

# SUSQUEHANNOCK HIKER

Newsletter of the Susquehannock Trail Club

On Foot in Potter County.....God's Country

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The purposes of the STC are to build and maintain trails, aid in the conservation of wetlands and wildlife, and promote good fellowship through the medium of hiking and nature study.

Winter 2023



Photo by Larry Holtzaple

The newest STS shelter at Bolich Run. See article on page 4.

## President's Message

Wanda Shirk

Maintenance of the Susquehannock Trail System is not the only mission of the STC. As our masthead states, our club's concerns extend to conservation of woodlands and wetlands in Potter County. On Friday, October 7, our club partnered with the Potter County Conservation District and DCNR's Forest Health Department in an effort to protect a few acres of hemlocks from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an aphid-like insect that has been plaguing and killing our state tree throughout Penn's Woods.

The project site was at the southern end of Hungry Hollow Road. (The STS crosses Hungry Hollow Rd. about three miles northwest of Ole Bull State Park.) Cross Fork creek flows under a bridge near the junction of Hungry Hollow Rd. and Cross Fork Rd. A parking area here facilitates access to some lovely stream-side hemlock acres, and no hiker can fail to love such a beautiful site.

The treatment process involved placing CoreTect tablets around the bases of the hemlocks. For details, you can google CoreTect tablets. A jug of 250 of them costs about \$100-\$130, depending on your source. The tablets, which must be handled with protective gloves, are white, marble-sized balls of fertilizer (12-9-4) with a chemical pesticide that is slowly time-released to protect a tree from the HWA for two-five years.

Trees to be treated were identified with pink flagging tape, and the circumference of each tree was marked on the tape with a Sharpie. Volunteers worked in teams of two. One person used a metal stake to poke holes two inches deep about an inch apart all around the base of each tree. A tree with a 30" circumference, for example, would get 30 holes around it. The second worker dropped two "marbles" into each hole and then scuffed dirt over the hole to bury them. The base of the tree was then marked with a small dot of red spray paint so that treated trees could be identified -- both to track the effectiveness of the treatment over time, and also so other volunteers would know which trees had been treated, after the pink flagging was removed.



Photo by Lori Syzmanik

Doing the math: A \$100 jug of 250 tablets could be emptied pretty quickly. With 50 tablets needed for a 25" circumference tree, a jug would typically treat about five trees. The project was partly funded by a grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds. If you have hemlocks or other trees or shrubs you wish to protect from HWA or other plant predators such as aphids or Japanese beetles, you can gauge the cost and easily order the CoreTect tablets, and feel free to protect all the hemlocks you can afford to love!

Partnering with the Conservation District and with DCNR, both parks and forestry, is one of the ways we KTA -- Keep Trails Alive!

Participants in the day's activity were Wanda Shirk, Donna Batterson, Lori Syzmanik, Emily Shosh (Conservation District) and Sarah (DCNR Forest Health Dept.)

*We thank each of you for your continued membership in the STC and for your gifts and donations to our trails and trees!*

## Trail Report Winter 2023

By Bill Boyd

Trail care just naturally slows a bit along toward the end of the year, but our maintainers are still out there doing what they can to keep the trail in decent condition and make some improvements. The jobs that don't slow much are the ever-present blowdowns. In fact, we had a doozy in October. It seems some of the Hartman Trail is an old RR grade cut into the steep sidehill, and the ridge is just above it, maybe 100 yards or so. Well, they did a clear-cut right to the edge of the ridge, and as sometimes happens, that exposed some timber to any high winds that come along. And in this case the wind certainly came along – it broke or uprooted just about every tree on the steep section, and nearly perfectly placed them right across the trail for about 100 yards. When our crew arrived, we didn't bother to count trees, we just started cutting. We had everything from a battery-operated saw to a big Husky Rancher, along with our go-to saw, the Stihl 170.

It turned into about a 7-hour job, but at least the trail through there is open for hikers. This is the section where it departs Big Spring Road and before it turns uphill to Rattlesnake Trail. Our crew that day was Ron Heath, Larry Holtzapple, Chris Bell, Angela Jackson, and Bill Boyd.

Many other maintainers were kept busy with blowdowns, making, and placing trail signs, trail widening (benching), blazing, shuttling hikers, mowing, repairs to the Ole Bull / STS kiosk, and maintenance at some of the shelters. In all, 562 hours were amassed during this period – September through November.

