



SUSQUEHANNOCK HIKER

On Foot in Potter County...God's Country



Autumn 2013

PO Box 643 • Coudersport, PA 16915 • www.stc-hike.org • info@stc-hike.org

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.

The Susquehannock Trail Club's ANNUAL WILD GAME/HARVEST DINNER



Curt Weinhold

Saturday, October 12, 2013 @ 5:00 PM
Gold Community Church
Route 449, Gold, PA 16923

This covered dish dinner is always a feast and one we look forward to each year. Principal fare consists of delicious recipes of wild game and plants harvested from the great outdoors. There is always a great variety for all to enjoy.

The featured speaker this year is Duane Wetmore of Tioga County, PA, who will give a 40-minute PowerPoint presentation entitled, *Perambulating the Boundaries of Tioga County, Pennsylvania*.

Mr. Wetmore is a licensed surveyor with more than 40 years of experience from the days of staff compasses and chain tapes to the era of global positioning systems. He has located the old survey monuments at all the corners of Tioga County, and has walked long stretches of the lines between the county corners, locating township, borough, and private property corners in the process.

His work has taken him into all the surrounding counties, including Potter, Clinton, Lycoming, and Bradford counties, Pennsylvania, and Allegany, Steuben, and Chemung counties, New York. He has also done volunteer missionary surveying in Alaska, Central America, South America, and Africa.

He has fascinating stories to tell about the search for old survey monuments that have been buried under accumulated leaf litter on remote hillsides since Colonial days; plotting property deeds, some of which produce "lightning bolt" maps, the strengths and weaknesses of different surveying methods; and the systems and nomenclature used by the early land companies in subdividing Pennsylvania and New York state. 5ᵗ

Our Summer Afternoon CCC Hike

By George Wolfe

We just returned on August 5, 2013 from another magnificent trip to God's Country. We did two wonderful hikes. The first was on the STS from McConnell Road to the East Fork Road, which was terrific. We saw grouse, a red-tailed hawk, several redstarts, kingfishers, and warblers that we couldn't quite nail down. The only comment on the hike was that there are few blazes on the final segment on the former railroad grade, and we had some doubts if we missed a cutoff.

Key



Photo Submitted by George Wolf

Patience kept us on track, and we safely reached the Williams Farm.

Our second hike was much more adventuresome, and demonstrated the backwoods beauty and potential peril of Potter County. The plan was to again explore the CCC trails near our camp, so we identified the loop of Cassidy Hollow Trail to Dry Hollow [Ridge] Trail to Dyke Run Trail. Fortunately, we sent one party up Cassidy Hollow and one up Dyke Run, with radios, whistles, and hearty shouting voices. Also, it was good fortune that we scouted Cassidy Hollow Trail the day before, as the sign on Hungry Hollow

Road belies the fact that the trail instantly disappears, and significant searching was undertaken to find the trail off of the gas line. See the aged and hidden key [above] to finding the trail. Of course, no blazes throughout. Dyke Run is a bit easier, yet we would have never been able to connect to Dry Hollow [Ridge] Trail without two parties, as Dyke Run disappears at the top of the mountain. With the radio contacts at the critical moment, we connected and instructed the other party on the descent. Awesome hike.

George Wolfe

PS: We have heard that new topos will not show the old CCC trails. I can see why, but losing these trails is indeed a shame. We saw constant evidence of CCC work on Dyke Run Trail. Cassidy Hollow must not have been a CCC project, but just men following natural land forms. This again reflects the access that STS provides that otherwise might be nearly impossible.

Tamarack Swamp:

The "Almost" Hike

By Tom Fitzgerald

Back in May, I was asked to lead a hike at the 2013 Camporee. After mulling it over for awhile, I decided to go to Tamarack Swamp, an approximately 165-acre wetland near a village of the same name in Leidy Township, Clinton County. I had never been there before, so began some preparation.

First I contacted STC member Butch Davey, the retired district forester of the Sproul State Forest District in which the swamp is located. Butch referred me to John Wasserman, a retired Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officer who lives near the swamp. John sent me a topographic map of the area with the boundaries between state forest land and private land marked. He recommended that we hike around the edge of the swamp on some old trails and woods roads to stay on relatively dry ground. We would not be able to make a complete circuit of the swamp without trespassing because a portion of it is on private land against the back yards of several houses in Tamarack village. John told me where to leave a car at both ends of the proposed hike. Then he added that he would be glad to lead us around if available that day. I was happy to hear that because I didn't know the area at all.

