



BUSHWACK BULLETIN

VOLUME 47— No 4 www.libertynet.org/susqatc

DECEMBER 2001 - FEBRUARY 2002

OUR OBJECTIVES: GROUP HIKING + TRAIL MAINTENANCE + OUTDOOR RECREATION

IMPORTANT DUES NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK THE DUES EXPIRY DATE PRINTED ABOVE YOUR NAME ON THE ADDRESS LABEL. IF IT READS 4/1/01*, YOU NEED TO PAY AT LEAST TWO YEARS DUES NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2002. IF IT READS 4/1/02, YOU NEED TO PAY AT LEAST ONE YEARS DUES BY MARCH 31, 2002.

You are encouraged to pay dues for more than the minimum period to reduce the paper work for yourself and the Club. To pay your dues, please use the form on the last page of this BULLETIN. Please sign the form and print very clearly your name(s) and other information requested.

*Normally if you have an expiry date for last April 1 you would not be receiving this Bulletin since your dues are long overdue. However, because of problems related to establishing a new computer database which made it impossible to remind you of your membership expiry previously, an additional Bulletin is being provided at this time.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>December 1</u>
Saturday
7:00 pm | XMAS Party | Annual Holiday Party (Note that the date in the previous Bulletin was incorrect)
Get together with new and old hiking friends. Fast pace to buffet line, easy terrain. See article on page 6 for details. |
| <u>December 6</u>
Thursday
10:00 am | A
3 miles
0 hwy miles | Hershey Bike Trail – In and Out Hike from parking lot through Shanks Park to end of bike trail and return. Lunch at a local restaurant. Meet at Bull Frog Valley Road parking lot.
Leader: Susanne Donmoyer, 545-5308 |
| <u>December 8</u>
Saturday
9:00 am | E
20 miles | Capital Area Greenbelt See parks, campuses, neighborhoods, and historic parkways. Some gentle hills and lots of pavement. We will try to keep a brisk pace with brief stops at points of interest. Call about options for doing less than the entire hike. Bring lunch, water, and comfy footwear.
Leader: John Lenihan, 737-7675 |
| <u>December 8</u>
Saturday
12:30 pm | D+
8 miles
40 hwy miles | Clarks Valley Power Line
Moderately paced hike with a rocky and rugged climb. Bring snacks and water. Leader: Gail Guers, 232-0387 |

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

<u>February 2</u> Saturday 2:00 pm	B 6 miles 0 hwy miles	<u>Capitol Area Greenbelt</u> Walk around the Harrisburg area followed by an optional dinner stop. Bring water. Leader: Kris Kyler, 558-8417
<u>February 3</u> Sunday 9:00 am	C+ 7 miles 120 hwy miles	<u>Middle Creek</u> Strenuous hike at a moderate pace over a variety of trails, including some strenuous climbs. Participants should bring lunch and water; those interested in optional birding afterward should bring binoculars and warm clothing/footgear. Leaders: Will and Jane Webster, 526-2127 or willweb@juno.com
<u>February 10</u> Sunday 1:00 pm	A 5 miles 90 hwy miles	<u>Box Car Rocks In and out</u> Hike to an outstanding formation of rocks, old strip mining sites and a view of Broad Mountain. Moderate pace, flat terrain. Bring snacks and water. Leader: Katie Jones, 249-6727
<u>February 16</u> Saturday 8:30 am	D+ 10 miles 65 hwy miles	<u>Tuscarora Trail: To Hell and Down</u> Moderate to fast-paced hike over rock ledges with great views. Overlooks President James Buchanan's birthplace. Bring lunch and water. Alternate meeting place: Holiday Inn, I-81 and Carlisle Pike (Middlesex) Leader: Karen Balaban, 234-3357
<u>February 21</u> Thursday 10:00 am	A 3-4 miles	<u>Hershey Bike Trail</u> Hike from parking lot going east and return. Lunch at a local restaurant. Meet at Bullfrog Valley Road parking lot. Leader: Susanne Donmoyer, 545-5308
<u>February 24</u> Sunday 1:00 pm	A 5 miles 30 hwy miles	<u>Clarks Valley Railroad Trail</u> Easy hike along an old railroad bed. Bring snacks and water. Leader: Janet Eshleman, 774-1318

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 Street opposite the Herr St. underpass. Five additional minutes will be allowed at the alternate site.

If you ride with someone, you should give the driver 5 cents times the highway mileage shown to help defray costs.

NO PETS ALLOWED

CODES FOR THE HIKES ARE SHOWN BELOW

CODES FOR THE HIKES

Code	Short Description	Miles	Climbs
A	Easy[Excellent for Beginners]	Up to 6	Very little
B	Fairly Easy[Good for Beginners]	Up to 6	Some Easy
B+	Moderate	Up to 6	More Difficult
C	Fairly Moderate	7 to 9	Very little
C+	Strenuous	7 to 9	Several Significant
D	More Strenuous	10 to 12	Very Little
D+	Very Strenuous	10 to 12	Several Significant
E	Difficult	Over 12	
E+	Very Difficult	Over 12	Very Rugged

In addition to assigning a code, 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.

