



SUSQUEHANNOCK HIKER

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

Spring 2020

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.

2020 Independence Day Parade & Monthly Meeting / Picnic

Unless you've already made plans for July 4th this year, mark your calendars for that date and plan to join fellow STC members for a fun-filled day in Potter County! We will once again meet in the backyard of STC Secretary Lois Morey's for the annual 4th of July picnic followed by our regular monthly business meeting. Arrive early that morning (no later than 9:30) to carpool to the Galeton School where we will participate in the local parade. Please wear appropriate hiking gear. We want to look as authentic as possible so please don't forget the backpacks and walking sticks. Hikers walk alongside our STC tool trailer for approximately one mile through the small town with the streets lined with both local townspeople as well as the many out-of-the-area spectators who will also enjoy the spectacular fireworks display later that evening.

Following the business meeting, you may choose to take a guided hike in the local area, explore a little on your own, or just hang out in the cool backyard visiting with old friends or new acquaintances. There is also the Bark Peeler's Convention just a few miles up the road at the PA Lumberman's Museum and Red Suspender activities in Galeton. Plenty of things to do in the immediate area this 4th of July weekend.



Photos by Lois Morey

After finishing the parade, we head back on Route 6 West, approximately 3 miles, where we find hamburgers and hot dogs being grilled to be served alongside all the picnic foods brought by STC members. Condiments and cold beverages will be supplied but please bring your own table service along with your picnic dish-to-share food and folding chairs to help with seating.



Photos by Lois Morey

If you wish to camp, the Morey Family offers primitive camping on private land next to Pine Creek that weekend. Please call (814) 435-8270 or email loismorey46@gmail.com for further details or for any additional information not covered in this article.

Sound like fun? Come, and find out for yourself. Each year this July STC event is getting more popular. Wait until you hear what we are planning for this July event in the year 2021. You definitely will not want to miss that one!! by Lois Morey

The February Frolic & Awards Dinner

By Wanda Shirk

Approximately fifty members assembled for the STC's "Winter Frolic" at the Susquehannock Lodge on Route 6 on February 12. The annual event may have included more "frolicking" in days past than it does now that the average age of the partiers has "matured" a bit, but the program still includes plenteous amounts of the two essentials: food and fun!

Highlight #1, of course, is the great dinner engineered by chef Ed Szymanik, with choice of prime rib or salmon. Some think the meal can't be beat anywhere in Potter County, or even in the larger region.

Highlight #2 is an annual song-and-dance routine by the STC Singers -- now limited mainly to song, due to constraints of dance space as well as the age of the participants. Accompanied and led by Wanda Shirk on the baritone ukelele, they did, however, find space to wave loppers, saws, and trail tools (hatchet, pulaski) to a new song parody this year to the tune of "Jingle Bells." The lively chorus (Yes! Non-professionals can try this at home!) goes

"Lop! Lop! Lop! Chop! Chop! Chop!"

Buzz-Buzz goes the saw!

We will clear the STS and keep the world in awe!"

Singers included Alice and Gary Buchanan, Pat Childs, Scott Lee, Beth Lounsbury, Curt and Penny Weinhold, and John Zimmer.



Photo by Larry Holtzapfle

Highlight #3 is the awards and recognition time. Club officers, life members, and section maintainers were all recognized. Special recognition went to the seventeen volunteers who put in over twenty hours of trail work in 2019. (see list in sidebar.) Bright neon-orange, long-sleeved Sport-Tek (the best tech material!) tee shirts specially designed for us with our club logo and the words "Volunteer Trail Crew" were presented. Tangible gifts to volunteers like these, who go above and beyond to clear, maintain, and improve the

STS, are planned for all future years, to encourage more volunteer time on the trail.



Photo by Larry Holtzapfle

Highlight #4 this year was a very informative program presented by Tim Morey, son of Bill Morey (our recording secretary) and Lois Morey (our corresponding secretary). Tim, who works for several of our local state parks, presented a Power Point slide show about "Dark Skies." Photos showed how light pollution keeps people in many urban and suburban areas from seeing stars at night, while here in north central Pennsylvania, we have some of the world's best views of the Milky Way and of planets and constellations in our galaxy. Artificial light at night is harmful to birds and many mammals and insects whose sense of direction and circadian rhythms can be challenged by lights at night. Unnecessary light at night also wastes billions of dollars in energy costs and adds to waste in energy production and thus to climate change. When night lighting is warranted, motion-detector lights instead of automatic dusk-to-dawn lights should be installed, and domed or shielded lighting, which directs light down to the ground instead of allowing light to go up into the sky, should be used. The public needs to be better educated on the value and beauty of night time darkness. Folks commented that this year's program was one of the most interesting programs ever.