I was a little concerned about hikers sinking into the mud over the tops of expensive hiking shoes. When I was in college, our forest ecology class visited Cicero Swamp northeast of Syracuse. Cicero is actually a bog rather than a true swamp, and we jiggled our way along on floating islands while the professor kept poking a long stick through the sphagnum to see how far down the bottom was. At one point, I stepped in above my knee.

Most of Tamarack Swamp is not a bog, but a true swamp, characterized by the presence of trees and no floating islands. (A treeless swamp is called a "marsh.") The site is named for the unusual presence of tamarack (*Larix laricina*), the only native deciduous conifer tree in Pennsylvania. However, according to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the swamp's main section really is "a non-glacial bog dominated by boreal conifers typically found in high-latitude northern forests. When North America's last glacial period ended, most other boreal habitats retreated northward, while this unique wetland remained intact and today serves as one of the few

examples of a black spruce (*Picea mariana*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) and tamarack wetland in north central Pennsylvania.”

The morning of the hike, Ole Bull State Park Manager Mary Hirst, who had been in the swamp, assured me that we wouldn't sink in any deeper than ankle height. I wore my overshoes just in case. Unfortunately, something had come up for Mr. Wasserman, so I was left to plunge into the area sight unseen. It would be an adventuresome exploratory hike.

As it turned out, hardly anybody wanted to go with me. Nearly all the other STC members in camp preferred to do trail maintenance on the STS. (Who wants to go just plain hiking, when you have the opportunity to cut brush or push a weed-whacking machine down the trail?) Only the Bernhards were left, and Helen needed to get back around 1:30 PM to prepare her dish for the group dinner at 5 PM. It would be a very short hike.

We left Ole Bull at 9 AM in one car. When we arrived at Tamarack village, I drove out the Stewart Hill Road in search of Mr. Wasserman's suggested parking spot on the west side of the swamp. We saw a sign for the Tamarack Swamp State Forest Natural Area, but didn't recognize the parking site. I continued up the road until I found a good turn-around spot at the intersection of one of the roads into the Leidy Gas Storage Field, where I pulled off and got out the map. We were parked on a pipeline. I checked the direction of the pipeline with my compass, and verified where we were—well north of the swamp.

While I was squinting at the map, a gas field worker in a company truck drove out of the gas storage road and stopped. I got out of the car and explained that we were looking for a good way to walk into the swamp and see a few of the tamarack trees. He said, “Follow me,” and led us back through Tamarack Village and down PA Route 144 to another gas field access road, and into that road about six-tenths of a mile to another pipeline. He pointed down the pipeline to a well side, said, “Park there. You can see the tamarack trees in the distance,” and drove off.

After I parked the car, I took a GPS waypoint at the well site, and the three of us walked down a very gentle grade on the pipeline to the first big tamarack trees. I checked the color of the twigs. Sure enough, they were brown as native tamaracks should be, not straw-colored or slightly orange, like the twigs of European and Japanese larches respectively. We had achieved our main goal! Then Helen

noticed a giant white pine tree in the distance. We walked on down to that tree, which had two trunks, one of them forked, and a lot of sturdy branches. (When my grandson gets a little older, I'll bet he'd love to climb that tree.) We had barely reached the edge of the swamp.

Then Bob called my attention to what looked like an abandoned orchard. We walked over to that where I discovered that the trees were unusually large hawthorns. It was an old field invaded by pioneer tree species. By that time, we needed to start heading back. I suggested we follow the compass back to the car instead of retracing our steps up the pipeline. I turned on the GPS receiver and checked the direction of the well site where we had parked the car, converted the azimuth from true to magnetic, and followed a couple of compass shots toward the well site. Then I asked my companions if they wanted to try it. Helen accepted the challenge, took the Suunto compass, and quickly got the hang of using it. Several minutes later, she led us out of the woods with a heading dead on to the gas well beside the car. She is now Madam Pathfinder.

Madam Pathfinder leads us out of the swamp.



Photo by Tom Fitzgerald

On the way back to Ole Bull Park, we looked at the site of the Ten Pines Footbridge, which once carried the STS across Kettle Creek at Cross Fork before the big white oak tree that anchored one end of the bridge broke off and fell into the stream. That happened years ago, and only the upright railroad-rail poles at one end of the former bridge remain.

