



SUSQUEHANNOCK HIKER

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



Summer 2019

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.

2019 Annual Camporee & Monthly Meeting / Picnic at Ole Bull State Park

Following a tradition of many years, the 2019 STC summer camporee will again be held at Ole Bull State Park over a long weekend, with free camping for STC members on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, from August 8 through Sunday morning August 11.

Those who are able to camp will find us at campsites # 51, 53, 55, 60, 61, & 63. There is plenty of space at our six sites for setting up tents and canopies and for bringing in small campers. These sites have electricity and are handy to the showers and restrooms. We appreciate the hospitality of Ole Bull State Park each year, and again this year Bill Boyd has made a strong and sturdy new picnic table to donate to the park on behalf of the STC as part of our expression of thanks.

We always enjoy sharing good camp food around our picnic tables and sharing a campfire in the evening. We will miss Bob Bernhardt's stories this year, but let anyone start a story about snakes or bears or "getting misplaced" on a trail, and the stories just roll, so if you don't have one to tell, you'll enjoy hearing others' tales. Roxanne McMillan has given us a great collection of songbooks for around the campfire, so perhaps we'll do some "Oh Susanna" or "Polly-Wolly-Doodle" or "She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain When She Comes" this year - and it'll be more fun than --- TV !!!

During the day on Friday and Saturday, we have options. Many of our current campers love working on the trail more than anything, so we often establish some day-work trail crews to go out with brush cutters or loppers to optimize our trail clearing on the southern part of the STS. Some folks might like to take a "field trip" to hike in to one of the trail shelters we built in 2016, 2017, and 2018, or perhaps the new one off McConnell Rd. at the top of Gravel Lick Trail which is half finished now and will certainly be finished before the camporee. Others

like to explore new trails in the Ole Bull area or perhaps hike a section of the STS they have not hiked previously. At one camporee, I enjoyed the opportunity to hike part of the South Link Trail for this first time. Group hikes will be set up based on the interest of attendees.

As always, we will eat in the main pavilion at 5 on Saturday, with club officers providing the hot dogs and hamburgers and all the trimmings. Bring your tableware and a side dish or dessert to share. After a short club meeting at 6, our guest presenter will be Dr. Deb Nero, retired Cornell University genetics professor, gardener, and Executive VP of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, presenting a program about the FLT in our nearby New York state.

. BTW -- the person on the phone at the FLT asked what age the kids were for our camporee. I said the average age was probably around 70. "Oh," she said. "We thought camporees were for children and youth."

Of course! Be a kid again! Join us for our 2019 STC Camporee!



Photo by Lois Morey

2019 Trail Care

By Bill Boyd

Gravel Lick Shelter

Construction of the Gravel Lick shelter is underway. We met Sunday June 30th at the site around nine AM. We toted all the lumber and stones to the site, using handcarts and wheelbarrows. This site is so uneven it took quite a while to get the base built and squared and leveled - but it turned out well. The floor is on and the back wall and one end wall framed up (all the material that could be hauled on the trailer).

We finished up the day around three PM. At the next two-day event we can finish up the framing, siding, rafters and roof.

Some of the crew stayed overnight and are the first to sleep at the new shelter.

This will be shelter #4, plus the re-purposed dynamite magazine, now used for a trail shelter.

Crew members were: Mark Kelly, Larry Holtzapple, Doug Wetherbee, Buzz Russell, Valorie Patillo, David Utchel, John Zimmer and Bill Boyd.



Photo by Valorie Patillo

Trail Work Update

Chris and Karen Bell spent a couple of days in late March in the Hammersley clearing blowdowns. Charles Hager, Buzz and Gary Russell, and John Zimmer spent March 28 clearing Charles' section, from 12 Mile Rd. to Greenlick

