

MAY 2023 SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL CLUB MINUTES

The May 2023 meeting was held Saturday the 13th at Lyman Run State Park. The following 31 members enjoyed a dish-to-pass picnic at noon followed by the business meeting: Wanda Shirk, Tod Twichell, Larry Holtzapple, Bob Hayes, Ron Heath, David Hajzus, Dwina Hajzus, Corrie Amick, Gary Buchanan, Alice Buchanan, Donna Batterson, Mercy Batterson, Jayne Fitzgerald, Susie Gribble, Gary Russell, Allan Russell, Curt Weinhold, Penny Weinhold, Wayne Baumann, Bill Boyd, Roxanne McMillan, Dave McMillan, John Zimmer, Angela Jackson, Henry Fuller, Gene Neefe, Pat Childs, Jeff Stager, Tom Oliver, Lori Szymanik, Aniela Oliver

President Wanda Shirk called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm with the reading of the April 2023 meeting minutes by Lori Szymanik. Motion made by John Zimmer to accept minutes as read and seconded by Alice Buchanan. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Boyd:

Beginning Balance:	\$7189.73
Debits (expenditures):	\$1787.43
Credits (receipts):	\$265.00
Current Balance:	\$5667.30

Address labels \$19.58, guides/maps \$231.92, table strip (Greg Vincent - paid by donation) \$21.20, loppers/saws \$1220.93, PO box rent \$114.00

TRAILS REPORT by Bill Boyd:

There were 22 maintainers for April.

Ron Heath- 20 hours

Jay Stuckey- 18 hours

Mark & Denise Kelly- 17 each

Bill Boyd- 16 hours

Larry Holtzapple and Charlie Kern- 14 each

Jack Buckwalter- 12 hours

Chris and Karen Bell- 10 each

The total for April is 336 hours.

NEW MEMBERS by Lois Morey:

- No new members to report.

CIRCUIT HIKER REPORT by Lori Szymanik:

Fourteen new circuit hikers have been approved since our last meeting.

- 1296- David Hajzus

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tim Kane and John & Jan Halter have taken over sections that needed maintainers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bill shared how to use the new Stihl pruner. Donated by Mahaley's. It can be borrowed by members for trail work.
- Founding member Tom Fitzgerald passed away May 2, 2023. **Obituary attached** to minutes. Jayne Fitzgerald is in attendance today. Advisory Council—Dave McMillan will succeed Tom Fitzgerald on the advisory council.
- Jim Bowser memorial sign stating, "Jim Bowser's spirit lives here" was routed by Bill Boyd. There is a section on the East Fork/Railroad Grade trail intersection that would be suitable for both the sign and a picnic table in memory of Jim Bowser.
- Dave McMillan is mapping loop hike near Cherry Springs. This will be excellent for stargazing tourists. Dave intends to post maps on the STC website. They will

be available to print at home as well. Discussed the possibility of getting 100 maps printed by TC specialties to hand out—just to get us started. It is hoped that DCNR will take over printing and distribution of the maps.

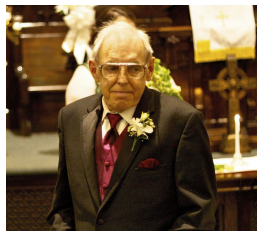
- Group discussion and comments on Duke MOA. Maryland Air National Guard has been quiet. They are not responding to requests by commissioners/others for public meetings.
- Group discussion and comments on the effects of ATVs and the pilot program to the tranquility of the forest.
- Group discussion and comments on this areas dark skies and lighting that creates light pollution.
- Pat Childs shared ideas about places for the memorial bench for Ryan Fairbank.
- The Potter County Marathon is June 3rd, 2023. The club is looking for volunteers to help with water station between 8:30am and 10:30am.
- The STC is looking for help with shuttles for STS hikers.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Saulter Preserve, Bryant Road, Coudersport, PA

Meeting minutes taken and

submitted by Lori Szymanik



Obituary of Thomas Joseph Fitzgerald

FITZGERALD - Thomas Joseph "Tom", 83 of New Florence, PA and West Clarksville, NY passed away on May 2 at Indiana Regional Medical Center in Indiana, PA. He was

born to Walter A. and F. Marie Fitzgerald on July 31, 1939 in Olean, NY. He is preceded in death by two daughters, Heather Jayne and Rebecca Corinne; grandparents William and Mary Fitzgerald and Cassius and Corinne Congdon; siblings Walter C., Jean M., C. Robert. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years Jayne, children Jeremy, Kari, Bronwyn, Joseph, Stephanie, Cassius, Nathan, and grandson Evan. He graduated from Richburg Central High School, Richburg, NY in 1957 and had a Bachelor's degree from the College of Forestry at Syracuse University in 1963. He served as a Forster for the State of Pennsylvania retiring in 2005 after 41 years of service.

Tom had a life-long interest in photography, back-packing, and camping. He leaves behind a legacy of thousands of Kodachrome slides and digital photos. He was among the founding members of the Susquehannock Trail System and Club of Coudersport, PA. Tom was the editor of the STC's newsletter for a decade and remained an active member throughout his life. In addition, editing the STC's newsletter, Tom would submit satirical articles, under the pseudonym "George Reamerstraff," partially inspired by his early life and college years.

Throughout Tom's life he was active in Scouting, first as a boy scout himself and later as an adult leader and merit-badge counselor. Tom will be remembered for sharing his seemingly unlimited knowledge of nature and always knowing which knot was needed. He enjoyed giving back to an organization that enriched his life with a love of the outdoors, his country, and God.

Tom was a devout Catholic and a member of Holy Family Parish in Seward, PA and Saint Mary's Parish in Bolivar, NY. He lived his life according to the Word of God. A funeral mass will be held 11 am July 29, 2023 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 425 Bridge Street, Seward, PA 15954. Interment will be in New York state.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Tom's name to the Susquehannock Trail Club, Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915.