

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 18 Month 04

April 2012

## BOC April 4 Meeting

Please join us at 6:30 pm at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Natalie Simon is our main speaker. Our PA state parks have a rich history. Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks are working toward preserving their history, and making it available to all who are interested. Learn about the interviewing and archiving techniques, the small but dedicated volunteer force, and the stories that they are starting to gather. Natalie Simon is an Environmental Education Specialist at Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks. She has a B.S. in Biology from Grove City College, a Masters in Education from Slippery Rock University, A PA certified teacher in Secondary Biology, and K-12 Environmental Education. She and her husband Bill have raised five children (including one or two active duty military) and live in the country near New Wilmington.

We will also have a brief presentation by Dan Peden: "Dan Peden will give a brief "show and tell" about mason bees and mason bee houses. Attracting these great pollinators is very simple, and the easy to build houses make nice additions to any garden.



*Kay Thompson, Jan Berg, Dave Galbreath, Carol Bickel*

## Four BOC members head for Springer Mountain and the Appalachian Trail

March 15 is the most common date for NOBO (North Bounders) to start from Springer Mountain, GA to trek 2100+ miles to Mt Katahdin, ME.

Dave Galbreath, Jan Berg, Kay Thompson and Carol Bickel will start on April 4 to section hike the AT. Dave and Jan will hike through GA to the North Carolina line in ten days.

Carol and Kay will continue on until the first of May to Hot Springs, NC some 271.8 miles from Springer.

Carol Bickel has always wanted to hike the AT from end to end. Last summer Leo Sestini, one of the MPF captains, completed the trail by section hiking each summer over a period of ten years. Inspired by his perseverance, Carol came up with a plan to start a section hike quest of the trail in 2012. Soon others joined in on the hike. Kay Thompson stated, " I am looking forward to hiking with Carol, Jan and Dave. To be able to share the experience will be a lifetime memory." She continued by saying, "I hope to gain enough experience during the four weeks to know how to pack my backpack lighter!" Their packs weigh about 25 pounds each, and everyone is carrying their own supplies. Food for about 4-5 days will be carried before resupply.

Jan Berg is going to hike on the AT because she enjoys hiking with her friends. Jan relates, "I have never hiked on it (AT) before, and I am looking forward to the challenge of hiking and backpacking in the wilderness for several days. I started hiking trails as a child in the woods where my grandfather lived. I also hiked as a Girl Scout." Over Christmas vacation Jan hiked Diamond Head and Manoa Falls in Hawaii.

Jan and Carol recently completed all the trail sections of the NCT in PA under the guidance of John Stehle.

## Preston Conservation Area Hike

On Mar24, 2012, Steve Smith, our resident pre-park historian and hiking committee chair, lead a group of about 12 hikers on to the the Preston Conservation area of Moraine State Park. Although it was occasionally rainy, with the warmer temperature and long breaks without rain, it was not a bad day for a hike. Just a little rain gear and a good pair of boots and you should be fine. Steve took us to old homesteads and cemeteries, and one with a headstone dating back to 1837. He explained much of the history of the sites and the area. And at 9.2 miles, it was a good workout.



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## NCTA Signpost Project

All 11 Gamelands 95 signposts have been upgraded from a single "NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL" sign board to 2 "NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL" signboards ,on the signpost , back to back ,facing traffic from either direction . *Ron Rice*



## BOC Directory

### President

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Ron Rice 724.538.8475

### Rambles

Cindy Webreck

### Nature Study

Dorothy Weisburg

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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)

## 16th Annual Outdoor Extravaganza 2012 Memorial Day Weekend

It's almost time again for this great event.

Activities take place all over with a variety to pick from each day: trail, road and mt. biking, hikes of various levels, canoe and kayak trips on lakes and streams, float raft trip, horseback riding, sailing, nature walks, rock climbing and rappelling. We also have fun workshops such as: Build Your Own Sailboat, Make & Learn to Play a Canjo, Yoga, Birding, Nature Photography, Photo Hike, Wildflowers, Long Distance Hiking/Running and a canoe game called "Dead Fish Polo". We plan canoe & kayak classes. There will be excursions to historical places, bike ride through the railroad history with museum stops, demo with historic oil pump and hike, boat tour of Lake Arthur, and grist mill tours. Don't forget the children. (free registration) We have kids activities programs and family activities. There is something here for everyone! Come for the day or the whole weekend.

