



# SUSQUEHANNOCK HIKER

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



Summer 2014

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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.

## Updating the Constitution

For the second time in its 47-year history, the Susquehannock Trail Club is considering a revision to its governing document. Included with this issue of the newsletter is the full text of proposed revision as an insert. For convenience, the current and proposed versions are shown side by side. The club is requesting comments and recommendations from the members. Can you think of anything that the committee failed to address?

This document contains only minor changes from the first two versions. The most important change involves the types of membership. Originally, the club had a membership level called, "Individual Junior Membership" for teenagers in the 14 through 17 age range who wished to be members in their own right rather than just part of a Family Membership. Family Memberships were entitled to two, and only two, votes on any issue regardless of the ages of the children. A teenager in the 14-17 age range could attend all functions of the club including business meetings, but couldn't vote on any business unless he left the Family Membership and became an Individual Junior Member. An Individual Junior member, even though he/she could vote on club business, could not hold an office in the club. All club officers had to be at least 18 years of age. In practice, almost no one in the 14-17 age range ever became an

Individual Junior Member. The club proposes to drop that level of membership due to lack of interest.

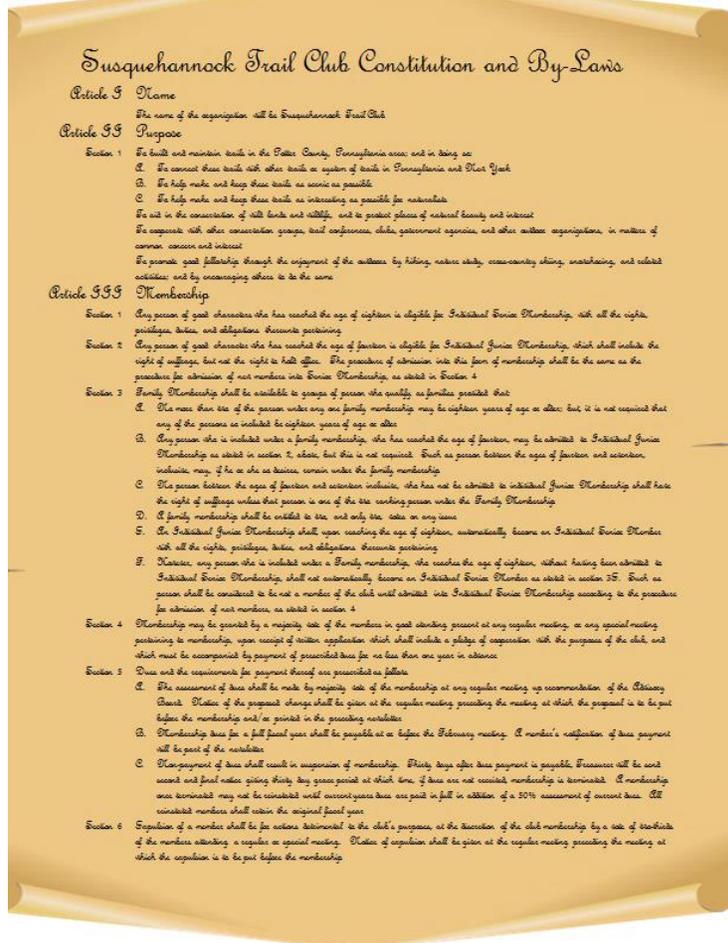
The club has decided to add two new types of membership, Life and Honorary. The Life Membership would be available to any member who either made a one-time dues payment substantially higher than the annual dues, or who has been granted this level of membership by the club due to a long history of exemplary commitment to the club

An Honorary Member would be a sincere and dedicated "friend of the club" would be entitled to participate in club social activities, but without the right to vote on club business.

A matter not yet addressed by the committee, concerns the club's fiscal year. Currently, the fiscal year starts on whatever date the May meetings occurs. But memberships are recorded on a calendar year basis.

Should the fiscal year be changed to agree with the calendar year? What do the club members think?

Finally, what are your thoughts about continuing to have a combined Constitution and By-Laws document, as opposed to a difficult-to-amend constitution that sets up the general structure of the club, and a separate easy-to-amend by-laws section that governs the routine affairs of the club? If you believe the constitution and by-laws should be separate documents, how would you divide the proposed document into two documents? ☞



### Susquehannock Trail Club Constitution and By-Laws

#### Article I Name

The name of the organization shall be Susquehannock Trail Club

#### Article II Purpose

- Function 1 To build and maintain trails in the Potter County, Pennsylvania area; and in doing so:
  - A. To connect these trails with other trails in system of trails in Pennsylvania and West York
  - B. To help make and keep these trails as scenic as possible
  - C. To help make and keep these trails as interesting as possible for hikers
- To aid in the conservation of wild lands and wildlife, and in protection places of natural beauty and interest
- To cooperate with other conservation groups, trail conferences, clubs, government agencies, and other outdoor organizations, in matters of common concern and interest
- To promote good fellowship through the enjoyment of the outdoors by hiking, nature study, canoeing, skiing, mountaineering, and related activities; and by encouraging others to do the same

