

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 15 Month # 2

February 2011

## Free Admission Days at National Parks

America's Best Idea – the national parks – gets even better with several fee-free days at more than 100 national parks that **usually charge entrance fees.**\*

Mark your calendar for these fee-free days in 2011:

- April 16-24  
(National Park Week)
- June 21  
(First day of summer)
- September 24  
(Public Lands Day)
- November 11-13  
(Veterans Day weekend)

Making the fun even more affordable, many national park concessioners are joining the National Park Service in welcoming visitors with their own **special offers.**

Here's a tip – many of your 394 national parks NEVER charge an entrance fee. So start **Planning Your Visit!**

## Feb 2 Monthly Meeting

Join us on Wed Feb 2 when our featured speakers, Tony Stagno, Dave Zarnick and Adam Bresnahan, will present an overview of the Preston Estate in Butler Township. Mr. Stagno is a retired teacher and high school librarian. Mr. Zarnick is a Butler Township Commissioner and member of the Preston board. Mr. Bresnahan, an intern at Penn State University, grew up in the Meridian area and is very familiar with the trails and other features of the property. The history and future plans for the property formerly owned by Frank and Jane Preston will be discussed. Frank Preston helped found the Western PA Conservancy and was instrumental in the development of Moraine State Park. The property was donated to Butler Township to develop as a park and recreational area.

## Annual BOC Groundhog Day Picnic

Saturday Feb 5 - meet noon at Oil Creek State Park XC ski warming hut and bring a dish to share. Hot cocoa and hot dogs will be provided by the club. Xc-ski and snowshoe on loop trails which vary from easy .6 mile loop to a moderate 6 mile loop. Ski warming hut has picnic tables and is heated by wood stove but no electricity is available.

### Parking Lot Coordinates:

N 41° 30.771 W 079° 39.698



## Area Outdoor Events and Activities

Feb 2	<p>BOC monthly meeting 6:30 pm social hour, 7:30 pm announcements and 8:00 program 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 Wed Feb 2 when our featured speakers, Tony Stagno, Dave Zarnick and Adam Bresnahan, will present an overview of the Preston Estate in Butler Township. Mr. Stagno is a retired teacher and high school librarian. Mr. Zarnick is a Butler Township Commissioner and member of the Preston board. Mr. Bresnahan, an intern at Penn State University, grew up in the Meridian area and is very familiar with the trails and other features of the property. The history and future plans for the property formerly owned by Frank and Jane Preston will be discussed. Frank Preston helped found the Western PA Conservancy and was instrumental in the development of Moraine State Park. The property was donated to Butler Township to develop as a park and recreational area.</p>
Feb 4	<p>Moraine State Park Program: Cross Country Ski Clinic - 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Pleasant Valley Beach West South Shore, Moraine State Park Want to learn how to cross-country ski? Or would you like to pick up some pointers and improve your skills? We have a limited number of skis to try or bring your own for an afternoon of hands-on instruction on Moraine's ski trails. Dress for the weather, in layers that allow movement, with sturdy shoes or boots. Learn how to enjoy the snow. It's free, bring water and a snack.</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.</p>
Feb 5	<p>Clarion Chapter of the North Country Trail Association 10:00 AM Route: Fern Road to Van (@ 6.5 miles of easy, level terrain) Meeting Place: Country Fair at intersection of Routes 66 &amp; 322 at 10:00 AM. Contact: If you plan to attend, please contact Devin Callihan at (814) 319-5058 or cla@northcountrytrail.org.</p>
Feb 6	<p>A winter hike on the Harmony Trail! Sunday Feb 06, 2011 from 10:30 am to 02:00 pm On the day our Steelers face the Packers in the Super Bowl, make room for that pizza and beer by burning some game day calories on our annual 5-6 mile deep winter hike from the Harmony Trail to the Rachel Carson Trail! We'll meet at the Beaver Shelter on Babcock Blvd. in North Park and carpool to the start at the Harmony trailhead on Rt. 910. Then we'll follow the Harmony Trail to the Brooktree spur, to the Bluebird Trail, to the Braille Trail, to the North Ridge Trail, and end at the Rachel Carson Trail western trailhead. Moderate difficulty (some modest ascents and potentially tricky descents if snow/ice are present, otherwise gently rolling). Hot tea, cocoa, and treats afterwards. FREE and open to everyone (no need to sign up)! More details: <a href="http://www.rachelcarsontrails.org/Members/sgmentzer/wo2011">http://www.rachelcarsontrails.org/Members/sgmentzer/wo2011</a></p>
Feb 12	<p>Beauty of Winter Guided Hike - 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Kildoo Picnic Area McConnells Mill State Park Beat cabin fever! The Slippery Rock Gorge in McConnells Mill State Park is especially stunning during the winter. Join the park naturalist on a moderate guided hike through icy scenery. Distance will be weather dependent, but dress for the weather and wear very sturdy shoes. You may wish to bring binoculars, walking stick, and a camera. Meet at the Kildoo Picnic area, from where we will begin by hiking down the stone steps to the gristmill. Weather dependent - for information, call 724 368-3612.</p>