### New Trail Care Tools (ed.)

This fall the club added 2 new trail care tools:

- A utility trailer which is primarily intended to be used to transport one of the rough terrain mowers.
- A pole mounted hedge trimmer. This tool is like the brush cutters used to clear weeds and brush but has a 24" hedge trimmer blade instead. In heavily overgrown areas one person can do the work of many people with loppers in a fraction of the time.

See photos on page 5.

## Trail Maintainers for 2023

From register box at Mile – 0

To Thompson Rd. - 2.76 - Curt & Penny Weinhold  
Lyman Run Rd. - 3.91 - Joe & Barb Allis  
Sunken Br. Rd. - 4.22 - Doug & Jane Wetherbee  
Rt. 44 - 2.84 - Jeff Raisch  
Short Run Rd. - 5.74 - Mark & Denise Kelly  
Ole Bull S.P. - 7.13 - Lowell & Barb Luft  
12 - Mile Rd.(1st) - 4.06 - Jack Buckwalter  
12 - Mi. Rd. (2nd) - 6.51 - Charles Kern  
Greenlick Rd. - 3.57 - Jay Stuckey  
Shephard Rd. - 5.96 - **(Maintainer needed)**  
Cross Fork - 3.22 - John Zimmer  
The "Pool" - 4.70 - **(Maintainer needed)**  
McConnell Rd. - 5.2 - Chris Bell  
East Fork Rd. - 4.35 - Gary & Alice Buchanan  
Haul Rd. @ Old Stove - 3.75 - Wanda Shirk  
Wild Boy Rd. - 2.08 - Jeff Nolt  
Prouty Lick Rd. - 3.00 - Pat Childs  
Hockney Junction - 1.24 - Todd Twichell  
Rt. 44 - 2.81 - Brian & Julie McCusker  
Sunken Br. Rd. - 2.25 - Bill Boyd  
Reg. box - Mile 84 - 4.37 – Chad Rugh & April Castano  
West Br. Crossover Tr. - 5.7 - Joe Nachtwey  
East Fork Crossover Tr. - 8.3 - **(Maintainer(s) needed - note: this section could be divided into 3 parts for 3 maintainers)**

Two existing connector trails recently cleared, blazed and mapped will need maintainers. See article on page 6.

Lick Ridge Trail 2.6 miles

Boone Trail 0.2 miles

There are also maintainers-at-large who take care of blowdowns anywhere along the trail, help maintainers not familiar with chainsaws or needing help with large blowdowns, clear unadopted sections, repair and replace signs, clear parking areas and much much more.

They are Dave & Mark Errick, Jack Buckwalter, Mark Kelly, Ron Heath, Joe Thompson, John Scherer, Dan Lutz, Doug Wetherbee, Chris Bell, Larry Holtzapple, Joe Allis, Angela Jackson, and Bill Boyd.

## **Bolich Run Shelter**

By Bill Boyd

At long last, we now have a trail shelter at Bolich Run (Mile-17.8). We picked this site and DCNR approved it quite some time ago. There have been several glitches in our plans, the main one being the

condition of an access road which we needed to use to get materials to the location. The problem only involved about a half-mile of this lane, which we believe to be an old haul road. There are now a couple of camps along the route, and it has been known by several names, the most common being Camp Lane.



Photo by Larry Holtzapple

This road (and I use that term loosely) runs around the bottom of a hill. The hill seems to have quite a bit of water runoff, right into the road. On the other side it's quite marshy, and the problem was over the years the road has been worn down, leaving a berm which prevented the road from draining properly. So any water, either from the hill or rains, all just collected in the roadway keeping it constantly wet and muddy. And the deep ruts remained full of water. In a word, it was terrible.

So some of our members tried to make some improvements - rather than elaborate, we'll just say they cut drainage ditches through the berm, put in some drainage pipes, and in general tried to make it more passable. We finally decided we weren't going to risk it, so for 2021 we went to Plan-B. And that

was to erect a shelter at Mile-78.7, south of Sunken Branch Road (and we gave it the name, Sunken Branch Shelter). That one was finished around mid-September.

