

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 13 Month # 12

December 2009

## Nov 14 BOC Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner at Highfield Community Center was held Nov. 14....new place, new food, new people...but good time by all. People began to arrive around 5 pm and of course anxious to check out the silent auction items, display tables, and maybe win a door prize. there were around 120 that attended this year.

Around 6:30 pm we had a wonderful dinner and shortly after began our award ceremony. Our 3 finalists this year were all very worthy of the Butler Outdoor Club Outstanding Service Award: Tom Baumgardner, Gene Wilhelm, and Roy Weils & Mary Shaw. The suspense was to the end ...who will get it....Tom Baumgardner! Tom's nomination involved several years of volunteer work for Moraine State Park, McConnells Mill State Park, and other parks, Butler Outdoor Club, Butler Freeport Trail, North Country National Scenic Trail, Western Paddlesport Assoc., kite flying demonstrations, classes and workshops, Regatta at Moraine, 3MJC, etc. Congratulations Tom for all you have done and still do.

Our featured speaker this year was Richard Kane who is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service, NOAA office in Pittsburgh, Pa. He was inducted into the Meteorologist Hall of Fame in 2009. His program was on warm season severe weather and how it affects our area, including tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, downbursts, lightning, hail, and flash flooding. He also discussed weather preparedness and safety with proper actions to take in the event of severe weather. It was an excellent program.

Our Annual Dinner is our only fund raiser. This year the 50/50 raffle and silent auction brought in a profit of \$1687.88. Thanks to all of you who helped make this happen and thanks to our dinner sponsor Warran Ferry.



**WARREN D. FERRY**  
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## Dec 2 Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meetings are at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Join us at 6:00 pm Wed. Dec. 2 for our Christmas music and white elephant grab bag night. Bring a covered dish to share and a \$5.00 gift or gag gift. If you have a few pictures, slides or CD that you would like to share, bring them also. For more information call John Stehle Cell 724-256-0674



*BOC Dinner at the Highfield Community Hall*



*Emcee Paul Henry and Club President John Stehle present Tom Baumgardner with the BOC 2009 Outstanding Outdoor Contribution Award.*

## From the President's Desk

Winter is upon us, the days are short, and the wind is cold, and many people hunker down and just wait till the warm sun returns in spring. But I can say that that is definitely not the attitude of the Butler Outdoor Club. For us, the fun has just begun.

In our mission statement, it says: "Our activities include hiking, backpacking, biking, birding, canoeing, kayaking, xc-skiing, snow-shoeing, camping, and trail maintenance." Well, most of us put away our water sports and biking gear for the winter, but that leaves a lot of other things to do.

First off, we have the Christmas bird count where a few dedicated bird watchers go on our assigned rounds and count every little feathered fluff-ball we can find. We go to each location via car, so we don't get too cold. And then around mid-day we are rewarded with a hot Chili lunch at the Bickel's. Not a bad way to spend a cold winter day.

And there are various opportunities for xc-skiing and snow shoeing, not to mention our old standby, hiking. Last year there were outings at Oil Creek State Park and Moraine State Park for those activities. And we even spent a couple of days clearing trails on the South Shore area of Moraine on the Pleasant Valley and Sunken Garden trails. And of course there are the weekend trips that Joyce plans at Wilderness Lodge and Allegheny State Park which are packed with fun.

For the truly hardy outdoor enthusiasts, backpacking is a true test of your metal. Someone usually plans a couple of these events each season, so if you have the gear and are prepared, consider one of these.

Our winter picnics let you show your true love for the outdoors. The New Years Day picnic, which is our version of the Polar Bear swimmers club, is a great way to make a statement about how we are going to spend the rest of the year. And the Groundhog Day celebration is another chance to get outside for some fun in the winter.

The BOC with the Butler NCTA chapter, and Slippery Rock Univ. sponsor the Cherry Pie hike in Feb., which is a great chance to mix local history, winter hiking, and eating, while promoting the Old Stone House and the North Country Trail.

So I hope you are looking forward to a fun winter. I know I am.

## BOC Directory

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Carol Bickel 724.794.3719

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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.”**

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

[www.butleroutdoorclub.org](http://www.butleroutdoorclub.org)

## Tour de NCTA Stage 8

On Sunday, Nov 8, 09, nine hikers showed up at the Old Stone House for a brilliant day to hike stage 8 of the Tour de NCT of PA. We went to the Rt 528 Trail head and walked the 5 miles back to the OSH. The trail was in fine shape, (if I must say so myself) thanks to the local Butler chapter. We stopped to enjoy the view at the overlook, and otherwise had a rather leisurely walk in the morning. At lunch we were joined with 4 more hikers and lost 2. We were also met with a swarm of Asian ladybugs which were very bothersome with their bites.

