

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 13 Month # 06

June 2009

June 3 Monthly Meeting

Join us at the Butler YMCA 6:30 pm on Wed June 3 when Maggie Stock, Mayor of Butler will update us on the recreational and trail plans for the Butler Area.

Huge Success for 13th Annual Outdoor Extravaganza

The 2009 13th Annual Outdoor Extravaganza sponsored by the Butler Outdoor Club had another successful turnout at Breakneck Campground. Thirteen was a lucky number for us this year...no bad luck for us. Beautiful weather all 3 days and we had about 250 people throughout the weekend! It is amazing how it grows and grows each year with not only people from all over Pennsylvania but many from other states. It is also surprising to find out where people come from and how they found out about the event. We had about 15 activities each day ranging from various hikes, various bike rides including a mtn.bike ride, various paddle trips including a raft trip, workshops, excursions, tours, sailing, horseback riding and pontoon boat tour.

Many comments are flowing in on the success of the Extravaganza such as: "What a variety of things to do." "I made so many new friends." "I learned new things to do." "I want to join your club." "I can't wait till next year." This is just unbelievable." "How wonderful this is."

It is not me, it is because of all of you! I have always had a wonderful BOC Board who backs me with the organization of the event. And I want to thank my leaders, co-leaders and volunteers for planning and/or helping to provide a trip, workshop, excursion, tour, boats, picnic wiener roast, meal time tags, registration booth, firewood, and last but not least, the set up and tearing down at the campground.

It took many people to pull this off: Fredrick Schwartz, Dan and Peggy Mourer, John and Alice Stehle, Dave and Jean Adams, Cecil Nelly, Andy Niedra, Tom and Boop Baumgardner, Patty and Steve Brunner, Dale Vilsack,

Paul Henry, Bill Klobetanz, Dana Asbury, John Powell, Eric Pederson, Mike Henderson, Charlene Wright, Dorothy Weisburg, Justine Lechner, Jessica and Jeff Kridler, Joel Platt, Sandy Devonshire, Laurie Krofft, Mark Pozzuto, Linda X., John Fleischman, Sue McCoy, Helen Coyne, Joanne Winwood, Rich Gemeinhart, Scott and Dana Workman, Jeff Rapp, Jerry Hoffman, Tom McCartney, Jan Berg, Steve and Carol Bickel, Diane Winston, Dave Galbreath, Joanne Sergeant, Carolyn Shriver, Pat Burns, and anyone I missed.

A big thank you also to Paul Egbert, Paul Henry, Russ Tague and Bill Klobetanz, for providing trailers with kayaks and canoes.

Then there was Tom Baumgardner who had the amazing task of helping me with an Excel spreadsheet to make everything work into trips, name tags, tee shirt sales, meals, kids, rentals and registration form. I absolutely must not forget to thank Paul Henry who does a lot of behind the scene work: working out the water trips which are the hardest activities to plan and pull off, helping me load and unload many things with many trips to and from the campground for set up of the weekend, and getting 4 hauling canoe/kayak trailers ready every day for 3 or 4 trips a day, then put a raft trip into the mix.

You can be proud to be a member of BOC. We are known throughout the state and out of state for this event. People often ask me how or why do I take on such an undertaking....all you had to do was look around the campground, go on one of the events, watch the excitement and happiness of the people, see friendships form, and just knowing that some people are learning how to do new things that will become a new part of their life....is why I have done this for 13 years!!!! That is what makes it all worthwhile. **Again, I thank you all for helping me to "make this happen."**

Get ready now and mark your calendars for next year over Memorial Day Weekend.

Joyce Appel, Coordinator

The 13th Annual Extravaganza is now a sweet memory. Three days plus of outdoor activities is what the Butler Outdoor Club is all about, all packed into one long weekend.

There was something for everyone, whether it is hiking, paddling, or biking. Whether you are a child or adult - or adult who thinks you are a child, or a child who is pushing your way into adulthood, there is something to do.

Whether you want to push the limits on an advanced hike, or visit a historic site, or just sail on the water, we got you covered.

It is a great time to see our friends and acquaintances from years past and get out for a new adventure with them. And it's a time to form new friendships forged in a new adventure, forming future memories.

Of course this is all possible thanks to so many of you contributing at so many levels to make it happen. You are awesome! Thank you. And a special thanks can go to Tom Baumgardner who has worked closely with Joyce on the registration form and in scouting out venues and leading events.

And of course a huge hand goes to Joyce Appel, along with Paul Henry, whose vision and dedication makes this miracle happen each year.

