

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 19 Month 4

April 2013

## Outdoor Extravaganza May 24-27

Activities include trail, road & mountain biking, sailing, rafting, caving, horseback riding, rock climbing, canoeing or kayaking on lakes & streams, hikes, nature walks, photo hike, geology hike, and Kids Activities.

Workshops: Photography, Make & Play Canjo, Rock Painting, Yoga, Uke It Up, Windsurfing, and Wilderness Survival.

Excursions: Providence Plantation, Meadowcroft, Boat Tours and Hilarious Extreme Croquet.

Breakneck Campground is base camp.

Activities begin 9:00 AM each day and leaders escort you to where trip takes place. Breakfasts, bag lunches, dinners and camping provided, but optional.

Friday evening Weiner Roast Picnic, Astronomy Program & Star Gazing Party by AAAP.

Saturday evening "Pig Roast" with Front Porch Folk & their amazing instruments.

Sunday Reptile Program by Tascow Inc. Evening campfires, storytelling, "smores" & campfire entertainment by Jim Sorenson.

Throughout the weekend a gear exchange/ flea market will be set up, so join us to buy or sell.

This weekend is a must!

[www.outdoorextravaganza.org](http://www.outdoorextravaganza.org) for details and registration.

## BOC April 3 Meeting

Please join us at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. at 6:30 pm, 7:30pm announcements, program to follow: The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is transforming 460 acres of abandoned mining land—just 20 minutes west of the city—into a world-class botanic garden, including 18 distinct gardens, five diverse woodland experiences and a visitor's center. Please join us as Kitty Vagley describes the history, current status and future plans for the botanic garden.

Kitty Vagley has served as the Director of Development for the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden since January, 2011. Previously, she spent 14 years in the same role for a small human services non-profit. Kitty began her development career as one of three volunteer directors of the Oakmont Boulevard Project. She likens the development of the Botanic Garden to a gigantic Boulevard Project. Kitty is a native Pittsburgher and is proud to contribute to bringing such a green asset to the region.



## Beaver Creek State Park Hike

Had an excellent 12± mile hike at Beaver Creek State Park (Ohio) on March 10, 2013. We hiked sections of the Sandy & Beaver Canal tow path. One trail section required scrambling down a 10' ladder. Saw: 8 canal locks (some in ruins and some that could be made operational with very little effort), 1 with its' associated dam partially intact; a partially reconstructed section of canal; an abandoned saw mill; 3 mason marks ; ruins of various canal related structures; an abandoned cut stone well; a rehabbed 1910 truss bridge and an 1872 single span cut stone (arch) bridge.; a 19<sup>th</sup> century, cut stone, 4 story, water powered mill; Site of an abandoned 19<sup>th</sup> century village (located along the canal); twice we got to within 80' to 100' of a mature bald eagle (sitting in a tree along the river).

Also saw the location where Pretty Boy Floyd was killed. It is about 5 miles outside the park.



## BOC Directory

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### Rambles

### Nature Study

Dorothy Weisberg

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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)**

follow us on facebook at  
**[www.facebook.com/butleroutdoorclub](http://www.facebook.com/butleroutdoorclub)**

Butler Outdoor Club Waterfowl watching day at Moraine State Park - on March 23, 2013.

With winter still stubbornly holding on in Western PA, it looked like our plan for a big waterfowl day was a little premature. It turns out that many birds are just waiting to make the big push up north, but they can't get ahead of the frozen water up north. So lake Arthur looked like a crowded avian airport where all the passengers flights are cancelled until the weather breaks at their destination.

Our group started with 9 frozen observers. For the viewers, it was a cold day, and a bit breezy, but beautifully clear. The water at the observation deck was almost all covered with ice, and we could see only a few Canada Geese and Mallards. One goose was plodding through the lake like an icebreaker. Then almost like an apparition, we saw three Sandhill Cranes on the little peninsula of reeds that juts out into the lake. I have never seen, nor heard of, these birds being seen at Moraine. That was enough to make it a good start to the day.

We headed up North to the Mt Zion Church launch area, and we were rewarded with a sight on hundreds of ducks in the ice restricted open water. There were Redheaded Ducks, and Scaup, both Lesser and Greater, we think. There were Red Breasted Mergansers and Hooded Mergansers. There were Wood Ducks and Coots, and a Common Golden Eye. And there were Ruddy Ducks and Bufflehead, and the Horned Grebe. And finally the Ring-necked Duck and Ring-billed Gull. And the morning light coming in from the east made them all look brilliant.

