

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 18 Month 03

March 2012

BOC March 7 Meeting

Please join us at 6:30 pm at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa.

Harry Schmeider, our speaker was born in Butler, PA and worked at Armco Steel for 31 years. After retirement from the Metallurgical Department he wanted to give back something to nature. He always enjoyed birds, he states it may be from their variety and color, but most importantly their freedom. In his studies of nest cavity birds he discovered their plight in finding a natural nest cavity. So he got involved putting up a nest box and watching a pair of eastern bluebirds nesting and fledging their young and being so inspired by this experience, it led him into other ventures.

Today, he is the President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania and enjoys sharing bluebirds and other nest cavity birds in leading seminars to educate the public.

As a citizen scientist focused on birds, he would like to share blue birding and the experience of being a good landlord to these wonderful birds with a presentation titled: *The Fledging Experience*



Our annual Groundhog Day Picnic and Hike was held on Saturday Feb 4 at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Fairly mild weather helped twenty BOC'ers enjoy the delicious food and drink at the picnic. An after picnic hike helped burn off some of those calories. During the hike the elusive Groundhog was spotted and prizes were awarded to the lucky finders.



BOC on Facebook

The BOC has created a facebook page and group to help promote the BOC; attract new members; facilitate communication with members and the outdoor community; and to allow members to communicate with each other. Liking our page on facebook will allow you to receive notices, information, etc. from the club.



Like us on facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Butler-Outdoor-Club/250960231656316>

Join our facebook group to get up to date information, connect with your BOC friends, post photos from trips, help promote the BOC, etc. In facebook search for Butler and our clubs and NCTA Chapter will appear.

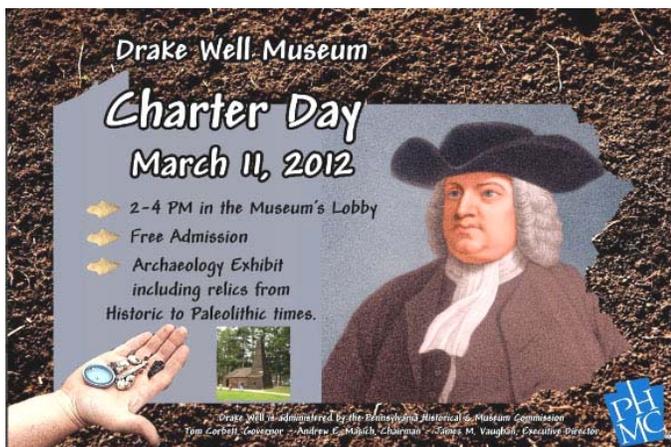
Cherry Pie Hike



Will Taylor, director of Jennings Environmental Educational Center, explains how beaver pelts were turned into hats during the 1700's. Will also led our short Cherry Pie hikes and did a great job explaining the geological history of Jennings and George Washington's trek through the region.

The participants were split into three groups at 9:00 am, 11:00am and 1:00pm who listened to historical presentations at the Old Stone House, were served cherry pie and coffee and then went on a long or short hike.

The long hikers trekked south on the Glacier Ridge Trail for an hour and then retraced their steps back to Jennings. Many met afterwards at North Country Brewing in Slippery Rock, Pa for some fine food, drink and socializing.



