

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 14 Month # 6

June 2010

BOC Monthly Meetings

At BOC regular meetings everyone should bring one snack or beverage to share. Cups, plates, forks and napkins will be provided.

Pennsylvania Hiking Map Available

What questions do hikers ask? Where is the closest trail to where I live, work or visit? How do I get to the trailhead? Where can I park my car? The Keystone Trails Assoc. has produced a Pa Hiking Map that not only answers these common questions, but also highlights Pa's 29 long distance hiking trails with short trail descriptions and links to websites for more trail information. The Pa Hiking Map is a wonderful tool for introducing Pa's beautiful long distance hiking trails to novice and expert hikers alike. The BOC is offering these maps from the KTA at the monthly meeting in April. Pick up yours at the meeting for \$5.95 each, or send check plus \$1.00 shipping to: Steve Bickel 133 Boozel Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057



MPF Nautical Nature Shuttle Service

MPF's Nautical Nature pontoon boat is available for NCT shuttles. Reservations must be made at least one week in advance. Boat leaves McDanel's Launch at 2:00 and Rt 528 at 2:30 on Saturday and Sunday only. Other times are available with a minimum of 20. Cost is \$3 each. Call 724 368-9185

Moraine State Park Bridge Closures

Beginning March 9, 2010 a total of three bridges will be closed on West Park Road for structural repairs and deck replacement. The resulting detours will add travel time entering and exiting the North Shore of Moraine State Park. See map on page 4.

June 2 Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meetings are at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa.

Join us June 2 for a program by Will Taylor which will enable you to discover which plants and animals are among "Pennsylvania's Most Unwanted".

We will identify some of the most common and problematic invasive plants, discuss why they are so damaging to the state's biodiversity and introduce ways you, as an outdoor enthusiast, can help take control of this growing problem.

For details call John Stehle Cell 724-256-0674

BOC Trail Cleanup

On May 15, 4 volunteers turned out to do the Butler Outdoor Club Adopt a Highway program. Over 20 bags were filled with trash in 4.5 hours. Consider helping out for our next cleanup in July. Many hands makes work lighter. Thanks to Dana Asbury for organizing it. *John Stehle*



McConnells Mill Opening May 28

Nestled amidst striking scenery and the deep gorge of the Slippery Rock Creek, a National Natural Landmark, McConnells Mill State Park is a great place for an adventure. You can tour the restored rolling gristmill and the covered bridge. There is also scenic hiking, whitewater boating and two rock climbing and rappelling areas. The 19th century gristmill is the centerpiece of McConnells Mill State Park.

The old mill will be open to the public from May 29, through Labor Day:
Fridays 11:00 am to 3:30 pm
Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Interpretive tours of the historic mill, lasting approximately 45 minutes, will be available:

Fridays at 1:00 and 2:00;
Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 and 3:00 pm

Additional tours for groups may be scheduled by calling 724-368-3612.

We need a cook for the week of June 8-13 for Trailcrew work week at Breakneck Campground near McConnells Mill State Park. KTA will pay cook \$200 to cook. You buy the food and you will be reimbursed. You would cook breakfast, have food there that workers can make own lunches to take with them for the day, and then cook in the evening when workers get back. There would be no evening meal on last day June 13. Can you help????

Members from KTA, BOC, NCT, Rachel Carson Conservancy and anyone who wants to do trailwork will work together in surrounding area on the North Country Trail. You do not need to be experienced and we will provide tools. Just tell me you will come, whole week or part of week. If you want to do trailwork and / or be a cook and have fun at the same time, sign up!!!! KTA will also pay for your food and camping if you are among the first 12 to sign up. However, we certainly will not turn down anyone over 12!!!!

Respond to this email by emailing person below:
(Before the end of May, please.)

joyceappel@windstream.net
724-526-5407

BOC Directory

President

John Stehle 724.283.0191

Co-Vice-Presidents

Tammy Veloski
painthorse_33@yahoo.com

Mike Dailey 724.452.7870

Secretary

Jan Berg 724.867.0261

Treasurer

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

Backpacking

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

Canoeing

Joyce Appel 724.526.5407

Database

Tom Baumgardner 724.794.4913

Editor, Webmaster

Dave Adams 724.453.1685
editor@butleroutdoorclub.org

Hiking

Tom Baumgardner 724.794.4913

Membership

Helen Coyne 724.776.0678

Skiing

Paul Henry 724.347.3282

Trails

Ron Rice 724.538.8475

Rambles

Gina Collela Hench 724.712.6695

Dana Asbury 724.376.3526

Board Members-at-large

Carol Bickel 724.794.3719

"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 Spring NCTA PA 2010 Photography contest

is on, and you still have time to take pictures and submit them for a chance to win some great prizes!!

