



STC NEWSLETTER

“ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”

P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915



October 2003

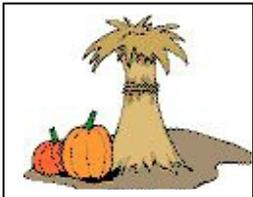
The purposes of the STC are to build and maintain trails; aid in the conservation of wetlands and wildlife and promote good fellowship through the medium of hiking and nature study.



HARVEST - WILD GAME DINNER Saturday OCTOBER 11

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: St Paul's Lutheran Church Parish Hall, Corner of Allegany Ave and Borie Street, Coudersport, PA 16915



Bring a dish to share – meat, fish, vegetables, fruits, desserts, cakes, pies, something harvested from the land or waters. This is always a wonderful meal. You will

enjoy the diverse menu. Bring your own dishes and eating utensils. Short meeting follows dinner and then a video show “Old Growth Forest – Pa. Forgotten Giants”, by Stan Hess, Service Forester from Susquehannock State Forest District #15, Pa. BOF-DCNR. Door prizes and Hall decorations by Jean Reep and Maryann Griscavage. Be sure to come for a great meal and an entertaining evening.



Quarterly TRAIL MAINTENANCE

by Bob Knowles



During the June 7 through September 13, 2003 period, only 42 total hours of STS trail maintenance were reported – 30 work hours and 12 travel hours.

Three work party reports were from:

- Bill Boyd, Hal Baumann, Wayne Baumann and John Clement, all of Coudersport, cleared from Lyman Run Road to Sunken Branch Road.
- Barney Goch and son Jake, Johnstown, cleared from Shepherd Road to Cross Fork.
- Wayne Baumann, Coudersport, and Bill Morey, Galeton, cleared from Cherry Springs Fire Tower to West Branch Road.

For the year 2003, 492 total hours were reported, with 354 work hours and 138 travel hours. No reports were received by the Potter County Trailblazers.

Recent storms have caused numerous blow downs across the STS. Many hours of work are needed to be performed.



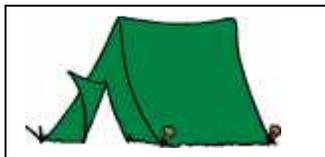
Each assigned volunteer trail care worker should check their STS section for storm damage.

HIKER ALERT !!!

A STS Hiker Alert was issued locally in the August 20, 2003 issue of the Potter Leader-Enterprise weekly newspaper – **“Day hikers and backpackers using the Susquehannock Trail are advised of possible dangerous conditions on the Ridge/White Line Trail areas caused by recent major storms. Salvage of marketable large blow down trees across the STS by professional timber sale personnel will begin in September. Large trees leaning across the trail and the tree trunks with tops blown off with weakened roots in the designated area could be a serious danger.”**

33rd STC CAMPOREE Highlights

Excerpted from Bob Knowles’
“Susquehannock Trail Club News” in the
August 6, 2003 Potter Leader Enterprise.



Thirty-four members and friends participated in the 33rd annual Susquehannock Trail Club Camporee held at

Ole Bull State Park August 1-3. Nineteen members camped on 11 sites in the Group camping Area. The first annual Camporee was held on June 17 – 18, 1971 at the Louis Baker private camp area west of Galeton with seven campsites set up.

This year’s campers were: Tom and Jayne Fitzgerald, New Florence (1st STC president and secretary in 1967); Leo Boyer, Tower City; Charles Kern, Jonestown; Gene and Jean Kerr, New Castle; Arnold and Karen Larsen, Wayne; Bob and Ann Magar, Webster, NY; Dave and Roxanne McMillan, Landisville; Fred and Jean Reep, Wellsboro; George and Vivian Stover, Woodward; Ken and Bonnie Taylor, Angola, NY and Scott Taylor, Wyoming, NY.

Roxanne McMillan led a short hike Friday evening on the Beaver Haven Nature Trail, with Karen and Arnold Larsen participating. A lengthy portion was alongside a deeper, faster than normal Kettle Creek. The beaver dam was leaking and the trail was flooded. The trio observed three redhead ducks; blue flowers with yellow centers of the forget-me-not wildflowers and a single Turk’s cap lily wildflower past its prime; and heard the “witchety-witchety-witchety” song of the common yellowthroat songbird. The traditional evening campfire was held after the hike at the Group Camping Area.

