



SUSQUEHANNOCK HIKER

Summer 2020

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



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 Annual Camporee At Ole Bull State Park

CAMPOREE IS A GO!

By Wanda Shirk

After careful consideration, we have decided, for several reasons, that our annual summer camporee at Ole Bull State Park is ON!

Save the dates on your calendar: Thursday through Sunday, August 6-9. Campsites for STC this year are #'s 52, 54, 55, 56, and 60.

Those who live locally and do not want to camp are encouraged to join us for our Saturday night meeting at the park's large pavilion.

Our picnic meal will start at 5 on Saturday, with the meeting to follow at 6.

Our guest presenter this year will be Kristin Joivell, a teacher from the Huntingdon, (south-central) PA area, who is an amazing backpacker. Her Power Point slide show will be on Pennsylvania's extremely rugged 325-mile Mid State Trail, which she completed on a solo trip last summer. Kristin backpacked the STS circuit for the second time this spring, so she knows our trail well. She and her best friend Kevin Busko, who will be coming along on August 8, were among the volunteers last October when the new Greenlick log bridge was built and new trail was put in along Greenlick Run. Kevin and Kristin are backpacking the Pennsylvania Wilds Trail this July, a west-to-east connection of trails that starts with the Quehanna Trail, takes the Sinnemahoning Trail to connect to the Donut Hole, to the STS, then the North or South Link Trail to the Black Forest Trail, and then uses various connectors to the West Rim Trail and the

Mid State Trail. They can give us the highlights of that trail adventure as well, so if you love PA trails, Kristin and Kevin are a feast of fun and tales.

We have thought long and hard about safety concerns for the camporee this summer and almost canceled it. Everyone must make a personal decision, but these are the reasons we chose to go "on with the show." First, this area is considered "Green phase." We have had very little of the virus in this area, and no community spread. It would be different if we were in a "hot spot" or more urban or populated area. Second, we will be entirely outdoors. Indoor containment is a much greater concern, but not a factor at the park. Third, there are lots and lots of picnic tables, and plenty of space for social distancing. Finally, getting together is important to people and to groups and organizations, so we believe that this summer opportunity is of value to us, to keep our personal connections energized. As always, we also appreciate the opportunities to hike and to do trail work on the southern part of our trail.

Bill Boyd has made another heavy-duty, sturdy picnic table for the park. This is the eighth table donated by the STC. Park funding has been cut substantially over the years, and the park is very appreciative of the new tables we have contributed in partial exchange for the free sites and pavilion use we are given for our annual camporee.

Needless to say, but we repeat the point anyway: mask-wearing will be required in the park, and social distancing, frequent hand washing, and sanitizing are everyone's responsibility.

JUNE MEETING AT LRSP

By Wanda Shirk

The STC's April and May meetings were canceled this year with due respect to the onslaught of Corona Virus Disease, but the club was able to hold its Saturday, June 13 meeting at the pavilion at Lyman Run State Park in the open air.

Buzz Russell did the honors at the charcoal grill making hamburgers, while pulled pork brought by Jane Wetherbee and sloppy joe brought by Wanda Shirk rounded out the sandwich menu. Club members added an amazing array of salads, veggie sides, and desserts. Biscuits enriched with cheddar cheese bits and freshly-picked Potter County nettles for a green touch were a unique and tasty treat made by John and Jan Halter. Some were reminded of the way Betty Ahn always started the secretary's meeting-minutes: "After a delicious meal..."

The meeting agenda included reviews of 2020 trail maintenance and upgrade projects. Over 1300 hours of volunteer time had been recorded on the STS as of June 13, which is a record. "Stay-at-home" requirements had kept many people in Potter County but not indoors. Curt and Penny Weinhold, for example, did trail work on a day they had planned to fly to Alaska. Others had canceled hikes on the Appalachian Trail, or had curtailed other travel plans, and used the time instead to clear trail or take loppers for a walk on the STS.

