

FEBRUARY FROLIC 2024 SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL CLUB MINUTES

The February Frolic 2024 meeting was held Saturday the 10th at the Susquehannock Lodge in Ulysses, PA. Members enjoyed a dinner prepared by Ed & Carol Szymanik, members of the STC and owners of the Lodge. Dinner was a choice of prime rib or salmon with mango sauce paired with mixed green beans and baked potato. It was served at 5:00 pm and was followed by a business meeting at 6:15, and a program entitled, “A Visit to Antarctica” presented by Ed McRea, president of the North American Environmental Education Association.

Forty-five were in attendance for the dinner and presentation.

June Caldwell, Joel Caldwell, Janet Smith, Curt Weinhold, Penny Weinhold, Beth Lounsbury, Wanda Shirk, Wayne Baumann, Chris Bell, Ann Bell, Gary Buchanan, Alice Buchanan, Susie Gribble, John Halter, Jan Halter, Charlie Kern, Gary Russell, Louis Sabo, John Zimmer, Robert Peet, Lee Wisel, Michael Thierfelder, Janet Thierfelder, Bryn Hammarstrom, Lynne Graham, Joe Allis, Barb Allis, Cindy Bower, Bill Boyd, Susan Schenck, Matt Schenck, Jayne Fitzgerald, Jeremy Fitzgerald, Joe Thompson, Lois Morey, Jennifer Baker, Bob Hayes, David Hajzus, Dwina Hajzus, Ed Graczyk, Nancy Lounsbury, Elizabeth Kapoor, Alan Seitzinger, Ed McCrea.

Kitchen & wait staff (also STC members): Ed Szymanik, Carol Szymanik, Lori Szymanik, Heather Klimek

President Wanda Shirk called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm with the reading of the January 2024 meeting minutes by Lori Szymanik. John Zimmer made a motion to accept the minutes. Gary Russell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT by Bill Boyd:

A treasurer’s report was presented.

TRAILS REPORT by Bill Boyd:

Total hours for January are 164, 9 volunteers. These hours date back to December 15, as this is when DCNR and KTA ask for our total hours for the year. Total hours for 2023 is 2698 hours. It is the 2nd highest—we had over 3000 in 2020. The total number of volunteers we had this year is 35. This is lower than usual. We typically have 50 to 70 volunteers.

NEW MEMBERS by Lois Morey:

- Dave and Dwina Hajzus, Coudersport, PA, Senior Family Life Membership
- Thomas J. Lyon, Carlsbad, CA, Senior Individual Life Membership (86 years old and has hiked the circuit 3 times)
- Tom VanEtten, Schenectady, NY, Senior Individual Life Membership (originally from Ulysses)
- Ilene Altenhein, Mina, PA, Senior Individual Life Membership
- Ken Wingo, Ulysses, PA, Annual Membership
- Susan Fulginiti, Mechanicsburg, PA, Annual Membership

CIRCUIT HIKER REPORT by Lori Szymanik:

- 1307 Elliott Diamond, Latrobe, PA

OLD BUSINESS:

- Upcoming meeting locations:
 - March- Sweden Hill Church
 - April- South Woods Nature Preserve and Conference Center

- Future meetings will all be held at the—Pennsylvania Lumber Museum except the August Camporee at Ole Bull State Park and the February Frolic held at the Susquehannock Lodge.
- Note: there is no charge to hold meetings at the Lumber Museum. Members are encouraged to get a museum membership!

NEW BUSINESS:

- Upcoming Events:
 - Kettle Creek Outdoor Show—date TBD
 - God’s Country Marathon water station— June 1, 2024
 - Galeton Red Suspenders 4th of July Parade— July 6, 2024
- The STS Chorus sang a song about the Susquehannock Trail accompanied by Wanda Shirk playing the ukulele.
- The top trail maintainers were recognized: Bill Boyd, Abe Peachy, Larry Holtzapple, Ron Heath, Dave Hajzus, Doug Wetherbee, Mark Kelly, Jay Stuckey, Chris Bell, Denise Kelly, Joe Allis, Wanda Shirk, Tod Twichell, Karen Bell, John Halter, Jan Halter, Daniel E. Holmes, Gary Buchanan, Bob Hayes, John Zimmer, Curt Weinhold, Penny Weinhold.
- Wanda reviewed the club’s highlights of 2023.
 - Ford Hollow Shelter was completed at mile 68.7.
 - We donated our 11th picnic table, built by Bill Boyd, to Ole Bull State Park.
 - Many new signs routed and installed by Bill Boyd.

- Two new memorial benches, built by Joe Allis, were placed: mile 2 vista for Greg Vincent, mile 27.5 East Ole Mountain for Ryan Fairbank. A third memorial bench, built by Bill Boyd, was placed at the Duck Pond Loop for Paul Lenz.
- Extensive widening and leveling work completed at Osborne Branch.
- Lick Ridge trails were cleared and mapped for day hikes.
- The club participated in several events: Kettle Creek Outdoor Show, Coudersport Maple Festival, God's Country Marathon water station, Galeton Independence Day Parade, Camporee/Workaree at Ole Bull State Park, Galeton Fall Festival, Coudersport Falling Leaves Festival
- 12 circuit hikers were approved this past year.
- Gratitude was expressed to our life members.
- Leadership patch awarded to Gary Buchanan.
- Bob Hayes was awarded an orange Trail Crew shirt for being a top maintainer.
- Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Dave Hajzus. He received an STC shirt.
- Wanda read a poem in remembrance of those we have lost—Allen Berfield, Joe Boyd, Ryan Fairbank, Peter Gorda, Tom Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Jarrard, Paul Lenz.
- Speaker Ed McCrea presented his slideshow, “A Visit to Antarctica”

The next meeting will be held at Sweden Hill Church. Recreation forester, Nate Confer, from the Susquehannock State Forest is planning to be in attendance.

Meeting minutes taken and submitted by Lori Szymanik