Two hikes were held on Saturday Aug 2. On a “high humidity, steamy, fogged eyeglasses, like being in a sauna” hiking day, Roxanne McMillan led 10 members on a five-mile Ole Bull loop “short hike” via dirt Joerg Road and a gated forestry road to Impson Hollow; returning to Ole Bull State Park on the Susquehanna Trail via switchbacks up and down an unnamed mountain past a vista of Ole Bull State Park.

The group found numerous trailside mushrooms of various colors and textures including a “fungus covered with a wispy white mold like a Santa Claus beard”. Wildflowers observed were tiny forget-me-nots, translucent Indian Pipes and scarlet bee-balm. Fauna sighted included many “orange salamanders scurrying about” trailside, a hairy woodpecker songbird and a “little black mole”.



“Short” hikers were Wayne Baumann, Coudersport; Maryann Griscavage and Jean Reep, Wellsboro; Charlotte Freeman and Sarah Squier, Ulysses; Arnold and Karen Larsen, Wayne; Roxanne McMillan, Landisville; Rick Steinhauser, Vandergrift; and Scott Taylor, Wyoming, NY.

Dave McMillan led seven members on an eight-mile “long hike” on the Susquehannock from the Wildcat Trail to Ole Bull State Park via Rattlesnake/ Hartman Trails, Spook Hollow, Twelve Mile Road and Impson Hollow. A large flock of chickadee and numerous cedar waxwing songbirds; numerous mushrooms and wildflowers; and swollen woodland streams were observed on the hike.

“Long” hikers were Leo Boyer, Tower City; Tom Fitzgerald, New Florence; Charles Kern, Jonestown; Dave McMillan, Landisville; George Stover, Woodward; Curt and Penny Weinhold, Coudersport.

Fred Reep, Wellsboro, lone hiked the Ole Bull Trail from Ole Bull State Park to Hungry Hollow Road, past the CCC built trailside covered spring overflowing across the STS, and return.

Saturday evening activities began with a dish-to-pass dinner protected from a rain shower by a picnic area pavilion. Door prizes of camping and hiking items were presented to Betty Ahn, Steve Bajor, Leo Boyer, John Clement, Arnold Larsen, Beth Lounsbury, Fred Reep, Louise Steinhauser, Rick Steinhauser, George Stover, Vivian Stover, Scott Taylor, Curt Weinhold and Penny Weinhold.

Wil Ahn, president, conducted the August monthly club meeting. Ahn reported private citizens still owned mineral rights in the proposed Hammersley Wild Area. The commonwealth ownership is limited until funding becomes available to purchase the remaining rights; and to declare the Hammersley a true Wild Area.

Aided by Tom Fitzgerald, forester in Forbes State Forest, Ahn led a discussion of the latest State Forest Resource Plan.

The Saturday evening highlight was the informative talk by Bill Floyd and Steve Bajor of the Mountaineer Search and Rescue Team of Emporium, Cameron County. The speakers presented a short background of the group originally formed 25 years ago as the Bucktail Search and Rescue Unit.

Procedures for conducting a search and rescue mission for lost hikers, hunters and other missing persons follow four rules:

- 1.) Gather information on medical history and clothing/shoes worn by subject.
- 2.) Determine last location the subject was seen.
- 3.) Determine best possible search area.
- 4.) Determine team work and tracking methods.

Tips were presented to prevent becoming lost; and, to follow if lost when hiking. **The best search is one that never happens.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Tom Weiner, STC member from Erie, recently completed his 11th and 12th circuit hikes of the Susquehannock Trail!

From a letter to written to Wil Ahn, he wrote: “ Most of the time I solo hiked and camped at campgrounds or on the trail. I had no fear of tenting over night and of walking the trail.

