



P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915

STC NEWSLETTER

“ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”



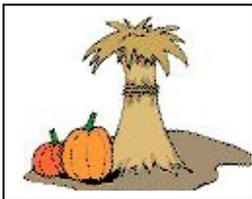
October 2004

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.

WILD GAME & HARVEST DINNER Saturday OCTOBER 16

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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



Be sure to save Saturday October 16th to attend the annual Wild Game & Harvest Dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. The STC meeting and program to follow the dinner.

Bring your dish to pass and table service. We always have a great meal sharing in food you harvested from the land. However, please note that store bought food is always acceptable. We just want you to attend and enjoy the meal and fellowship.

The evening program will be an interesting narrated slide show by Charley Fox of Troy, Pa. Charley is A Bio-Aid with the Pa. Game Commission. He has served 35 years as a Deputy Game Protector and specialized in bobcats, their life style, food habits and reproduction in Bradford & Tioga Counties. Charley will have hides and skulls to show the audience. You won't want to miss this program. See **You** at the Wild Game and Harvest Dinner!

KTA Trail Maintenance Weekend on the STS October 22 to 24

by Dave McMillan



On October 22 – 24, I will be leading a KTA Trail Crew work weekend on the STS. The Trail Crew regularly works on hiking trails all around the state helping

local clubs with maintenance and improvement projects. You are invited to join us to work on the trail, camp and meet trail workers from around the state. We will be staying at Ole Bull State Park at the group campsite, meeting after 5:00 p.m. Friday. Camping is free for participants.

Saturday and Sunday work parties will leave at 8:00 a.m. rain or shine. Saturday we return to camp by 4:30 p.m.; Sunday by 12:30 p.m.

Please forward information on trail sections needing special attention to Wil Ahn at the STC Club address or myself at or before the Game Dinner on Oct 16th. I have been given some information on areas needing

chainsaw work already. This KTA crew has several sawyers at every outing ready to help with this type of work. We can bring brush cutters and other tools as needed, but information on trail conditions ahead of time is important to planning the trip and work parties. Your scouting information can make our trip more efficient. Contact Dave McMillan at 717-898-0358 to volunteer or for more information.



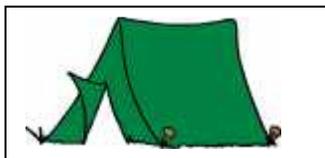
34th STC CAMPOREE

Highlights

Excerpted from Bob Knowles' "Susquehannock Trail Club News" in the August 4, 2004 Potter Leader Enterprise.

Under threatening skies, rain downpours and saturated ground with occasional water puddles, 20 members participated in the 34th annual Susquehannock Trail Club Summer Camporee on July 30 – Aug 1 at Ole Bull State Park.

Camporee committee members Dave and Roxanne McMillan, Landisville, arranged a weekend of camping, hiking, informative activities and fellowship. Sixteen members camped in the group camping area.



Campers arriving Friday were Dave and Roxanne McMillan, Landisville; Rick Steinhauser, Vandergrift; Leo Boyer,

Tower City; Bill Boyd, Coudersport; Beth Shall, Oswayo; Ken and Bonnie Taylor, Angola, NY; Sharon Brunner, Mohntown; and Charles Kern, Jonestown. Campers arriving Saturday were Ralph and Nancy Buckles, Downingtown; Gene and Jeanie Kerr, New Castle; and Bob and Ann Magar, Webster, NY. Non-campers Wil and Betty Ahn, Ulysses; Wayne Baumann, Coudersport; and Virginia Musser, Lititz, joined the group for the Saturday activities.

Roxanne McMillan, Landisville, led Beth Shall, Bill Boyd and Leo Boyer on the five-mile Ole Bull Loop Hike on Saturday, July 31, via Joerg Road; gated forestry road; Susquehannock Trail ascending 800 vertical feet on switchbacks from Impson Hollow to the 2,180 ft mountaintop and descending 950 vertical feet over the one and three-quarter miles back to Ole Bull State Park. Charles Kern joined the group in the last quarter of the hike.

The group found jewelweed or touch-me-not, red berry of trillium, bee balm and lots of Indian pipes wildflowers; orange salamander in eft stage and numerous fungi in orange, red, yellow and white colors. At hike's end at Ole Bull parking lot, the group saw 15 backpackers preparing for a four day, 40-mile



hike; the youth group of Victory Baptist Church from Rochester, NY.

