



STC NEWSLETTER

"ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY"

P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915



October 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.

WILD GAME & HARVEST DINNER

Saturday OCTOBER 7

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 7th 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 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 foods 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. STC member Wayne Baumann will have a program on his recent trip to the Pakistan earthquake area. Wayne will be sharing slides and giving first hand

information on the devastation and aid program taking place in that country. We hope to see **You** at the Wild Game and Harvest Dinner!

TRAIL MAINTENANCE Report

by Bill Boyd



So far, my records show the following people did trail work this year: Charles Kern & Boy Scout

Troop 32, Curt Wunderlick & Troop 32, Jack Wunderlick, John Fram, Doug Macy, Brian Sheets, Zack Wenrich, John Krum, Andy & Adam Salek, Ed Vandergrift, Wayne Bauman, Tom Leete, Lowell & Barb Luft, Raymond & Roger Buck, Cliff Wood, Sally Smith, and Bill Boyd. The hours were: 296 hours worked and 92 hours traveling.

We also had a lot of help from the Potter County Trailblazers - especially on the section from the trailhead at Denton Hill, going south to Patterson State Park, and some distance south of there, so I understand. They did a lot of brushing, cleaned water-bars, put in new water-bars, put corduroy in some wet areas, put log walkways over some wet areas, put in some log steps on a steep part and generally put the trail in very good shape for a distance of well over 7 miles.



CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

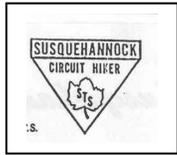
from Lois Morey, STC Archivist

#936 - Dixie Hinkley, Springville, PA

#937 - Amy Bradley, Coudersport, PA

#938 - Jean Martin, Ephrata, PA

#939 - Jennifer Hollinger, Ephrata, PA



Looks like it was girls quarter this time for hiking the STS. Dixie and Amy started hiking in the summer of 2002 during summer vacation and completed the circuit in June

2006. They were friends from college and are now working as teachers who get together during their summer vacation to hike.

Jean and Jennifer needed only seven days in June of this year to finish the STS. They have done extensive hiking on at A.T. and also on other Pennsylvania trails, and aside from their hike in Maine, say that our state has some of the most beautiful scenery around. The C.H. Committee agrees. Well written logs -- Thank you.

THE BUCKTAIL PATH

The 85 mile Susquehannock Trail is Potter County's main trail, but three other major trails touch Potter County. In the southeast, the 42 mile loop Black Forest Trail wanders out of Lycoming County into Potter for a few miles. The 90 mile linear Donut Hole Trail runs concurrently with the STS in and out of the Potter-Clinton County border. And in the southwest, the 34 mile Bucktail Path, which begins in Sinnemahoning and heads north through Cameron County, winds up in Potter at Sizerville State Park.

Backpacking Pennsylvania: 37 Great Hikes, a 2005 book by Tunkhannock attorney Jeff Mitchell, contains information on all four of these trails. The narrative about the BP begins, "The lonely Bucktail Path is one of the most isolated and least hiked trails in the state. Expect to have the trail to yourself, with plenty of opportunities to see wildlife. With such little use, the trail is unestablished and brushy in sections...."

STC member Wanda Shirk found Jeff's analysis to be right on target when she hiked the trail in 2.5 days on July 24, 25, and 26. The first section included some easy dirt trail and wide grassy pipeline trail, so she covered 15.5 miles the first day, the longest she ever has hiked in one day with or without a backpack. The second day included some streams to

ford and some trail that was becoming unpleasantly overgrown with briars. The final stretch on day three included a wade through thigh-high stinging nettles in what the solo-hiker called "a bushwack guided by blazes through a sea of weeds where no defined trail was observable."

Wanda's backpack, not counting the 12 pounds of water she started with, weighed only 25 pounds. Her favorite new addition to ultra-light backpacking is a sleeping bag that fits into a stuff sack the size of a loaf of bread. She slept at night in a jungle-hammock tied between two trees.

Seeing nine deer the first day was a highlight of the trip. The Bucktail Path is known for its occasional rattlesnakes, and Wanda had seen a couple while working on a Trail Care crew on the BP a few years ago, but none appeared on this adventure.

Park Manager Jeremy Rekich at Sizerville said Wanda was the only hiker he was aware of to complete the BP this year, although not all hikers check into the park office.

STC CAMPOREE – JULY 28TH - 30TH



Rain fell heavily and intermittently Friday the 28th but fair weather prevailed for Saturday's hike and a

warm sunny afternoon had some hikers enjoying the Kettle Creek to swim and cool off. High marks were given for the use of the Ole Bull State Park new rest rooms and hot showers. Park Manager, Mary Hirst, was quite attentive to see that STC members had ample camping spaces and campsite facilities.