The completion of the mile marker project was noted, and the plans for the upgrade of Footbridge Camp Lane were highlighted. FBC Lane is south of the Hogback and north of Short Run Rd., roughly mile 18-19 of the STS. Hikers walk this entire length, but usually have had to stay to the side, as the camp lane was deeply rutted and full of mud holes created by lack of drainage from the hillside on the east. The project so far has entailed (1) going to the tax office to find the names and addresses of the three camp owners on the lane, (2) getting camp owners' buy-in for the project -- which has included \$700 in donations from them, almost enough to pay for the gravel needed for the project, (3) securing donations of three 20' sluice pipes and some collars from Abbott Township. The pipes have been cut into 12 and 8 foot sections, so there are three twelves. One of the eight-foot sections has been cut in half, so the two four-foot sections can be

collared onto the other two 8 foot sections to make two more 12 footers. We will trench five 12-foot sluices across the lane to drain the spring water from the hillside.

When Footbridge Camp Lane has been rehabilitated so that pickup trucks can drive it again to the forestry gate at the north end, we will be able to take supplies in to build the Bolich Run Shelter. After discussion of these projects and others, the group caravanned 1.3 miles from the park pavilion to the STS intersection with Lyman Run Rd. There everyone walked over the suspension bridge that was donated from the Allegheny National Forest to the STS in 1998 and set up under the direction of Joe Allis and a crew of young "Trail Blazers" doing community service for the Potter County Court system. The youth carried many pounds of cement across Lyman Run for setting the posts for the bridge. The project was so successful that the next year, another bridge was donated by the ANF and was installed at mile 19.5 over Cross Fork Creek.

The group then assembled beside Lyman Run beside the trail about sixty yards from the bridge, where Barb and Joe Allis raised the tarp to unveil the memorial bench for Christine Baumann.



Photo by Curt Weinhold

Chris died last year at age 96. Money for the bench had been donated by Duane Neal, a younger man who felt that Chris had practically saved his life years ago by extending help when he and his brother were homeless teenagers. Joe crafted the bench with a quote from John Muir and added some birds, as Chris was an avid birder as well as a hiker. Wayne Baumann, Chris's son and an active STC member, brought an enlarged, favorite photo of his

mother standing on a mountain in the Alps from a special trip she had taken to Switzerland years ago.



Photo by Curt Weinhold



Photo by Curt Weinhold

Present at the Unveiling of the Chris Baumann Memorial Bench:

Front - Larry Holtzapple, Wanda Shirk, Wayne Baumann, June Caldwell, Jane Wetherbee, Penny Weinhold.

Standing - Lori Szymanik, Beth Lounsbury, Doug Wetherbee, Helen Bernhardt, Bill Boyd, Susie Gribble, Joe Allis, Pat Childs, Gary Russell, Ryan Fairbank, Elizabeth Kapoor, Tom Fitzgerald, Buzz Russell, Lois Morey, Corrie Amick, Henry Fuller, Jane Fitzgerald.

Bill Boyd made a picnic table which has been placed at the same site along the trail and the stream. The picnic table has an engraved plate memorializing his sister, Dawn Boyd McManus, who was also an STC member.

Memorial benches are found along other trails, sometimes at vistas or historical sites, and are becoming more popular as tributes to those who have finished their life's trail. At the conclusion of the remembrance time for Chris and Dawn, Joe revealed that he had also made a bench to honor Wil and Betty Ahn, who were president and secretary of the STC for 30 years.

Joe and Barb placed the bench at the head of the Ahn Trail, which connects the STS, at mile 3.1, to the Susquehannock Lodge down the hill on Rt. 6, where the Ahns lived for decades before selling the lodge to Ed and Carol Szymanik, the current owners.

Joe Allis cleared a huge cherry blowdown and did hours of weed whacking, Bill Boyd mowed half a day with the club's DR trail mower, and Corrie Amick and Wanda Shirk put in a day running brush cutters on the Jacob Hollow Trail in the week prior to the meeting. At the conclusion of the club meeting, 13 members hiked from Thompson Rd. (mile 2.7) to Lyman Run Rd. (mile 6.6), from Ridge Trail down through Jacob Hollow. The hikers were able to see the Ahn's memorial bench near the start of their hike. The "sunny-and-sixties" weather was ideal, and the hike through a beautiful stream-side valley was a perfect topper to an outdoor day in June.



