

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 22 Month 6

June 2014

Next Monthly Meeting June 4, 2014



Join us June 4th for a presentation by Stan Malecki on Gristmills of Western PA. Stan will discuss not only McConnells Mill, but also Zanella Milling, the Saint Vincent Gristmill and a historic mill in Harmony. Stan, a former Boy Scout leader also teaches Dutch Oven bread baking and Open Hearth cooking and baking.

Puddle Duck News

On Saturday, June 7, 2014 at the Butler Home Depot there will be a demonstration on "How to build a puddle duck." The time is from 10 AM to 4 PM. Help in answering questions and encouraging others to build would be appreciated.

Current state of the Puddle Duck



More Work on the Puddle Duck

The next puddleduck workday will be Saturday, May 31 at 1:00 PM at Carol & Steve Bickel's house. Stop in and lend a hand or just encourage us. It's always a fun time to get together. Hope to see you there!

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 USailing qualified Instructor and Safety Boat in attendance.

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

Editor's Adventures.

In April of this year, Jan berg and Dave Galbreath hiked a section of the Applchian Trail in North Carolina. I was disappointed that I was not able to make one of my surprise appearances on that hike.

However, in May I took a seven day trip to Tennessee and North Carolina. As I approached Franklin, North Carolina on route 64, I saw a hiker with a back pack emerge from the forest and I realized that this must be where the AT crossed the highway. Not only that but this must be the very spot where Jan and Dave began their hike. *I knew immediately that I would have to do a day hike to enjoy some of the trail that they enjoyed a month before.*

The backpacker was signaling for a ride, so I pulled off the road and offered to take him into Franklin. He was from Georgia and was not planning to hike all the way to Maine. He had no trail name so I will refer to him as "hitchhiker" We wended our way through Franklin looking for the motel where many backpackers stay the night. Hitchhiker wanted to stay in the hiker shelter and I rented a room at the motel. The lady who runs the motel is in charge of both. Earlier in the hiking season she is also in charge of free shuttle trips. She told me that they were no longer doing free shuttle trips.

After dinner I wandered around town on foot trying to not look suspicious. Two men were sitting on the porch of the old building that seemed to contain three apartments and the hiking shelter. I would not have stayed in that thing if they had paid me. But I guess backpackers do what they have to do to cut costs. I could not pass up the opportunity to talk to these natives of the town, and during the conversation I found out that one of them was a cousin of the lady who runs the motel. He assured me that the motel would provide a free shuttle ride, but I already knew that was wrong. He also suggested that I talk to Cathy who lives in the third

cont'd on next page

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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."

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

but was not home at the time. When I returned to the motel, I told the lady about my encounter with her cousin. Her amusement at her cousin's presumption of knowledge about what she would be willing to do was substantial. I asked about Cathy and it turned out that Cathy is her sister and she was standing in the doorway. Cathy was prepared to offer a shuttle ride for \$50.00. That brought an immediate end to any thought I might have had about taking a shuttle. I would have to hike out and back.

The next morning I drove out to Winding Stair Gap, put on my orange blaze hoodie, and took my walking stick, "Bear Beater" in hand. Two backpackers arrived at the same time. They were from New Jersey and had stayed in a different motel. They were apparently successful in finding a kinder gentler elderly lady to shuttle them to the trailhead. I didn't ask if they had paid fifty dollars. These two also had no trail names and seemed to dislike even the idea of having such a thing. They were planning to hike all the way to Maine at two miles an hour.

My plan was to hike three hours out and three hours back. For a time I followed the two backpackers because two miles an hour seemed a good pace to me. I noticed that the hills were covered by more Maple Trees than any other kind of tree. Maple leaves seemed to be everywhere. The spring wild flower season was not yet over and I saw many large white trilliums, wild geraniums, and false solomon's seal. I only recognized the false solomon's seal because I was on the Wolf Creek Narrows hike on May 10 when Warren Smith explained how to identify it. There were also occasional patches of bluetts especially in areas where there was a little more sun shining through the leaves.