On another front, with government budgets being written, and stimulus monies being spent, and environmental resources being used for various purposes, these are very important times to let your political leaders know what is important to you. Let them know before it is too late!

John Stehle

Would you care if your favorite state park was closed?

Please contact your local legislators and let them know how you feel. **The time to act is now.**

Pa Senate Bill 850 represents a reduction of \$11M from our current level of state park funding. If SB 850 were to be enacted 35-40 parks would be closed, some staff functions curtailed and employees furloughed.

Oil Creek, M.K. Goddard, Clear Creek, Ryerson Station, Yellow Creek, Linn Run Complex (Laurel Mt & Summit) and Erie Bluffs are on the list of parks that may be closed.

Click below to find your legislator.

www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find.cfm

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“The purpose of the Butler Outdoor Club is to provide year-round outdoor activities for the enjoyment and fellowship of our members, while creating awareness, appreciation and conservation of the environment.”

Visit our club website for the latest event updates and club news at

www.butleroutdoorclub.org

The Extravaganza Beaver River Trip started out on the Shenango River for the first 1/8 of a mile and ended on Conoquenensing Creek at Rock Point for the last 100



yards. The Beaver River is formed by the Mahoning River and the Shenango River joining above Shaw Island near New Castle, Pa. Conoquenensing Creek flows into the Beaver River about 10 river miles later and 7 miles upstream from the mouth of the Beaver River on the Ohio River.

The start of the trip was from an industrial parking lot in Newcastle and we did pass a power plant, but other than that the river has very few buildings visible from the water. What you do pass are trees and habitat suitable for various species of wild life.

We were aided on our trip by three excellent guides Bob Barr, his daughter Kaylee and her dog Sugar. Together they guided us down the stream, pointing out the low spots and describing the history of Indian tribes that inhabited the



area as well as the sequence of glacial flows that all came down the valley and terminated at various points along our route.

The other interesting history was that of the canals and of the locks, most of which were completely removed and the materials used for the two railroads the boarder both sides of the river. The Beaver being a south flowing river made a good passage way when going points North between Pittsburgh and Erie. Even though you don't really see the railroads they, to a large part, help preserve this river. The railroads owned up to the river on both sides of the stream and prevented private people as well as industry from building along the river and making the river look more civilized. Even though they parallel the river there is a nice buffer of trees between them and the stream. The only time one is sure they are there is when the infrequent train passes nearby.



Although the Beaver is a leisurely flowing river, there are a number of small drops and riffles that add to the excitement of paddling downstream. Our 5 hour trip wasn't long enough for some of our paddlers who ran some of the drops again for twice the fun.



The first bird sighting was a family of Red breasted Mergansers swimming upstream. The next find was a heron rookery with six nests and several young birds, several eggs and a lot of adults. Just a hundred yards downstream was an Osprey nest with several young Ospreys. The nests were located on a small strip of land that separated the river from a large strip mine lake. We thought we were done when we came upon a second heron rookery this time with 8 nests. This rookery was located on one of the larger islands in the river.



We made several rest stops and a lunch stop along the river bank. There were several islands that we passed along the way, one the DCNR recently purchased to preserve its unaltered state.



One of the other highlights to the trip was exiting at Rock Point. Rock Point once the play ground or amusement park for the rich and famous was the takeout of our trip. Rock Point no longer has a hotel or any amusement rides, but it does have a rich history and is a major landmark in the area.



No longer is there a bridge across the Beaver at Rock Point so access is down a long private drive that up until recently was for members only. We were lucky in that our guest guide and his father Jim Barr are two of the original Rock Point Boat club members with access to the area.

All in all it was a great trip with great weather for the 36 happy paddlers. Tom Baumgardner

