

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.

Winter 2025



Bill installing a new sign

Photo by Dave Hajzus

Excellent and constantly improving trail signage is one of the great features of the STS.

In the club's first five decades, most signs were routed by club member and forester Tom Fitzgerald, many of whose signs still exist on the trail. Tom always dated the sign on the back, noted the kind of wood he used, such as "red oak," and often added his touch of humor: "Welfare Hollow Sign Shop", New Florence, PA.

Bill Boyd has taken over the routing of new signs over the past two years. He's added distances to the next road, shelter, and perhaps water, to most signage, which hikers find very helpful.

Routing is a time-consuming volunteer task. Routing equipment was also an expense of several hundred dollars for the club. Thank you to donors who make our equipment upgrades possible.

President's Message

Wanda Shirk

THANKS FOR JOINING!

The STS is our *trail*. The STC is our *club*. As we begin another year, we thank everyone for JOINING!

Camaraderie, friendship, and unity in a common cause bring us together, bring us joy, and fill our hearts with contentment. In a world where polarization, conflict, and division create isolation and alienation, we instead congregate with pleasure and delight. We have a collective purpose. It's okay to pat ourselves on the back. We are legit "do-gooders," and at the end of the day, that's just plain *nice*!

Two aspects stand out. First, there is *belonging*. As club members, we belong to something bigger than our individual selves, our separate lives, or paths of narrow self-interest. Second, there is *participating*. Whether we are maintaining the trail, socializing on a group hike, or bringing a good dish to a club meeting, we are doing something that makes the world just a little bit better.

Mental health professionals advise that social bonds are a predictor of life satisfaction. Engaging with others improves our health and our quality of life. An "I'm not a joiner" mentality hurts and concerns communities, where membership in volunteer fire and ambulance companies, churches, and civic groups of all kinds is on the decline. Videogame addicts and potato couchers participate and contribute less than associators. Cheers to YOU for making the commitment to JOIN.

Today, people often isolate themselves and make information choices that create what we call "echo chambers" and "silos" and "bubbles." Social media has its benefits, but it can simultaneously make us more connected and less connected to other people, our neighbors and communities, and the world. TV and radio host Michael Smerconish advocates "the Mingle Project." Robert Putnam's books *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* and *Better Together: Restoring American Community* address the disintegration of social structures and encourage *joining*!

Getting together is good for us personally as human beings.

Getting together is good for our communities – and in our case, our trails – because more gets done when we communicate and collaborate.

Getting together is good for our society, our country. We unite in spirit, for the common good.

At the beginning of a new year, it's good to reflect on

"The Ten Commitments" of humanism:

- * **Altruism:** I will help others in need without hoping for rewards.

- * **Critical Thinking:** I will practice good judgment by asking questions and thinking for myself.

- * **Empathy:** I will consider other people's thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

- * **Environmentalism:** I will take care of the Earth and the life on it.

- * **Ethical Development:** I will always focus on becoming a better person.

- * **Global Awareness:** I will be a good neighbor to the people who share the Earth with me, to help make the world a better place for everyone.

- * **Humility:** I will be aware of my strengths and weaknesses and appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of others.

- * **Peace and Social Justice:** I will help people solve problems and handle disagreements in ways that are fair for everyone.

- * **Responsibility:** I will be a good person – even when no one is looking – and own the consequences of my actions.

- * **Service and Participation:** I will help my community in ways that let me get to know the people I'm helping.

Belonging! Civic Engagement! Participation!

THANKS FOR JOINING!

Trail Report Fall 2023

By Bill Boyd

The last quarter of 2024 was quite a busy one for the trail crews, amounting to 566 hours spent on trail care. This included clearing blowdowns (always at the top of the list), brushcutting, weedwacking, blazing, new and refurbished signs - some with new posts, salvaging the Camp Beaver footbridge (which had washed downstream about 100 yard thanks to "Debby.") I'd be remiss not to add that this salvage was done single handedly by taking the bridge completely apart, transporting all the pieces to the original site, and putting it all back together (it's a 16' x 36" wide bridge.) Dave Hajzus was our man for that job - he got the Gold-Star.

