

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 20 Month 5

May 2014

## The puddle Duck Hatch

A “puddle duck” is a small wooden sailboat which is inexpensive and easy to build. The 2014 North American Puddle Duck Championship race will be held at the Regatta at Lake Arthur this year. So, a group of BOC members and friends are building a puddle duck to enter into a race at the Regatta. The first work session occurred on April 5 at the Moraine Outdoor Center.



Working on the Hull

The volunteers have been Tammy Veloski, Dale Veloski, Dave Adams, Helen Coyne, Jean Adams, Ed Scurry, and Carol Bickel



BOC members may want to learn to sail the boat. Here are some relevant announcements.

From Carol Bickel:

The next date for working on the puddle duck boat is Sunday, May 4 at 1:00 PM at Steve and Carol Bickel's house. BYOB (Bring Your Own Brush!!) We will be painting, caulking and sanding. Does anyone have a draw knife to bring? Also we need a name for the boat, so give us your suggestions. Thanks!

From John Bridges, puddle duck director of the Moraine Sailing Club:

We are planning to hold a "Learn to Sail a Puddle Duck" session on Saturday 21st June from 10 am to 4 pm at Pleasant Valley on the South Shore of Moraine State Park. It will consist of three parts:-

1. A chalk board talk on the theory of sailing
2. Help with rigging session
3. Practice on the water with US Sailing qualified Instructor and Safety Boat in attendance.

Follow the Yellow Duck signs past the Park Office to find our launch site

Since I will be out of the country for the next few weeks, please send a note to Bethany, [Bethany@eastwingevents.com](mailto:Bethany@eastwingevents.com) if you want to attend this event.



Working on the sail

There is more work to be done and some  
*cont'd next column*

## The Outdoor Extravaganza Memorial Day Weekend

My 23-26, 2014  
(Sponsored by  
the Butler Outdoor Club)  
(Meals and camping optional at Breakneck  
Campground)

Website is now live and ready for you to see what  
fun activities are happening this year.  
Registration Form is ready.

However, register early since activities may fill up  
and limited boats available to reserve for water trips.

**Various levels of hikes**, as well as yoga hike,  
scavenger hunt hike and nature hikes.

**Various levels of bike rides.**

**Canoe & Kayak trips** on lakes and streams, as well  
as raft trip.

**Sailing, Windsurfing & Nautical Nature Boat Tour.**  
**Workshops:** glass blowing, dutch oven baking,  
crafts, composting, essential oils, herb garden, back  
country treats, folk sing-a-long, butterflies and disc  
golf

**Excursions:** Emlenton Mill & Segway Tour, Aviary &  
Urban Hike

**Kids Activities:** celebrate fish, wacky jewelry &  
music, scavenger hunt, super hero, butterflies, crafts  
& making a kite

**Evening Entertainment:** Drum Circle, National Road  
Stagcoach presentation, singing group Occasional  
Divas, Jim Sorenson guitar and songs.

**Reiki, Message therapy, Gear / Exchange Flea  
Market**

Check out the website:

[www.outdoorextravaganza.org](http://www.outdoorextravaganza.org)

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

## BOC Directory

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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)**

**BOC Waterfowl watching day - April 5, 2014**

by John Stehle

Although the weather was foul, the birding wasn't for the hardy souls who turned out for the annual Butler Outdoor Club Waterfowl viewing day. The participants were Karen Krenitsky, Matt Waters, Ron Rice , Mark Smith, Dorothy Weisberg, Fred Schwartz, Ken Roosa, and John Stehle.



We started out, as usual, at the bird observation deck at the 422 ramp. A couple of Pied Billed Grebes moseyed away from the deck as we approached. Although not many birds could be seen at first we gradually put a nice list together, starting with the ubiquitous and oddly named Ring-necked duck, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Tree Swallow, Ring-billed Gull, Gadwall, and one deserving tern. Moving on up to the Mt Zion Church at the 528 bridge, we saw Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Loons, Scaup, White-winged Scoter and a couple of Bald Eagles.

Going north on Route 528, we saw Bonapartes Gull, Turkey Vulture, and a Kingfisher, along with many of the aforementioned species.