We moved on to the the next section 5 miles to the east, parking our cars at the Glades dam and shuttling back to Pry Rd. This was also a very nice hike through land on Waste Management land that they have graciously permitted the trail to be put on. The trail then connects to the state game lands and along a wild life sanctuary and lake. Unfortunately we did not see the promised Bald Eagle . Thanks to NCT volunteers Carol Atwell and Phil Lenko and our hikers Steve and Carol Bickel who are the maintainers of this section. Nice job!



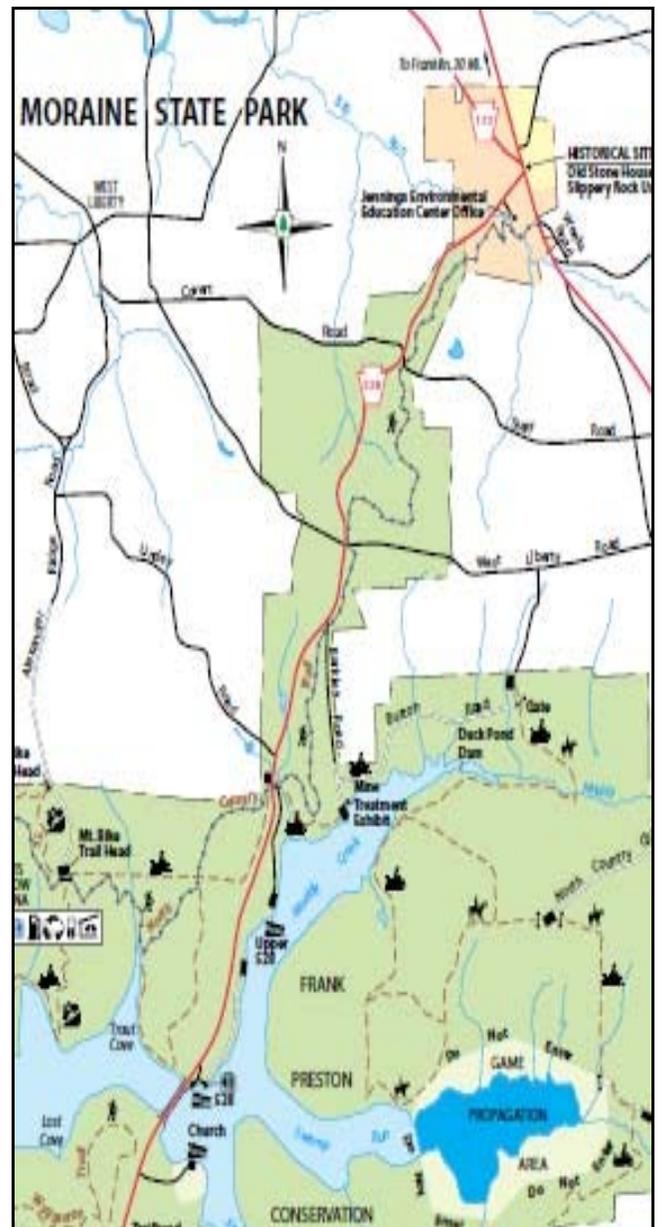
The hike seemed to be moving along at a very nice pace as we approached the end, until one of our hikers, Tim Ramsey, who had a GPS, informed me that we were way short of our

5 plus mile planned length. I guess I mis-read the map. I think some of our all day hikers (that would be me) weren't too disappointed to have the gift of time and relief to the feet. As a group we decided not to shuttle to the full planned length, but rather to discuss it over at the North Country Brewery, over a hardy meal and cool beverage. Tim and Ceci who joined us at noon still had some hike left in them, so I understand they pressed on to complete the planned distance.



For stage 9 we will resume where we left off on Sunday December 6, 2009 at 8:30 at the Glades parking lot. We will hope to do around 7 miles, but we will wait for the weather to see how much we want to do that day.

If you want to join us, call John Stehle to confirm and for directions at [stehles@yahoo.com](mailto:stehles@yahoo.com) or 724-256-0674.