Photo by Lois Morey

Summer Trail Maintenance

By Bill Boyd

Our trail maintainers have racked up an amazing number of hours so far this year, beginning with our club president, Wanda Shirk, and several others, covering the entire STS with a measuring wheel, and putting up mile markers. Beginning March 19 and finishing up on May 11, they measured each mile and put up discs numbering Mile-0 to Mile -84. Helping with this project were Lori Szymanik, Susie Gribble, Corrie Amick, Tom Oliver, John Zimmer, Dawn Bieser, Curt and Penny Weinhold, Joe and Barb Allis, Carol Szymanik, Baylee Hazel-Klimek, and Heather Klimek.

Meanwhile, a great many of the maintainers were busy on 19 of the 20 sections, which range from 1.24 to 10 miles, with the average section being about 4 miles. They have been doing every kind of maintenance you can name, including brush cutting, weed whacking, blowdown removal, lopping, blazing, muck mitigation, new signage, bench building, mowing, draining wet spots, tidying up kiosks, register-boxes, and shelters. Also partnering with KTA to finish a log bridge across Greenlick Run - this will eliminate about a half-dozen wet crossings of this stream.

We also scouted and marked a potential site for another trail shelter, this time on the southbound

(SOBO) side of the STS. The site is approved and located at about mile-17.8, beautiful spot in a small meadow with a small stream nearby. We need to first do some improving of the access road, as we need to get pickup trucks and a trailer to the site to deliver materials. All we need now is a stretch of good (dry) weather, and some able bodies, to get things rolling. Our team is very good about rising to the task, so able bodies shouldn't be a problem. We can do the mask-wearing and social distancing to keep everyone safe.

Here's the math for you: as of 6-22-20, we have recorded 1552 hours of trail care. That is well over our yearly average of 1465, for the 13 years that I have been keeping track. Our high so far was in 2016, with 1865 hours. So, as you can see, we're well on track to set a new record this year, with six months ahead of us. Yes, we have done trail care into Dec. In fact now we're doing the care year around. We have a shelter to build, bridges to put in, more benches to be placed, and all of the usual work, like mowing, brushing, weeding, chopping, blazing, digging, you name it. All great fun - feel free to jump right in. No better way to avoid the virus, get great exercise, and do some feel-good projects for the good of all. We currently have 44 volunteer maintainers and 44 more would be wonderful.

Trail Shelters

By Bill Boyd

So far our club has erected 4 Adirondack-Style trail shelters since 2016, when we placed one at Scoval Branch. This is our only shelter built of logs. We soon discovered that it was much easier and just as effective to frame them conventionally, using mostly rough-cut lumber.

We now have shelters at Mile 10.5, this one being the re-purposed in 2017 dynamite magazine used by the CCC. Of course, we didn't build this beautiful little brick structure, but our master-craftsman, Joe Allis, put a new door on along with a small deck with steps. It will accommodate maybe 4-5 people, depending on how friendly they are and

what the weather is doing. The next shelter going southbound will be the proposed one at Bolich Run, Mile 17.8 (hopefully in July). Then it's about Mile 31 for the Spook Hollow shelter built in 2017. Of course, in between, Mile 26.5, you have the beautiful Ole Bull State Park, with all the usual park facilities and hiker-friendly personnel. Going from Spook shelter, next is the Scoval Branch shelter, Mile 42.5. Then you have the great little town of Cross Fork, with great food, phone, and ice cream, a DCNR headquarters, and more hiker-friendly people. Leaving Cross Fork, you have the 10 mile trek through the Hammersley Wild Area, then the Gravel Lick shelter at Mile 60, built in 2019. Continuing northbound, you'll find the Wild Boy shelter at Mile 68.8, built in 2018. It is our hope to sometime in the future to place at least one more

shelter along the 14 mile stretch back to DCNR/Denton Hill, Mile 0.

