



# STC NEWSLETTER

**“ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”**

P.O. Box 643  
Coudersport, PA 16915



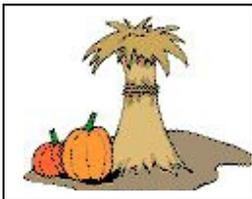
**October 2005**

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.

## WILD GAME & HARVEST DINNER Saturday OCTOBER 15

**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 15<sup>th</sup> to attend the annual Wild Game & Harvest Dinner starting at 6:00 pm, STC meeting and program to follow dinner.**

Bring a hearty dish to pass of your favorite food to share with others, prepared from a harvest of your garden or the wilds of the countryside. Foods prepared from store bought meats, vegetables and fruits are always welcome. We always have a great meal and the food is delicious. Remember to bring along your plate and utensils. Please come out and join in this festive time. All food and desserts are to be prepared ready to eat. There are no cooking facilities available.

Dinner will be followed by door prizes, a short business meeting and then a narrated slide show by John Eastlake. John, a retired Forester from Williamsport, Pa., will present a program on the CCC Boys and their camps and activities here in

North Central Pa. during the period of 1930 to 1940. John was one of the founders of the Black Forest Trail. He promises a great show for us and of course dining with old friends and meeting new ones is always a treat. Please make an effort to attend. You won't want to miss this program. See **You** at the Wild Game and Harvest Dinner!

## Quarterly TRAIL MAINTENANCE

by Bob Knowles



During the June 1 through September 10, 2005 period, seven STC members reported and performed 72 ½ work hours and completed 24 travel hours clearing

trail and repainting orange blazes on the Susquehannock Trail.

- ▶ Lowell and Barbara Luft, Columbia, worked 36 ½ hours on the Short Run Road to Ole Bull State Park section.
- ▶ Bernie and Jake Goch, Johnstown, worked 10 hours on the Shephard Road to Cross Fork section.
- ▶ Gary Buchanan and Boy Scouts of Troop 536, Coudersport, worked 20 hours on the Gravel Lick Trail section.
- ▶ Dick Hribar, Coudersport, and John Clark, Scio, NY, worked six hours on the Patterson State Park to Prouty Lick State Park section.



# THE HIKING HISTORIAN

by Eric Greisinger



The feet of this STS Circuit Hiker have made the rounds of late. From July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 22<sup>nd</sup>, I traveled various western states with a fellow hiker and historian on a once in a lifetime journey.

It was decided between us that we would stay on a northern route, staying above the desert and low plains. This we did as we traveled through 14 states, 15 National Parks and sites, assorted other non-Federal sites and a total of 7,800 miles by car.

The sites seen included a mixture of historical and natural sites which we found to be the perfect combination. This balance led to much hiking and some climbing at Rocky Mountain National Park, Mount Hood, Olympic National Park, Yellowstone and several other sites.

Eleven of our nineteen days were spent in a tent. By the end we found that camping was the only way to go.

Much of the time we followed the Lewis and Clark, Corps of Discovery Route. This we enjoyed as it was beautiful country and it is the Bicentennial celebration. We camped, much like Lewis and Clark, by the Pacific only a few miles from where they wintered.

The landscape and outdoor activities are hard to capture in words for those who haven't seen it in person. It is breathtaking and ever-changing, forest to prairie to desert to ocean, mountain to flat and sky that never ends.



We saw a good amount of game, elk, bison, pronghorn antelope, salmon, trout and signs for "rattlers" at Little Bighorn Battlefield but no "rattlers" were about. No bears either, though

signs and evidence of bears were viewed.

It was wonderful to hike in such varied terrain. I would suggest to anyone to go west and to fellow STS hikers, try a few western trails. You'll never forget the experience.

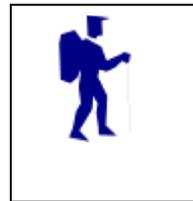
# ADIRONDACKS - BEAR RESISTANT CANISTERS

by Wil Ahn

Many of our STC members have hiked and backpacked in the Eastern High Peaks Zone of New York's Adirondacks. Black bears are prevalent in this area and raid the packs and food of overnight campers causing food, toiletries, garbage and other scented items to be spread all over the terrain. A regulation to prevent this nuisance and help to keep the "High Peaks" area free of trash effective April 1<sup>st</sup> through Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> was recommended by New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. DEC regulation requires the use of bear resistant canisters for all overnight hikers in the Eastern High Peaks Zone. If you are planning a backpacking trip to this area during the period mentioned a "Bear Canister" is required. Contact Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) for complete information – 800-395-8080 or [www.adk.org](http://www.adk.org).

## Quarterly HIKE SUMMARY

by Bob Knowles



During the June 12 through September 3, 2005 period, 43 STC members and guests hiked 62 miles on 10 STC sponsored day hikes covering two to seven miles in length. Four hikes were

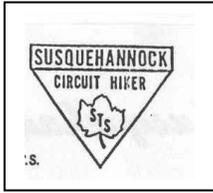
cancelled due to no participants, wet trail or no leader conditions.