#### Article III Membership

- Function 1 Any person of good character who has reached the age of eighteen is eligible for Individual Senior Membership, with all the rights, privileges, duties, and obligations thereunto pertaining
- Function 2 Any person of good character who has reached the age of fourteen is eligible for Individual Junior Membership, which shall include the right of suffrage, but not the right to hold office. The procedure of admission into this form of membership shall be the same as the procedure for admission of new members into Senior Membership, as stated in Section 4
- Function 3 Family Membership shall be available in groups of persons who qualify as families provided that:
  - A. No more than one of the persons under any one family membership may be eighteen years of age or older; but it is not required that any of the persons so included be eighteen years of age or older
  - B. Any person who is included under a family membership, who has reached the age of fourteen, may be admitted to Individual Junior Membership as stated in section 2, above, but this is not required. Such a person between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, inclusive, may, if he or she so desires, remain under the family membership
  - C. No person between the ages of fourteen and eighteen inclusive, who has not been admitted to Individual Junior Membership shall have the right of suffrage unless that person is one of the three ranking persons under the Family Membership
  - D. A family membership shall be entitled to one, and only one, vote on any issue
  - E. An Individual Junior Membership shall upon reaching the age of eighteen, automatically become an Individual Senior Member with all the rights, privileges, duties, and obligations thereunto pertaining
  - F. However, any person who is included under a Family membership, who reaches the age of eighteen, without having been admitted to Individual Senior Membership, shall not automatically become an Individual Senior Member as stated in section 2E. Such a person shall be considered to be not a member of the club until admitted into Individual Senior Membership according to the procedure for admission of new members, as stated in section 4
- Function 4 Membership may be granted by a majority vote of the members in good standing present at any regular meeting, or any special meeting pertaining to membership, upon receipt of written application which shall include a pledge of cooperation with the purposes of the club, and which must be accompanied by payment of prescribed dues for no less than one year in advance
- Function 5 Dues and the membership fee, payment thereof, as provided as follows:
  - A. The assessment of dues shall be made by majority vote of the membership at any regular meeting or upon recommendation of the Advisory Board. Notice of the proposed change shall be given at the regular meeting preceding the meeting at which the proposal is to be put before the membership and is printed in the preceding newsletter
  - B. Membership dues for a full fiscal year shall be payable at or before the February meeting. A member's notification of dues payment will be part of the newsletter
  - C. Non-payment of dues shall result in suspension of membership. Thirty days after dues payment is payable, forewarned will be sent second and final notice giving thirty days period at which time, if dues are not received, membership is terminated. A membership once terminated may not be reinstated until current year dues are paid in full in addition of a 50% assessment of current dues. All reinstated members shall retain the original fiscal year
- Function 6 Expulsion of a member shall be for cause determined to the club's progress, at the discretion of the club membership by a vote of two-thirds of the members attending a regular or special meeting. Notice of expulsion shall be given at the regular meeting preceding the meeting at which the expulsion is to be put before the membership

## The Susquehannock State Forest

The major portion of the state forest lands in Pennsylvania was acquired about a century ago as a result of tax sales.

The Penn Family sold huge tracts of land to land companies who in turn sold small parcels to early settlers. During the 1800's, lumber companies purchased large tracts from the land companies for the timber growing there. Timber removal proceeded through several colorful phases involving river drives of branded logs, splash dams, and later, temporary railroads to reach areas beyond the streams. When the timber was gone, the land was no longer of any value to the lumber companies. Many of those companies chose the only practical method of disposal—stop paying real estate taxes. That forced the counties to seize the land and attempt to dispose of it. It was the counties' problem then.

By the time these sales of “the lands that nobody wanted,” were getting underway, a Huntingdon County physician, Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, had already given several annual lectures on the on the cut-over, burned-over condition of the state's remote forest land. Influential citizens of the Commonwealth, primarily in the Philadelphia area, urged the state legislature to authorize the purchase of this abandoned land by the state. The first such purchase took place in the Young Woman's Creek area of Clinton County in 1898. In many of the tax sales, the Commonwealth was the only bidder. The early purchases in the Susquehannock District averaged \$2.50 per acre.

The state was eventually divided into 20 forest districts, each identified by a name and a number. The Susquehannock District No. 15 includes most of Potter and McKean counties, and small fragments of Clinton and Cameron counties. (For practical reasons, physical features such as streams, rather than political boundaries, were chosen as district boundaries in some areas.) Ironically, this District was named for an extinct American Indian tribe that, as far as is known, never inhabited the area in significant numbers. Today, the Susquehannock district includes about 265,000 acres of State Forest Land.

The early years of state ownership were primarily ones of waiting for the timber to grow back. Forest fire control was the major concern. There was not enough timber left to support a sawmill industry in large areas of the state. The Bureau of forestry purchased four small sawmills and used them intermittently to produce needed lumber for fire tower steps, bridge planks, and other uses, from scattered trees left by the lumber companies.

A major burst of activity occurred during the 1930's when Congress authorized the Civilian Conservation Corps at the urging of the new U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Ten CCC camps were built in the forest district. Roads, trails, and state park facilities were constructed, and millions of trees were planted. The Bureau of Forestry wrote the work plans, and the U.S. Army administered the camps and supervised the projects. The majority of the trails that are now part of the Susquehannock Trail System were constructed during this period, primarily for fire control access. It was assumed in those days that horses carrying casks of water would be a major part of any forest fire suppression effort. That assumption influenced the design and layout of the CCC trails. Fragments of earlier logging railroad grades are also included in the STS.

The CCC was disbanded shortly after the U.S. entry into World War II. By the mid 1950's, the forests had grown back to the extent that trees were becoming overcrowded, and some of them had grown big enough to produce timber again. The Bureau of Forestry initiated a series of 15-year management plans designed to meet the multiple objectives that the state legislature had mandated for the state forests. In 2000, the plans began to be revised at 5-year intervals. This year, 2014, we are starting the 8<sup>th</sup> update of the State Forest Resource Management Plan—six decades of scientific silvicultural management.

Most of the 265,000 acres in the Susquehannock State Forest are in Potter County. The forest is divided into several zones, each with its primary focus. Timber management is primary on just under half the area—130,000 acres. The Hammersley Wild Area covers slightly over 30,000 acres. The rest of the forest—another 100,000 acres—is a mixture of road and trail buffers, gas lines and well sites, riparian areas, steep areas, and ecologically sensitive areas. The buffer strip along the Susquehannock Trail System comprises about 2,000 acres.

