

Susquehannock Trail Club News – 11-03-2022

By Bill Boyd

Well, perhaps nature-lovers have a new pest to worry about, but maybe not just yet. It seems a couple of our trail maintainers were noticing some tiny insects on them, which they kept brushing off. Of course, they were thinking "ticks", but upon a closer look these insects had tiny wings, which ticks don't have. Upon returning home and going online to google these little critters, they contacted Penn State, and learned that these were something called "Deer Keds." These are a biting fly, which prey on many animals and birds. They do resemble ticks, except for the wings, and as of recently they are not known to transmit any diseases. BUT - stay tuned, as they are being studied to find out if they pose any danger. Your best bet for now is to contact Penn State and read what they know so far. Of course, insect-repellent is still a good policy - Permethrin on clothing and some other repellent (maybe Pericaridin) on the skin. The problem with ticks is that you don't feel them biting or burrowing in, so you need to carefully check for them if you have been outdoors, especially in the woods. They used to say that you have a 24–36-hour window before they begin infecting you - now they claim some can infect you in around 45 minutes. So, caution and repellent are of the utmost importance.

It seems a little sad to see the trees bare of their leaves, but we sure had a gorgeous leaf-peeping spell. The next couple of items coming up in November will first be setting the clocks back on the 6th. Seems that the powers-that-be are still bound to tinker with this time change thing. So, remember to Fall-Back 1 hour. Then on Tuesday the 8th, watch for the Full Beaver Moon, so named as it was time to set the beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. Another interpretation was that the beavers are now actively preparing for winter. Luckily, we no longer have to rely on trapping the beavers for our warm winter clothing. And this reminds one of an old saying (probably quite true), you can't have winter until the swamps are full (meaning of course that once the swamps freeze over there is not much water going into the aquifers). So, we must not fret about the Autumn rains - they are important.

And do not forget Veteran's Day! If you are living in this great USA, thank a Veteran! Nov 11.