After lunch, Helen began her food preparation project for the dinner, and I spent a couple hours checking out the Big Springs area of the STS, a portion that I hadn't hiked through since 2003. ☺

Doing the Donut Hole

By Wanda Shirk, STC President

Prologue



Photo by Tom Fitzgerald

For the first fifty years of my life, the only two hiking trails I had ever heard of were the Appalachian Trail and the STS -- Susquehannock Trails System. I would not have known about the latter if I had not lived in Potter County. Oh well, one other trail. When I was a kid, there was the I.T. That was our name for a trail on the "Ephrata Mountain," and just as A.T. stands for Appalachian Trail, "I.T.," in our lingo, stood for "Indian Trail." Trails, in my mind as a kid, meant Indians sneaking around in the woods, "Last of the Mohicans" style.

After I finished my first major hike – a backpack of the STS in 2000 – I promptly joined the STC, and shortly after that, the KTA. I noticed the opportunity to go on KTA volunteer trail care weekends, and that sounded like fun, so I went and enjoyed myself so much that I went back as often as I could. It was at KTA trail care weekends that I got exposed to dozens of trails, from experiences on the many that we worked on in Pennsylvania, to the tales of the Pacific Crest Trail and Continental Divide Trail told by veteran hikers who participated in our trail crews and told of their adventures. The stories inspired me, filled me with "wow!" – made me want to GO!

My very first trail care weekend was in mid-May of 2001, and of the 23,000 some days I have lived so far, that Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are three of the most memorable, etched in my mind forever. Among other things, I met STC member Ginny Musser, the first person I'd ever met who had hiked the whole Appalachian Trail, and she has become one of my best friends. But more to the point of this article – the trail care weekend was based out of Hyner Run State Park, and the trail we worked on was the Donut Hole Trail. First time I'd ever heard of it.

The Donut Hole Trail is in Sproul State Forest. It's a linear trail, which is confusing to people because the name "Donut Hole" sure implies a loop trail, doesn't it! Now, the story I've been told is that foresters considered some job assignments, uh, shall we say, "undesirable," and maybe classed them as "Donkey-Hole" jobs (I've used a synonym, but presumably you get my point), but Sproul was the best forestry job in the state, so by contrast it was the "Donut Hole." I have no idea whether that story is true or not, but that's the legend, as told by Richie Scanlon, one of KTA's treasures that I was honored to meet at that first trail care. He cut me a nice striped maple for a hiking stick, which I needed. He said it was the only thing striped maples are good for anyway.

The Donut Hole Trail has a western terminus just east of Sinnamahoning on Route 120, near where 872 tees into it. There's no sign, so you have to know what you're looking for, and then you can spot blazes going north up the road at Jericho, one of those ten-house villages we know so well in this part of the state. The eastern end of the DHT is about six miles northwest of Lock Haven, at a Game Commission parking lot northwest of a village called Farrandsville. As at the western end, there is no signage whatsoever, but the orange blazes are the clue for the initiated.

My hike was prompted by KTA's annual July "Prowl the Sproul" weekend. The challenge hike for 2012 was to be the eastern 45 miles of the DHT, to be done in three fifteen mile days. Hikers would camp at the Western Clinton Sportsman's Club and have transportation each morning to the starting point and a pick up at the end to return to camp.

As STS hikers know, the Donut Hole Trail and the STS run together for 8.7 miles, from STS mile 35.7 on Fork Hill Road, above Morgan Hollow, to 44.4, at the lovely North Bend and Kettle Creek stream section. My guess, based on my experience and tails I've heard from others, 2/3 of STS circuit hikers miss the turn up the Porter Branch at mile 44.4, and keep walking straight ahead down the Donut Hole Trail a short distance before realizing their mistake. This intersection is much better marked now than it used to be. I know I hiked and backtracked that section of the Donut Hole two years in a row on circuit hikes backpacking the STS, but that was eleven or twelve years ago. ☞

(Continued next issue.)

Picnic Table For Ole Bull State Park

By Bill Boyd

STC Members using the Ole Bull Picnic Table



Photo by Tom Fitzgerald

During the KTA Hammersley Trail Care Weekend in May 2013, while working out of Ole Bull State Park, we noticed that many of the park's picnic tables were badly worn and weathered. The park manager informed us that they were not scheduled to receive any new tables from the DCNR Penn Nursery and Wood Shop in the near future.

