



# STC NEWSLETTER

***“ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”***

P.O. Box 643  
Coudersport, PA 16915

**July 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.

## SUMMER CAMPOREE

**August 1 – 3, 2003**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> STC Annual Camporee will be held at



Ole Bull State Park, with Dave and Roxanne McMillan organizing the activities. We once again have the pleasure of camping in the Group Camping area.

The itinerary for a fun-filled weekend is enclosed.

A short hike Friday evening will take you to the beaver dam. Saturday morning make a choice between the short or long hike, leaving from the Group Camping site. Take a swim or a nap Saturday afternoon. Pull up a chair around the campfire Friday or Saturday evenings to share some stories. Come to the Main Pavilion Saturday evening for the dish-to-pass supper and load up your plate. Stay for the monthly STC meeting and informative evening program. You'll be glad you came to the 33<sup>rd</sup> STC Annual Camporee!



## STC HIKING SCHEDULE

**July thru October**

This issue of the newsletter contains the July thru October hiking schedule, brought to you by the Hiking Committee. Members are Pat Clements, chairperson; Wil Ahn, 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.

## Quarterly HIKE SUMMARY

by **Bob Knowles**



During the April 26 through June 7, 2003 period, twenty-three STC members and friends hiked 10.5 miles on four STC sponsored hikes covering one to four miles.

Five of nine hikes were cancelled due to rain.

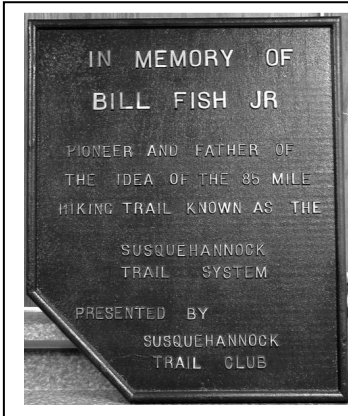
Bill Boyd, Coudersport, led nine hikers on the four-mile Thunder Run Hike on May 4. Tim Morey, Wellsboro, led two short hikes on Saturday, May 10, in Tioga County's Pine Creek Gorge area. Six hikers enjoyed the morning two-mile Waterfalls Hike and five hikers walked the afternoon Overlook Trail Hike. Tom Leete, Coudersport, led three hikers on the two and half mile Wildflower Walk in Lyman Hollow near Sweden Valley on Sunday afternoon, May 11.

Hikers this quarter were Wil Ahn and Jim Wagner, Ulysses; Bill Boyd, Tom Leete, Dr. George Mosch, John Snyder, and son, Taras, Linda Todd and Curt Weinhold, Coudersport; Bill Morey and Lois Morey, Galetton; Tim Morey, Wellsboro; Joe and Diane Laver with daughter Abby, Williamsport; plus out-of-area non-members.

# William Fish, Jr. Memorial Sign Dedication

by Bob Knowles  
photo by Curt Weinhold

Under a brightening overcast sky with the green woodland flora as background, 54 STC members,



Fish family and friends gathered on Saturday afternoon June 14 at the District 15 Bureau of Forestry buildings off Rt. 6 atop Denton Hill.

Wil Ahn, STC president, welcomed the group attending the Memorial Dedication Program honoring the late William D. Fish, Jr. as the father

of the Susquehannock Trail. He also gave a brief report of STS history and Bill Fish's involvement.

The original idea of a hiking trail loop was conceived by "Bill" Fish in 1966. As publisher of the "Potter Enterprise" (now Potter Leader-Enterprise) weekly newspaper, Fish was an enthusiastic promoter, early leader and participant in the initial work of laying out the STS. In his weekly newspaper column, "Potter Puffs", Fish frequently wrote about his trail work, hike companions and personal trail experiences.

The county's tourist promotion agency, Potter County Recreation, Inc., appointed directors William D. Fish, Jr., Coudersport; Wil Ahn, Ulysses; Harry Kinney, Cross Fork; and Veryl Scheibner, Roulette, to a committee to pursue the original hiking trail idea. The first planning meeting was attended by Fish, Ahn, Kinney and Scheibner; with Coudersport residents Tom Fitzgerald, Joseph Heimel and Del Kerr, "Enterprise" editor. Various Fish arranged meetings to lay out the proposed STS on maps were attended by Tom Leete, Jim Berger, Bob Davey, Tom Fitzgerald, Del Kerr, Joe Heimel, Veryl Scheibner and Wil Ahn.

