



SUSQUEHANNOCK HIKER

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



Spring/Summer 2018

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 mediums of hiking and nature study.

2018 Inaugural Hike

L-R: Cindy Bower, John Eastlake, Dan Wolfe, John Zimmer, Penny Weinhold, John Halter, Doug Wetherbee, Tom Fitzgerald, Jayne Fitzgerald, Larry Holtzapple, Bill Boyd, Wayne Baumann



Photo by Curt Weinhold

Dyer Farm Hike

A Civilian Conservation Corps Hike

By Tom Fitzgerald, John Eastlake, and Penny Weinhold

Eleven members and two guests of the Susquehannock Trail Club gathered at the intersection of PA Route 44 and the Potter/Lycoming county line on the morning of Tuesday, May 8, 2018. STC member John Eastlake, who specializes in the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Pennsylvania, led the group through part of the area occupied by CCC Camp S-135 located near the southeastern corner of Stewardson Township, Potter County.

The camp was established June 11, 1933 on the grounds of an abandoned farm once occupied by a family named Dyer. The Dyer Farm was one of the many "Lands That Nobody Wanted" after the cut-out-and-get-out logging heyday of the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century was over. Many of the tracts of land had passed into state ownership through tax delinquency sales. Often, the state was the only bidder. The lands were assigned to the then Department of Forests and Waters for management.

This newsletter is written with 100% recycled words

The original mission of the CCC camp was to begin construction of a new state park to be called the Black Forest State Park. But when it was realized that Ole Bull State Park was only a few miles away, the mission of the camp was changed to providing access for wildfire fighting, through the construction of roads and trails. Upon completion of its revised mission, the camp was closed on December 15, 1937.

The tour began with a short drive to the Dyer Farm where we parked the vehicles at what we believe was the camp headquarters building. The building is a log cabin with an unusual construction style. The outside walls of the building are made of short sections of small American chestnut logs stacked up vertically end to end. Club members speculated that these were the only available logs at the time. The camp was built only a couple of decades after the cut-out-and-get-out logging era had ended.

From the building, John led the group on a 2-to-3-mile hike through part of the area where the camp had planted many thousands of white pine, Norway spruce, larch, and

Atlantic white-cedar trees. The trees were about 80 years old and many of them were very large.

Cou-Dyer Trail sign (and fire hydrant) along the North Link Trail with large trees (planted by the CCC) in the background
Note: It is unknown whether the fire hydrant is a joke or part of a water-supply system for the never-completed park.



Photo by Tom Fitzgerald

At several locations, the Susquehannock State forest had placed informational signs and at least one kiosk that gave brief descriptions of the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Remains of the foundations of building sites were seen plus the net posts of a tennis court, now hidden deep in dense forest. The remains of the camp's swimming pool vaguely suggest an abandoned beaver pond.

Recreational facilities were provided for the CCC boys at the camps, and participation in sports, except football, was encouraged. The problem with football was the greater occurrence of injuries which resulted in the loss of productivity on the job. In the 1930s, football was not nearly as popular as it is now. Baseball was king in those days.

A hike down the North Link Trail led past two dome-shaped flagstone springhouses near a tributary of County Line Run. Cindy Bower, one of the two guests on the hike had visited Ireland ten years ago. She remarked that the springhouse construction was similar to stone huts built in

the fifth century AD by Christian monks on the Irish island of Skellig Michael

Cindy Bower next to a CCC spring house



Photo submitted by John Eastlake

Back at the headquarters building, the group ate lunch. After, we drove to the nearby Dyer Circle where five of the original eight CCC built cabins remain. All five are currently leased as State Forest Camps. There we met a couple of the lessees, one of whom was Earl Sullivan whose family leases Cabin 8. Mr. Sullivan showed us the inside of the cabin, which is heated in the winter by a large stone fireplace. An interesting feature in the cabin were tags on two of the cots purchased from an army surplus store. The tags bore German names and a military serial number. The CCC period ended during World War II and some of the camps across the United States were used to house prisoners of war. In Potter County, German prisoners were held at the Bark Shanty and Lyman Run CCC camps.

Stone huts on Skellig Michael, Ireland



Photo submitted by Cindy Bower

Eighty years later, the Dyer Farm area of the Susquehannock State Forest has been set aside for equestrian use. One campsite we hiked through had hitching rails. 🐾

Three Parts to Financial Sustainability

By Wanda Shirk

The STC celebrated its first fifty years in 2017 and looks ahead now to the second half of our first century. Multiple pieces are part of the sustainability picture.

