

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 18 Month 12

December 2012

BOC Dec 5 Meeting

Please join us at 6:00 pm at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. when our annual Christmas music and white elephant grab bag night. Bring a covered dish to share and a \$5.00 gift.



History of the Christmas Bird Count

Prior to the turn of the century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt": They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages around the turn of the 20th century, and many were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them.

So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the enthusiasm of twenty-seven dedicated birders, twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Ontario to California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those Counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined.

Dinner Thank You

Thank you everyone who helped and all who attended the BOC annual dinner. Thanks to all who donated and bought auction items at the dinner.

After expenses, we had a net profit of \$1041 which will help finance our club throughout the year.

Dick and Sue Boettner were presented with the Outstanding Outdoor Contribution Award for their years of hard work on the North Country Trail and at Moraine State Park.



Upcoming BOC Events

Sat Dec 15 - annual Christmas Bird Count - meet 7:30am at the end of Swamp Road in Moraine State Park . Afterward, we will go to Steve and Carol Bickel's for some hot chili. Call John Stehle 724.256.0674.

Tue Jan 1 - Annual New Years Day Picnic 12 noon McDanel's - Bring hot covered dish or drink to share. Come prepared to Hike. We have teamed up with the park to lead a First Day Hike along the Glacier Ridge Trail of approx. 5 miles from 1:30 to 4 pm from the North Shore Bike Rental to Link Rd Shelters.

Outdoor News

Our grant from the American Hiking Society has been approved for a trail work week at Moraine State Park in May, 2013.

DCNR Trail Extension Grant

North Country Trail Association, Inc. /Butler Chapter was awarded a \$19,200 grant from PRT (Pennsylvania Recreational Trails – federal funds), for the further development of the North Country National Scenic Trail, Muddycreek and Worth townships, to include the construction of approximately 0.5 miles of trail and a 52-foot bridge over Muddy Creek in Moraine State Park; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.

NCTA Rendezvous

The NCTA national rendezvous will be held August 12-17, 2013 at Slippery Rock University. Hikes, Tours, Workshops, Water Trips, Bike Rides, and other Fun Activities. Volunteers are needed to help at registration, lead hikes, outings, etc. Contact Joyce Appel to volunteer 724.5265407.

Wilderness Lodge Skiing

Wilderness Lodge Weekends will be Jan 4,5,6 2013 and Jan 25,26,27. Contact Joyce Appel 724.526.5407.



BOC Directory

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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

follow us on facebook at
www.facebook.com/butleroutdoorclub

BOC Sponsored Events

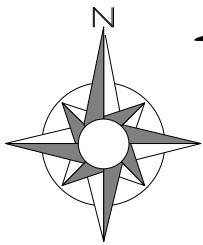
Dec 2	Take advantage of a 1 day break in the deer hunting season. The weatherman is calling for warmer temperatures with a chance of rain. Meet at the NCT trailhead on Rt 528 - 1 mile north of the 528 bridge over Lake Arthur (about 4 miles north of Rt 422) at 12:30pm, Sunday Dec 2, 2012. I plan to walk north for about an hour and return - total 2 hours - we will probably make it to West Liberty Road.
Dec 5	Please join us at 6:00 pm at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. when our annual Christmas music and white elephant grab bag night. Bring a covered dish to share and a \$5.00 gift.
Dec 15	Sat Dec 15 - annual Christmas Bird Count - meet 7:30am at the end of Swamp Road in Moraine State Park . Afterward, we will go to Steve and Carol Bickel's for some hot chili. Call John Stehle 724.256.0674 to register.
Jan 1	Annual New Years Day Picnic 12 noon McDanel's - Bring hot covered dish or drink to share. Come prepared to XC-Ski, Hike, Bike, etc depending on weather.
Jan 1	We have teamed up with the park to lead a First Day Hike of approx. 5 miles from 1:30 to 4 pm from the Bike Rental to Link Rd Shelters.

Other Area Outdoor Activities and Events

	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.
Jan 18 20	Warren County Winterfest 1/18/2013 - 1/20/2013 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST Chapman State Park 4790 Chapman Dam Road Clarendon PA 16313 The PA Wilds' largest winter event kicks off Friday with the Jim Lobdell Memorial Sled Dog Races. Weekend events will include, sledding, ice skating, ice fishing, free cross country ski rentals, free snow shoe rentals, geocaching, cardboard box sled race, tails of the tundra dog rescue, canine weight pulls, horse drawn wagon rides, food and craft vendors and much more! This year's Polar Bear Plunge is being held Saturday at 3 pm. Come out and celebrate winter with us. Sponsors Warren County Winterfest Contact Email Warren.county.winterfest@verizon.net More Info http://www.warrencountywinterfest.com
Jan 19	MPF will be sponsoring the third annual Winterfest at Moraine State Park January 19. Winter events include demonstrations, winter sports activities and the big chili cook-off. See more info on their website www.MorainePreservationFund.org
Apr 13	2013 Glacier Ridge Trail Ultramarathons and Trail Race - 50 miles; 50k; 30k trail runs on the trails at Moraine State Park and Jennings ELC. Proceeds benefit projects in our parks through Moraine Preservation Fund and 3MJC.
Apr 26 28	KTA Spring Meeting & Hiking Weekend: April 26-28, 2013, Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingman's Ferry, Pike County, PA. Registration starts February 1, 2013.
Jul 19 21	10th Annual Prowl the Sproul Camping and Hiking Weekend: July 19-21, 2013, Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, Renovo, Clinton County, PA. Registration starts May 1, 2013.
Aug 12 17	North Country Trail Rendezvous at Slippery Rock, Pa - Hikes, Tours, Workshops, Water Trips, Bike Rides, and Fun Activities
Sep 7	5th Annual Susquehanna Super Hike & Ultra Trail Run: September 7, 2013, Lancaster/York Counties, PA. Registration starts February 1, 2013.



Happy Holidays



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