On February 9, 1967, eight local hiking enthusiasts held a meeting at the Del and Lois Kerr residence in Coudersport to form the Susquehannock Trail Club. The STC accepted responsibility to perform the actual physical work creating the STS hiking trail—"Built by hikers for hikers".

William D. Fish, Jr., born 1920, was a charter Susquehannock Trail Club member. He earned the STC Circuit Hiker Award for hiking the entire 85-mile STS loop to become Circuit Hiker No. 60. Fish died on May 29, 1977, at age 56, after a two-month battle with cancer.

Family members and friends (many were STC members) related interesting, humorous tales and memories of Bill Fish.

★ Joe and Barbara Heimel, brother-in-law and sister, told of Fish's love of nature and 1930-40's early life.

★ Son Bill Fish, III, spoke of his father's always-in-a hurry life and the soft-spoken, mild manner of Dale Kerr, "Enterprise" editor.

★ Nephew Paul Heimel remembered his first job with Uncle Bill and his love of the outdoors and STS/tourist promotion.

Lois Kerr told about the first STC meeting and the Kerr family backpacking the Susquehannock Trail. Dr. George Mosch briefly talked of being physician to the Fish family.

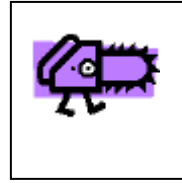
Tom Leete provided 1940's memories.

Shirlee Leete became an "Enterprise" reporter in the late 1960's learning honesty, patience and stick-to-the-story in reporting, goals taught by employer Bill Fish and editor Del Kerr.

Tom Fitzgerald, first STC president and a former District 15 Forester, recalled Fish's rush-rush attitude and the naming of the Fish Trail on the STS between Lyman Run Road and the B&S Trail. Bob Davey, second STC president, a former District 15 Forester and retired District Forester of Sproul State Forest, related a humorous tale of Fish's insistent urging them to flag the proposed STS route on any and all free time.

## STC TRAIL MAINTENANCE

by Bob Knowles



Twenty-two STC members and relatives; and six Boy Scouts with five adult leaders of Troop 32, Jonestown, reported performing annual trail maintenance on the Susquehannock Trail during the April 5 through June 7, 2003 period totaling 450 hours. Work hours totaled 324 hours with 126 hours of travel time.

Trail care workers were Wil Ahn, Ulysses; Chris Baumann, Coudersport; Bill Boyd, Coudersport; Raymond Buck, Ulysses; Robert Buck, Gold; Roger Buck, Mansfield; Dorothy Erway, Coudersport; Charles Kern, Jonestown; Bob Knowles, Galeton; Carl Martin, Fredericksburg; Dave McMillan, Landisville; Bill Morey, Galeton; Joe Nachtwey, New Tripoli; Dave Nachtwey, Chilton, Wisconsin; Andy Salek, Galeton; Jean Schopf, Lancaster; Dave Singer, Lancaster; George and Vivian Stover, Woodward; Ed Vandegrift, Wellsboro; Cliff Wood, Ulysses; Curt Wunderlich, Lebanon; and Jack Wunderlich, Chicago, Illinois.

Jonestown Boy Scout Troop 32 members clearing the STS were Scouts John Best, Dylan Lucas, Bruce Schell and three other unnamed scouts with adult leaders Charles Kern, Curt Wunderlich, Tim Core and two unnamed adults.



Notables attending the Dedication program were Tom Wallace, District Forester of Susquehannock State Forest; Chip Harrison, Park Operations manager of the Hills Creek Complex of eight state parks in Potter/Tioga Counties; and John Eastlake, District 12 Forester. Four past or present STC presidents were in attendance: Tom Fitzgerald, Bob Davey, Curt Weinhold and Wil Ahn.

After years of discussion, designs and bids, the Susquehannock Trail Club was finally able to have our president Wil Ahn declare:

**“We dedicate this William D. Fish, Jr. Memorial Sign on June 14, 2003”.**



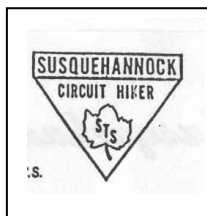
Refreshments were served in the Conference Room of the District 15 Office Building at Denton Hill. The Refreshment Committee was comprised of Chairperson Lois

Morey, Galeton; Jean Reep, Wellsboro; and Charlotte Freeman, Ulysses; with Sara Squier, Ulysses; and Maryann Griscavage, Wellsboro also helping.

## CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

from Lois Morey, STC Archivist

Bill Libhart is Circuit Hiker No. 906 and his son Ian Libhart is No. 907.



This is a father/son team from Mountville, PA. They originally planned to hike the entire trail in one trip but due to illness and weather they ended up hiking in

the same month (May) in each of three consecutive years - 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Of the seven total days it took them to complete the trail, they had rain and/or snow on four of the days, overcast skies on two days and only one sunny day!! Is this typical Potter County weather or what? They submitted an excellent detailed account of their hikes, right down to all the wildlife seen and even what was eaten for breakfast. Congratulations Bill and Ian Libhart.

**Several STS sections lack volunteer STC member sponsors. To volunteer to assume annual trail care responsibility on unsponsored STS sections, contact STC president Wil Ahn at 814-435-2966.**

**Or write STC, P.O. Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915.**

**Or e:mail [wilbetrt6@pennswoods.net](mailto:wilbetrt6@pennswoods.net).**

**Report trail work hours and round trip travel hours promptly to Wil Ahn at the above address or Bob Knowles at 814-435-8370; or write 9 Penn Avenue Apt. C2, Galeton, PA 16922.**

## ALONG THE TRAIL...by Wil Ahn

### WISH YOU COULD HAVE BEEN HERE

Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003 was a momentous day for the Susquehannock Trail Club. Our Club had designed, purchased and erected a sign honoring the late Bill Fish, Jr. for his idea and foresight for conceiving the STS, an 85 mile loop hiking trail through the wilds of Potter and Northern Clinton Counties. This was a day of dedication and club members were concerned about the weather.

Would we be rained out? The sun was shining that Saturday afternoon, but big black clouds would form and threaten, then the sun would push through again. The weather did cooperate and at 2:00 P.M. the sign dedication was a reality.

Fifty four persons gathered at the sign location which is close to the STS trailhead at the Pa. BOF-DCNR Forest District #15 office atop Denton Hill on U.S. Rt. 6. On behalf of the trail club, I gave a brief introduction of the late Bill Fish, Jr. who had passed away in 1977. He had love and respect for the great outdoors. Bill Jr. had roamed around the area where we were standing when he was just a young lad exploring, hunting and fishing in the headwaters of Nine Mile Run, just a short distance from the sign location.

His father, Bill Fish, Sr., known to many people as "Golly", was publisher and editor of the Potter Enterprise newspaper. "Golly" had a cabin in a deep valley along the Nine Mile, which he named "Golly's Folly". This was a great place for Bill and his friends Tom Leete, Joe Heimel, Jim Berger and Denny Goodenough to hang their hats when they visited the area located about 8 miles east of Coudersport. Although Bill Fish Jr. is no longer with us, Tom Leete, Joe Heimel, Jim Berger and Denny Goodenough are still around and kicking, not quite so high, but still kicking, and all are members of the STC.

The program of dedication had not been rehearsed. Family, friends and STC members were called upon to come forward and share memories and relationships with Bill, Jr. Although very informal, it turned out to be quite a successful sharing of stories and recollections. Following the dedication

the group in attendance went into the forestry office conference room where the Refreshment Committee served cake, cookies, snacks, coffee and iced tea. A large sheet cake honoring Bill Fish, Jr. was on display and served. Several of the lady members donated cookies.

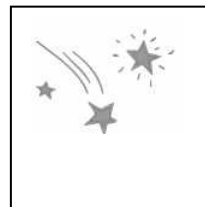
The group enjoyed visiting and sharing memories for quite a long time before the breaking up at 4 o'clock. We appreciate the cooperation of District Forester, Tom Wallace and Bureau of Forestry.

### SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL....Wil



## STARGAZING SATURDAYS at Cherry Springs State Park

If you missed the stargazing at last year's Camporee or you were there and want to see more stars, check out the National Public Observatory's Stars-n-Parks program schedule at Cherry Springs State Park:



July 19 at 9:30 pm  
July 26 at 9:30 pm  
August 23 at 9:00 pm  
September 20 at 8:30 pm  
September 27 at 8:30 pm

The public is invited to attend. Remember to bring a flashlight with a red filter. Call Lyman Run State Park at 814-435-5010 for more information or with weather concerns.

