

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 15 Month # 1

January 2011

## Moraine Winterfest

Saturday, January 22 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Family fun is the order of the day at McDanel's Launch on North Shore in Moraine State Park during Moraine's 1st annual Winterfest.

Admission is free and so are the activities! Bring the whole family!

Activities include a Snow Shoe Workshop, Family Winter Nature Hike, Ice Skating (ice permitting/ bring your own skates), Various children's crafts and snow activities, Dog Sled Team, Cross Country Skiing (bring your own skis), Music by Tom Panei. Chili Cookoff: \$1 to taste/\$3 a bowl (proceeds benefit the Moraine Preservation Fund). All local individuals and businesses are welcome to register, just send your name, phone number and email to [moraineenvdps@state.pa.us](mailto:moraineenvdps@state.pa.us).

Bring your own large pot of chili and means to keep hot (this will be in an outdoor pavilion so electricity is limited). 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be awarded at the end of the day. Winners will be selected by the attendees. For more information goto <http://morainepreservationfund.org>



## Jan 5 Monthly Meeting

Join us on Wed January 5 when Dan Pedan will review first aid techniques that could be useful on hikes, bike rides, canoe trips or other activities that put you on your own. He will explain how to deal with bleeding, shock, snake bites, diabetic emergencies, seizures, heat exhaustion, drowning, choking, heart attacks, stroke, bee or wasp stings, fractures and how to turn or move unconscious victims. Dan have worked as a Paramedic for over 30 years and currently covers the South Hills area of the City of Pittsburgh.

## Message from our New BOC President

Welcome to 2011! I am Steve Bickel, newly elected BOC president. I am looking forward to leading the club as we enjoy outdoor activities together. I would like to welcome all standing committee chairs to the January board meeting on Monday, January 10 at 7:00 pm at the YMCA. According to the by-laws all chairs are on the board and I feel this would be a great time to get in know everyone and make plans for the New Year. See you soon. A big thank you to all who helped wrap presents at LL Bean this year, namely Dave and Jean Adams, Tom and Boop Baumgardner, Dorothy Weisberg, Helen Coyne, Ed and Dotty Scurry, Jan Berg, Tammy Veloski, Rayanne Aiken, Joyce Appel, and John Stehle. We made \$195 in tips and \$200 directly from LL Bean. Everyone had fun working together and meeting the public.

## Christmas Bird Count Outing

Five frozen birders from the BOC braved the frozen swamps, fields and woods of the Moraine State Park as part of the Bartramian Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count on Dec 18, 2010. The temperature was a chilly 8 degrees at 7:30AM, but the wind was bad.

Because of the lack of open water, we saw no waterfowl, so our count was down, but we saw more species this year than last (24). Some highlights this year were Purple Finches, Blue Birds, Cedar Waxwings, a Field Sparrow, and Pileated Woodpeckers.

After about 6 hours of birding, parts of us were getting pretty cold, (toes, fingers, noses), so the prospect of some hot chilly at the Bickel's was very encouraging. We all gathered there for good food and talk, It was a great way to spend a winter day and contribute to the ongoing science of ornithology.

The birders: Steve Bickel, Dorothy Weisberg, Bill Klobetanz, Mark Smith, Alice Stehle, and John Stehle. The birds recorded on the count were:

Red-tailed Hawk 7	Cedar Waxwing 45
Mourning Dove 18	European Starling 37
Red-bellied Woodpecker 2	Am. Tree Sparrow 2
Downy Woodpecker 5	Field Sparrow 1
Hairy Woodpecker 1	Song Sparrow 3
Pileated Woodpecker 2	W-Throated Sparrow 3
Blue Jay 31	Dark-eyed Junco 43
American Crow 8	Northern Cardinal 4
Black-cap Chickadee 10	Purple Finch 3
Tufted Titmouse 3	House Finch 2
Wh-breasted Nuthatch 2	House Sparrow 2
Eastern Bluebird 2	American Robin 4

*John Stehle*



## BOC Directory

### President

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

### Co-Vice-Presidents

Tammy Veloski

painthorse\_33@yahoo.com

Mike Dailey 724.452.7870

### Secretary

### Treasurer

Tom Baumgardner 724.794.4913

### Backpacking

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

### Canoeing

Joyce Appel 724.526.5407

### Database

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### Membership

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### Skiing

Paul Henry 724.347.3282

### Trails

Ron Rice 724.538.8475

### Rambles

Gina Collela Hench 724.712.6695

Dana Asbury 724. 376.3526

### Nature Study

Dorothy Weisburg

### Board Members-at-large

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)

## Stage 19 of the Tour de NCT of PA

With the sudden change of plans whereby we decided to do one more hike before winter, there also came a sudden arrival of winter.

