



STC NEWSLETTER

“ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”

P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915



July 2005

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 **July 29-31, 2005**



The 35th STC Annual Camporee will once again be at Ole Bull State Park. The usual free camping in the Group Camping Area has been arranged and old friends will gather at Campsite

and around campfires to greet one another and talk over old times and things that are happening in their daily lives.

Meet at the Ole Bull Group Camping Area at 9:00 am Saturday for the hike being organized by Bill Boyd.

Come to the Main Pavilion Saturday evening for the dish-to-pass supper and enjoy the wide selection of home-cooked food. Bring a dish-to-pass plus your own place setting and utensils. After dinner, stay for the monthly STC meeting and informative evening program. Ole Bull Park Manager, Mary Hirst, will be presenting a slide show and talk on “Potter County Birding”.

If you haven't been to our STC Camporee it is time you joined in the fun. We hope to see you there!



STC HIKING SCHEDULE **July thru October**

This issue of the newsletter contains the Hiking Schedule, brought to you by the Hiking Committee. Members are 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 REPORT

by Bob Knowles



During the April 16 through June 4 period, 32 STC members and guests hiked 20 miles on five STC sponsored hikes two and one half to six miles long. Hike leaders

were Wil Ahn, Bill Boyd, Carl Davis and Tom Leete. Two hikes were cancelled due to rain or no participants. Future hikers are reminded hike leaders will not travel to hike meeting location if no reservations are received.



STC TRAIL MAINTENANCE

by Bob Knowles



During the April 11 through May 31 period, 161 ½ work hours and 64 travel hours were completed by 37 STC members and friends clearing the Susquehannock Trail of

blowdown trees, other debris, overgrown brush and saplings obstructing the hiking trail and repainted blazes.

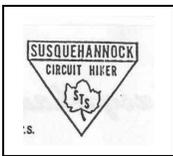
Susquehannock Trail volunteers were Dorothy Erway, Wayne Baumann, Bill Boyd and Dick Hribar, Coudersport; Raymond Buck, Cliff Wood and Wil Ahn, Ulysses; Bill Morey, Galeton; Robert Buck, Gold.

Boy Scout Troop 32, Jonestown, reported named members clearing the STS were Boy Scouts Colby Boltz, Greg Henne, Kyle Kleinfelter, Logan Startoni and Richard Wolfe. Adults were Charles Kern, Curt Wunderlick, parent Boltz, Dennis Brehn, Sam Henne, John Krum and Zack Wendrich.

► Report trail hours and round trip travel hours promptly to Bob Knowles or Wil Ahn, at STC, P.O.Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915

CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

From Lois Morey, STC Archivist



Circuit Hiker #928 - Daryl Warren from Mansfield, PA, hiked the STS in several segments starting 5/18/03 and

finishing on 4/9/05. He was accompanied by various friends on each of these nine hikes.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

September 10, 2005:

Please have your information in the US mail by September 10, 2005 to:

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



Or e:mail to roxanne_mcmillan@hotmail.com

REPORTING TRAIL DAMAGE

This spring, yellow postcards with the information printed below were placed in each of the four Registration Boxes on the Susquehannock Trail. These postcards are for anyone hiking the trail to make a note and take along with them and mail.

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, fill in the information below, put a 23 cent stamp on and mail this postcard.

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: _____

March 2005

Place Stamp here

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

ALONG THE TRAIL...by Wil Ahn

LOVES THE STS

We received this letter from STC member, Ryan Wilhelm, Addison, N. Y: **“Here are my 2005 dues. I always enjoy the Newsletters. Last August I enjoyed again the east side of the STS from Denton to Cross Fork. Looking forward to the west side this spring, probably as a two nighter. I enjoyed a snowshoe trek in February from Denton to Patterson Park and back. It was a wonderful 14-mile round trip. Next time I will have to camp. Thanks to all STC members and officers.”**

► It is always pleasing to hear from Club members telling of their hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and camping experiences along the STS. We would like to hear from you.

ALONG THE TRAIL.....continued

🦋 REMEMBERING THE PASSENGER PIGEON IN PENNSYLVANIA

I have a good friend, Tom Janci, who works in the Shipping and Receiving Department of Charles Cole Memorial Hospital, Coudersport, Pa. I see him on Monday of each week when I go to the hospital to volunteer. We have a lot in common to talk about each week as we work together, both having interest in hiking, wildlife, hunting dogs and hunting, conservation and we enjoy reading and exchanging books and magazines.

Tom recently gave me a copy of the April issue of Penn Lines, a news magazine he receives monthly from Pa. Rural Electric Assn. It is a fine little magazine and has a variety of interesting articles. The featured article in the April 2005 issue is about the extinct passenger pigeon which once filled the skies of Pennsylvania and other states with millions of this edible bird. The editor of the article "Feathered Farewell" Perry Stanbaugh does a good job giving the bird's history in Pa. referring to articles by other authors on the subject and reminding us how man's greed and ignorance can effect the lives of birds and other wildlife in this great U.S.A. we live in.

In his writing, Perry Stambaugh, refers to an article by Edwin Haskell in an Oct. 21, 1903 issue of the Potter County Journal describing the scene in Coudersport during the April 1868 nesting along Dingman Run in that County. "The presence of so many people near the town engaged in killing, catching, buying and shipping pigeons caused such an influx of money that dealers in sportsmen's supplies soon ran out of shot".

The pigeon nesting was such a boon for many poor men. Ten or twelve dollars worth of old birds was frequently the result of one day's shooting. One dollar per dozen was the price of old pigeons on the ground; the price for squabs was forty cents per dozen. An industrious old man with an axe could earn more from the squabs than by shooting older birds.

On entering the town, normally so quiet, presented a novel spectacle, men carrying guns came in from all directions in carriages, buggies, lumber wagons, on horseback and on foot. A motley crowd.

The heavily forested area of North Central Penna. was an ideal nesting and breeding ground for the passenger pigeon. Millions of large chestnut and beechnut trees bore heavily of their nuts, a mainstay of the pigeon's diet. The pioneer folk and homesteaders took advantage of this and easily captured and netted the pigeons to help fill their larders and ship to markets in big cities where people anxiously sought their delicious breast meat.

In his "Feather Farewell" feature, Editor Perry Stambaugh also refers to "In Memory of a Massacre" from American Woodsman magazine published in April issue 1953, the author was Vincent H. Gaddie. The cover illustration of this issue shows a pair of the extinct Passenger Pigeons (Columbia Migration) whose last survivor died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914, thus holding a lone vigil for seven years past the final recorded killing of free wild birds of the species in 1907.

The illustration cover on the American Woodsman magazine is by Leon Pray. A copy of the cover is shown in "Feathered Farewell" story by Stambaugh. When I read the story and saw Leon Pray's cover illustration, I remembered the illustration and checked on my collection of old magazines which I have saved over the years. Sure enough, there it was the April 1957 magazine in good shape and I had to read that article over again and pass excerpts from it along to you. Hope you enjoyed my attempt at reviving some history.



SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL

Wil



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



SEPTEMBER 25 – SUNDAY - Jones Run Hollow Hike – 3 miles – easy to moderate hike – see old logging railroad remains. Bring water. Meet at 2:00 pm at Oak Hall bed & Breakfast Rt. 449 Brookland. Leaders – Ken Wingo 435-6634 and Wil Ahn 435-2966

SUNDAY