

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 14 Month # 8

August 2010

Moraine State Park Visit

US Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper visited with her constituents in a "Walk and Talk" set up with the Butler Outdoor Club at Moraine State Park. About a dozen people showed up to discuss issues, particularly those related to the outdoors, and also just to get out for a walk on the trail. We spent about a half hour discussing issues related conservation, energy extraction on public lands, and the need for public outdoor spaces and facilities. She told us that Congress just passed legislation in the House that would use money gotten from energy from public lands to pay for these kinds of issues.

We then headed out for a short walk on the North Country Trail, passing the bike rental area and going over the beautiful "Hidden River Bridge".

We also visited the jewel of the North Country Trail, and of the Park, - the Davis Hollow Cabin, the over 200 year old cabin on the North Shore that is managed by the North Country Trail. The cabin needs some serious rehabilitation to protect it from permanent damage, and we thought it would be good for our Congresswoman to know about it. She was very impressed with the building and the efforts being made to make use of it and maintain it.

We were able to get her out and back on the road by 3:00, hopefully in time for the next stop on her busy schedule.

Thanks to everyone who came out and those who helped make it possible.

John Stehle

July 7 Monthly Meeting

Join us August 4 at our regular monthly meeting location at the Butler YMCA, 6:30 social hour, 7:30 announcements, 8:00 slide show by Dave Adams on Hiking Adventures in Kauai.

Kauai offers more trails and and better hiking than than the rest of the Hawaiian Islands. You could spend an entire month hiking every day and not see half the trails that the island has to offer, and these are only the officially maintained trails. From the Waimea Canyon - the Grand Canyon of the Pacific to the Alakai Swamp to the Pools of Mokolea, to the many scenic waterfalls and cliff side trails along the North Shore, to the scenic sand dunes on the Western shore you will never enjoy more variety and scenery from desert sand to tropical jungle than on Kauai.



Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper hikes along the North Country Trail in Moraine State Park

"Looking for a few good people"

By John Stehle

Our club elections are upcoming this fall. Many of our officers and group leaders have committed to leading the club again in 2011. If you are interested in joining our team and having more fun in 2011 then contact our club president John Stehle to volunteer to lead a trip, conduct a program, organize a hike or help plan events and activities.

Our annual dinner will be November 13. Larry Luxemberg will be our featured speaker. We are accepting nominations for individuals or groups for the BOC Outstanding Outdoors Award.

KTA News and Upcoming Events

Planning continues for the **Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run**, the daunting 28.4-mile trail challenge to be held Saturday, September 11.

Many volunteers have come forward for this exciting event, but more volunteers are still needed! The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club**, the **Berks Community Hiking Club**, and the **Lancaster Hiking Club** have volunteered to staff checkpoints. Special thanks also to the volunteers of the **Mason-Dixon Trail System**, the **York Hiking Club** and the **Lancaster Hiking Club** for building and maintaining the trails that the Super Hike will traverse.

Volunteers are still needed to direct parking, help with event timing, assist with set-up and clean-up, and more. Please contact Becky at 717.238.7017 or ktaadmin@verizon.net for more information or to sign-up to volunteer. Volunteers will receive a Super Hike t-shirt and be invited to attend the post-event picnic.

September 11: Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run, York & Lancaster Counties

October 1-3: Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend, Milroy, Mifflin County

October 15-17: Trail Care, Bear Run Reserve

November 5-7: Trail Care, North Country Trail

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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



KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUPER HIKE

Planning continues for the Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run, the daunting 28.4-mile trail challenge to be held Saturday, September 11.

Many volunteers have come forward for this exciting event, but more volunteers are still needed! The **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club**, the **Berks Community Hiking Club**, and the **Lancaster Hiking Club** have volunteered to staff checkpoints. Special thanks also to the volunteers of the **Mason-Dixon Trail System**, the **York Hiking Club** and the **Lancaster Hiking Club** for building and maintaining the trails that the Super Hike will traverse.