Debby was not friendly to our bridges. One of our main ones, across Cross Fork Creek, near Abbott, was washed downstream about 200 yards, and now rests with a lot of other debris at the bend in the stream. The good news is we believe we can pull it back upstream to a different and better site. It is a good-sized cherry log about 40' long, but our crew believes we can handle it. The same might apply to the Yochum Run bridge, IF we could find it - we fear that it is too far downstream by now. It was a downed but solid hemlock, and it probably floated quite well. A little good news, there is a suitable tree positioned about right for a new bridge. Several new bridges have been added as well, one in Jacob Hollow and another along Hogback Hollow Trail, and one across Elk Run.

Dave has also proposed an answer to float-away bridges - and that is to anchor one end to something sturdy with some cable. If the bridge should ever wash out again, it will go only to the end of its tether, and will not be much of a job pulling it back into place. We have a few new bridges to put in, mostly smaller ones we think - we'll know better when the spring rains come along so we can see where the water wants to run. "Debby" need not apply.

The best news might be that the Gravel Lick shelter is back up and available to hikers and backpackers. This is the one where some careless campers built the fire too close to it and burned it to the ground. Luckily they did call it in and the Austin VFD responded quickly and contained the fire to a small area. We have long urged those who have a campfire to use the large steel fire ring that we provide, and to keep flammable material cleared away. AND, to never leave a fire until it is dead out. Most shelters have jugs of water supplied by volunteers, and now we have begun to place buckets under the eaves to catch rainwater.

Also, noteworthy - our trail crews have set a new record for the year - 3541 hours, which tops our previous time of 3023 hours set back in 2020. The crews have been quite busy, not only keeping the STS cleared, but opening some new routes, including some loop trails, for those with limited time, and they eliminate shuttling vehicles.

If we had one main goal for the new year it would probably be "benching" some sections of the trail. This is the process of leveling the sidehill sections which over the years have narrowed to maybe a 6" wide path. For a couple of years, we have had a Mennonite crew helping with this chore; We seniors are simply in awe of these 20-year-olds and the work they can do. Kinda makes us long for those "good ole days", but of course all we can do is forge ahead and do what we can.

Happy New Year to ALL !

Trail Maintainers for 2025

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
Hungry Hollow Rd. - 4.00 - Tim Kain
Ole Bull S.P. - 7.13 - John & Jan Halter
12 - Mile Rd.(1st) - 4.06 - Jack Buckwalter
12 - Mile Rd. (2nd) - 6.51 - Charles Kern
Greenlick Rd. - 3.57 – Needs Maintainer
Shephard Rd. - 5.96 - Jim Petit
Cross Fork - 3.22 - John Zimmer
The "Pool" - 4.70 - Craig Warner
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. - 3.80 - Dave Hajzus
Hockney Junction - 1.24 - Todd Twichell
Rt. 44 - 2.81 – Jay Stuckey
Sunken Br. Rd. - 2.25 - Bill Boyd
Reg. box - 4.37 – Chad Rugh & April Castano

West Br. Crossover Tr. - 5.7 - Joe Nachtwey

East Fork Crossover Tr. - 8.3

EFT Sec #1 - Junc. Rd. – 3.20 - Dave Hajzus

EFT Sec. #2 - East Fork Rd. - 2.50 – Mike & Jan

Thierfelder

EFT Sec. #3 - Rock Ridge Rd. - 2.60 - Tod Twichell

Hiking Program

By Pat Childs

The STC club has REACTIVATED OUR CLUB LED HIKING PROGRAM. This will enable many hikers to have a safe hiking experience, spot cars for a linear hike, hike trails they aren't familiar with, ones they need to complete the STS circuit, build camaraderie with other club members, and possibly get new club members by inviting the public to join our hikes. We aim to offer 2 hikes a month, weekday or weekend. Begun in June, attendance has been excellent with enthusiastic comments.