I only encountered one rattlesnake on the trail in over a thousand miles of hiking. Porcupines chewed my undercoat on the car and nearly ate through the gas intake pipe at Lyman Run State Park. I did not get stung by an insect or get bitten by a rattlesnake or get poison ivy or get attacked by a bear or confronted by a skunk. Hiking the trail was a safe venture as long as I watched my every step.

The trail is maintained by volunteers, as you well know, who clear blow downs and mark the trail. Without the volunteers the trail would not be possible. Thank you Volunteers.

These were my last circuit hikes but I plan to do volunteer trail work in the coming years.

Tom attached an article about doing things alone.

WALKING ALONE

If you judge safety to be of the paramount consideration in life you should never, under any circumstances, go on long hikes alone. Don't take short hikes alone either – or for that matter, go anywhere alone. And avoid at all costs such foolhardy activities as driving, falling in love, or inhaling air that is almost certainly riddled with deadly germs. Wear wool next to the skin. Insure every good and chattel you possess against every conceivable contingency the future might bring even if the premium half-cripple the present. Never cross an intersection against a red light, even when you can see that all roads are clear for miles. And never, of course, explore the guts of an idea that seems as if it might threaten one or more of your cherished beliefs. In your wisdom you will probably live to a ripe old age **but** you may discover, just before you die, that you have been dead for a long, long time.

MOUNTAINEER SEARCH & RESCUE

by Roxanne McMillan

At the Camporee we were delighted to have Bill Floyd and Steve Bajor, two representatives from the Cameron County Mountaineer Search and Rescue, Wilderness Search Specialists as our featured speakers.

A wealth of knowledge and experience, Steve and Bill covered a lot of ground in their presentation:

- ▶ Background on their organization, which started 25 years ago as the Bucktail Search & Rescue.
- ▶ How they prepare for and conduct a search.
- ▶ Stories about actual searches and rescues.
- ▶ Tips for staying found and
- ▶ Suggestions to follow if you do get lost when hiking.

They reviewed what they do on an actual search of lost hikers, lost hunters, or missing persons. Before they start physically searching, they review background information on the person, including what the person was wearing, type of shoes, medical conditions and age. The point last seen is determined. Then, using this information plus statistics about similar past incidences, they start to narrow the search area. A team approach is used to conduct the actual search. Tracking skills are utilized. Even a partial footprint can be helpful along with a stride stick, used to determine the probable distance from one footprint to the next. Sometimes they use a bloodhound. Once the person is found, they are all treated for hypothermia, hypoglycemia and dehydration.

However, Steve Bajor and Bill Floyd told us “The best search is one that never happens”.

Here are some tips for hikers:

- Know your limitations.
- Dress for the weather, especially by using layers of clothing.
- Have medications with you.
- Always leave a note indicating your hiking itinerary, the name of your companions, and estimated return.
- Drink one quart of water BEFORE you start your hike and carry two quarts. Drink even if you are not thirsty.
- Take along some snack food.

In the event you do get lost, here are some recommendations:

- Do not be afraid. Do not panic.
- Sit down if you are injured or disoriented.

If it is daylight,

1. Walk downhill.
2. Look for and follow a drainage area such a small stream.
3. Follow a pipeline.
4. Follow a logging or dirt road.

If it is dark or you are injured or exhausted,

1. Stay where you are. Like they used to tell kids who are lost “find a tree and hug it”.

If you report someone missing when you call 911, provide as much information as possible about the person— description of clothing and shoes, age and physical condition, where the person was going. If you are asked to provide an article of the persons clothing for a bloodhound search, **BE SURE NOT TO TOUCH THE ARTICLE OF CLOTHING WITH YOUR HANDS.** Put the article of clothing into a plain plastic baggie. Steve and Bill advised “do not use a garbage bag because many are treated with odor reducing chemicals”.

Wil Ahn, STC president, sent a note of appreciation to Bill Floyd and Steve Bajor for sharing their vast knowledge with our club members at the Camporee at Ole Bull.

The Mountaineer Search and Rescue, Wilderness Search Specialists can be reached at P.O. Box 265 Emporium, PA 15834

Way to go Curt!

