



STC NEWSLETTER

“ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”

P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915

JANUARY 2006 ❄️❄️❄️

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 18

Saturday Evening:



Dinner, Meeting & Program

Time: 6:00 pm Dinner

Place: Lutheran Parish Hall, corner of Borie Street & Alleghany Avenue in Coudersport.

Dinner: Catered dinner by Bernie LeFever serving baked stuffed chicken breast and baked ham plus all the trimmings and desert, served buffet style.

Cost: \$ 8.50 per person.

ALL DINNERS SERVED BY ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY. Deadline Feb 10.

Use the enclosed registration form and envelope.

After the dinner, there'll be a short monthly business meeting followed by an evening program. STC member Curt Weinholt will show slides from a recent trip to Hawaii. It will be interesting and you won't want to miss it!



STC Newsletter to be available by e:mail

Some of our members have requested to receive their STC quarterly newsletter by e:mail.

When you renew your membership, you can select the option of receiving the newsletter by e:mail instead of by U.S. Postal mail.



TIME TO PAY 2006 DUES

It's time to get dues in the mail.



Dues: \$5.00 individual or \$10.00 family membership.

Check the date on your mailing address label. You must renew if it says "Last Pd Dues 2005". 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.



New STC Caps Available

We have recently received a shipment of caps with the STC Logo imprinted on the front of the cap.

We have both styles - Baseball and Truckers - in forest green. Total price is \$14.60 each. (including \$10.00 for the cap plus \$0.60 sales tax and \$4.00 mailing cost) Send check or Money Order. Caps are available from STC Secretary, Box 643, Coudersport, Pa. 16915.

Wear this cap and promote our trail club.





KTA Spring 2006
meeting in Wellsboro

WANTED:
HIKE LEADERS

Keystone Trails Association will be holding its Spring Meeting in Wellsboro the weekend of April 7-9, 2006. Wanda Shirk and Ginny Musser have agreed to coordinate the hiking program for the weekend. They are looking for STC members who would be willing to lead hikes in the area. Two years ago 18 hikes were offered. We would like to offer at least that many but need to keep in mind that weather and trail conditions might necessitate canceling some hikes at the last minute.

Saturday hikes could be all day hikes as well as some shorter hikes of 4-5 miles. Sunday hikes generally should conclude by noon. We recommend that hikes be within a 45-minute drive from Wellsboro.

If you have a favorite hike that you'd be willing to lead give Wanda a call at 814.848.7944 or Ginny at 717.626.0069. Or if you're willing to lead a hike and want some ideas on where to go we can give you some leads from the 2004 offerings.

If you prefer to e-mail us: whirk@pennswoods.net or hiker385@paonline.com

NOTE: 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 or write P.O. Box 129 Confluence, PA 15424.



2005 HIKES

by Bob Knowles



QUARTERLY SUMMARY

During the September 11 through October 29, 2005 period, eight STC sponsored day hikes were scheduled. Two hikes were canceled, one due to rain and one to no participants. Six hikes totaled 25½ miles and were hiked by 43 members and guests. Hikes ranged from 3½ miles to 5½ miles in length.

- ▶ Bill Boyd, Coudersport, led three hikes. Wanda Shirk and Wil Ahn, Ulysses; Dick Hribar, Coudersport, led one hike each.
- ▶ Wayne Baumann attended five hikes; Bill Boyd, four; eight members two hikes each.
- ▶ Participating hikers represented the states of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and California.

ANNUAL SUMMARY

The Susquehannock Trail Club scheduled 30 day hikes for the April 16 through October 29, 2005 hiking season. Eight hikes were cancelled due to rain, wet trail or no participants. On 22 hikes, 118 STC members and guests hiked 107½ miles covering two to seven miles in length led by 10 different leaders.

- ▶ Hike leaders Bill Boyd led nine hikes; Wil Ahn, three; Carl Davis and Dick Hribar, two; Bob Webber, Pat Childs, Curt Weinhold, Wayne Baumann, Tom Janci, Wanda Shirk, one each.
- ▶ Members attending the most hikes were: Bill Boyd and Wayne Baumann, 16; Tom Janci, 8; Debbie Quelet, 7; Steve Quelet, 6; Pat Childs, 5; Clair Altmeter and Ralph Stockman, 4; Elaine Pike and Beth Shall, 3.
- ▶ Participating hikers represented Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, California and Colorado.



