springs and drainage seeps. With the aid of friends and a GPS,

he came to the conclusion that although the headwaters of all three rivers start in Potter County, only a farm owned by John Torok, a farmer and Potter County Commissioner, could boast of having all three headwaters running from his property during drought times.

A complete report on his findings can be had by writing to George C. Mosch, M.D., 8 S.East Street, P.O. Box 72, Coudersport, PA 16915.



SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL
Wil

2002 HIKE SUMMARY

by Bob Knowles



Seven hikes were scheduled for September 1 to October 26. Five hikes were cancelled due to rain or lack of participants. Pat Clement, Coudersport, led the bicycle ride on the Pine Creek Trail in Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon on September 21. Four persons pedaled 12 miles; two pedaled 18 miles.

Pat Childs, Wellsville, NY, led four hikers five miles on the Susquehannock Trail from Twelve Mile Road to Big Spring Road on September 28.

During the 2002 STC hiking season, April 13 through October 26, eighty-seven members and guests participated in 20 hikes covering 74.5 miles, two to eight miles in length; two bicycle rides 12 to 18 miles in length. Ten hikes were cancelled due to rain or wet snow, lack of participants or lack of a qualified hike leader.

Three additional hiking events not included in the above figures are:

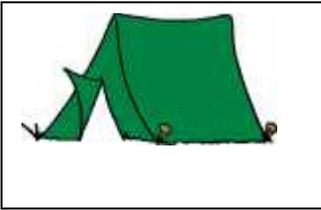
1. The September 8 -15th out-of-area STC trip to New York's Adirondack Park High Peaks region. Two to twelve members participated on one to five hikes, 2 to 6 miles in length totaling 21 miles.
2. STC members led nine of thirteen day hikes on April 6 and 7, scheduled by Dave McMillan, for the Keystone Trails Association 2002 Spring meeting based in

Wellsboro. Eight to twenty-three hikers walked three to ten miles totaling forty-four miles. STC hike leaders were Wil Ahn, Raymond Buck, Roger Buck, Pat Childs, John Eastlake, Virginia Musser, Bob Ross, Wanda Shirk and Curt Weinhold.

3. Curt and Penny Weinhold led ten hikers four miles on the West Rim Trail on February 16 during the 32nd annual STC Winter Frolic.

MY AWESOME VACATION

by Jeanne Schopf



I attended the STC's 32nd Camporee this year at Cherry Springs State Park and had a wonderful time. I've always enjoyed "star

programs" so was especially looking forward to this event and was not disappointed. At the covered dish event on Saturday evening I had the opportunity to discuss with Wil Ahn, President, my upcoming trip to Isle Royale National Park in Michigan. Wil was relating a story of his trip there and asked me to write about my experiences for this newsletter. He thought some members of the club may be interested in reading about them. I thought that I might be able to do that as I was certain that the trip would be a memorable event in my life. Much to my extreme disappointment, this Service trip, sponsored by the Sierra Club, was cancelled about 3 weeks before departure.

What to do with two precious vacation weeks? I floundered with first one idea, then another. There are many places that I would like to travel – probably more that I would like to see than not. But here I was with two weeks of vacation and no one of my working friends able to rearrange their schedules as I had been forced to rearrange mine.

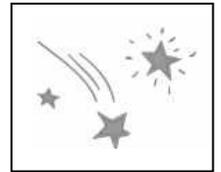
I am fortunate that the company that I work for is very flexible with my vacation schedule so I decided to just take one week and save the precious other week of vacation for another time. I decided to spend the week doing day trips with available friends and grandchildren. Tentative plans were set up to take a few days camping in Northern PA.

Then I realized that the days that we set aside would be the weekend of the Star Party at Cherry Springs State Park. I decided that would be as good a place as any to spend a few days and the timing was just right.

We arrived at the campground early Friday afternoon after a leisurely drive from Lancaster, making stops at Shikellamy State Park, lunch at Waterville Inn and ice cream at Oleana. It was a nice drive and Cherry Springs State Park was as wonderful as usual. It is one of the most peaceful places that I know of to camp!



Friday evening, we walked among the astronomers and astro-photographers listening to them tell of the many wonders of the celestial bodies. We saw so many stars and constellations in this wonderful dark area of PA. I was in awe, as usual, at this event. In fact I used the word "awesome" so many times that my new camping buddy, Louise, asked me not to use the word again.