Activities begin 9:00 AM each day. Leaders and Instructors meet you at the campground where trip signs are set up in the campground field. They will get your group together, set up car pools, if needed, and off you go for the day!

Friday night is a Weiner/Roast picnic, followed by evening entertainment. Sat. night is a Pig Roast, followed by evening entertainment. (Sunday night dinner and entertainment as well.)

There will also be a Gear Exchange Flea Market throughout the weekend, so you may want to clean out your attic to sale or trade something you find. If you know an outfitter or outdoor store that may want to get involved, let them know.

Go to the Extravaganza website for details and to register. There is also a discount for Earlybird Registration before April 15.

(Late fee after May 15.)

[www.outdoorextravaganza.org](http://www.outdoorextravaganza.org) (Use Internet Explorer because Registration Form will not work with other browsers.)

Questions: Contact Joyce Appel 724-526-5407 or [joyceappel@windstream.net](mailto:joyceappel@windstream.net)

## Waterfowl Outing

Eight birders began the March 5 waterfowl outing, we saw Canada Geese, an Osprey, a Great Blue Heron, and some Tree Swallows at the observation deck, we moved over to the South Shore where we picked up a couple of more stragglers with the Pied Billed Grebe, Ring Billed Gull, Coots, Mallards, and Bufflehead.

At the Bear Run launch we saw Common Mergansers and a Horned Grebe. On the North Shore we saw the active Osprey nest with lots of nest building activities, and a bunch of Cormorants on Snake Island. And of course, our favorite, the Blue Bird.

After lunch, the co-leaders, along with Alice Stehle went on up to Conneaut Swamps and Pymmatuning. We got several Bald Eagles - and two active nests. We saw Ring Necked Ducks, Teal, Scaups and Shovelers. We saw Gadwalls and American Wigeons.

And for all our life lists, we saw the rather rare Eurasian Wigeon. We saw Kestrels and Yellow Legs, and Flickers and Red Bellied woodpeckers and a bunch of song birds throughout the day.

Finishing it off with dinner at Hoss's, we returned to the park after dark after a full day of birding. Now that's what I'm talk'n about!

*John Stehle*

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### Renew BOC Memberships Now!

Our BOC membership year ends in March each year. Renew by filling out the form on page 7 and mail with your check made out to the Butler Outdoor Club to Butler Outdoor Club, PO Box 321, Harrisville, Pa 16038

## BOC Sponsored Events

Apr 4	<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. Please join us April 4 at 6:30 pm at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Natalie Simon is our main speaker: "Our PA state parks have a rich history. Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks are working toward preserving their history, and making it available to all who are interested. Learn about the interviewing and archiving techniques, the small but dedicated volunteer force, and the stories that they are starting to gather. Natalie Simon is an Environmental Education Specialist at Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks. She has a B.S. in Biology from Grove City College, a Masters in Education from Slippery Rock University, A PA certified teacher in Secondary Biology, and K-12 Environmental Education. She and her husband Bill have raised five children (including one or two active duty military) and live in the country near New Wilmington."</p> <p>We will also have a brief presentation by Dan Peden: "Dan Peden will give a brief "show and tell" about mason bees and mason bee houses. Attracting these great pollinators is simple, and the easy to build houses make nice additions to any garden."</p>
Apr 18	<p>BOC Wildflower Hike at Wolfe Creek Narrows - Early arrival of spring weather has spring wildflowers blooming earlier than normal. Meet at 5:30pm at the Wolfe Creek Narrows trailhead parking area (take Water St. S from Slippery Rock, turn left past bridge over Wolfe Creek.) See Trilliums, Virginia Bluebells, etc. Dave and Jean Adams 724-453-1685. Optional dinner afterwards at NorthCountry Brewpub or Ginger Hill Tavern. If rainout will be held next day.</p>
Apr 25	<p>When you drive on Rt 422 near the South Shore exit to Moraine State Park, you can see a sign saying that the Butler Outdoor Club has adopted that section of highway. You can be proud of the fact that everyone knows that we do our part to keep the highways beautiful. On Wednesday, April 25 we will be out there with vests and gloves and trash bags picking up litter. Please come out and join us. Many hands will make the work lighter. We will meet at 5:30 PM at the South Shore interchange entrance ramp that heads back toward Butler. We will provide trash bags, gloves, vests, and grabbers. We will gather for some refreshments afterwards. If you have any questions, call John Stehle at 724-256-0674. (Wed. Apr 25 at 5:30 PM, South Shore exit of Route 422).</p>
Apr 28	<p>A 7 mile hike along the NCT from the Moraine State Park Bike Rental to the SR528 boat launch. Meet at the Jennings Education 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>
Apr May	<p>Canoe / Kayak day water trips - Joyce Appel and Paul Henry will be doing some day trips and / or scouting some of the streams for the Outdoor Extravaganza. Water level is "iffy" these months so trips can only be determined a few days before. Watch for email updates. (If you need a boat, one can be provided for a donation.)</p>
May 19	<p>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.</p>
May 25,8	<p>Annual Outdoor Extravaganza – Registration open at <a href="http://www.outdoorextravaganza.org">www.outdoorextravaganza.org</a> Paddle, bike, hike, food, entertainment, seminars, camping, smores and more!</p>