Going to the South Shore of Moraine State Park presented some new species, including the Ruddy Duck, American Coot, double Crested Cormorants. Overlooking the lake from the high hill we could see large numbers of Loons and

Mergansers. There were some expert birders out there who pointed out what was a life-list bird for the writer, the Red-necked Grebe. There were about 6 of them swimming among the Loons and Mergansers. It is always exciting to add a new bird to your life list.

We finished our day of birding down at the Bear Creek boat launch where there were some Common Goldeneye. On the way back, I was able to add a pair of Wood Duck to the list. All in all, it was a very fine birding day. A bracing wind, but no rain and lots of birds - 31 species.

Here is the list :

Pied Billed Grebe	Scaup - lesser
Ring Neck Duck	Bald Eagle
Great Blue Heron	Turkey Vulture
Mallard	White-winged Scoter
Canada Goose	Red-necked Grebe
Hooded Merganser	Common Golden-eye
Osprey	Wood Duck
Bufflehead	Rudy Duck
Tern	Coot
Ringbilled Gull	Bonaparte Gull
Gadwall	Double Crested
Redtailed hawk	Cormorants
Tree Swallows	Song sparrow
Red-breasted Merganser	Red Wing blackbird
Common Loon	Grackle
Kingfisher	Pigeon



Ruddy Duck(google image)

**Thanks everyone!**

The new editor of "The Compass" thanks Dave Adams, the former editor, for a helpful training session and for his many important suggestions. Of course, any errors are totally mine, because I don't always pay attention. Also many thanks to those who contributed content to this issue.

**Next Monthly Meeting!**

If you are not a regular visitor to Jennings Environmental Education Center or if you know very little about the 3MJC, you will have the opportunity to correct this gap in your knowledge at the the Butler Outdoor Club's monthly meeting on May 7 at 6:30 P.M. at the YMCA.

Please see the events calendar on page 8 for the announcement of this event.

**Lakeshore Cleanup  
Saturday, May 10, 2014  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.****Moraine State Park**

Moraine State Park is looking for volunteers on land and water to help rid Lake Arthur of trash. Bring your own canoe or kayak (and PFD) or borrow one of the park's free of charge. Kayak experience required. Register at [www.visitpaparks.com](http://www.visitpaparks.com) and specify under "Special Notes" if you would like to borrow a park kayak, if you have your own kayak, or if you prefer to cleanup on land. Lunch will be provided. We hope to see you all in the parks!

**McConnells Mill State Park  
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 open for the season on Saturday, May 24, 2014. It will continue to 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.

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**May 27 - June 1: Trail Crew Week #1, North Country Trail**

Leader: John Stehle, [stehles@gmail.com](mailto:stehles@gmail.com), [724-256-0674](tel:724-256-0674)

Camp: [Davis Hollow Cabin](#), [Moraine State Park](#)

Trail Description: The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) is the longest hiking path in the United States; it is 4,600 miles long and stretches through seven states. More than two-thirds of the 195-mile proposed route through Pennsylvania has been completed.

Accommodations: Volunteers will stay at the Davis Hollow Cabin, a frontier cabin owned by Moraine State Park. There are also tent pads available for tenting. KTA will provide all meals. Join us for the week, several days, or one day.

**McConnells Mill State Park  
The Hemlocks of Hell's Hollow  
Saturday, May 3, 2014 and  
Saturday, May 31, 2014  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm****Meet at Hells Hollow parking lot**

Our state tree, the lovely Eastern Hemlock, is threatened by an invasive pest, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Learn about the lovely PA state tree while enjoying many points of interest along the hell's hollow trail. We will walk out and back along the easy waterfall trail, with an opportunity to stop after the easy walk, or extend your hike a little further along the moderate North Country Trail. Our walk will meet at 1:00 pm on Saturday, May 3, at the Hell's Hollow parking lot (no facilities), about a 15 minute drive from the gristmill. Dress for the weather, bring water, and wear sturdy shoes.