We have a gift basket of goodies from Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau, a lovely Ed Scurry handcrafted walking stick, a KTA PA hiking map, a North Country Trail hiking map, plus some NCTA gear to give to the winners!

You can submit up to 5 photos... no entry fee... Just send them to me at pacc@northcountrytrail.org with "2010 Photo Contest Entry" in the Subject line... Pictures must be taken (and all editing must be done) by the person entering the contest (i.e. you can't enter your work under your 5 year old nephew's name), and all pictures must be taken on/near the North Country Trail in PA. All pictures must also be taken this Spring (between March 15 and June 13)-- Unlike the last contest (where you could submit pictures from years ago), you have to get out on the trail and take new pictures for this contest.

There are eight ways to win, including a children's contest and a teen contest (so please get your families involved- I want to see some awesome pictures taken by kids out hiking on the trail!)- and did I mention there are PRIZES this time??

Full contest rules are here:

<http://www.northcountrytrail.org/insight/?p=719>

and more details about the prizes are here:

<http://www.northcountrytrail.org/insight/?p=822>

We'll have a fan-favorite contest on facebook, like last time, but that's only for one of the prizes... The rest will be judged by someone (or possibly a panel of someones) who know a thing or two about photography! So if you win, you're not just popular... You get some legitimate bragging rights, too! (Of course, the [winning photos](#) in the last contest were more than just popular, they were great!)

Get out on the trail, take your pictures... do any editing you want, and get them to me by June 13! And please spread the word to people you know... The idea of the Spring contest is to get people (both familiar and new) out and enjoying the beauty of the trail this time of year! Please contact me via phone or email if you have any questions at all about the contest. Good luck, and happy hiking!

Julie Elkins pacc@northcountrytrail.org

724-624-0617

Stage 12 of the Tour de NCT of PA

May 1, 2010: It was a rainy morning as nine of us gathered at the Foxburg Inn to resume our trek from the South-West along the Allegheny River, picking up where we left off at Foxburg.

We shuttled up to Rockland Station Road, and began our hike back to Foxburg. Right at the start we went through a long tunnel, so long in fact that in the middle section, one could not see light from either side.

After we passed through the tunnel, the rain let up and we didn't need much rain gear the rest of the trip. And with spring in full bloom there were many spring wild flowers out, especially many Trillium, along with many birds singing in the trees.

Checkout the pictures at:

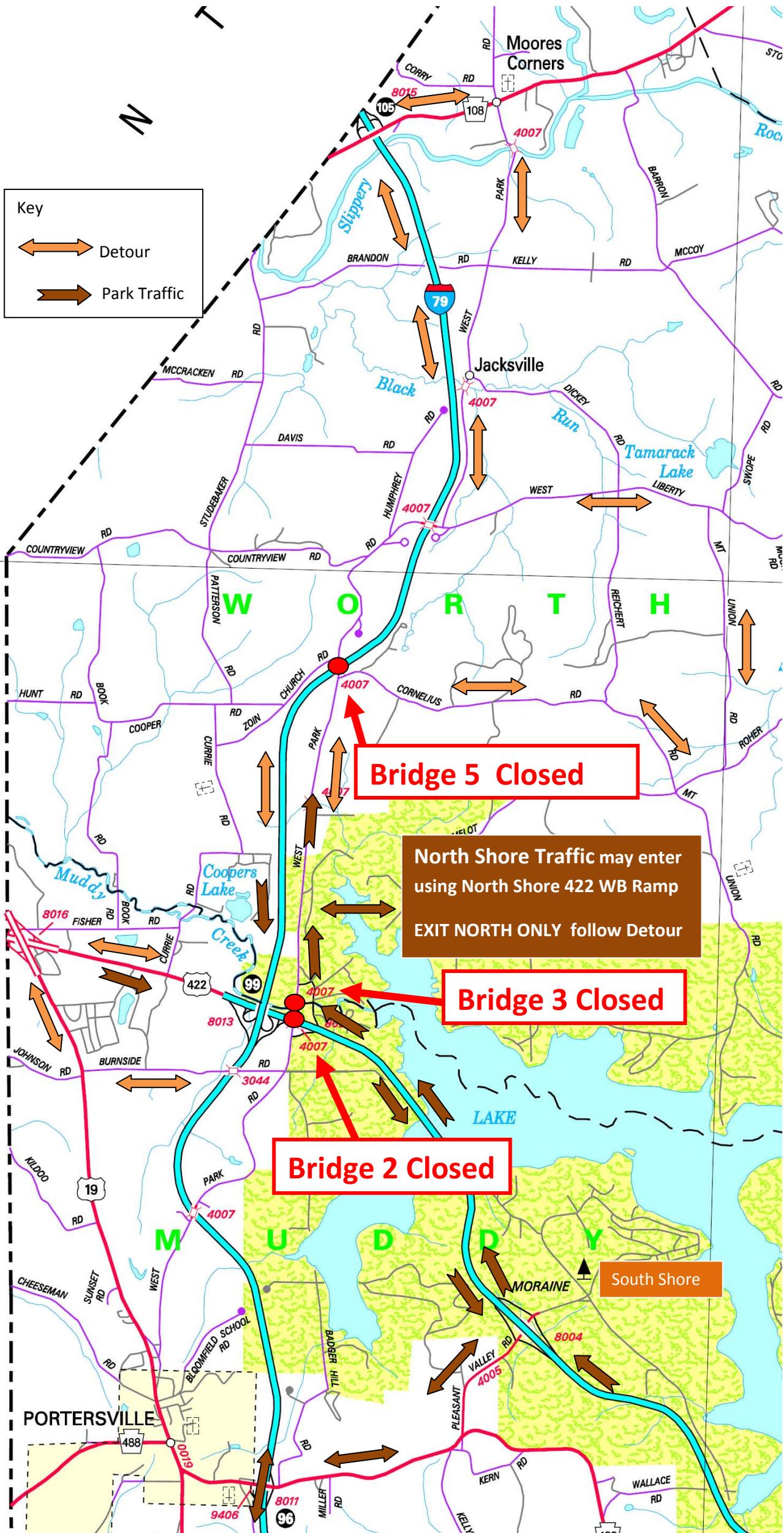
<http://butleroutdoorclubphotojournal.shutterfly.com/>- with a very nice picture of a "Fire Pink" taken by Tammy. We identified the calls of the Baltimore Orioles and the Scarlet Tanager, and we saw the Indigo Bunting.

