

## Susquehannock Trail Club News – 11-17-2022

By Bill Boyd

Maybe it's not a coincidence that Thanksgiving follows Veteran's Day by less than two weeks. We have so much to be thankful for and our Vets should be up there pretty high on our list. Just imagine, without them we would not have this country as we know it. We might have a so-called country but there could be an evil emperor sitting on his throne passing out judgements. Instead, we get to choose our own leaders, and if we choose wisely, we get wise results. No-one comes in the night and drags us off to a "re-education" camp. We are all citizens, not subjects or even slaves if you will. In fact, we banished slavery a long time ago. We have rights, like the right of free speech, right to protest, right to protect ourselves, more rights than we can count.

And what does this have to do with a trail through the woods? Plenty - a long time ago, some people were wise enough to set aside great tracts of land in the best interest of the people and our country. Land which otherwise would have been chopped up into half-acre plots each with a home or a cabin, and the people left with no place to really enjoy the woods and trails. Our walking would be up and down a highway, or maybe a walk in the park. How many have a 265,000-acre playground right next door, and many more just like it within a short distance. Isn't that something to be thankful for?

By the time you read this Veteran's Day will have passed - and I hope everyone took the time to say thank you and show your gratitude and support for Veterans and their associated groups. And as for our STS and all trails, this is still a great time to get out there. With the foliage off you can see much farther, there are no pesky gnats bothering you, and even the air seems crisper. Sometimes all of the fallen leaves are crispy too, which makes for noisy walking, but just enjoy it before the snow gets too deep. And then get out the skinny skis and enjoy for a while longer. In the Denton Hill area, there are quite a few cross-country ski trails mapped and marked for you to check out. Some sections of the STS lend themselves to nice skiing, and there are sections of old railways which are really nice, with easy grades that anyone can handle. The snakes are sleeping, so just don't scare the bears.