



# STC NEWSLETTER

## “ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”

P.O. Box 643  
Coudersport, PA 16915

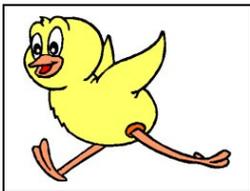
### April 2003



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.



### STC HIKING SCHEDULE



It's spring and time to take a hike or two! This issue of the newsletter contains the easily detachable April thru July hiking schedule, compliments of the Hiking Committee.

Members of the Hiking Committee are Wil Ahn, chairperson; Bill Boyd, Pat Childs, Bob Knowles, Tom Leete, and Bill Morey. A big thank you to the Hiking Committee and to all the hike leaders who made this hiking schedule possible! Plan to join the club on one or more hikes.

### STS TRAIL REPORT

by Wil Ahn

#### TRAIL MAINTENANCE NEEDED



Members of the STC living in the northeast section of the good old USA are well aware of the severe winter of 2002-2003 we have just experienced. It was one of the

worst winters in years, much snow, ice, high winds and bitter cold temperatures. Pennsylvania and New York had more than its share of snow and ice. Deer, turkeys, grouse and other wildlife suffered much from the deep snows and bitter cold winds. Many perished.

Due to high winds and ice-coated trees, there is needed trail work to be done on the STS from trees falling across the trail, as well as many limbs and branches.

**Work parties are needed to clean the trail of limbs and debris and get the trail in shape for the hiking public using the trail this Spring and Summer.**

**If you can or are able, your help would be appreciated. Call Wil Ahn at 814-435-2966 or Bob Knowles at 814-435-8370 for information.**

### THANK YOU THANK YOU

### THANK YOU

From Wil Ahn, STC President

The officers in charge of the operations of your trail club, the STC, want to thank all members for their continued support and memberships. Your interest, dues payments and voluntary services are needed to keep our club going and growing. Those of you who have contributed financially in addition to annual dues, we want you to know your kindness and generosity are much appreciated.



## **NATURAL GAS DRILLING NEAR STS**

Also of interest to hikers and members is notification from Pa. Bureau Of Forestry District 15 office at Denton Hill of the recent test drilling of at least three natural gas wells in the Gravel Lick area off of McConnell Rd. A temporary 2" diameter black plastic pipe for testing the flow of gas from the wells crosses the STS just off the road. The pipeline will be buried by hand tools and should not be a hindrance to trail walkers. BOF will keep us informed as drilling progresses.

## **DEDICATION FOR BILL FISH MEMORIAL SIGN JUNE 14, 2003**

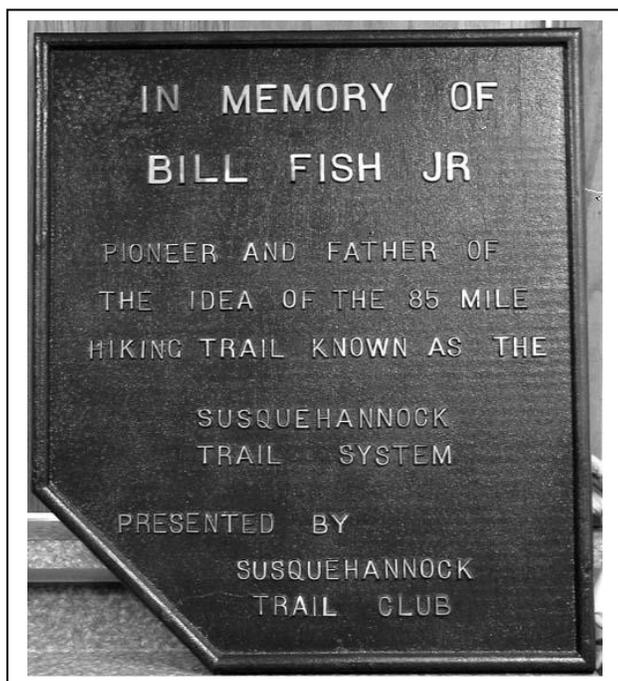


Photo by Curt Weinhold

The long awaited sign, well over a year, has finally been received. A distinct design in the shape of Potter County and of heavy cast aluminum, the sign will be erected on State Forest grounds at the beginning of the 85 mile STS located at the Bureau of Forestry, DCNR District 15 office on Route 6, at the top of Denton Hill.