And with the trail following the Allegheny River it was a very picturesque hike. And to add some variety to the scenery, the trail passes right through the charming river town of Emlenton.

Because this section of the NCT is a mostly paved rails-to-trails section, the hiking was rather fast. In fact we averaged 2.3 mph including breaks. So by 2:30 we were done with our 10 mile hike and we were our way back to what the rest of the day held for us.

You can see pictures of the hike taken by Tammy Veloski and me at <http://butleroutdoorclubphotojournal.shutterfly.com/679>

John Stehle



Key

- ↔ Detour
- ➔ Park Traffic

Bridge 5 Closed

North Shore Traffic may enter using North Shore 422 WB Ramp
EXIT NORTH ONLY follow Detour

Bridge 3 Closed

Bridge 2 Closed

South Shore

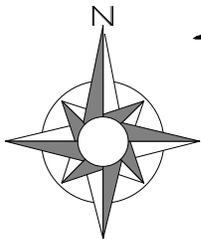
Area Outdoor Activities and Events	
Jun 2	Our monthly meetings are at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Join us June 2 for a program by Will Taylor which will enable you to discover which plants and animals are among "Pennsylvania's Most Unwanted". We will identify some of the most common and problematic invasive plants, discuss why they are so damaging to the state's biodiversity and introduce ways you, as an outdoor enthusiast, can help take control of this growing problem. For details call John Stehle Cell 724-256-0674
Jun 5	As Pittsburgh and the world celebrate World Environment Day on Saturday, June 5, join Paddle at the Point and help put Pittsburgh's watershed on the map by setting a new Guinness World Record™ for Largest Raft of Canoes/Kayaks. 1,200 canoes and kayaks are needed to set a mark at the confluence of the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers. Don't have a boat? Don't worry; you can sign up to rent a boat. We'll need everyone and anyone, clubs and groups welcome! Free parking will be provided on the North Shore, where we will launch to paddle just across the river to Point State Park. Be part of history in the making and celebrate World Environment Day in Pittsburgh with Paddle at the Point! Get involved at www.paddleatthepoint.com
Jun 5	The Clarion chapter of the North Country Trail Assoc. is having a hike on June 5. We will meet at the fire tower in Cook Forest State Park at 10 AM. This will be a 6 mile hike south to Highland Drive. We will have a car shuttle back to the starting point. There are 4 hills on this hike but they are not that long. If anyone wants to hike only 2 miles to Gravel Lick let us know so arrangements can be made. For more info: Dave Galbreath 814 226-5574
Jun 5	Fern Exploration 1:00 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 and 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 8 13	June 8-13: KTA Trail Crew, North Country Trail Members from KTA, BOC, NCT, Rachel Carson Conservancy and anyone who wants to do trailwork will work together in surrounding area on the North Country Trail. You do not need to be experienced and we will provide tools. Just tell me you will come, whole week or part of week. If you want to do trailwork and / or be a cook and have fun at the same time, sign up!!!! KTA will also pay for your food and camping if you are among the first 12 to sign up. However, we certainly will not turn down anyone over 12!!!! Respond to this email by emailing person below: (Before the end of May, please.) joyceappel@windstream.net 724-526-5407
Jun 12	National Get Outdoors Day 12:00 PM Moraine State Park is proud to participate in this year's National Get Outdoors Day. The mission of Get Outdoors Day is to provide opportunities for children and their families to enjoy the healthy, active outdoors. Activities offered include kayaking, biking, GPS, fishing, children's activities and more! Come to Lakeview Beach, North Shore, to meet Smokey the Bear and learn about fire safety or how to choose a new kayak. Make plans to spend the day at the park. Free admission. Activities are scheduled from 12—6:00PM.
Jun 13	Wildflower Walk with Botanists 1:00 PM Come join professional botanists as we explore one of the most beautiful sections of McConnells Mill State Park in bloom. Meet at 1:00 pm at Hell's Hollow parking lot (no facilities), about a 15 minute drive from the old gristmill. The half-mile trail leading to a waterfall is easy hiking. Wear sturdy shoes. The knowledge of our guides makes this a special occasion.
Jun 18 20	ALLEGHENY 100 "The Ultimate Hiking Challenge" The Challenge: Hike 100 miles in 2 days. (Actually 50 hours) Where: North Country National Scenic Trail across the Allegheny National Forest from NY border to SR 66 south of Marienville PA When: Friday, June 18, 2010 6 PM thru Sunday, June 20, 2010 8PM How: Hike, not bike or run. This is the ultimate endurance challenge.