It is only through the good graces of DCNR that these shelters are placed along the STS - so, please

Trail Maintainers for 2020

From Reg. Box @ Mile 0 – to:

Thompson Rd. 2.76 miles - Curt & Penny Weinhold

Lyman Run Rd. 3.91 miles - Joe Allis

Sunken Br. Rd. 4.22 miles - Doug Wetherbee

Rt. 44 2.84 miles - John Eastlake

Short Run Rd. 5.74 miles - Mark Kelly

Rt. 44 at Ole Bull 7.13 miles - Lowell & Barb Luft

12-Mile Rd. 4.06 miles - Jack Buckwalter

12-Mile Rd.@ Yng Wmn's Crk. 6.51 miles - Charles Kern

Greenlick Rd. 3.57 miles - Allen (Buzz) & Gary Russell

Shephard Rd. 5.96 miles - Dave Cardellino

Cross Fork 3.22 miles - John Zimmer

The Pool - 5.0 miles - Dan & Kirsten Dorshimer

McConnell Rd. - 5.0 miles - Chris Bell

treat them with respect, be extremely careful with fires, do not litter or deface anything and record any observations (good or bad) in the log book. Happy Trails!

East Fork Rd.@ Wms. Farm 4.35 miles - Gary Buchanan

Haul Rd. @ Old Stove Site 3.75 miles - Wanda Shirk

Wild Boy Rd. 2.08 miles - Jeff Nolt

Prouty Lick Rd. 3.0 miles - Pat Childs

Hockney Junction 1.24 miles - Tod Twichell

Rt. 44 @ Patterson Pk. 2.81 miles - Brian McCusker

Sunken Br. Rd. 2.25 miles - Bill Boyd

Reg. Box Mile 85.0 - 4.37 miles - Chad Rugh

West Branch Crossover Trail 5.7 miles - needs maintainer

East Fork Crossover Trail 8.3 miles - needs maintainer

There have been several offers to help maintain the WBT & The EFT. Coordination of this work is in process

Welcome New Members

- June & Joel Caldwell, Coudersport, PA
- Richard & Patty Troutman, Dornsife, PA
- Corrie Amick, Fairview, PA
- Robert Coia, Wallingford, PA
- David Tosten, Shippensburg, PA
- Mark Clark, Emporium, PA
- Ryan Fairbank, Port Allegany, PA

New Circuit Hiker Award Recipients

- 1212- Susie Gribble, Emporium, PA
- 1213- William DeStefano, Lansdale, PA
- 1214- Chris Anderson, Crownsville, PA

New Life Members:

- Bruce & Ruth Hollender, Centre Hall, PA
- Rob Langgle, Titusville, FL

Correction to be made in Life Member Supporters listing in Spring Issue: Bill Hardam (DE)

Anyone Interested in Tubing?

(as in Inner Tubing) the upper stretch of Pine Creek

Please send your e-mail address to Penny Weinhold (Coudersport) e-mail, penny1@zitomedia.net
You will then be contacted before the outing.

Date will be dependent on water level & air temperature.

We would be on the water for approximately 2 hrs.
so use sunscreen!

The cost for the tube & shuttle from Pine Creek Outfitters, Ansonia, to starting point at Watrous is \$20.00.

The date would be impromptu, (perhaps 2 – 3 days notice) as water levels can change rapidly.

You may also phone for more details
(814-274-9858)
Come on, be a kid again!

One-Day Trail Run

By Wanda Shirk

Koloman Erway plans a personal endurance feat on the STS on Labor Day. His goal: to trail-run the STS in one day.

To do the 84 miles of the trail, Kol plans an average pace of 15-minute miles. At 4 miles per hour, he could finish the trail in 21 hours. His plan is to start by headlamp at 3 a.m. and finish by midnight.

Kol will have support of family and friends, who will be anticipating when he will reach each road intersection, where they will resupply him with water, energy gels, and whatever proteins, sugars, and carbs will keep him going. They will also be cheering him on, and some of us will get the schedule and add to the encouragement as well.

While this will be a challenge for Kol, it is also a challenge for the STC. A trail with blowdowns to go over, under, or around makes 15-minute miles impossible. A poorly blazed turn or intersection could ruin the whole endeavor if he overshoots and has to retrace steps. If Kol meets his goal, it will be in significant part because WE have done the job of providing a hazard-free trail that can be followed at a fast clip even in the dark. A win for Kol is a win for the STS and the STC.

