



STC NEWSLETTER

“ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”

P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915

JANUARY 2004 ❄️❄️❄️

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.

WINTER FROLIC FEBRUARY 14

Saturday Morning Activity:



Cross-Country Skiing
with Curt and Penny Weinhold

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Meet at Denton Hill

STS Northern Gateway on Rt. 6

► Bring lunch and water.

Saturday Evening:



Dinner, Meeting & Program

Time: 6:00 pm Dinner

Place: Coudersport Lutheran Church Parish Hall, located on Allegany Ave in Coudersport, Pa.

Dinner: Catered buffet dinner. Stuffed chicken breast and baked ham. **Cost:** \$ 8.50 per person.

ALL DINNERS SERVED BY ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY. Deadline Feb 7.

Use the enclosed registration form and envelope.

After the dinner, there'll be a short monthly club meeting followed by an evening program. STC Vice President, Curt Weinhold will show slides from his trip to Alaska's Denali Park this past summer. Come see great photos of big bears and other wildlife. You'll want to join us for the Winter Frolic!



TIME TO PAY 2004 DUES



It's time to get dues in the mail.

Cost: \$3.00 individual or \$6.00 family membership.

Check the date on your mailing address label. You must renew if it says "Last Pd Dues 2003". Also, consider a gift membership for a friend.

We have again provided an addressed envelope to help remind you to return them promptly. You may combine dues with Winter Frolic reservations on the same check, made payable to "The Susquehannock Trail Club", using the form included in this newsletter.

Send in those dues **now** so we can keep you on the club membership roll, plus you'll continue to receive the STC Quarterly Newsletter.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Results of Survey on Protection and Expansion of Wild Areas in Pennsylvania State Forests

By Wil Ahn, STC president

In our last Newsletter (October 2003) we printed a request for your opinion concerning Pennsylvania's Wild and Natural Areas. We had received letters from Pa. Chapter of Sierra Club director Jeff Schmidt and Hugh Downing, President of KTA, requesting our support of the Sierra Club's campaign to fully protect State Forest Wild Areas and to also increase the amount of acreage by expanding existing Wild Area acreage and adding new areas.

In my letter to our members I supported fully protection of existing wild areas such as the Hammersley Wild Area. Our Club has supported full protection for the Hammersley since the early 1970's. During our August 2003 "Camporee" meeting this subject was discussed at long length and it was then decided to send out a questionnaire requesting your opinion. The subject was brought up again at the October "Wild Game" Dinner meeting.

Questionnaires have been returned and compiled. Members have replied from the following Pennsylvania U.S. Postal areas: Williamsport, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, Altoona, York, Harrisburg and Philadelphia areas, as well as from New York, Ohio, Delaware, Maryland, and Connecticut. Hearing from those members who returned the questionnaire is commendable, but the number of replies was disappointing. Only about 11% of our members took the time to reply. Why? Lack of interest, not concerned, too busy, have an opinion but don't care to reveal it? I wonder.

The number of questionnaires sent in unanimously supported full protection of State Wild and Natural Areas. Several people who supported the protection of the area expressed their opinions of the Sierra Club's overall intent. They mentioned extremism on the part of Sierra Club's involvement on some environmental issues.

As your club president, I come in contact with many members locally and by mail. Our STC has

numerous members not only interested in hiking, backpacking, canoeing, camping, x-country skiing, bicycling, nature study, but are also ardent hunters, gun owners, and fishermen and all very enthusiastic conservationists. I have noticed over the years of coming in contact with these folks their concern of any environmental organizations that would promote or take action to take away their right to hunt and fish by protecting areas with declarations and court orders of off limits due to endangered species. This is a heritage that has been handed down for generations in the North central area of Pennsylvania.

With the results of the poll taken, the small number of returns sent in and the undercurrent of negative opinions that I am aware of, I do not think it is in the best interest of the STC to carry this matter any further. As an enthusiastic promoter of a good clean environment and protection of our forests, water and trails from harmful encroachment, I believe we can work with BOF-DCNR to further our desires of protected State Forest Wild and Natural Areas. Entire survey results are available from the Club Secretary.

KTA SPRING MEETING

April 2-4, 2004

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



Come for Saturday only or the entire weekend.

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

Hike leaders from the STC are needed for the Saturday April 3 and Sunday morning April 4 hikes. Dave McMillan is organizing the hiking program for the weekend.

To volunteer to lead a hike, contact Dave at 717-898-0358, or at P.O.Box 427, Landisville, PA 17538 or dvmcmlln@earthlink.net.

If you want registration information for lodging or meals, 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

(excerpted from Bob Knowles' Potter Leader Enterprise October 15, 2003 Susquehannock Trail Club column)



Twenty-six members and guests enjoyed the 32nd annual STC Harvest/Wild Game Dinner at the Luthern Church Parish Center, Coudersport on October 11.