Volunteers are still needed to direct parking, help with event timing, assist with set-up and clean-up, and more. Please contact Becky at 717.238.7017 or ktaadmin@verizon.net for more information or to sign-up to volunteer. Volunteers will receive a Super Hike t-shirt and be invited to attend the post-event picnic.



KTA HOSTS FALL HIKING WEEKEND IN MIFFLIN COUNTY

The **Keystone Trails Association** will host its Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend from Friday, October 1 to Sunday, October 3 in Milroy, Mifflin County.

Mifflin County is located in central Pennsylvania and is part of the **Seven Mountains Region**. Some of Pennsylvania's most challenging and rewarding hikes are found in this area, where hikers are treated to a wealth of stunning vistas, rugged climbs and rocky ridge tops.

Milroy is located in close proximity to two of the state's premier long-distance hiking trails: the **Mid State**

Trail and the **Standing Stone Trail**. Hikers will be able to enjoy day hikes on these trails as well as other hikes located in the nearby state forests and state parks.

After a day on the trails, hikers will enjoy a comfortable stay at the Best Western Nittany Inn Milroy. Meals will be served at the Hartman Center, located approximately one mile from the hotel on Old US 322.

Mark your calendar for October 1-3, 2010, and join KTA in Mifflin County this fall!



KTA TRAIL CARE LAUNCHES "CODE ORANGE"

KTA's Trail Care launched a new program of one-day trail work events under the **"Code Orange"** banner.

One-day trail cares are geared to benefitting hiking trails where a single day of work will make an appreciable difference in upgrading the trail.

They also offer an opportunity to new volunteers who have never participated in Trail Care to lend a hand in a more structured setting.

Look to the KTA website or Facebook page for updates about this exciting new program.

UPCOMING KTA EVENTS

September 11: Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run, York & Lancaster Counties

September 19: Code Orange Trail Care, Tsquared Trail

September 24-26: Trail Care, Loyalsock Trail

October 1-3: Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend, Milroy, Mifflin County

October 15-17: Trail Care, Bear Run Reserve

November 5-7: Trail Care, North Country Trail

April 15-17, 2011: Spring Meeting & Hiking Weekend, West Chester, Chester County

Keystone Trails Association, a volunteer-directed, public service organization is a federation of membership organizations and individuals dedicated to providing, preserving, protecting and promoting recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania, and to representing and advocating the interests and concerns of the Pennsylvania hiking community. To learn more or to become a member, please visit www.kta-hike.org.

