



BUSHWACK BULLETIN

VOLUME 44 - No 2

JUNE-AUGUST 1998

OUR OBJECTIVES: GROUP HIKING + TRAIL MAINTENANCE + OUTDOOR RECREATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE

DUES WERE DUE AND PAYABLE APRIL 1

**HAVE YOUR DUES BEEN PAID?
CHECK YOUR LABEL!**

If the digits 10498 or 20498 appear above your name, your dues are NOT CURRENT!

May 31 Sunday	9:00 AM	<u>Tuscarora Tail</u> C+/Fannetsburg south to Cowan's Gap State Park. Bring lunch and water. Moderate pace. Leader: Thyra Sperry, 258-5261	6.8 miles [120 miles hwy]
June 3 Wednesday	5:30 PM	<u>After Work Strenuous Hike -- Water Tank Trail</u> C+/Meet at Game Lands #211 parking lot in Stony Creek Valley. One very strenuous ascent and descent over rugged terrain. Bring snacks, water and flashlight. Leaders: Jane and Randy Greber, 766-1913	7 miles [0 miles hwy]
June 4 Thursday	10:00 AM	<u>Meet the Thru-hikers Hike</u> B/Meet at the Ironmasters Hostel at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Circle hike. Bring lunch and water. Leader: John Stein, 533-3679	5 miles [0 miles hwy]

THE BUSHWACK BULLETIN is published quarterly in the months of Feb, May, Aug and Nov, by the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club, Inc., P O Box 61001., Harrisburg PA 17106-1001.

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WHITEWATER RAFTING & CAMPING WEEKEND

**Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
July 17, 18, 19, 1998**

Friday, July 17th -- Arrive at campground, near Ohiopyle State Park,

Saturday, July 18th -- Play on the mild, middle section of the Youghiogheny River in rafts and inflatable kayaks, about a 4 hour trip with class I and II rapids. Cost per person: \$21.00.

Sunday, July 19th -- Enjoy rafting 8 miles of delightful Class III rapids on the scenic Lower Youghiogheny River [Beginner / intermediate level]. This is an exciting, guided trip on the river with the cost of \$46.50 per person, which includes lunch on the river. The cost goes down if the group exceeds ten persons. Minimum age is twelve years old. Experienced rafters may ride inflatable kayaks ("duckies") for an additional \$5.00.

Camping and food costs (except Sunday lunch) are additional. Call the leader by June 3rd for more details and to register. **Leader must have rafting checks by June 8.**

Leader: Katie Jones
549-6727

SALCANTAY SACRED MOUNTAIN TREK

**Peru: Cusco to Machu Picchu
October 10-25, 1998**

Club member is seeking several buddies to accompany her on a 14-day, high altitude trek in the Andes, with 8 nights spent in hotels, 6 nights tent camping.

The trip includes a 7-day horse-supported, high altitude trek, averaging 6 miles per day, with tent camping at night. Two nights will be spent at Machu Picchu. The highest altitude will be 15,585 feet at Portachuelo Pass. Trek members generally walk with a daypack containing their camera, water bottle and small personal items, while pack animals or porters carry camping gear, food, and participants main luggage. A mountain guide leads the way, explaining the sites as well as the traditions and natural history of the area.

If interested, call Karen Balaban, 234-3357 evenings, about the costs and other arrangements.

COPIES OF "OUR FAVORITE HIKES"

We regret to announce that our supply of extra copies of "Our Favorite Hikes" have been depleted and we are unable to supply copies or such.

However, requests are coming in, and we will be able to supply reprints. The reprints will be in full sets, which will cost \$5.00 per set which will cover cost of printing and mailing.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT

BUSHWACK BULLETIN

ARTICLES Jul 20, 1998

HIKE SCHEDULE: Jul 27, 1998

Jul 22 is the absolute deadline, beyond which no articles can be accepted. Once the Bulletin is set up, it is too much work to go back, make revisions and have to spend hours redoing the setup.

The next issue of the BUSHWACK BULLETIN is scheduled to arrive about Aug 28, 1998. Should you fail to receive your copy by Aug 31, call Clarence Fredlund, 564-1447.

SUSQUEHANNA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB, INC.