Wil Ahn, president, conducted a short business meeting. New members approved for membership were Ken Bowen, Mill Hall; Paul Kern, Annville; James Sherwood, Burgill, Ohio and son Eric Sherwood, North Royalton, Ohio. Members present discussed the rebuilding of Lyman Run Dam and the questionnaire on State Forest Wild Areas mailed to members with the October newsletter. Ahn presented information on the Upper Allegheny Watershed Association efforts to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the Upper Allegheny River, Mill Creek, Oswayo Creek and tributaries. For more information or membership, call Watershed President Philip R. Wirtz at 814-274-1119 preferably between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. weekdays. Thanks to Jean Reep and Maryann Griscavage, Wellsboro, who obtained door prizes/ decorations and performed set-up work for this annual Harvest/Wild Game Dinner.



2003 STS Trail Maintenance

by Bob Knowles



Hiking trail maintenance work performed on the Susquehannock

Trail System and other Potter County hiking trails reported for 2003 totaled 1889 hours. The total hours included 1498 work hours and 391 hours of travel time.

Reported trail work was performed by Wil Ahn, Chris Baumann, Hal Baumann, Bill Boyd, Raymond Buck, Robert Buck, Roger Buck, John Clement, Tim Core, Dorothy Erway, Bill Fish III, Taylor Freeman, Barney Goch, Jake Goch, Charles Kern, Bob Knowles, Dylan Lucas, Carl Martin, Dave McMillan,

Bill Morey, Dave Nachtwey. Joe Nachtwey, Andy Salek, Bruce Schell, Jean Schopf, Dave Singer, George Stover, Vivian Stover, Ed Vandegrift, Cliff Wood, Curt Wunderlich, Jack Wunderlich and two groups: the Potter County Trailblazers and Boy Scout Troop 32 of Jonestown.

Three maintenance work projects not previously reported in the quarterly reports include:

1. Wil Ahn, Ulysses, cleared the Splash Dam Trail from the STS Splash Dam/ White Line Trails junction to Lyman Run Road.
2. Life Scout Taylor Freeman, Coudersport, cleared the blue blazed Vista Trail off the STS Ridge Trail and installed a rustic bench at the vista.
3. Bill Fish III, Coudersport, cleared the Cross Trail off the STS Fire Tower Trail to Hopper House Trail.



HIKE SUMMARY

by Bob Knowles

September thru October:

Six STC hikes were scheduled for the September through October 25 period. Two hikes were cancelled due to lack of participants or rain.

Wil Ahn, Ulysses, led 11 members and guests on the 11 mile Hammersley Wild Area Hike on September 21. John and Pat Clement, Coudersport, led seven bicyclists 15 ½ miles on the Pine Creek Trail in Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon in Tioga County on October 11. On October 18, Bill Boyd, Coudersport, led four members on a 6 ½ mile Cherry Springs Fire Tower Loop Hike. Five members accompanied Charlotte Freeman, Ulysses, on the 6 ½ mile Susquehannock Trail Hike from the Northern Gateway atop Denton Hill to Lyman Run Road via the Ridge and Jacobs Hollow Trails on October 25.

2003 Summary:

During the 2003 hiking season, April 26 through October 25, 100 members and guests participated in 21 hikes covering 113 miles, two to eleven miles in length; and one bicycle ride 15 ½ miles long. Ten hikes were cancelled.

STC events not included in the 2003 hiking season tally were the two cross-country ski tours held during the 33rd annual STC Winter Frolic; and one late summer hike. Penny Weinhold, Coudersport, led six skiers on a two and one quarter mile loop from the Bureau of Forestry buildings atop Denton Hill. Curt Weinhold, Coudersport, led 13 skiers on a six mile ski tour from the Northern Gateway trailhead atop Denton Hill to the Susquehannock Lodge on Rt. 6 east of Thompson Road. STC president Wil Ahn, Ulysses, led 10 members of the Conservation and Natural Resources Council and District 15 Forester Tom Wallace on a five mile hike on the Susquehannock Trail Saturday, Sept. 20, from Patterson State Park on Rt. 44 to Lyman Run Road via Plantation and Splash Dam Trails.

KTA Corner

by Dave McMillan

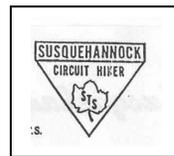
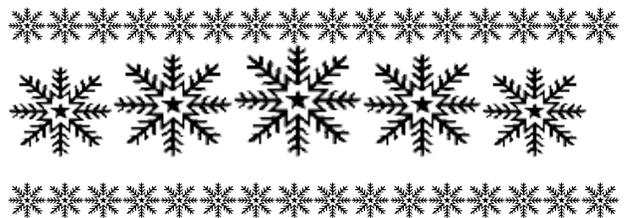
Keystone Trails Association is an organization of member clubs and individuals that promotes the interest of hikers throughout Pennsylvania. Through interaction with government agencies, legislative monitoring, trail building and trail maintenance, KTA provides many benefits to all of Pennsylvania's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

In the last newsletter I described a letter of agreement between KTA and the Pa BOF, which was drafted to solidify the understanding between the hiking community and the land management department and recommended that the club support the agreement. The response from the membership was overwhelmingly in support of the agreement. A letter has been sent to KTA and the local BOF office stating this position of support.