Finally in 2022 we got a little braver and decided to chance Camp Lane - we really wanted to put a shelter at Bolich Run as it is a great site, along with being a long day's hike from the Denton Hill trailhead. Or a shorter hike from the D-Mag, the repurposed dynamite shed at Mile-10.5. So, with a loaded 10' trailer and another loaded 14' trailer, we headed in, surprisingly, with some rather creative driving (trying to stay out of the ruts and following the higher spots), we managed to only scarcely scrape bottom. These shelters require several trips, and with each trip in and out I think we got a little better at it.

So, the Bolich Run Shelter was our project from around mid-September to late October. We tried to time our trips when the weather had been dry for a few days. We decided to make this shelter just a little larger, at 12' x 12', all the others being 8' x 12'. The extra depth helped, as we put a bunk in each rear corner, and still had plenty of room. As with the other shelters this one is equipped with a small picnic table, a fire-ring, hanging pegs, and a reg-box. The table is lightweight so any two people can set it outside if extra room is needed - and we hope, set it back inside before leaving. And this site has lots of room for those wishing to set up tents. This is shelter #6 (#7 counting the D-Mag).

The crew for this project included Mark Kelly (Altoona), Matt Kelly (Virginia Beach), Regis Sherry (Altoona), Doug Wetherbee (Wellsboro), Chad Rugh, and Bill Boyd (Coudersport)

## New Trail Care Tools



Photo by Larry Holtzapple



Photo by Larry Holtzapple



Photo by Larry Holtzapple

## Circuit Hikers – Oldest & Youngest

By Wanda Shirk

A recent inquiry to the website's "info@stc-hike" email link asked if we knew who the youngest and oldest circuit hikers of the STS were. Secretary and archivist Lois Morey did a little research and came up with the following:

This information taken from STC archives:

“August 12, 1970 – Leonard & Katherine Haas and 9 year old son Mike of West Chester, PA. First family group known to walk entire Susquehannock Trail at one time.” Mike was CH#16.

Then I found a notation “possible the youngest circuit hiker” in the circuit hiker records of a Janel Ralph from Bishop, CA, hiking the STS in 1981. She was 6 years old and was awarded Circuit Hiker #562. Her brother Christopher was age 9. Hiked with their parents.

Later in 1996 a family from Pottstown, PA, completed the trail with a son age 6 and a daughter age 8.

Very few ages are listed in the official records. At this time I do not know who the oldest circuit hiker would have been. It would take extensive time to match logs submitted with the membership records to determine ages. However, I would be willing to wager a guess there have been many in their 70's and even a few into their 80's. Perhaps some of our current members would remember and have a better idea than I do.  
Lois, STC Secretary

It would be interesting to know who was the oldest person ever to finish the STS circuit. We really have no idea! If you were over 65 when you completed the trail, either as a thru-hike or in section hikes, let us know:  
email [wshirk49@outlook.com](mailto:wshirk49@outlook.com) or [loismorey46@gmail.com](mailto:loismorey46@gmail.com). We'll try to establish youngest and oldest record holders to the best of our knowledge and post them on our website with our FKT (Fastest Known Time) record holders, which are as follows:

Supported FKT: Koloman Erway -- 27 hours, 22 minutes -- Sept. 7-8, 2020

Self-supported FKT: Bob Stewart -- 42 hours, 58 minutes -- July 23-24, 2020

Unsupported FKT: Jason Wish -- 31 hours, 12 minutes -- November 20-21, 2020

A "supported FKT" means the person has gotten water and food re-supply from family and friends at road intersections along the trail. A "self-supported" FKT means the person has pre-placed caches of water and food (or clothing or shoe changes, etc.) at trail intersections to pick up while making the circuit. For an “unsupported FKT”, the person must carry all food, clothing changes, and water (or filters for acquired creek water) for the whole 84 miles.

We applaud all our circuit hikers, of all ages and speeds.

(ed note: Marie Cass, listed in “Trails End” was 100 when she died this year and it is noted that she completed her circuit hike in 2000. That would have made her 78 at the time she completed the circuit.)

## Lick Ridge Trail

By Dave McMillan

In the Fall issue of the STC Newsletter Wanda wrote of Jim Bowser's contributions to the club and his trail care efforts. Jim, with the help of BOF staff, located, cleared, and blazed the Lick Ridge Trail located near his cabin. Since his passing the trail was once again becoming overgrown and in danger of being lost again. This summer and fall Larry Holtzapple, Doug Wetherbee and I scouted, cleared, and blazed this trail again.

