

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 19 Month 8

August 2013



## For those who haven't attended a NCTA Conference and a reminder for those who have:

At the Conference, on **Friday Night August 16th**, the Bruce E. Matthews, Executive Director of the North Country Trail Association, will take **Roll Call for State and the Chapters of each State**. Individually, he asks for each **Chapter by NAME, in each State attendance, to stand**.

It would be ideally, to have **ALL Chapter Members, present and standing!!!** This would show **Solidarity!!!** So, we are asking, **at least** on this evening, to please attend.

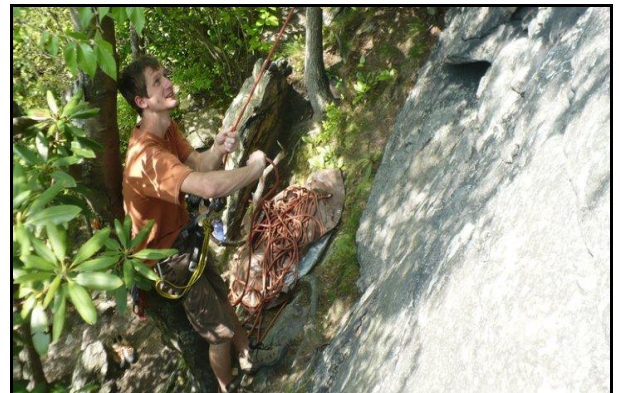
**Registration is still open!** Activity information is at [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org). Click on the conference logo. After reviewing the activities call 866-445-3628 to register. Please note that campus dorm rooms and meals are no longer available.

See page 3 for an activity summary for the conference which runs from Monday August 12 through Saturday August 17.

There is something for everyone. Workshops, outings, excursions, paddles, hiking, birding, trailwork, historic sites, museums, horseback rides, bicycle rides, fireworks, dinners, awards, and more!

## BOC August 7 Meeting

Please join us 6:30pm at the Butler YMCA at our BOC August 7 meeting which will feature a program on the past, present, and future uses of plants, an introduction to ethnobotany, the study of the interrelationship between plants and people. The cultural uses of plants is both diverse and expansive, across time and space. We will lay the groundwork for the preservation of distinct natural resources. Chris Massimino, a resident of Pittsburgh, PA, graduated from Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Maryland, with a major in Ethnobotany. Frostburg is one of two schools who offer such a major in the country. The focus of ethnobotany in our area is on the natural resource management of rural Appalachia, an inquiry into the health of the peoples of this area. He is delighted to be positioned at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, working on the development of our regions first outdoor botanic garden, building trails, removing invasive plants, and inspiring the public to learn ethnobotany.





Join Us for the 2013 NCTA Annual Conference! Registration by phone!

Dear Butler Outdoor Club

In just over a month our Pennsylvania NCTA Chapters will be hosting the annual North Country Trail Association Membership Conference in Slippery Rock, PA. This year's conference will be a couple days longer than usual, to accommodate an outstanding variety of hikes, activities and excursions celebrating the unique natural beauty and cultural and historic landscapes of the Butler County area. We hope your summer plans include joining us. Come for the week, or just a day or two... but do come!

Please go to the [website Conference page](#) to print off the [registration form](#) and [schedule of events](#).

The good thing is you don't need to wait--you can register today! Which in itself is a good thing because in addition to sponsoring our NCTA conference August 12-17, Butler, PA is hosting the International Pyrotechnics Guild annual convention. Fireworks will be plentiful although hotel rooms likely will not be (though there's plenty of room at our dormitory.) Hope to see you at the Rock!

