

Susquehannock Trail Club News – 09-01-2022

By Bill Boyd

We had a dedication ceremony on Tuesday, 8-23-22 - several of us got together and finally at long last dedicated the Scoval shelter in memory of Lewis and Jeanette Baker. This story starts some time ago, probably about 2015, when we got the idea that maybe the STS should have some trail shelters for hikers and backpackers. So some of us began checking out that possibility, and one place we found in upstate New York sent us their information. They are in the business of erecting Adirondack type shelters, which is what we had in mind. And it sounded great, the shelters being built with milled cedar logs, and the picture was, well, picture perfect. And the price, well, not so perfect, at \$7500 plus trucking, so maybe around \$8000 or so. So with that plan coming to a screeching halt, we decided that we would look into putting one up ourselves, on our budget.

Looking around for trees for the logs we would need, we settled on a stand of pine on the property of our Secretary, Lois Morey, daughter of Lewis and Jeanette. So we amateur loggers went to work, felling and cutting to the lengths we would need, hauling them to our friend Karl Altenhein's sawmill at Mina, PA. Karl had resurrected a 1926 Ireland sawmill, which was a class-act mill. There he milled a slab off three sides, so we could lay them up and have a flat wall inside.

In the meantime we needed a site to put this shelter - in talking with DCNR we settled on a site at the head of Scoval Branch, along the STS. With DCNR approval, we hauled the logs there and began our project in 2016. Many of our club members took part in the various aspects of this job, too many to list in this space, and I believe everyone enjoyed it. I can go into more detail at another time, but now was dedication time.

So on Tuesday Lois Morey, William Morey, their son Tim Morey and his family, wife Erin, son Noah and daughter Lila, and our friend Rick Jones, loaded up and took a small picnic table (of which we put in each of the shelters), down to Scoval shelter. The table has a strip fastened to it which reads "IN MEMORY OF LEWIS & JEANETTE BAKER". Incidentally, Lewis, Jeanette and Lois Baker-Morey are STS circuit-hikers #1,2,& 3. While there we also celebrated the birthdays of Lois and Tim, blew out candles, sang Happy Birthday, and had a great picnic lunch - all this while huddled in an 8' x 12' space during a brief shower - so the shelter served its purpose on that day. And according to the log-book, it serves a great many others.