	Area Outdoor Activities and Events Note – all BOC Events are open to the public.
Aug 1	Moraine State Park Program: Magical Monarch Butterflies - Monarch butterflies are amazing creatures. Join the park naturalist 1:30pm at the McDanel's Launch Pavilion # 7 on the North Shore of Moraine State Park to participate in a program about these beautiful insects. We will talk about the features of monarchs and their survival techniques. The program will include a short hike to explore nearby monarch butterfly habitat.
Aug 4	Our monthly meeting this month will be at the Butler YMCA. Join us 6:30 pm social hour, 7:30 pm announcements and 8:00 program at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Dave Adams will present a program on Hiking Adventures in Kauai, the Garden Isle
Aug 5	Come help with the BOC Adopt-a-Highway cleanup on a section of Route 422, in Moraine State Park. We will meet at 5:30PM (come as late as 6:00) at the South Shore Exit of Route 422 (2 miles East of Rt 79 and 2 miles West of Rt 528). Gloves, an orange vest, (or bring your own) and bags will be provided, and a limited number of grabbers are available. We have to be off the road before sunset, which is at 8:30 that day, so come on out and help us get it done quickly. Maybe we can stop at a local restaurant or pizza place afterwards. John Stehle Cell 724-256-0674
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.
Aug 6	Butler Bike Coalition Ride the Butler Downtown Bike Route- 6 pm. Meeting at the city parking lot across from Pizza Joe's (Burger Hut's sign is out, but is next door) on North Main St.
Aug 6	Moraine State Park Star Gazing Party - The night sky holds many mysterious and magical sights. Join the park naturalist and members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh (AAAP) (http://www.3ap.org/) 8:30pm for a hands-on star gazing party at the bike rental station on the North Shore of Moraine State Park. AAAP will have several telescopes to try out and will provide their expert guidance to locate many interesting sights in the night sky. We will also view a presentation of pictures from the cosmos. Come out and join in with this informative and fun program. Bring a blanket, chairs, snacks and plan for a great night at Moraine.
Aug 7 8	Lake Arthur Regatta Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8, 2010—10:00 AM The Regatta at Lake Arthur is an annual 2-day event staged at the Pleasant Valley area on Moraine State Park's South Shore each August. In the words of its Mission Statement, the Regatta ...promotes Moraine State Park and Butler County as a recreational destination for both tourists and residents by being the premier eco-tourism event of the region. The Regatta at Lake Arthur features entertainment, canoe and kayak races, children's activities, fishing tournament, hot air balloons, Moraine Marketplace, hiking, swimming, sailboat races, historic oil well demonstrations, fishing for kids, kids clinic and more. Add in fireworks over the lake on Saturday night, and you have a weekend event that's Naturally Fun. A number of local food vendors are always there in the mix to keep everyone fed with a variety of summertime festival fare. Visit www.LakeArthurRegatta.org for all the details. 12th Annual Lake Arthur Regatta The Butler Outdoor Club is sponsoring a table at the Lake Arthur Regatta this year, as we usually do. The Regatta is on Saturday and Sunday Aug 7 and 8. We need someone to staff the table and someone to lead a hikes in the area of the South Shore. The time slots haven't been firmly set, but we generally could use someone there from 10am to 7pm on both days. If you can come to promote the club, and the NCT, or if you can be available to lead a short hike over to the