For the Trail,

Bruce E. Matthews  
Executive Director  
North Country Trail Association



## 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)

Session	Monday Aug 12	Tuesday Aug 13	Wednesday Aug 14	Thursday Aug 15	Friday Aug 16	Saturday Aug 17
Full Day 8:45 am – 4:00 pm	49 Trailwork	49 Trailwork	49 Trailwork	49 Trailwork	49 Trailwork	
		59 Glacier Ridge Hike	61 Hells Hollow Hike	59 Glacier Ridge Hike		61 Hells Hollow Hike
	60 Historic Well Hike	62 Clear Ck. Hike	63 Glass Blow Hike	64 Parker Hike	66 Wampum Hike	65 Hell & Back Hike
		82 Shenango, Beaver	86 Harmony, Economy	83 Museum, Train	68 No Bike, Yes Hike	81 Mill, Segway, BikeT
				85 Meadowcroft	87 Aviary-Science Ctr	84 Canoe Sl.RockCr.
					88 Aviary-History	89 Local Excursion
Half Day 8:45 am - Noon	29 National Rd. Show	36 Volunteers -Aliens	30 Dutch Oven+Cabin	31 Taste of History	32 Tr.Meal + Cabin	33 Backcountry Med
	38 Organics+Garden	50 Neighborhood Hike	34 Field Station	50 Neighborhood Hike	35 Disc Golf	52 Short Hike, CookStop
	40 Trailwork	40 Trailwork		40 Trailwork	40 Trailwork	39 Griphoist Rocks
		51 Wolfe Ck. Hike	37 Eco Tours	51 Wolfe Ck. Hike		51 Wolfe Ck. Hike
	70 Sailing	75 Canoe Game	73 Rock Climb	70 Sailing	69 NCT Plane Ride	69 NCT Plane Ride
				74 Kayak Moraine	72 Birding Jennings	71 Birding Moraine
Half Day 1:00 – 4:00 pm	1 Animal Park	41 Isaac Rose + Cabin	43 Hold? or Fold?	42 Bluebirds	46 Landscape/Oh deer	44 Geocache Hike
	53 Photo Hike	58 Shelter-Cabin Hike	45 Geocache Hunt	56 Kildoo Loop Hike	48 GPS 101	56 Kildoo Loop Hike
		76 Extreme Croquet	54 Moraine Hike	57 Schollards Hike	54 Moraine Hike	54 Moraine Hike
		77 Bike Moraine	80 Maridon Museum	77 Bike Moraine	55 Sustainability	77 Bike Moraine
	78 Horseback Ride	78 Horseback Ride		78 Horseback Ride	79 Nautical Nature	47 Griphoist Rocks
8:45 am – 10:15 am	8 Hummingbirds		9 VIP + Injury Report		7 Hike NCT Discuss	
	10 Work in N. Forests		11 Chapter Leadership		12 Meet Mark (NPS)	
	13 Photography		15 Filling the Gaps		14 Plan a Long Hike	
	16 Local Land Trusts		18 Marketing		17 Common Goals	
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	20 Wild. Emergency		2 Nature Rock Paint		22 Mapping System	
	21 Trail Protection		19 Fire Craft		19 Fire Craft	
2:45 pm – 4:15 pm	26 Land. Negotiation		23 Forestry+Conserve.		25 TrailbuildingAfrica	
	28 Outreach in Pa.		24 Uke It Up		27 ChapterFundraising	
<b>Kids and Parents</b>						
10:30 am – 12:00pm						
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	1 Animal Park (1-4)	Fun Time (Dorm Patio)	2 RockPaint (1-2:30)	3 Hike,Story,Craft	4 Nature Walk, Lunch Break, Nature Program	5 Explore a Stream 6 Scavenger Hunt
<b>Adults</b>						
4:00 pm – 6:30 pm			90 Beer, Wine Tasting			

## BOC Sponsored Events

Aug 7	<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.</p> <p>Each meeting includes outing announcements, a featured speaker and slide show or outdoor educational program and is open to the public. Our August meeting features a program on the past, present, and future uses of plants, an introduction to ethnobotany, the study of the interrelationship between plants and people. The cultural uses of plants is both diverse and expansive, across time and space. We will lay the groundwork for the preservation of distinct natural resources. Chris Massimino, a resident of Pittsburgh, PA, graduated from Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Maryland, with a major in Ethnobotany. Frostburg is one of two schools who offer such a major in the country. The focus of ethnobotany in our area is on the natural resource management of rural Appalachia, an inquiry into the health of the peoples of this area. He is delighted to be positioned at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, working on the development of our regions first outdoor botanic garden, building trails, removing invasive plants, and inspiring the public to learn ethnobotany.</p>
Aug 17	<p>Lets meet at 6PM at the Freeport boat ramp to kayak for about 45 min to an hour down the Allegheny River and back. I'd like to get back to the ramp by 8:15PM (sunset or shortly after), which means leaving sometime before 8:45PM by the time boats are on vehicles. Feel free to turn around sooner if you like- just let us know. This section of the Allegheny River runs through a deep valley (just below Harrison Hills Park). Since we will be paddling down river first- depending on current- plan to be conservative with the amount of time spend paddling out since the return will be a bit slower- going upriver. If we get near lock 4 (Natrona Heights) we will turn around. Parking is on the street, and sometimes a few blocks from the boat access. I recommend pulling into the boat ramp to unload your boat, and then parking. Do not stay parked on the boat ramp. I am not sure of the sticker requirements- I suspect this is a community and not (PA) boat access. I recommend bringing something to drink, an extra layer if it is cool, and a light (just incase). I should have an extra light or two to borrow if needed. Written Directions from the Pittsburgh Area Take Route 28 to Exit 16 (Natrona Heights/ Freeport)- about 25 Miles Northeast of the City. Turn right off the ramp onto Bakerstown Road, then make a left on Freeport Road. Follow Freeport road to the bottom of long hill and turn right onto a bridge crossing over a small creek. I believe it is Buffalo Street. Turn right onto 128 after crossing the Bridge. 128 becomes 2nd street. Follow 2nd Street to Riverside Drive and turn left. The community Boat access will be on the right (within a few blocks). If you get to an intersection where the road turns left and the right road is dirt you've gone a little too far and will have to loop around on the next road away from the river. When on Riverside Road look for boat launch- the address here is approximate since this boat launch is not shown on a map, and I selected about where I saw it. Call Mike Ciccone if you have questions at 724-584-8045 The trip will run unless there is lightning. Check weather or call if in doubt</p>
Aug 21	<p>Mark your calendar now for this year's annual miniature golf outing scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2013; rain date will be August 28, 2013. We will meet at Eracer's on Route 68 near Butler around 6:30 p.m., or whenever you can get there. We always have a great time. Everyone is welcome to join us afterward at King Kone for ice cream if you wish. If you have any questions, call Jan at 724 867-0261. Hope to see you there!</p>
Aug 23	<p>BOC Full Moon Paddle - Friday August 23, 2013. 7:00 pm Meet at McDaniel's launch North Shore Moraine State Park Experience the magic of kayaking at night with a almost full moon. Come enjoy a beautiful sunset and moonrise with the Butler Outdoor Club Bring your kayak and a flashlight and we will paddle off into the night. Contact Dorothy at dotweisberg@zoominternet. for additional information.</p>