A dedication ceremony honoring Bill Fish will take place at the sign site at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, June 14th, 2003. We look forward to seeing you there. Refreshments will be served.

## **KEYSTONE TRAIL CREW- 2003**

From Joe Healey, Keystone Trail Crew Coordinator



### **SEVENTH YEAR OF KEYSTONE TRAIL CREW SET**

Keystone Trail Crew, sponsored by KTA, will again have three weeks of volunteer hiking trail maintenance in the month of June. The workweek will run from Wednesday through Sunday. The dates are:

- June 4 through June 8 Quehanna Trail
- June 11 through June 15 Mid State Trail  
Northern Extension
- June 18 through June 22 Chuck Keiper Trail

Meals and lodging/campsites will be provided. If you can spare a week, volunteer a weekend or come for just a day or two, please think about signing up. No volunteer will be turned away. Forward all inquiries to Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702, e-mail [jnlhealey@aol.com](mailto:jnlhealey@aol.com) or feel free to call at (570) 655-4979. Detailed information and a map directing you to the respective lodging/campsite will then be forwarded.



## **SUMMER CAMPOREE AUGUST 1 – 3, 2003**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> STC Annual Camporee will be at Ole Bull State Park, with Dave and Roxanne McMillan organizing the activities.



Set up camp Friday August 1 in the Group Camp Area. Come hiking on Saturday August 2.

Join us for the dish-to-pass picnic and club meeting Saturday evening August 2 in the large pavilion near the Ole Bull State Park office.

More information will be in the July newsletter, but for now mark your calendars!



# GREAT ATTENDANCE AT THE WINTER FROLIC

by Bob Knowles

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Susquehannock Trail Club Winter Frolic, held on February 15, began with 21 members participating on two cross-country ski tours under a clearing azure sky on ideal dry, good gripping snow conditions. Unknown earlier skiers had broken trail, providing excellent tracked skiing for the STC group through the Denton Hill woodland area.



Curt Weinhold, Coudersport, led 13 skiers on a six-mile ski tour from the Bureau of Forestry buildings off Rt. 6 to the Susquehannock Lodge via a log

road, Ridge and Billy Brown Trails. Participants were Joe Allis, Amy Bradley, John Clark, Barbara Crossan and daughter Lisa Traub, Dick Hribar, Charles Kern, Lowell and Barbara Luft, Larry Peterson, Andy Salek, Bob Ulmer and Ed Vandegrift. Joe Allis, Galetton, skied 12 miles by returning to Denton Hill via reverse backtrack of the original route.

Penny Weinhold, Coudersport, led six skiers on a two and quarter mile loop from the Bureau of Forestry buildings via a log road, a short trail, Ridge Trail and a short trail back to the starting point. Participants were Bill Boyd, Beth Lounsbury and sister Nancy, Virginia Musser, Jeannie Ulmer and Pam Salek.

Saturday evening, 72 members and guests enjoyed the Winter Frolic Dinner held at St. Paul Lutheran Church Parish Hall, Coudersport. A roast beef and stuffed chicken breast dinner buffet was catered by Kaye's Hometown Restaurant.

Door prize winners were Dorothy Greisemer, Dick Hribar, Floyd Lounsbury, Lowell Luft, John Clark, Sally Smith, Barbara Luft, Sara Squier, Oneida Slovik, Bob Bernhardt, Beth Lounsbury and Pat Flowers.

Wil Ahn, President, conducted the short February monthly meeting. New members approved for membership were Beth Ask, Cogan Station;

Tom Barbonus, Blairsville; and Rebecca Steiner, Medina, OH.

The Winter Frolic Committee of Donna Batterson and Ann Stromberg, Coudersport, were given a "thank you" round of applause for a job well done.

Ahn announced Taylor Freeman will build and install a bench at the Ridge Trail vista on the Susquehannock Trail as part of an Eagle Scout rank requirement. Freeman is a Life Scout in Coudersport Boy Scout Troop led by Scoutmaster Gary Buchanan.