Seventeen hikers got together for a 6 mile hike in Cook Forest, as the Tour Stage 19 joined with the Clarion Chapter December hike.

Snow was beginning to lay on the roads as we drove up to the State Park office and continued to accumulate throughout the hike. We moved our cars to the fire tower parking lot and began our hike north. The forest where we hiked was predominantly Hemlock which blocked the chilly wind that was blowing above the trees. The effect on the ground was the special quieting effect that the snow has on the forest.

The first few miles were on the plateau above the Clarion river, and it gradually descended down to Toms run where there are some nice arched bridges that get the hiker across, providing a very picturesque scene. The trail heads back up the hill toward the "Forest Cathedral", a stand of towering white pines and hemlocks. The trail levels out after that as it follows Toms Run and Brown Run north to our destination at Forest Road. This is an outstanding section of trail to hike at any time, but catching it just during a fresh snow fall was special.



After we shuttled back to our cars, we encountered the more difficult aspect of a fresh snow. As we left on Fire Tower road, most of the cars had to make a couple of runs at one little rise in the road. But with everyone working together we all got back out on the main roads and headed back to our homes.

A special commendation goes to the Clarion chapter leaders, particularly Devin Callihan and Dave Galbreath, for organizing this hike and getting us though the hike and safely on our way.

Various other pictures can be seen on Facebook: search for "PA North Country Trail".

*John Stehle*

This is a link to a "A Beginning Guide to Winter Tree Identification", one of a long series of articles about trees:  
[http://forestry.about.com/od/treeidentification/a/winter\\_tree\\_id.htm](http://forestry.about.com/od/treeidentification/a/winter_tree_id.htm)



## Area Outdoor Events and Activities

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

**Sm Game: Dec. 27-Jan. 22 Deer (archery): Dec. 27 - Jan. 29 (flintlock): Dec. 27 - Jan. 15**

Dec  
31

Silvester. Harmony Museum activities during Harmony's family-oriented New Year's Eve celebration on German time (2-6 p.m. EST) in recognition of its German heritage, are museum tours, pork and sauerkraut buffet, continuous comedy short film "Dinner for One" and Bleigiessen -- melted lead shapes predict what new year will bring. Community celebration begins with 2 p.m. 5K run, includes entertainment in town diamond, welcomes 2011 with ball drop and fireworks at 6 p.m. -- midnight in Germany. 724-452-7341. [www.harmonymuseum.org](http://www.harmonymuseum.org).

Jan  
1

Annual BOC News Year Day Picnic – bring a dish to share and dress for the weather. Bike or Hike or kayak or xc-ski depending on weather and conditions. Meet Noon at Moraine State Park North Shore McDanel's Launch Shelter.

Jan  
5

BOC monthly meeting - 6:30 pm social hour, 7:30 pm announcements and 8:00 program 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 Wed January 5 when Dan Pedan will review first aid techniques that could be useful on hikes, bike rides, canoe trips or other activities that put you on your own. He will explain how to deal with bleeding, shock, snake bites, diabetic emergencies, seizures, heat exhaustion, drowning, choking, heart attacks, stroke, bee or wasp stings, fractures and how to turn or move unconscious victims. Dan have worked as a Paramedic for over 30 years and currently covers the South Hills area of the City of Pittsburgh.

Jan  
7-9

Wilderness Lodge Ski/Snowshoe Weekend near Wattsburg, Pa. Full - but if you wish to join the group, you can do so each day and evening and stay at a nearby motel. Can rent skis or snowshoes from her cheaper than Lodge but must make arrangements early, not at the last minute. Call or email Joyce for details and questions. 724-526-5407 or [joyceappel@windstream.net](mailto:joyceappel@windstream.net)

Jan  
8

Survive the Snow Winter Hike Sat, Jan. 8 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Meet at the South Shore office of Moraine State Park Learn some basic outdoor survival skills while hiking on the South Shore. If there is ample snow, a limited number of snowshoes will be available for use, or bring your own. Snow cover or not, we will practice some survival techniques while we hike a two mile loop with views of Lake Arthur. Come dressed for the weather, and, if desired, bring your favorite survival gadget for show & tell. Get outdoors this winter! This event is part of the 16th annual Winter Trails Day. For more information, call 724 368-3612 or email [moraineenvdps@state.pa.us](mailto:moraineenvdps@state.pa.us). or visit [www.visitPAparks.com](http://www.visitPAparks.com).