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		<u>BUSHWACK BULLETIN</u>	
		EDITOR	Ralph H Kinter

June 6 Saturday	9:00 AM	<u>Horseshoe Trail Maintenance</u> <i>Meet at the intersection of Routes 81 and 39 at the Shell Station. Bring lunch, water, work gloves, no spam. Possible climbs.</i> Leader: John Stein, 533-3679	3-10 miles [10 miles hwy]
June 7 Sunday	9:00 AM	<u>Tuscarora Trail</u> B+/Moderate pace over rocky terrain. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Thyra Sperry, 258-5261	5.2 miles [120 miles hwy]
June 10 Wednesday	8:00 AM	<u>Turnpike Tunnel Hike</u> <i>Meet at the Camp Hill Shopping Mall near the theatres. Includes tour of double tunnel maintenance facility. If permission to tour is not obtained, another hike in that area will be substituted. Bring lunch, water and sturdy shoes.</i> Leader: Louise Sis, 774-0196	7-8 miles [100 miles hwy]
June 10		Deadline to register for Whitewater Rafting and Camping Weekend Details on page <u>10</u> .	
June 14		Deadline to register for Overnight Horseback Riding Trip See below at August 29-30th.	
June 14 Sunday	10:30 AM	<u>Saint Anthony's Wilderness</u> E+/Bring lunch and water. Fast-paced loop hike from Gold Mine to Rausch Gap, on foot trails (no RR beds). 2-3 climbs. Leader: Tom Scully, 671-8241	13 miles [50 miles hwy]
June 17 Wednesday	5:30 PM	<u>After Work Strenuous Hike -- Hawk Rock Circle Hike</u> <i>Meet at the base of Hawk Rock in Duncannon. One strenuous ascent and descent over rugged terrain. Bring snacks, water and flashlight.</i> Leaders: Jane and Randy Greber, 766-1913	9 miles [0 miles hwy]
June 21 Sunday	9:00 AM	<u>Appalachian Trail Maintenance</u> Help maintain SATC's section of the AT. Cut back seasonal growth. Bring lunch, water and work gloves if you have them. Morning or full day option. Hiking mileage varies. Leader: Jeff Buehler, 657-8281	[20 miles hwy]
June 24 Wednesday	9:00 AM	<u>Mason Dixon Trail, Trinity Church Road to Greenbranch Road</u> <i>Meet at McDonald's on Route 15, 2nd traffic light south of the Turnpike, or call leader. Moderate pace. Bring water and snacks. Optional lunch stop.</i> Leader: Thyra Sperry, 258-5261	6 miles [60 miles hwy]
June 27 Saturday	8:00 AM	<u>Rothrock Rhododendron Hike</u> E+/Bring lunch and water. Fast paced balloon hike in Rothrock State Forest past many rhododendron glades. Two very steep climbs and one very steep descent. Some rocky terrain. Leader: Tom Scully, 671-8241	14 miles [175 miles hwy]

August 9 Sunday	1:00 PM	<u>Chambers Hill Lemonade Hike</u> A/Explore Chambers Hill Leader: Carole Martin, 561-2475	4 miles [15 miles hwy]
August 13 Thursday	6:00 PM	<u>Ice Cream Hike</u> A/Meet at the 3 B's Ice Cream Shop at the intersection of routes 325 and 225. Easy terrain. Leader: Louise Sis, 774-0196	3 miles [0 miles hwy]
August 16 Sunday	9:00 AM	<u>Trail Maintenance</u> Bring lunch, water and work gloves. Cut back seasonal growth on a trail to be announced. Morning or full day option. Hiking mileage varies. Highway mileage to be determined. Leader: Jeff Buehler, 657-8281	
August 23 Sunday	9:00 AM	<u>Codorus State Park</u> D/Bring lunch and water. Optional swim after hike for \$2 fee. Leader: John Stein, 533-3679	10 miles [60 miles hwy]
August 29-30 Saturday-Sunday		<u>Overnight Horseback Riding Trip</u> Two days and one night on rugged, scenic trails in the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania area. This guided, western-style ride begins near Wellsboro, PA. The cost of \$256 includes camping gear and prepared meals, and goes down significantly as group size rises. Maximum group size 13 persons. Minimum age 12, ages 8-11 OK if experienced riders. <i>Call leader for details and to register by June 14th.</i> Leader must have checks by July 1st. Leader: Katie Jones, 249-6727	
August 29 Saturday	8:00 AM	<u>Hamburg Area</u> E+/Bring lunch and water. Fast paced loop hike from the Little Schuylkill River to Pulpit Rock Leader: Tom Scully, 671-8241	16 miles [125 miles hwy]
August 30 Sunday	9:00 AM	<u>1,000 Steps Loop Hike</u> C+/Climb the thousand steps and visit the two steps which SATC has "purchased" to help save this scenic and historic area. Optional dinner stop. Leader: Susanne Donmoyer, 545-5308	7 miles [160 miles hwy]

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, all hikes leave from FISHER PLAZA,

(ENTRANCE TO THE STATE LIBRARY) behind the State Capitol Building.