Special recognition was given to long time STS trail care workers Dorothy Erway, Bill Boyd and Tom Leete, Coudersport; Bill Morey, Andy and Pam Salek, Galetton; Raymond Buck, Ulysses; Roger Buck, Mansfield; Charles Kern, Johnstown; and John Clark, Belmont, NY.



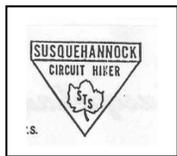
Photo by Curt Weinhold

**Left to right Sandy Timms, Wil Ahn, Betty Ahn**

Sandy Timms, Treasurer, presented a STC book gift, "Spirit of Trees" to Wil and Betty Ahn, Ulysses, in recognition of their years of service as officers and promoters of the Susquehannock Trail Club.

On display were the Conservationist of the Year 2002 Award honoring the STC, presented by Potter County Conservation District; and the cast aluminum sign honoring William D. Fish, Jr., as the father of the Susquehannock Trail. The sign will be erected and dedicated during the 2003 hiking season.

The Saturday evening highlight was a talk/ slide show, "Colorado's Flora and Scenery" by Jim and Jean Leaman, York. The Leaman duo have backpacked thousands of miles throughout the U.S. and Canada. The informative and interesting presentation depicted the flora, fauna and habitat photographed during a month-long backpack hike at elevations of 9,000 to 14,000 feet in southern Colorado's mountainous area. Clear and sharp color slides featured the area's beautiful wildflowers in full color, numerous views of mountain and alpine valley scenery, mountain goat and white fox.



## CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

From Lois Morey,  
STC Archivist

No logs were submitted this quarter.



## Endangered Hiking Trails

(From the KTA Newsletter, by John Stein)

"Would you invest massive amounts of your labor and resources; persuade others to invest their time also, to expand and maintain the place where you live, all the while knowing that a phone call or letter could require you to move out leaving all behind with little hope of return? We do this with hiking trails. They are called **Endangered Hiking Trails** (EHT)."

The respective hiking trail clubs responsible for each of the below listed hiking trails have requested that the trail be listed as an endangered hiking trail (EHT). By vote, KTA council has concurred.

This status is primarily (but not solely) due to the fact that key segments and significant trail distances are without any binding agreement with land owners for permanent off-road foot hiker access. Many property owners have embraced hiking trails on their lands and have recognized the value of hiking trails that generally meet open space requirements for developers. Hikers are known to

be valuable "guests" since they often educate others, report problems, and remove trash. Also, hiking trails can facilitate the Pennsylvania Greenways Program.

However some trails are (or can be) severed without notice and cease to exist as a trail. Already extinct hiking trails include the Catawba Trail, the Forbes Trail, and the Traders Path Trail.

KTA Newsletters will list EHT's, periodically report EHT status changes, and review EHT items of interest. By council vote also, KTA is required to publicize this issue.

Additional hiking trail clubs are considering requesting EHT listing. This EHT list may grow, but we hope that hikers and those that recognize the many values of outdoor recreation will work to protect and save our unique major hiking trails so that, someday, no trails will be on the endangered list.

### CURRENT LIST OF **E**ndangered **H**iking **T**rails:

- Baker Trail
- Conestoga Trail System
- Horse-Shoe Trail
- Mid State Trail System

Please contact the KTA-EHT committee at [stein-hike@cs.com](mailto:stein-hike@cs.com) if you want additional information, data, or have questions.



## JUNE 14, 2003: NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have your information in the mail by June 14, 2003 to:

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

Or [roxanne\\_mcmillan@hotmail.com](mailto:roxanne_mcmillan@hotmail.com)



## ALONG THE TRAIL...by Wil Ahn

### SOME OF YOU WROTE TO US

In answer to my request for members to share their viewing experiences of certain types of wildlife and animals along sections of the STS, I received the following from cooperating members.

It was a pleasure to hear from members and I thank them for their interest and willingness to take the time to share with us. Letters received were lengthy and interesting but due to limited space in our Newsletter, I can only share excerpts from the writers.