## September 13, 2003: NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have your information in the mail by  
September 13, 2003 to:

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



# July –October 2003



## HIKES AND EVENTS SCHEDULE



### SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL CLUB

**NOTES:** Telephone area code is 814 unless otherwise noted.

Telephone hike leader for additional information (if no answer, try 435-2966).

Rain or bad weather will cancel hike.

Non-members welcome on all hikes.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ON ALL HIKES.**

### WEEKEND HIKES

**July 5 - SATURDAY** – Clark Farm Hike – Clark Farm to Route 6. Visit white sand spring, teepee site, “diamond mine” and mansion rock – 4 miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:00 am at Dean’s Gravel Pit on U.S. Route 6, west of Galeton.

Leaders: Bill Boyd 274-7529 and Donna Batterson

**July 12 - SATURDAY** – Ski Trail – Commissioner Trail Hike – 5.3 miles. Bureau of Forestry buildings to Roadside Rest, north of Rt.6. Bring lunch and water.

Meet at 10:00 am at the Bureau of Forestry buildings atop Denton Hill on U.S. Route 6.

Leader: Bill Morey 435-6380

**July 19 - SATURDAY** – Commissioner- Crowell Loop Hike – 5 miles. Roadside Rest, up Commissioner Trail, short bushwhack, down Crowell Hollow, return Roadside Rest via Route 6. Bring lunch and water.

Meet at 10:00 am at Roadside Rest on U.S. Route 6 opposite Ski Denton.

Leader: Tom Leete 274-8627

**July 19 – SATURDAY** – 6 pm July STC Meeting at Lyman Run State Park Pavilion. Bring a dish-to-pass and place setting. Leader: Wil Ahn 435-2966

**July 26 - SATURDAY** – Sand Falls Hike – 5 miles. Bring lunch and water.

Meet at 10:30 am at Weis Market on U.S. Route 6, east of Wellsboro.

Leaders: Bob Knowles 435-8370 and Roger Buck 570-662-7274

**August 1 to 3 FRIDAY to SUNDAY - 33rd Annual STC Camporee at Ole Bull State Park.**

► See enclosed Camporee itinerary for details.

**August 2 – SATURDAY** 8:30 am Long hike (approx 8 miles) & 9:00 am Short hike (approx 4.5 miles) leave from the Ole Bull Group Camping Area. Bring water and lunch.

Leaders: Dave and Roxanne McMillan 717-898-0358

**August 9 – SATURDAY** – Wild Boy Road to Rock Ridge Road on the STS – 2 miles. Meet at 10:00 am at Patterson State Park on Rte. 44. Bring water & lunch.

Leader: Pat Childs 585-593-4077

**August 16 – SATURDAY** – Hike and picnic. Bring dish-to-pass & table service. Call for location.

Leader: Wil Ahn 435-2966

## SUSQUHANNOCK TRAIL CLUB



**August 23 - SATURDAY** – X-country Ski Trail on Denton Hill - 4 ½ miles.  
Meet at 10:00 am at the District Forestry Office parking lot on Rte. 6. Bring water & lunch.  
Leader: Bill Boyd 274-7529

**August 30 – Sept. 1** – Labor Day weekend.

**August 30 – SATURDAY** – Northern Trailhead to Lyman Run Road on the STS – 6.4 miles.  
Meet at 10:00 am at the District Forestry Office parking lot on Rte. 6. Bring water & lunch.  
Leader: Tom Leete 274-8627

**September 6 – SATURDAY** – Stephenhouse Loop Hike – 5 miles. Meet at 10:30 at Ives Run Recreation Area entrance road on Rte. 287 above Middlebury Center. Bring water & lunch.  
Leader: Bob Knowles 435-8370

**September 13 – SATURDAY** – Sunken Branch Road to Denton Hill trailhead – 11 miles.  
Meet at 10:00 am at the District Forestry Office parking lot on Rte. 6. Bring water & lunch.  
Leader: Bill Boyd 274-7529

**September 20 - SATURDAY** – Patterson State Park to Prouty Park on the STS – 5 ½ miles.  
Meet at 10:00 am at Patterson State Park on Rte. 44. Bring water & lunch.  
Leader: Pat & John Clement 274-0221

**September 27 - SATURDAY** – Hammersley Wild Area Hike – 11 miles.  
Meet at 9:30 am at the Ranger Station in Cross Fork. Bring water & lunch.  
Leader: Wil Ahn 435-2966