After about an hour my fellow hikers stopped for a rest and I continued on to Wayah Gap. The distance from Winding Stair to Wayah Gap is five miles and it took me two and one half hours. According to my calculations that was two miles

an hour. Clouds were beginning to block out the sun and it looked like rain might begin to fall any minute, so I decided to start back rather than hike another hour. After twenty more minutes I passed the two "through" hikers and questioned whether they would be able to get to Maine at their version of two miles an hour.

There were a lot of hikers on the trail in spite of the threat of rain. It was a Saturday so that may have been part of the reason. One large group of apparently local hikers passed me near Wayah Gap. They were heading up the mountain to have a picnic. Since I didn't see them on the way back, I assumed they went to one of the shelters. There were also at least three other distance hikers who passed me. These guys were serious about getting to Maine as soon as possible and had no time to talk. They were walking at a furious pace.

The rain finally started to fall. It was very light but up on the ridges it was being blown by a rather stiff cold wind. Fortunately my blaze orange hoodie absorbed the moisture. I think the wind was blowing hard enough to dry the droplets out as soon as they soaked into the cloth. I met one more backpacker before the end of my hike. It was "hitchhiker" who had difficulty understanding why he was meeting me going in the opposite direction. I assured him that it is not unusual for people to meet me going in the opposite direction. Also if he had started hiking a little earlier in the day, we might have been going the same direction. It's a good thing that he was not planning to hike all the way to Maine. I arrived back at my car after my ten mile hike in good condition. The car was fortunately also there. I now feel that I have made my surprise appearance on Jan's and Dave's backpacking trip. Too bad they didn't see me.

The Smokey Mountains and surrounding area and anywhere along the Blue Ridge are my favorite places to hike. So, this one day of hiking is not the only thing that I did on my visit to Tennessee and North Carolina, but it's the only one I'm going to write about.

Spring Wildflowers

There were two great wildflower hikes this spring. The first was on May 10 at Wolf Creek Narrows. It was arranged by Dave and Jean Adams and led by Warren Smith. Dr. Smith presented some interesting history of the area and proceeded to identify the many wildflowers which are found there. An unofficial contest seemed to develop. Everyone wanted to be the first to spot the Jack in the Pulpit. I believe only Carol Bickel found them all, but as you can see from the picture on the end page, at least one other person experienced the joy of discovery.

The other wildflower hike was sponsored by the Butler Chapter of the NCTA. It was organized by John Stehle and here is his description of that hike.

Ten hikers went into the woods of Moraine State Park to look for the elusive and beautiful spring wild flowers. At first they seemed to be hiding. All that could be seen was greenery and leaf litter. But a little patience and a keen eye revealed the little beauties, which included the following:

Sessile Bellwort
Downy Violet
Indian Cucumber-root
Blue Violet
Dog Violet
Pale Violet
Large White Trillium
Jack-in-the-pulpit
Canada Mayflower
Common Strawberry
Wild Geranium
Mayapple
Spotted Wintergreen
False Solomon's Seal
Solomon's Seal

Rue Anemone
Wood Anemone
Yellow Violet
Blue Phlox

And not to be outdone, a Scarlet Tanager showed us what a true show of color can be like, letting us take on his glory both when we started out on the trail and upon our return.

The weather being sunny and just a little cool, this was a perfect way to spend a leisurely Sunday afternoon.



*Large White Trillium
From May 2014 Butler NCTA hike*

May 27 - June 1: Trail Crew Week #1, North Country Trail Leader: John Stehle, stehles@gmail.com, 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. The work schedule that we've put together for the week looks like this:

Wednesday the 28th and Thursday the 29th we'll be working on various projects near the Alpha Pass trailhead and the Point Parking area. Water management, step and handrail repair, tread upgrades, rock work, etc. Meet us at 9:00 AM at the Point Parking area. **Friday the 30th** working on improving the switchbacks near Walnut Flats, on the NCT below Eckert Bridge. This will be a hike in a ways, so definitely plan for a hike, bring drinking water, and a lunch if you are spending the day out there. **Saturday the 31st**, rock work and tread improvement on the Kildoo trail, on the east side of the creek, north of Eckert Bridge. Sunday the 1st, wrap up and clean up any last minute projects and details. Join us for the week or come out for a day (or a couple of hours) to work with the KTA volunteers. Tools and material will be provided. If you aren't registered for this trail work through the Keystone Trails Association and you're going to spend the day bring a lunch along. **We'll be out working each day until 3:30 or 4:00 in the afternoon.** Some good trail/mileage maps, courtesy of Natalie Simon are here on our website