Virginia Musser was prepared to lead Sharon Brunner, Charles Kern and Rick Steinhauser on the six-mile Susquehannock Trail hike from Cherry Springs Fire Tower to Custer's Last Stand Camp on Short Run Road on Saturday, July 31. Parking a



vehicle at hike's end, the foursome drove to Cherry Springs Fire Tower to begin the hike at 9:30 am. A group decision to cancel the hike was caused by a sudden heavy downpour.

Saturday evening activities began with a dish-to-pass dinner in the main picnic pavilion. Hiking and camping door prizes were won by Nancy Buckles, Denise Mitcheltree, Ginny Musser, Bob Magar, Wil Ahn, Bonnie Taylor, Beth Shall, Betty Ahn, Wayne Baumann, Ralph Buckles and Gene Kerr.

The Ahn's prepared a cake which was presented for Dave McMillan's 50th and Ken Taylor's 82nd birthdays. A round of "Happy Birthday" was sung in their honor.

Wil Ahn, president, conducted the monthly July Club meeting. New member Dan Denton, Hesston, was approved for membership. Ahn advised trail damage was reported on the steep Morgan Hollow Trail and a hiker had fallen on a section of broken away trail due to horses. Someone tore down the "hikers only/ no horses" signs on STS trailheads. Dave and Roxanne McMillan are to make a postcard size note about reporting trail damage to be placed in STC trail register boxes. The address to report damage to will be in the next STC quarterly newsletter. Editor Note: See page 4

Bill Boyd will head a committee to have a STC booth on October 9 at Coudersport's 200th Anniversary Celebration.

The statewide Keystone Trails Association will hold a Trail Care Weekend, October 22 – 24, on the Susquehannock Trail. Dave McMillan, STC representative on the KTA Council, will lead the group. Free camping will be available for participants in the Ole Bull State Park group camping area. Contact Dave McMillan at 717-898-0358 to volunteer or for more information.

Editor Note: See page 1 for details concerning this event.

The after dinner Saturday evening program was an informative presentation by Denise Mitcheltree, Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Pennsylvania Game Commission North Central Region, entitled "Bobcats" with a mounted bobcat display. Currently the bobcat is PA's only breeding population of wild cats. The nocturnal cat is elusive, shy and secretive. Two to three kittens are born after a 60-day gestation period. Females raise the young in dens with small openings to keep out males. Males may kill and eat the kittens. Bobcats prey on field mice, chipmunks, rabbits, snowshoe hares, porcupines, and other small and large prey depending on opportunity. With slit-shaped eyes, a reflective membrane and more rods than cones in the eyes, a bobcat can see in low light conditions. The 20 – 25 pound cat does not hibernate. An estimated 3,500 bobcats populate Pennsylvania. Only 160 bobcats were taken in last year's hunting season.

Quarterly TRAIL MAINTENANCE

by Bob Knowles



During the June 1 through September 6, 2004 period, only 59 total hours of STS trail maintenance were reported – 43 work hours and 16 travel hours.

Three work party reports were from:

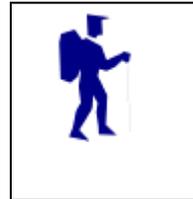
- Lowell and Barbara Luft, Columbia, performed 25.5 work hours and eight travel hours of trail maintenance on the seven mile STC section between Ole Bull State Park and Custer's Last Stand Camp on Short Run Road
- John Eastlake, South Williamsport, and Bob Webber, Slate Run, performed 15 work hours and six travel hours of trail maintenance from Road Hollow to McConnell Road in the Hammersley Wild Area.
- Bill Boyd and Donna Batterson, Coudersport, cleared beech saplings on the STS Plantation Trail section.

For the year 2004, 510 total hours were reported; 345 work hours and 165 travel hours. No reports were received from the Potter County Trailblazers.

The Bureau of Forestry, District 15 has been responsible for STS trail clearing via removal of marketable logs and cutting a path through any other timber across the STS in the area of the White Line/ Ridge Trails.

Quarterly HIKE SUMMARY

by Bob Knowles



During the June 5 through September 5, 2004 period, 71 STC members and guests hiked 49 miles on 11 STC sponsored hikes covering two and one half to six miles in length. Four hikes were cancelled due to rain and/or wet trail conditions.