Jun 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.
<h2>Other Area Outdoor Events</h2> <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>	
Apr 1	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 Jennings'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.
Apr 6-7	Banff Film Festival - April 6-7 at Byham Theater in Pittsburgh. Great evening to watch film clips of "Extreme" outdoor related trips. Get tickets ahead or at the door. For more information on tickets contact the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust at: 412-456-6666
Apr 7	Clarion NCTA Chapter will be having it's April Hike on Saturday, April 7th. We will be hiking from Van to Fern Road. We will meet at the Country Fair convenience store at the intersection of Routes 322 & 66 at 9:00 AM. We will meet up by the air machine. The hike will be about 6.5 miles of completely flat terrain. This hike is on the Clarion Highlands Trail and Game Lands #45 Trail. These trails are taken care of by the Allegheny Valley Trails Association and the North Country Trail shares this route. If you want to come, contact Devin Callihan at (814) 319-5058 or cla@northcountrytrail.org
Apr 14	Help Needed! Moraine Preservation Fund could use your help manning the aid station at Rt 528 for the GRT ultramarathon on April 14. Two more people are needed for the morning shift from 7-10:30 am. Be the first to see the leading runners come through. If you can help email Ron at ronbolt002@zoominternet.net The Glacier Ridge Ultramarathon benefits 3MJC and MPF which benefits our local state parks and trails. Come out and cheer on runners, take photos, etc.
Apr 14	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. 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, see www.armstrongtrail.org for details.
Apr 21	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 See www.armstrongtrail.org for details.
Apr 21	SCA Crew at McConnell's Mill State Park , A Student Conservation crew from Pittsburgh will be spending the weekend working on side hill and water management

22	improvements along the six miles of the Gorge Trail at McConnell's Mill this weekend. Come out and join them in this project, or just come out to show your appreciation for their help and the volunteer work that they do. For more information contact Joe Hardisky at hardis123@msn.com .
Apr 24	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 See <a href="http://www.armstrongtrail.org">www.armstrongtrail.org</a> for details.
Apr 27-29	KTA Spring Meeting & Hiking Weekend, Wellsboro, Tioga County info and signup at <a href="http://www.kta-hike.org">www.kta-hike.org</a>
Apr 28-29	SCA Crew at McConnell's Mill State Park A Student Conservation crew from Pittsburgh will be spending the weekend working on sidehill and water management improvements along the six miles of the Gorge Trail at McConnell's Mill this weekend. Come out and join them in this project, or just come out to show your appreciation for their help and the volunteer work that they do. For questions or more information contact Joe Hardisky at hardis123@msn.com .
May 5	"Strawberry Pie Hike" at Cook Forest May 5 9:00 am contact Devin at 814 319-5058
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 <a href="mailto:stehles@gmail.com">stehles@gmail.com</a> .
Jun 2	National Trails Day hike at Cook Forest Fire tower 9:00 am contact Devin 814 319-5058
Aug 2-5	NCTA National Conference, Augusta, Michigan - Theme "Back to the Woods!" (Celebrating the Decade of the National Trails System, 2008 to 2018) Come enjoy the North Country Trail National Conference with many various hikes, workshops and excursions in Northern Michigan. For details and registration: 616-897-5987 or <a href="http://www.northcountrytrail.org">www.northcountrytrail.org</a>
Aug 10-12	Jeep Festival Comes again to Butler County Go to Butler County Tourism Convention Bureau's website for details. If you have a jeep and want to participate in an event, you can register online through the website. You must also register for the Saturday Pig Roast.  Friday 6-9 PM - Jeep Invasion (downtown Butler)  Saturday Activities 8 AM - 9 PM Raffle, Silent Auction, Show n' Shine, Mystery Road Rally, Vendor Booths, Great Pig Roast, Jeep Team Challenge, Music, Fun & Games, Fun Stuff with Butler Outdoor Club  Sunday Activities 8 AM - 3 PM Raffle, Silent Auction, Vendor Booths, Ruff n' Tuff, Show n' Shine, Fun Stuff with Butler Outdoor Club