<http://northcountrytrail.org/wam/?p=1194> Any questions about where and when? Please email Dave Brewer at **wam@northcountrytrail.org** or contact John Stehle at the number or email address above. Thanks for all you do for the trail! Hope to see you next week at McConnell's Mill.



Trail Crew Week #1

**Moraine State Park Free Kayaking Programs
June 1- 10AM and 1PM**

Explore Offshore **June 8- 9AM-** Blue Heron and Kingfisher Paddle **June 10 at 9AM** Silver Paddle **June 21- 9AM and 1PM-** Blue Heron and Kingfisher Paddle Join Moraine State Park staff in a unique kayaking adventure. Participants may bring their own kayak (lifejacket required), or borrow one of Moraine's kayaks and equipment free of charge. For more information, or to register, visit **www.visitPAparks.com** or call the park at **724-368-3612**. Participants must be at least 9 years of age. An adult must accompany those participants that are under the age of 18.

Hemlocks of Hells Hollow Hike

McConnells Mill State Park **Saturday, May 31, 2014 1:00 to 3:30 pm** Join other hikers during Pennsylvania Hiking Week with the Hemlocks of Hells Hollow Hike! DCNR and Keystone Trails Association has teamed up again to offer nearly 100 organized hikes across Pennsylvania from **May 24 to June 1, 2014**. Our hike will meet at 1:00 pm on **Saturday, May 31**, at the Hell's Hollow parking lot (no facilities), about a 15 minute drive from the gristmill. 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 both the easy waterfall trail and the moderate NCT, with opportunities to stop after the easy walk, or extend your hike a little further. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. For other hikes, visit <http://explorepatrials.com/>

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.

National Get Outdoors Day

Saturday, June 14, 2014 11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

Moraine State Park is proud to participate in this year's National Get Outdoors Day. The mission of Get Outdoors Day is to provide opportunities for children and their families to enjoy the healthy, active outdoors. Free activities offered include kayaking, biking, fishing, disc golf, children's activities and more! Come to **Lakeview Beach, North Shore**, and plan to spend the day at the park. **FREE admission**. Activities are scheduled from 11:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Swimming Area Opportunities for 2014

The Lakeview Beach Swimming Area, located on the North Shore of Moraine State Park, will open for the 2014 season on May 17, providing early season swimming opportunities prior to the Memorial Day Holiday.

The swimming area will be open daily from sunrise to sunset unless posted otherwise, through the summer season. The Food and Refreshment Concession is currently open for bidding and is planned to resume operation in June.

The Pleasant Valley Beach Swimming Area, located on the South Shore of Moraine State Park will be delayed in opening this season due to a construction project currently underway, which will replace sewer lines and a pumping station in this area. Comfort and shower facilities will be unavailable until completion of the project, causing for the delayed opening. The playground, picnic areas and volleyball court in this area will be available for use during this time.

The Sewage System Rehabilitation Project is part of Enhance Penn's Woods – a two year, more than \$200-million effort launched by Governor Corbett to repair and improve Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

For information on Enhance Penn's Woods visit the DCNR website at www.dcnr.state.pa.us and choose the icon on the homepage.

Contact person: Dustin Drew, Park Manager, Moraine & McConnells Mill State Parks.