From the President

Dear SATC Members,

2001 Appalachian Trail Conference . . .

The Conference is over and was a wonderful success. Attendees gave it very high ratings, and were especially happy with the easy and fast registration process, an area with which some previous conferences have struggled. They were pleased with the type and variety of hikes planned and with their hike leaders. Excursions, housing, camping, workshops, exhibits and entertainment all got high marks. The college food was rated a little lower, but most people found it plentiful and filling. Financially, the conference made a bigger profit than expected - over \$33,000 dollars. Overall, it went extremely well. And it was all run by volunteers! A lot of them! (See the list elsewhere in this bulletin.) Aren't hikers great?

The 2003 biennial conference will be in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The good news? We don't have to run it, we can just enjoy!

Welcome back . . .

Bob Keyes and Elizabeth Tean both attended October's program meeting - it was great to see them on their feet after a broken leg and hip, respectively. May you both continue to heal!

Rt. 225 Pedestrian Bridge . . .

Remember when they were saying that it "might" be done for the 2001 conference? Well, now they're saying "groundbreaking in the spring." We'll see . . .

Game Lands Regulations . . .

SATC member John Stein and Pennsylvania's trail advocate, the Keystone Trails Association, are working hard to mold these regulations into something environmentally and hiker friendly. In the future, look for limits on horse and bicycle travel, restrictions on group size, and new requirements for the wearing of orange on game lands.

Victoria Trail . . .

The relocated version of this trail, the one that starts at a Game Lands parking lot east of the original location, may be complete by the time you read this. Parking is safer, the footpath is unsoftened by ATV's and erosion, and our section of the Appalachian is still easily accessed from Route 325. Tom Scully, Jeff Buehler and the SATC work crew are to be commended!

Finished the Trail . . .

Club Members Randy and Jane Greber have now hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, raising funds for the breast cancer cause in the process. Congratulations! Jane's daughter Kelly and her boyfriend completed their through-hike just ahead of Mom, and became engaged on Mt. Katahdin. Club member Charlie Paul, we hear, has recently completed a through-hike, too. 2,160 miles is a long way. Congratulations all around!

Above the Tree Line

A donation will be made to the Appalachian Trail Conference in memory of SATC member Elsie Brown who passed away in October. A member since 1961, she was the widow of Charles Brown, a long time Treasurer who passed away a number of years ago. They met at SATC and were very active for many years. Recently, Elsie gave a gift membership to her brother John Zerbe of Madison, WI.

Can You Help?

Two volunteers are needed. One person is needed to coordinate the volunteers who will staff the SATC/Keystone Trails Association booth at the Pennsylvania Farm Show this year. Access to e-mail is almost essential for this job. The Farm show runs from January 5-10, 2002. Another person is needed to finalize the new version of our club brochure and to make arrangements to have it printed for distribution at the Farm Show. Contact Katie Jones at 249-6727 or jonesk@dickinson.edu if you are interested in helping.

Trailmaster's Report

It has been quite a year for volunteers of the S.A.T.C. Of course many club members put in an extraordinary large number of hours helping out at the Appalachian Trail Conference bi-annual meeting held in Shippensburg this past summer, but we also did an impressive amount of volunteer work on our trails too.

Darlington Trail

The Darlington Trail relocation was completed in time for the National Trails Day dedication in early June thanks to a couple of scheduled club work trips that were well attended, and to a few dedicated club volunteers that worked with the trail relocation's designer, Tom Scully to "finish up" just in time.

The entire Darlington Trail, with its new route, is now open and well marked (orange blazes) from its intersection with the Appalachian and Tuscarora trails on Blue Mountain, to its eastern terminus at Tower Road, a distance of 7.74 miles. Some of the relocated parts of the trail are a bit rocky and were deliberately built narrow to help deter usage other than foot travel. There will be future work trips to improve the trail route, as needed with appropriate construction techniques. Tom Scully produced a Darlington Trail map that shows the location of the old and new routes of the trail between Lamb's Gap Road and Tower Road and has a general trail description and other information included. Anyone that wants a copy of the map can send me a self-addressed stamped envelope and I will send you a copy.