► Bill Boyd, Coudersport, led the longest hike - nine members hiked seven miles on the Ole Bull State Park Loop Hike during the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Susquehannock Trail Club Summer Camporee held on July 29 – 31. ► Bill Boyd led the shortest hike - six members hiked two miles on the Berger Trail Hike from Rt. 44 to Long Toe Road on Sunday, July 24. ► Carl Davis, Wellsboro, led the largest group - 11 hikers walked three miles on the Blue Run Rocks Hike on Sunday, June 12. ► Bill Boyd led three hikes. Wil Ahn, Wayne Baumann, Pat Childs, Carl Davis, Dick Hribar, Tom Janci and Curt Weinhold led one each. ► Bill Boyd and Wayne Baumann attended eight hikes; Tom Janci and Debbie Quelet, four hikes; Steve Quelet, three hikes; Wil Ahn, Pat Childs and Ralph Stockman, two hikes each.



# CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

from Lois Morey,  
STC Archivist



# 35<sup>th</sup> STC CAMPOREE

## Highlights

From Wil Ahn

**#929 – Allen Zerbe, Quarryville, PA**

**#930 – Matthew Zerbe, Quarryville, PA**

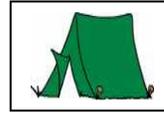
**#931 – Aaron Haines, New Providence, PA**

Allen Zerbe submitted his journal for the STS circuit hike completed this summer in June. Also along for this journey were his son, Matthew Zerbe, and a friend, Aaron Haines, both 13 years old and working on the Backpacking Merit Badge for Boy Scouts. Each boy submitted his own account of the 85-mile trek to earn this merit badge and also the circuit hiker award.

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**#932 – Brian Carey, Erie, PA**

This circuit hike was also completed in June this year. Brian submitted a very detailed and humorous account of his journey across the STS, complete with distance covered each day, weather conditions, location of campsites (and details of his getting lost and finding the trail again). He also inserted JPEG formatted photos (computer language) in his type-written journal which added visual interest.

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All excellent logs submitted this quarter - congratulations to all of you completing the STS Circuit.



July 29-31 turned out to be a perfect weekend for our annual Camporee. Conflicting dates kept some of the old-timers from attending. But a nice size group enjoyed great weather at Ole Bull State Park.

Our evening dinner and meeting which was to be held in a reserved pavilion was shifted to the great outdoors due to an invasion of hornets in the pavilion woodwork and buzzing all over the place. We just couldn't take the chance of their dive bombing our campers and the enticing food. The weather was warm and beautiful, so the open air tables were our gathering place. All attending enjoyed good weather, hiking, camping and fellowship.

A great discussion was held at the meeting concerning Pa. Governor Rendell considering the opening of all State Forest roads and trails in Pa. for use by ATV's. A negative reaction was formed by members attending, and decision for members to write the Governor's office and the DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis and your District State Representative objecting to such action. We are all aware of the damage ATV's have caused to our hiking trails. ***Please take the time to write or email your objections to the state officers mentioned. We must be heard on this matter.***

Park Manager Mary Hirst and husband David attended our gathering and had dinner with us. Following the meeting, Mary Hirst spoke on birding in Potter County and showed some of her beautiful slides. Mrs. Hirst briefed the group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Survey that is taking place and invited our Club members and others interested to help in the Survey which runs from 2004 to 2008. Here is your chance to help out. Contact Mary Hirst at Ole Bull State Park, Cross Fork, Pa.

Many thanks to all who helped make this Camporee a very pleasant and successful one.





## ALONG THE TRAIL

...by Wil Ahn

### 🌿 STC Member Bob Ross – Scientist

I haven't seen or heard from club member Bob Ross for awhile, but a recent newsletter article in the "Tiadaghton Raven" put out by the Tiadaghton Audubon Society, Wellsboro, Pa. reveals Dr. Ross was asked to join a team of scientists in Southern California to work on a restoration plan for the Salton Sea, the largest inland lake in California.

The sea was formed by agricultural irrigation waters in the lower Colorado River and is an important part of the Western Flyway for water birds. Presently saltier than the ocean, it has many problems due to increasing salinity, contaminants such as selenium, high levels of nutrients from agricultural drainage, toxic levels of ammonia and sulfide, fish and wildlife botulism and avian cholera and excessively warm summer water temperatures.

Bob Ross, an enthusiastic and knowledgeable birder, is a most interesting person to have on a hike especially as the leader. He can detect and share the calls and songs of different species of birds to fellow hikers. In the past Bob Ross accompanied our groups of vacationing hikers on our many trips to the "High Peaks" areas of the Adirondacks.