Dick Hribar led the longest hike; five members hiked six miles from Patterson State Park to Prouty Place State Park on Saturday, July 24. Pat Childs led the shortest hike; four members hiked two and one half miles on the Leib Run Hike from Shephard Road to Cross Fork on Sunday, August 29. Bill Boyd led the largest group; 11 hikers walked three miles on the Denton Hill Loop Hike on Sunday, September 5. Bill Boyd led four hikes; Pat Childs, three; Dick Hribar, Tom Leete, Roxanne McMillan and Bill Morey, one each.

Hikers during the quarter were Will Ahn, Clair Almeter, Donna Batterson, Wayne Baumann, Hal and Christine Baumann, Bill Boyd, Joan Bliss, Leo Boyer, Raymond Buck, Robert Buck, Roger Buck, Faith Cary, Pat Childs, John Clark, Norman and Janice Davis, Mary Duca, Dorothy Erway with granddaughter Mandy and grandson Kent Wilkinson, Charlotte Freeman, N. Gay Gledhill, Dick Hribar, Tom Leete, Roxanne McMillan, Bill Morey, Natalie Phelps, Helen Saunders, Beth Shall, Audrey Spokart, Sara Squier, Ralph Stockman with grandson Jake, Roy and Melissa Turrentine, Curt and Penny Weinhold, Julie Wunderlick with daughter Josie.

Bill Boyd attended ten hikes; Wayne Baumann, seven hikes; Beth Shall, four hikes; Pat Childs, Dorothy Erway and Ralph Stockman, three hikes; Wil Ahn, Clair Almeter, Donna Batterson, Mary Duca, Bill Morey, Natalie Phelps, Helen Saunders and Penny Weinhold, two hikes each.



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

On October 2 the KTA will be holding the annual KTA membership meeting. A major topic of this meeting will be a vote of the membership on the new bylaws proposed and adopted at the August council meeting. I worked on the committee that drafted the new bylaws and as the representative from the STC I intend to vote in favor of acceptance. The process of change is slow but sure. In the end, KTA will become a stronger organization that will focus entirely on protecting Pennsylvania's hiking trails.

The STC is an organizational member of the KTA but you can join as an individual as well. Strength comes in numbers and the more Pennsylvania hikers join, the stronger KTA will be. This is an organization that's reason to be is to work in the interests of the PA hiker and I ask you to consider joining the KTA. For more information see www.kta-hike.org or talk to me.

Dave McMillan 717-898-0358
dmcmillan@verizon.net



Procedure for Reporting Trail Damage

The STS is a designated footpath. To report any Illegal Incursions (horse, mountain bike, ATV) or any Damage to the STS, provide and send this information to:

STS, P.O. Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915

- Your Name
- Email address or mailing address
- Phone
- Date damage was observed
- Name of Hiking Trail
- Give accurate details on type of problem and location on trail

Another option for reporting Illegal Incursions of horses, mountain bikes or ATV's is to contact the Susquehannock State Forest District Forester at 814-274-3600 or at P. O. Box 673 Coudersport, PA 16915- 0673. ► Provide accurate details on the date, time, location on the trail and type of problem you observed.

If you are hiking on any other trail in Pennsylvania, you can provide the above information to Keystone Trails Association on their web site www.kta-hike.org or mail to P.O. Box 129 Confluence, PA 15424.

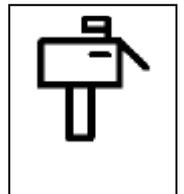


NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

December 10, 2004:

Please have your information in the US mail by December 10, 2004 to:

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



Or e:mail to
roxanne_mcmillan@hotmail.com





ALONG THE TRAIL

...by Wil Ahn

HAROLD A. WILLIAMS **Aug. 21, 1917 – June 19, 2004**

Harold Williams, long time friend of the Susquehannock Trail Club and the hiking public passed away on June 19, 2004.

Harold, a lifetime resident of Conrad, was well known to many STC members, hikers and backpackers who passed by the Williams home located along the orange blazed STS. Hikers stopping to sign the STC registry book, located in the Williams front yard, were greeted by Harold's friendly hello and broad smile, with Harold asking about their trip and where they were from.