# Butler Outdoor Club Membership Form

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Date

Mail to: [Butler Outdoor Club, PO Box 321 Harrisville, PA. 16038](#)

Renewals are due **March 1** each year. **PLEASE PRINT**

Annual dues are **\$20 family, \$15 individual** plus \$10 for news letter via US mail if desired. (circle applicable)  
 Make checks payable to [Butler Outdoor Club](#)

Send my newsletter via US mail (for an additional \$10) \_\_\_ or via e mail \_\_\_ and trip updates via email \_ Y or N

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship	Phone (H)	Phone (W)	Cell Phone

e mail	
e mail 2	

Privacy Policy: We do not distribute membership lists to outside organizations. This information is for internal club use in mailing newsletters, brochures, questionnaires and for use by club officers and outing leaders.

Address: Street or P.O. Box	City	State	Zip+4

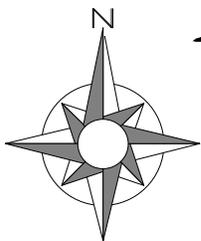
Name of person to notify in case of emergency	Relationship	Phone Number

I would like to participate in these activities													I would like to help in these areas:														
Backpack	Road Bike	Trail Bike	Canoe	Kayak	Sail	Car aCamp	Cave	Bird Watch	Nature Even	Cross Country S	Snowshoe	Orienteer	Trailwork	Ice Skating	Down Hill Sk	Membership	Newsletter	Picnics	Monthly Progr	Lead Outings	Other	Fund Raising	Special Even	Annual Dinne	Setup Before	Meetings	

<p><b>Please read the following assumption of risk and liability waver very carefully.</b></p> <p><b>IN CONSIDERATION</b> of being permitted to join the Butler Outdoor Club and participate in its activities, I, _____, for myself, my personal representatives, heirs, and next of kin hereby acknowledge, agree, and represent that I fully understand that most BOC activities, including but not limited to, white water, rock fall, avalanches, crevasses, exposure to severe weather, crowning, equipment failure, and the misuse of equipment by myself and others, could result in my suffering serious bodily injury and/or death and <b>I HEREBY I. RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE.</b> Butler Outdoor Club, its instructors and or participants in any teaching activities, and/or of the individual officers or members of BOC (hereinafter collectively referred to as "releases" from all liability to me. my personal representatives, assigns, heirs and next of kin for any and all loss or damage, and any claims or demands therefore on account of injury to my person or property or resulting in my death whether caused by the negligence of the releases or otherwise while participating in any activities conducted by BOC and/or any of its individual members. <b>2. AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE. AND HOLD HARMLESS</b> the releases and each of them from any loss. liability, damage, or cost they may</p>	<p><b>By signing this application you are agreeing to all provisions, implied or otherwise, of the waiver.</b></p> <p>incur due to my participating in any way in any activities conducted by BOC and/or any of its individual members whether caused by the negligence of the releases or otherwise. <b>3. ASSUME FULL RES'ONSIBILITY FOR AND RISK OF BODIHY INJURY, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE</b> due to the negligence or releases or otherwise while participating in any way in any activity conducted by BOC and/or any of its individual members. I further expressly agree that the foregoing release. waiver and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and if any portion thereof is invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall. not withstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.</p> <p><b>I HERBY WARRANT THAT I HAVE READ AND VOLUNTARY SIGNED THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, AND FURTHER AGREE THAT NO ORAL REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OR INDUCEMENTS APART FROM THE FORGOING AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ / / Signature(s) (Assumption of risk must be signed) <span style="float: right;">Date</span></p>
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BOC Preston Conservation Area Hike



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