	<p>This is NOT a race. Who: Anyone who wants to test themselves against the trail. What: "What" is for you to answer? What do you get from this? Membership in the NCTA to support the trail and a tee-shirt. Options: 25 and 50 mile hikes available too. Still get shirt and membership. Register: Three ways: via email, snail mail or phone. Cost: \$30.00 All proceeds to go to NCTA. You BYOF, BYOB, gear, etc. We provide support... Contact: nct001@verizon.net ; bnemcik@yahoo.com ; 814-927-8303</p>
Jun 19	<p>The fourteenth annual Rachel Carson Trail Challenge is on June 19, 2010, the Saturday nearest the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. The Challenge is a 34-mile long, one-day, sunrise to sunset endurance hike on nearly the entire brutal Rachel Carson Trail. Unlike a footrace, the "challenge" is not to come in first or win, but to endure, to finish the hike in one day. This time, the Challenge starts in Harrison Hills County Park and ends 34 miles later in North Park. for more information goto http://www.rachelcarsontrails.org/rct/challenge/rctc10</p>
Jun 19	<p>Armstrong Trail Bicycle Poker Run - It is not a race! Each participant will stop at five check points where they will choose a playing card from a deck of cards. At the end of the event, each participant will have a complete poker hand. The best three hands as determined by the judges will receive a prize. Cost \$10.00 per person T-shirts to the 50 registrants. For more information contact Louise Baker, Event Chairperson at 724 664 0061 or louiseannbaker@comcast.net</p>
Jun 19	<p>Whole Grain Goodness 2:00 PM McConnells Mill State Park Visit the courtyard of the historic gristmill to see Dutch oven cooking in action. Breads were often baked in Dutch ovens, and they can make your next outdoor meal special, too. Grains ground in the gristmill were baked over campfires, iron for the cookware was smelted in Slippery Rock Gorge, and the charcoal to burn for fuel was also made in this valley. See outdoor cooking in action. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area, and hike down to the old mill. Handicapped parking is available at the mill.</p>
Jun 20	<p>Native Plants for Your Garden 2:00 PM McConnells Mill State Park Penn State Master Gardeners from Lawrence County will showcase the native plant garden in the courtyard by the historic gristmill. They will talk about the benefits of gardening with native plants, some habitats in our local area, and answer your gardening questions. Then, join in a guided walk to see wildflowers blooming. Meet the master gardeners beside the mill at 2:00 pm. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area and allow time to walk down to the mill. Handicapped parking is available at the mill.</p>
Jun 26	<p>Wild Teas 2:00PM McConnells Mill State Park Many wild plants have been used for teas in the past, both for medicinal purposes and pleasure. Such simple infusions of leaves have had a significant impact on our history and society. Come discover some wild plants used in the past & present, meeting 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.</p>
Jun 27	<p>Survive the Outdoors 2:00PM McConnells Mill State Park Learn about the ways to stay safe in the outdoors, and see different survival techniques demonstrated. Meet the park naturalist in Kildoo Picnic Area at 2:00 pm to build your confidence for your next outdoor adventure.</p>
Jul 9 10	<p>Morrison Run Backpacking/Paddling Trip on 7/9/10-7/12/10 Backpackers will meet at the Trailhead off of Rt. 59 at a time of their choice. Paddlers will meet at the southern end of Red Bridge on Rt 321 North of Kane at 10:00 AM on 7/9/10. Put in will be on the western side of the bridge if there is enough water.(other arrangements may have to be made such as the north end of Red Bridge). Unload gear and boats there and then park vehicles at the Longhouse Trail Head for the North Country Trail about 100 yds. south of the bridge. Paddle to Morrison Run Camp Ground (about 2 ½ hrs) to site #24 and #25 (if available) in the Morrison Bay area. More sites may be needed depending on participation. Sites are \$10 per night. Bear bags are required as is a water bag to bring water back to camp for purification. Exploration of the area i.e. hiking, bird watching, fishing, paddling to other locations, and just relaxing are in order for the stay. We had a bear making the rounds between camp sites last year so plan accordingly. John Stehle should have some of the information packets from last year available. For more info and to sign up call Dave Myers 724-588-2767.</p>