Rd. Larry Holtzapple, Doug Wetherbee, Art Huber, and John Zimmer assisted me with clearing my section, from Patterson Park to Sunken Branch Rd. Gary Buchanan and Jeff Nolt cleared from the Old Stove location to Wild Boy Rd. on April 6. Chris and Karen spent two more days in April clearing in the Hammersley. Joe Allis cleared in Jacob Hollow. Brian and Julie McCusker spent two days in April clearing from Patterson Park, through Ford Hollow to the STS/Hockney Trail junction. Jim Bowser and Tod Twichell cleared a section of the EFT from the fire tower to Junction Rd. Charles Kern cleared from Ole Bull to Young Woman's Creek. Jim Bowser and Tom Shatto cleared Switchback and Shinglebolt Trails on the EFT. Larry Holtzapple, Doug Wetherbee and John Halter cleared blowdowns from Sunken Branch Rd. to Lyman Rd. Chuck Hager, Buzz Russell and John Zimmer cleared blowdowns from Italian Hollow and the Jeep Rd. Larry and Doug have stayed busy cleaning the kiosks, painting register boxes, placing EFT signs, and cutting and placing cordwood in some seeps on the Jacob Hollow Trail. Jack Buckwalter cleared some in Culver Woods Rd. and Green Timber Hollow. Lowell and Barb Luft spent three days in May clearing their section, from Short Run Rd. to Ole Bull State Park. Larry, Doug and Buzz cleared blowdowns from Lieb Run Trail. Joe Allis, Gary Buchanan, and Wayne Baumann put a new shingled roof on the Ole Bull kiosk. Bill Boyd built and delivered picnic table #7 to Ole Bull park - our appreciation for the use of park facilities for the Camporee. John Eastlake, Jeff Raisch and Walt Zegarski cleared the Cherry Springs Fire Tower Trail. Pat Childs, Ralph Stockman, Wayne Baumann, and Larry Holtzapple cleared Pat's section, from Wild Boy Rd. to Prouty Lick Rd. Gary Buchanan and River Specht cleared Gary's section, the Gravel Lick Trail. As soon as it was dry enough, Larry and Bill mowed the Shinglebolt Hollow woods road and the WBT woods road with the DR mower. Chad Rugh spent two days clearing from Sunken Branch Road to Lyman Run Rd. Jim Bowser and Marjorie Moore mowed and cleared Switchback Trail on the EFT. In late June, Mark Kelly, Larry and Bill mowed Frazier Farm Trail, and part of Switchback Trail, old Boone Rd. and the RR grade parts of the EFT. During June we began gathering materials for the Gravel Lick shelter, and on June 30 we started erecting it.

The trail log is now showing 854 hours by 35 volunteers.

Chris Baumann:

From Potato Queen to Sweetheart of the Year

By Wanda Shirk

At this year's STC Annual "February Frolic" and Winter Awards and Recognition Dinner, Chris Baumann received the club's first "Sweetheart of the Year" award.

Chris, at age 96, still lived on her own in Coudersport. As I looked at our dinner attendees, I reflected that our club had at least three active nonagenarians, with past president Wil Ahn, at age 95, and New York hiker Clair Almeter (father of active member and hike leader Pat Childs), at age 97, being the other near centenarians that I was aware of. (I believe Mary Wetmore hits the 90 year mark this year. Go Mary!)

Chris wasn't any more hiking in her 90s, but she still often attended our meetings with her son Wayne and was a cheerful, happy presence. A Potter County farm girl who remembered the Depression years of the '30s as not too painful – they always had eggs and butter and other food on the farm, she recalled -- she was "Potter County Potato Queen" back in 1941, before the Pearl Harbor attack changed American history. Chris loved all animals but was especially fond of chickens; in later years she was even known to stop at a farm just to admire chickens in a fenced yard. She was an active birder and member of the Potter County Bird Club, her enthusiasm and love for little feathered friends sometimes bubbling into expressing a wish that she could just pick up and cuddle some of the little darlings.

In their working years, Chris and husband Hal lived in Rochester, where their three children grew up, but in retirement, they moved back to Chris's beloved Potter County, where they were active STC members. Working as a "temp" in the world of business secretaries in Rochester, Chris sometimes marveled and wondered at how a farm girl like herself came to be working on the fifth floor of a city office building.

When her children were grown, Chris heard of two college-age boys who were homeless after their parents divorced and told their sons they were on their own. She and Hal opened their home to them, and Chris became a combination mother and lifetime best friend to the Neal brothers. This is just one example of Chris's warm-hearted kindness in reaching out to make a difference in her world. She was also passionate about politics and greatly disturbed by recent trends that seemed to her so un-American in a lack of kindness, respect, compassion, and caring for refugees or those who are different and vulnerable in our world.