The most important part of a sustainable future is an active, committed, working membership; the people who physically get out on the trail as maintainers, and the people who do all the other work that keeps us going; updating the website, maintaining membership rolls, manning our tables at events, doing correspondence, keeping financial and trail-work records, and even making great dishes that keep people coming to our monthly “eatin’ meetin’s.”

In addition to the dedication of active members, long-term stability depends also on the reality that most good things have a financial cost. Membership dues are foundational, and donations have been absolutely critical to both promotion of the trail (website, brochures, table-and-booth materials) and development projects such as bridges and our new shelter program.

Three more elements are now in place to ensure our future financial sustainability: our Life Member program, the new Legacy Society, and the endowment fund.

Life Member program.

A life membership is a *put your money where your mouth is* way of saying who you are and what is important to you in life. People have life memberships in many organizations that speak for them, from unions to causes like the National Rifle Association or Sierra Club. Your personal philanthropy can be reflected in a life membership.

The STC has two life member programs. The first is our *Honorary Life Membership*, based on lifetime contribution to the club and selection for the *Wil and Betty Abn 'Big Shoes' Award*. The other is the paid life member program which recognizes a substantial financial contribution to the club of \$500 per member (or \$400 for senior citizens) or \$800 per couple (\$600 for senior citizen couple). Here are the top facts about our paid life member program:

- We have 34 paid life members. (See list at end of article.)
- They represent six states – Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Florida, Texas, and Connecticut.
- All of our club officers – president, VP, secretaries, treasurer – are paid life members. (Secretary Lois Morey and treasurer Bill Boyd are also

lifetime achievement members). This speaks well for the commitment of our leadership.

- Clair Almeter showed his love for the trail by getting a life membership at age 95.

Clair's membership illustrates the point that a life membership is about giving to a cause you value, not calculating how long you need to keep living for the contribution to save you dues money!

Legacy Society

STC Vice President John Zimmer founded this initiative last year. When John faced surgery for cancer (and we are thankful that it was successful and he is doing well), John thought about his will, and he decided that when his life's trail comes to an end, he wanted to leave a significant legacy to the STC. John has named the STC for a substantial part of his estate, and he hopes that the example he has set will inspire others also to consider designating a percentage (as he has done) or specified, designated sum, even a small one, to the STC as part of their life's legacy.

Endowment Fund

Life membership and Legacy Society monies are put into the club's endowment fund, which is administered by the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT).

Facts and figures for our endowment fund include the following:

- We currently have over \$16,750.00 in the endowment fund.
- That figure includes \$1,701.69 in dividends earned since we started the fund in August 2015.
- This fund has matured from what the CFTT calls an *acorn fund*. (We forest-lovers appreciate the metaphor!) It has been “fully-funded,” or “mature,” since we reached \$12,500.
- We can receive annual payouts of 4% on each four-year average balance.
- CFTT has introduced a \$100,000.00 grant starting in May 2018 that will double all investments for non-profits, up to 5,000.00 per organization or until the grant has been totally distributed.

We will receive annual dividend earnings of four percent of our average balance over 16 quarters once the club has had a balance of \$12,500.00 or greater for a minimum of 16 quarters (four years). With an investment of \$12,500.00 we would earn \$500.00/year in dividends. On our target of \$25,000.00, we will earn \$1,000.00 year in dividends. This money can be used for special projects, purchases, for

regular operating expenses, or it can remain in the fund for additional growth.

If any of our readers are considering a life membership in the Susquehannock Trail Club, this would be a time to do it so that your dollars can be doubled. Every \$500.00 added to our CFTT account this year will double via the CFTT grant to become \$1,000.00 this year. Every \$1,000.00 in the fund is \$40.00 a year (as long as we remain invested in the CFTT) for the trail, extending your gift beyond your lifetime.

The club's long-range goal for the funds within our CFTT account is to eventually be able to replace the footbridge that once crossed Kettle Creek outside in Cross Fork. This project is currently estimated to cost well above the club's current financial means. The dream is that within the second half century of the club's existence we will eventually enjoy a footbridge across Kettle Creek, instead of the current route of using PA 44's highway bridge.