Jul 16 18	KTA will host the Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend on July 16-18, 2010 in western Clinton County. Join KTA for a guided hiking experience in the Pennsylvania Wilds! KTA along with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) will lead hikers off the beaten path to see the hidden jewels of the Sproul. Explore new and exciting parts of the Sproul on trails that are only accessible when hiking with a DCNR guide. Guided hikes are schedule on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with meals and camping available at the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association clubhouse. All hikers and trail enthusiasts are invited to attend. Download the registration form online at www.kta-hike.org or email Becky at ktaadmin@verizon.net for more information.
Jul 21	Ramble Wed. July 21st 6:00 PM Meet at the prairie side parking lot of Jennings Enviromental Center for our annual wild flower walk. Gina Colella Hench 724-712-6695 or email gmcolella@myway.com
Aug 5 8	2010 North Country Trail Annual Conference at Ashland, Wisconsin. The weekend will provide interesting workshops, hiking in the woods of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and three nights of entertainment and good food. Add to this, time to spend with friends, old and new, and beautiful sunsets on Lake Superior. Come on Tuesday, August 3, for a two night back packing trip or on Thursday, August 5, for a Chain Saw Certification Workshop. Bring your family to enjoy the Kids and Family Programs at the Great Lakes Visitors Center or just to have fun at the indoor water park at the AmericInn. Explore the Apostle Islands, Big Bay State Park on Madeline Island, orchards and artists of Bayfield and murals and the lakefront of Ashland. The Great Lakes Visitors Center, alone, is worth the visit. We have rooms blocked at the AmericInn and the Crest Motel but there are a number of other choices for accommodations and places to camp.
Sep 3 7	The BRING ON THE BRIDGE II will be held from Sept 3-Sept 7 with rustic camping about 10 miles from the Mackinac Bridge. This bridge is 5 miles long and is the connector between Michigan's Lower and Upper Peninsulas. This bridge is actually part of the NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL and is in that section of the trail maintained by the HSS Chapter (although we let the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Mackinac Bridge Authority maintain that section for us) :-). You may camp the entire four days scheduled or just part of those days set aside for the event. For more information email De Witt, Marv/Charlene at kc8mld@lighthouse.net
Sep 11 12	The Keystone Trails Association will host the second annual Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run on Saturday, September 11, 2010. Join KTA for the 28.4-mile trail challenge for adventurous hikers and trail runners on the wild river hills of the lower Susquehanna Gorge in York and Lancaster Counties. The trail challenge course follows the Mason Dixon and Conestoga Trails along both sides of the Susquehanna River. Event participants will begin at the Otter Creek Campground in Airville and end at the Pequea Creek Campground in Pequea. Participants can visit www.kta-hike.org for more information or to register online. Two training hikes are scheduled for later this summer. The first training hike will be held Sunday, July 11 on the Mason Dixon Trail, and the second training hike is scheduled on Sunday, August 22 on the Conestoga Trail. For more information, contact Paul Shaw at pshaw@ptd.net or visit www.kta-hike.org .



Tour De NCTA PA Stage 12 Approaching the Rockland Tunnel



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Butler Outdoor Club
PO Box 243
Butler, Pa 16003-0243