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Nature Study

Dorothy Weisburg

"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

BOC Sponsored Outdoor Events and Activities

Mar 3	<p>March 3 : A 7 mile perimeter hike through the Frank Preston Conservation Area in Moraine State Park. Hike along the Muddy Creek RR trace, along Muddy Creek, past the duck pond dam and along abandoned township roads. Meet at the Jennings Environmental Education Center at 9:00AM (Parking lot on the east side of SR528). Car pool to the Burton Road Trail Head at 9:15AM. Leader Steve Smith.</p>
Mar 7	<p>Our monthly meetings are 6:30 pm social hour, 7:00 pm announcements and 7:30 program on the first Wed. of each month usually 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.</p> <p>Our March monthly meeting will be held Wed March 7 at the Butler YMCA</p> <p>Please join us at 6:30 pm at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Our speaker Harry Schmeider was born in Butler, PA and worked at Armco Steel for 31 years. After retirement from the Metallurgical Department he wanted to give back something to nature. He always enjoyed birds, he states it may be from their variety and color, but most importantly their freedom. In his studies of nest cavity birds he discovered their plight in finding a natural nest cavity. So he got involved putting up a nest box and watching a pair of eastern bluebirds nesting and fledging their young and being so inspired by this experience, it led him into other ventures. Today, he is the President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania and enjoys sharing bluebirds and other nest cavity birds in leading seminars to educate the public. As a citizen scientist focused on birds, he would like to share blue birding and the experience of being a good landlord to these wonderful birds with a presentation titled: <i>The Fledging Experience</i></p>
Mar 9	<p>Backpacking the Minister Creek area March 10th and 11th. A moderate 7 miles over two days. Joe Hardisky hardis123@msn.com 724-924-9248</p>
Mar 24	<p>March 24: A 7+ mile hike through the Frank Preston Conservation Area in Moraine State Park. A continuation of the March 3 hike. Explore abandoned township roads that are not included in the Park trail system map. Meet at the Jennings Environmental Education Center at 9:00AM (Parking lot on the east side of SR528). Car pool to the Burton Road Trail Head at 9:15AM. Leader Steve Smith.</p>
Mar 25	<p>Join us for our annual Waterfowl birding day on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 9:30. We will meet at Moraine State Park, waterfowl observation deck, on the Old 422 where it goes into Lake Arthur. (Exit from Route 422 onto Route 528, go north about 100 yards; and make a left on to Old 422). We hope to catch the Spring migration of ducks and shore birds as they head to Canada. We will move to various places in Moraine State Park, along Rt 528, on the South Shore, and over to the North Shore. Bring a lunch. We will be done around mid afternoon. If you have any questions, contact me or Dorothy Weisberg (dotweisberg@zoominternet.net).</p>
Apr 28	<p>April 28: A 7 mile hike along the NCT from the Moraine State Park Bike Rental to the SR528 boat launch. Meet at the Jennings Environmental Education Center at 9:00AM (Parking lot on the east side of SR528). Car pool to the SR528 Boat Launch at 9:15AM then shuttle to the Bike Rental. Leader Steve Smith.</p>

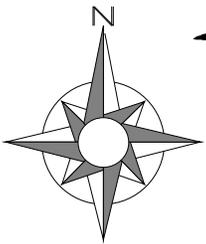
May 19	May 19: A 7.6 mile hike along the NCT from the SR528 boat launch to Jennings Environmental Education Center. Meet at the Jennings Environmental Education Center at 9:00AM (Parking lot on the east side of SR528). Shuttle to the SR528 boat launch at 9:15AM. Leader Steve Smith.
Jun 16	June 16: A 13.2 mile hike along the NCT from the Moraine State Park Bike Rental to the Jennings Environmental Education Center. Meet at the Jennings Environmental Education Center at 9:00AM (Parking lot on the east side of SR528). Shuttle to the Moraine State Park Bike Rental at 9:15AM. Leader Steve Smith.
<p>Other Area Outdoor Events</p> <p>These events are listed for public information and are not sponsored nor endorsed by the Butler Outdoor Club. We assume no liability for anything that happens if you participate in these activities.</p>	
Mar 9	Friday 6:00 to 8:00pm Jennings Environmental Education Center program <i>Flight of the Timberdoodle</i> Join us at the Jennings Center classroom to discover the mysteries of this oddball bird, then venture to the prairie where, if we are lucky, will observe this avian wonder in action. The sky dance of the American woodcock is something never to be forgotten. This strange, eerie and sometimes hilarious display of courtship is a true harbinger of spring, but one that not many people get to experience.
Mar 12	Bartramian Audubon Society Program. The BAS is the local chapter of the National Audubon Society and serves Venango, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. Their membership meetings are held at 7:00p.m. at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, 2961 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA. The Education Center is located on Rt. 528, just west of its junction with Rt. 8, about 5 miles south of Slippery Rock. All meetings are free and open to the public. Monday, 7:00 p.m. - "The Pribilofs-Alaska's Puffin Paradise", with Jeffrey Hall: During this slide show we will explore Alaska from glaciers to grizzlies, from tundra to ptarmigan, the 49th state is full of natural treasures. After a survey of some of the mainland's highlights, we'll venture to a tiny island in the Bering Sea. Here, along with the world's largest breeding colony of fur seals, we'll find a wealth of nesting seabirds: fulmars, cormorants, kittiwakes, and alcids in abundance, including murrelets, three species of auklets, and both tufted and horned puffins. Please feel free to contact larkwren@hotmail.com or call 814-432-4496 if you would like more information about the BAS or visit their website at www.bartramianaudubon.org .
Mar 20	Celebrate Spring with the official grand opening of the Montour Trail/Airport Connector! Having this Airport Connector means you can now ride your bicycle to and from the Pittsburgh International Airport via the Montour Trail. According to the organizers, the festivities begin at 11:00 am on March 20 and take place on the concrete, unused exit area where the new asphalt trail ends and crosses into the extended parking lot (Section 16D) of the airport. Want to test out the new trail on two wheels? The Pittsburgh Major Taylor Bicycle Club will lead a group bike ride to the ceremony. Interested cyclists are asked to meet at Enlow Ballfield. The group will depart at approximately 10am. Final destination is about six miles from the five point intersection near Mile 8, upstream of the Enlow Tunnel. Attendees who drive to the ceremony can park for free in the Extended Lot, Section 16D, adjacent to the site of the event. Drive to the Extended Parking entrance at the airport, take a ticket, and find section 16D. Event organizers will take care of your ticket before you leave. Need