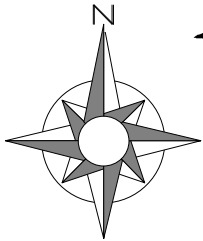
Feb 19 20	Backpack the upper loop at Oil Creek from Drakes Well. Approx. 12 miles over two days staying at the Wolkiel shelter area Sat. night.-- Joe Hardisky 724-924-9248 hardis123@msn.com
Feb 19	February 19, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – noon – “Great Back Yard Bird Count” at Jennings Environmental Education center. Join in the Great Backyard Bird Count at Jennings Environmental Education Center on Saturday, February 19th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual event that encourages citizens to help scientists gather data on the biodiversity of birds across the entire U.S. and Canada. This workshop and observation session is designed for ages 12 and up. Enrollment is limited, and participants must register by contacting the Center at 724-794-6011 or registering online at <a href="http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar">http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar</a> no later than February 10th. Celebrating its 14th year, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is hosted by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The indoor workshop at Jennings will provide an opportunity to learn the basics of bird identification and feeding, while observing and enjoying birds at the feeders outside the classroom windows. Jennings staff will explain the bird count procedures and demonstrate use of the GBBC website for submitting data and obtaining information. Representatives of the Bartramian Audubon Society and the Birdwatchers Store will also be on hand to provide assistance and bird feeding tips. A limited number of binoculars and field guides are available for use. Participants are welcome to bring their own.
Feb 25	Moraine State Park Program: Family Ice Fishing 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Region 2 Office 195 Park Road Moraine State Park, Prospect, PA Reservations required <a href="mailto:chfooster@state.pa.us">chfooster@state.pa.us</a> 814-683-5126 PA Fish & Boat Commission Looking for a great way to connect with your family during the wintertime? Discover just how much fun the cold weather can be when you and your family head outside for a PFBC Family Ice Fishing Program. Learn the basic skills of ice fishing like rigging and using a tip-up, working a jigging rod, selecting bait and lures and using an auger to bore your fishing hole. Also included in the program is information about basic ice safety and how to determine adequate ice thickness for fishing. The best part is that you and your family will have the opportunity to experience ice fishing first hand - no fishing license required and all equipment is provided. What’s the catch??? Adults must bring a child and children must bring an adult since you’ll be learning and fishing together. Reservations required.
Feb 26	Annual Cherry Pie Hike - Feb. 26, Saturday - 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 George Washington's 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, those who want a short hike and those who want a longer hike. There will also be a history presentation by Aaron Cowan from Slippery Rock U. on the history of the Old Stone House, the trail, and George Washington. Then..... free cherry pie and drink! Cherry pies are donated by North Country Brewery and Restaurant. Come learn about the "real George Washington" and free pie with a hike. 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 in order to know how many pies to have for the event. Please call or email. John Stehle 724-283-0191 <a href="mailto:stehles@yahoo.com">stehles@yahoo.com</a>