At the next regular business meeting of the STC in June, I suggested that the club donate a new table to the park as a token of our appreciation for the courtesies they have shown to the club over the years in providing us with excellent camping facilities. At the subsequent meeting in July, the club approved the idea.

I took measurements of an old table I had at home, and made a new table just like it with lumber purchased from Close's Lumber Company in Roulette, PA. Picnic tables are more easily built upside down—and they are heavy. After it was done, Art Huber helped me set it upright, and load it onto my trailer.

I made one addition not found on most picnic tables—a crossmember under each end of the table top to help keep the boards from warping in opposite directions. We had a brass plaque engraved by Hauber's Jewelry in Coudersport that proclaims that the table was donated to the park by the Susquehannock Trail Club. Tom Fitzgerald routed a shallow inset area for the plaque in one of the crossmembers, and we attached the plaque with brass screws and epoxy glue

On Sunday, July 21, Elaine Pike, my sister, Dawn McManus, and I hauled the table to Ole Bull Park. Two husky park employees unloaded it, and it was subsequently placed at Camp Site #53 on the north side of Kettle Creek. The club had use of that site during our camporee weekend in August.

The lumber cost \$119.78, and the plaque \$11.66, for a total of \$131.44 (approximately 50 cents per club member.) 5π

Trail Clearing 101

By Bill Boyd

We've all seen it—a section of trail where hikers are walking out on the very edge—a path about six inches wide before slipping over the side.

The reason for this? It all starts with a briar or a limb growing out towards the trail, or into the trail. A hiker will step around this, then the next hiker, then the next 100 hikers. Now you have a trail around this "obstacle", until it crowds hikers out to the edge. Pretty soon, saplings have sprouted up and started to take over the trail.

It would be great if someone in each group of hikers would carry nippers and eliminate this problem early. Nip it in the bud, so to speak. I don't think that's going to happen, so it's up to the rest of us to correct this when we see it. Rather than clear the trail where hikers are walking, it would be much better to clear where the trail should be. In most cases these are old CCC trails and are nearly level for a width of 4 or 5 feet, so it would seem that the best thing would be to clear back toward the upper bank, and even up the bank in the case of briars. Leave the vegetation along that "edge" path, and eventually hikers will use the original, level part as was intended.

We've seen it so bad that hikers are going down over the bank and bypassing a briar patch. We can't correct these sections all at once, but if we pay attention and work at it we eventually can. Some of us have been using our *Swisher* walk-behind mowers. These machines do good work where it's level, but you still need a brushcutter for the banks. And I don't believe these mowers will cut 3-inch saplings, as one manufacturer claims. I think something else will break first. You need a chain saw for those, and be sure to cut flush with the ground, so you don't leave a toe-stubber.

So if you know of any of these problem areas, let us know so we can get them on the work list. 5π

Trail Maintenance Report

By Bill Boyd

Most of us who attended the annual STC Camporee on the weekend of August 8-10 this year decided that we'd rather work than hike. Since we were at Ole Bull State Park, we decided to tackle some sections in the southern part of the Susquehannock Trail System that are so far from home that a lot of a regular work day is taken up with travel time just getting there. Thanks to Wellis Balliet, Jerry Johnston, Charles Kern, Rick Oyen, Wanda Shirk, and John Zimmer, some much-needed trail care was done over the weekend.

Weedwhacking was a major part of the work. Italian Hollow Trail, part of Greenlick Run, and the two-mile stretch of the Scoval Branch were tackled, as was the Beaver Pond Trail at Ole Bull Park. Some clearing and blazing were done on the Hartman and Rattlesnake trails. Farther north, a new Hammersley Trail sign and post were installed at the McConnell Road. And more of the sidehill (goat-path) trail between the Williams farm and the Three Stone Quarries was leveled.

And besides all that, we had a great time at the Camporee! Thursday was a little rainy, and that dragged on into Friday. But the work finally got underway later in the day on Friday and continued into Saturday. We also had two great campfire evenings.

In mid August, Art Huber, Jerry Johnston, and I erected a new sign identifying the Hribar Route section of the STS, which runs from the upper West Branch to the Sunken Branch Road. Dick Hribar laid out this section of new trail in the 1970's to avoid conflict with the new snowmobile trail the forest district had constructed. You'll find the sign at the 78.55 mile mark. It's a very attractive routed sign, and one which we feel that Dick can be proud of. Dick has spent many years doing trail care on the STS, so when you see him be sure to say, "Thank You."

