

SUSQUEHANNOCK HIKER

Newsletter of the Susquehannock Trail Club

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

PO Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915 www.stc-hike.org info@stc-hike.org

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.

Spring 2023



Photo by Dave McMillan

April is here and it's time to "Spring Around The Trail"

Bill Boyd using the club's newest trail care saw. See page 3 for more info.

President's Message

Wanda Shirk

MARCH WINDS... and April showers ... bring May flowers, as they say, and Mayflowers bring... Pilgrims! Well, we have had some terrific March winds, particularly the last Saturday of March. Will we need an extra 5 gallon can of gas for the chain saws? It's time to clear the trail for hiker Pilgrimages!

2022 was another stellar year for the STC.

Highlights include:

- Bolich Run Shelter completed at mile 17.8 – our biggest and best ever.
- Log bridges placed over Stony Run and a tributary in mile 65. They'll be very helpful for hikers in this very wet spring.
- Many yards of trail leveling and widening done on Scoval and Osborne Branch and in the Hammersley, mainly by Mennonite volunteer Abe Peachy.
- Springs channeled in Morgan Hollow and the Hammersley for good water access. We look forward to finding out how these channels survived the winter!
- Several new trail signs routed by Bill Boyd and placed around the trail.

We look ahead to the hiking season of 2023 with several expectations:

- A trail shelter site in Ford Hollow, at mile 74.5, just two miles from Patterson SP, has been approved and will be a great location-- with water access -- for hikers and backpackers who don't wish to camp at the small state park, which is often crowded and busy on summer nights.
- Bill Boyd has worked on more new signs for the trail, to aid hikers by providing mileage figures to shelters or roads ahead.
- Joe Allis has completed two special new memorial benches, more on that next issue.
- And as always, just keeping the 84-mile loop clear, plus two crossover trails and the North and South Link connectors to the Black Forest Trail, will provide plenty of work for all the hearty and able-bodied maintainers we can

retain and recruit. Recruiting new maintainers is a high priority for 2023.

On Saturday, April 22, eight-to-twelve trail-running friends plan to run a marathon from Denton Hill to Ole Bull. (See article, page 4.) We particularly want to have this 26-mile section of the trail well cleared for them. Our trail's reputation will go out beyond Potter County as they share their impressions of the STS with their families, friends, and acquaintances. Making a special push to have this northeastern quarter of our trail well-cleared by April 22 is high priority. If you can hike any section of it in mid-April and make sure limbs and debris are removed and the footpath is clear and solid, your efforts will be much appreciated.

Empathy is kind-hearted understanding of someone else. In our increasingly fragmented world, it's important to appreciate other people in all the ways we can, with all our hearts and minds. Even among trail-users, there are differences of style. The youngest and the oldest, and the birders and photographers, proceed in short segments and stop often to admire spring beauties, trilliums, or Indian pipes; they spot toads, turtles, or tiny salamanders, and perhaps pick some leeks or identify trees or ferns. The strong and speedy may smugly scorn their frequent pauses -- while those they race past shake their heads at what the prime-time athletes are missing at their fast pace.

Everyone comes to the trail with different hopes and needs. Everyone can leave with a spirit nourished and refreshed in a different way. In our trail community, we value everyone's approach -- slow or fast -- to the big woods and the pathways we furnish.

Hike your own hike, and if you keep trees in your heart, the birds will come there to sing.



Trail Report Winter 2023

By Bill Boyd

About this time of year we maintainers get a little antsy to get out there and see what our trail looks like. Of course we already know what it looks like - lots of small debris, limbs and laurel encroaching, and a fair number of fallen trees across it - we just want to get out there. One thing about a trail, we put in over 2400 hundred hours last year in keeping it decent, and this year we get to do it all over again. It's not a case where one can say, well we're done, and just walk away. So what do we see around here at this time of year - cold and snow quite often. But Spring will come - bare ground and sunny days - you can count on it.

Actually some have been out on the trail already - some signs have been repainted, some new ones placed, some blowdown removal and general clearing has been done on the Splashdam, White Line, Hopper, Cross, Wingard, Fire Tower, Fanton, Hammersley, and Game Refuge Trails.