Should Fisher Plaza be closed, the alternate meeting site will be the parking island
in front of the East Gate Office Center on 7th St. opposite the Herr St. underpass
will be allowed at the alternate site.

If you ride with someone, you should give the driver 4¢ times the highway mileage
shown, to help defray the cost of gas.

NO PETS ALLOWED

CODES FOR THE HIKES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE: 6

FROM THE PRESIDENT

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Please take a moment and read the unsigned form letter enclosed with this Bulletin. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is in the process of making revisions to the State Forest Rules and Regulations. A public comment period in November showed that there is a lot of public concern regarding horse and bicycle use of hiking trails. While many hikers wrote in, the Bureau of Forestry was flooded by form letters from equestrians. No one is saying that there shouldn't be trails for horses and bicycles, but not the trails that are maintained by tens of thousands of volunteer hiker work-hours. These hiking trails are not designed for such use and can be greatly damaged by it.

This particular issue is now going to be addressed in a separate workgroup. In the meantime, your voice counts! Please sign the letter, or draft your own with the same ideas, and send it in!

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

On April 19, six hale and (fool)hardy souls braved the rain and hiked up to the top Hawk Rock above Duncannon. This was done to accomplish the traditional installation of SATC officers. The hikers were John Lenahan, Gail Guers, Lydia Pope, Katie Jones, Randy Greber and Jane Greber.

Want to know what happens when Officers and Board members miss an official session? Well we took small liberties by installing* the following:

Reinstated as President: Jeff Buehler
Vice President: Jon Kohn
Treasurer: Jane Keeney
Secretary: Bonnie Booth
Immediate Past President: Will Webster
Directors: Katie Jones
Clarence Fredlund
Dick Martin
Jane Greber

* Kidding, of course

THOUSAND STEPS

The Board voted to purchase another one of the Thousand Steps for \$100.00. This will assist the Keystone Trails Association in preserving this historic area of the Link Trail (see the December 1997 BUSHWACK BULLETIN). KTA received a \$95,000 matching grant from , but needs to raise \$30,000 more to complete their purchase. They feel that selling 300 more steps will put them over the top. Clarence picked the number and was able to get step # 728. Can you guess the significance of the number?

For members or groups interested in supporting this effort by individually purchasing a step, contact Clarence Fredlund, 564-1447. The Stony Creek Coalition purchased one from the Central Penna. Conservancy, under their environmental program.

1998 KTA TRAIL CREW

The Board, also, voted to donate \$100.00 for the KTA Trail Crew again this summer. The volunteer crew will work one week each on the Mid-State Trail, the Chuck Keiper Trail, and in Hickory Run State Park. There are still positions open for this summer.

By the way, on April 3, 1998, KTA voted to rename the Mid-State Trail. It is now "The Tom Thwaites Mid-State Trail."

BY-LAWS MODIFICATION

When I was vice president I found it was difficult to work around some of the By-Laws. When I suggested that we might consider amending them, I was met with an even greater challenge. For this reason, I would like to set a special meeting to discuss the advisability of amending the By-Laws. The first meeting will be held on August 25. If you are interested, call Jane Greber, 766-1913.

Continued on next page

NEW BOOKS & MAPS AVAILABLE

The new edition of "PA Hiking Trails" and new AT maps, sections 1-6 (Delaware Water Gap to Swatara Gap) are now available. See the last page of this BUSHWACK BULLETIN for price and ordering information. Tom Scully was the map editor for the AT maps and Jeff Buehler edited the section of the book pertaining to our region.

ANNUAL S.A.T.C. PICNIC

Hope to see you at the Annual Picnic in July. As always, there will be plenty of **Hiking! Food! Volleyball! Food! Swimming! Food!**

AT RELOCATION??

Tom Scully has scouted out a possible AT relocation on S.A.T.C.'s section of the Appalachian Trail. The re-location is about ½ mile long and runs from the Route 225 parking lot on Peter's Mountain to the Powerline. It provides a more scenic footpath than the present trail, and runs along the south-side of the mountain crest. If you're interested in more information, or if you would like to join the Committee to research the feasibility of the relocation, contact Tom Scully, 671-8241 or Jeff Buehler, 657-8281.