A special hats-off thank you to Wellis Balliet who got life memberships for both his children and their spouses, and who also made substantial gifts to the endowment fund in memory of his late wife as well as his friend "Hap," who introduced him to the trails of Potter County.

A huge thank-you to all our Life Members and Legacy Society donors for your gifts and commitment. In our second half-century, we look forward to more of our members celebrating with us in these ways. 🍁

Current paid life members of the STC (as of May 2018):

Clair Almeter (NY)	Jeff Nelson (PA)
Wellis Balliet (PA)	Jo Nelson (PA)
Jim Bowser (FL)	Dawn McManus (PA)
Bill Boyd (PA)	Lois Morey (PA)
Ben Cramer (PA)	Wilfred Oliver (NY)
Frank Eppinger (CT)	Joy Olney (PA)
Steve Erway (PA)	Carolyn Oyen (OH)
Joanne Heimer (PA)	Rick Oyen (OH)
Art Huber (PA)	Buck Roth (PA)
Robin Huber (PA)	Patty Roth (PA)
Jason Kemp (TX)	Allen "Buzz" Russell (PA)
Tara Boyd Kemp (TX)	Wanda Shirk (PA)
Charles Kern (PA)	Gene Wimmer (OH)
David Luthi (PA)	Glenn Yasharian (PA)
Pam Luthi (PA)	Karen Yasharian (PA)
Joe Nachtway (PA)	John Zimmer (PA)
Nancy Nachtway (PA)	Anonymous

2018 Election Results

By Lois Morey

This year the Susquehannock Trail Club sent out 286 officer ballots. We had 143 (50 percent) ballots returned.

The candidates who won are as follows:

President..... Wanda Shirk
 Vice President..... John Zimmer
 Recording Secretary..... Bill Morey
 Corresponding Secretary..... Lois Morey
 Treasurer..... Bill Boyd
 Archivist..... Wil Ahn
 Advisory Board..... Joe Allis
 Tom Fitzgerald
 Curt Weinhold

Along with the ballots that were returned, we received some nominations for officers during the next election cycle. We will be checking with the following members to see if they would be interested in serving next time:

President..... John Zimmer
 George Wolfe
 Terry Simkins
 Vice President..... Gary Buchanan
 Bill Boyd
 Treasurer..... Mary Lou Parker
 Penny Weinhold
 Advisory Board..... Robert Davey
 George Wolf

If you know of someone who (or even you, yourself) would be interested in serving as an officer, please let the current officers know. 🍁



Freak Accident

The club extends prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Clair Almeter, 97, whom we believe is its oldest living member of the Susquehannock Trail Club. Mr. Almeter, of Almond, NY, taps trees and produces maple syrup every year. He does the initial boiling outdoors and finishes off the syrup in the house.

This past winter, he was carrying a pail of scalding hot maple sap into the house for final processing when he slipped on a skiff of fresh snow on the porch floor and fell onto the pail of hot sap. The accident resulted in burns so severe on one arm and leg that skin grafting was necessary.

Clair spent five weeks in the burn unit of Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY, where he has made remarkable progress. 🍁

Trail Maintenance Rundown

By Bill Boyd

Clearing the Wildboy Shelter Access Road



Photo submitted by Larry Holtzapple

The winter of 2017-18 was harder than usual on the Susquehannock Trail System. I have never encountered so much woody debris on the trail after one winter. It ranged in size from small branches that could be dragged off the trail, to large trees. One fallen tree this spring was two feet in diameter and needing sawing to be removed. Amazingly, even to us, the small Stihl chain saws that we use did an outstanding job. Once cleared, the footpath itself was in pretty good shape.

The spring cleaning has been completed on nearly all the trail system plus the East Fork crossover trail. The one major section we have yet to work on is the Hammersley Wild Area. Chris Bell does what he can on that section, but it's too much for one person. Chris has been reporting several large blowdowns that will keep our crews busy well into the summer months.

Each section of the STS and the two crossover trails has a regular maintainer. Several of them live outside the area—one from as far away as South Florida. And the spring cleanup is usually such a heavy work load that extra help is needed the first time through at the end of winter. The credits for work done thus far this spring go to Jim bowser, Bill Boyd, Gary Buchanan, Chuck Hager, John & Jan Halter, Larry Holtzapple, Art Huber, Mark Kelly, Todd Twitchell, and John Zimmer. Thanks all—well done!