Some of the astronomers mentioned that there were some disturbances in the atmosphere and that was the reason sightings were not coming in as clear as usual. I was not deterred – I was still seeing far more than I would ever see in the night sky of Lancaster County, where I live.

On Saturday, we took a side trip to the Grand Canyon. My friends, Louise and Nancy had never been there and were thrilled to see it. We had a very nice lunch at the Penn Wells Hotel in Wellsboro before returning to the camp site.

We decided to plan our "attack" on the night skies a little differently on Saturday night. So as to see Saturn and Jupiter, two planets that didn't become visible until about 1a.m. and which we had seen only briefly early Saturday morning, we decided to go to bed early, set our alarms and return to the Star Party about 1 a.m. Nancy headed to the tent about 8:30 with this plan in mind. Louise and I sat chatting at one of the picnic tables along the Cherry Springs air strip.

About 9:30 I decided that I was getting tired enough that I thought I might be able to sleep a few hours before the designated wake up time. Before leaving

2002 STC Adirondack Trip

by Bob Knowles

my seat I happened to notice a light area on the horizon. Trying to think of a large town in the area, I mentioned to Louise that it may be Coudersport. I realized later how ridiculous this was. If all the people in Coudersport turned on their outdoor lights at the same time, it would not have produced the light show we were about to see.

As we sat there the light on the horizon became more defined, then an arc appeared, much like a black rainbow. Louise got off the bench and started pacing. All of a sudden lights appeared, much like spot lights being used to attract attention to the opening of a new shopping center or car dealership. These lights were visible for miles into the night sky. Then the sky above the horizon turned a brilliant shade of green that ascended from the horizon, then turned a rosy pink that was truly one of the most beautiful sights I had ever seen. I turned to my friend who was questioning whether the world was coming to an end. I said, "well if it is, it certainly is a beautiful sight."

About this time I started thinking "Aurora Borealis" and wondering "could it be?". I suggested that Louise go wake Nancy. We certainly were seeing something memorable and I was sure that she would want to be included. When Nancy joined us, the colors had started to fade, but then, it seemed to start all over again. About this time we heard cheering from the Star Party across the street and were sure that what we were seeing was something very special. And later, after going back to the Party and confirming our sighting, we were convinced that we had the "best seat in the house" as our view was not restricted by the trees that have been planted to block the headlights coming down Route 44 at the Star Party. After heading back to the campground about midnight we decided that we didn't need to get up to see Saturn and Jupiter again, as nothing in the world (or in the sky) could ever top what we had just seen.

And my friend Louise (formerly from Wales), while never using the word "awesome", agreed that it certainly was a "jolly good show".



Thirteen STC members spent the week of September 8th to 15th day hiking and sightseeing in New York's Adirondack Park High Peaks Region based at Snow Goose

Lodge on historic Route 73 near the Keene Valley area.

A flock of geese flew overhead Monday morning. Twelve members hiked through open woodland to ascend 460 vertical feet to the 2120-foot rocky summit of Owls Head Mountain. The reward was spectacular 360 degree views of Cascade, Pitchoff, Giant, Hurricane Mountains and the town of Keene Valley. Jean Reep's thermometer recorded 92 degrees atop Owls Head Mountain.

Tuesday, nine members hiked six miles, one member three miles, on a river bank trail on Ausable Club private property along the East Branch of Ausable River to Beaver Meadow Falls. The beautiful falls was estimated to be three to four stories high and 20 or more feet wide with a bridal-veil appearance, well worth the hike. Members observed trout in the Ausable River and Gill Brook. After the hike, Pat Childs, Fred and Jean Reep, Ralph and Nancy Buckles discovered the pleasure of swimming in an old fashioned swimming hole in a cold deep pool of the Ausable River across the highway from the Snow Goose Lodge.

Wednesday was a rainy, no hike relaxing day, ideal for shopping and sightseeing.

Twelve members hiked a pleasant five and half miles on Thursday from the Sharp Bridge Campground on Route 9 to East Mill Flow, a beautiful and unique open area, on a trail established in 1975. The group hiked through an impressive stand of huge white pine, "one tree six and half feet in diameter." Numerous chickadee songbirds, a gray fox, wood duck and blue jay songbirds were sighted. Flora observed included mountain ash; clintonia berries; anemone plants; baneberry fruit clusters of white berries with

blackish eyes, commonly called doll's eyes; Canada mayflower or wild lily-of-the-valley; and scarlet bunchberries.