Our usual Saturday evening dinner was quite delicious with a variety of foods followed by door prizes, Club meeting and an interesting slide show and narration by Stan Hess, Service Forester for DCNR – BOF on "Big Trees" and their locations in state forests of PA and areas of the Allegany National Forest. His presentation was held in the Park's



amphitheater making it possible for other users of Ole Bull State Park to attend and enjoy his presentation.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE December 7, 2006:

e:mail to roxanne_mcmillan@hotmail.com

Or Send to: Roxanne McMillan

STC Newsletter Editor

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ALONG THE TRAIL

...by Wil Ahn

A Campfire Story – “BLOODY RUN”



One of the joys of hiking and camping with friends is the gathering of hikers around the campfire in the evening after camp chores are taken care of.

The blazing campfire brings out discussion of the days' hike and stories

and memories of the past. Youngsters are always ready with marshmallows on a stick. Old timer, Paul Kurtz, STC member from Reading, Pa., always had peanuts in the shell to share with others. Ray Kern, an older member from Watrous, Pa., now deceased, was a good storyteller and this one evening asked if any of us around the fire had ever heard of “Bloody Run”. None had.

So Raymond told us about an old wagon road used by early settlers that ran thru mountains and valleys from Watrous, PA in Tioga County to Galetton in Potter County. It was considered a short cut. It seems the old road crossed the private property of Fred Hurlburt who put up a gate to keep his cows from straying.

Old man Bill Persing who had always used the road with his horse and wagon got very annoyed and tore the gate down and hid it in the bushes. Now Hurlburt, a much younger man, was going to straighten things out with Persing and went over to his house to discuss the matter. Hurlburt knocked on the door but no one answered. Then someone fired at him from ambush hitting him in the leg with birdshot. Hurlburt beat it out of there and headed for home to doctor his leg. Hurlburt was really mad and said it's my land and I am going to gate the road to keep in my cows.

Later Old Persing, determined to use the road like he always did, came to the gate and again tore it down. Hurlburts' house was not far from the road and when he saw old Persing on his wagon he approached him and said he wanted to talk to him. The foxy old Persing told him to come closer as he couldn't hear what Hurlburt was saying. Hurlburt did and the old Persing swung at him with a ball-peen hammer. The blow missed Hurlburts' head as he dodged and grabbed the hammer from the older man, pulled him down off the wagon and beat him several blows on the head until he was bloody and unconscious. Hurlburts' wife came running to stop him. Hurlburt, regaining his senses, loaded old Persing in his wagon and drove him to his home. The nearest hospital in those days was Blossburg. Pa. While Persings' son was taking him in the wagon to the hospital, the old fellow died.

Hurlburt turned himself in and he was charged with murder and put in Coudersport jail to await trial. During his trial witnesses testified that Hurlburt had a wife and seven children and was never known to be a trouble maker. Old Persing was known by neighbors as hard to get along with and had threatened to get Hurlburt, “before the snow flies”. Hurlburt was acquitted of murder and after that the area where old Persing was hammered was known as “Bloody Run”.

‘REMEMBERING DAD’

This past July I received a letter from Bill Libhart, Mountville, PA. He has hiked the entire 85 mile STS and earned Circuit Hiker Award #906. Bill had written to request my signature on applications for two Keystone Trails Association awards. The Appalachian Trail (AT) Award is earned by completing the entire AT in PA. The Merit Award is earned by hiking all of Pennsylvania's AT and completing other selected PA trails totaling at least 200 miles. Bill accomplished this by hiking, keeping records and completing the ST, STS, Black Forest Trail, Golden Eagle Trail, Chuck Kepier Trail and the Conestoga Trail.

Bill Libhart sent all records of his hikes for me to review and I must say they were excellent. Being a sentimentalist, I was touched by an entry he wrote in his AT log on Jan. 30, 1999.

Bill writes: “Dad died on Jan. 15, 1999. How much I owe this man, from raising me and instilling what good things he could, teaching me about baseball, hunting and such, putting me through college, being so supportive and helpful during my early years of marriage, to being such a loving grandfather to my boys. I could not have asked for a better man to be my Dad. He was never flashy or a “Chest Thumping Person” but just did what he thought best and did it without a lot of fanfare. He was one of those people who can be considered a hero. He certainly was the one who introduced me to the outdoors and gave me such a great opportunity through his part in our cabin in Potter County. How sad that, like so often happens, I really didn't realize or appreciate it till he was dying. “

Thanks Bill for sharing those words with me and others. It brings back memories of my Dad and the good times we had together and the things he taught me.

‘Nuff said --

SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL...