Jane Greber, President

CODES FOR THE HIKES

A -	Easy	- Hikes of up to six miles with very little hill climbing [Excellent for beginners.]
B -	Fairly Easy	- Hikes of up to six miles with some climbing. [Good for beginners.]
B+-	Moderate	- Hikes of up to six miles with more difficult climbs.
C -	Fairly moderate	- Hikes of 7 to 9 miles with very little climbing.
C+-	Strenuous	- Hikes of 7 to 9 miles with several significant Climbs
D -	More strenuous	- Hikes of 10 to 12 miles with very little climbing.
D+-	Very strenuous	- Hikes of 10 to 12 miles with several significant climbs.
E -	Difficult	- Hikes of over 12 miles.
E+-	Very difficult	- Hikes of over 12 miles on very rugged terrain.

In addition the leaders should describe the pace and footing, where this is essential, such as: "Easy with moderate or fast pace;" or "Easy with nature stops;" or "Good footpath;" or "Rocky and rough;" etc.

SMOKING GUIDE LINES

The S.A.T.C. prefers that hikers refrain from the use of tobacco products during club activities.

Smokers are responsible for damage to the forests.

Pack out all waste materials.

ANNUAL PICNIC

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1998

PAVILION #1

LITTLE BUFFALO STAT

- 8:30 am Meet at Fisher Plaza, for car pool.
9:30 am 4-5 mile hike starts at Pavilion #1 (B+)
Leader: Jane Greber, 766-1913
12:30 pm Picnic at Pavilion #1
2:00 pm Afternoon hike or volleyball
Fee for swimming or boating

Everyone, Come on out and bring your favorite picnic dish to share!
The club furnishes the barbecue and buns.

Picnic Committee: Katie Jones
Lydia Pope
Bonnie Booth

Call a member of the picnic committee to let the committee know
what you are bringing, or, if you are in doubt, what to bring.

The first planning meeting was held on Saturday, March 28, 1998, at the Appalachian Trail Mid-Atlantic Regional Office in Boiling Springs. Twenty-five hikers attended including SATC Officers, Directors & members, as well as other PA club representatives.

Our first step is to organize a Steering Committee to continue planning. Several people were quite interested in chairing a committee. Job descriptions were handed out to everyone.

The Committees are:

Audio/Vissual	Housing	Publicity
Camping	Hikes	Registration
Campus Arrangement	Hospitality	Signs
Excursions	Medical Emergency	Sales/Souvenirs
Exhibits	Plan	Transportation
Entertainment	Publications	Voluneer Recruitment
Financial	Panels	Workshops
Food	Panels	Youth Activities

If you would like to receive a Job Description for any of these committees, please call, write or e-mail Thyra Sperry at 717-258-5261., P.O. Box 399, Boiling Springs, PA., 17007-0399 or: HikeThyra@aol.com

THE TRAILMASTER'S REPORT

CAMP FIRES ALONG THE TRAIL

One of the more persistent management problems we, as a club, face along our section of the Appalachian Trail is the continued building of illegal and sometimes hazardous fire rings.

Many are constructed by novice users of the trail who are not aware of potential damaging consequences from their actions. Still others are built near road access sites by partying campers who show little regard towards the trail environment or other users of the Trail.

As a trail maintenance / management organization, it is our responsibility to discourage building of fire rings, to eliminate existing ones and clean up the surrounding area.

Our club, along with A.T.C., supports the "Leave-No-Trace" principles which try to minimize the negative impact of many users on the trail resources. Some of the Leave No Trace tips include camping at areas established for overnight use and using small backpacking stoves for cooking instead of building campfires.

On SATC's section of the A.T. we maintain the Peter's Mountain Shelter site which is the only designated overnight use site on our part of the trail. There we have two firerings, one in front of each shelter.

It is the responsibility of anyone who chooses to use them to thoroughly extinguish all fires and clean up the area after they are finished. Further, no live branches or trees are ever to be used for fire-wood - only downed, dead wood. Overnight camping along the trail is dispersed situations by hikers should be done discreetly and follow Leave-No-Trace practices.

Campfires create an adverse visual and ecological impact on the trail environment and in the backcountry as a whole.

Fire rings reduce the naturalness of the area and mar its appearance with blackened rocks, piles of ash, unburned wood, and are gathering pits for trash that is either non-burnable or is left intentionally by inconsiderate campers.

The ecological impacts of campfires include trampled vegetation, removal of woody debris critical to a healthy forest ecosystem, lost vegetation and soil compaction around the fire ring, and sterilized soil that retards plant recovery.

Campfires can also lead to serious fire hazards in the trail corridor and produce long term detrimental effects to the trail experience.

This past autumn, on October 31, 1997, a fire adjacent to the A.T. burned a small area on Peters Mountain between PA Route 225 and the old Zeager Shelter site.