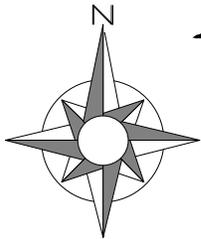
	<p>sunken garden trail, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact John Stehle if you can help. Kayak & Canoe races this year at the 2010 Regatta at Lake Arthur. I'm not sure if everyone was aware, but its quickly approaching and we're scheduled for Saturday morning on August 7th. This is my first year helping out at the Regatta, but I wanted to invite you, and anyone else you think may be interested in coming out to participate. If you weren't aware, the website is up and running at http://www.lakearthurregatta.org/. It has more information about the event and the Regatta itself. Registration starts at 8:30 am, with the race kicking off at 10:00am. Also, the event has moved locations this year due to road construction, and we're now on the South Shore. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you are planning on coming, or know of someone who is!! email Scott Eldridge at SEldridge@fedmc.com Thanks, Scott Eldridge Committee Member for The Regatta at Lake Arthur</p>
Aug 14	<p>Moraine State Park Program: Treasure Hunting Geocaching - Geocaching is becoming more and more popular. People are beginning to discover this new and interesting pastime. Meet the park naturalist 11:00am at the Pleasant Valley picnic area, on the South Shore of Moraine, to learn about and take part in some geocaching. Moraine State Park has several GPS units that will be available to participants to use during the program.</p>
Aug 15	<p>McConnells Mill State Park Program: Hike Along the Millstream at 1:00 PM Our summer series of hikes continues with a two-mile hike over moderately rough terrain along the beautiful Slippery Rock Creek. Park at the Kildoo Picnic Area in McConnells Mill State Park, and walk the path down to the mill courtyard to meet the park naturalist. We will cross the covered bridge, travel downstream along the North Country Trail, and after crossing Eckert Bridge, come upstream on Kildoo Trail back to the gristmill. Wear sturdy shoes and carry drinking water. Allow approximately 2 & 1/2 hours for this hike.</p>
Aug 15	<p>Moraine State Park Program: Hummingbirds - The Jewels of the Air Meet the park naturalist and guest speaker Harry Schmeiderat 2:00pm to view a digital photo slide show of the ruby-throated hummingbird. We will discuss the many different species of hummingbirds that fly to North America. We will cover topics concerning: courtship, nest building, eggs, incubation, brooding, and right up to fledging. Facts such as: how many feathers on the hummingbird, weight, length, lifespan, call, diet, migration, how fast and how many directions they can fly will be discussed. There will be discussion on feeders, food mixtures, cleaning, and general care of the feeder, ant solutions, predators and much more. If you have photos of hummingbirds, please bring them to share. A photo display table will be set up. Meet at pavilion #7 located at the McDanel's Launch on the North Shore of Moraine State Park.</p>
Aug 18	<p>McConnells Mill State Park Program: Owl Prowl at 8:00 PM Bats, Owls, Fox: many Pennsylvania creatures come out at twilight. Join the search for nocturnal surprises on Hell's Hollow trail. Allow 15 minutes to get to Hell's Hollow (no facilities) if coming from the old mill. Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy shoes and meet park staff at the Hell's Hollow parking lot for a nighttime adventure.</p>
Aug 20	<p>Butler Bike Coalition Ride the Butler Downtown Bike Route- 6 pm. Meeting at the city parking lot across from Pizza Joe's (Burger Hut's sign is out, but is next door) on North Main St.</p>
Aug 20	<p>Moraine State Park Program: Bats in Action - Mysterious and often misunderstood, bats are one of our friends of the night sky. Meet the park naturalist 7:30pm at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church on route 528 to see a bat condo in action and explore the wonders of these nighttime insectivores. Bring blankets and chairs.</p>
Aug 21	<p>Moraine State Park Program: Nature Watch Kayaking - Experience the peace and tranquility that can be yours floating on Lake Arthur. This entry-level kayaking program is designed to meet the needs of those more interested in an easy peaceful experience rather than a long hard paddle. Meet the park naturalist 10:30am at the Old 422 launch area off of old Route 422/Park Road to learn about and experience the peace and beauty that Moraine has to offer. Participants may bring their own kayak, or borrow one of Moraine's kayaks. To reserve a kayak or to register, call the park office at 724-368-8811. Participants that use park kayaks must be at least 12 years of age. An adult must accompany those participants that are under the age of 18. Bring drinking water.</p>