Another thank-you goes to those faithful members of the club who are unable to help with the physical work but donate funds to purchase equipment and supplies.

The club purchased a *DR Brush Mower* for just shy of \$2,700.00 and took delivery of it in May 2018. We believe this investment will be well worth it since the DR mower seems to be a more rugged machine than the Swishers. We will know for sure when the brush is ready for its first mowing later this year.

As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, the maintenance crew is preparing to begin construction of the next trail shelter which will be located in the headwaters of Wild Boy Run. We are now gathering the necessary building materials. The crew wants to stick with the stone foundations, for a more natural look. And the new railroad tie rejects donated last year by the WNY & PA Railroad are still quite smelly from the wood preservative. I suspect it will take a few more years of weathering for most of the odor to fade away.

The first order of business is access. The crew has been digging off the high crown and filling in ruts of an old woods road that leads to the site. We need as many volunteers as available to get the project off to a good start.

Many thanks to our trail crew for the recent efforts to refurbish the old haul road which will serve as temporary access to our building site. It involved about a mile and a quarter or so of clearing, leveling, etc.

The actual building will be done in about 3 stages - laying up the stone corner foundations, putting together the floor framing, and installing the floor boards. Next will be the framing and siding, using D-Siding again. And lastly, when we get final measurements, putting the roof on.

The Wild boy Shelter will be a near duplicate of the Spook Hollow Shelter, which we built last year for about \$800.00. That works out to a cost of about \$2.75 per club member.

Our Susquehannock Trail System is a great trail, and more volunteer maintenance help is always appreciated. Much of the trail care can be accomplished with loppers and a bow saw, or even one of the lightweight folding saws like the *Katanaboy*. You needn't be a lumberjack to do most of the work. We have several active volunteers who are skilled in operating a chain saw. ♪

Spook Hollow Shelter as it nears completion



Photo submitted by Larry Holtzapple

Trail's End

Betty Ahn

Betty Ahn



Photo by Curt Weinhold

Elizabeth K. "Betty" Ahn, 100, of Ulysses formerly of Lansdale, died Thursday, December 21, 2017, in her home with Wil by her side.

Born January 3, 1917 in Norristown, she was the daughter of Harry Fredrick and Sarah Kulp Schwenk.

Wil and Betty owned the Susquehannock Lodge for over 30 years where they enjoyed entertaining their many friends and guest and developed lifelong friendships. Many of these friends assisted with Betty's care in the final few months of her life were a wonderful support for Wil

Betty, with Wil by her side, moved to Potter County in 1958 where they settled into a Farm house with a log cabin out back. In 1963, using the log cabin building, they opened the *Susquehannock Lodge* and began hosting hikers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiast while these guest enjoyed *God's Country*.

Betty became involved with the Susquehannock Trail System and the supporting club when Bill Fish approached Wil about helping with the promotion of the trail system. Since Wil was already on the Potter County Recreation Incorporated (PCRI) board of directors, Bill thought it would be a perfect fit for the Ahn's.

While a member of the STC Betty, with Wil's assistance, would frequently plan outing trips for the club. They coordinated trips to Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park in British Columbia, Canada; Isle Royal National Park in Michigan; the Adirondacks in New York; as well as other places. During these trips, Betty would serve as hostess, preparing meals, coordinating events, and providing activities for participating members.

As a club officer, Betty faithfully served as club secretary for over 30 years; only stepping down when failing health prevented her from dutifully fulfilling her responsibilities.

Betty had several hobbies she would enjoy during her leisure time. One of those hobbies was spinning yarn. A favorite story to tell about this hobby was when Betty collected fur from her husky and spun it. She made Wil a hat from the spun fur. Wil enjoyed wearing the hat, however, he commented on how it smells when it would get wet. 🐾

Trail's End

Bob Knowles

Bob Knowles



Photo submitted by Lois Morey

Robert "Bob" Knowles, 97, of Wellsboro, formerly of Ulysses, died Monday, December 11, 2017 in his home.

He and his late wife Jeanne joined the club in 1967 as Charter Members, where Bob remained a member for 50 years. A soft-spoken and quiet man, he saw beauty in nature, and his writings over the years reflected his love for the woods and especially the *Susquehannock Trail System*. He became *Circuit Hiker #7* in 1972, hiking the entire trail in six days.