**October 4 - SATURDAY** - Greenlick Road to Shepard Road on the STS – 6 miles.  
Meet 10:00 am at the Ole Bull State Park parking lot. Bring water & lunch.  
Leader: Pat Childs 585-593-4077

**October 11 – SATURDAY** – Bike/hike trip on the Grand Canyon Biking Trail.  
Meet at 10:00 am at the Darling Run parking lot off Rte.362. Bring water & lunch & bike.  
Leader: Pat & John Clement 274-0221

**October 11 - SATURDAY** – Wild Game Dinner

**October 18 – SATURDAY** – Cherry Springs Fire Tower to Water Tank Hollow to Rte. 44 (loop) – 3-4 miles.  
Meet at 10:00 am at the Cherry Springs Fire Tower on Rte. 44. Bring water & lunch.  
Leader: Bill Boyd 274-7529

**October 25 – SATURDAY** – Destination to appear in October Newsletter Bring water & lunch.  
Leader: Charlotte Freeman 848-7602

⇒**Bring this schedule along to the camporee!!**



**STC 33rd ANNUAL CAMPOREE**  
**Friday August 1 – Sunday August 3, 2003**  
**Ole Bull State Park**

**Committee Members:** Dave and Roxanne McMillan 717-898-0358

**Camping in the Ole Bull Group Camping Area**

- Sites for both tents and RV's but no hookups are available.
- If electric is desired you must obtain a regular site in the park family camping areas.
- No camping fees for STC members camping in the group area only.
- State Park regulations include a **no alcohol** and **no pets** rule.

**FRIDAY August 1:**

**Afternoon & Evening:** Set up camp and sign roster.

**8:00 pm - Short walk to the Beaver Dam** (led by Roxanne McMillan)

- Bring flashlight and insect repellent

**8:30 pm - Evening Campfire**—Group Camping Area Note: Bring a few logs for the campfire if you can!

**SATURDAY August 2:**

**8:30 am - Long Hike** (Led by Dave McMillan)

- Meet at Ole Bull Group Camping Area
- The long hike will be approximately 8 miles in length, returning in time for the evening meal.  
A shuttle will be organized the morning of the hike.
- Bring lunch and plenty of water

**9:00 am - Short Hike** (Led by Roxanne McMillan)

- Meet at Ole Bull Group Camping Area
- Approximately 4-5 miles—Joerg Road to Impson Hollow to STS to Ole Bull Park
- Bring lunch and plenty of water

**6:00 pm - DISH-TO-PASS Dinner**

- Held at the large Ole Bull Park Pavilion
- Bring a generous dish to pass, a beverage and your own table settings
- STC meeting held immediately after the dinner
- Evening Program held after the STC meeting

This year we will have a presentation by the Cameron County Search and Rescue.

These are the people that will go into the woods to find you if you are hurt or lost.

The program will cover what to do if you get lost and what they do to find you and will include a short video. This is good information for anyone that goes into the woods.

**Late Evening:** Social Campfire at Group Camping Area. Bring a few logs for the campfire if you can.

**SUNDAY August 3:**

- No formal activities planned—break camp

# KTA Corner

by Dave McMillan

**K**eystone **T**rails **A**ssociation 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.

It's summer time and KTA is holding it's 7<sup>th</sup> year of week long trail crew projects at this writing. Later in the summer two weekend trail care projects will be held in the northern part of the state at The Old Loggers Path and The Bucktail Trail. Check the KTA web site for details and come pitch-in. [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org)

The Bureau of Forests has released its latest **State Forest Resource Management Plan - PA DCNR** which can be viewed in the web at (<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/sfrmp/index.htm>). This affects you! Check out the plan, read the sections that pertain to your interests and make your comments heard either at the public review meetings, by mail or e-mail. They want to hear what the public thinks so tell them.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is offering a new hiking award, "The State Forest Trails Award", to anyone who completes all 780 miles of the 18 designated state forest hiking trails. There are no requirements on sequence, direction, speed or length of time to complete the system. Hikers completing all 780 miles will be awarded a certificate, patch and ceremonial walking stick. Information about the award, links to each of the trails and an awards application are available on the DCNR web site [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/trailaward.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/trailaward.htm). For more information contact Matt Beaver at 717-783-7941.



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