The cover of the July/ August issue of Pennsylvania magazine was graced by a photograph of Pine Creek, south of Slate Run Village in Tioga County taken by STS member Curt Weinhold. Curt is a frequent contributor of photographs for various articles appearing in Pennsylvania Magazine, dedicated to celebrating the natural and cultural heritage of our home state. Nice job Curt!

Happy Trails to All...

August 2 Long Hike -- STC Camporee

by Penny Weinhold

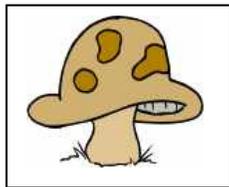
Dave McMillan, Landisville, led the Camporee's long hike over an 8-mile mountainous terrain. Departing on a cool start, the temperature hovered in the mid-60's. Seven of us set out on the Wildcat Trail, a steep section flanking a small creek. Streams everywhere were quite swollen after a



number of recent rainfalls. All noted large areas lush with Christmas ferns as we traveled nearly an hour uphill. Then it was on to the Rattlesnake & Hartman Trails. A sharp-eyed Tom

Fitzgerald spied a large orange sulphur polyporus (chicken of the woods) bracket of fungus way off to our left. Taking a closer look meant descending a steep gully (a mini-canyon created for a logging era railroad) then uphill to the spectacle. Tom & Curt were off. At my request, the men came back with a meal size chunk. They are one of the few wild mushrooms that I, personally, know are edible & tasty.

The Hartman Trail is blessed with a goodly portion of mountain laurel (past blooming stage in August). More varieties of mushrooms were found. There were bright red fly amanitas just emerging from their vulvas and common amanitas - white death angels & a lavender species, which no one there could identify.



We made our way along the S.T.S. toward the Big Spring area where the group stopped by a camp to break out lunch beneath the pines. By this time the temperature was almost 80 degrees and it was warm & sticky. When all snacks for lunch were consumed, it was on to Spook Hollow. In years past, several times Curt & I promised our boys a short hike thru this eerie section of the trail in late October. (Of course, this was just to catch the spirit of Halloween before they pulled out their costumes back home). Two of us noted that the hollow looks creepiest on an overcast day, which today was not.

The area has many Larch trees, of which needles turn a lovely yellow tone in the fall. Sides of the trail in some spots were thick with the leathery leaves of the trailing arbutus plant. Curt & I noted an increasing population over the past years, thankfully. The group made the short climb to the Twelve Mile Road, crossing it. A short uphill section led to a gradual descent toward Ole Bull Park via the Impson Hollow Trail. A number of switchbacks down the mountain made for an enjoyable "home stretch" to the trek.

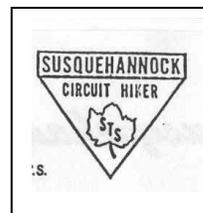
Instead of an anticipated, cool dip in the Park's swimming area at hike's end, we saw no lifeguard. The Kettle Creek was so swift from recent rainstorms - we read closed (even without a sign). The brand new shower facility at Ole Bull State Park campground was a welcome sight, plus all were set for the hearty pot luck picnic at 6:00 pm.

Just to let the seven know who hiked---remember, all vow to keep secret the dwelling spot of the endangered wood lily (Philadelphia Lily). Due to its beauty, it has become scarce. It was a rare treat for the eyes of the beholders.

CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

from Lois Morey, STC Archivist

Circuit Hiker #908 - Joseph Rondeau



from Sea Cliff, New York, hiked the entire trail solo in a clockwise direction starting from the parking lot at Ole Bull State Park August 3, 2003 and finishing August 10, 2003.

The weather was very wet but warm most of the time. He encountered massive blow downs blocking the trail in the northern section due to the destructive high winds associated with the tornado that passed through Potter County on July 21st. This section of trail proved to be more of an endurance test for him than he had planned on. Over the years this hiker has walked the Long Trail in Vermont and the Appalachian Trail. He found the STS (though shorter in length) was no less a challenge and just as interesting.