# 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.

Aug Historic Gristmill Hours The 19th century gristmill is the centerpiece of McConnell's Mill State Park. The Historic Gristmill at McConnells Mill State Park will be open for viewing and tours Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays through October. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interpretive tours of the historic mill, which last approximately 45 minutes, will be available on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays at 1:00 and 3:00 pm Additional tours for groups may be scheduled by calling 724 368-3612.

Aug 10 17 2nd Annual Connoquenessing Creek Clean-Up Celebration begins 8am at the Beacon Hotel. Food will be provided for the volunteers along with a commemorative T-Shirt, and an after-cleanup event with food and music. This year's cleanup, sponsored by Allegheny Aquatic Alliance, will span from Zelienople to Butler, near the AK Steel Plant. In addition to volunteers, the group is looking for pickup trucks to haul the trash, nonmotorized boats, refreshments, food, gloves, hip waders, pry bars, rope, chains, sledgehammers and other items. For details on the project, or to donate, contact alliance president Christina Handley at 724-371-0416 or alleghenyaquaticalliance@hotmail.com.

Aug 10 Moraine State Park Program: History at the Hollow Saturday, August 10, 2013 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Enjoy a taste of historic Pennsylvania Dutch recipes prepared outdoors and tour the 200 year old Davis Hollow Cabin throughout the day. Learn about the Harmonists, Benedictine Monks, breweries, gristmills, the making of sauerkraut, rye bread, roasted pork, and Dutch oven cooking from Stan the Man, gristmill baker. The Davis Hollow Cabin, the PA headquarters of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA), is located at the end of North Shore Drive in Moraine State Park, and is open for tours all day from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Aug 13 Settler's Ridge REI Backpacking Basics II: What's Inside Your Pack 8/13/2013 Settler's Ridge REI Free Time: 7:00 - 8:30 PM EDT Leader: REI Specialist Group Size: 20 Description: So you have your backpack loaded with all the "necessary" items for your next backpacking trip. Still think you might be carrying too much? Join REI for this small group session on how to cut weight, carry the essentials and tailor your gear to best suit your needs. In this hands-on class, bring in your personal pack and gear and we will go through the items you take with you when backpacking and do a group "shake-down" on gear. You will receive the small group attention you need to really perfect your packing system. Goto this link to register: <http://www.rei.com/event/48245/session/71966>

Aug 21 Moraine State Park Program: Full Moon Paddle 7:30pm. For additional paddle dates, and for more information on the above programs, visit [www.visitPAParks.com](http://www.visitPAParks.com). Participants may bring their own kayak (lifejacket required), or borrow one of Moraine's kayaks and equipment free of charge. Please register using our Event Calendar at [visitpaparks.com](http://visitpaparks.com) or by calling the park at 724-368-8811. Please specify if you are bringing your own kayak. Participants must be at least 9 years of age. An adult must accompany those participants that are under the age of 18. **DUE TO INCREASED INTEREST, PARTICIPATION IN PARK KAYAK PROGRAMS IS LIMITED TO 2 PROGRAMS PER SEASON.** More paddles will be added soon. Keep an eye on the Event Calendar.