The trail runs from Boone Rd. (near the junction with Switchback Rd.) to the old Cross Fork Trail near the new Bolich Run shelter. The stream can be crossed there using a steel I-beam bridge to get to the STS. A short walk down Camp Lane brings you to Short Run Rd.

This route provides a 3.2-mile point to point hike from Boone Rd to Short Run Rd. It can also be combined with the STS and EFT to make an 11-mile loop hike.

## Newsletter/Membership Reminder

It's time to renew your membership, except for lifetime members. The deadline for membership renewal is March 31<sup>st</sup>. For those who do not renew by that time, this will be their last newsletter.

We value and appreciate your membership. If you are unsure of your status, you may email me at [loismorey46@gmail.com](mailto:loismorey46@gmail.com)

## Welcome New Members

New Regular Memberships:

- Earl Bright, Middletown, PA
- Brian Dunlap, Carlisle, PA
- Noah Morey, Wellsboro, PA
- Robert Peet, Coudersport, PA
- Lee Wisel, Coudersport, PA
- Phil & Nancy Hesser, Wellsboro, PA

## TRAILS END

By Lois Morey, Secretary, and past Archivist

In the past year, the STC lost several members, both past and present, whose passing will be greatly felt for years to come.

Robert Ahn, 85, Coudersport, formerly of Southampton, PA, passed 3/19/2022, was a nephew of our late past president Wil Ahn. He was one of the original STC Charter Members from 1967 to 1972, then rejoined 2018-2021. Served on the Advisory Council for two years.

George Probst, age 87, Wellsville, NY, passed 3/23/2022, was a dedicated trail maintainer and long-time member from 1976. Served 4 years on the Advisory Council.

Marjorie "Gay" Gledhill, age 88, formerly from Austin, PA, passed 6/25/2022, member from 1993 to 2010.

Raymond Buck, 91, Ulysses, PA, died 7/18/2022, member from 1992 to 2011, led many local hikes.

## New Circuit Hiker Award Recipients

- 1277 Matthew "Fun Fact" Gallant
- 1278 Dan Bressler
- 1279 Stephanie Wingerter
- 1280 Bob Jones
- 1281 Mark Radzin
- 1282 Emily Mishler
- 1283 Eamonn Connor
- 1284 Sheldon Hess
- 1285 Anderson Beachy
- 1286 Adam Byler
- 1287 Tayshone Davis
- 1288 Joseph Durbin
- 1289 Dawson Michaels
- 1290 Ben Schwartz
- 1291 Joe Shrock
- 1292 Tyler Stephen
- 1293 Jayce Weaver
- 1294 Michael VanMeter
- 1295 Adam Wohlever

Tom Weaber, 71, Galeton (formerly from Lebanon, PA), died 7/30/2022, member from 1998 to 2015.

Marie Cass, age 100, Ulysses, PA, passed 9/4/2022, member 1994 to 2003, hiked the STS in sections from 1994 to 2000 earning Circuit Hiker Award #889.

Dr. Paul Lenz, age 84, Lebanon, PA, passed 11/30/2022, club member since 1984, STC Circuit Hiker #1009 in 2007, put together and presented a DVD Slide Show "The STS". An avid hiker, he hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, and was a life member of the ATC, and KTA

Larry "Pete" Peterson, age 78, Wellsboro, PA, passed 12/6/2022, joined STC in 1968 and was a very active member in the early years of the club and served on the Advisory Council for 3 years.

Dick Hribar, age 83, Coudersport, PA passed 12/29/2022, joined the STC in 1974, was an active member and trail maintainer, and received the Big Shoes Award in 2014



Susquehannock Trail Club  
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## Event Schedule

The STC will not be having any more meetings until we can resume outdoor meetings in the spring.

Most of us are senior citizens, a vulnerable category for Covid risk. New cases and deaths in the US every day. Deaths are almost all among unvaccinated people, but while the vaccinated rarely die or even need hospitalization, some get sick for a week or more. The fever, chills, headaches, fatigue, and other aspects of sickness are risks that many of us have agreed we want to avoid, by avoiding indoor meetings with a large number of people in a small space over the colder months.