Hike leaders are needed to run the program. They will choose a trail, write a brief description to be sent to me, collect names of attendees, organize car placement and lead hikers along the trail.

We are all busy, so to allow leaders to wait until they know they have an available date, we created HIKERS and HIKE LEADERS group emails to which notices will be sent. They will also be posted on Facebook, the STC website, Google group, and the newspaper.

We NEED leaders and hikers. If you did not sign up for the email groups at a club meeting please send your contact information to Pat Childs 585-610-0715 or childs4@roadrunner.com. If anyone has a trail they would like to explore or circuit section they need, please let me know and we will find a leader for it. It does not have to be on the STS.

Let's meet on the trail!

585-610-0715 childs4@roadrunner.com

Recent Hikes



Saturday 12/14/24 Hike Railroad Grade Trail Hike

attendees:

Barbara Miller, Lisa Werner
Doug Weatherbee, Ron Heath
Larry Holtzapple – Hike Leader



Saturday 11/15 Hike Water Tank Vista Loop Hike

attendees

John Zimmer
Wayne Baumann
Bill Boyd
Curt and Penny Weinhold
Barb Miller
Elizabeth Kapoor
Doug and Jane Weatherbee
Janet Smith
Larry Holtzapple - Hike Leader

TRAILS END

By Lois Morey, Secretary and past Archivist

In this past year of 2024, the STC lost the following members whose passing will be greatly felt for years to come. We pay tribute and remember all these members, including past members, of the Susquehannock Trail Club and offer our condolences to their families and friends.

Elizabeth Jarrard, age 79, of Coudersport, PA passed away on 1/28/2024. She was a member of STC for 3 short years, helped with shuttling hikers and trail maintainers when needed, and was a great cook. She was a teacher for many years and more recently worked in finance as an investor.

Mary Wetmore, age 94, of Knoxville, PA, passed away 7/15/2024. A very pleasant lady, she originally joined our club in 1997 and enjoyed camping and hiking, especially during our summer camporees.

Leslie "Rabbit" Jensen, 71, of Carter Camp, PA, passed 7/23/2024. A 7-year member of STC, she was known for her many talents and hobbies including reading, knitting, cartooning, geocaching, and fly-fishing. She was a talented fly tyer and taught the art to many.

Terry (Tex) Lindsey, 86, a 9-year member of STC from Cottonwood, AZ, passed away 9/5/24. A US Navy Veteran, originally from Fort Worth, TX. Tex enjoyed exploring the vast desert area behind his house, riding his motorcycle, and flying his Ultralight aircraft. Tex and current member, Bill Boyd, stayed in touch as Navy buddies for 60-plus years.

Thomas Van Etten, 67, Schenectady, NY. Tom passed away while attempting a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, something he had wanted to do for years. He had completed nearly 1,500 miles at the time of his death. He originally joined STC in 2010 and made the decision to become a Life Member in January 2024. He included the following note with payment: *"I completed 700+ miles of the AT (Harpers Ferry – Hanover, NH) before a knee injury stopped me for the year. Hope to get back on trail this spring. The AT in PA makes the STS look like fabulous treadway! Tom"*. He retired in 2023 after 40+ years of service working as an engineer for the Knolls Laboratory (part of the Naval Nuclear Laboratory). His many interests included history, astronomy, and of course, hiking and backpacking.

Sara Squier, originally from Ulysses, PA, passed away 11/1/2024, age 100! She joined STC in 1994 at the age of 70, was very active in the club in those earlier years, and enjoyed several years of hiking on the STS as well as other local trails with good friends. This goes to prove that staying active in those "Golden Years" can help maintain good health and add to longevity!