Control of wildfires, of course, is still very important. But today there is increasing concern about the general health of the forest. Even in zones where timber management, primarily for commercial purposes, is not allowed, sooner or later it often becomes necessary to remove old decadent trees to make room for new seedlings and saplings to improve both forest health and wildlife habitat. Keeping a forest healthy almost always involves some cutting.

See the accompanying “Crazy Girl” timber sale article for an example of one attempt to improve forest health.

## Crazy Girl Timber Sale

By Chris Nicholas, Manager, Susquehannock State Forest

### A healthy young forest regrows after a timber sale



Photo By Tom Fitzgerald

STS hikers who cross the Wild Boy Road will likely notice a timber sale that was recently harvested which adjoins the buffer strip along approximately 600 feet of the STS. The forests in that part of our forest district are over 100 years old. The primary species are (or were) American beech, sugar maple, red maple, black cherry, and Eastern hemlock. Beech was originally a major part of the forest in this area. Over the past two decades, the entire area along Rock Ridge and the headwaters of Nelson Run has endured a series of attacks by destructive fungi and insects. Beech bark disease arrived about 20 years ago. The largest beech trees were either killed outright, or survived in a much-weakened state.

Hard on the heels of the beech bark disease, a leaf-eating insect arrived en masse. It was the elm spanworm, which despite its name, feeds on at least six other species of hardwood trees in addition to elm, including beech and both species of maple. About a decade later, in 2009-10, the population of a different defoliating insect exploded. This time it was the forest tent caterpillar. These two defoliations so close together weakened the sugar maples to such an extent that many of them died too, and left the remaining ones, just like the beech, hanging onto life in poor health with little hope of recovery. Ironically, the red maples escaped the second insect attack. The forest tent caterpillar is unable to digest the leaves of that species. Both insects, by the way, are native to North America.

The result of the tree kill is that this area of the forest currently contains only about half as many big trees—the overstory—as it did before, and a lot of them are slowly

dying. There aren't many healthy trees left. That poses the question of what to do about it.

A similar condition existed nearby along the Rock Ridge Road about a mile from Route 44. On that site, the district experimented with removing the non-commercial understory species while leaving the overstory intact. When you look at that site, you will get an idea of what the Crazy Girl site would have looked like if the district hadn't salvaged the dying overstory trees.

Just because a stand of trees displays a lot of green doesn't necessarily mean it's healthy and productive. Trees don't live forever. Father Time takes his toll on all things. Some species, in fact, have healthy life spans not much longer than a century. Hundred-year-old stands of most Allegheny hardwood tree species are declining in vigor simply due to old age. If they have never been thinned, they are also under stress from overcrowding. Their health is already declining without any outside influence such as a disease or insect attack. Stands of that age are not good oxygen producers, either. They contain so much dead decaying wood that the oxygen used by wood decay fungi tends to balance out the oxygen released by the living tree leaves. Decay of dead wood is chemically like a very slow fire. It consumes oxygen and releases carbon dioxide—just the opposite of what living green leaves do. Century-old “geriatric” forests also produce less seed and because of that, tend to be harder to regenerate.

Tree diseases and insect attacks are two of Mother Nature's tools for renewing an old forest. She doesn't care how long it takes, which wildlife species take advantage of the changed conditions, or whether the new vegetation is useful to humans. A responsible forest manager will take steps to salvage the good wood in dead and dying trees before it rots away, and in the process, try to bring about conditions that favor the establishment of new healthy tree seedlings of species useful to humans and beneficial to wildlife.

Like the Rock Ridge site mentioned above, the understory in the upper Wild Boy area is dominated by beech brush, striped maple, and ferns—mostly non-commercial species without much benefit to wildlife, either. In 2009, the forester who manages that area decided that something needed to be done to try to improve the health of the forest there. In 2010, 35 acres were sprayed with a herbicide to kill most of the undesirable understory—the beech brush, striped maple, and ferns—in order to make room for seedlings of desirable tree species to spring up.

Three years later in 2013, a regeneration examination indicated that there were enough tree seedlings of desirable species present to repopulate the site. The decision was made to release the seedlings to the sunlight by removing most of the decrepit big trees. In other words, it was an overstory removal harvest—a “clearcut”—but with a few residuals. Scattered seed trees, wildlife den trees and all hemlocks were left standing on purpose. The hemlocks were the only available evergreen winter cover for wildlife. The rest of the trees down to one inch in diameter were sold as part of the Crazy Girl timber sale.

A commercial timber sale is the only practical way the forest district has to carry out an overstory removal. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania receives money for the trees harvested by the buyer. Removal of dying trees while they are still alive, allows the good wood in those trees to be salvaged before it decays. The wood is made into useful products rather than being left to go to waste.

The Rock Ridge/Wild Boy section of what is now the Susquehannock State Forest was clearcut during the big logging era at the turn of the Twentieth Century. The forest over several square miles in this area is all about the same age—a hundred years old and currently approaching maturity. Without some sort of cutting treatment, there wouldn't be much variety in wildlife habitat. Different species of wildlife have different habitat requirements. A few prefer to live in old-growth forests of big, tall trees, but most choose younger stands of trees, right down to seedling and sapling stands. Even though these young forests are almost impenetrable to the hunter, they are a very important habitat component for ruffed grouse and whitetail deer, Pennsylvania's official bird and game mammal.