	<p>to get your bearings on just where the Airport Connector is located? The following link leads you to a really nice map as well as some background information on the trail: http://linkup.shaw-weil.com/airportconnector.htm. Additionally, the web page contains very important information in terms of airport security and access. If you cannot make it to the Grand Opening Ceremony on March 20, the Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen will be leading a road ride to the connector and the airport from the Pittsburgh Cycling Expo at 9:00 am on March 25 (details here: http://www.pghcyclingexpo.com/index.htm).</p>
Mar 25	<p>Maple Sugaring - a Jennings Environmental Education Center program - Sunday at 2:00pm Celebrate the end of winter with the seasonal traditio of maple sugaring. This presentation will unravel the mystery of how a tree works and demonstrate the art of maple sugaring from past to present. The program will begin indoors and move outside for a guided walk featuring a working evaporator and a taste of spring itself, real maple syrup.</p>
Mar 25	<p>Raccoongaine III Sunday, March 25, 2012 Raccoon Creek State Park (30 miles West of Pittsburgh) 3 hour and 6 hour foot race "mini" rogaine (orienteering - scavenger hunt Time: Event start at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 25, 2011. The registration desk opens at 8:00 AM. Maps will be distributed at 9:00 AM. There is a mandatory meeting at 9:45 AM. at the start location for all participants. Organizers: Western Pennsylvania Orienteering Club - website www.wpoc.org Start/Finish area: Rec Hall in Raccoon Creek State Park. GPS coordinates: N 40 30.570, W 80 26. Recommended equipment: compass, whistle, water bottle or camelbak, watch, snack food, sunscreen. The web site is http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RaccoonGaine You can also find us on Facebook at "Raccoongaine"</p>
Apr 1	<p>Natures Hidden Treasures - Sunday 2:00pm to 4:00pm - a Jennings Environmental Education Center program. Bring your weird wildlife taxidermy, peculiar plant specimens, and other natural collectibles! Bring your odd items to Jennings, where experts will be on hand to attempt to identify or otherwise explain your curious curios from 2pm - 3pm. From 2pm to 4pm we'll feature the strangest, coolest, and most fascinating specimens, along with some of Jenning's own oddities in a special presentation. There is no fee to attend, but please register by phone by Friday, March 23 at 724-794-6011.</p>
Apr 9	<p>Bartramian Audubon Society Program. The BAS is the local chapter of the National Audubon Society and serves Venango, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. Their membership meetings are held at 7:00p.m. at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, 2961 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA. The Education Center is located on Rt. 528, just west of its junction with Rt. 8, about 5 miles south of Slippery Rock. All meetings are free and open to the public. April 9, 2012, Monday, 7:00p.m. -Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Extraction: Implications for Communities: Dr. Diane K. McLaughlin, Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography, Pennsylvania State University. This presentation will draw on multiple studies that have examined the effects of Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction on communities. Specific issues identified by knowledgeable individuals in communities range from economic benefits to housing, road and traffic, environmental, health and quality of life concerns. The impacts are both beneficial and problematic. Benefits and costs are distributed unevenly across community members and across communities. The Marcellus Shale development reflects the pattern of 'boom and bust' cycles that have been found in other forms of natural</p>