Area Outdoor Activities and Educational Events

May 30 31	Friends of Allegheny Wilderness backpacking trip on the Hickory Creek Trail with some off trail hiking as we explore the proposed Hickory Creek Wilderness Addition. Approximately 10 to 12 miles over moderate terrain. Contact Joe Hardisky 724-924-9248 hardis123@msn.com
May 30	Saturday, May 30, 2009 Campfire Cuisine 2:00 PM What better way to top off a visit to the woods than with a tasty snack prepared outside? See various methods of outdoor cooking demonstrated & pick up some tips for satisfying hunger in the outdoors. Meet the park naturalist in the courtyard beside the old mill. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area; hike down to the old mill. Handicapped and physically challenged parking is available at the mill.
May 30	Moraine State Park Program: Guide to Geocaching and GPS 2:00pm at the Pleasant Valley picnic area on the South Shore.
May 30	Maurice Goddard State Park Environmental Interpretive Programs - Lake Wilhelm Canoe and Kayak Hike 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Celebrate Hiking Week with a paddle on Lake Wilhelm. Meet at the Environmental Learning Classroom at the Marina.
May 31	10 mile hike on the North Country Trail near Wampum PA on Sunday May 31, 2009. Meet at 9:00 at the grocery store on Main Street (the town is small - you can't miss it). At 10 miles, this is a strenuous hike, but, the hike will be in 2 sections, so if you finish the first five miles and don't want to continue you can skip the rest. We will shuttle to the Western Edge of State Game lands 148 - leaving some cars at the eastern end at Route 18. We will walk the 5 miles, then shuttle into Wampum and eat lunch at the bridge over the Beaver river. After lunch we will shuttle cars to the end of the next 5 miles to be waiting for us. When the shuttle drivers return we will hike the remaining 5 miles from River Road to the Sankey Hill trail head where the cars will be waiting. John Stehle Cell 724-256-0674 Email stehles@yahoo.com.
May 31	Moraine State Park Program: Nature Watch Kayaking 10:00am Meet park naturalist at McDanel's Launch, North Shore with your own or borrow one from the park. Call 724.368.8811 to reserve a kayak. Participants who use park kayaks must be atleast 12, an adult must accompany those younger than 18.
May 31	Fourth of four conditioning hikes on the Rachel Carson Trail in preparation for the annual June 20 hike to cover the entire 34 miles of trail in one day. This fast-paced 7-mile walk will go from Bull Creek Road near Tarentum along the tops of bluffs overlooking the Allegheny River to Bobwhite Shelter in Harrison Hills County Park (one of the easier hikes). Meet at 11:30 AM. Call Don Ziegler about meeting spot, 412-956-2660 (Cell).
May 31	Allegheny Outdoor Club trip - Sunday, May 31 Bike Oil Creek The 9.7-mile (19.4-mile round trip) paved bicycle trail follows the scenic and historic Oil Creek. Visit the Petroleum Center with working exhibits. Bring your water bottle. Meet at Musante Street at 1 Pm or the Petroleum Center at 2 PM. Leader Dennis Anderson, 716-483-2288.
May 31	McConnells Mill Outing: Sunday, May 31, 2009 Fern Exploration 2:00 PM Search out the rare ferns and wildflowers of McConnells Mill State Park on a guided hike along Alpha Pass Trail led by the park naturalist. Meet at the courtyard of the historic gristmill ready to explore. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area; hike down to the old mill. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water for a moderate hike lasting approx. 2 hours, learning about ferns and flowers along the way.
Jun 6	Clarion-Toby Creek Bike Ride (crushed limestone surface not suited for narrow tires) Meet 10:30 am at Taylor Park in Brockway, ride up and back, 18 miles one way to Ridgeway. Do the entire trail or as far as you can. Bring water & a trail lunch. You will be treated to spectacular mountain, forest, and water scenery, possible wildlife sightings, and signs describing the area's history. You'll even cross Little Toby Creek on a swinging bridge. Directions to the Brockway trailhead: Take Rt 422 East to Rt 28 north to Brockway or From I-80 take Route 219 North into Brockway. Turn left onto Main Street, then right onto 7th Avenue. The trailhead is just past the community pool. Dave & Jean Adams 724-453-1685 or email davenjean@zoominternet.net