The annual dinner also includes a "Remembrance Ceremony," when we take a moment to memorialize those of our trail club family who have completed their life's journey in the past year. This year we said goodbyes to Chris Baumann and Dottie Quimby.

During the evening we also highlighted the accomplishments of the past year, including construction of our fourth trail shelter. Plans for 2020 were outlined, including the rebuilding of "Footbridge Camp Lane," the construction of our fifth trail shelter, the completion of the mile marker project, and building additional benches

around the trail. Several new members attended this year's meeting, and as always we enjoyed getting acquainted with these new additions to our team, as well as socializing with long-time friends.

Some members come from long distances to attend the annual February dinner meeting. Nadine Lowry, Janet Smith, and Wellis Balliet, all of whom have drives of three to five hours to get here, stayed at the Susquehannock Lodge for the night, while Charlie Kern -- STC life member, long-time section maintainer, and Boy Scout leader for decades -- camped out at the Spook Hollow Shelter on his section adjacent to Twelve Mile Road after the meeting. Now that's adding adventure to a great meal and program!

20+ HOUR MAINTAINERS

Bill Boyd	Larry Holtzapple
Doug Weatherby	Wanda Shirk
Buzz Russell	Mark Kelly
Joe Allis	Chris Bell
Lowell Luft	Barb Luft
Tod Twichell	John Zimmer
Chuck Hager	Karen Bell
Gary Russell	Chad Rugh
Jim Bowser	

Tim Morey displays image of satellite photo showing areas of night sky brightness and darkness.



Photo by Curt Weinhold

Life Member Supporters

We'd like to take this opportunity to recognize our Life Member Supporters, especially our newest 2019-2020 members, Jim Berger, Ed and Nancy Graczyk, Chuck Hager, and Allan Reed.

Allan Reed	Bill Hardam	Clair Almeter (NY)
Allen "Buzz" Russell	Buck/Patty Roth	Dave/Pam Luthi
Anonymous	Charles Kern	Dawn McManus
Art/Robin Huber	Chris/Jackson Kemp (TX)	Ed/Nancy Graczyk
Ben Cramer	Chuck Hager	Frank Eppinger (CT)
Bill Boyd	Cindy Bower	Gene Wimmer

Glenn/Karen Yasharian
Janet Long
Jason/Tara Boyd Kemp (TX)
Jeff/Jo Nelson
Jim Berger
Jim Bowser (FL)
Joanne Heimer

Joe/Nancy Nachtway
John Zimmer
Joy Olney
Lois Morey
Lorena Meunier (DE)
Lowell/Barb Luft
Pat Childs (NY)

Rick/Carolyn Oyen (OH)
Steve Erway
Wanda Shirk
Wellis Balliet
Wilfred Oliver (NY)

Wil Ahn Memorial

By Wanda Shirk



Photo by Curt Weinhold

Wil Ahn, who served as President of the STC for thirty years, ended his life's trail here on Friday, March 13, at the age of 97. Wil's wife Betty was secretary of the club during their three decades of leadership and service together. The winter 2017 issue of this newsletter, written after the celebration of Betty's 100th birthday, tells the story of their lives, and can be found on our website.

Together they owned and operated the Susquehannock Lodge on Route 6 for many years, holding STC meetings and hosting hikers there. A trail on Denton Hill is named for them, and the club's "Big Shoes" award for lifetime achievement is officially the "Wil and Betty Ahn Award." They were the first recipients.

Memorial service arrangements have been postponed due to the current public health crisis. Memorial donations to the STC will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged to the family. We will miss the Ahns, but treasure the memories as we follow in their footsteps.

