

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

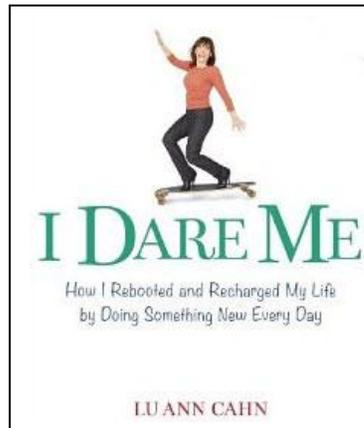
Volume 20 Month 1

January 2014

New Year Challenge

Have you made your new year resolutions yet? Need help?

In this book, Luann Cahn challenged herself to do something new or different each day to rejuvenate her life. You can buy this book for \$22.95 or save your money and take the BOC New Year Challenge.



Pledge to do something new each day (or week) this year in the outdoors. Take a hike, do some trail maintenance, lead an outing, present a program, write an article for the newsletter, attend a board meeting, there are lots of opportunities for you.

I'll be the first to pledge to do something new this year. This is the last BOC newsletter I am editing – the first was December 1998, a fifteen year span with some breaks thanks to Mary Beth Keffalas and Lauri Krofft.

Here is a golden opportunity for someone to step up; try something new and be our newsletter editor. It's a fun and rewarding job; and would look good on anyone's resume.

Don't wait - call now! Call our club president, Steve Bickel at 724-794-3719 or email Steve at sbickel@zoominternet.net.

Ps – if no one volunteers, this will be our last newsletter...

Dave Adams

BOC New Years Day Picnic Meeting

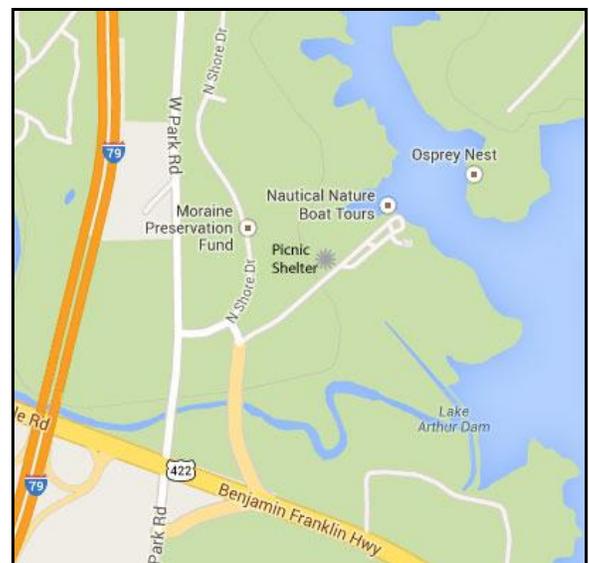
Join us at our annual BOC New Years Day Picnic and a brief monthly meeting at noon at Moraine State Park North Shore McDanel's Launch shelter # 7.

Bring a hot dish or drink to share .

Our club is leading a First Day Hike for the public at 1:30 pm. Hike off some of those holiday extra pounds and get the new year off to a good start in the outdoors.

Check off your new year resolution to be more active and healthy.

Beginners are welcome on this hike over moderate terrain. Dress for the weather and bring water and a snack for this two to three mile hike on the North Country Trail.



BOC Notes

At our December membership meeting our 2013 club officers agreed to run for election in 2014. The slate was moved and voted in unanimously.

Congratulations to President Steve Bickel, Vice- President Tammy Veloski, Secretary John Stehle, and Treasurer Carol Bickel.

The BOC executive board meets the third Monday of each month at 7pm at the Trustees Meeting Room, on the first floor of the Butler YMCA. All members are welcome to attend and contribute to the board meetings.

Our club is considering ordering BOC sweatshirts or tee-shirts or hats for sale to our members. If you have a color or garment preference let us know at the January 1st picnic meeting at McDanel's Shelter or call or email a board member.

We are always in need of speakers and programs at our monthly membership meetings. If you have any ideas for programs or know of a good speaker let Tammy Veloski know.

This year will be our club's 20th anniversary. We need your ideas and suggestions on how to celebrate this event at our annual dinner which will be on December 8, 2014 at the East Butler Firemans Hall.

BOC Directory

President

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

Vice-President

Tammy Veloski
painthorse_33@yahoo.com

Secretary

John Stehle 724.256.0674

Treasurer

Carol Bickel 724.794.3719

Backpacking

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

Canoeing

Joyce Appel 724.526.5407

Database

Tammy Veloski
painthorse_33@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Dave Adams 724.453.1685

Hiking

Steve Smith
belsmith@embarqmail.com

Membership

Helen Coyne 724.776.0678

Skiing

Paul Henry 724.347.3282

Trails

Ron Rice 724.538.8475

Nature Study

Dorothy Weisberg

"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

October Ohio Road Trip

Members of the Butler Outdoor Club, an affiliate of the NCTA, spent a weekend in October exploring some very interesting and beautiful areas along the NCT in southern Ohio. As fall was near its peak in color, and with the Indian summer weather, we had a delightful time.

After stopping for lunch at a local farm, we visited the Hopewell Mound Group near Chillicothe, run by the National Park Service. The site is laid out very well, and we really felt like we were walking back over 2000 years, as we moved through the hills where the natives lived, and the mound city on the plain where they participated in ritual events. The National Park Service does a great job bringing this to life.

We then drove down a few miles to Serpent Mound, run by the Ohio Historical Society and the Arc of Appalachia Preserve System. Shaped like a serpent, it is the largest animal effigy mound in the world. There is a tower that visitors can climb to see the 1,348 foot serpent image in one impressive view. We then followed the trail which let us examine the mound up close.