Member Bill Libbart from Mountville, Pa., writes he has been hiking on the STS since the mid 70's. This past November, while hunting in the Bolich Run-Hogback area near the trail, he and his brother got an excellent look at a mature bald eagle. There was 2 inches of fresh snow on the ground and they could see that the eagle had been feeding on a freshly killed small doe. They were surprised to see the eagle so deep in the woods. Two days later wild hunting in Yochum Hollow, Bill had a large Golden Eagle fly directly over his head about 30 feet off the ground. Lucky you, Bill, and cheers for sharing with us.

Then there was a very lengthy and interesting letter from member Richard Urick from Paxinos, Pa., near Sunbury. Richard is very observant and wrote a detailed account of his hike taken in May of 2002 with friend Dean Eichen from Edinboro, Pa. They backpacked STS Northern Gateway to Cherry Springs fire tower. Richard Urick goes into great detail of what he sees while hiking the trail and I can tell from his writing he has studied and read much about the early history of this area and other sections of central and north central PA.

While hiking down Jacobs Hollow, just before crossing the ATV trail, they came to a clearing with old apple trees left over from the early lumbering days. Richard says the trees in blossom are beautiful. A little further along the trail and across the stream ambling along the hillside is a black bear; both he and Dean pause to watch the bear about a hundred yards distant.

It is experiences like this that one can encounter along the STS, and make memories to think about for years to come. Thank you, Richard, for an excellent report. Both of these writers could use their detailed written observations when applying for the Circuit Hiker Award.

### MORE LETTERS

Member, Sabina Araya, from Addison, N.Y., not far from Corning, writes and tells about a mother black bear and her 3 cubs visiting and climbing large hickory trees in her back yard. Sabina sent color photos of the cubs climbing up her trees. They made visits to her home out in the hill country but not that far from town. I had no idea it was wild enough around there for bears to live and thrive. Sabina loves our newsletter and looks forward to each issue. Come hike with us soon, Sabina.

Then there is a lengthy letter from charter member Tom Fitzgerald. I know many of you remember Tom, alias George Reamerstraff. Tom, the peanut butter kid, was the first president of our Trail Club. He served many years here as a Forester in District 15 Bureau of Forestry before being transferred to Western Pa. in the BOF Forbes District near Pittsburgh. Tom is the Service Forester in the Forbes District and works closely with private landowners concerning forestry and related programs. Tom has been with the Bureau of Forestry for 38 years.

He and his wife, Jayne, helped organize the STC back in 1967. Many of the trail signs you see along the STS are the handiwork of Tom and the Welfare Hollow Sign Shop.

I am hopeful Tom and Jayne can attend the Bill Fish Sign dedication on Saturday June 14th.

I would like to hear from more of you folks. I know many of you have stories to tell and we are anxious to hear of your experience with wildlife along the STS. Please write and share with us.

Write to Wil Ahn, STC President,  
PO Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915



SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL  
Wil



## KTA Information

**Keystone Trails Association** is an organization of member clubs and individuals that promotes the interest of hikers throughout Pennsylvania. Through interaction with government agencies, legislative monitoring, trail building and trail maintenance KTA provides many benefits to all of Pennsylvania's hikers. For information on joining KTA go to [www.kta-hike.org/member.htm](http://www.kta-hike.org/member.htm).

The KTA Spring Meeting will be held in Renovo again this year on April 4, 5 & 6. Group hikes will be held on Saturday and Sunday. The general membership meeting will be held on Saturday Evening. For more information go to <http://www.kta-hike.org/pdffdocs/spring.pdf>.

Dave McMillan is the STC representative to KTA. You can contact him at his e:mail address with questions or comments: [dvmcmlln@earthlink.net](mailto:dvmcmlln@earthlink.net) or P.O. Box 427, Landisville, PA 17538.