	<p>resource extraction, such as mining and timber harvesting. Please feel free to contact larkwren@hotmail.com or call 814-432-4496 if you would like more information about the BAS or visit their website at www.bartramianaudubon.org.</p>
Apr 14	<p>2012 Spring Rides along the Redbank and Armstrong Trails Ride #1- April 14, 2012. The Armstrong Trail from East Brady to Rosston. This ride is approx. 30 miles in length and will begin roughly at 9:45am in East Brady at the Henry House Tea Room. Those riders desiring shuttle service for the ride may meet at 8:00am the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission Access Area at Rosston. The Heppenstall family has offered to shuttle riders to East Brady to begin our adventure. Owner and ARTA President Toni Henry will set up a morning tea breakfast for us to begin our ride fully nourished and in the right frame of mind. For a special all inclusive trail rate of \$10.00 you will be served hot tea and coffee, juice, fresh fruit, egg, and bacon casserole or vegetable quiche, scones, and muffins. Reservations for the tea breakfast are required, please call 724-526-3552 or email Toni at henryhousetearoom@windstream.net. You will need to make your reservation before April 11,2012, and since the Tea Room will comfortably seat up to 16 people, be one of the first 16 to respond and guarantee your seat. Join me and start your day off right! The Tea begins at 8:45am, so don't be late! We'll be riding at a leisurely pace of roughly 6-8 miles per hour. Along the way, we will be stopping at the southern portal of the tunnel and talk about the rehabilitation plans for the future. We'll also be stopping at the bridge over Redbank Creek where we can discuss the security improvements being planned for later this year. Riders will be given a chance to view the improvements that have been made to the trail surface south of Rimer to Hooks Station. At Hooks Station, we will be treated to a hearty snack at the Heppenstall camp. Depending on our riding pace, we should be somewhere between Templeton and Mosgrove around lunch time. You'll need to pack a light lunch. At Mosgrove, I'll point out the way to the Pine Creek Underground Winery so that on future trips, you can include this venue on your riding trips. I may be encouraged or coerced into stopping there if a majority of the riders wish. We'll stop in Kittanning at Foxes Pizza along the trail so you can get a piece of pizza and/ or an ice cream cone. From there we'll push onward to Manorville where we will discuss future trail development efforts in this community. From there we'll ride through Ford City and then on to Rosston. I would hope that with all of the stops and breaks along the way, we should be at Rosston around 4pm. We will be riding at a relaxed pace of around 6-8 miles per hour. We will be taking rest stops and will be stopping for lunch (pack something to eat or eat at one of the eateries along the trails) and some socialization and to look at some of the many points of interest along these corridors. The majority of the trails are currently more suited for mountain or hybrid bikes. You should take two water bottles or a camelback hydration type system to prevent dehydration along the way. If you wish to participate in this ride, please send me an email to rupert2@windstream.net with your name, email address, and a phone number. I'll create a little email group for each ride and keep you informed via email as the event draws closer.</p>
Apr 21	<p>2012 Spring Rides along the Redbank and Armstrong Trails Ride # 2- April 21, 2012. The Redbank Trail from Brookville to the Mouth of Redbank Creek. This ride is approx. 40 miles in length and will begin roughly at 9am. For those wanting to start the day off with breakfast, we are out of luck for open restaurants in downtown Brookville on a Saturday morning. There is a small pastry shop (Uzi's Pastries) in Brookville and there is also Plylers Restaurant out along Route 28 about 2 miles from the downtown where you</p>