Mar 13	Clarion NCTA March Hike at Noon Route: Van to Hendershot Road (@ 5.3 miles of easy, level terrain) Meeting Place: Country Fair at intersection of Routes 66 & 322 at Noon. Contact: If you plan to attend, please contact Devin Callihan at (814) 319-5058 or cla@northcountrytrail.org
Apr 9	Clarion NCTA April Hike 10:00 AM Route: Rt. 66 to Amsler Springs (@ 6 miles of moderate, wooded terrain) Meeting Place: Parking lot of Sawmill Restaurant in Leeper at 10:00 AM. Contact: If you plan to attend, please contact Devin Callihan at (814) 319-5058 or cla@northcountrytrail.org.
May 15	Clarion NCTA May Hike - "Strawberry Pie Hike" Details: The Clarion Chapter will be having it's 1st Annual "Strawberry Pie Hike" at noon on May 15, 2011. We will be hiking along the North Country Trail / Baker Trail from the trail head on Route 66 to the Cook Forest Environmental Center. Strawberry Pie will be provided by the Clarion Chapter of the North Country Trail Association at the Environmental Center at the end of the hike. Route: We will all start at the trail head on Route 66, however, to accommodate hikers of varying levels, there are 2 options for this hike. Hike 1: If anyone desires a short hike of approximately 4 miles, transportation to the Environmental Center will be provided when the group reaches the trail head at the North End of Forest Road. (@ 4 miles of moderate, wooded terrain) Hike 2: After parting with the group from the first hike, the rest of the group will push on through the additional 4 miles from there through Cook Forest to the Environmental Center. (@ 8 miles of moderate, wooded terrain) Meeting Place: Cook Forest Park Office at Noon. Contact: If you plan to attend, or are interested in the shorter hike, please contact Devin Callihan at (814) 319-5058 or cla@northcountrytrail.org.
May 21	9th Annual Bike Around the Bay ~ join hundreds of tri-state bicyclists on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at the Intermodal Transportation Center on the Bayfront Parkway. Bike 10 Miles - Town Tour, especially designed for families and less experienced riders; 30 Miles - Bay Tour, for casual riders or 50 Miles - Endurance Tour, for seasoned riders. All riders bike along Presque Isle Bay and Lake Erie and are invited to join us for a picnic and gift auction after the ride. Cost: Individuals (includes t-shirt and water bottle) \$20.00 Families (includes water bottles for all riders) \$40.00 Group Rates Available: Scouts, Churches, Youth Groups etc. All proceeds benefit environmental education through Earth Action, a program of Environment Erie More info: 814-835-8069 or bab@environmenterie.org
May	BOC 15th Annual Outdoor Extravaganza May 27-30 2011
Jul 15-17	Kinzua/ Morrison Run Paddle/Backpacking Trip Paddlers: Meet at southern end west side of Red Bridge on Rt.321 (north of Kane) 200ft. from the Longhouse Trail head at 10:00 AM 7/15/11. Parking will be at the Longhouse Trail Head due to the limited space at the put-in point. If the water is low, the put-in will be at the North end of Red Bridge at the boat ramp(Fish Commission Launch Permit may be required). Once gear is loaded, a 6 mile paddle north to Morrison Run sites #23 and #24 along the bay if available(first come first served). Backpackers: Meet at the Trail Head off Rt. 59, 3.9 miles east of Morrison Bridge at a time decided by those participating and hike into Morrison Run by a route of your choice. Contact: Dave Myers 724-588-2767. This current E-Mail address will be discontinued after 6/16/11(my retirement)
Jul 19	9th Annual RTC Greenway Sojourn Registration opens March 1. As always, the Sojourn is a one-of-a-kind heritage tour by rail-trail. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) has hosted

24	<p>the ride since 2002, and each year we visit a different region. For the first time, we will ride the trails of the northern Laurel Highlands, about 50 miles east of Pittsburgh. Most of the trails will follow the path of Pennsylvania's historical Mainline Canal that once linked Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, and is now part of a 200-mile trail project. It was selected as Pennsylvania's Millennium Legacy project in 2000 for its ability to link heritage, culture and recreation sites of national significance. Also new this year, we are offering a five-day and a six-day option. The five-day ride runs from Wednesday, July 20, to Sunday, July 24, with check-in Tuesday night in Ebensburg, Pa. The six-day option adds an extra riding day on July 19, with check-in on the evening of July 18. For the Sojourn, you'll ride 30 to 50 miles a day, mostly on smooth paved or crushed-stone surfaces. We have eliminated all busing and shuttling by planning single-day loops off of our main spine trail, the Ghost Town Trail. These side excursions include stints on a number of great trails, including the Hoodlebug, Roaring Run, West Penn, Westmoreland Heritage and Path of the Flood trails. Using the Ghost Town Trail as the route hub also allows you to leave and return to camp at your own speed. A few days include out-and-back routes, and another 20 percent of the ride will be on roads that connect us to open trails. And again this year, at no added charge, we will offer an optional kayaking/canoeing day for those who would like to cool off and see the region's greenways from a different vantage point. This is a great tour for riders of all strengths, since faster riders can surge ahead while slower riders will still have company on the route. For those who don't mind a bit more road riding and hills, the six-day option is perfect. On Tuesday, July 19, we will take you from Ebensburg to Johnstown along the historical Path of the Flood Trail and through the National Park Service's Staple Bend Tunnel—the first railroad tunnel in America. You will bicycle back to Ebensburg for a 40-mile roundtrip and join the five-day riders there. When registration opens, you will be able to view the exact route of the ride and drill down to see maps for each trail</p>
Aug 6 7	<p>Moraine Regatta 2011 - a weekend full of family oriented fun and activities at Moraine State Park For more details see <a href="http://www.lakearthurregatta.org">www.lakearthurregatta.org</a></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 your 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 your 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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