We then moved on to the South Shore where many of the above species were seen, along with some nice new ones. From the swimming area we could see an immature Bald Eagle across the water on the edge of the ice, standing near a Great Blue Heron. From up on lookout point we saw hundreds more ducks and a few Common Loons, always a welcome sight. Moving around to Bear Run launch there were more of the same, and a very special and rare sighting of 3 Surf Scoters. This was a life list bird for everyone present. On the way out of the park, a pair of Osprey were spotted flying around in unison, having returned from some southern vacation.

A small remnant of the group then made it over to the other side of the 422 bridge and walked to the shore along the Old 422 road bed. They were rewarded with Canvas Back Ducks, and the Pintails, along with many of the previous mentioned species. When we returned to the original location at the observation deck to get to our cars, the Cranes had left, but now there were Tree Swallows.

All in all, a fine day for bird watching.

Photo by participant Jerry McNeill.

Viewers:

Jerry McNeill

Tom Baumgardner

Rayanne Aiken

Rick Beck

Mark Smith

Ken Roosa

Dorothy Weisberg

John Stehle

Brian, the intern from Moraine State Park and Slippery Rock University



North Country Trail Association  
Annual Conference  
August 12-17, 2013  
Slippery Rock University



The North Country National Scenic Trail – 4600 miles through 7 northern states, is proud to showcase and celebrate our Pennsylvania miles as we host our annual conference this year at Slippery Rock University, August 12-17, 2013. Come join the celebration! We will be offering 6 fun-filled days of great activities!

**Workshops** on trail building, wilderness navigation, outdoor photography, back country first aid, camp cooking, and more!

**Hikes** on the North Country National Scenic Trail and in great places like McConnell Mills State Park, Clear Creek State Forest, Moraine State Park, Todd Nature Reserve, and more!

**Other Great Outdoor Adventures** including sailing, kayaking, caving, geocaching, biking, horseback riding, rock climbing and more!

**Historical and Cultural Events** like visits to area museums, historical re-enactments and living history tours, boat excursions, train rides, and more!



Go to [northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/conf/](http://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/conf/)  
For more details and to register for this exciting event!

<b>BOC Sponsored Events</b>	
Apr 3	<p>Our monthly meetings are 6:30 pm social hour, 7:30 pm announcements and 8:00 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>Please join us Wednesday April 3 when Kitty Vagley describes the history, current status and future plans for the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is transforming 460 acres of abandoned mining land "just 20 minutes west of the city " into a world-class botanic garden, including 18 distinct gardens, five diverse woodland experiences and a visitor 's center. Kitty Vagley has served as the Director of Development for the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden since January, 2011. Previously, she spent 14 years in the same role for a small human services non-profit. Kitty began her development career as one of three volunteer directors of the Oakmont Boulevard Project. She likens the development of the Botanic Garden to a gigantic Boulevard Project. Kitty is a native Pittsburgher and is proud to contribute to bringing such a green asset to the region.</p>
Apr 7	Schollards Run Wetland Hike. Meet noon at Rt 208 and Brent Rd Trailhead (just East of Rt 19 and 208) Easy 4 mile hike along an abandoned railroad right of way through ponds, marshes and wetlands. Dave and Jean Adams 724-453-1685.
May 24 27	BOC Outdoor Extravaganza - We have a weekend full of various outdoor activities: Trail, road & mountain biking, canoeing or kayaking on lakes and streams, rafting, rock climbing, sailing, horseback riding, nature walks, various levels of hikes as well as historical and fun excursions, workshops and family activities.
<b>Other Area Outdoor Activities and Events</b>	
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.	
Apr 6	Clarion Co. NCT monthly hike April 6 at 10:00 am, hiking from Rt 66 to Amsler Springs. Meet at intersection Rt. 66 and Rt. 36 in Leeper.
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 (\$10-12,000 annually) benefit projects in our parks through Moraine Preservation Fund and 3MJC. Volunteer to help at an aid station; photograph runners or just cheer them on.
Apr 26 28	Explore the Poconos with KTA! From April 26th to April 28th, 2013, Keystone Trails Association (KTA) members, members of KTA's trail maintaining clubs, and hikers from across Pennsylvania and surrounding states will be able to enjoy hiking, activities, meals, meetings, and camaraderie at our annual Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend. Base camp will be at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) in Dingman's Ferry, Pike County, PA. In addition to challenging, longer hikes, short, easy and kid-friendly options will also be offered each day. Goto <a href="http://www.kta-hike.org">http://www.kta-hike.org</a> for more information.
May 13 17	Attention Trail builders and volunteers! Help is needed creating a new trail at Moraine State Park. Sign up to help one day, a couple days, or all week. Contact Carol Bickel at <a href="mailto:cbickel@zoominternet.net">cbickel@zoominternet.net</a> to sign up or get more info. Project Information: Volunteers will take part in developing a 2 ½ mile new trail segment from Election House Road to

