

Susquehannock Trail Club News – 10-27-2022

By Bill Boyd

The trail club has just recorded Circuit-Hiker #1276. That means that 1276 hikers have completed the 84-mile circuit, kept a log of their trip, and that log has been approved by three of our active members. If my math is correct, that means a little over 107,000 miles have been hiked on the STS. Then there are the unaccounted-for miles hiked with no log kept or no interest in attaining circuit-hiker status. Plus, those who do day hikes and even some who have hiked the trail multiple times. So that number could easily be double that accounted for. And maybe the best news is that most hikers encounter very few, or even no other hikers on their trip. And they love the quiet and solitude, along with the fresh air and clean water. If you could compare hiking on the STS with stepping out from the ground-level doors of Phoenix Int'l., you would see what I mean about fresh air. You probably can imagine!

If you are a reader of this column, throughout the winter months you may start seeing some of our efforts towards a revitalization of our club, i.e., encouraging some new, younger members. Not many people like to admit to getting older, but it's a fact of life that no-one can ignore. While it is true that an older person can still do trail care, it's at a slower pace, which is perfectly OK, but then he/she may also need help with some of the work. Then you have attrition, when some just throw in the towel and say enough. We certainly thank those who have put in their time on the trail - it is all very much appreciated, by hikers and maintainers alike. We actually have right in our front yard one of the most respected trails in the state. One veteran hiker even referred to it as "the gold standard of hiking trails." Some may disagree when they find blowdowns, nettles, wet sections, etc., but in general most give it some pretty high marks. One hiker related that it was such a treat to walk on soft earth rather than like the stretch of the AT through Pennsylvania, which is sometimes referred to as "Rocksylvania."

The reason the STC was even formed was to maintain and promote the STS - and once you've been through the trail, you will have to marvel at all of the work that went into its creation. Now it's our watch, to see that the STS is properly maintained, as it is such a great source of fitness and relaxation all at the same time. Just don't step on the snakes or scare the bears. (The snakes are heading into hibernation, and the bears are deathly afraid of you.).