[724 368-8811](tel:7243688811)

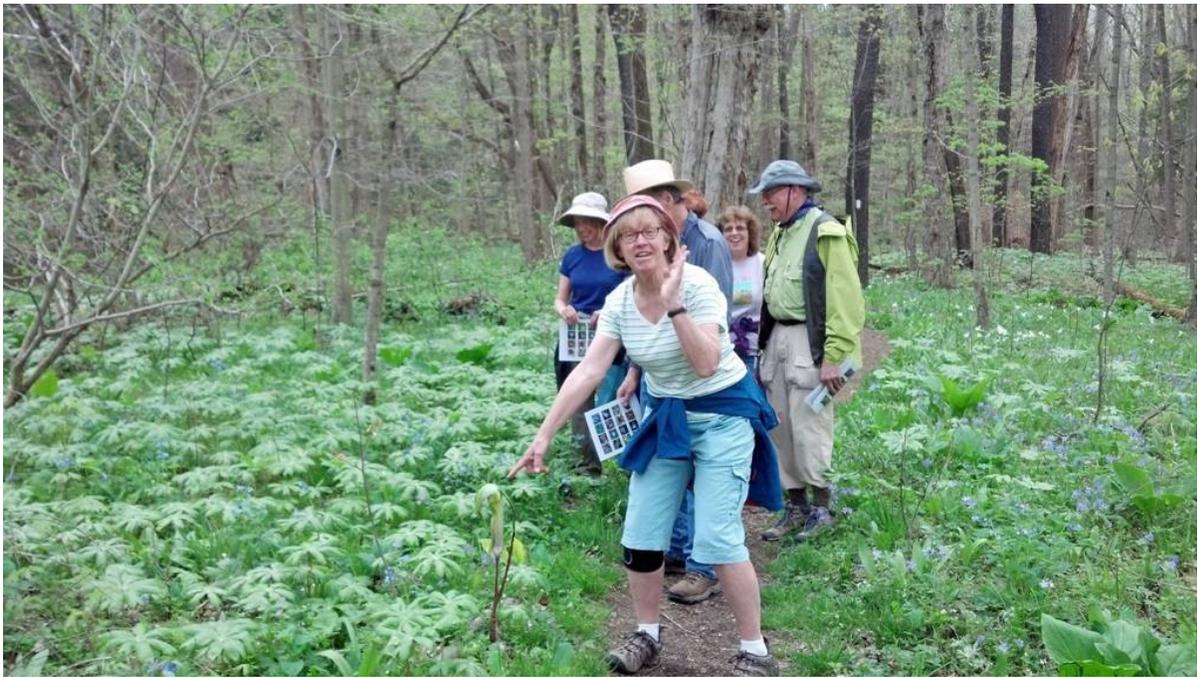
BOC Sponsored Events

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.

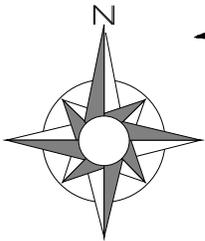
June 4 Join us June 4 when our program on grist mills of Western Pa will be presented by Stan Milecki.

Other Area Outdoor Activities and Events

May 27 June 1	<p>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.</p> <p>May 27 - June 1: KTA Trail Crew Week #1, North Country Trail. Leader: John Stehle, stehles@gmail.com, 724-256-0674 Join us all week, several days, or one day.</p>
May 31	Hemlocks of Hells Hollow Hike McConnells Mill State Park Saturday, May 31, 2014 1:00 to 3:30 pm
May 31	<p>Wampum NCT Chapter hike 1-3pm at Watts Mill - part of Darlington Days celebration - 1/2 mile hike to Little Beaver Creek Shelter and a 2.5 mile hike to Indian Rock.</p> <p>Emailwam@northcountrytrail.org for questions – see northcountrytrail.org/wamformaps.</p>
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.
June 12	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
June 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.
June 14	National Get Outdoors Day Saturday, June 14, 2014 11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.
June 15	McConnells Mill State Park Program: A Taste of History: Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstrations Sundays: June 15, July 13, August 10, September 14 12:00-3:00p.m Visit the courtyard of the historic gristmill to see Dutch oven cooking in action! Experience Native American and pioneer food specialties. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area and hike down to the old mill.



*Cathy spots the elusive Giant Jack in the Pulpit!
From May 2014 Wolf Creek Narrows hike*



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