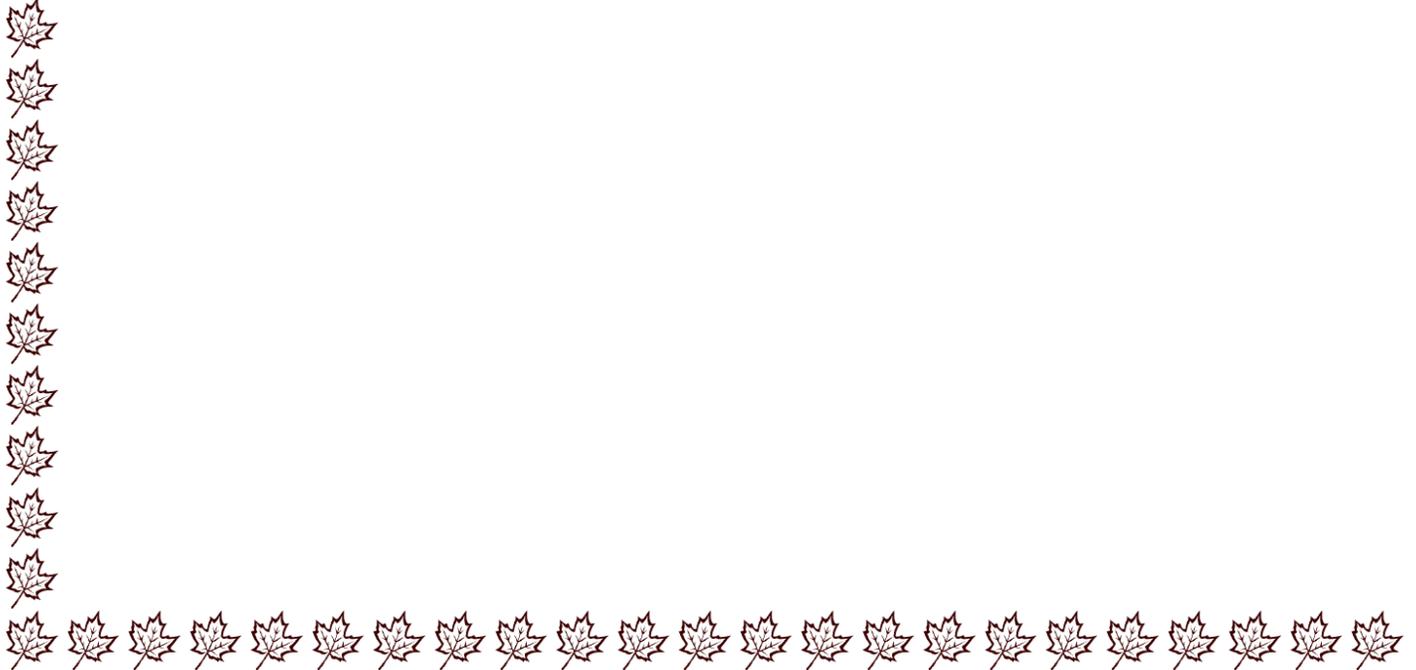
Wil



Susquehannock Trail Club

P.O. Box 643

Coudersport, PA 16915



NEW MEMBERS JOINING STC SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER –

Dave Barsky, Bloomsburg, PA Dixie Hinkley, Springville, PA James Hamilton, Newark, Conn.

OCOBER HIKES

Telephone area code is 814, unless otherwise noted.

Telephone hike leader for additional information (if no answer, 435-2966).

Rain or bad weather will cancel hike.

Non-members welcome.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ON ALL HIKES.

October 8 – SUNDAY - Mt. Tom Vista – Tioga State Forest at Ansonia, Pa. at 2:00 pm. Meet at Darling Run Parking area, Pa. Rt. 362. This is a steep climb up the mountain to a vista overlooking Pine Creek and the U.S. Rt. 6 valley. It is difficult – a steep climb. A circle hike of 3.5 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Leaders: Carl and Bonnie Davis 570-724-6319

October 21 – SATURDAY – Dutlinger Natural Area to see old-growth Hemlocks. One is reported to be 43 inches in diameter and 112 foot tall. About 4 miles round trip. Easy to moderate with one fairly steep climb. A stream must be crossed either on cables (a high wire act) or waded. Meet at Cross Fork at Bridge on Rt. 144 or if any one wishes to carpool from Coudersport area, call a few days prior. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Bill Boyd 274-7529

October 29 – SUNDAY – Camp Moxie See old Growth Pine & Hemlock and remains of old Boy Scout camp. Good trail – easy hike – 2.5 miles. Bring water. Meet at old Mennonite School/ Church on Sweden Hill Brookland Road @ 2:00 pm. Leader: Wil Ahn 435 – 2966