Harold was well known by many hunters and fisherman using the East Fork of the Sinnemahoning Creek and Valley. Harold's father operated a general store in Conrad for many years, which Harold took over after his Dad's passing. His friendliness as a merchant and knowledge of the area was sought by visiting vacationers and sportsmen. Both Harold and his wife, Louise, have given aid, cheer and help to hikers passing by their homestead. Hand outs of water, coffee, milk and cookies are remembered by many hikers when stopping to rest.

The Williams have graciously permitted the STC to use their lands as a pathway to State Forest Lands on the other side of their property since the beginning of the STS in 1967. For this favor the STC and the hiking public is ever grateful. Yes, we will miss Harold but we will not forget him.

Tom Fitzgerald named **2004 Service Forester of the year**

Pennsylvania State Forester James Grace recently presented Tom Fitzgerald with a plaque recognizing Fitzgerald as the Service Forester of the year 2004. The plaque reads: "In recognition of outstanding and dedicated service in the advancement of sound forest management on private woodlands in the

Forbes Forest District. Your professional skills, ability to communicate the forestry message, and dedicated service over 40 years have earned you the admiration of your colleagues and clients."

Fitzgerald has served as a Forester in Westmoreland and Allegheny counties since 1973. For nine years before becoming a Service Forester he worked as a Management Forester in Potter County. This information was reported in the 2004 summer issue of "Forest Leaves", a publication of the School of Forest Resources, Penn State University.

Recognition such as this could not happen to a better guy. I am sure many of Tom's Potter County friends and STC members are pleased that he was honored for his service and ability.

On a personal note, I remember meeting Tom at the square dancing sessions in Roulette, Pa. Betty and I attended the dances at the community building and Tom was there dancing with Jayne Knight, a local farmers daughter. Matter of fact, Jane's parents were there too, kicking up their heels. I believe that was in 1965 or 1966. Tom will correct me if I'm wrong, he's a stickler on dates. Later on Jayne & Tom were married.

Tom Fitzgerald was instrumental in the formation of the Susquehannock Trail Club, becoming its first president in 1967. What an asset he was to the infant club, eager and aggressive to get the STS location off the topo map layout and onto the ground, a blazed and cleared trail for hikers to enjoy Potter County's deep forests and wild places.

Tom, being a Forester here in Potter County's BOF District #15, spent countless hours exploring, flagging, blazing trails to help form the 85-mile loop. His knowledge of the State Forest area along with two other early STC members, and BOF Foresters, Bob "Butch" Davey and John Miller, was priceless to the fledgling club.

Hikers on the STS may still enjoy the enduring wooden signs indicating trail locations, junctions and landmarks that Tom made and erected. Do you remember "Spook Hollow" and "Old Stove", a couple of signs made and erected by Tom, owner and operator of the Welfare Hollow Sign Shop?

"Fitzy" as he is referred to by some of his old friends, was the head surveyor as he and other

dedicated members surveyed the STS for a map of the Trail that was being prepared for hikers use. He also played an important part in writing by-laws and the constitution of the STC and the requirements for earning the Club's Circuit Hiker Award.

In a couple of years, Tom will be retiring from his job as Service Forester in Western Pennsylvania. He tells me that he plans to return to his Pennsylvania/ New York border home north of Potter County. I look forward to his return and him once again joining in the operation and activities of the STC. We need you, Tom.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE OF HIKING AND THE STS

During this past month of July, I had a phone call and request from the librarian, Sharon Smoker, of the small town of Genesee, Pa. Library. Sharon, an outdoor, hiking, x-country skiing enthusiast and a dairy farmers wife, wanted me to come to the Genesee library and talk to the young children and their mothers about hiking and the fun, beauty and interesting side of enjoying the great outdoors.

I was reluctant to consent at first but a second phone call made me think, what the heck, how can we get kids interested in following in our footsteps unless we are willing to take some time and share with them. So plans were made and a date set.

I gathered up paraphernalia, hiking sticks (poles), backpacks, STS maps and guidebooks and I was off to the big town of Genesee on the PA-NY border.

I was greeted by Sharon at the very small library and soon the kids and some young moms came trooping in. The young people ranged from about 5 to 12 years of age. I mentioned the library is small, but Sharon had the kids sit on the floor in an orderly fashion while I gave my talk explaining the activities of STC and hiking the STS, Black Forest Trail, West Rim Trail and others, demonstrating equipment and its use.