Jun 6	Possible overnight paddle trip on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River Call Paul Henry for information and to register at 724.347.3282
Jun 6-10	NCTA Volunteer Adventure Program Spring is beginning to shake off thoughts of the cold and inspire plans for this year's adventures. You may have heard of the North Country Trail's Volunteer Adventure Program, now in its second year. At least one great project in each of our seven states is waiting for volunteers, your chance for a unique travel experience or an alternative vacation nearby. Each project highlights some of the most beautiful areas of the North Country and some of the best projects for the development of this 4,600 mile National Scenic Trail. Free and open to the public, meals provided, space is limited to 10-12 volunteers depending on the project. The one in Pennsylvania will be on the Slippery Rock Gorge Trail in McConnells Mill State Park on June 6-10. Sign up at http://www.northcountrytrail.org/vol_adv.php Hope to see you out on the Trail! Andrew Bashaw NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator OH/PA PO Box 5, Shawnee, OH 43782 740-394-2008
Jun 7	Moraine State Park Program: Technology Treasure Hunters 11:00am Join park staff at the Pleasant Valley picnic area on the South Shore to learn how to use a GPX system to explore the park.
Jun 8	Moraine State Park Program: Work off the Day Kayak Paddle 6:00pm Meet the park naturalist at the Bear Run boat launch on the South Shore for a fast paced, guided kayak trip. Call 724.368.8811 to reserve a kayak. Participants who use park kayaks must be atleast 12, an adult must accompany those younger than 18.
Jun 10-14	The Juniata River Sojourn is an annual, multi-day canoe and kayak trip on the Juniata River. This year's Sojourn is on the Little Juniata and Frankstown Branch. Why hold a sojourn? To promote river stewardship and local natural resource awareness! Attendees participate in a variety of daily and nightly programs ranging from presentations on local history, watershed science, art, and culture, to campfire sing-a-longs, folk music performances, and dancing. The sojourn not only offers a great week of paddling but also presents a chance to celebrate our river communities! You learn about local history and current river conservation projects. Even if you are not an experienced paddler, but want to join in on the fun, you can attend the daily and nightly programs which are all open to the public!
Jun 13	Moraine State Park Program: National Get Outdoors Day 10:00am - 4:00pm the park will host a variety of activities for children and their families to enjoy the outdoors. Call the park office for information 724.368.8811
Jun 13	Moraine State Park Program: Eager Beavers 2:00pm Meet the wildlife conservation officer at the former Marina Restaurant just before the Davis Hollow Marina on the North Shore (also at the end of the bike trail)
Jun 14	Moraine State Park Program: Hike the Park 9:00am Join the park naturalist a the Glacier Ridge Trailhead just past the bike rental station on the North Shore for a 8-mile hike along a section of the North Country Scenic Trail.
Jun 20	Moraine State Park Program: Discover Lake Arthur - Meet the park naturalist at the Davis Hollow public boat launch on the North Shore at 10:00am to paddle the lake shore and see Moraine from a different point of view.
Jun 20	Moraine State Park Program: Bluebirds, the fledgling experience. 2:00pm at pavilion 7 at the McDanel's Launch area on the North Shore. Meet the park naturalist and bluebird ambassador Harry Schmeider to discuss the bluebirds history, biology, courtship, nest site selection, egg laying, and brooding.
Jun 27-28	Maurice Goddard State Park Pioneer Frolic 10:00 am - 5:00pm Come see what historical rural Pennsylvania life was like along the Sandy Creek during the 1750`s to 1840`s. Crafters, artisans and demonstrators will include a blacksmith, pioneer toys, spinner, food, entertainment, and an encampment. Admissions and parking are FREE. E-mail Frog_Park@yahoo.com or on the web at: friendsofgoddard.org
Jun 28	Moraine State Park Program: Learn to Kayak 1:00pm at McDanel's Launch, North Shore. Park staff and WPPSA members will be available to teach some basic kayaking skills. Participants must be at least 12 years old. An adult must accompany participants younger than 18. To register call 724.368.8811