Also, thanks to Joe Boyd, Art Huber, Lois Morey, Bill Morey, and Wanda Shirk, who helped me with the Seed-Study Trail, that section of the STS which runs through the old white ash seed production research area between the Rock Ridge Road to the Wild Boy Road. It's now in very good condition. Our team went through with brush-cutters, loppers, a saw, and paint in early September. About midway, you will find an overhead blowdown about 6 feet above the ground, so taller hikers

or those with tall backpacks may need to duck just a little. You'll also find a very nice black cherry tree across the trail. That gets reported to the local forest district. It's their decision about what to do with it.

Art Huber, Jerry Johnston, Scott Kio, Andy Salek, Wanda Shirk, and I worked in the Splash Dam area on two separate days. The crew weedwhacked, cleared brush, and removed blowdowns from the Splash Dam and White Line trails. Special projects involved two bridges at the mouth of the Palmatier Branch. The log bridge across the main Palmatier stream now has a cable handrail; and a cordwood bridge across a nearby spring run has a new corduroy deck. Thanks, team, for the jobs well done.

I should mention, too, that Joe Allis has been quite busy mowing trails in the Denton Hill area, including the White Line Trail, the Jacob Hollow Trail, and a portion of the Splash Dam Trail. Wanda Shirk did some clearing on the Tower Trail, and Charlie Kern repainted blazes from Ole Bull Park to the Big Spring Road. And I weedwhacked the weeds around the bases of about 21 trail signs located at various road crossings.

And I understand that the Potter County Trailblazers have cleared the Switchback and Log Grade Trail loops. This is the Mt. Brodhead Trail System, which intersects the STS. And the Susquehannock Forest District is on a push to get more of the long-neglected old trails cleared. (*Ed. note: See the TUSHOGG" story.*)

On the disappointing side, we are still having bear damage problems in the Splash Dam. The STS arrow sign at the intersection of the White Line Trail is completely gone now. One of the two bolts is missing, and the other is bent with the nut still attached. Maybe we need a flexible sign made of rubber (or one in two pieces connected with a couple of spring-loaded swinging door hinges)!

But we mustn't sit back and rest on our laurels just yet. This time of the year, there is a lot of weedwhacking needed, and lots of nettles that should be cut back. A lot more sidehill trail still needs to be widened and leveled. There have been more than seven decades of slow erosion and annual leaf fall since the CCC was disbanded. And every windstorm seems to blow down a few trees or broken limbs across the trail somewhere.

So, any time the call goes out, feel free to step right up and lend a hand. Hikers everywhere will appreciate it. ♪



The Tushogg Prototype Trail Refurbishing Machine

By Tom Fitzgerald

Hydra Wheel Trail Clearing Machine



Photo by Tom Fitzgerald

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry has acquired a *Hydra Wheel*, a prototype of the trail-refurbishing machine now known as the **TUSHOGG**. The Susquehannock State Forest will have use of the machine until late October 2013 to refurbish old CCC and other trails. The machine is essentially a stump grinder tough enough to break up rocks along with saplings and tree roots. It resembles a miniature sheep's-foot roller that spins instead of rolling along the ground. The rotation of the spinning drum is in the same direction as the wheels and tracks of the machine that powers it. Rotation speed is in excess of 800 rpm.

The machine was manufactured by the River City Manufacturing Company of Austin, TX, and is an outgrowth of that company's rock saw. The first unit was built in 2002 for clearing plots of land covered with brush, small trees and surface rocks. After several refinements, the machine was renamed the *Tushogg*, and is now sold exclusively through Texas Timberjack, Inc., an equipment dealer in Lufkin, TX.

The machine began its service in the Susquehannock District on the Berger, Big Fill, Commissioner Run, and upper Buckseller trails, plus some new cross-country ski trails north of Route 6. Some heavily brushed-in sections of the Susquehannock Trail System and its crossover links are under consideration for possible treatment later.

The *Tushogg* can be mounted on the front of several different types of power units. This one is on a Gehl 6635 Skid Steer. It does have its limitations. The Skid Steer is just over 6 feet wide—two feet wider than the rotating

drum. It needs twice the width of the original CCC trails that were constructed by hand as wide as the length of a pick handle. It appears to be best suited for relatively level ground or traveling perpendicular to the contour. It cannot be used to restore narrow CCC trails built along steep hillsides.