At our STC Christmas party last year, Chris drew the luckiest number – 23 – in the gift-exchange game. Each person brings a wrapped gift, and when the game begins, everyone, starting from #1, gets either to select an unwrapped gift from the pile by the tree or to select a previously revealed gift from someone else, requiring the person from whom the gift was taken to pick again from

under the tree. Those with higher numbers stand a better chance of taking home prized gifts like Alice Buchanan's famous peanut butter fudge or Jayne Fitzgerald's gorgeous annual handcrafted afghan. In 2018, a colorful 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle with beautiful birds was "stolen" time and again from whoever was in possession. Chris loved both birds and jigsaw puzzles – she would put together a 1000 piece puzzle every year as a winter project – so as the final player, she was able to claim the desired puzzle.

But then she couldn't stand it. She had taken it from the Morey children, who had claimed it just before her from a succession of others who had liked it. When the Christmas party was over, she quietly said to Hannah, Noah, and Lila – "You take it." And that is why the STC created a "Sweetheart of the Year" award for our 2019 recognition dinner and presented Chris with another 1000 piece bird jigsaw puzzle.

Dwayne Neal spoke passionately at Chris's memorial service in April about all that Chris was and all she meant to him and his brother and to everyone who knew her. Dwayne attributes much of his success and happiness to Chris rescuing them in their time of need, and he has given the STC \$250 to create a memorial to Chris. Joe Allis is making a memorial bench and Bill Boyd is making a picnic table which we hope to place in a good stream-side location with a plaque in Chris's memory.

At the gathering in Ulysses for the memorial service, a young man at the funeral home observed that Chris's family and friends were different from some groups that collect outside there, perhaps smoking or otherwise reflecting a different class of people. An older observer thought a moment and said that yes, these people were different. "Cerebral Do-gooders," he said. I think Chris would have liked that characterization of her and her friends – and if you are one of them, perhaps it applies to you, too!

We will remember Chris with great fondness



Photo by Curt Weinholt

Lew Baker Campground Workday

By Tim Morey

Memories. While I wasn't around yet, I hear stories about the first STC Camporee on our family property back in 1971 and know a number of readers have fond memories from that event. I do recall many times since then using the same area we called "the campground". My grandfather, Lew Baker would periodically mow the shady spot near the base of the hill next to Pine Creek. I recall in my younger years, many Spring mornings fishing there as well as summer afternoons swimming, tubing or otherwise just playing in the stream. The campfire pit was central to the space and as most know, there's just something about a sitting around a campfire.

I even recall, while now over 20 years ago, bringing good friends from college up to camp and explore either the area trails or the stream by kayak or raft. One of those was Jason Knight, my college roommate, and more recently my hiking buddy to complete all the Adirondack 46ers. We still stay in touch even though he lives in the Lancaster area. When asked if he could come help clear out the old campground, he said, "yeah, sure, why not" (wow, did he ever not know what he was saying) and asked about bringing his son. Since my son is about the same age (12), I immediately had visions of boys with hatchets! And yes, we did let them use hatchets and oh, how they did have fun. They even got some work done too! (and for the Mom's out there, no, they didn't get hurt)

What changed since 1971? Well, in a word, life. Without much use of the campground, it wasn't mowed and as some of you might expect, lots of things grew up. Beech brush, through most of it with intermittent multi-flora rose bushes of impressive size, and some invasive honeysuckle just for added insult. It was all you could do just to fight your way through it. We did try to keep a small trail open back to the old swimming hole, but even that was getting overgrown.

For some period of time, several club members had discussed reopening the campground. 2019 just seemed like the time to get started. After a thorough review of my family and work schedules, Saturday May 4th was a clear winner and a rare date when I could be on site on a Saturday. Early enough to be prior to major growth, yet late enough to allow the ground to dry.

So besides myself and my son, Noah, my good friend Jason and his son, Alex, we were fortunate to have STC members Wayne Baumann, Larry Holtzapple, Dave & Roxanne McMillan, Valorie Patillo, Tom Shatto, John

Zimmer and ringleader, Bill Boyd, who besides enlisting many of the hands that care for the STS, also brought his Kubota, which made quick work of some heavy lifting! I can't forget the help with lunch from Lois Morey (who I also call Mom). I should note, we only gave her a pass on other tasks since she's still on the mend from hip replacement!

