

Susquehannock Trail Club News – 12-15-2022

By Bill Boyd

Somehow, I missed mentioning the December full moon, known by several names, the Full Cold Moon being the most common. It's also known as the Moon Before Yule and the Full Long Night Moon. Long Night Moon is fitting, as the December nights are indeed long, and the moon is above the horizon for a long time. In fact, the 21st being the longest night, also means it's the shortest day. The good news is that after that the days will lengthen - we won't notice it much for a while, but it will become apparent in time.

The full moons always remind me of a story about the Hammersley. Seems some campers saw a bright light shining through the trees, and thought it was the old Shea coming for another load of Potter County hemlock. They then realized that it was the moon. The Hammersley is a mysterious place, you know. Even more mysterious is occasionally campers will awake to find a warm apple pie by the cold ashes of their campfire - could it be that the cooks from the logging camps are still making their presence known - maybe Ida Red or Granny Smith?

Nowadays the howling and hooting one might hear while camping along the trail are just the coyotes and owls talking to each other. And speaking of camping along the trail (the STS) you are allowed to camp most anywhere, with few exceptions - just do not camp near a cabin or residence. The only places that could be called designated campsites are at the shelters, although there are some spots which are frequently used by campers - the most important thing being - please be extremely careful with your campfire. No building is allowed in the Hammersley, that being a Wild Area - so don't look for a shelter there. In fact, it is the largest roadless area in the state. The Quehanna is larger in area, but it has roads throughout.

Most everyone is getting into the holiday spirit these days - so, please, no drugs or alcohol while driving, so that everyone can enjoy the holidays in peace and safety. And give some thought to a great (and cheap) gift for someone (or yourself) - an STC membership. Just go to stc-hike.org for all of the details.