The kids seemed most interested in the backpacks and the hiking sticks. Some asked questions. Young mothers showed interest. I explained the beauty of walking or hiking in the woods on marked trails, seeing wild flowers, animals, big trees and enjoying the quietness of the forests and the

companionship of hiking friends. I hope I made a good impression. I realized I was in an area where many make use of ATV's and snowmobiles in farmland surroundings. Time will tell.



**SEE YOU ALONG THE
TRAIL....Wil**

A LETTER TO THE STC

from William A. Pohopin, Forester
Susquehannock Forest District

I have just sent out what I hope is the last prospectus for blow down timber involving the STS Trail (from Thompson Rd. east towards our office).

I want to thank you & the club for your patience since it took over a year since the storm, but as you are aware we had thousands of acres of blow downs in the district and time constraints, priorities based on species involved, and other duties prevented a quicker response to the areas involving the trail. Also, thanks for alerting us to these areas and a real big thanks to the club for permitting us to have this valuable timber removed professionally. I am very pleased the members did not try opening the trail themselves, not only because of the value of the timber, but mostly due to the danger involved in working in this type of situation.

As with the other sales the operator will be instructed to cross the trail as few times as possible and to be sure a footpath is opened even if they don't take the tree. We have attempted to remove all trees in danger of falling on the trail, but each wind event since last July has caused more to tip and or blow down. Therefore, please remind the trail users to keep an eye out for dangerous trees.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and the club on this project.

Sincerely, William A. Pohopin, Forester
Susquehannock Forest District

From A to Z: Arches to Zion National Parks by Roxanne McMillan

One fine spring day in mid-April, while taking a short work break at my corporate America cubicle, I glanced at the map of the US National Parks I have hanging on the wall and thought about going on a camping and hiking trip to Utah. The more I thought about it, the more I wanted to go this year and before it got too hot. So, I started making phone calls to previous travel companions and approached potential new candidates. I find that my friends either have time and no money for travel OR money and no vacation time. But, finally, after a couple of weeks or so of recruiting, my friend Lynne said OK, she wanted to go.

We planned our 10-day trip, starting with a \$207 flight from Philadelphia to Las Vegas in mid-May. We decided on a 1400-mile loop covering 5 National Parks, 5 State Parks, one National Monument, a National Recreation Area and a National Forest. A check of the weather on the internet for the targeted towns told us we'd have to pack clothing and gear for temperatures ranging from sunny 90F days to cold 40 degree nights.

We took I 15 north of Las Vegas to I 70 West in Utah, then turned south on Utah 191 to start the grand tour at Arches National Park. Over the next week we made our way back to I 15 when we arrived at Zion NP. During our journey, we visited Arches NP, Canyonlands NP, Edge of the Cedars State Park, Natural Bridges National Monument, drove through a scenic section of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on Utah Rt. 95, Capitol Reef NP, Anasazi Indian Village State Park on Utah Rt. 12, Escalante State Park with petrified wood hiking trail, Kodachrome Basin SP, Dixie National Forest, Bryce Canyon NP then Zion NP.

We knew it would be a lot of driving and that it was. Over 1400 miles, we took plenty of pictures. I now have a wonderful photo album to capture the experience –the mountains, desert, big sky, abundant wildflowers, reptiles and memorable campsites. All this cost each of us \$207 airfare, \$42 for gas, \$157 for the Toyota Corolla rental car, \$80 for food and ice (we took turns cooking and prepared most of our meals), and \$114 for lodging, which included 2 nites at a Super 8 Motel near Nellis Air Force Base, a few miles north of expensive Las Vegas. For a grand total of \$600 each, we saw incredible scenery, did some hiking, learned some geology and had a wonderful vacation. Now I am looking at that US National Park map again in my cubicle. Where will the next trip be?

