

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 20 Month 12

December 2014



*The Anniversary Cake, beautifully decorated and delicious*

### **Review of the 2014 Annual Dinner by Carol Bickel**

The 20th Annual dinner was held on November 8 at the East Butler Fire hall. Past presidents Cindy Webreck, Joyce Appel, Dave Adams, Jean Adams and Steve Bickel did great presentations that brought back memories of old friends and good times. Seems hair styles and colors were the only things that have changed in twenty years! An added highlight was a slide show by Mike Ciccone on winter walks/skis at Moraine and Presque Isle. The ice formations and scenery were breath-taking.

Thank you everyone who donated items or purchased items in the silent auction. It is always fun to bid more than you wanted to take home something you didn't need! Winner of the 50/50 was Patty Brunner. A delicious catering job was done by Thompson's Country Market in West Sunbury.

Clean up was a breeze thanks to the many who stayed to help put away tables and chairs. We have already booked the same hall for next year on November 21, 2015. **SAVE THE DATE!** We are now looking for a possible guest speaker. If you have an idea please let one of the officers know.

*More photos on page 2.*



*The silent auction. Attendees search for deals.*



*Dave Adams receives the NCTA honor award.*



*The food was great*

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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)**

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**[www.facebook.com/butleroutdoorclub](http://www.facebook.com/butleroutdoorclub)**

**BOC Hike**  
**Sunday, November 16, 2014**  
By Steve Smith

Nineteen BOC members and friends hiked 7 miles in the Preston Conservation Area in Moraine State Park. We hiked through a reclaimed and reforested strip mine, on an abandoned rail road bed (paralleling Muddy Creek), along abandoned township roads and down an abandoned driveway to the remains of a house and barn.

The section of Muddy Creek that we hiked along has recently been restored to its natural state with the removal of the Duck Pond Dam. Fish will now be able to swim from Lake Arthur to the upper reaches of Muddy Creek.



*Former site of the Duck Pond Dam*

The location of the wooden rail road ties appeared as shadows on the old rail bed, helping you imagine an earlier time when steam trains rumbled through the valley. The old roads took us past abandoned driveways, homes, fields and farm ponds. We walked past places where people lived, worked, were raised and died. We finished the hike by walking down one of those driveways to the remains of a house and barn.

The house was constructed of substantial cut stone blocks and it included two fireplaces. It overlooked the rail road and the upper reaches of Muddy Creek.

The trees on the hillside were younger indicating the area was probably a meadow when the house was occupied.



*Ruins of the old farmhouse*

About halfway through our hike we encountered a ten minute snow squall which most of us seemed to enjoy.

Mike C. surprised us by running down the old road to join us just before we headed down the driveway to check out the house and barn foundations. We started with nineteen hikers and finished with twenty. It was a very nice day for a hike and to be out in the woods with friends.

After the hike, a number of us wandered over to Slippery Rock and North Country Brewing for some potent potables and food.

## **Halloween Party at Davis Hollow Cabin by Joyce Appell**

Joyce Appel and Paul Henry hosted a Halloween Party at the North Country Trail Davis Hollow Cabin on Oct.17. They were King and Queen of the Cabin. We had a magician, Steve Bickel, with his lovely attendant, Carol Bickel. We had a plug, Curt Crocker, and outlet with holes, Cheryl Speir. We had funny people, ugly people, scary people...all kind's of people. Prizes were given for best costumes in certain categories. Some brought carved pumpkins and we took them outside to see what would come to "our eyes" and Oh!, lit up pumpkins always give a different sense of ambiance than what you expect. Of course there was lots of food to share and sitting around the campfire is always a must. Plans to do a Halloween Party again next year at the cabin.

## **Pirates of Lake Arthur by Joyce Appell**

YES, this year we had pirates on Lake Arthur on Oct. 25 when the Nautical Nature had its first Halloween Cruise.

A storyteller, Pat Henry, greeted the passengers as they boarded the boat. She told them of the legend that haunts Lake Arthur every October. Pirates and monsters have disappeared many years ago from the lake, but as the legend goes, every October, their ghosts reappear to haunt anyone who dares to go on Lake Arthur. The storyteller warned everyone that they should not board the boat or they would be sorry. Of course, no one listened.

As the boat approached a small island on the lake, there was a pirate flag perched at the front of the island and many tombstones along the side. Oh my, pirates came out, shouting and firing canons and demanding they stop. The boat and poor passengers could not escape the pirates, who insisted on money and treasures. Captain of the pirates, Paul Henry, and his mates surrounded the boat with their canoes and kayaks. They would not let the boat leave until satisfied with what they could scavenge from everyone.

The pirates had a "change of heart" after the boat left. They were happy with their treasures. They decided to paddle back to McDanel's Launch and greet the passengers as they disembarked. Each passenger was given a pirate bag of candy.

The Halloween Cruise and Pirate Gang were such a hit that I think they may reappear next year!

*Editor's note: Photographs for these two stories appeared in the November issue of THE COMPASS. To save space they are not being duplicated here.*

# Area Outdoor Activities and Educational Events

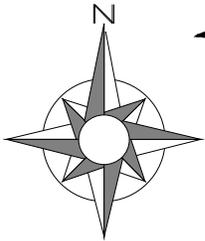
All BOC events are open to the public. When participating in Butler Outdoor Club events, it is assumed that all participants are responsible for their own safety and of their dependents (such as children) at the event. The facilitator is simply providing an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the event together and is not assuming responsibility or liability for the safety of the participants. All travel is not part of the event and is done at your own risk. To be considered as participating in our events all leaders must fill out a waiver form and all participants must read and sign that form.

## 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.
Dec 3	Each meeting includes outing announcements, a featured speaker and slideshow or outdoor educational program and is open to the public.  Join us at the Christmas Party meeting <b>6:00pm</b> at the Butler YMCA . Bring a covered dish to share and a gift (no gag gifts) for a gift exchange.
Dec 20	Christmas Bird Count - meet 7:30am at the end of Swamp Road in Moraine State Park. Afterward, we will go to Steve and Carol Bickel's for some hot chili. Call John Stehle 724-256-0674 to register.
Jan 1	BOC annual First Day Picnic and Hike – noon at McDanel's Shelter, North Shore, Moraine State Park.
Jan 2-4	Jan. 2-4 & 23-24 Wilderness Lodge Weekends – groomed trails, lots of snow and fun. Call Joyce at 724-526-5407 early to reserve space at the lodge.
Feb 27 Mar 2	February 27 - March 2 - Allegany State Park, New York cross country ski weekend. Stay in rustic cabins or nearby motels. Call Joyce to register at 724-526-5407.
	<h2>Other Area Outdoor Activities and Events</h2> <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>
Nov 29	Washington's Trail 1753 Hike begins at the Harmony Museum at 10:00am; 10:45am and 11:30am. The event is the annual commemoration of George Washington's mission that precipitated the French and Indian War, in which the first shot was fired at Washington in Butler County. Cost of the 1 mile hike is \$3 per person and free for children younger than 5. Reservations are recommended. For more information and to register, call 724-452-7341 or visit <a href="http://www.washingtonstrail.org">www.washingtonstrail.org</a> .



*You are cordially invited to attend the annual BOC Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm (Note early time!) Bring a dish or drink to share and a \$5 gift for the gift exchange. Please no gag gifts. There will be lots of food, fun and prizes so you will not want to miss this meeting. We are hoping to see you!*



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