Aug 21 22	<p>2 day Hiking and Camping weekend in the Allegheny Forest - Stage 15 of the Tour de NCT of PA - Aug 21 and 22, 2010. With Stage 15, the Tour will return to the plan we abandoned for Stage 13 as we resume our course through the Allegheny National Forest. On Saturday, Aug 21, 2010 we will be starting where we left off on Stage 11, at Minister Road. We will be hiking in some areas well know for their scenic beauty, as we go along the top portion of the Minister Creek Trail and continue on to the Heart's Content area where the trail connects with the Tanbark Trail. The NCT bends south at this point as we head towards Kellettsville. Our destination is Forest Road 449. At 12.3 miles, this is the longest section we have attempted in one day, so I am rating it strenuous (at least for us). On Saturday evening, we will setup camp at one of the ANF campsites, yet to be chosen. On Sunday, after breakfast and breaking camp, we will continue along the NCT for 7.8 miles which will take us south toward Kellettsville and across the Tionesta Creek. In this section we will be covering some brand new trail that gets us off what would have been some road walk, thanks to some recent work down this summer by Keith Klos's ANF crew and other NCT volunteers. This gets us one day hike away from completing the ANF. We are getting there! We will meet on Saturday, Aug 21, 2010 at 8:30 at the Minister Creek trailhead parking lot to arrange the shuttle. This trail head is about 8 miles east of Kellettsville, along route 666. As always, you should be prepared for the the environment: the weather can be hot and muggy, or wet and chilly. Thorny vegetation can overhang the trail this time of year, and the mosquitos and deer flies can bite, and deer ticks are considered to be having a good year. You will need a water, a lunch and snacks for both hikes, and dinner and breakfast for the camping. Please RSVP for planning purposes. John Stehle; stehles@yahoo.com; 724-256-0674.</p>
Aug 22	<p>McConnells Mill State Park Program: Native Plants for Your Garden at 2:00 PM 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>
Aug 22	<p>Butler Freeport Trail Council Event - Freeport to Butler Ride 40+ miles Riding into Butler for lunch and back to Freeport. Meeting at the Laneville gate just off Old Mill Rd. at 8 am- return time approxiamately 2-2:30. For more information contact Chris Ziegler at scadziggy@zoominternet.net</p>
Aug 22	<p>Moraine State Park Program: Learn to Kayak Interest in Kayaking has increased 300% in recent years. In response, Moraine State Park and WPPSA, Western Pennsylvania Paddle Sport Association, is offering a "learn to kayak" class on Lake Arthur. Park staff and members of the WPPSA will be available to teach some basic kayaking skills. Participants must be at least 12 years of age. An adult must accompany those participants that are under the age of 18. Meet at the Pleasant Valley Launch 1:00pm on the South Shore of Moraine to take part in this program. WPPSA and Moraine State park will have a number of kayaks on hand to use during the program. Registration is required. There is a fee of \$10 per person. Participants should allow 3 hours for this program and dress to be wet. Questions or to register, call the Moraine State Park office at 724-368-8811.</p>
Aug 28	<p>Explore the Source Several streams flow in to create Lake Arthur. Join the park naturalist 10:30am at the upper 528-boat launch, which is located off of Route 528, for a kayaking tour to explore the largest of these streams – Muddy Creek. This tour will allow participants to see a part of the lake that is not often explored. We will use the opportunity to view the wildlife that calls this part of Lake Arthur home. This is a moderately strenuous kayaking experience. Participants may bring their own kayak, or borrow one of Moraine’s kayaks. To reserve a kayak or to register, call the park office at 724-368-8811. Participants that use park kayaks must be at least 12 years of age. An adult must accompany those participants that are under the age of 18. Bring drinking water. There are no facilities at this boat launch so participants should arrive ready to get out on the water. Bring plenty of water to drink.</p>
Aug 28	<p>Butler Freeport Trail Council Event - Freeport to Butler Ride 40+ miles Riding into Butler for lunch and back to Freeport. Meeting at the Laneville gate just off Old Mill Rd. at 8 am- return time approximately 2-2:30. For more information contact Chris Ziegler at scadziggy@zoominternet.net</p>

Aug 28	<p>McConnells Mill State Park Program: Hell's Hollow Walk at 2:00 PM Join the park naturalist for a leisurely paced walk along a lovely trail in McConnells Mill State Park. The path through Hell's Hollow, despite the name, is easy hiking, with lots to see along the 1/2-mile path. Meet at the Hell's Hollow parking lot, (no facilities), at 2:00 pm and allow for a 15-minute drive if coming from the old mill.</p>
Aug 29	<p>Explore Off Shore This kayaking experience is meant for those that want to get a workout from their paddling. Meet the park naturalist 1:00pm at the Pleasant Valley launch on the South Shore of Moraine to take part in this activity. Participants may bring their own kayak, or borrow one of Moraine's kayaks. To reserve a kayak or to register, call the park office at 724-368-8811. Participants that use park kayaks must be at least 12 years of age. An adult must accompany those participants that are under the age of 18. Bring drinking water.</p>
Sep 3 7	<p>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</p>
Sep 11 12	<p>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.</p>
Nov 13	<p>The BOC Annual Dinner is coming, Saturday, November 13. Our featured speaker this year is Larry Luxemberg, author of Walking the Appalachian Trail, hiker. One of the things we do ahead of time is nominate worthy people and organizations for the BOC Outstanding Contributor to the Outdoors Award. So, consider if you have a person or organization that you think should receive the award this year. Send your nominations to the Butler Outdoor Club, PO Box 243, Butler PA 16003.</p>



Morrison Run BackPack and Paddle Weekend



The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

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