STC HIKE SCHEDULE

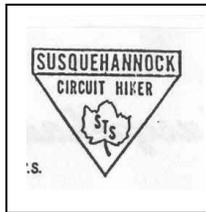
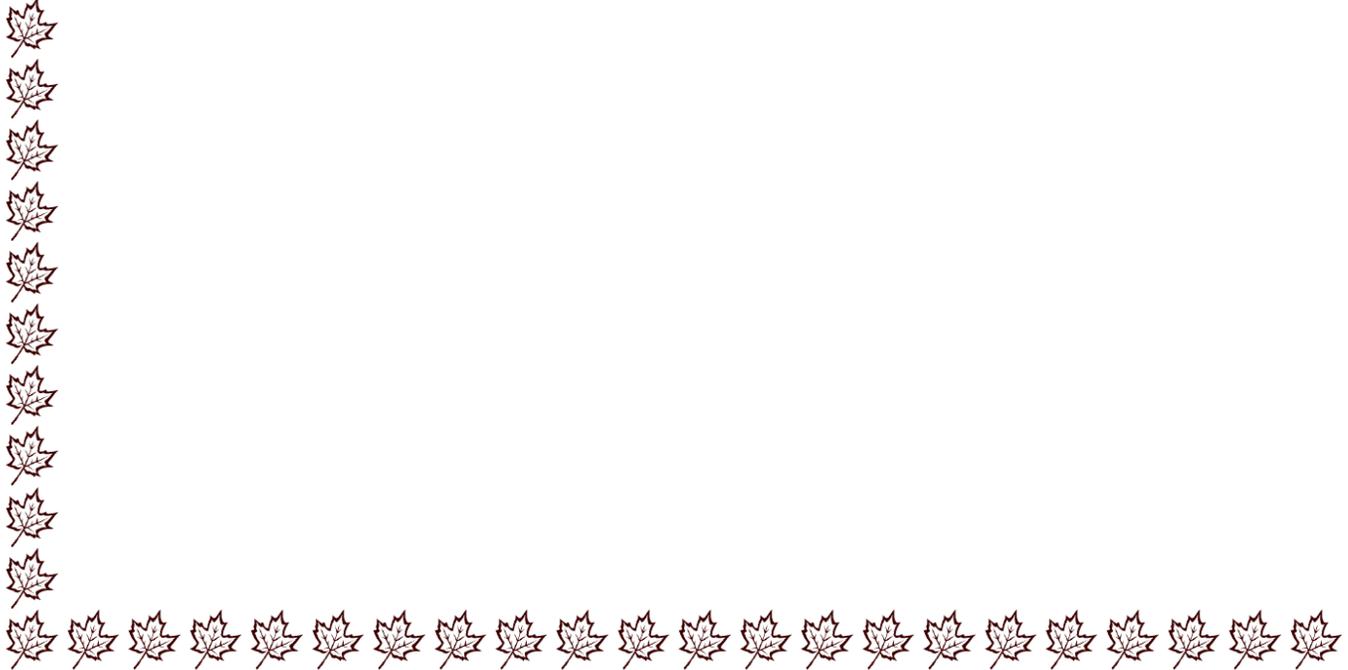
- ▶ **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ON ALL HIKES**
- ▶ Telephone area code is 814, unless otherwise noted.
- ▶ Hike Leaders will not travel to hike meeting location if no reservations are received.
- ▶ Telephone hike leader for reservations or for additional information (if no answer, try 435-2966).
- ▶ Non-members welcome on all hikes.
- ▶ Rain or bad weather will cancel hike.



Susquehannock Trail Club

P.O. Box 643

Coudersport, PA 16915



CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

from Lois Morey, STC Archivist

Circuit Hiker #914 – Donald Kirkland from Devon, PA.

Donald is a hiker who had previously hiked the trail but had not put together and submitted his log. He started in April 1998 and completed the circuit in May of 2002. When he received the July issue of the Newsletter he noticed that there were no Circuit Hiker Awards for that issue which reminded him that he had procrastinated for two years and decided it was better late than never.

Lois Morey notes: I am positive that there are more of these hikers out there who need to sit down and write up their experiences along the trail and submit the result to the Circuit Hiker Award Committee. Someone eventually will receive the 1,000th Circuit Hiker Award.

Circuit Hiker #915 – Eric Greisinger, Bakerstown, PA

Eric actually started his 20 year span of hiking the STS at the tender age of 7. His father, the late James Greisinger, took 17 years to complete the 85-mile circuit and was the recipient of award #732 back in 1992. It appears that Eric was literally following in his fathers' footsteps!! He (Eric) compiled a most interesting account of the hikes using his father's notes, his own notes, his mother's travel journals and various personal and family photograph albums. Very nicely done, Eric! Wouldn't it be wonderful if more families today would spend time hiking together on the STS? Just think of all those memories it would create for years to come.