Jun 28	NCTA Pa Council meeting 1:00pm Davis Hollow Outdoor Center, North Shore, Moraine State Park.
Jul 10-19	BOC Maine Campout Joyce Appel and Paul Henry plan to coordinate our annual campout this year at the camp of Carol and John Gregory, who were some of our original BOC members and still are !!! It is located near Acadia National Park in Maine. Limited space to sleep in the camp but we will also take tents to accommodate people in the large yard. Plan to rent a 12 passenger van, maybe two if enough are interested. We will pull a trailer with canoes and if we have a second van, we will pull an extra car. We will leave Friday night or Sat.morning and head home the following Sat., getting back Sun. There will be lots to do. The camp is on a large lake where you can hike or paddle. Hiking trails, biking, other boating places, festivals, museums, quaint towns and villages are all nearby, besides Acadia National Park which is along the ocean where you can tour around, walk around, hike, bike etc., and Baxter State Park in central Maine where you can hike around the bottom or hike to the top of Katahdin, largest mt.peak in Maine. I strongly advise the Katahdin hike for those of you who like to hike and John Gregory would love to lead you on that trip...a hike you will never forget and cannot be described. It will be a wonderful time and it has been a dream of John and Carol to buy a camp where BOC could come up and have a campout!!! So their dream has come true and we heading there this summer for a week of fun and fellowship. Call or email Joyce for details and plans. Plan to join us by getting days off work if needed and mark your calendar. Joyce Appel 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net
Jul 12	Allegheny Outdoor Club Outing - Sunday, July 12 Goddard State Park Bike and Kayak at Maurice K. Goddard State Park, Mercer Co., PA. Meet at the Visitor Center at Boat Ramp No.3 in the Park at 11 AM. Take Lake Wilhelm Road to the north side. Leader Pat Spicer, 814-757-8331.
Jul 21-27	The Delaware River Sojourn combines canoeing/kayaking, camping, educational programs, historical interpretation, and more. The Sojourn is for novice to experienced paddlers, or those who are simply curious about the outdoors. Participants can sign up for the whole event or for the section or day(s) of their choice. 2009's theme of No One Left Inside is meant to encourage individuals, both young and old, to get outside and enjoy all that Mother Nature has to offer! So, join us for the ultimate "staycation" as we celebrate 15 years of fun, family, friends, and the great outdoors! See http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/sojourn2009/index.htm for details.
Jul 29-Aug 3	Outdoor enthusiasts are invited to explore the North Country National Scenic Trail in North Dakota during the 2009 Annual North Country Trail Conference July 30-August 2, 2009, in Valley City, N.D. A full slate of outdoor activities includes hiking, canoeing the Sheyenne River, workshops, tours and nightly entertainment. The conference will provide learning opportunities, networking and fun-filled events for the whole family. They hosted a wonderful time 7 years ago when it was there so expect a great time this year!!! Joyce Appel plans to rent a 15 passenger van to take interested PA and Ohio people. Van will leave Wed. morning July 29. Many great hikes, workshops, great food and evening entertainment Thursday to Sunday. Van will head home Sunday Aug.2 to get back Mon. Aug. 3. Contact Joyce to be part of the Van group. Down payment toward gas and van required to reserve your spot. 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net
Aug 8	Tour de Chatauqua Family Ride features bike rides of 25, 30, 42, 75, and 100 miles in length beginning at 9:00am with a mass start at the Eason Hall on Elm Street in Westfield, NY and also ending there. The 25 mile ride remains on the Lake Erie Plain, while the other courses traverse a variety of terrains in various areas and through many small towns in our beautiful county. Sagwagon and waterstop services are provided. After the ride, a free light meal is provided to all ride participants. Helmets are required in this annual non-competitive event. For more information go to www.westfieldrec.org
Aug 12-16	The 2009 Lake Erie Sojourn "I don't just paddle it, I drink it!" is scheduled for August 12-16. Kathleen Ryan returns as coordinator. The trip includes 12 meals and 4 nights of camping (2 at beautiful Beach 11 on Presque Isle State Park) and covers approximately 37 miles of open-water paddling. Need at least 30 paddlers. Limit is 50 paddlers. Cost: Full Sojourn \$260.00. Single Day with one overnight - \$75.00. Questions - Contact Kathleen Ryan at 814-833-0793 or e-mail kryan@state.pa.us

Aug 15-16 BOC Kinzua Paddle/Backpacking trip to Morrison Run Camp ground on 8/15/09. Overnight or longer stay at campsites #23 and 24 along the reservoir with additional sites 27 and 28 along the hillside. Additional sites may be needed depending on participation. Paddlers would meet at the canoe launch area at the west side of the southern end of Red Bridge on Rt. 321 at 9:00AM. There they can unload the boats and gear. Parking would be at the Longhouse Trail Head south of the bridge (parking at the canoe launch area is limited) along Rt. 321 north of Kane. Cost for sites is \$10 per night and they cannot be reserved. The paddle is 6-7 miles to Morrison. Backpackers should meet at the trail head along Rt. 59 3.9 miles east of Morrison Bridge at a time of choice. From here it is approx. 5 miles to the sites. Last information is that two tents can be at each site. Water and pit toilets are available. Packets of info will be mailed to John for distribution at the next meeting. A full list of participants is needed with phone numbers incase of bad weather. Contact Dave Myers 724-588-2767



Springfield Falls on Extravaganza Schollard's Wetlands Hike



Mountain Bike Fun on Extravaganza Alameda Park Outing



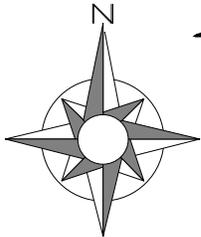
Extravaganza Slippery Rock Paddle



Beaver Ponds along Extravaganza Scollard's Wetlands Hike



Succoup Conservancy Ramble



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The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

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