Over the last two years a KTA committee known as the Endangered Hiking Trail Committee has worked to put together a number of recommendations for change within KTA to make the organization more efficient and effective at supporting our hiking trails. As with any change to an organization there has been and will continue to be a considerable amount of disagreement, conflict and debate. Through it all we have to remember that everyone involved is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of hiking trails throughout Pa.

I am taking part in these efforts to improve KTA's stewardship of our trail system and representation of the entire hiking community. If you have any suggestions as to the actions KTA should take to preserve and maintain our hiking trails or recommendation for changes to KTA itself please forward those thoughts to me.

On April 2, 3&4 of 2004, KTA will again have their spring meeting in Wellsboro at the Penn Wells Hotel. Plan to attend. I will be organizing the hiking schedule and am looking for volunteers to lead hikes. If you would be willing to lead a hike on Saturday and/or Sunday please contact me. Dave McMillan at dvmcmln@earthlink.net



CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

From Lois Morey,
STC Archivist

The Circuit Hiker Committee awarded 6 circuit hiker numbers this past quarter.

**#908 - Joseph Rondeau
from Sea Cliff, NY**

**#909 - Thomas Lyon
from Carlsbad, California!!**

**#910 - Charlie Paul
from Harrisburg, PA**

**#911 - Timothy Schlitzer
#912 - and his wife Jackie
from Audubon, NJ**

**#913 - J. Mark Dixon
from LeRoy, NY**



ALONG THE TRAIL...by Wil Ahn

2004 Winter Frolic Dinner and Program

I hope you are planning on attending this year's February 14th STC Winter Frolic delicious buffet dinner and evening program. Be sure to get your reservation in early! Our slated program by VP Curt Weinhold will certainly hold your interest. Curt tells me he was able to get some great photo shots of big bear, moose, Denali sheep and mountain goats by backpacking for several days into the wilderness of Denali National Park.

Lyman Run Dam to be Reconstructed

This information is mainly for our members from out of the Potter County area. When Tom Ridge was Governor of Pennsylvania, he approved \$15,000,000 for the rebuilding of Lyman Run Dam. The Dam had been destroyed by the state Bureau of Parks DCNR due to severe leakage in the dam structure which could possibly fail and cause flooding to residents downstream. A new election brought Governor Rendell, a Democrat, into office. There was much concern that the changing of the Guard from Republican to a Democratic Governor would possibly axe the money approved for the dam rebuilding. Lyman Run Dam and Lake are important to all Potter County residents and others regardless of political affiliations.

The STC, Potter County Visitors Association and the Potter-Leader Enterprise newspaper spearheaded a drive of letter writing to the new Governor Rendell, local politicians and State Representatives to recognize the much needed dam for recreation and the local economy in Potter County. Credit to Gov. Rendell must be given, as he honored the approval of the \$15,000,000 appropriation. Hats off to Gov. Rendell for his cooperation. The engineering phase of the dam has been completed, contracts are being negotiated and construction will start in the Spring 2004.

STC (Ridge Trail) CONDITIONS

In our October newsletter, readers were made aware that the poor condition of the Ridge Trail section of the STS was due to the numerous blow downs of large diameter trees, mostly cherry and maple. The severe tornado-force winds throughout sections of

Potter County during last July 2003 caused much damage.

Hikers using the STS in the area of White Line Trail and Ridge Trail since that time have had the inconvenience of having to go off the trail in many locations, stumbling through ferns and brush which cover boulders and hidden limbs and branches.

The STC was requested by the Bureau of Forestry District Office to leave trail clearing to their department, as they would make arrangements with logging contractors to cut out the blow downs and remove the valuable logs from the trail.

This arrangement has been adhered to by our trail club, acknowledging the value of the trees to the State Treasury.

Our area has had an overabundance of rain since the windstorm in late July. The forest floor is very soft and wet in the high plateau area of the trails mentioned, with not much chance of water run off. Heavy equipment used by loggers to skid out the large diameter logs would damage the trail and surrounding areas. The ground is not frozen due to warm weather.

Conditions have to improve before contractors can remove trees. **Cross country skiers take note of this report and start thinking about other trails to ski on.** The situation is being watched closely by foresters of the BOF.



SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL
Wil

MARCH 12, 2004:

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

Please have your information in the mail by
March 12, 2004 to:

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

Or e:mail roxanne_mcmillan@hotmail.com

DUES & WINTER FROLIC RESERVATION FORM**

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Winter Frolic

___ Meals at \$8.50 each = _____

2004 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 7**

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



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