	<p>can enjoy their breakfast buffet. There is also a Burger King and Arby's if you like those types of eating establishments. We have been granted permission to park at the United Methodist Church located at the corner of Route 36 and Race Streets in their side parking lot (it is a gravel lot) and then riding over along Race Street to the sewage plant to begin our journey. Along the way, we will have a chance to see the 12 bridges redecked and improved by volunteers of the Redbank Valley Trails Association. We'll stop briefly at Summerville to talk about the parking access area plans for this section of the trail, and we will have a chance to ride on some of the many miles of rolled and improved surface of the Redbank Trail. I plan on stopping at one of the many fine eating establishments (Joe's) in New Bethlehem for lunch. We may not arrive there until 1pm, so bring a snack to eat along the way. If you don't feel like riding the entire trail, New Bethlehem is a great place to end your day. From there, we will head to Climax and check out the recently installed limestone trail surface placed by RVTA volunteers. We'll briefly stop and talk about the Bostonia bridge connection to Armstrong County and talk about rehabilitation possibilities for the Climax Tunnel. From there we'll head to St. Charles, Lawsonham, and then on to the confluence of Redbank Creek and the Allegheny River. If things go as planned, and they never do, we should be arriving at the Mouth of Redbank Creek around 5pm. As we shuttle back to Brookville, consider joining me for an ice cream cone and a burger in Widnoon. It is on our way to pick up our vehicles in Brookville. For this ride, I will need at least one person to meet me at the mouth of Redbank Creek so that we have a ride back to Brookville. Let me know if you will be that person! The RVTA is also trying to arrange for a shuttle service. If they can do that, it will be less complicated for us to retrieve vehicles. Once I have a price from their outfitter, I'll email interested riders. We will be riding at a relaxed pace of around 6-8 miles per hour. We will be taking rest stops and will be stopping for lunch (pack something to eat or eat at one of the eateries along the trails) The majority of the trails are currently more suited for mountain or hybrid bikes. You should take two water bottles or a camelback hydration type system to prevent dehydration along the way. Please send me an email to rupert2@windstream.net with your name, email address, and a phone number. I'll create a little email group for each ride and keep you informed via email as the event draws closer.</p>
Apr 24	<p>2012 Spring Rides along the Redbank and Armstrong Trails Ride #3- April 24, 2012. East Brady to Rosston. This is a repeat of Ride #1, but without the Breakfast at the Henry House Tea Room..... and we may (no, will) stop at the winery if it is open and sample some of their wares. We will also stop at the Heppenstall camp in Hooks station, but they will not be providing us with a snack on this day. We will stop again at Foxes in Kittanning for pizza and/ or ice cream. I will be coordinating with riders to create a shuttle for the day. Interested riders may meet me in the parking lot of the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission in Rosston at 8:00am. We will then carpool to East Brady and begin our ride by 9:00am. If you wish to participate in this ride, please send me an email to rupert2@windstream.net with your name, email address, and a phone number. We will be riding at a relaxed pace of around 6-8 miles per hour. We will be taking rest stops and will be stopping for lunch (pack something to eat or eat at one of the eateries along the trails) and some socialization. The majority of the trails are currently more suited for mountain or hybrid bikes. You should take two water bottles or a camelback hydration type system to prevent dehydration along the way.</p>
Apr	<p>KTA Spring Meeting & Hiking Weekend, Wellsboro, Tioga County info and signup at</p>

27 29	www.kta-hike.org
May 29 Jun 3	2012 KTA TRAIL CREW Week #1 May 29-June 3, North Country Trail The Trail Crew will be working on general trail maintenance. Camp at Davis Hollow Cabin, a frontier cabin owned by Moraine State Park. John Stehle will be the crew leader, 724.256.0674 or stehles@gmail.com .
Jul 20 22	KTA Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend, Renovo, Clinton County
Sep 8	KTA Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run, York & Lancaster Counties
Oct 12 14	KTA Fall Meeting & Hiking Weekend, Clearfield, Clearfield County



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