On Friday, Pat Childs and Tom Weiner hiked four miles round trip to the Catamount Mountain summit, a spectacular small peak. The duo hiked through a new growth spruce woodland and open areas covered with reindeer moss. The trail climbed steeply through a new growth woodland of aspen, white birch and hardwood seedlings. The two hikers followed rock cairns the last half mile on the very steep trail to the 3168-foot summit. The view to the south included Esther Mt., 4240-feet, and Whiteface Mt., 4867-feet; Silver Lake and Taylor Pond to the north; and the Wilmington range to the east. Chickadee and flicker songbirds; a chipmunk and a toad were observed during the hike. Other STC members road-hiked the Snow Goose Lodge area or crossed Lake Champlain on the auto ferry to Vermont.

Saturday was a beautiful Fall day. sunny with a gentle breeze. Pat Childs and Bill Morey hiked four miles round trip to the 2440-foot Baxter Mountain summit. During their lunch break, the two hikers were visited by ants, crickets and grasshoppers. The numerous ledges on Baxter Mountain presented great views of Hurricane Mt., 3694 feet; Giant Mt., 4627 feet; Ausable Valley, John Brook Valley and the town of Keene Valley.

Fred and Jean Reep hiked the Short Flume Trail in Wilmington to view the Ausable Falls and Flume; rode the ski lift up to Little Whiteface; watched rock climbers on the cliffs near Whiteface Mountain. Later, the couple walked two miles around Mirror Lake in the town of Lake Placid.

Bob and Ann Magar; Gene and Jeanne Kerr; and Tom Weiner auto drove the two-lane Veteran's Memorial Highway up to Whiteface Mt., 4867 feet, New York's fifth highest peak. The two couples rode up the state's most unique elevator to the summit. The 276-foot high shaft is cut through the solid rock heart of the peak. The elevator is reached by walking through a long tunnel carved in the rock from the parking area. The summit offers a 360 degree panoramic view of Lake Champlain, Vermont's Green Mountains, Canada, Lake Placid, Adirondack High Peaks and Saranac lake.

Tom Weiner walked to the summit instead of taking the elevator.

STC members participating the seventh annual week-long trip to the High Peaks of New York's Adirondack Park were Wil and Betty Ahn, Ulysses; Bill Morey, Galeton; Fred and Jean Reep, Wellsboro; Tom Weiner, Erie; Gene and Jeanne Kerr, New Castle; Ralph and Nancy Buckles, Sr., Downington; Pat Childs, Wellsville, NY; Bob and Anne Magar, Webster, NY.



MARCH 15, 2003: NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

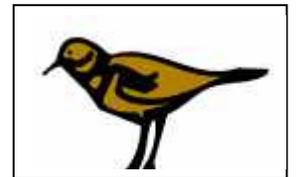
Please have your information in the mail by March 15, 2003 to:

Roxanne McMillan
STC Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 427
Landisville, PA. 17538

FOR THE BIRDS

Some winter bird feeding tips:

- * Throw finely cracked corn on icy sidewalks to provide food for birds while addressing a safety hazard.



- * Smear peanut butter in the crevices of tree bark to attract woodpeckers and nuthatches.

- * Shovel snow from beneath feeders to provide cover for and attract ground feeding birds like mourning doves, dark-eyed juncos and cardinals

The Pennsylvania Game Commission offers several references that may be helpful to individuals looking for information on birds and bird feeding. They are:

-> Wings Out Your Window, a four page brochure providing details on how to make your yard more attractive to birds (free).

-> Nesting Boxes, Feeding Stations, Bird Houses and Wildlife Shelters and How to Build Them, a brochure providing plans on how to build a variety of structures beneficial to wildlife (free).

DUES & WINTER FROLIC RESERVATION FORM**

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Winter Frolic

___ Adult meals at \$8.50 each = _____

___ Child under 12 at \$4.25 each = _____

2003 Membership Dues

\$6.00 family \$3.00 individual = _____

Gift Membership for:

Name: _____ = _____

Address: _____

\$6.00 family \$3.00 individual

Total amount enclosed = _____

Make checks payable to "Susquehannock Trail Club". Mail to P.O. Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915

****Deadline for dinner reservations is February 8**

=====cut here=====



Susquehannock Trail Club
P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915