Wil along the trail on March 22, 1969

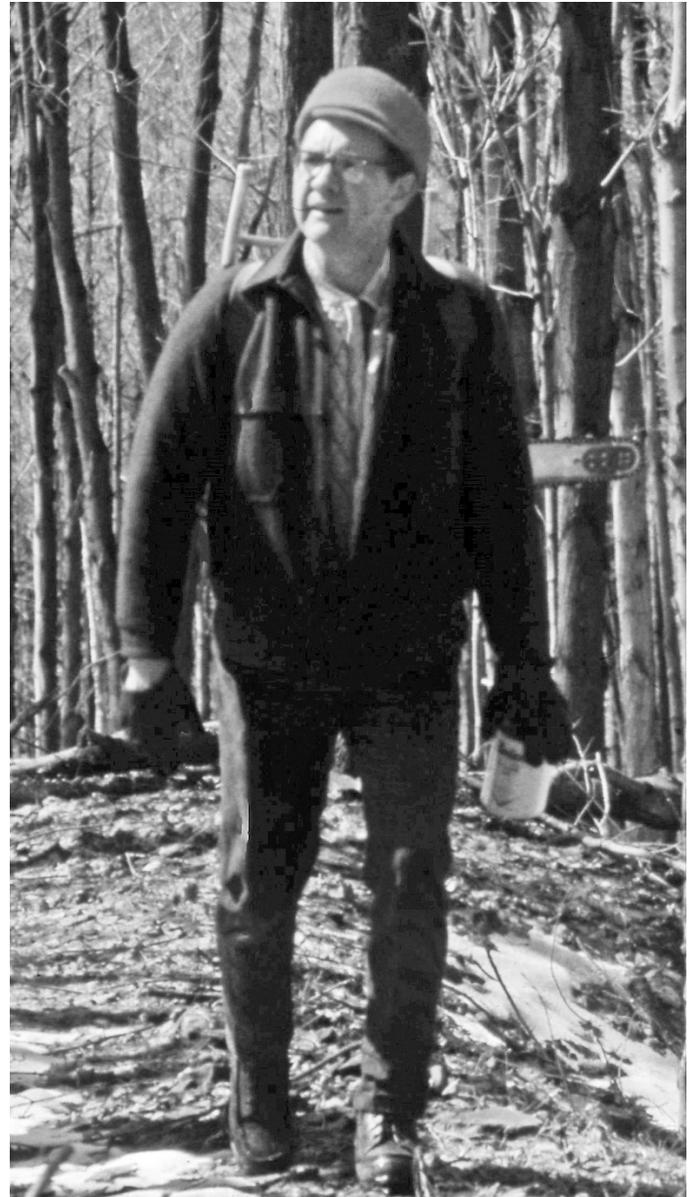


Photo by Bob Knowles

Provided by John Eastlake

Maintainers needed for the West Branch and East Fork Trails

West Branch Crossover Trail This trail connects the southbound STS leg to the northbound leg. Hiking clockwise on the STS you depart the trail at Mile-11.08 and reconnect at Mile-77.68, covering about 6 miles, straight up the West Branch valley.

For maintenance this section can be approached in several ways. To cover the 5.5 miles which requires maintenance, one can begin by hiking down the Plantation Trail from Patterson Park, on Rt. 44. The first mile is normally maintained - when reaching the junction with the WBT, go straight for a short distance, then turn right crossing the stream - from here it's nearly a straight run down to West Branch Road - map and directions will be provided, as can guidance during familiarization trips.

Another approach would be from the ATV trailhead on Rt. 44 (can get a key for the gate from DCNR.

This brings you to the WBT in a couple of spots, so one can work both east and west.

The next option would be to work north from the West Branch Road. Note: the upper half-mile or so can be mowed with the (walk-behind) DR mower, as can the lower mile - leaves about 4 miles which would require the most maintenance. To avoid an in-and-out trip, a shuttle vehicle can be placed at one end. One would be hard-pressed to find a more scenic stretch of trail to care for.