ALONG THE TRAIL...by Wil Ahn

STC Birdwatchers

Many of our members are interested in birding as they hike along the STS. I have received a copy of the Pennsylvania Avian Monitor sponsored by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Pa. Game Commission. This newsletter is published three times a year - winter, spring and fall - and is available free from Editor, The Pa. Avian Monitor, 2nd PBBA Headquarters, Powdermill Nature Reserve, 1847 Route 381, Rector, Pa. 15677. If you are interested in bird watching you will find this newsletter to your liking.

Cross Country Skiers Get Early Start

If you are a cross country skier, Potter County has ample snow for your sport. 10" to 12" snow depths in the higher elevations of Denton Hill (Ridge Trail) and Cherry Springs Park areas are being enjoyed by early bird skiers.

The Boon Road

Mention the Boon Road and most people think you are referring to early pioneer Daniel Boone. Notice Daniel's last name was spelled Boone ending with an "e". The "Boon" road, which was partly located thru the wilds of Potter County, was so named by early settlers coming into Potter County. Historian Robert R. Lyman Sr. in his book "Strange Events in the Black Forest", Vol. 2, says it is very unlikely Daniel Boone was ever involved in the location or building of the Boon Road.

Early settlers making their way thru this wilderness in 1806 came across the road which was well established, hand dug in many places, corduroy logs over some wet spots, living trees up to a foot in diameter growing in deep wheel ruts in a road 50 years old. The settlers said it was a boon to them where they could use sections of the road that relieved them of the hard work of making road for their horses and wagons and called it the Boon Road.

Bob Lyman and others in the Potter County Historical Society are convinced the so called

Boon Road was built by a French Army in 1756 on their way to attack the English Fort Augusta at the junction of North Branch and West Branch of the Susquehanna River. This road building during the French and Indian wars was under the direction of French Officer Chabert Joncaire and his close friend Marquis de Vaudreuil. The French army needed a road to transport brass cannons and supplies south across Warren, McKean and Potter Counties to attack the British stronghold of Fort Augusta.

Reaching the West Branch of the Susquehanna, boats would be built to transport the army and its cannons on a surprise attack of Fort Augusta. French and Indian scouts watched Fort Augusta for months finally deciding not to attack and knowing their small cannon could not penetrate the heavy walls of the Fort which was very strong and well guarded. The whole plan of attack was called off and the French Army retreated unbeknownst to the English officers at Fort Augusta and not knowing of the road built by the French.

In 1758 the French evacuated Fort Duquesne. British General John Forbes with a 6,000 man army was close by and the next day entered the abandoned Fort Duquesne. Sections of the Boon Road followed down the Cross Fork Creek then up Cherry Run and down Ole Bull run to Kettle Creek following that valley into Clearfield County. Hikers and backpackers follow this route when hiking on the STS. There is still a short section of road known as Boon Road located in the Susquehannock State Forest District #15. Thought you might be interested in some of the history of the area where the 85 mile STS is located and how the Boon Road got its name.

Bob Calls It Quits

For years Bob Knowles has been a steadfast member and dedicated writer of news columns of STC activities in the Potter-Leader Enterprise newspaper. In addition to Club news he had a gift for putting into words his findings, sightings and knowledge of wild life, birds, flowers and wonders of the forests to share with others who enjoy this wonderful place we call "God's Country" Potter County. Bob has decided to give up his weekly reporting and has other duties that need taking care of. We will miss his talent and wish him well. "The best to you, Bob".

Our Dedicated Volunteers

As the year comes to an end, I feel it only fitting to say how much I personally appreciate the voluntary efforts of the many members of the STC that make our Trail Club such a great Club. STC members do not get paid any money for their work in maintenance of the trail or trail building.

Volunteers doing trail work set their own schedules to keep the trail open for the public. They pay for their own gasoline and use of their cars for travel to and from trail projects.

Officers and committees carry out their duties to keep the public aware of the trail and necessary mailings and answering inquiries. Hike Leaders are volunteers. Newsletters are prepared and mailed out. Accurate books are kept of the Club's finances & spending and many members voluntarily return contributions along with their Club dues.

Yes, we are a "Club of Volunteers" - something we can be proud of in this day and age.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.



SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL
Wil



WILD GAME HARVEST DINNER



We had a good turn out of 50 persons for our Annual Wild Game-Harvest dinner held in Oct. 2005 in Coudersport. As usual food was

plentiful and delicious. John Eastlake gave us an interesting and informative program on the CCC Camps and the men interviewed during the 1930-39 Depression years. John showed slides of camp life and work projects. Many of the foot trails hikers use today came from the hard work and sweat of the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps. John Eastlake is in the process of writing a book about the CCC.