ALONG THE TRAIL

...by Wil Ahn

CAMPOREE OBSERVATIONS

Thought I would share a few observations I made at this year's STC Annual Camporee:

1. John Clement wearing a big "COWBOY HAT" he picked up while winter vacationing in Texas.
2. The Saturday evening meal – "Delicious" – lots of variety and plenty of it.
3. Got to meet Ken Taylor's wife, Bonnie, a retired surgical room nurse.
4. High water in Kettle Creek made some campers nervous. A few Old Timers said "Adios".
5. The surprised look on Dave McMillan and Ken Taylor's faces when we brought out the candle light birthday cake and members sang "Happy Birthday" to them.
6. Missed seeing the "Old Mountain Man" Frances Clark and his good wife, Pat. Hope they are well.
7. Enjoyed hearing about Vivian Stover's new eye. Look, Mom, no glasses!
8. Missed the chatter and laughter of the little ones running around. Where were those young parents?
9. Curt Weinhold's great photos of "Big Brown Bears" from his recent trip to Denali in Alaska had campers "ooing and aahing".
10. As usual, Dave and Roxanne McMillan had everything well organized and showed once again their outstanding leadership. We appreciate them so much.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS – and ANIMALS, TOO

As we walk through the Forests and along the trails, do you ever notice the types of trees? Many hikers do and are aware of just how important trees and shrubs are to birds and wildlife. Oaks, cherry and beech are known to most outdoor folks for their value as mast crops. Many know the species that deer like to browse. What about fruits, flowers, bark and buds? Listed are some of the species birds and animals like. This listing is not complete, but will help you appreciate the value of some trees and shrubs to our feathered friends and animals.

ASPEN – We have two species, quaking and big tooth. The buds and catkins are favored by grouse,

especially in times of deep snow when they will often survive on them. Purple finches and Towhees like the buds. Beavers relish the bark.

HORNBEAM – (also called WATER BEECH, BLUE BEECH, MUSCLE WOOD or IRONWOOD) One of our native, obscure and often hated shrubs. It doesn't have a pretty flower and its fruit goes unnoticed. However, it produces a little nutlet and it does it in the shade, too. Seeds are fed on by grouse, wood ducks, pheasant, quail, myrtle warblers and squirrels.

BIRCHES – (YELLOW, BLACK PAPER & RIVER) They all bear catkins and small seed cones. The following enjoy them: grouse, redpolls, pine siskins, chickadees, purple finches, sapsuckers, fox sparrows and tree sparrows.

ALDERS – These occupants of moist meadows and stream banks are important to woodcock, grouse, redpolls and siskins. Beavers and rabbits like the bark.

Want to know more? Contact Stan Hess, Service Forester with BOF-DCNR District #15, Denton Hill, Coudersport, PA. 16915. Stan passed this information along to me, that's how I know so much!



SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL....Wil

RECIPE from the Camporee

Submitted by Jean Reep

Several club members requested this recipe at the Camporee:

Sauerkraut Salad

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1# or 1qt of drained sauerkraut
- 1 medium onion
- 1 cup of variety peppers (green, yellow & red)
- 1 cup celery

Combine first 3 ingredients and set aside.

KTA Corner

by Dave McMillan

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

BOF/KTA

Letter of Mutual Understanding

The STC has enjoyed a long and agreeable relationship with the Susquehannock Bureau Of Forestry office. We should be very grateful for their long term support of the STS. Unfortunately not all hiking clubs and BOF offices enjoy the same good relationships.

Out of a situation of conflict and animosity, a positive development has evolved. A situation, which progressed to nearly an adversarial relationship, was the root of a proposed agreement that could set the tone for dialog and cooperation for years to come. Over the past two years representatives from KTA and the BOF have worked to develop a "Letter of Mutual Understanding" (LMU) that could be the guideline for a cooperative interaction for years to come.

Just prior to our STC August meeting the final copy of the "Letter of Mutual Understanding" was received and the content of which was explained to those present at the meeting. It was suggested that the intent of the letter be presented to the membership before approval. The extent of the letter is too lengthy to include in full here but it I will paraphrase its content as follows:

"The DCNR and Pa.'s hiking clubs have historically cooperated to maintain hiking trails on state forest lands. The BOF is responsible to all of the public to manage their lands and provide recreation compatible with the forest ecosystem. The BOF recognizes the need for hiking trails and other uses as well. The BOF policy has been and will continue to be to support these trails.