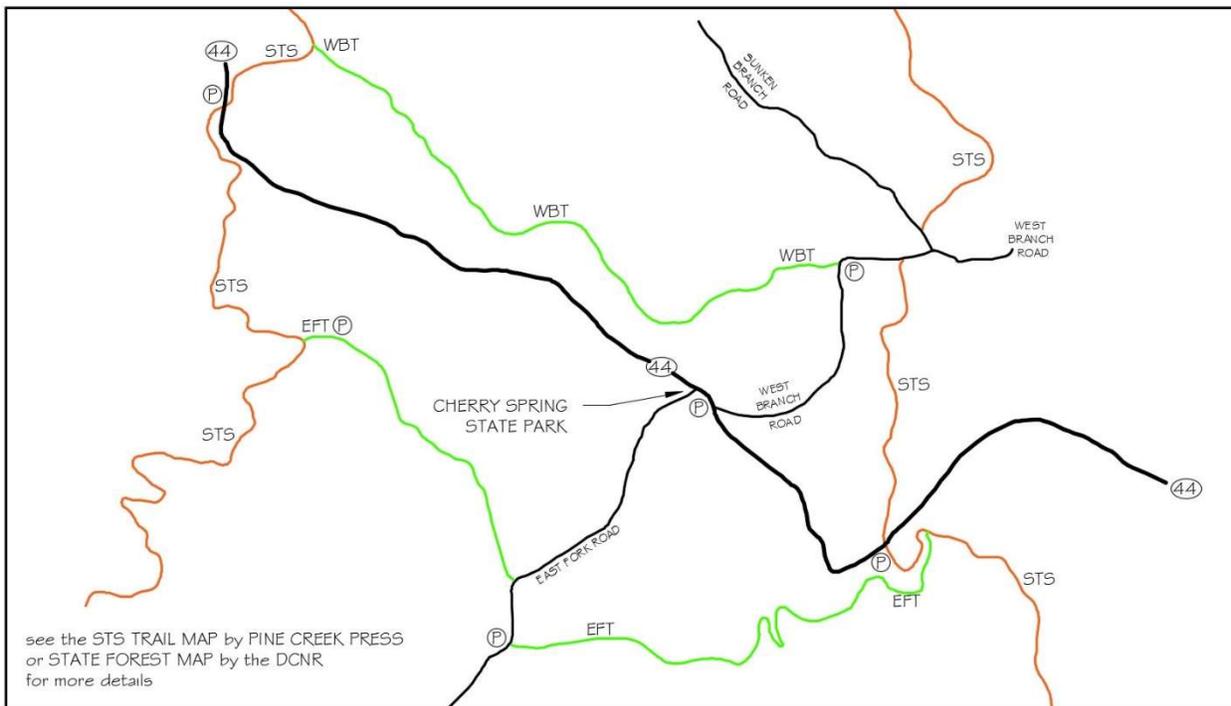
East Fork Crossover Trail This trail connects southbound STS at Mile-14.2 to northbound at Mile-73.92, covering about 8.3 miles. The beauty of this stretch is that it can be nearly all mowed with the DR mower. It is mostly RR grade, pipeline and woods roads. The eastern couple of miles can be mowed from near the Cherry

Springs Hunting Club, the next section from Junction Road (short sections in both directions), the next part from East Fork Road (about a mile in each direction), and the western end from Rock Ridge Road.

The club has a trailer to haul the mower with - you would need truck or SUV with Class-3 hitch. If mowing at least two people are required - one needs to go ahead of the mower to watch for rocks or other large debris that the mower might hit. The DR is set-up to carry a small chainsaw and misc. gear. An alternative would be to use a weedwacker or brushcutter - slower but no need to haul the mower around.

By Bill Boyd

For more information or to volunteer please contact Bill Boyd at billboydsts@gmail.com



map by Dave McMillan

Spring Around The Trail

By Bill Boyd

Spring is when we urge the maintainers to go through their section, clear what they can and report back what they may need help with. The club has most of the tools you may need, including chainsaws (if you are a saw operator), razor-tooth pruning saws (for up to about 8" limbs), bow-saws, loppers, pulaskis, blazing paint and brushes/or spray paint and templates.

Also, report if your section needs a new sign/or refurbished, footbridge, maybe a bench at a special spot - whatever you think it needs for maintenance and/or improvements.

This typically takes place about April, or when it's safe to be out there. This is the year to really make our trail worthy of "Trail Of The Year" award - so let's make it happen!

New Benches at the CCC Dynamite House

By Wanda Shirk

As most of us are aware, the small, historic dynamite storage building has been cleaned up and made suitable for use as a shelter for one or two hikers. The benches were made by Larry Holtzapple and Doug Wetherbee, who logged a lot of STS trail work hours even in the snowy winter months



photo by Larry Holtzapple

Newest Circuit Hiker Award Recipients

Kirstin Dorshimer, Harrisburg, PA, # 1203
Dan Dorshimer, Harrisburg, PA, # 1204
Nate Youse, Reading, PA, # 1205
Mike Weaver, Fleetwood, PA, # 1206
Mike Woloszanski, Kutztown, PA, #1207

Welcome New Members

- Marcia Austin, Coudersport, PA
- Ted Georgian, Olean, NY
- Terry Gerhart, Coudersport, PA
- Larry & Sue Grigsby, Olean, NY
- Tom Hardes, Eldred, PA
- Lester High, Pottstown, PA
- Joe Myatovich, Norristown, PA
- Theresa Pierson, Coudersport, PA
- Nathan Sanet, Coatesville, PA
- Arnie & Paula Troutman, Coudersport, PA
- Heather Klimek, Coudersport, PA
- Baylee Hazel Klimek, Coudersport, PA

Newsletter / Membership Final Reminder

Notice: For members that have not renewed their membership by payment of their annual dues this will be their last newsletter.