Unfortunately, due to health reasons, we've had some retirements of faithful, long-term maintainers, so we'll be seeking some replacements. The sections are in the 2.5 to 4 mile range, so if anyone is willing to help out let us know. Four miles may sound like quite a stretch, but this particular one is downhill and level, and that makes a difference. Besides, we have some over 5 miles. For example, one section can be worked from Hungry Hollow Road, downhill to Short Run Road, and downhill to Ole Bull Park. Another section runs from Greenlick Road to Shephard Road, a distance of 6 miles, but can be worked in 2-3 sections. Then there are two stretches of the East Fork Crossover Trail, both around two and one-half miles, awaiting regular maintainers. And much of that can be mowed with our trail mower.

Also another trail has been opened to afford hikers another loop route. Lick Ridge Trail runs about 3 miles from Boone Road to the STS in Hogback Hollow. From there hikers could follow Hogback up to the RR grade, westerly on that to Old Boone Rd., and back down to the beginning, to

make an 11 mile loop. So we now have loop hikes of 11, 23, and 33 miles - along with our 84 mile loop. Lick Ridge Trail needs a maintainer too - much of it can be mowed.

Maintainers

The list is pretty much the same, except for:

- Cross Fork to the Pool 4.7 mi.- Craig Warner
- And for what we'll call section 3 of the EFT, From East Fork Road to Rock Ridge Rd. 2.5 mi. Todd Twichell
- And from Short Run Rd. to Ole Bull S.P. 7.13 mi. Maintainer needed. This could be 2 sections of 3 and 4 miles.

New Saw

By Wanda Shirk

The STC sends a hearty thank-you to John W. Mahley for his donation of a Stihl GTA 26 Pruner to the club. Like a tiny, baby chain saw, the 2.7 pound unit has a 4" bar and runs about 25 minutes on a battery charge. It's a "first of its kind" little zapper for walking down a trail and just reaching out with a quick "zzzzzzt" to zap a stalk, skinny sapling, or small limb up to a couple inches thick from its encroachment on the trail.



John, aka "J.W.", is the proprietor of Mahaleys Outdoor Power Equipment, 2667 State Route 49 E, Coudersport. Mahaleys is where the club purchases brushcutters and other equipment and has service work done when needed. "J-Dub" is a fine young man. He and his gift are much appreciated by all of us, and we are happy to do business with him.

April 22 Trail Marathon

By Wanda Shirk

STS Trail Trivia: Do you know the STS distance from the Denton Hill trail register at mile 0 to Ole Bull State Park? If you said 26 miles, you know your stuff. 26.5, to get out to Rt. 144, but just 26.2 to get to the vista site of Ole Bull's intended "castle" as you approach the park.

And do you know how long a marathon is? Right again. 26.2 miles.

Sam LeBlanc is the health and physical education teacher of Shrewsbury Elementary School, just south of York, PA, and he's been a long-time fan and supporter of the STS. He spends time on the trail every spring and summer and says he thoroughly enjoys everything it has to offer.

A couple years ago Sam started organizing a trail run with his friends. This is the third year he's put the run together, but this year he has also opened participation to local running groups. He has organized a small trail-run race with three options for Saturday, April 22: a full marathon, a half marathon, and a four person relay, with runners changing places at STS intersections on Lyman Run Rd., Rt. 44 at Cherry Springs Fire Tower, and Short Run Rd. Water, aid, and care stations will be located at each of those sites, and also on Sunken Branch Rd. and Hungry Hollow Rd.

Currently a maximum of a dozen participants are expected.

Run participation, including tee shirt, awards, and water stations is \$65. Anyone interested in participating can email Sam for a link to the registration form: SamLeBlancfitness@gmail.com.

Any proceeds will go for scholarships for Camp Hickory Hill, Varysburg, NY. The Havens Marathon race is named in honor of Clarence Havens, site manager of the camp.

Our STC trail team will do our best to have the footpath cleared and in good shape by April 22.

Encouragement for the runners is always welcome. Feel free to drive to any of the intersecting road crossings where aid stations are located to cheer the runners on, just as we do at our STC water station at Mile 19 for the God's Country Marathon on Rt. 6 on the first Saturday of June each year.