To make the site even more special is the fact that the NCT passes through the grounds. We all took the opportunity to walk about 1/2 a mile to the nearest road crossing, adding a little more to our NCT miles. The short trail goes through some pleasant meadows, around ancient mounds and through some woods. We also stopped at the Seip Earthworks, a large ceremonial mound, also run by the NPS.



The next day took us to another fantastic NCT venue in Ohio, which is Hocking Hills State Park. The NCT, which in this part of Ohio is also the Buckeye Trail, runs for about 5 miles through a gorge carved out of a 150 foot thick seam of sandstone, known as the Blackhand.

Starting at Ash Cave, the trail follows deep undercuts and steep cliffs. Sandstone has a rich texture with many inclusions, which make you constantly want to reach for your camera.

The trail continues north from Ash cave through the boulder strewn gorge then up to the top of the gorge, where we stopped to climb a fire tower before continuing on to Cedar Falls. Here again are fantastic cliffs and waterfalls.

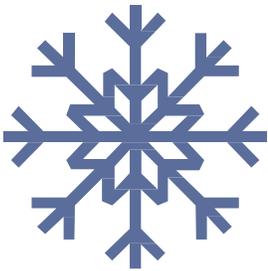
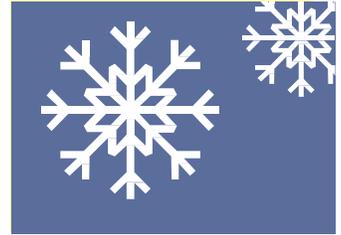
The trail itself, maintained by the Buckeye Trail Association and the NCTA, is well crafted with a lot of stone masonry, and various styles of bridges of metal, wood and stone, taking full advantage the many delights this gorge has to offer.

Moving north we entered into the Old Man's Cave section, with even more stone work, and ending in a long tunnel carved right through the stone to take us up to the visitor's center, which has a cool gift shop and an ice cream concession.

BOC Sponsored Activities Events	
Dec 31	Join group for first night events and fireworks in Pittsburgh. Joyce has reduced rate buttons, and tickets to events. Call Joyce to register 724-526-5407
Jan 1	Annual BOC New Years Day Picnic and a brief monthly meeting - noon - Moraine State Park North Shore - McDanel's Launch shelter # 7 - Bring a hot dish or drink to share - Stay for First Day Hike 1:30 pm McDanel's Launch on North Shore of Moraine State Park Enjoy the outdoors from the first! Join the members of the Butler Outdoor Club as they hold their traditional First Day Hike at Moraine State Park. The hike will be led by experienced hikers, ready to share their knowledge & love of the outdoors. Beginners welcome, moderate terrain. Dress for the weather and bring water and a snack for this two to three mile hike on the North Country Trail.
Jan 3-5	Wilderness Lodge Cross Country Ski Weekend Jan. 3-5 RSVP to Joyce Appel - 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net
Jan 24-26	Wilderness Lodge Cross Country Ski Weekend Jan. 24-26 RSVP to Joyce Appel - 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net.
Feb 7-10	Allegany State Park, NY cross country ski weekend for Feb. 7-10 RSVP to Joyce Appel - 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net.
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	January 18, 2014 Winterfest Join us January 18, 2014 from 12PM-5PM for the 4th Annual Moraine Winterfest! Bigger and better than ever before! McDanel's Launch - North Shore - Moraine State Park. FREE ADMISSION! PRELIMINARY EVENTS SCHEDULE 11:00 Chili Cook Off - Contact ronbolt002@zoominternet.net to register. First Prize: Dinner for 2 at the Pittsburgh Marriott North in Cranberry Second Prize: \$75 Visa Gift Card courtesy of Northwest Savings Bank Third Prize: Courtesy of Nicolette's Tailor Shop and Specialty Gifts, Portersville Value \$50 11:00-3:00 Live Music by Amanda Noah 11:00-3:00 Chainsaw Carving by Damian Skal 11:00-3:00 Ice Carving by The Marriott 12:00-4:00 Carriage Rides 12:00-3:00 Snow shoe Workshop hosted by Venture Outdoors 12:00-3:00 Dog Sled Demos by Sandy Stoner 1:00-4:00 Ice Fishing Demonstration by Muddy Creek Outfitters 1:30 Barn Owl/Raptor Program by Moraine Preservation Fund 1:00-4:00 Cross Country Skiing hosted by Butler Outdoor Club (bring your own skis!) 2:30 Barn Owl/Raptor Program hosted by Moraine Preservation Fund- Owlet Gift shop 3:00 Family Birding Hike hosted by Audubon Society of Western PA - Meet at Pavilion #7 Other Activities include: Crafts, family snow activities, bonfire, meet Smokey the Bear, Froggy 94.9 FM Sponsored by: Moraine Preservation Fund, Moraine State Park, Venture Outdoors, Butler Outdoor Club, Butler County Tourism, DCNR Forestry Department, Audubon Society
Apr 25-27	KTA Spring Meeting & Hiking Weekend: April 25-27, 2014, Wellsboro, Tioga County. Registration opens February 1, 2014.

First Day Hike!

January 1, 2014



**Wednesday,
January 1, 2014
at 1:30 pm,**

**Meet the Butler Outdoor Club at
McDanel's Launch on the North Shore
of Moraine State Park as they hold their
traditional First Day Hike.**



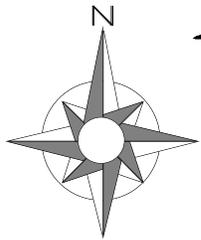
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**Butler Outdoor Club
PO Box 321
Harrisville, PA 16038**