Printed newsletters or online delivery of newsletters - the choice is yours

As with so many other things, the cost of producing newsletters is going to go up. Postal rates will be increasing again soon. Our newsletter printer does a fabulous job for us but without a doubt they will have to raise rates at some point. Delivery of a printed newsletter consumes all of an individual's dues paid to the club leaving nothing for trail care projects.

Every year when you renew your membership you have a choice of whether to receive your newsletter by printed copy or to get it online. If you choose to get it online you save the club money which can go to trail care and you save the resources which go into generating a printed copy.

We realize not everyone is ready to go to online delivery and we intend to serve all of our members. If you want to receive a printed copy, choose that on your next renewal. If you are ready to switch to online delivery, choose that on your next renewal.

If you are ready to switch now you can send an email to Lois Morey, loismorey46@gmail.com, requesting that you be switched to online delivery now.

Since the last newsletter we've had 8 members switch their newsletter delivery from postal delivery to email notification and download from the website.

Please consider switching your delivery method and save the club the cost of printing and delivery.

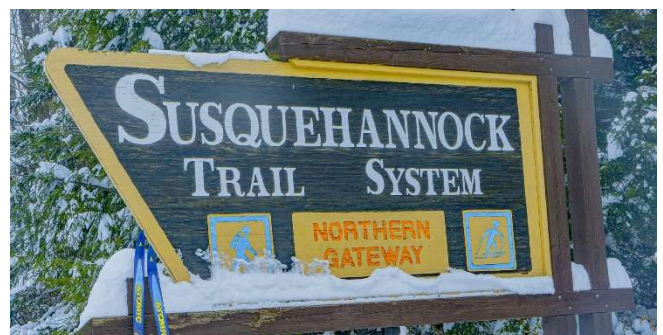


Photo by Curt Weinhold

STC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Lois Morey, Corresponding and Membership Secretary

We have 270 active members at the end of this 4th quarter for 2024. Our membership seems to be staying in the same ballpark area; we lose a few when it comes time to pay yearly dues, but then we gain new members throughout the year. Many of you we never have had the opportunity to meet but that doesn't mean you are not important to us. Our Mission written when our club was formed, and our trail system was still in the planning stage, states the following:

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.

You no doubt joined our club because you have a love of nature and hiking, enjoy the camaraderie of others who share the same interests. Please don't be one of those we lose in 2025. We need your support to help keep our beloved 84-mile trail system well-maintained and our club still growing stronger! We need a younger generation of new members to ensure the goals that the original Charter Members put together continue in future years. Think about it and remember to send in your payment of dues for 2025 well before the deadline. Note the increase in dues this year to help cover increasing costs.

I would also like to remind those of you who still might be deciding whether to switch to online delivery of your newsletter. Some prefer the printed copy, and that's fine, we are okay with that. For those who don't mind the online version, please consider the change and mark your renewal form accordingly. Our club officers thank you for helping your dollar go further for STS and STC!



Along the trail

Photo by Larry Holtzapple

Welcome New Members

Regular Memberships:

- Alex App, Lakewood, OH
- Charlie Orosz, Williamsville, NY
- Ken Orosz, Williamsville, NY
- Thomas Piasecki, Perkasio, PA
- G. Michael Reese, Palm Bay, FL
- Laura Swanson, Coudersport, PA
- William Ward, Montoursville, PA
- Beth Jones, Williamsport, PA

New Circuit Hiker Award Recipients

- 1325 Chuck Rounds, Bluemont, VA
- 1326 Beth Jones, Williamsport, PA
- 1327 Julie "Puma" Gladstein, Sullivan, IN
- 1328 Ryne "Pusher" Horn, Sullivan, IN
- 1329 Ken Orosz, Williamsburg, NY
- 1330 Charlie Orosz, Williamsburg, NY
- 1331 Tom Piasecki, Perkasio, PA
- 1332 Nathan Jones, Quakertown, PA
- 1333 James Gardner, Williamsport, PA
- 1334 Dianne McCormick, Allenwood, PA

Winter Frolic Dinner / Monthly Meeting

In March we will have the Winter Frolic dinner and meeting at the Susquehannock Lodge.
Saturday, **March 8th** 10 at 5:00 pm.