He has successfully climbed several of the "46ers" on these STC outings. I recall him telling me of one of these trips he was on with our club, that he and fellow hiker, Tom Weaber, left the lodge where we were staying in Keene Valley very early one morning to climb to the summit of "Giant Mtn" well over 4,000 ft. As they progressed to the top of "Giant" the wind became very strong, so strong you could not stand. They had to crawl on hands and knees to reach the summit. Very scary, but they made it and will always have that experience to remember.

## 🌿 I GOT IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

I opened our back door one day to put our dog "Cody" out and there stuck between the knob and the doorjamb was a rolled up newspaper, "The Webb Weekly", May 18, 2005 issue, printed in Williamsport, Pa. I am thinking, we don't get this paper, I wonder who put it there? As a matter of fact, I had never seen a "Webb Weekly" before. Then I spied on the cover a full page photo picture of Bob & Dottie Webber standing in front of their cabin home deep in the forested mountains west of Slate Run in Lycoming County. This really got my interest and I'm thinking Bob Webber must have stopped here when I wasn't home on his way to Coudersport to the Bob Hearst "Best Buy" store across from the Charles Cole Hospital.

Bob Webber and Bob Hearst are old friends and hunting buddies. Bob's "Best Buy" store is where I buy my wheel house cheese and shoofly pie, which is the best. Well, it turns out it wasn't that way at all. Bob never stopped here but I did get a phone call from an old friend and STC member, George Probst, from Wellsville, N.Y. He said he had stopped by when Betty and I were not home and left the "Webb Weekly." Now he doesn't get the "Webb Weekly" either. But he got it from another STC member Richard Tidd (George calls him Rich Kid) who made a visit to Webber's cabin, 4 miles back in the wilderness and Bob Webber gave him the newspaper which Rich Tidd brought home and gave to George Probst, who then passed it along to me.

The Webber's picture on the front page of the "Webb Weekly" is excellent. The photos and the article about the Webbers are by David Kagen. Kagen's story of the Webbers is titled "The Thoreau-ly Good Life". He cleverly takes the words of Henry David Thoreau written about 160 years ago, "*If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.*" These words from Thoreau's "Walden", then lead you into Bob & Dottie's lifestyle since 1961. They live in a remote log cabin. They have no children.

During the 44 years they have lived there they have had no electricity, phone or running water. They cut, split, and burn wood for heat and cooking. When the snow gets real deep they snowshoe or x-country ski into Slate Run Post Office for their mail. Both Bob and Dottie are great readers and have an extensive library. Bob, a retired Forester, worked for Pa. BOF-DCNR in the Tioga and Tiadaghton State Forest areas. Bob, as many of you readers know, is well known and admired for his dedicated hiking trail building - to name a few, the Black Forest Trail, Golden Eagle Trail, and his recently constructed very scenic trail known as it should be, the "Bob Webber Trail." Bob is always willing to share his knowledge of the woods and hiking leadership with others and has often led hikes for our STC, the Alpine Club of Williamsport and other organizations. David Kagen has done a fine job of telling about the lifestyle of the Webbers and I am glad I got it "Through The Grapevine".

In this group was Don Klahr, Bob Knowles, Bob Davey, Tom Fitzgerald, John Miller and myself. It was a grueling trip going up and down the steep hills in the White Line-Splash Dam areas, but we laughed and joked and finally made it to Rt. 44 and awaiting cars. A trip Don and I often talked about. Don was also involved in several tree plantings the STC performed.

Yes, Don is gone, but still lives in the memory of many of his friends.



SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL....Wil

## 🌸 DON KLAHR 1921 - 2005

Don Klahr, 84, of Coudersport, Pa., died July 12, 2005. Don and his surviving wife, Nancy, have been STC members over 35 years. In their younger days they were very active in hiking and trail construction of the STS and its maintenance. Don came to Coudersport in 1968 and was Director of Nursing and Chief Anesthetist when Charles Cole Memorial Hospital opened. He retired in 1986. Don attended Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing near Middletown, Pa. from 1939 to 1942 when he enlisted in the Army where he was a medic and paratrooper. Don took part in the rescue of 2,400 civilians behind enemy lines in Los Banos, the Philippines in WW2. As a Sergeant in the Army, he was wounded, received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star metals.

Don was a personal friend of Earl Shaffer, the first man to hike the Appalachian Trail alone in both directions. In February 1971 the STC held its first "Winter Frolic" at the Denton Hill Ski Lodge. Don was chairman of this affair and arranged to have Earl Shaffer as our guest speaker.

Back around that time a group of early club members decided to snowshoe from Denton Hill across the STS to Patterson State Park, a distance of about 8 miles. The snow was about 2 feet deep.

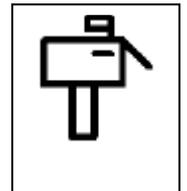


## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**December 8, 2005:**

Please have your information in the US mail by December 8, 2005 to:

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



Or e:mail to  
[roxanne\\_mcmillan@hotmail.com](mailto:roxanne_mcmillan@hotmail.com)





**Susquehannock Trail Club**

**P.O. Box 643**

**Coudersport, PA 16915**