The First Blaze on the STS

Oct 22, 1967 – Wil Ahn, Kay Davey, Tom Fitzgerald, Jayne Knight (Fitzgerald)



Photo by Robert Davey,

Provided by John Eastlake

2020 STC Elections

STC officers are elected for two-year terms in even numbered years.

At our March meeting, the following slate of officers was nominated:

- President: Wanda Shirk
- Vice President: John Zimmer
- Corresponding Secretary: Lois Morey
- Recording Secretary: Lori Szymanik
- Treasurer: Bill Boyd
- Advisory Board:
 - Joe Allis
 - Tom Fitzgerald
 - Curt Weinhold

Wanda, Lois, and Bill have served as a strong leadership team for the past decade, and John was added to the team six years ago. Lori Szymanik will be new to the officers' slate, replacing Bill Morey, who is retiring from active duty and whose cheerful service has been much appreciated. The recording secretary has one job: to take the minutes at each meeting, read them at the next meeting, and then file the typed minutes for future reference.

For those who do not know Lori, the following background will be of interest. Lori's parents, Ed and Carol Szymanik, bought the Susquehannock Lodge along Route 6 from Wil and Betty Ahn when Lori was a child. Lori grew up there, meeting many hikers who talked about their adventures on the STS, and sometimes she accompanied them on sections of the trail near Route 6. Lori is now a teacher in the Northern Potter School District and has been actively pursuing her interest of hiking the STS and other trails, especially in Pennsylvania. She has recently participated in some of our "Spring Around the Trail" clearing, maintenance, and assessment projects, and she has been a regular at our meetings since last summer.

Given that all the other officers are "senior citizens," we are especially delighted to have a Gen-X member on our leadership team. Lori has expressed interest in long-term leadership with the club and has already taken on other roles including club librarian and head of the circuit hiker committee.

Feel free to write in any other candidates for STC officers. We are always happy to know of others who might serve us well, in case of vacancies occurring or future retirement needs of existing officers.

Amendment to STC By-Laws

"Article IV: Government, Section 2" of the STC by-laws currently reads as follows:

"The officers shall serve without remuneration and shall be six in number, as follows: President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Archivist."

We have lost our archivist of the past ten years, Wil Ahn. At the March STC meeting, we discussed this position, and members present concluded that the role of archivist should be an appointed, non-officer position rather than an elected, officer position. Therefore, our ballot for this year asks for members' approval of the following change to Article IV, Section 2 of our by-laws:

"The officers shall serve without remuneration and shall be five in number, as follows: President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer."

The change is from "six" to "five" officers, with the elimination of archivist.

Currently Bill Morey has been appointed to fill the vacancy left by Wil.

Circuit Hiker Committee

Our by-laws also state that the President shall annually appoint standing committee members, including the Circuit Hiker Award committee. Last year, Valorie Patillo served as head of this committee, with Wil Ahn, Bill Boyd, and Wanda Shirk as reader-approvers. Valorie is no longer able to serve, due to the death of her mother and consequent changes in her life. Valorie has contributed to the club in many ways -- as librarian, shuttle service driver, trail-maintainer-at-large, and Circuit Hiker Award committee chair. We have appreciated her cheerfulness and enthusiasm as well as her participation in so many ways. Lori Szymanik is taking on all of these roles, including, by appointment, head of the Circuit Hiker committee.

Gary Buchanan has been appointed as reader-approver to take Wil Ahn's place on the committee.

Ballots must be received by May 1st to be counted

Notice – Members that have not paid their annual membership dues by the date of newsletter mailing will not receive a ballot.



Susquehannock Trail Club
PO Box 643
Coudersport PA 16915

2019/2020 Event Schedule

Monthly Meeting,	April 11, 2020 @ 5:00 PM,	Meeting has been cancelled
The May meeting may also be cancelled – to be determined.		
Monthly Meeting,	May 9, 2020 @ 5:00 PM,	Home of Donna Batterson, Coudersport, PA
Monthly Meeting,	June 13, 2020 @ 5:00 PM,	Lyman Run State Park, Galeton, PA
Independence Day Parade,	July 4, 2020 @ 11:00 AM,	Galeton, PA
Monthly Meeting & Picnic,	July 4, 2020 @ 12:30 PM,	Home of Lois Morey, Galeton, PA
Annual Camporee,	Aug 6-9, 2020,	Ole Bull State Park, Cross Fork, PA

Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of the month unless otherwise noted and begin at 5:00 PM with a dish-to-pass meal followed by the club meeting