The Crazy Girl Timber Sale was cut during the winter of 2013-2014. All clearcuts, even if scientifically sound, often look ugly at first glance to the untrained eye. But if you take the time to learn a little about why a site was treated this way, you might begin to see it in a different light. The small tree seedlings that are present will immediately take advantage of the sunlight that is now reaching the forest floor. They will quickly start growing taller. There will be thousands of tree seedlings competing for growing space, which will force them to grow straight and tall as they fight it out for available sunlight. The new forest will have a greater variety of species than the old forest did, and for the next few decades, the Crazy Girl site will provide a small area of a different habitat type for the local wildlife.

That will bring in species of wildlife seldom seen in this area for most of a century.

And what about the “NO FIREWOOD CUTTING” posters? They are only temporary. During the time that a state forest timber sale is underway, the cut wood belongs to the buyer, not the state. As soon as a sale is completed and the contract is officially terminated, all the cut wood left behind reverts to state ownership. After that, the local forest district is allowed to sell it for firewood.

If anyone has questions about this or other timber sales, they can contact us at the Susquehannock Forest District Office at the STS Northern Gateway on Denton Hill at 814-274-3600, or email us at [fd15@pa.gov](mailto:fd15@pa.gov).



## 2014 Kettle Creek Outdoor Show

By John Zimmer

The end of winter is celebrated in Cross Fork by the Kettle Creek Outdoor Show held in the community fire house. This year it was held on Saturday, March 29th. Among many vendors of hunting, fishing, and outdoor-themed crafts was an information table set up by the Susquehannock Trail Club. Bill Boyd, Art Huber, Wayne Baumann, and I spent a pleasant day telling people about our beautiful trail system and the club of volunteers who maintain the trail. We gave out many brochures and swapped many stories. We even had a chance meeting with the author of “The Hammersley Run Pie Lady” story that was in our last newsletter.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention that a big part of the show is a turkey calling contest sanctioned by the National Wild Turkey Federation. After a full day of vendors and contestants sounding off, we were all a little harder of hearing than normal. We still had a very nice day meeting people, talking about the club, and selling the occasional map or T-shirt. Not quite trail maintenance, but still a worthwhile activity.

The STC also had a booth at the Coudersport Maple Festival, and we hope to see you at several other community events this year.

By the way, I also had the pleasure of helping STC President Wanda Shirk with hiker shuttle transportation on April 30th and May 1st. I met an interesting group of very avid hikers who persevered through some of our typical spring storms. I wonder if Wanda sang, “Hiking in the Rain.”

# Spring STS Slackpacks

By Wanda Shirk

## Carl Windle, Randy Coyle, Wanda Shirk, Don and Kathleen Engle at sign by Cherry Springs Fire Tower



Photo By Tom Fitzgerald

“What’s a ‘slackpack?’” asked Wellis at our annual Winter Frolic this year. We were in the process of setting up the first of two slackpacks held on the STS this spring.

Richard Judy provides an answer in his new book *Thru: An Appalachian Trail Love Story*. Apparently, a long-ago group of Appalachian Trail thru-hikers known as the South Georgia Heathens had a protracted stop at a roadhouse café noted for delectable pies. One of the group, frustrated at the day’s major downtime, proclaimed that they weren’t so much backpackers as “slackpackers.” The play on words brought a laugh that was repeated in frequent re-tellings of pie-day.

Deviating from the etymology, the term has come to be used to describe long-distance hiking with “support ... by vehicle, so that the main part of your gear stays in the car while you carry snacks, water, and rain gear in a day pack,” to use Judy’s phrasing. He explains that “most thru-hikers who get ‘slacked’ view it as an opportunity to put in long days with minimal effort.” Day-hiking a significant trail section with shuttles and sometimes “luggage-forwarding service” eliminates the need to carry overnight gear. Hikers can get showers, real beds, and evening meals that aren’t just trail food.

Backpacking requires carrying gear that, even with “ultra-light” set-ups, adds the bulk and weight of a load that both slows down and wearies the hiker. Slackpacking means carrying a light load and having better meals and more creature-comforts at night. For many hikers, it means being able to enjoy the trail more as well as to finish a little faster.

STS members teamed up to facilitate two slackpacking trips on the STS this spring. The first began on April 26<sup>th</sup> and finished on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the second ran from June 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

Both were set up to hike the trail in seven days of approximately 12 miles each, following the outline in the club’s STS Trail brochure.

The first group got a lot of exposure to STC members. Trailhead shuttles in the mornings were provided by Bill Boyd, Tom Fitzgerald, John Zimmer, and Art Huber.

The hikers stayed at Wanda Shirk’s house each night, and evening meals were prepared by Alice Buchanan, Donna Batterson, Robin Huber, Jayne Fitzgerald, and Wanda. Gary Buchanan got the group started on the first day, and Wanda hiked with them on all the remaining days.

Art and Robin hiked the Hammersley section with the group, and Randy Coyle from Coudersport hiked one day, from Cherry Springs Fire Tower to Ole Bull State Park.

It was fantastic to have had such a great team of STC members providing support for this slackpack, and it made a very positive impression on the hikers.

For the second slackpack, Wanda again provided the lodging, and she also prepared the breakfasts and dinners, but the group guided themselves around the trail like most hikers do, using the maps, guidebook, and blazes. Each morning, Wanda helped them spot a car at the trail’s end for the day, and she shuttled them to their start points.

The trail was vastly different in five weeks’ time. Many more wild flowers were evident in the earlier hike – spring beauties, Dutchman’s breeches, violets of various colors, hepatica, and trilliums, among others. On the later hike, ferns and tall grasses, young striped maple and other saplings, laurel and briers, and multiple patches of dreaded stinging nettle were much more evident, growing tall and green where once were the little ground flowers of late April and early May.

Except for patches of leeks, the woods were mainly brown in late April, but by early June the trailsides and hillsides were almost all bright green.