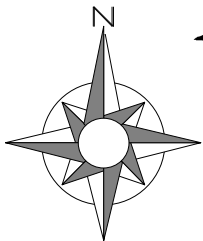
Jan  
15

JENNINGS PRAIRIE IMPROVEMENT DAY- Shake off those mid-winter blues by pitching in at Jennings Environmental Education Center on Saturday, January 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Jennings staff is looking for individuals willing to spend a Saturday morning outdoors to help manage the unique prairie ecosystem. For lunch, generous local restaurants will provide plenty of warm, hearty soup. Each participant will receive a commemorative soup mug as a special thank-you. Participants must be age 12 or older and should dress for the weather, including gloves and warm, waterproof boots. Please register for this program no later than January 7th by contacting the Center at (724) 794-6011 or online at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar/list.asp](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar/list.asp). Jennings Environmental Education Center has the only preserved prairie in Pennsylvania. A

	<p>unique ecosystem, it is home to the massasauga rattlesnake and stunning wildflower, the blazing star. A variety of management techniques are used to preserve this distinctive prairie habitat. One such technique is to clip and remove the woody invaders that may eventually out-compete native flowers and grasses. This activity is best accomplished in winter when the soil is frozen and vegetation is reduced. With the help of volunteers, this undertaking can be completed much more quickly and effectively. The fruits of this winter labor will be on vivid display during the spectacular prairie bloom of the coming summer. Jennings is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays and on weekends as scheduled. The trails are open daily from sunrise to sunset for hiking and other environmentally related activities.</p>
Jan 22	<p>Moraine Winterfest Saturday, January 22 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm - see newsletter first page</p>
Jan 28-30	<p>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</p>
Feb 5	<p>Annual BOC Groundhog Day Picnic - Meet noon at Oil Creek State Park XC ski hut and bring a dish to share. Hot cocoa and hot dogs will be provided by the club. More details in next month's newsletter, but save the date!</p>
Feb 11-14	<p>Allegheny State Park Ski/Snoeshoe Weekend near Salamanca, NY - Few cabin spaces left - Don't wait or they will be gone!!!! Can rent skis or snoeshoes from her that are cheaper than the park, but must reserve early, not at the last minute. Call or email Joyce for details and questions. 724-526-5407 or <a href="mailto:joyceappel@windstream.net">joyceappel@windstream.net</a></p>
Feb 26	<p>Annual Cherry Pie Hike - Feb. 26, Sat - 10 AM or Noon Meet at Old Stone House, Rt. 8 North of Rt. 422. This hike commemorates George Washington's Birthday and gives you a chance to walk in his footsteps on the Old Venango Trail which is now part of the North Country Trail. The Butler Chapter, Butler Outdoor Club, Slippery Rock U. and North Country Brewery are working together for this event. Because of increased attendance, we are having 2 meeting times for this event. (10 AM or Noon) We will split into 2 groups: a short hike and a longer hike. There will also be a history presentation by Aaron Cowan from Slippery Rock U. on the Old Stone House, the trail, and George Washington. Then..... free cherry pie and drink! Cherry pies donated by North Country Brewery and Restaurant. After the hike, all are invited to North Country Brewery. This is optional but their food and homemade beer are superb! Reservations are needed for either arrival time to plan for enough pies. Please call or email. John Stehle 724-283-0191 stehles@yahoo.com</p>
Aug 11-14	<p>*** note date change *** 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. Watch for more details later, but mark you calendar.</p>
Sep 30 Oct 2	<p>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, but optional. 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 you calendars and watch for details later. If you would like to help or lead a trip, contact Joyce Appel, 724-526-5407 or <a href="mailto:joyceappel@windstream.net">joyceappel@windstream.net</a></p>



*Tour de NCTA PA Stage 19*



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