APRIL 22ND 2023

HAVENS MARATHON

TRAIL MARATHON ON THE STS
SIGN UP TODAY FOR YOUR CHOICE
OF 3 EVENTS:

1. FULL MARATHON
2. HALF MARATHON
3. FOUR PERSON RELAY
(MUST HAVE A 5TH
PERSON DRIVING A CAR
TO TRANSPORT
TEAMMATES)

Hike Planned

by Daniel E. Holmes

Mount Marcy in Keene, New York



You probably recognize Ebenezer Emmons above who was the first to summit Mount Marcy, New York's tallest peak on August 5, 1837. I am planning to hike Mount Marcy this Summer and if any others want to do a group hike to share the comradery and travel together let me know.

Marcy is 5,344 feet and a 3,166-foot elevation gain. The shortest route from the Van Hoevenberg Trailhead is 7.4 miles one way and I plan a long day hike up and back. Drive time to Marcy is 6 hours so it would be an overnight trip and possibly two days if the weather doesn't cooperate.

While not brutal it won't be a cake walk whatever that is. The rewards would be many, and I heard there is a hot dog cart and Slush Puppy machine at the summit. Contact me at

DanielE.Holmes@Yahoo.com or 570-360-0752.

Winter Hikers

Wanda Shirk

STC Vice President John Zimmer lives in Cross Fork, anchoring the southern section of our trail and frequently assisting hikers on that end with trail shuttles.

This winter sent us very little snow in January and February, with bare ground most of the time, but at the end of February, things changed. Several inches of snow fell every few days for three weeks, so the trails were pretty much covered until the official arrival of spring in late March.

John reported the following on Saturday, March 11: "On the way to the post office this afternoon I talked to 3 hikers coming down the road. They had almost finished a 2 day loop from Cross Fork up the STS to McConnell Rd and then headed to the trailhead of the Twin Sisters trail and back to Cross Fork. Said they had 12" of snow up on top. Had many blowdowns but didn't complain. Complimented us for our blazing. "

"Nice to see people out on the trail at this time of the year. Bad year for wind. Monday's storm even had all roads down here blocked till noon. Lots of chainsaw work for spring."

Brrrrr. Cheers to the hardy folks who backpack in the winter!

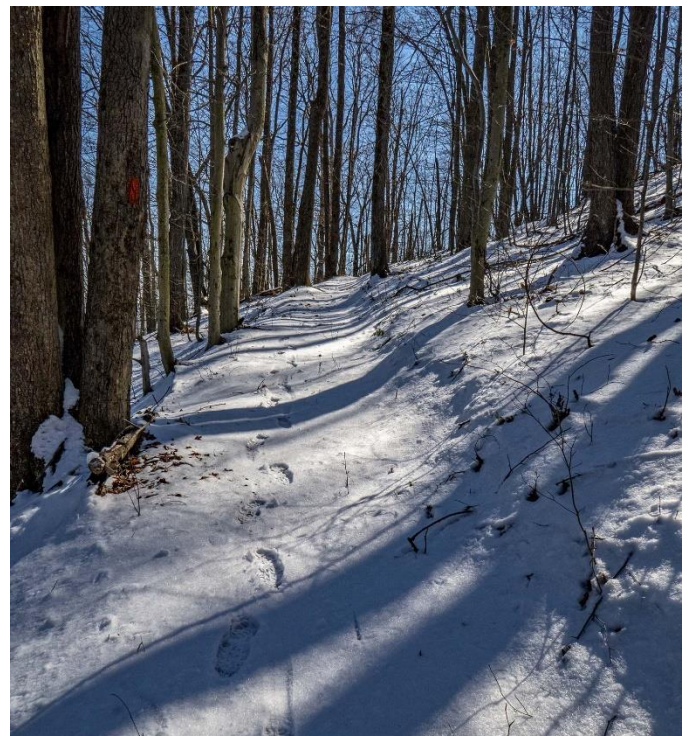


Photo by Curt Weinhold

TRAILS END...

By Lois Morey

“A long life is a life well spent.” This can truly be said of Clair Almeter who lived his life to the fullest before passing at the age of 101 at his home in Almond, NY, on January 24, 2022. This photo was taken 9/13/2010 on one of the hikes in the Adirondacks when STC members stayed at a Lodge in Elizabethtown, NY, for a week of hiking adventures. He also went along the following year at age 91.

He joined the STC in 2010. Then at age 96 in 2016, became STC Life Member #4! Yes, even in his 90's Clair was still an active hiker! What an inspiration to all of us.



His daughter, Pat Childs, also a Life Member, recalls many happy memories growing up camping and hiking in New York State where he taught her to identify most all the trees. He loved hiking on the STS and being with people who loved the woods as he did. When Pat first took over her section of trail as a maintainer, he would come along with her in the spring to help.

Following his wife's death in 2004, father and daughter made many trips out west hiking in 15 national parks, several national monuments and state parks. Their last 10-day big trip was to the Smoky Mountains in 2015. He was a generous man of great faith. He had a deep appreciation of nature and in later years had many bird feeders he could watch from his window. He loved to garden having both vegetable and flower gardens, sharing so that nothing went to waste. After becoming dependent on a walker in his final years, he stated, “the thing I miss the most is not being able to walk in the woods”.

By becoming a life member even late in life, his legacy will live on as his contribution to our endowment fund will continue to give back to the club and the trail he loved forever.

I am reminded of a quote by John Muir: “In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.” And another by a favorite poet, Robert Frost: “The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep.”

Help Wanted **Newsletter Editor**

A year ago, I retired from my professional work and have been shifting gears since then. After nearly 40 years of working with computers I'd like to do some other things for a while. So, I need to hand off the Newsletter Editor duties to someone else.

The newsletter process is stable and documented and we have a good relationship with a printer in Coudersport that makes the job much easier than it used to be.

The job comes with templates for the newsletter, tables and schedules for what goes in the various issues, instructions for formatting the various versions of the newsletter and help from me to get started.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping.
Dave McMillan
dvcmcmln@gmail.com

Welcome New Members

New Regular Memberships:

- Edward Basford, Pipersville, PA
- Viggo Brown, Coudersport, PA
- Xander Brown, Coudersport, PA
- David & Dwina Hajzus, Coudersport, PA
- Phil & Nancy Hesser, Wellsboro, PA
- Daniel Holmes, Coudersport, PA
- Sharon Rathi, Meadville, PA
- Luke Staudenmeier, McKees Rocks, PA
- Jake & Meredith Warner, Carlisle, PA
- Kristina Warner & Family, Mechanicsburg, PA

Life Memberships:

- Michael Miklic, DuBois, PA
- Karen Schenley, Merritt Island, FL
- Mary Shannon, Chicora, PA

New Circuit Hiker Award Recipients

No new Circuit Hiker reports during the winter.

Circuit Hikers – Oldest & Youngest

Editor: In the Winter Newsletter Wanda Shirk asked if there were any hikers who completed the circuit hike when over the age of 65.

Club member Bob ‘Corky’ Eck responded.

I was 65 turning 66 in November of 2008 when I walked it with my wife, Lyn, who is 6 years younger. Circuit Hiker Awards # 968 & # 969



And how did a someone from Florida end up on the STS? My parents were both born and raised in

Renovo. Work took them to North Canton, OH south of Akron. Myself, three brothers and my sister were all raised there. Annual vacations were spent at Hyner Run, Kettle Creek, Cherry Springs but mostly at Ole Bull State Park.

That was when there was no bridge for the cars to cross and you drove right through Kettle Creek. I remember when it rained it might be a day before the cars could get back to the main area because the water was too high to cross.

Later in life after returning home from Vietnam in 1969 and getting married in 1971 my wife Lyn and I decided that we would spend 10 days each year at Ole Bull. We have done that almost every year with just a few exceptions and continue to do it, scheduled for July of this year.





Susquehannock Trail Club
PO Box 643
Coudersport PA 16915

Event Schedule

Monthly meetings start at noon with a dish to share meal followed by the club meeting, unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, May 13	Monthly Meeting Dish to share meal followed by meeting.	Lyman Run State Park, Galeton, PA At the picnic grounds pavilion
Saturday, June 10	Monthly Meeting Dish to share meal followed by meeting.	Saulter Preserve Bryant Road, Coudersport, PA, PA
Saturday, July 8	Monthly Meeting Dish to share meal followed by meeting.	Home of Chad Rugh and April Castano 70 Old Shovel Rd, Coudersport, PA
Thursday – Sunday, August 10 – 13	CAMPOREE	Ole Bull State Park Campground Sites 52, 53, 54, 65, & 60
Saturday August 12	Monthly Meeting Dish to share meal followed by meeting.	Ole Bull State Park Pavilion Starts at 5:00 PM