But it's a tremendous time and labor saver. It will be used to save from oblivion many of the CCC trails that are not part of the Susquehannock Trail System, which will never be tackled by the STC trail maintenance crews. ♪



A Rare Letter to the Editor

Mailed Sept. 19, 2013

Re: *Magnolia acuminata*

I have been hiking the Hammersley Wild Area since 1975, frequently solo. On a 5-day trip around 1997, I decided to try the Gravel Lick trail off the Twin Sisters, then bushwhack down to Elk Lick Run where I camped. (That stream is mostly fed by an immense spring that would fill a gallon jug in about five seconds, I estimate.)

On my way out, I hiked up the Elk Lick looking for a more gentle ascent to the west and to meet the Twin Sisters Trail. Somewhere in that stretch, at high land, I came upon a huge cucumber magnolia tree. At its base were mounds of blue heron excrement and at the very tops were several large nests. For those birds I suppose it was only a hop, skip, and jump to the Kettle Creek. Had it not been for the excrement, I would never have looked up and identified the tree. (I am a horticulturist.) So, when backpacking alone in the Hammersley, you can say, "Excrement happens!"

Maybe I'll join you on a group hike one of these days since my solo days are past.

Ed Worman,
Whitesville, NY ♪



Next Newsletter Deadline

All articles must be received before **December 14, 2013** to be included in the next edition of the Susquehannock Hiker. Email your articles to info@stc-hike.org no later than Wednesday **December 11, 2013**, or mail them via the USPS to PO Box B, Robinson, PA 15949, by **December 7, 2013**. ♪

STS Circuit Hiker Award

Congratulations to the following for completing the circuit, and in turn earning the Circuit Hiker Award!

1050	Jeff Thompson Souderton, PA	1057	John Callahan West Chester, PA
1051	Carolyn Gernand Alexandria, VA	1058	Michael Martin Alexandria, VA
1052	Alison Benson Washington, DC	1059	Gary Edwards, Sr. Danville, PA
1053	Jennifer Adach Washington, DC	1060	Gary Edwards, Jr. Danville, PA
1054	Daniel Fisher Washington, DC	1061	Geoffrey Edwards Danville, PA
1055	Brian Horst Silver Springs, MD	1062	Michael Miklic DuBois, PA
1056	Shelby Peterson Washington, DC		

For information on the Circuit Hiker Award, contact the Susquehannock Trail Club at PO Box 643 Coudersport, PA 16915, or email us at info@stc-hike.org. ☞

Thoughts on Autumn

By Mary Wetmore

It's Autumn! The air is crisp! The colors are so brilliant, so red, such yellows and oranges! It is a beautiful sunny Saturday morning, laying open so many choices for my time. And just a mile or two down the road is a trail calling me.

I know! Today I am going to hit the trail in an area I don't often travel. All I'll need are a pair of sturdy shoes, some water, and maybe an energy bar.

The yellow blazes lead me forward on the well-traveled path, past the remains of a hunting camp, along a bubbling, babbling stream, up a short hill, around a bend—and there's another gorgeous view! What a day! Such a feeling of freedom! Such natural beauty! How many footsteps before me have carved this trail? Who has cleared the path and made it accessible to the nature lover, bird watcher, the city “mouse” and the country “mouse,” and the children?

Need I mention camaraderie? Whether there are two or twenty-two or more that meet on the trail, we all are enjoying the beauty of our land, and Pennsylvania in particular.

What more could I ask for? Well-I-I, maybe next time I'll go by horseback and cover twice the distance!

Welcome new members

2013 has been a productive year for our club. We have several new members who are here to support the trail system and hiking in general. They are:

Michayla Brewster Coudersport, PA	Ralph Hollibaugh Flower Mound, TX	Michael Miklic DuBois, PA
Lynn Bunnell Roulette, PA	Videta Holtzapple York, PA	Jacob Milliron Coudersport, PA
Steve Chaffee Wellsville, NY	Larry Holtzapple York, PA	Mia Narayan Coudersport, PA
Jim Currin Coudersport, PA	Glenn Jordan Coudersport, PA	Jordan Nolan Shinglehouse, PA
Steve Dechawt Driftwood, PA	Roger Kio Roulette, PA	John Phillips Newburgh, NY
David Green Coudersport, PA	Carl Lanius Coudersport, PA	Thomas Reber Ephrata, PA
David Elliott Portville, NY	Joe Lazurek Coudersport, PA	Theresa Robinson Coudersport, PA
Darcy Elliott Portville, NY	Scott Lee Wellsboro, PA	Jessica Songster Coudersport, PA
Edgar George Danville, PA	Anthony Mancuso Newfoundland, PA	Carolyn Tripp Coudersport, PA
Jim Hatch Covington, PA	Hailee Maxson Shinglehouse, PA	Scott Withjack Mechanicsburg, PA
Lynne Hatch Covington, PA	Brian McCusker Coudersport, PA	Hunter Zebley Coudersport, PA
Curtis Hollibaugh Flower Mound, TX	Julie McCusker Coudersport, PA	Cindy Zembryki Shinglehouse, PA