Appalachian Trail

During the past fiscal year (Oct.2000-Sept.2001) our club had five scheduled work trips on our section of the Appalachian Trail. The worktrips included trail rehabilitation and erosion control structures built on the trail near the Victoria Gap and at a location just south of the Pa.rt.325 crossing. Rock waterbars, checkdams, steps, stepping stones, and scree were constructed as needed. We also had a shelter work trip at Peter's Mountain Shelter to build some wood steps, restrain the shelter floors, and make a privy modification. General trail clearing was done and included the usual lopping and weed whacking work, cutting out blowdowns, and the removal and clean-up of illegal fire rings along the trail. Paint re-blazing along the trail was done by Tom Scully who has done an excellent and neat job of not only blazing our section of the A.T. but also the spur and access trails and the Darlington Trail too. He also volunteered on an individual basis to paint blaze the various trails in the new Ibberson Conservation Area adjacent to and including a part of our section of the A.T.

Thank you to Susanne Donmoyer who helped me with a project to build new routed trail identification/directional signs for our section of the A.T. She and Mary Drury also check and clean up at Peter's Mtn. Shelter frequently.

Our club participated in the Appalachian Trail Conference's ridgerunner program once again. This year's ridgerunner for our area was Ross Caruso who had been a ridgerunner in previous years at other locations. Ross sent out weekly reports to participating trail clubs detailing when and where he hiked, number of hikers he met, and any problems along the trail. He came out, worked with us on two club work trips, and did so with other clubs too. We appreciate the ridgerunners as the "eyes and ears" along the trail and for joining the trail clubs in their outings.

Victoria Trail

Our latest trail project is a complete relocation of the Victoria Trail, an old cross-mountain road that our club uses as an access trail for trail maintenance trips. The blue blazed trail, on the south side of Peter's Mountain 3.7 miles north of the intersection of the A.T. and Pa. Rt. 225, has a number of disadvantages. The trail descends down the mountain through private land and in close proximity to private residences. There is no safe parking where the trail ends at Pa.Rt.325 (Clark's Valley Road) and the trail is very eroded due to vehicles using it over many years.

The new relocated trail will intersect with the A.T. just to the north of the existing trail near Victoria Gap on Peter's Mountain. It will descend for about a mile through protected lands of the Ibberson Conservation Area (D.C.N.R.) and Pa. State Game Lands. A game lands parking area along Pa. Rt. 325 will provide safe parking for trail users.

We had our first club work trip on the Victoria Trail relocation in September. The flagged route was cleared and some heavy-duty rock work was done on the trail close to the parking area. Some side hill trail has been dug but much remains to be done for future work trips. Tom Scully has paint blazed (blue) the trail from the parking area to the top of Peter's Mountain but no signage is in place yet. The new trail will be a welcome addition to our club's trail network because not only does it provide access to the A.T., but also to the new Ibberson Conservation Area and it's network of blazed trails on the north side of Peter's Mountain.

I want to personally thank all the volunteers that have participated in our trail work trips. We have done a lot of quality work that will benefit trail users for years to come. Please do not hesitate to come out on a work trip because you think there will not be anything you can do. There is usually a variety of work and you may be surprised to find out what you can do with the right tools, know how, and the help of our other dedicated volunteers.

Jeff Buehler,SATC Trailmaster ,4706 Orchard St. ;Harrisburg, Pa. 17109-1712;(717) 657-8281

E-mail: ATHIKERJB@AOL.COM

Appalachian Trail Volunteer Work Hours Report

It is the responsibility of our club to report volunteer work hours to the Appalachian Trail Conference (A.T.C.) each fiscal year so they may be tallied up with other trail maintaining organizations and reported to our federal agency partner, the National Park Service (N.P.S.)

The Volunteers in the Parks (VIP) is a program administered under an agreement between A.T.C. and the N.P.S. The program was authorized by a federal act intended to enhance the abilities of volunteers to work in our nation's parks. The VIP agreement between A.T.C. and the N.P.S. protects A.T.C. and the individual trail clubs from personal and trail club liability and provides reimbursement for medical expenses for accidents resulting from certain trail-management activities as long as participants are listed on a roster of work party members for any specific work trip.

This VIP agreement requires us to report the total number of volunteers working on the Trail and the total number of volunteer work hours expended between October 1 and September 30 each year. All hours for fieldwork including maintenance and monitoring activities on the Appalachian Trail can be reported, including hours of travel time to and from trail work sites. In addition, meeting time for A.T. related planning sessions may also be tallied in our club's total.

For the fiscal year October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001, S.A.T.C. contributed 1,028 hours from 44 volunteers on A.T. related *work.

*These hours include work on the new Victoria Trail relocation.

Jeff Buehler

SATC Volunteers Recognized

Three SATC Members received awards recognizing their importance to the Appalachian Trail in conjunction with the 2001 biennial Appalachian Trail Conference held this past July. Ralph and Anna Kinter were two of 87 volunteers recognized with Silver Service Awards for 25 or more years of active service. They each received a silver tone plaque and a letter from the director of the Appalachian Trail Park Office. Earl Shaffer was one of only eleven volunteers recognized with a Golden Service Award for 50 years of service and received a gold tone plaque and letters from the Director of the National Park Service and the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Congratulations, Ralph, Anna and Earl, on receiving this special honor!