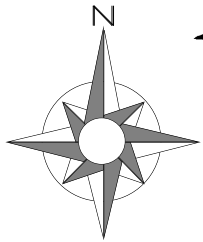
Aug 24 McConnells Mill State Park Program: Native Plants for your Garden Saturday, August 24 2:00-3:30 p.m. Kildoo Picnic Area Penn State Master Gardeners from Lawrence County will showcase the native plant garden in the courtyard by the historic gristmill. They will talk about the benefits of gardening with native plants, some habitats in our local area, and answer your gardening questions. Then, join in a guided walk to see wildflowers blooming. Meet the master gardeners beside the mill at 2:00 pm. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area, and allow time to walk down to the mill. Accessible parking is available at the gristmill.

Aug 24 Moraine State Park Program: August 24 9:00 a.m. " Learn to Paddle For additional paddle dates, and for more information on the above programs, visit [www.visitPAParks.com](http://www.visitPAParks.com). Participants may bring their own kayak (lifejacket required), or borrow one of Moraine's kayaks and equipment free of charge. Please register using our Event Calendar at [visitpaparks.com](http://visitpaparks.com) or by calling the park at 724-368-8811. Please

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Aug 27	<p>Moraine State Park Program: August 27 9:00 a.m. Silver Paddle For additional paddle dates, and for more information on the above programs, visit <a href="http://www.visitPAparks.com">www.visitPAparks.com</a>. Participants may bring their own kayak (lifejacket required), or borrow one of Moraine's kayaks and equipment free of charge. Please register using our Event Calendar at <a href="http://visitpaparks.com">visitpaparks.com</a> or by calling the park at 724-368-8811. Please specify if you are bringing your own kayak. Participants must be at least 9 years of age. An adult must accompany those participants that are under the age of 18. DUE TO INCREASED INTEREST, PARTICIPATION IN PARK KAYAK PROGRAMS IS LIMITED TO 2 PROGRAMS PER SEASON. More paddles will be added soon. Keep an eye on the Event Calendar.</p>
Aug 30	<p>Moraine State Park Program: Stargazing Party Friday, August 30 8:00 p.m. North Shore Bike Rental The night sky holds many mysterious and magical sights. Join the park naturalist and members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh (AAAP) (<a href="http://www.3ap.org/">http://www.3ap.org/</a>) and the Kiski Astronomers Group for a hands-on star gazing party at the bike rental station on the North Shore of Moraine State Park. AAAP will have several telescopes to try out and will provide its expert guidance to locate many interesting sights in the night sky. We will also view a presentation of pictures from the cosmos. Come out and join in with this informative and fun program. Bring a blanket, chairs, bug protection and snacks and plan for a great night at Moraine.</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>
Sep 28-29	<p>21st Annual McConnells Mill Heritage Festival Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29 11:00 a.m. -- 6:00 p.m. History is in motion at the 21st Annual Heritage Festival at McConnells Mill State Park. The festival celebrates the operational time period of the historical gristmill from 1852 to 1928, and costumed vendors will display crafts inspired by this time. Bluegrass music and free tours of the mill will be offered. The historic gristmill houses the fascinating machinery that ground the grain for the community surrounding Slippery Rock Gorge. A civil war encampment brings history to life, and artisans &amp; craftsmen will demonstrate their skills throughout the festival.</p>
Sep 14	<p>Float the Upper Shenango River Water Trail from Pymatuning State Park (Jamestown, PA) to Greenville's Riverside Park. Approximately 8.5 miles of Class One water. Shuttle provided from Riverside Park to put-in at Pymatuning State Park dam. (First drop boats at Pymatuning Park, and then drive to Riverside Park for shuttle back to your boat) Enjoy our now famous Odd-ubon Bird I.D. game all participants get an event pin. Winners, a tee shirt! Taste our free lunch of Livingston's hot dogs yum! Listen to live music at the event pavilion in Riverside Park. \$10 donation requested, per boat. Shuttle runs from 8:00 a.m. till 9:30 a.m!. launch when you're ready. For more details, call Hugh Clark at 724 927 9483 or his cell, 724 854 1040. Email: <a href="mailto:greengrass@windstream.net">greengrass@windstream.net</a>. Sponsored by Shenango River Watchers, Shenango Conservancy, Lions Clubs of Jamestown and Greenville.</p>
Oct 11-13	<p>KTA Fall Meeting &amp; Hiking Weekend: October 11-13, 2013, Doubling Gap Center, Newville, Cumberland County, PA. Registration opens August 1.</p>



*BOC Rockwood-Meyersdale Bike Ride*



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**Butler Outdoor Club**  
**PO Box 321**  
**Harrisville, PA 16038**