## Area Outdoor Outings and Events

Dec 2	<p>Our monthly meetings are at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Each meeting includes outing announcements, a featured speaker and slide show or outdoor educational program and is open to the public. Join us on December 2nd at 6:00pm for our Christmas music and white elephant grab bag night. Bring a covered dish to share and a \$5.00 gift or gag gift. If you have a few pictures, slides or CD that you would like to share, bring them also.</p>
Dec 5	<p>Waterfowl Walk 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Presque Isle State Park Join a naturalist for one of the last chances to see migratory waterfowl flocking together in the bay while migrating south for the winter. We will discover species and their unique adaptations which allow them to thrive in these frigid conditions. No fee, no registration required. Meet at the Stull Interpretive Center, dress for the outdoors. Contact Email presqueisleenvdps@state.pa.us Contact Phone 814-833-7424</p>
Dec 6	<p>Tour de NCTA Stage 9 hike continues on from Glade Run north on the North Country Trail . Meet 8:30am at the Glades Parking Lot for a seven mile or so hike depending on the weather. RSVP John Stehle at stehles@yahoo.com or call 724.256.0674</p>
Dec 12	<p>Mark your calendars. We have decided on Dec. 12 for the date for the NCT of Pa. Xmas Party. We hope to have it at the Davis Hollow Cabin but Park has not confirmed that we can have it there. Other option is to get an upstairs room at North Country Brewing Restaurant and Bar. Details will follow once we have confirmation on where. However, we will probably have a short hike around 3 PM and party around 5 PM. joyce appel</p>
Dec 18	<p>BOC Night at LLBean Gift Wrapping Table - Join us and have fun gift wrapping while earning \$\$ for the club. Our shift is 4:00pm to 9:00pm on Friday, Dec 18, 2009 at the Ross Park Mall LLBean Store. RSVP John Stehle at stehles@yahoo.com or call 724.256.0674</p>
Dec 19	<p>Have fun bird watching with the BOC in the 44th Butler Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the Bartramian Audubon Society. Our assigned area includes the Eastern half of Lake Arthur. Christmas bird count - meet at the end of Swamp Road in Moraine State Park at 7:30am. Afternoon, we will go to Steve and Carol Bickel's for some hot Chili to warm up. RSVP John Stehle at stehles@yahoo.com or call 724.256.0674.</p>
Jan 1	<p>New Years Day Picnic, noon at McDanel's Launch Shelter, Moraine State Park North Shore. Bring a warm dish or drink to share. Hike, bike, paddle, xc-ski, sled as weather permits.</p>
Jan 8 10	<p>BOC Winter Weekend (Fri.-Sun.) Wilderness Lodge near Wattsburg, PA. Hike, snowshoe or ski. Rentals available. We stay at a very rustic, antique lodge with a great home cooked dinner included Sat. night. You can purchase breakfast and lunch separately. Trails are groomed and marked easy, moderate and difficult, so they are good for beginners or experienced. Before the Sat. dinner, we will have a Happy Hour with our derves, cheese and wine. Bring something to share if you like. Laws prohibit taking your own bottle and drinking it in the Lodge, must be kept inside your bedroom. Otherwise, you can buy bottles from the Lodge Bar, very reasonable, and can drink it anywhere in the Lodge. I advise buying your bottle there rather than bringing your own. Nearby motels are still available to stay in - make your own reservations. Joyce Appel 1899 State Route 268 East Brady, Pa. 16028 Questions? 724-526-5407 joyceappel@windstream.net</p>
Jan 22 24	<p>BOC Winter Weekend(Fri.- Sun.) Allegany State Park near Salamanca, NY. I have rented 10 cabins for the weekend. They are basic cabins with heat, refrigerator, stove, counter and table. Bring covered dish to share for "pot luck" dinner on Sat. Warming hut has a few snacks and hotdogs. Otherwise, bring your own snacks, breakfast and lunch. We plan on having a cardboard race on the sled hill. If you want to be in the race, you have plenty of time to come up with an idea for your cardboard sled. Prize for winners and for originality of the cardboard sled!!! Nearby motels are still available to stay in - make your own reservations Questions? 724-526-5407 joyceappel@windstream.net</p>



Forget that gym membership



## The North Country Trail offers way more!

That's right. The North Country Trail is less expensive, has new scenery daily, abundant fresh air, endless wildlife, adventure and more—and it's right nearby your home!

The North Country Trail is the longest National Scenic Trail in the U.S. End-to-end its 4,600 miles stretch across seven northern states. It's more than twice as long as the Appalachian Trail.

**1/2 OFF**  
Membership  
+  
FREE Map

For just \$23\* a year, you can be a member of the trail and have unlimited use! Okay, the truth is, you can use the trail for free anytime, but your membership helps maintain the trail, connects you to other members and hikers, gets you discounts on North Country Trail stuff, as well as frequent updates of what's happening on the trail.

Sign-up by 12/31/09 and get ½ off a membership, PLUS a free map of the trail in your state.

**Forward this email to your friends, your cousins, and friends of your cousins...and get started today, because YOUR ADVENTURE STARTS NEARBY.**

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Find your place on the trail at [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org) today!



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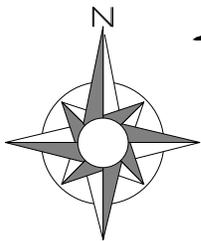
toll free 866-445-3628 / [hq@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:hq@northcountrytrail.org) / [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org)

\*Special introductory offer, regularly \$46 for a single membership. Other membership options available at [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org). Offer expires at midnight 12/31/2009. Offer not valid with any other offers. While map supplies last.

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*KTA Trailcare Crew working on the North Country Scenic Trail*



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