Joanne Heimer from Lock Haven joined the first slackpack for two days and the second slackpack for three days. She said she loved seeing the “bare backbones of the mountains” in the early slackpack, so different from the hillsides hidden by the brilliant foliage of June, with its different kind of beauty.

## Safely out of Spook Hollow



Photo from Kathleen Engle

The last-week-of-April hikers will remember needing jackets on a day when the temperature barely climbed to 40. The first-week-of-June hikers will remember a couple 70- degrees days. Both groups had some great-weather days as well as some other days that required the occasional donning of rain gear.

Two backpackers, Fred Fisher and his nephew Ken Peters, hiked the trail counter-clockwise in the same week that the first group of slackpackers hiked it clockwise. The groups ran into each other twice, first near Lyman Run State Park and days later on the gas pipeline. Fred and Ken had backpacked 20 miles the day before that to hustle into Cross Fork for shelter on a rainy night.

Kathleen and Don Engle of Shippensburg, PA, made a beautiful photo album on *Shutterfly* to remember their circuit hike. They have hiked internationally in Chile, New Zealand, and Iceland, but they felt that this 85 mile trail was their greatest challenge and accomplishment. It gave them great satisfaction and joy. Carl Windle, who also hiked on the first slackpack, was making his second round on the STS, a trail he enjoyed enough to come back to.

The second pair to complete the STS slackpack, in early June, were best-friends John Armstrong and Tom Busse from Pittsburgh. Barbara Bish from Souderton hiked the first four days, Denton Hill to Cross Fork, but the rain in the forecast caused her to postpone finishing the circuit until later. Joanne Heimer completed two days with the first slackpackers and three with John and Tom. She hopes to do the last two days of her circuit hike in the fall, so she will have done parts of the trail in spring, in summer, and in autumn, to experience three seasons on the trail. Her friend Donna joined her for one day of the

second slackpack. John “Chip” Monk (“Chipmunk”) from Lebanon County joined the group for a day and a half, adding to his STS hiker log. Bill Boyd shuttled him for some earlier hiking on the circuit.

Hikers who don’t live in Potter County and who would like help in setting up a slackpack—getting trail shuttles, food, and lodging for the week—are invited to contact the club, and we can help work things out to make your circuit hike possible. I have to say that hosting these nine hikers in my home for one to nine nights was a fantastic privilege: I enjoyed meeting and getting to know some great people who will be my friends forever. ☺

## Trail Maintenance Report

By Bill Boyd, Chairman, STC Maintenance Committee

Just about every section of the STS has been checked and cleared by now. That includes both connector trails. In addition, we have cleared and blazed the Bunnell Ridge Trail, to give us easier access in to the center portion of the Hammersley Trail for this year’s priority project.

That project is the restoration of about 6/10 of a mile of the Hammersley Trail from, from Dry Hollow northward to the stream crossing. Since it was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps about 70 years ago, annual leaf litter and slow hillside erosion have reduced the footpath to a slanted six-inch-wide “slab trail” condition. The CCC constructed it three feet wide—the length of a pick handle. See “Upcoming Events,” below, for details.

Forty-six people have participated in trail work so far this season. Joe Allis already has the 50 hours required to be in the running for the awards given at the annual Winter Frolic.

**Requests for posts!** The club is still in need of some good rot-resistant posts. Please let us know if you have any to donate. Black locust, red mulberry, and Osage-orange are the best of the native species, but black cherry, black walnut, white oak, cedar, catalpa and old-growth baldcypress are good, too. But in all species, only the **heartwood** is naturally decay resistant. Just as good and sometimes better, are pieces of treated utility poles removed by the electric and telephone companies. Often those companies will give them to the club. Treated utility poles can be as small as 5 inches in diameter, but posts from live trees should be at least 7 inches to leave at least 5 inches of heartwood after the sapwood rots away.

**Nothing shorter than eight feet, please!**

# A Special Mother's Day Outing

By Mary Wetmore

Mother's Day is an annual "Get-Together Day" for many families, coming just a bit ahead of the opening of the "Outdoor Season" of Memorial Weekend. Usually I have some of my family at my place, or other times I go to one of their places for the occasion.

This year, however it was different for me, but very, very enjoyable. As my son's wife was planning to spend a couple of days with her widowed mother downstate, and as my son Duane had other obligations, they suggested that I could spend the day with him, and go for an "outdoor outing" with him in the afternoon. It sounded good to me, as I was ready for a day outdoors!

So I dressed suitably for church first, and packed my outdoor clothes and boots, and drove to his place at Middlebury Center. From there I transferred to his 4-wheel-drive truck, and we went on to his church near Wellsboro. After a nice service and a few snacks at church, we went back to his home and changed to our hiking clothes. He then drove us to the hills near Mansfield and the Hills Creek Lake area, and beyond on some quite remote roads. The roads were mostly dry, but some were very narrow—the kind when I wonder, "What would we do if we met another vehicle?" Being a surveyor for over 40 years, Duane has driven many remote roads and traveled on foot through much of Tioga and nearby counties. Much of the time on this ride, I had no idea where we really were.

When we got up on one of the flat hilltop areas, we pulled into a parking space with a "MID-STATE-TRAIL" sign. I was excited as I had heard about the Mid-State Trail when attending meetings of the Susquehannock Trail Club to which I have belonged since 1997. We took a short walk, maybe a mile or so, then backtracked to our truck. We did not meet any other hikers. It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day, and some of the views were magnificent! We saw some wildlife—squirrels, birds, etc. We did not see any deer or bear, but I'm sure they were often just out of sight. Trees were budding and greening up, some spring wildflowers ready to bloom! What a great Day!

After our excursion, we came back to civilization and Duane treated me to a 6 PM dinner at a restaurant in Mansfield, hiking clothes and all!