The group started about 9 am. My planned safety talk was reduced to mere minutes with the experienced crew (although I had a full speech planned). More was done in an hour than was in the last 20 years! We trimmed the brush to the ground as best we could, grubbed other brush, made huge piles of brush (rabbits will love it), dropped a couple trees, bucked up and stacked wood, trimmed a path to and along the stream and more. By lunchtime, most of the work we planned was done! So...What to do? Eat of course! And oh, we did!

We completed a few details after lunch, then several of us took on a little more work, reopening a couple of trails that should provide a few hike loop options through the property. A tiring, but productive day. I was humbled by the efforts of all involved. A sincere thank you to those who could make it.

So, what now? That's as much up to others as the family. We'd like to hear your memories and your ideas for the future. There's talk of a pavilion, which could be handy in case of rain for both future campouts or meetings. Would anyone want to camp to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first camporee in July 2021?

I do know I'm working on plans for a fire pit. I'm keeping the area mowed and trimmed a bit. That's enough most weeks, especially so far this year with all the rain! Memories or ideas? I'd very much like to hear from you: sidehillm@gmail.com



Photo by Valorie Patillo

Genesee Community Days

By Lois Morey

For the second year in a row, several STC members participated in the Grand Parade in the little town in northern Potter County for the annual Genesee Community Days. It was a perfect warm sunny day for the parade and all the activities scheduled. Members arrived early to set up a vendor table in Genesee Park along with a host of other various vendors selling and advertising their wares. An antique car show filled the adjoining field. Other activities included a chicken BBQ, baking contest, kid & pet parade, and the annual horseshoe tournament to name a few. It was like an old-fashioned day in the park with something planned for young and old alike.

Our table offered information about our 84-mile STS including having trail guides, maps, club patches, license plates, decals, and pencils for sale. We answered questions and visited with other outdoor enthusiasts, promoting our trail system and club.



Photo by Lois Morey

Club members participating were our Club President Wanda Shirk, VP John Zimmer, Secretary Lois Morey, Recording Secretary Bill Morey, Treasurer Bill Boyd, Advisory Board Member Tom Fitzgerald and his wife Jayne, and member Wayne Baumann. We were well represented with our club officers that day.



Photo by Lois Morey

2019 Independence Day Parade & Monthly Meeting / Picnic

By Wanda Shirk

For the past four years, the STC has participated in the annual Galeton Fourth-of-July Parade in conjunction with the town's "Red Suspenders" Weekend -- so named because the festivities were initiated by the local volunteer fire company. By putting our club tool trailer -- our "Traveling Billboard" -- in the parade, we can advertise our club and our trail.

With Bill Boyd and Lois Morey in the pick-up pulling the trailer, eight hikers marched -- or "hiked," complete with hiking sticks -- in this year's parade. The group then proceeded to Lois Morey's house for a festive picnic and our July meeting. This summer celebration has become another grand tradition in recent years.



Photo by Lois Morey

For the first time this year, we were challenged by a rain storm after lunch, but forecasts had given us a heads-up: the club purchased a second canopy this year, and Tim Morey brought his canopy to give the crowd three roofs under which to "shelter in the time of storm," as the old hymn line goes. Six guests and twenty-three club members enjoyed plates full of sides, salads, desserts, and the hot dogs and hamburgers Tim grilled by the garage. Unlike last year, we were not visited by a bear in 2019!

Although the rain squelched the afternoon hike plans, several members camped for the weekend and enjoyed a Saturday evening campfire after the rain stopped.



Photo by: Lois Morey

Trail of The Year

By Wanda Shirk

Pennsylvania has named a “River of the Year” going back to the early 1980s. Pine Creek was “River of the Year” in 1991, and in the four most recent years the honor has gone to the North Branch of the Susquehanna (2016), the Allegheny River (2017), the Loyalsock Creek (2018), and the Clarion River (2019).

DCNR began selecting a “Trail of the Year” in 2014. Both David Brooks (then director of the Potter County Visitors Association) and Curt Ashenfelter (then executive director of the Keystone Trails Association), suggested then that we apply for the Susquehannock Trail System. However, a look at the application – which gave weight to “economic impact to the surrounding community,” indicated that we’d probably be wasting our time in applying. “Rails to Trails” bike and jogging paths seemed to be what the committee was looking for, so we hung back.