## **Programs for kids at Moraine State Park this summer.**

### **DiscoverE Summer Camps at Moraine**

DiscoverE is a series of exciting outdoor programs for young people ages 4-12 provided by Pennsylvania State Parks. DiscoverE makes every day an adventure, every state park a new, wondrous experience! **Registration for all ages opens May 5 by calling 724 368-3612.**

Moraine State Park will offer DiscoverE programs for three different age groups:

#### **Hide N' Seekers:**

**4 to 5** year olds are invited to become Hide-'n-Seekers as we "Investigate Insects." Hide-'n-Seekers is a program developed to meet the curiosity and the attention span of the younger child. The program combines safe, playful outdoor activities with hands-on explorations, stories, and crafts that encourage a child's interest and excitement.

Hide-'n-Seeker programs run every Thursday from June 19 through July 3, with a special evening event on July 11. Choose either AM or PM sessions. AM Program is from 10:30a.m. - noon.

PM is 1:00p.m.-2:30p.m. Cost is \$5/session.

#### **Outdoor Explorers:**

**6 to 8** year olds are invited to become Outdoor Explorers as we use exciting games, creative crafts, and hands-on experience to learn all about Pennsylvania Mammals. The programs are filled with plenty of outdoor fun with time to reflect and learn. Outdoor Explorers provides outdoor experiences filled with adventure and discovery for young explorers.

Outdoor Explorers programs run every Tuesday from June 17 through July 1, with a special evening event on July 11. Choose either AM or PM sessions. AM Program is from 10:00a.m. - noon.

PM is 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m. Cost is \$5/session.

#### **Penn's Adventurers**

**9 to 12** year olds are invited to become Penn's Adventurers as we build outdoor skills using our natural resources and encourage healthy experiences through recreation. Biking, kayaking, and fishing just a few of the activities we will undergo. **New this year--** Orienteering at Jennings and Rock Climbing at McConnells Mill! Details will be available upon registration.

Penn's Adventure programs will run every Monday from July 21-Monday August 11. from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please bring a lunch. Cost is \$15 per day.

## Great Gear Exchange Flea Market - May 23 - 26

This will take place on Memorial Day Weekend during the Outdoor Extravaganza at Breakneck Campground, near McConnells Mill State Park and Moraine State Park in Pennsylvania. The Outdoor Extravaganza is sponsored by the Butler Outdoor Club.

Is your garage/basement cluttered with old gear, household items, even new merchandise that you do not want? Here is an opportunity to get rid of “stuff” for a good cause. We also hope you can promote this event by getting other folks to sell, buy, or exchange gear or other merchandise; maybe get stores involved. Come and sell new or used items. For a donation, you can set up your own table or gazebo for the whole weekend. Donations will be going to the North Country Trail Butler Chapter fund to be used to put more foot trail on the ground in Pennsylvania!

This Gear Exchange/ Flea Market will be on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the Extravaganza from afternoon to dusk. It will also take place under a large covered carport in the campground. Advertise this in whatever way you can so we can have many people involved. Come to buy, sell, exchange ... and at the same time get involved in the beautiful outdoors with the Outdoor Extravaganza activities !!!!

### **“The Great Gear Exchange/Flea Market”**

1. Provides a place for people to get rid of their used gear or merchandise.
2. Provides a place for people to get rid of unwanted new merchandise.
3. Gives the outdoor stores a place to promote sales.
4. Support local funding to build more North Country Trail.
5. Stimulate people to enjoy the outdoors through the Extravaganza

Who makes this possible? [www.outdoorextravaganza.org](http://www.outdoorextravaganza.org)

[www.butleroutdoorclub.org](http://www.butleroutdoorclub.org) [www.breakneckcampground.com](http://www.breakneckcampground.com)

Contact for questions: [joyceappel@windstream.net](mailto:joyceappel@windstream.net) or (724)-526-5407



## **A100 Announcement**

The A-100 Hiking Challenge The Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country Trail Association will hold the annual Allegheny 100 Hiking Challenge on June 13th through 15th, 2014.

This event helps promote awareness of the North Country National Scenic Trail and the Allegheny National Forest and it brings many visitors to the surrounding communities. The A-100 is an endurance challenge met through unsupported hiking. It is not a race, but an individual challenge of stamina, determination and resilience. Being an unsupported hike, there are no first aid or water stations. Hikers are responsible for supplying their own food, drinks and equipment.

