

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 14 Month # 12

December 2010

BOC annual dinner a success

With the help of many people on the Annual Dinner committee, the BOC held its 16th Annual Dinner at Highfield Hall on November 13. This is the second time we used Highfield Hall and everything worked out very well. It's a large space with a stage, and the food is good.

The Silent Auction had a many excellent items thanks to people recycling their outdoor gear with an especially large quantity of gear from Jack Peth, who was a long time trip leader with the AYH and other outdoor groups. Thanks to everyone who contributed things to the auction.

The recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to the Outdoors Award was Esther Allen. Esther was nominated by people in the Western Pa Audubon Society and the Wissahickon Nature Club. Esther has been a significant force in educating people about wild flowers and many other aspects of nature.

We were very fortunate to have as our speaker, Larry Luxenberg, the head of the Appalachian Trail Museum and a past through hiker of the trail. Larry told how he founded the museum. He also told many interesting anecdotes about himself and others hiking the trail. It was an interesting coincidence that he is well acquainted with Esther Allen, who is a daughter of the first woman to through hike the Appalachian Trail.

There were raffles and door prizes, and lots of catching up with old friends, making it a very enjoyable evening.

Dec 1 Monthly Meeting

Join us on Wed Dec 1 when we will hold our annual Christmas Party meeting at 6:00pm at the Butler YMCA, lower level. Please bring a gag gift or gift under \$10 and a dish to share.



LL Bean has asked us again to wrap gifts at their store at the Ross Park Mall. Our time slot is from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Monday, Dec 20, 2010. LL Bean provides all the supplies. We just have to be there to wrap the gifts for their customers. And LL Bean gives the club \$200 plus we keep any tips we collect. It is always a lot of fun, and we get to promote our club. If you would like to help out, let me know.

John Stehle Cell 724-256-067

BOC Holiday Open House

*Join us for some Christmas cheer
Sunday, December 12, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
As we celebrate the holiday season*

*Carol & Steve Bickel
133 Boozel Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
724 794-3719
cbickel@zoominternet.net*

This will be my last article I write as president. I want to thank you for letting me serve in that role for the last three years. It has been a great honor, and I am very proud to have been able to say that I am President of the Butler Outdoor Club.

The reason I feel that pride is because of what a great group of people you are. And what a great history you have. And what a great future is ahead for you. People know about the club. Our membership reaches far across the region, and with our immigrants, all across the country.

Of course, all of the things that happen in the club happen because of the core of people that have a real heart for the club. They were always watching so that I didn't run the club into the ditch. And quite a few times they would step in and pull my bacon out of the fire. They deserve all of our thanks for that.

There are lots of challenges for the club in the future. But I feel confident that our new board will be up to the task. I know they are already hitting the ground running on issues such as membership. And I intend to be around helping, hiking and hovering - and maybe even pull some bacon out of the fire myself, if necessary. And I hope you will be there too, making sure your club is as good as it can be.

John Stehle

Wear orange when hiking during Pa Hunting Seasons

Deer (rifle): Nov. 29 - Dec. 11

Deer (flintlock): Dec. 27-Jan. 15

Deer (archery): Dec. 27 - Jan. 29

Small Game: Dec. 13 - 23 & Dec. 27 - Feb. 26

BOC Directory

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Dorothy Weisburg

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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

Stage 18 of the Tour de NCT of PA

The Tour de NCT of PA wrapped up the final hike for 2010 by joining Stage 18 with the monthly Clarion Chapter November hike on Sunday Nov 21, 2010. Perhaps there was a desire to preemptively walk off the Thanksgiving Turkey dinners that we will be having in the coming week, because 25 hikers turned out, a number only exceeded by the 40 who turned out for the March 2010, cabin fever hike in Parker.



beautiful sections along the Allegheny River and Sandy Creek, but it will be good to get back on some nice trail dug right on the ground, winding among the trees, and with side-hill tread angling up the hills. I know the Clarion Chapter has been busy the last year or two re-routing and restoring their trail.

In 2011 we will be doing the final 3 sections, all in the Clarion Chapter; and at least one weekend will be set aside to let people catch-up on sections they missed in the Allegheny National Forest. Our final hike will probably be being in Cook Forest, where we could celebrate with a picnic. More details too follow.

John Stehle
Cell 724-256-0674

The weather was as nice as you could expect for a late November day - sunny with temperature moving up from the 30's to the 50's. The wild life was subdued with only an occasional Kinglet, Finch or Chickadee seen in the trees. One White-tail buck was seen on the trail ahead of the lead hikers, and was caught by Tammy Veloski with her camera. See that picture among many other great shots at <http://butleroutdoorclubphotojournal.shutterfly.com/1403>.

The hike was 8.5 miles from Fern Road to Deer Creek, thus ending the Rail's to Trails section started 53 miles ago, back in Parker. That part of the trail has many





Preserving
Pennsylvania's
Footpaths

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

EVENT UPDATE

November 2010

KTA ANNOUNCES 2011 EVENT SCHEDULE

The **Keystone Trails Association** is proud to announce its 2011 event schedule, which will feature trails across Pennsylvania!

The 2011 hiking program will begin in the spring in southeastern Pennsylvania on the **Horseshoe Trail** and **Brandywine Trail** in Chester County. The summer will find KTA hikers exploring the hidden jewels of the Pennsylvania Wilds in the **Sproul State Forest** of Clinton County. In September, hikers who are prepared to be challenged can participate in the third annual Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run on the **Mason-Dixon Trail** and **Conestoga Trail** in York and Lancaster counties. And in the fall, hikers can travel to western Pennsylvania to explore the **North Country Trail** in Butler County.