	<p>the church at Route 528 in Moraine State Park. This segment will allow connectivity with the eastern trail system (North Country Club Road unit) and allow for extension of the Glacier Ridge Trail for a potential trail around Lake Arthur. This segment will be closed to horses and designed to prevent motorized ATV access. Several bridges and/or puncheons will be utilized for traversing the wet sections.</p>
Jun 1	<p>Rally on the River 2013 • Upper Shenango River Water Trail Lower Reach (8 miles, Class One) Riverside Park/Greenville to Shenango Valley RV Park/Transfer, PA Time: First Shuttle departs RV Park at 8:15 a.m. last run, 9:30 a.m. Shuttle-Lunch-live music Fun Bird Watching While Afloat contest. T-Shirt for winners! \$25 Gasoline debit card for paddler driving farthest. Fee: \$10 contribution for river maintenance. No preregistration required. For more info, call Hugh Clark 724 927 9483 or email at greengrass@windstream.net Face Book Shenango River Watchers •</p>
Jun 7	<p>Allegheny 100 challenge. Saturday, June 7th - June 9th Allegheny 100 Challenge The Challenge is hiking a 100 miles in 2 days, actually 50 hours. If the hiker cannot commit to the 100-mile challenge, then they can still participate in a 25-mile or 50-mile or 75-mile, offered that weekend along the same trail. The Allegheny 100 Challenge is the ultimate hiking challenge. This is a decisive endurance challenge, thru hiking not biking. Set at an individual pace, not a race with others but test of one's stamina, determination and resilience. Remembering this is an unsupported hike, no first aid stations and no watering stations. Registration opening February 1st. Donation \$40 Registration on-line @ <a href="http://www.northcountrytrail.org">www.northcountrytrail.org</a> Congressman "GT" Thompson will speak at the event and will release the hikers @6pm</p>
Jul 19-21	<p>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.</p>
Aug 12-17	<p>North Country Trailfest at Slippery Rock, Pa - Hikes, Tours, Workshops, Excursions, Water Trips, Bike Rides, and Fun Activities</p>
Sep 7	<p>5th Annual Susquehanna Super Hike &amp; Ultra Trail Run: September 7, 2013, Lancaster/York Counties, PA. Registration starts February 1, 2013.</p>
Oct 18-23	<p>NCTA TRIP October 18-23, 2013 The NCTA is pleased to offer its membership a guided backpacking trip on the North Country Trail through Pennsylvania's gorgeous Allegheny National Forest. October 18-23, 2013, and the cost is \$295 per person. This 45 mile excursion will occur during the fall. Highlights include the spectacular cliffs, boulders and crevasses in the Minister Creek area, old growth hemlock and beech forest in Tionesta Scenic Area, and excellent views of the Allegheny Reservoir. The ANF lies on the Allegheny Plateau and is cut by numerous creeks which result in many ascents and descents along the trail. However, no climb is higher than 500 feet. Limited to eight participants plus two leaders, this trip is suitable for experienced backpackers as well as novices who are in reasonably good shape. Participants must provide their own tent, sleeping bag, and backpack although a limited number are available to rent. The trip is led by NCTA volunteers Paul Shaw and Todd Lange. Both are graduates of the National Outdoor Leadership School, have more than 25 years combined guide experience, and are the owners of an adventure travel business, Treks &amp; Trails International. The deadline for reservations is August 1. To register, or for more information, contact trip leader: Paul Shaw, 155 Mowery Lane, Sunbury PA 17801 pshaw@ptd.net 717-215-8339</p>

# Butler Outdoor Club Membership Form

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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

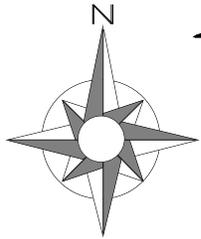
Name of person to notify in case of emergency	Relationship	Phone Number

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 BODHIY 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 Allegany State Park Weekend Fun*



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**Harrisville, PA 16038**