Participants must recognize that cell phone reception is very spotty along the length of the trail. The adventure covers a 100 mile stretch of the North Country National Scenic Trail in the Allegheny National Forest. Hikers will climb over rolling hills and pass through many beautiful stream valleys. For 2014, the hikers will travel north to south. The direction is changed every two years to give hikers the opportunity to complete all 100 miles of trail. The A-100 challenges hikers to traverse 100 miles, 75 miles, 50 miles or 25 miles in a 50 hour time period.

This challenge is for anyone, regardless of skill level, who wants to test themselves against the trail. Everyone needs to “hike their own hike”, moving at their own pace and resting when necessary. The challenge will extend from the PA Route 346 trailhead, near Willow Bay, to the PA Route 66 trailhead, between Marienville and Vowinckel, PA. Those who pre-register will receive a membership in the North Country Trail Association, shuttle service to the start of the hike and a T-shirt. Pre-registration for the A-100 ends May 31, 2014, or when 100 hikers have signed up. For more information visit the NCTA website at <http://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/> or email [anf@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:anf@northcountrytrail.org).

### **Shenango paddle!**

Let's paddle into Shenango River Reservoir and explore the headwaters a bit. Later in the season when the foliage is out this is a wonderful wildlife paddle and I'm eager to see how it looks this time of year. There are lots of little coves and stream channels to explore, as well as a good sized lake if we get really motivated to paddle any distance. I will try to find someplace during the trip for us to get back on dry land for a break, so feel free to bring a sammich or a snack.

Folks need their own kayaks and safety gear. PFDs are required to be worn until May 1st. The water temperature will probably be in the upper 50s to low 60s: still a bit cold.

I will do a car convoy from the Portersville/I-79 Park-n-ride (coordinates 40.921563,-80.134934), leaving at 10AM sharp if folks want to convoy to the put-in.

The location finder for the meet-up site really sucks so use the GPS coordinates (41.342278,-80.514987) to locate the put-in if you go straight there. They are routable in [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com).

Of course after the paddle I will want to grab a sammich and a beer somewhere if any are interested in joining me.

Call or text me with questions.  
Rob [412-316-7037](tel:412-316-7037)

## BOC Sponsored Events

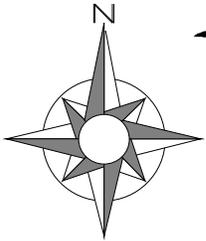
<p>May 7</p>	<p>Our monthly meetings are 6:30 pm social hour, 7:30 pm announcements and 8:00 program on the first Wed. of each month usually at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington St. Butler, Pa. Each meeting includes outing announcements, a featured speaker and slide show or outdoor educational program and is open to the public.</p> <p>Join us May 7 when our program will be presented by Deborah Sale, an EIT from Jennings Environmental Education Center, and Nancy Nalepa, a volunteer at Jennings. They will introduce us to Jennings, showing both the natural beauty and the activities available there. We will also be introduced to the 3MJC organization, a friends group for the three parks. Discussion will revolve around the three phases of improvements being done at the Prairie Gateway Area and how we can become a part of it.</p>
<p>May 8</p>	<p>Butler Chapter NCT monthly board meets the second Thursday of each month. Join us at 6:30pm May 8 in the Trustees Meeting Room, Butler YMCA 339 N. Washington St. Butler, Pa</p>
<p>May 10</p>	<p>BOC Wildflower Hike at Wolf Creek Narrows. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at 10am. From Slippery Rock take Water St South about a mile, cross the bridge and park on the left. Trilliums, Virginia Blue Bells, Walking Ferns, Jack in the Pulpits, etc. Optional dinner afterwards at the North Country Brewing Co. Jean and Dave Adams 724-453-1685</p>
<p>May 23 26</p>	<p>The Outdoor Extravaganza Memorial Day Weekend May 23-26, 2014 (Sponsored by the Butler Outdoor Club) (Meals and camping optional at Breakneck Campground) Website is now live and ready for you see what fun activities are happening this year. Registration Form is ready. However, register early since activities may fill up and limited boats available to reserve for water trips. Various levels of hikes, as well as yoga hike, scavenger hunt hike and nature hikes. Various levels of bike rides. Canoe &amp; Kayak trips on lakes and streams, as well as raft trip. Sailing, Windsurfing &amp; Nautical Nature Boat Tour. Workshops: glass blowing, dutch oven baking, crafts, composting, essential oils, herb garden, back country treats, folk sing-a-long, butterflies and disc golf Excursions: Emlenton Mill &amp; Segway Tour, Aviary &amp; Urban Hike Kids Activities: celebrate fish, wacky jewelry &amp; music, scavenger hunt, super hero, butterflies, crafts &amp; making a kite Evening Entertainment: Drum Circle, National Road presentation, singing group Occasional Divas, Jim Sorenson guitar and songs. Reiki, Message therapy, Gear / Exchange Flea Market Check out the website: <a href="http://www.outdoorextravaganza.org/">http://www.outdoorextravaganza.org/</a></p>