Changes to trail routes and reactivation of forest roads will be done as needed to manage the forest resources. The BOF appreciates the work done by KTA and its affiliate clubs. Due to increased use, both parties desire to clarify their relationship. The LMU does not change any jurisdictional relationships or limit the BOF in any respect.

The BOF will make every effort to:

- ▶ notify the maintaining organization of activities affecting a trail
- ▶ protect natural and scenic resources adjacent to trails
- ▶ seek input from trail clubs
- ▶ follow trail building guidelines
- ▶ continue trail map printing and trail signage
- ▶ continue to have BOF representatives attend spring and fall KTA meetings.

KTA and affiliate clubs will:

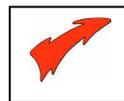
- ▶ continue to monitor and maintain specific trails
- ▶ reserve the option to decline said maintenance
- ▶ continue working cooperatively with the BOF.

All parties agree to cooperate, meet annually for discussion and meet to discuss issues prior to field work. The BOF maintains the option of "no action".

Disputes between the BOF, KTA and its affiliated clubs will be handled by negotiations with the local BOF office, or if not settled, with the Assistant State Forester, or if not settled with the State Forester, DCNR-BOF."

This is not a legally binding document but rather, as titled, a letter of understanding between two or more agreeable parties. What we have here is an opportunity to set a standard for current and future cooperative actions between the hiking clubs of Pa and the BOF.

I recommend that the STC approve and sign this document giving support to KTA, the BOF and other hiking clubs.



Please indicate your approval or disapproval on the enclosed questionnaire Part B.

As always, feel free to forward your thoughts to me on any of the issues mentioned. Dave McMillan
dvmcmln@earthlink.net
or P.O.Box 427, Landisville, PA 17538



STC HIKING SCHEDULE

Plan to join the club on one or more of the remaining hikes for the 2003 season.

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.

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 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 – 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 Denton Hill off Rte. 6. Bring water & lunch.
Leader: Charlotte Freeman 848-7602



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

December 10, 2003:

Please have your information in the US mail by December 10, 2003 to:

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



Or e:mail to roxanne_mcmillan@hotmail.com



PENNSYLVANIA WILD & NATURAL AREAS – Present and Future

A request for your opinion from STC President Wil Ahn.

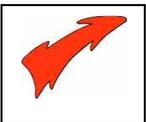
The Sierra Club –Pa. Chapter, Jeff Schmidt, Director, is currently conducting a State Forest Wild Area Campaign. They want permanent protection for all designated wild areas in Pennsylvania to be completely free from logging, oil, gas and mineral development. In addition, they want to see more wild and natural areas included in the State Forest Resource Management Plan.

The Sierra Club has asked our STC to support their resolution that they have sent to the **Bureau Of Forestry – Department of Conservation of Natural Resources. (BOF-DCNR)** The Keystone Trails Association (KTA) supports the Sierra Club campaign and has requested our Trail Club to do likewise. We had a good discussion on this subject at the annual STC Camporee meeting August 2. The subject of permanent protection for natural and wild areas is not new to the STC, as many of our members know, especially the older ones.

Our STC led a campaign back in the early 1970's to have the vast Hammersley area declared a Natural Area. Our Club requested Dr. Maurice Goddard, then head of DER and the Dept of Forest & Waters, to protect the area and keep it safe from encroachment by developers of the area's natural resources. We were informed then by Dr. Goddard that this was not possible at the time since the DER and the State did not own all the oil and gas mineral rights. Private leaseholders did not own the land but had the right to explore and drill for gas, oil and minerals, but under State jurisdiction and control. The best the State could do at that time was to manage the Hammersley as a Wild Area until leases ran out or leases could be purchases by the State. Due to lack of funding it was not possible in the 1970's and at the present time funding is still not available to purchase the leases.