At least one member of DCNR’s selection committee, however, represented the true hiking community, and suggested that perhaps every third year, a backwoods wilderness trail should be considered. That puts us in the game!

Six trails have won the designation so far. Three are rail trails: The 51-mile Redbank Valley Rail Trail northeast of Pittsburgh (2014), the 21-mile Heritage Rail Trail in York County (2015), and the 63-mile Montour Trail in Allegheny and Washington counties (2017). The 5-mile Forbidden Drive, a paved trail for jogging, bicycling, or walking (some call it “hiking!”) near Philadelphia was selected in 2018. Two wilderness trails have now been selected: the 84-mile Standing Stone Trail in 2016 and, this year, the 327-mile Mid State Trail, which goes south-north (or vice-versa) from the PA-Maryland border to the PA-NY border, where it joins the 50 mile Crystal Hills and proceeds to connect to the Finger Lakes Trail.

For me, after hiking hundreds, even thousands, of miles of wilderness trails, being asked which trail is the best is like asking a kid in a candy store to pick just one. I can certainly see the merits of the Standing Stone Trail and the Mid State Trail. However, our STS has just as much to recommend it as any trail on the map, so – WE are going to apply for “Trail of the Year -- 2022”, when we hope a wilderness trail will again be given top consideration, if the 3-year cycle is continued.

What are some of the features that warrant considering the STS as the best?

* The Hammersley Pool, which has even been written up in Backpacker magazine as one of the nation’s best swimming holes on a trail.

* Our relatively rock-free, nice, dirt treadway – as compared to the “Rocksylvania” reputation of the Appalachian Trail through Pennsylvania and some extremely rocky sections of numerous other PA trails, including the previously awarded SST and MST.

* Our fun stuff – like the “Almost Halfway” sign on Cardiac Climb, and the “Spook Hollow” signs.

* Our loop advantage: Unlike linear trails like the SST and MST, backpackers can hike back to their starting point and car, usually in a week or less.

* Our cross-trails: The West Branch Trail and East Fork Trail give hikers about 10 options for loops of different lengths.

* Our links: The North and South Link Trails connect to our little sister trail, the 42-mile Black Forest Trail, creating another great loop option. Also, since the Donut Hole Trail is concurrent with the STS for 8 miles, hikers can go west and even hike to the Old Sinnemahoning Trail linking to the Quehanna Trail or to the Bucktail Path north to Sizerville State Park, or hikers can go east and hike to Garby and Chuck Keiper Trails, or east from the Black Forest Trail to the West Rim Trail and MST.

* Our state park connections: Hikers pass through Ole Bull and Patterson State Parks and quite near Lyman Run State Park. The trail’s proximity to the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum provides another great option to open up history for visiting hikers.

* Our shelters: The STS has more than any other Pennsylvania trail except the Appalachian Trail.

* Our bridges, our blazing, our signage: Hikers send their appreciation and praise for all these things.

Even more reasons could be given for naming the STS as Trail of the Year. We expect to keep making improvements and apply in 2021 for the 2022 designation. Watch this space for updates!

Bob Webber

By Curt Weinholt

Bob & Dotty Webber were folks we admire for their lifestyle of “off the grid”, even though we ourselves may not want to live as they lived.

I first met Bob & Dotty at a cabin party in the late 1970’s when they lived along Rt 44 in northern Lycoming County. Bob was a forestry foreman with the Tiadaghton District. A forestry friend, John Eastlake invited me to the Webber’s home one snowy February weekend for X-C skiing. That weekend I met state park managers, more foresters & some school teachers.

We all brought food which as I recall, Dotty prepared. That was my first experience learning of the interesting Webbers as more cabin parties followed, sometimes at different locations including the elk country of Dents Run.

Fast forward to the current century and Bob has retired from DCNR. Now, instead of living in town they opted to move back into a log cabin which was on land formerly owned by Bob’s father. It is located 1.5 miles east of Rt 44 and accessed by a grassy road which begins at a locked gate.

Here they happily lived out their lives without electric or running water. The cabin had a roomful of books and was heated with firewood.

Trips were made downhill in the Jeep to Slate Run village for water, groceries and mail. Bob’s recreation was leading hikes and maintaining the Black Forest Trail. Incidentally, the BFT was inspired by Bob Webber and John Eastlake.