Now I can say I've hiked on the Mid-State Trail even a little bit!

In talking with our STC President Wanda, she says the Mid-State Trail goes from the Maryland border through Pennsylvania to the New York border, a distance of about 321 miles, and is also part of the Great Eastern Trail from Alabama to New York.

Thanks to Wanda for her information, and thanks to all who maintain hiking trails for the public to enjoy! It was a Mother's Day I will never forget!! ☺



## Welcome new members

We have several new members who are here to support the trail system and hiking in general. They are:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Bradley & Sandra Stichler<br>Lebanon, PA  | Adam Clinger<br>Coudersport, PA         |
| Bruce & Ruth Hollender<br>Centre Hall, PA | Steve Kelly, Jr.<br>Coudersport, PA     |
| Tyler Reber<br>Fairfax, VA                | Michele Kinley<br>Coudersport, PA       |
| Rick Trude<br>Mill Hall, PA               | Marsha Price<br>Middlebury Center, PA   |
| Mark & Denise Kelly<br>Altoona, PA        | Beverly Prince<br>Coudersport, PA       |
| Susan Blair<br>Coudersport, PA            | Les Rolfe<br>Coudersport, PA            |
| John & Victoria Monk<br>Jonestown, PA     | Lee Trayer<br>Coudersport, PA           |
| David Barbour<br>Montoursville, PA        | Brian & Traci Anderson<br>Hookstown, PA |
| Glen & Sarah Batson<br>Coudersport, PA    |   |



## STS Circuit Hiker Award

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

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1076 Clemencia Caporale<br>Granby, MA | 1079 Ken Peters<br>Furlong, PA          |
| 1077 Jessica Miller<br>Frankfort, KY  | 1080 Don Engle<br>Shippensburg, PA      |
| 1078 Fred Fisher<br>Furlong, PA       | 1081 Kathleen Engle<br>Shippensburg, PA |

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](mailto:info@stc-hike.org). ☺

# Upcoming Events

**July 11, 2014:** The “Big Dig.” No, not the one in Boston, but the long-planned restoration of 6/10 of a mile of the Hammersley Trail. It involves digging and leveling a “slab-trail” eroded section of the 75-year-old CCC trail between the main stream crossing south to Dry Hollow. It will be an all-day project.

Meet at 9 AM at the junction of the McConnell Road and the Bunnell Ridge Trail. Bring lunch, water, and one tool. The principal tool will be the Pulaski—a lightweight modified axe mattock mounted on an axe handle instead of a pick handle. We can use one or two rakes also, and possibly a shovel. A small saw might be needed to cut back a few limbs. Hopefully we won’t need heavier tools like chainsaws.

Please contact Bill Boyd at (814) 274-7529 as soon as possible if you plan to help.

**July 11-13, 2014:** The annual Summer Camporee, again at Ole Bull State Park. This year, the camporee is being held a month early due to the availability of the pavilion that weekend. Most of the hikes and other activities will take place on Saturday, July 12.

## Walkers on Moel Fenli, Offa's Dyke Path



Photo from: <http://www.visitwales.com/>

The club will gather at the main pavilion at 5:00 PM for dinner, a brief business meeting, and presentation. The speaker for Saturday evening will be our President, Wanda Shirk. Wanda will relay the adventures she had while hiking the Offa’s Dyke National Path along the border between England and Wales during the last few weeks in June of this year.

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

Coudersport, Pa 16915

Post Office Box 643



# Currently Active Constitution and By-Laws

## Article I Name

The name of the organization will be Susquehannock Trail Club

## Article II Purpose

Section 1 To build and maintain trails in the Potter County, Pennsylvania area; and in doing so:

- A. To connect these trails with other trails or system of trails in Pennsylvania and New York
- B. To help make and keep these trails as scenic as possible
- C. To help make and keep these trails as interesting as possible for naturalists

Section 2 To aid in the conservation of wild lands and wildlife, and to protect places of natural beauty and interest

Section 3 To cooperate with other conservation groups, trail conferences, clubs, government agencies, and other outdoor organizations, in matters of common concern and interest

Section 4 To promote good fellowship through the enjoyment of the outdoors by hiking, nature study, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and related activities; and by encouraging others to do the same

## Article III Membership

Section 1 Any person of good characters who has reached the age of eighteen is eligible for Individual Senior Membership, with all the rights, privileges, duties, and obligations thereunto pertaining.

Section 2 Any person of good character who has reached the age of fourteen is eligible for Individual Junior Membership, which shall include the right of suffrage, but not the right to hold office. The procedure of admission into this form of membership shall be the same as the procedure for admission of new members into Senior Membership, as stated in Section 4.

Section 3 Family Membership shall be available to groups of person who

# Proposed Constitution and By-Laws

## Article I Name

The name of the organization will be Susquehannock Trail Club

## Article II Purpose

Section 1 To build and maintain trails in the Potter County, Pennsylvania area; and in doing so:

- A. To connect these trails with other trails or system of trails in Pennsylvania and New York
- B. To help make and keep these trails as scenic as possible
- C. To help make and keep these trails as interesting as possible for naturalists

Section 2 To aid in the conservation of wild lands and wildlife, and to protect places of natural beauty and interest

Section 3 To cooperate with other conservation groups, trail conferences, clubs, government agencies, and other outdoor organizations, in matters of common concern and interest

Section 4 To promote good fellowship through the enjoyment of the outdoors by hiking, nature study, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and related activities; and by encouraging others to do the same

## Article III Membership

Section 1 Any person who subscribes to the purposes of the club and supports the club by payment of club dues shall be accepted as a member of the club

Section 2 The club recognizes three types of membership:

- A. Individual membership, which grants one vote in all club business

- B. Household membership, which grants two votes in all club

qualify as families provided that:

- A. No more than two of the person under any one family membership may be eighteen years of age or older; but, it is not required that any of the persons so included be eighteen years of age or older
- B. Any person who is included under a family membership, who has reached the age of fourteen, may be admitted to Individual Junior Membership as stated in section 2, above, but this is not required. Such a person between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, inclusive, may, if he or she so desires, remain under the family membership
- C. No person between the ages of fourteen and seventeen inclusive, who has not been admitted to individual Junior Membership shall have the right of suffrage unless that person is one of the two ranking persons under the Family Membership
- D. A family membership shall be entitled to two, and only two, votes on any issue
- E. An Individual Junior Membership shall, upon reaching the age of eighteen, automatically become an Individual Senior Member with all the rights, privileges, duties, and obligations thereunto pertaining
- F. However, any person who is included under a Family membership, who reaches the age of eighteen, without having been admitted to Individual Senior Membership, shall not automatically become an Individual Senior Member as stated in section 3E. Such a person shall be considered to be not a member of the club until admitted into Individual Senior Membership according to the procedure for admission of new members, as stated in section 4

business

- C. Life membership, which grants one vote in all club business for each member who has demonstrated lifetime commitment through a one-time payment of lifetime dues, or who has been granted honorary lifetime membership for meritorious service by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of members at any meeting

Section 4 Membership may be granted by a majority vote of the members in good standing present at any regular meeting, or any special meeting pertaining to membership, upon receipt of written application which shall include a pledge of cooperation with the purposes of the club, and which must be accompanied by payment of prescribed dues for no less than one year in advance

Section 5 Dues and the requirements for payment thereof are prescribed as follows

- A. The assessment of dues shall be made by majority vote of the membership at any regular meeting up recommendation of the Advisory Board. Notice of the proposed change shall be given at the regular meeting preceding the meeting at which the proposal is to be put before the membership and/or printed in the preceding newsletter
- B. Membership dues for a full fiscal year shall be payable at or before the February meeting. A member's notification of dues payment will be part of the newsletter
- C. Non-payment of dues shall result in suspension of membership. Thirty days after dues payment is payable, Treasurer will be send second and final notice giving thirty day grace period at which time, if dues are not received, membership is terminated. A membership once terminated may not be reinstated until current years dues are paid in full in addition of a 50% assessment of current dues. All reinstated members shall retain the original fiscal year

Section 6 Expulsion of a member shall be for actions detrimental to the club's purposes, at the discretion of the club membership by a vote of two-thirds of the members attending a regular or special meeting. Notice of expulsion shall be given at the regular meeting preceding the meeting at which the expulsion is to be put before the membership

#### **Article IV Government**

Section 1 The government of this organization shall be vested in the officers, subject to the will of the membership

Section 2 New membership is granted upon receipt of the completed application accompanied by payment of prescribed yearly dues.

Section 3 Dues and the requirements for payment are prescribed as follows

- A. Dues shall be established by a majority vote of the membership at any regular meeting, provided that notice of the proposed change is given at a regular meeting preceding the vote and/or is printed in the preceding club newsletter
- B. Membership dues for a full calendar year shall be payable at or before the February meeting. A member's notification of dues payment will be mailed in January of each year

#### **Article IV Government**

Section 1 The government of this organization shall be vested in the officers, subject to the will of the membership.

Section 2 The officers shall server without remuneration sand shall be five in number as follows:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Secretary
  
- D. Treasurer
- E. Archivist

Section 3 No officer shall be less than eighteen years of age.

Section 4 There shall be an advisory council made up of the officers, the chairman and assistant chairman of any standing committee, and six additional members of good standing. One of these members shall be the District Forester of the area covered by the Susquehannock Trail (if the Forest is willing to server); another member shall also be a forestry professional. The remaining four members shall be elected from the general membership. In all cases where three elected members of the Advisory council are mentioned in the By-Laws the word “three” shall be replaced by “six.”

Section 5 The officers and members of the advisory council shall be elected for a term of two years in a matter prescribed in section 7, and shall hold office until the successors are duly elected. In all cases where an annual term is mentioned the term “Annual” is to be replaced by “two year.”

Section 6 The election meeting shall be held in May of each year, but shall not be held until at least six weeks have elapsed since the March meeting.

Section 7 Nominations shall be made from the floor at the February and March meetings. Additional nominations received by mail on or before the first of April shall be placed on the ballot. Ballots shall be mailed to all members before thirty days have elapsed since the March meeting. Write-in votes shall be accepted for any office.

Section 8 Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the President with the approval of the Advisory Council

Section 2 The officers shall serve without remuneration and shall be six in number as follows

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Corresponding Secretary
- D. Recording Secretary
- E. Treasurer
- F. Archivist

Section 3 There shall be an Advisory Council consisting of three to five members.

Section 4 The officers and members of the Advisory Council shall be elected bi-annually for a term of two years in a manner prescribed in Section 6, and shall hold office until their successors are duly elected.

Section 5 The election meeting shall be held in May of each even-numbered year, but shall not be held until at least six weeks have elapsed since the March meeting.

Section 6 Nominations shall be made at the March meeting preceding the election. Write-in votes shall be accepted for any office.