He was editor of the annual publication of the *Susquehannock Hiker* from 1971 through 1979. Later he submitted a weekly article on the STS and STC for the *Potter-Leader Enterprise* from 1994 – 2006.

In 2000 Bob wrote a small publication entitled *Susquehannock Trail System and Susquehannock Trail Club – A Short History*. With excellent memory and writing skills, Bob continued to write short articles for the STC Newsletter right up to the Fall of 2017.

Very active until failing health in later years and dedicated club member, Bob was recipient of the *Wil and Betty Ahn "Big Shoes" Award* in 2012. We will miss his quiet humor and the vast knowledge he accumulated in his long, well-lived years.

Farewell, Bob, and may you rest in peace. 🐾



Should You Go First

By Albert Kennedy "Rosey" Rowswell

Should you go first and I remain,
To walk the road alone,
I'll live in memory's garden, dear,
With happy days we've known.
In Spring I'll wait for roses red,
When fades the lilac blue,
In early Fall when brown leaves call
I'll catch a glimpse of you.

2018 Club Event Participation

The Susquehannock Trail Club has had an active Spring. We have attended several community events as well as several more on the calendar. These events include:

- March 24, 2018
Kettle Creek Valley Outdoor Show
Cross Fork, PA
- May 5, 2018
Annual Potter-Tioga Maple Festival
Coudersport, PA
- May 5, 2018
PA Lumber Museum's Community Day
Coudersport, PA
- June 2, 2018
God's Country Marathon – Water Station #19
Coudersport, PA
- June 16, 2018, all day
Genesee Community Day
Genesee, PA
- July 7, 2018, 10:00 AM
Galeton's Independence Day Parade
Galeton, PA
- September 29, 2018, all day
Fall Festival
Galeton, PA
- October 6, 2018, all day
Falling Leaves Outdoor Festival
Coudersport, PA

Club members manning waster station #19 along the God's Country Marathon



Photo submitted by Larry Holtzapple

Welcome New Members

Robert Ahn Coudersport, PA	Nadine Lowry Lebanon, PA
Cameron Baker Wexford, PA	Allan Reed Mansfield, PA
Ashley Bridenbaker Roulette, PA	Vonda Reed Mansfield, PA
Cindy Bower Trout Run, PA	Bruce Robinson Coudersport, PA
David Carpenter Roulette, PA	June Robinson Coudersport, PA
Carl Fickenscher Ulysses, PA	Gary Ruef, Jr Galeton, PA
Janet Gyekis Wellsboro, PA	Bethany Salada Wellsboro, PA
Kerry Gyekis Wellsboro, PA	Stephen Salada Wellsboro, PA
Jerry Hall Ulysses, PA	Jon Skipper Coudersport, PA
John Halter Gaines, PA	Lori Szymanik Coudersport, PA
Janifer Halter Gaines, PA	Douglas Wetherbee Wellsboro, PA
Bill Keiser Coudersport, PA	June Wetherbee Wellsboro, PA
Cindy Keiser Coudersport, PA	

Newest Circuit Hiker Award Recipients

1155 Cameron Baker Wexford, PA	1158 Pat Childs Wellsville, NY
1156 Jack Hauler Malvern, PA	1159 Larry Holtzapple Wellsboro, PA
1157 Rob Caldwell Nashville, TN	1160 Violeta Holtzapple Wellsboro, PA

Next Newsletter Deadline

All articles must be received before October 15, 2018 to be included in the next edition of the Susquehannock Hiker. Email your articles to tom@dunnfarm.net, or mail them via the USPS to PO Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915. 📧

Susquehannock Trail Club
PO Box 643
Coudersport PA 16915



Upcoming Club Events

June 9, 2018
Eatin' Meetin'
Lyman Run State Park
Dinner starts at 5:00 PM
Meeting Starts at 6:00 PM

July 7, 2018
Eatin' Meetin'
Lois Morey's Residence, West Pike PA
Picnic starts at 1:00 PM
Meeting Starts at 2:00 PM

August 9-12, 2018
Summer Camporee
Ole Bull State Park
Arrival Thursday Evening
Depart Sunday Morning

August 11, 2018
Eatin' Meetin'
Ole Bull State Park
Dinner starts at 5:00 PM
Meeting Starts at 6:00 PM

September 8, 2018
Eatin' Meetin'
Saulters' Preserve, Coudersport, PA
Dinner starts at 5:00 PM
Meeting Starts at 6:00 PM