The featured speaker will be Robert Edkin, Environmental Education Specialist for Hills Creek & Leonard Harrison State Parks with a really interesting slide-show presentation about the lumbering and railroad days in our forests going back six decades or more. The old logging roads and railroad grades form the basis of many of our trails and forest roads today.

Details and a reservation form are included with the membership renewal form. Remember to get your reservations in early as there is seating for only 50 at the lodge.

**Recognizing our Life Members
for their contributions**

*Ahn, Betty
*Ahn, Wilber
Allis, Joseph
Allis, Barbara
Almeter, Clair
Altenhein, Ilene
Balliet, Wellis
*Berfield, Allen
*Berger, James
*Bernhardy, Bob
Bernhardy, Helen
Bower, Cindy
*Bowser, James
Boyd, Bill
Castano, April
Childs, Patricia
Cramer, Ben
Douglas, Ray
Eppinger, Frank
Erway, Steve
Fitzgerald, Jayne
*Fitzgerald, Rebecca
*Fitzgerald, Thomas
Graczyk, Ed
Graczyk, Nancy
Hajzus, David
Hajzus, Dwina
Hardam, Bill
Heimer, Joanne

Hobbs, Samuel
Hollender, Bruce
Hollender, Ruth
Holtzapple, Larry
Holtzapple, Violeta
Hribar, Carol
*Hribar, Richard
Huber, Arthur
Huber, Robin
Kemp, Jason
Kemp, Tara
Kemp, Chris
Kemp, Jackson
Kern, Charles
*Knowles, Bob
Langgle, Rob
*Leete, Tom
Long, Janet
Lounsbury, Elizabeth
Luft, Lowell
Luft, Barbara
Luthi, David
Luthi, Pammy
Lyon, Thomas
*McManus, G. Dawn
Meunier, Lorena
Miklic, Michael
Morey, Lois
Myer, Barbara
Myer, Kevin
Nachtwey, Joseph

Nachtwey, Nancy
Nelson, Alan
Nelson, Georgette
Nelson, Jeff
Nelson, Jo
Oliver, Wilfred
Olney, Joy
Oyen, Rick
Oyen, Carolyn
Peet, Robert
Quatrone, David
Reed, Allan
Roth, Loren ("Buck")
Roth, Patty
Rugh, Chad
Russel, Allen ("Buzz")
Schenley, Karen
Shannon, Mary
Shirk, Wanda
Singer, David
Twichell, Tod
*VanEtten, Thomas
Weinhold, Curt
Weinhold, Penny
Wimmer, Gene
Wisel, Lee
Yasharian, Glen
Yasharian, Karen
Zimmer, John
*Deceased "Forever Members"



2025 Christmas Meeting/Party

Photo by Daniel Holmes



Susquehannock Trail Club
PO Box 643
Coudersport PA 16915

2025 Event Schedule

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

Saturday, Feb 8	Monthly Meeting Dish to share meal followed by meeting. Guest speaker - Cody Whipple, Education Specialist, Susquehannock & Tioga State Forests	PA Lumber Museum
Saturday, March 8	Monthly Meeting & Winter Frolic Meal at Susquehannock Lodge, followed by meeting <u>Starts at 5:00 pm</u> - see details in the newsletter.	Susquehannock Lodge
Saturday, April 12	Monthly Meeting Dish to share meal followed by meeting.	PA Lumber Museum
Saturday, May 10	Monthly Meeting Dish to share meal followed by meeting.	PA Lumber Museum
Saturday, June 14	Monthly Meeting Dish to share meal followed by meeting.	PA Lumber Museum