2005 STS Trail Maintenance

by Bob Knowles



Trail maintenance on the Susquehannock Trail and connecting trail during the period April 11 through October 31, 2005, totaled 403 hours (297 work hours and 106 travel hours). Previous year totals were 1,039 hours in 2004; 1,889 hours in 2003; 1,204 hours in 2002; and 326 hours in 2001.

Reported trail work in 2005 was performed by: Wil Ahn, Wayne Baumann, Bill Boyd, Raymond Buck, Robert Buck, John Clark, Dorothy Erway, Bernie and Jake Goch, Dick Hribar, Charles Kern, Lowell and Barbara Luft, Bill Morey, District Forester Prouen, Bob Webber, Curt Wunderlick, Cliff Wood, Walt Zegarski; and Boy Scout Troup 536 of Coudersport and leader Gary Buchanan; Troop 32 of Jonestown with Boy Scouts Kyle Kleinfelter, Richard Wolf, Colby Boltz and father, and leader Charles Kern; Troop 32, Jonestown, with Boy Scouts Greg Henne and Logan Starton, leader Curt Wunderlick plus adults John Krum, Dennis Brehn, Sam Henne and Zack Wenrich.



**MARCH 14, 2006:
NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**



Please have your information in the mail by March 14, 2006 to:

Roxanne McMillan
STC Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 427
Landisville, PA. 17538
Or e:mail roxanne_mcmillan@hotmail.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Detach and mail in this form:

2006 Dues / Winter Frolic Reservation Form **

NAME: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Check only one box:

Send me the STC newsletter in the U.S. Postal mail to the address above.

Send me the STC newsletter by e:mail.

Note: If you sign up for the newsletter by e:mail you will no longer receive a copy in the US postal mail.

Here is my e:mail address: _____

2006 Membership Dues = _____
\$10.00 family..... \$5.00 individual

Gift Membership for: = _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
\$10.00 family \$5.00 individual

Winter Frolic
___ Meals at \$8.50 each = _____

Total amount enclosed = _____

Make checks payable to "Susquehannock Trail Club".
Mail to P.O. Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915

NOTE: ****Deadline for dinner reservations is February 10, 2006**





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



Some Notes from Club Members:

❄️ Dean Auen recently moved from Blairsville to Karthaus to Frenchville. He writes... “My passion for hiking never dwindled. I live right next to the Quehanna trail (a few miles). Thank you for the awesome newsletter. I know it sounds odd to some that hiking with my dog can be an antidote for loneliness but those who don’t understand should try it! Keep up the good work”

❄️ **Campfire ramblings in Splash Dam Hollow –**

Ryan Wilhelm from Addison, NY wrote a note to Wil Ahn, STC President, recently: “It was good to get back to the STS after a summer hiatus to backpack other trails. The November weather was exceptional (Friday Nov 4th – 5th) and this short trip was well needed to stress relieve and enjoy Pa. Steve and I left from Sunken Branch Rd. and hiked north to Denton where we went south on White Line and conveniently found our “big packs” stashed in the woods off Lyman Run Rd. Adorning the internal frame packs, we continued down into Splash Dam Hollow for the night. After enjoying a pleasant night sleeping under the star-filled sky, it was coffee and on to Patterson Park. A car shuttle took us to Cherry Springs Tower where we hiked north (through LARGE red oaks) and down to Sunken Branch Rd.

Some discussion was given (campfire rambling) to certain aspects of the STS. One part focused on how difficult it is to make a short loop trip anywhere out of the STS. I can’t imagine how difficult it is to maintain 85+ miles of trail but is there or has there ever been discussion of a cross-connector trail being built? The Chuck Keiper and Quehanna trails have them. Maybe there are popular loop trips (around 30 miles max) that members have already planned. Ole Bull to Cross Fork is 23 trail miles but only 8 road miles – along SR 144. That’s a good weekend (one or two night) option for the STS. I’m accustomed to bike riding back to my vehicle or walking a road for a few miles.

Another STS topic involved our own curiosity regarding STS demographics. Who hikes it, when and how? What is the favorite trail section? Are day hikes, weekends or through hikes most popular? What are the favorite camping spots on the STS? How many miles per day does the average hiker complete? There are Internet forum sights discussing almost any trail in the northeast. Somehow Pennsylvania is almost excluded (except for the Appalachian Trail and Delaware Water Gap area) and the STS is practically unheard of. Of course solitude is a big allure to hiking the STS and I wouldn’t want all its secrets revealed! Maybe a short survey in one of the newsletters would be interesting if enough responses were gathered.

It was encouraging to read trail maintenance was performed by Gary Buchanan and the Boy Scouts of Troop 536. As part of Troop 536, I *cut my hiking teeth* on the STS and completed many badges toward earning Eagle Scout.”