There are a few sections of the STS that need a dedicated maintainer to adopt them. The general responsibilities of a dedicated maintainer include:

- Traverse the trail section once a season (minus winter) to ensure the trail is clear for hikers.
- Clear smaller (less than 6 inches in diameter) woody debris from the trail path, or notify the club if you do not use a chainsaw.
- Report any large blowdowns to the STC Trail Maintenance Committee whereby we can contact DCNR for salvage purposes. DO NOT cut through large blowdowns to open the trail. That reduces the value of the timber for harvest.
- Reblaze the trail (but do not over blaze) the trail to ensure the hikers know where it is and it is easy to follow.

If any of our members are interested in doing so, please contact the Trail Maintenance Committee of the club at info@stc-hike.org, write to us at STC, PO Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915, or call Bill Boyd, Chairman of the Trail Maintenance Committee, at (814) 274-7529. ☞

STC 2013 Fall Event Schedule

Please contact the respective hike leader no later than the night before the hike if you plan to attend. If no one signs up for the hike, the leader will consider it canceled.

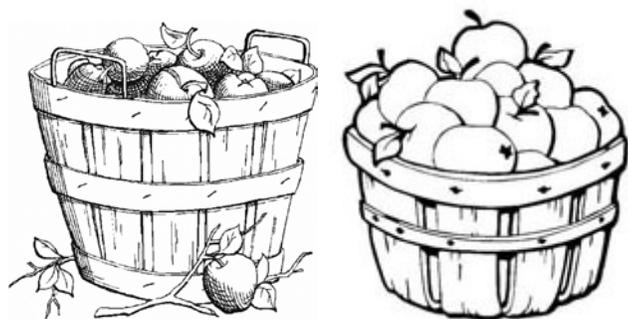


October 6, 2013

- What: Fred Woods Trail Hike
Where: Fred Woods Trail, Driftwood, PA
Length: 4 1/2 miles
Difficulty: Easy
Features:
- Bolders the size of houses
 - Two beautiful vistas
 - Elk viewing after hike (time permitting)
- When: 9:00 AM at the parking lot of the former Northern Restaurant
Leader: Curt Weinhold (814) 274-9858
Notes:
- the former Northern Restaurant at the intersection of routes U.S. 6 and PA 872 between Coudersport and Sweden Valley, approximately 2 miles east of downtown Coudersport. The parking lot of the abandoned restaurant is on the south side of Route 6 and the east side of Route 872.
 - Travel distance from the meeting point to the trailhead is approximately 40 miles.
 - Bring lunch and water.

October 19, 2013

- What: Hike the "Pipeline Country" section of the STS
Where: Shephard Road to the Little Greenlick Road
Length: 6 miles
Difficulty: Easy-Moderate
Features:
- 1¼ miles of gentle uphill at about 7% grade
 - about 3/10 mile uphill at 9%
 - less than 1/10 mile uphill at 12%.
 - View the "prescribed burn" wildlife management area after two growing seasons
- When: 10:00 AM at Ole Bull State Park
Leader: Tom Fitzgerald (724) 676-5845
Notes: Bring lunch and water.



October 12, 2013

- What: Harvest Dinner
Where: Gold Church, Gold PA
When: 5:00 PM
Length: 2-3 hours
Guest Speaker: Duane Wetmore *Perambulating the Boundaries of Tioga County, Pennsylvania.*

October 26, 2013

- What: Hike the Lieb Run section of the STS
Where: Shephard Road to Cross Fork.
Length: 2½ miles
Difficulty: Easy
Feature: Complete downhill hike
When: 10:00 AM at at the hikers' parking lot at the Susquehannock State Forest maintenance headquarters in Cross Fork
Leader: John Zimmer (570) 923-2052
Notes: Bring lunch and water.