There were “Slate Run Rambles”- spring & fall hikes which began at Slate Run and meandered over ridges and into hollows. These hikes were frequently attended by 50-75 people. Bob’s fame spread through the hiking community. A trail south of Slate Run bears his name.

Newest Circuit Hiker Award Recipients

1186 Ben Cramer
State College, PA

The following hiked as a group

1187 Stephen Fisher Jr. 1188 Lisa Fisher
Pequea, PA Pequea, PA

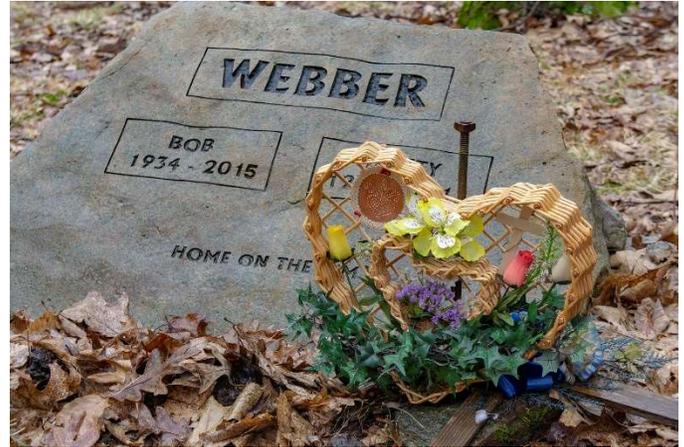
1189 Jill Smith 1190 Carol Richwine
Pequea, PA Pequea, PA

1191 Rob Martin 1192 Jane Martin
Pequea, PA Pequea, Pa.

1193 Mark Farmer
Pequea, PA

After the passing of Dotty and then Bob three years later, the land they owned was set aside to the state of PA. Their cabin was disassembled in 2018 and reassembled at the PA Lumber Museum along Rt 6 in Potter County. All are welcome to visit.

Memorial Marker at Original Cabin Site



Cabin Relocated at PA Lumber Museum



Photos by Curt Weinholt

Ed. Note: Photos are from the April 19th visit to the cabin at the Lumber Museum and hike to the original cabin site.

Welcome New Members

Dan Dorshimer,
Harrisburg, PA

Mike Woloszanski,
Kutztown, PA

Mike Weaver,
Fleetwood, PA

Jessie Knuth,
Reading, PA

David Mong
Clarksburg, WV

Kirsten Dorshimer,
Harrisburg, PA

Molly Hoffer,
Kutztown, PA

Nathan Youse,
Reading, PA

Mary Shannon
Chicora, PA

Gene Mossie
Galeton, PA

5π



Susquehannock Trail Club
PO Box 643
Coudersport PA 16915

5π

2019/2020 Event Schedule

When: September 14, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: February 12, 2020 @ 5:00 PM	When: July 4, 2020 @ 11:00 AM
What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting	What: Independence Day Parade
Where: Saulters' Preserve Coudersport, PA	Where: Susquehannock Lodge Ulysses, PA	Where: Galeton, PA
When: October 12, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: March 14, 2020 @ 5:00 PM	When: July 4, 2020 @ 12:30 PM
What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting
Where: Home of Wanda Shirk Genesee, PA	Where: Home of Bill Boyd Coudersport, PA	Where: Home of Lois Morey Galeton, PA
When: November 9, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: April 11, 2020 @ 5:00 PM	When: Aug 6-9, 2020
What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting	What: Annual Camporee
Where: Home of Bill Boyd Coudersport, PA	Where: Home of Joe & Barb Allis Galeton, PA	Where: Ole Bull State Park Cross Fork, PA
When: December 14, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: May 9, 2020 @ 5:00 PM	2020 Dates and locations are planned but tentative and may be subject to change
What: Christmas Party	What: Monthly Meeting	T.B.D. = To Be Determined
Where: Home of Lois Morey Galeton, PA	Where: Home of Donna Batterson Coudersport, PA	
When: January 11, 2020 @ 5:00 PM	When: June 13, 2020 @ 5:00 PM	
What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting	
Where: Home of Gene & Myra Neeffe Coudersport, PA	Where: Lyman Run State Park Galeton, PA	