Section 7 Vacancies shall be filled by presidential appointment with the approval of the Advisory Council

Section 9 Duties of the officers:

- A. President – It shall be the duty of the president to
- Preside at all regular and special meetings
  - Enforce strict observance of the Constitution and By-Laws
  - Cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie
  - Direct the Secretary to call special meetings when required
  - Shall be ex-officio member of all committees
  - Decide questions of order
  - In case of a vacancy in any of the officers, the President shall appoint a replacement, with the approval of the Advisory Council
  - Appoint annually the Standing Committees
    - By-Laws
    - Membership
    - Trails
    - Publicity
    - Maps
    - Circuit Hiker Award
    - Additional committees deemed necessary for the efficient administration of the affairs of the club
- B. Vice President – The Vice President shall
- perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President
  - Otherwise assist the President
  - Serve on committees as assigned by the President
  - Perform such other duties as the President may direct

Section 8 Duties of the officers:

- A. President – It shall be the duty of the President to
- Preside at all regular and special meetings
  - Enforce the Constitution and By-Laws
  - Cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie
  - Shall be ex-officio member of all committees
  - In case of a vacancy in any of the offices, the President shall appoint a replacement, with the approval of the Advisory Council
  - Appoint annually the Standing Committees:
    - Auditing
    - Trails
    - Circuit Hiker Award
    - Additional committees deemed necessary for the efficient administration of the affairs of the club
- B. Vice President – The Vice President shall
- Perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President
  - Otherwise assist the President
  - Serve on committees as assigned by the President
  - Perform such other duties as the President may direct

C. Secretary – The secretary shall

- Answer routine communications within the scope of his knowledge
- Turn over all collected monies to the Treasurer
- Keep an up-to-date file of all members
- Keep the minutes of all meetings

D. Treasurer – The treasurer shall

- Receive all monies due the organization
- Depositing all monies in the name of the club in the designated depository of the club
- Report at each meeting the
  - Total receipts
  - Total expenditures
  - Balance on hand
- Have his accounts property posted for inspection by the auditors at the end of the club year
- Be responsible for all payment of bills authorized by members present at any regular meeting
- At the expiration of his term of office deliver to his successor within a reasonable time
  - All monies
  - Books
  - Documents under his control

F. Archivist – The Archivist shall keep

- A historical record of the club
- A written history of the
  - Trail system
  - Trail club

C. Corresponding Secretary – The Corresponding Secretary shall

- Answer routine communications within the scope of his/her knowledge
- Turn over all collected monies to the Treasurer
- Keep an up-to-date file of all members

D. Recording Secretary – The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings

E. Treasurer – The treasurer shall

- Receive all monies due the organization
- Depositing said monies in the club's account
- Report at each meeting the
  - Total receipts
  - Total expenditures
  - The balance on hand
- Have his/her accounts properly posted for annual inspection by the auditors
- Be responsible for all payment of bills authorized at regular meetings
- At the expiration of his/her term of office he/she shall deliver to his/her successor, within a reasonable time:
  - All monies
  - Books
  - Documents under his/her control

F. Archivist – The Archivist shall keep

- A historical record of the club
- A written history of the
  - Trail system
  - Trail club

- A list of officers elected biennially
- Copies of the Susquehannock Hiker
- All available magazine and newspaper clippings concerning the trail system and trail club
- All related historical items including photographs

G. Advisory Council – The duties of the advisory Council shall be to advise the President and officers on matters concerning the operation of the trail club and trail system.

## Article V Amendments

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting, provided that the procedure stated below is followed

- A. At least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be acted upon, the proposed amendment shall be sent in writing, by mail, to all members
- B. An official ballot for voting shall also be sent to each member
- C. Ballots may be brought to said meeting in person, or mailed to the secretary in advance in sealed envelopes
- D. Mailed ballots must be received by the secretary before the meeting, in order to be counted
- E. A two-thirds majority all valid votes cast shall be required for an amendment to be passed
- F. Voting shall be secret
- G. the secretary shall keep a list of all members casting ballots
- H. No ballot shall bear the vote's name
- I. all ballots must be returned in such a manner that the secretary can clearly ascertain whether a particular member has voted`
- J. Any ballot not returned in such a manner shall be invalid

- The officers elected
- Copies of the newsletter
- All magazine and newspaper clippings concerning the trail system and trail club
- All related photos and historical items

G. Advisory Council – The duties of the Advisory Council shall be to advise officers on matters concerning the operation of the trail club and trail system.

## Article V Amendments

- A. The proposed amendment to be acted upon shall be sent in writing, by mail, to all members
- B. Returned ballots must be received by the Secretary before the next monthly meeting, in order to be counted
- C. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required for an amendment to be passed

**Article VI Ratification**

This constitution and By-Laws shall be ratified by the same procedure as required for amendment

**Article VII Quorum**

A quorum shall constitute 50% of the elected five officers and the six selected Advisory Council members plus four members in good standing

**Article VIII Auditing**

- A. The fiscal year of the club shall begin at the regular monthly meeting in the month of May
- B. The President shall appoint an auditing committee of three members of which one should be an elected officer. The committee shall audit all books and records of the club within 60 days of the end of the club's fiscal year

**Article IX Bonding**

The elected officers and the six elected Advisory Council members may require such officers to be bonded as it shall deem necessary for any amount as it may deem necessary.

**Article X Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of the club the real property owned by the club shall be conveyed to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry to be used to build hiking trails on State Forest Lands. The personal property owned by the club shall be divided equally by the Keystone Trails Association and the Appalachian Trail Conference to be used to build, maintain, and/or promote hiking trails within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Article VI Ratification**

This Constitution and By-Laws shall be ratified by two-thirds majority of votes cast

**Article VII Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of eight members, of whom four must be officers and/or Advisory Council members

**Article VIII Auditing**

- A. The fiscal year of the club shall begin at the regular monthly meeting in the month of May.
- B. The President shall appoint an auditing committee of three members annually to audit all books and records of the club within 60 days of the end of the club's fiscal year.

**Article IX Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of the club, the personal property and money owned by the club shall be given to the Keystone Trails Association to be used to build, maintain, and/or promote hiking trails within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania