

APRIL 2025 SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL CLUB MINUTES

The April 2025 Meeting was held on Saturday, April 12 at the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum in Ulysses Township, PA. A dish to pass lunch began at noon followed by a business meeting at 12:46. There were 24 members in attendance: Wanda Shirk, Steve Erway, Lori Szymanik, Doug Wetherbee, Janet Smith, Bill Boyd, Sharon Kottwitz, Daniel E. Holmes, Dave Hajzus, Gary Buchanan, Alice Buchanan, Susie Gribble, Curt Weinhold, Penny Weinhold, Henry Fuller, Jayne K. Fitzgerald, Larry Holtzapple, Dave McMillan, Ed McCrea, Donna Batterson, Seth Batterson, Paul Fedalen, Tim Kane, David Errick.

****Some members are representing the club at the Kettle Creek Valley Outdoor Show at the Cross Fork Fire Hall from 9:00am to 3:00pm today.*****

Following a dish-to-pass lunch, President Wanda Shirk called the meeting to order at 1:00 February minutes were read by recording secretary Lori Szymanik. Jayne Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the minutes. Janet Smith seconded the motion. Minutes adopted unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Steve Erway:

BEGINNING BALANCE February beginning			6555.75
TOTAL INCOME			7515.00
TOTAL EXPENSES			2330.13
ENDING BALANCE			\$11,740.62

TRAILS REPORT by Bill Boyd:

- No updates since March meeting.

NEW MEMBERS by Lois Morey:

Regular Memberships

- Julia Shearson, Smethport, PA

- Lora & Ray Cope, Coudersport, PA

Life Memberships

- None to report.

CIRCUIT HIKER REPORT by Lori Szymanik:

- No new circuit hikers to report.

HIKE REPORT:

- STC has scheduled a hike for Saturday, April 19th, at 9:30am. The hike will be approximately 5 miles in length on several sections of moderate trails. We will meet the hike leader, Barb Miller, at the Splash Dam trailhead parking area, which is located on Lyman Run Road. From there, we will carpool to the Billy Lewis Trailhead off the Billy Lewis Road and start the hike. The hike will occur on the Billy Lewis Trail, Palmatier Trail, STS, and Splash Dam Trail.
- Daniel Holmes is planning a 3.5 mile hike on the Blue Run Rocks Trail on April 18th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A bridge is needed at Porter Branch—past Scoville Shelter.
- Dave McMillan shared a bridge idea that might work on the STS. He saw this bridge type being used on the property of an archery shoot.— The bridges were made of 4 inch diameter aluminum metal conduit. Two to three pieces were screwed together with tread placed on top. They were connected to a tree with cable. Dave will do more research on this type of bridge including price to construct them.
- Update on the bridge near Williams Farm. A new bridge will be built but the owner is waiting on all camps for funding. The owner will be putting a locked gate on the bridge. It is currently a liability. The proposed bridge will cost \$70,000. Some cabins don't want to pay for the bridge to be built. Lawyers are involved. Hikers CANNOT use that bridge at least until end of May. Hikers will need to go a mile down the road to cross. STC plans to talk to two landowners that are a mile down road about a new crossing for the STS. It was suggested to donate money towards bridge in hopes that hikers will be able to pass. It was also suggested to just walk through the water instead of on a bridge. Other questions: Can we secure a hand cable? Is it a trespassing issue? STC will investigate and post signs/update app about the bridge at Williams Farm.

- Update on West Branch Trail hunting camp and no trespassing signs: This closure is not on main STS circuit and not during the most popular hiking months. Wanda and Larry will talk to camp owners to see what they can negotiate.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dave Hajzus was presented with the Chainsaw Award!
- Members discussed how and when our volunteers should be recognized for their dedication to the trail and club.
- Donna Batterson reminded us to make sure we, as a club, are taking advantage of 501C benefits that we are entitled to.
- Jack Buckwalter found professional tree marking paint of a very bright shade of orange. We have 24 cans—1 can is available for each trail section to touch up old blazes. If you want to do whole section, please get paint from Bill Boyd to keep color consistent.
- Larry Holtzapple announced that Nate Confer, D-15 Recreation Forester needs help on April 16th on 6 miles of work around the Trout Run area. He particularly will need help with chainsaw work. If interested, contact Nate Confer at the Susquehannock State Forest office.
- Seth Batterson, member and Forest Technician at D-15, thanked club members for volunteering on trails in the Susquehannock State Forest.
- The Clear to Ride group (equestrian organization) is looking for chainsaw help on April 26th off of Route 44 at the Dyer Farm area.
- Barb Miller will lead a hike on April 19. More information coming soon.
- In the next 2 weeks, a re-route project will occur on Footbridge Camp Lane. Jobs that need to do done include clearing debris, lopping, digging, and blazing. Tuesday, 1:00. Members volunteered and agreed to Tuesday April 15 at 1:00pm.
- Donna Batterson reminded us that now is the perfect time for foraging leeks and fiddle head ferns.
- Ben Kramer's guidebook is now out of print. If you want a copy, Lois has a few.
- Members were given "Ya Done Good!" wooden nickels which are supposed to be distributed when you see someone doing something good for the trail. They can also be given to hikers you see on the trail. The point behind this gesture is to give encouragement to others!

- Janet Smith brought up getting more information out so that people know about the trail. Ideas that were brought up: putting brochures and info out in public locations, connecting with DentonGo, planning and advertising hikes far in advance.
- Bill Boyd reminded members to put their Trail Crew signs in car windows when you are working on the trail.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum at 12:00pm on May 10, 2025.

Meeting minutes taken and submitted by Lori Szymanik