I look forward to the day when BOF-DCNR will own all the mineral, oil and gas rights to the proposed Hammersley Wild Area. I believe they have done a good job of Wild Area management in the Hammersley under present conditions. As soon as funding is available, I look forward to permanent protection for the Hammersley and other Wild and Natural areas within the State owned lands facing similar situations. I am also aware of the tight budgeting going on in the State's current financial situation.

We discussed this subject at length during the Camporee meeting. A motion was presented and accepted to poll our entire membership for their opinions and viewpoints to be sent to the STC's office of operations so input can be evaluated. Hearing from you is important.



PLEASE REPLY BY COMPLETING THE ENCLOSED SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE & returning to the Club address indicated.

Sincerely,
Wil Ahn, STC President



Susquehannock Trail Club

P.O. Box 643

Coudersport, PA 16915



Quarterly HIKE SUMMARY

by Bob Knowles



During the June 21 through September 13, 2003 period, 45 STC members and friends hiked 64 miles on 14 STC sponsored hikes covering two to eight miles. Three hikes were cancelled due to rain or lack of participants.

The longest and shortest hikes were held during the 33rd Annual STC Summer Camporee.

Dave McMillan, Landisville, led seven members eight miles on the Susquehannock Trail from the Wildcat Trail to Ole Bull State Park via Rattlesnake and Hartman Trails, Spook Hollow, Twelve Mile Road and Impson Hollow. Roxanne McMillan, Landisville, led Arnold and Karen Larson, Wayne, on the Beaver Haven Nature Trail and return Friday evening of the Camporee.

Hike leaders were Wil Ahn, Bill Boyd, Roger Buck, Pat Childs, Tom Leete, Dave McMillan, Roxanne McMillan and Bill Morey. Bill Boyd, Coudersport, led four of the 14 hikes.

Hikers were Wil Ahn, Donna Batterson, Chris Baumann, Hal Baumann, Wayne Baumann, Bill Boyd, Leo Boyer, Raymond Buck, Robert Buck, Roger Buck, Pat Childs, John Clement, Pat Clement, Barb Crossman, Mary Duca, Dorothy Erway, Koloman Erway, Tom Fitzgerald, Charlotte Freeman, Maryann Griscavage, Charles Kern, Bob Knowles, Arnold Larsen, Karen Larsen, Tom Leete, Phil Little, Sue Little, Leila McCloud, Dave McMillan, Roxanne McMillan, Bill Morey, Dr. George Mosch, Fred Reep, Jean Reep, Bob Ross, Linda Todd with Brenton and Morina Snyder, Sara Squier, Rick Steinhauser, Ralph Stockman, George Stover, Scott Taylor, Curt Weinhold and Penny Weinhold.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Part A PA WILD AND NATURAL AREAS

1. Do you think the BOF-DCNR should expand their acreage of Pennsylvania Wild & Natural Areas?

Yes No

Please explain why: _____

2. Do you think the Pennsylvania Wild & Natural Areas should be fully protected?

Yes No

Please explain why: _____

3. Should the Susquehannock Trail Club support the KTA endorsed Sierra Club campaign as described in the first paragraph of STC President Wil Ahn's enclosed letter on PENNSYLVANIA WILD & NATURAL AREAS – Present & Future?

Yes No

Please explain why: _____

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Part A PA WILD AND NATURAL AREAS

1. Do you think the BOF-DCNR should expand their acreage of Pennsylvania Wild & Natural Areas?

Yes No

Please explain why: _____

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Yes No

Please explain why: _____

-----> Continued on other side----->

QUESTIONNAIRE—(continued from other side)

4. The STS has 10 miles of foot trail through the heart of the Hammersley. It is a favorite with hikers, backpackers, hunters, fisherman and wildlife photographers.

The “Hammersley” is a 30,000 acre proposed Wild Area. Have you had an opportunity to visit there? Yes No

5. Name other Pennsylvania Wild and Natural Areas that concern you.

Part B BOF/KTA Letter of Mutual Understanding

1. Should the Susquehannock Trail Club support this proposal as described in the KTA Corner article and sign the agreement?

Yes No

Please explain why: _____

**▶▶▶ Send completed questionnaire to:
STC, Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915**

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