Although small in size (approximately 2 acres) and not visible from the trail itself, the fire will have a negative visual impact on the trail footpath for many years to come because the firefighters had to widen the trail to gain access to the fire in a timely manner with their firefighting equipment. Instead of a narrow winding footpath on the mountain crest, we now have a more road-like appearance of the trail in this area.

Forest Rangers found a campfire and determined by the burn pattern that the campfire was the origin of the fire.

When hiking on the A.T. and other trails or doing maintenance work on them, please understand why trail organizations try to deter the use and building of fire rings.

Help clean up these eyesores in the backcountry and pack out all trash if you are able to - even if its somebody elses.

Help educate new hikers on low impact camping techniques.

Be mindful that if you still intend to build a fire, you should be aware of local fire restrictions along the trail. They can differ according to the land managing agency and you could be held liable for monetary losses resulting from careless campfires!

Jeff Buehler
S.A.T.C. Trailmaster

**TO REPORT A FIRE ALONG THE TRAIL
CALL 911**

And try to give as detailed a location as possible!

**Firefighting along the A.T. in Pennsylvania
is coordinated by the Bureau of Forestry
regardless of the land owning agency.**

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE ATC MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE

The Appalachian Trail Conference is seeking volunteers to help out evenings and weekends, May through September, at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. Responsibilities include greeting and assisting a wide variety of visitors, from tourists to thru-hikers, and responding to information requests. A.T. membership and hiking experience would be helpful.

Volunteer 40 hours or more and receive a limited edition T-shirt and special discount on ATC merchandise. Enjoy summer evenings on the Appalachian Trail in Boiling Springs and meet fascinating people.

If interested, please contact Donna Williams, ATC., PO Box 381, Boiling Springs, PA 17007-0381. Telephone: 717-258-5771

KTA WEEKENDS

Keystone Trails is planning a series of weekends to be enjoyed jointly with members of other Clubs. They include:

June 19, 20, 21, 1998, Chuck Keiper Trail, at Hyner Run State Park in Clinton County. Since there are no group camping facilities in this park, you must make your own arrangements by calling 1-888-PA-PARKS, and make your own reservations. Ask for campsites between 13 and 19 if possible. If you wish to stay in a hotel, Yesterday's Hotel 717- 923-2642, in Renovo has reasonable rates

July 31, August 1, 2, 1998, French Creek State Park, Berks County, in Organized Group Cmping Area--Tents only--no trailers, no pop-ups. Cabins are available, by calling 1-888-PA-PAKS. If you want someone to share your cabin, Mary Pitzer may be able to help. Hikin' will be on the Horseshoe Trail and other trails in the park.

Septber 25, 26, 27, 1998, Cooks Forest State Park, in the organized group camping area. or if you prefer a hotel, Mary Pitzer has a list of places available. Send her a SASE envelope. Hikes will be in the Allegheny National Forest or on the Baker and/or North Country Trails.

If you are interested, in joining the group, contact Mary Pitzer, 1268 Spreading Oak Dr., Pittsburgh PA, 15220, as she needs to know how many are coming. See application coupon below:

THE LAST WAVE OF SUMMER **SEASHORE WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER**

The southern end of Assateague Island on the Eastern Shore of Virginia is the location of the Chicoteague National Wildlife Refuge and of a National Seashore.

Activities there can include hiking (salt marsh and woodland trails or shoreline), biking, birdwatching, photography **and the beach!**

Two Cautionary Notes: There are no beach lifeguards at that time of the year. And you'll need a good insect repellent in the woodlands and the salt marsh.

If you're interested in going there for a weekend or on an extended weekend in mid-September, please call Frank Bohn, at 234-5169

YEAR END TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

Frank Bohn would like to know if there is any interest in a hiking and sightseeing trip to California at the end of the year.

Depending on the interest, possible hiking locations could include Yosemite Valley, Big Sur, Pinnacles National Monument, or the deserts and mountains of southern California. We might also planto see the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena on New Years Day.

If you interested in such a trip, call Frank Bohn, at 234-5169, before June 22, 1998.

WEEK-END RESERVATION FORM

Hyner Run State Park (Jun 19, 20, 21)
French Creek State Park (Jul 31, Aug 1, 2.)
Cooks Forest State Park (Sep 25, 26, 27.)

of Hikers _____ \$6.00 per person
_____ Make your own reservations
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Send to Mary Pitzer,
1368 Spreading Oak Dr
Pittsburgh PA 15220

Post Office _____

Be sure to send along a self addressed stamped envelope.