Kol is a Coudy grad who lives and works in Pittsburgh. Almost everyone in Coudersport knows his dad, Steve Erway, a civic leader and a life member of the STC. Steve and Kol have studied the guidebook and maps and have been hiking and/or jogging around the trail to learn the cross-country course -- to get a feel for the hills, stream crossings, and other challenges.

We look forward to telling Kol's story more completely in the next issue and will post more info on the website and our Facebook page if weather, health, and all other considerations make the attempt possible. In the meantime, heads up to all maintainers: Let's make every section of our trail as hiker friendly as possible by September 7!

2020 Election Results

President:

- Wanda Shirk 105
- Bill Boyd (write-in) 1
- Curt Weinhold (write-in) 3

Vice President:

- John Zimmer 108
- Gary Buchanan (write-in) 1
- Larry Holtzapple (write-in) 1

Corresponding Secretary:

- Lois Morey 110

Recording Secretary:

- Lori Szymanik 110

Treasurer:

- Bill Boyd 110

Advisory Board:

- Joe Allis 106
- Tom Fitzgerald 107
- Curt Weinhold 107
- Jim Bowser (write-in) 1 *Consider adding one new advisor* was the note written on ballot
- Larry Holtzapple (write-in) 1
- Wanda Shirk (write-in) 3

Amendment to STC By-Laws:

- Approved 109
- NOT Approved 0

(2 ballots did not have either checked)

There were 81 envelopes returned.

Five blank ballots in 5 family membership envelopes (only one voted instead of two).

Ballots on file for verification if anyone requests a re-count.

The STC by-laws, Article IV, section 3, say "There shall be an Advisory Council consisting of three to five members." In the past, for no particular reason, we have had just three. This year we had write in votes for two people who contribute a great deal to the STC, along with a note that we should consider adding to the advisory council. We considered that an excellent suggestion, and have decided to add both write-in nominees, for an Advisory Council of five members.

Jim Bowser, a life member, is a retired engineer with a great deal of experience that can benefit us in many ways. He was for several years the maintainer of the East Fork Trail. In the past four years he has usually been in the top 10 of our maintainers, and last year was still in the top 20. Although he officially lives in Florida, he often visits his Potter County camp in any season.

Larry Holtzapple, of Wellsboro, is an STS circuit hiker, along with his wife Violetta. Larry has been one of our top five maintainers in all of the last four years and was our #2 maintainer (after Bill Boyd) for the past three years, with 161 hours in 2017, 166 hours in 2018, and 230 hours in 2019. Bill Boyd reports that 'Larry is top hand right now, with 192 hours. With 6 months to go, he'll be WAY up there' -- probably setting an all-time record for trail work in one year.

Jim Bowser and Larry Holtzapple have already weighed in on some questions for us, and we value their opinions on our projects and activities.

Several nice comments written on ballots:

- "Very much enjoyed reading the newsletter – thanks!"
- "Thanks for all you do for STS!!"
- "Good Job!"
- "Thank you all!!"
- "Thanks for all your work!"



Susquehannock Trail Club
PO Box 643
Coudersport PA 16915

2020 Event Schedule

Annual Camporee,	Aug 6-9, 2020,	Ole Bull State Park, Cross Fork, PA
August STC Meeting	Sat. Aug 8, 2020	Ole Bull State Park, Main Pavilion

Events Beyond the Camporee:

Our fall, winter, and early spring meetings would all normally be indoors because of colder weather. Since most of us are, in fact, "senior citizens," we are in a high-risk category for the virus. Large groups in one home (and our meetings average about 20 people) are not advisable.

Therefore, the camporee will be our last meeting until further notice.

Club business will be conducted by email by the officers and the expanded advisory board as needed. Trail work in the great outdoors will go on as usual. We will keep members updated by occasional emails, the quarterly newsletter, and postings on our website and Facebook page.

It is possible that some fall hikes will be scheduled, perhaps concluding with a little outdoor "tailgate" picnic, and those can give us opportunity to socialize where we are not in an enclosed space.

Cheers to the great outdoors, the two million acres of Pennsylvania Wilds, and the STS and STC!