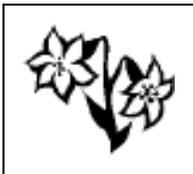


## PENNA HIKING TRAILS WEEK is MAY 10<sup>th</sup> to MAY 18<sup>th</sup>

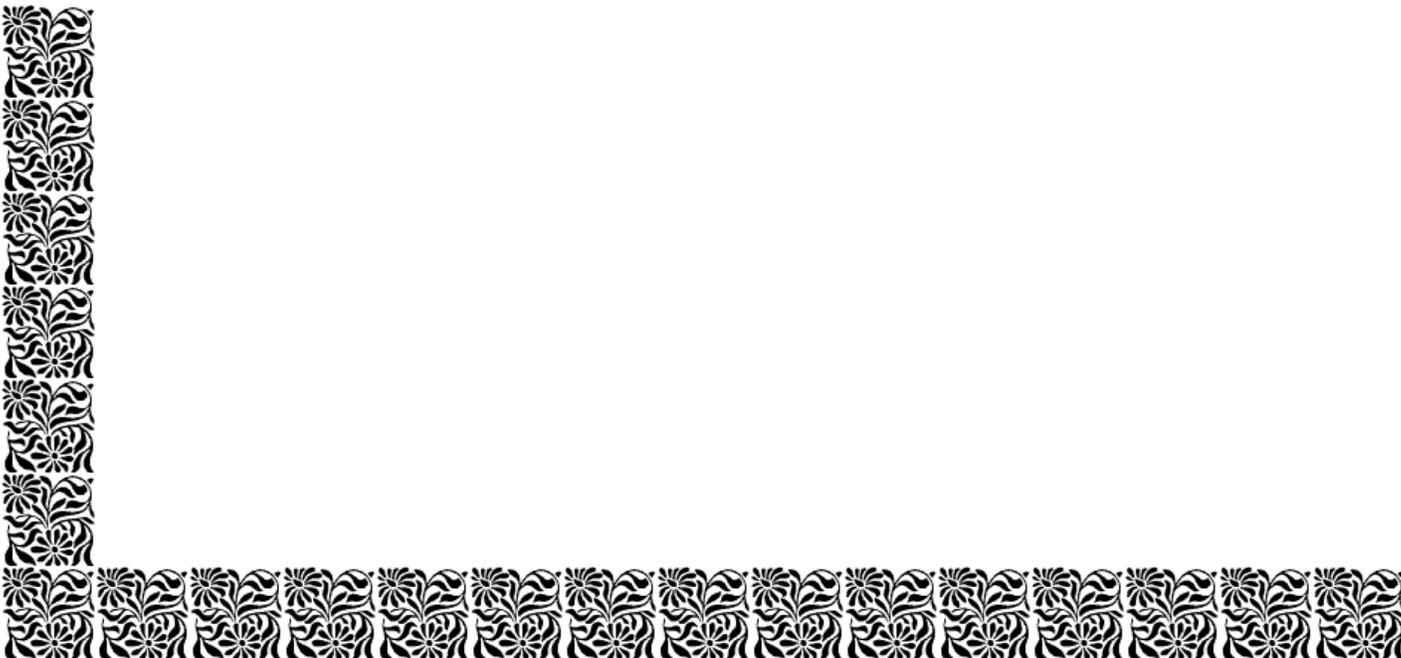
Pa DCNR Bureau of Forestry and Keystone Trails Association have designated the week of May 10<sup>th</sup> thru May 18<sup>th</sup> as Penna. Hiking Trails week. Hiking Clubs and individual leaders of the KTA will be scheduling hikes on State Forest Hiking Trails. The public is invited to attend these hikes and join in the enjoyment of hiking with a group on State Forest Trails.

The Susquehannock Trail Club has scheduled hikes on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> with designated leaders. Please check your hiking schedule for time and place.

Public announcement will also appear in the local newspaper, Potter Leader Enterprise  
STC news column by Bob Knowles.



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



## **LAST CALL FOR 2003 DUES!**

**OUR MEMBERSHIP RECORDS SHOW THAT YOUR 2003 DUES HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AS OF MID-MARCH. PLEASE REMIT \$6.00 FOR FAMILY DUES OR \$3.00 FOR INDIVIDUAL DUES TO: STC, P.O. BOX 643, COUDERSPORT, PA 16915**

- **AS PER OUR STC BY-LAWS, THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY REMINDER AND A NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE SENT OUT IN JULY TO ANY MEMBERS WITH DUES UNPAID BY THAT ISSUE DATE.**

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