- The **2011 Spring Meeting & Hiking Weekend** will be held on **April 15-17** in **West Chester, Chester County**. Explore the fine hiking trails of southeastern Pennsylvania with local hike leaders from the Batona Hiking Club, Chester County Trail Club, Philadelphia Trail Club, Horseshoe Trail Conservancy and Wilmington Trail Club - a true collaboration to highlight the best trails in the area!
- The eighth annual **Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend** will be held on **July 22-24** in **Renovo, Clinton County**. DCNR guides will lead

hikers to the hidden jewels of the Sproul State Forest, which features some of the wildest and most scenic terrain in Pennsylvania. The weekend also features the Prowl the Sproul 10K, which may be the most challenging 10K around!

- The third annual **Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run** will be held on **Saturday, September 10** in York and Lancaster Counties. Registration will open in early February and will be limited to 500 participants. Many volunteers are also needed for this event.
- The **2011 Annual Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend** will be held on **September 30 to October 2** in beautiful Butler County. Hikers will enjoy an abundance of trails located in close proximity to the weekend accommodations in Prospect, PA. Explore the North Country Trail - including the Slippery Rock Gorge - as well as other trails in Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks. The **Butler Outdoor Club** will be coordinating the hiking schedule.

Mark your calendar, and join KTA on the trails in 2011!



UPCOMING KTA EVENTS

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

May 28-June 5: Pennsylvania Hiking Week, Statewide

July 22-24: Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend, Renovo, Clinton County

September 10: Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run, York & Lancaster Counties

September 30-October 2: Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend, Prospect, Butler County



KTA TRAIL CARE UPDATE

In 2010 KTA sponsored eight trail care weekends, four trail crew weeks and four "Code Orange" one-day trail cares across Pennsylvania.

Volunteers worked on the Allegheny Front, Chuck Keiper, Donut Hole, Loyalsock, Mid State, North Country, Standing Stone, Thunder Swamp, T-Squared and West Rim Trails, as well as at the Bear Run Reserve and Shikellamy Overlook and Sinnemahoning State Parks.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time and effort to help maintain Pennsylvania's trails this year.

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 Events and Activities

***** Wear Orange when hiking, etc during Penna. hunting seasons! *****

Small Game: Dec. 13-23 & Dec. 27-Jan. 22

Deer (archery): Dec. 27 - Jan. 29

Deer (rifle): Nov. 29 - Dec. 11 & Nov. 29 - Dec. 3

Deer (flintlock): Dec. 27 - Jan. 15

Dec 1 Join us 6:00pm on Wed Dec 1 for our annual BOC Christmas Party at the Butler YMCA lower level meeting rooms. Bring a dish to share and a gag or regular gift under \$10.

Dec 5 Clarion NCTA will hike 11:00 AM from Cook Forest Fire Tower to the trail head at North end of Forest Drive. This is a 6 mile hike over average terrain. A short hike of 3 miles is available for families with children by hiking to the Environmental Center in Cook Forest. Transportation back to participants vehicles will be provided for both hikes. Meet at the Cook Forest Park Office at 11:00 AM. If interested in attending, contact Devin Callihan at (814) 744-7548 or cla@northcountrytrail.org, or just show up.

Dec 18 Sat Dec 18 - 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. John Stehle 724-256-0674

Dec 20 Join us to wrap gifts at LL Bean at the Ross Park Mall. Our time slot is from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Monday, Dec 20, 2010. LL Bean provides all the supplies. We just have to be there to wrap the gifts for their customers. And LL Bean gives the club \$200 plus we keep any tips we collect. It is always a lot of fun, and we get to promote our club. If you would like to help out, let me know. *John Stehle Cell 724-256-0674*

Jan 1 Annual BOC News Year Day Picnic – bring a dish to share and gear and dress per weather. Noon at Moraine State Park North Shore McDanel's Launch Shelter.

Jan 28
30 Wilderness Lodge Weekend coordinated by Marianne Kasica (former AYH Weekend)
** not Joyce Appel's Weekend which is full **
– Singles: \$90 per person for weekend Doubles : \$212 for two people for weekend
Questions - call Marianne Kasica at 412 665-9554, evenings or marianne@pitt.edu

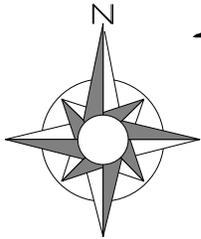
Feb 11
14 Allegany State Park near Salamanca, NY. Hike, snowshoe or cross country ski. (Rentals available or bring your own.) I have rented all 13 cabins on the Summit where the trails are for the weekend. They are basic cabins with heat, refrigerator, stove, counter and table. Bring covered dish to 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. Prices are for the whole weekend, Fri. to Mon. morning. (No ski pass is needed.) Cost is: \$72 per person \$179 per couple
Contact Joyce Appel 724.526.5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net

Aug 4
7 The 2011 North Country National Scenic Trails Annual Conference will be held in Dayton, Ohio this year. Always a good time with hikes, bike rides, excursions, maybe canoe trip, workshops, great food and evening programs. Mark you calendar now!

Sep 30
Oct 2 The 2011 KTA Fall hiking weekend will be hosted by Butler Outdoor Club and Butler Chapter of NCT. Camping, inside lodging, and food will be provided at Lutherlyn Camp. We plan on having various levels of hikes, a bike ride, canoe trip and a few excursions, along with Friday and Sat. evening entertainment. Mark your calendars!



Tour de NCTA PA Stage 18



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