## Other Area Outdoor Activities and Events

May 3	NCT Clarion Chapter May Hike - Strawberry Pie Hike - 9:00am Meet at the trail head on Rt 66 near Vowinkel and hike to the Cook Forest Environmental Center. Strawberry pie and other refreshments will be served at the end of the hike.
May 3	The Hemlocks of Hells Hollow 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm McConnells Mill State Park Hell's Hollow Our state tree, the lovely Eastern Hemlock, is threatened by an invasive pest, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Learn about the lovely PA state tree while enjoying many points of interest along the hell's hollow trail. We will hike out and back along the easy waterfall trail, with an opportunity to stop after the easy walk, or extend your hike a little further along the moderate North Country Trail. Our walk will meet at 1:00 pm on Saturday, May 3, at the Hell's Hollow parking lot (no facilities), about a 15 minute drive from the gristmill. Dress for the weather, bring water, and wear sturdy shoes.
May 10	Lakeshore Cleanup 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Moraine State Park is looking for volunteers on land and water to help rid Lake Arthur of trash. Bring your own canoe or kayak (and PFD) or borrow one of the park's free of charge. Kayak experience required. Register at <a href="http://www.visitpaparks.com">www.visitpaparks.com</a> and specify under "Special Notes" if you would like to borrow a park kayak, if you have your own kayak, or if you prefer to cleanup on land. Lunch will be provided.
May 11	Spring Wildflowers 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Jennings Environmental Education Center Phone 724-794-6011 Description Wildflowers have been admired for their beauty and usefulness as foods and medicines for countless generations. From the elegant lady's slipper to the common dandelion, each wildflower has its own uses, stories and magic. Discover the personality, folklore and history of the season's first blooms on this one and one-half hour guided walk along Jennings' trails.
May 17	Sat. May 17, 2014 - 3rd Annual Armstrong Trail Fundraising Ride For more information or to register contact Toni Henry at <a href="mailto:toni.henry51@gmail.com">toni.henry51@gmail.com</a> or 412-759-9152
May 27 Jun 1	May 27 - June 1: Trail Crew Week #1, North Country Trail Leader: John Stehle, <a href="mailto:stehles@gmail.com">stehles@gmail.com</a> , 724-256-0674 Join us all week, several days, or one day. Trail Description: The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) is the longest hiking path in the United States; it is 4,600 miles long and stretches through seven states. More than two-thirds of the 195-mile proposed route through Pennsylvania has been completed. Accommodations: Volunteers will stay at the Davis Hollow Cabin, a frontier cabin owned by Moraine State Park. There are also tent pads available for tenting. KTA will provide all meals.
June 7	NCT Clarion Chapter June Hike - National Trails Day Hike - Meet 9:00am at the Cook Forest Fire Tower Parking lot and hike to Highland Drive for a 6.5 miles of wooded trail of varying terrain hike.
Jun 13 15	The A-100 Hiking Challenge The Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country Trail Association will hold the annual Allegheny 100 Hiking Challenge on June 13th through 15th, 2014. See announcement on page 7.



*From May 2013 Wolf Creek Narrows Hike  
It's almost that time of year again!*



# The Compass

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**Butler Outdoor Club  
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