Helpful Hikers

Thanks to Bonnie Booth for promoting hiking and the SATC at the Elizabethtown College Health Fair last April. Thanks also go to Jeanne Schopf, Louise Sis, Pat Harhi and Nancy Borreman who staffed the booth.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT BUSHWACK BULLETIN: JANUARY 15, 2002

CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: Saturday, December 1, 2001 at 7:00 PM

Where: The West Shore Senior Citizens' Center
122 Geary Street, New Cumberland, PA

Bring: A Generous Covered Dish to Share
(Hikers are big eaters)

Program: Caroling, slide show, games

Committee: Barbara Harvey (766-7868); Katie Jones (249-6727) and
Anna Pruet (561-1968)

The committee needs to know who is planning to come and what they intend to bring, or if you are not sure what to bring, the committee can offer suggestions on what is needed. Members are asked to bring favorite slides taken on this year's hikes or vacation trips. Please limit your presentation to about 5 minutes and identify your slides with your name

2001 Conference Volunteers

The Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the following very large number of Club members who enthusiastically volunteered to help at the 2001 Appalachian Trail Conference this past July. Club members led hikes, provided entertainment, chaired committees, photocopied, directed traffic, staffed desks, kept the books, sold T-shirts and helped in too many other ways to mention. Many members helped in more than one capacity. Thanks

Balaban	Karen	Greber	Randy	Peck	Sue
Barbrush	Vince	Green	Richard	Press	Mark
Bashaw	Donna	Hafner	Ed	Pruett	Anna
Barker	Sam	Harhi	Pat	Randall	Gail
Best	Bill	Harvey	Barbara	Rekus	Roy
Bohn	Frank	Harvey	Sam	Renninger	Joan
Bohner	Sandra	Huff	Sally	Rosenstrauch	Barbara
Booth	Bonnie	Iberg	Cindy	Schaller	Gene
Brown	Sheree	Johnson	Lee	Schopf	Jeanne
Brumbaugh	Sharon	Jones	Katie	Sears	Randy
Buehler	Jeff	Jones	Christy	See	Gloria
Carswell	Andrew	Keyes	Robert	Shaffer	Earl
Cessna	Krista	Kissel	Ralph	Shaw	Rob
Clark	Marie	Koeppen	Steve	Sis	Richard
Coogan	Tom	Kumpas	Chuck	Sis	Louise
Cox	Fred	Kutz	Ron	Slaybaugh	Janet
Day	Phil	Kyler	Kris	Smith	Deb
DeMartyn	Melanie	LaBelle	Gary	Sperry	Thyra
Domanski	Mary	Lenahan	John	Spring	Sue
Donmoyer	Susanne	Lorence	Erika	Stein	John
Donmoyer	Carl	Lorence	Carl	Stroman	Steve
Drury	Mary	Love	Jim & Jackie	Swingholm	Ray
Eshleman	Janet	Lykins	Diane	Tritt	Nancy
Evans	Tom	Martin	Dick	Vierthaler	Wanda
Firme	Chris	Mayer	Bill	Weaber	Tom
Fleszar	Pete	Mayer	Carol	Webster	Jane
Fohs	George	McLaren	Shirley	Webster	Will
Forero	Andres	Miller	Sylvia	Wentz	Al
Fredlund	Clarence	Moorehead	Shelby	Wentz	Shirley
Geller	Sue	Moreau	Perry	Wertz	Melanie
Geller	Bill	Mullen	Mark	Williams	Mikki
Geoffrey	Leon	Murphy	Donna	Young	Mary
Gish	Betty	Newberry	Molly	Zaia	John
Greber	Jane	O'Neal	Louise	Zaia	Ellen
				Zura	Kate

NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming these new members:

Michael Anstead
Jan S. Barnett
Terry Brown
Peter J. Calcagno
Stephanie J. Castialdi

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-2849
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5134
Lancaster, PA 17601-4997
Camp Hill, PA 17011-1029
Hershey, PA 17033-8924

Jim Close
John F. Currie
Deb Davis
Josephine M. Dieffenbach
Thomas & Loreen Erickson

Harrisburg, PA 17110-1307
Camp Hill, PA 17011-1292
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6353
Lemoyne, PA 17043-1764
Hummelstown, PA 17036-8548

Jennifer Esch
Scott Evans
Daniel Patrick Flatley
Andres Forero
Thomas Friend

New Cumberland, PA 17070-1555
Harrisburg, PA 17109-2324
Dauphin, PA 17018-9711
Lemoyne, PA 17043-1717
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9248

Joyce A. Furfaro
Valaria Groetzinger
Elizabeth Humes
Krista Jones
Dave Kaplewicz & Renee Roy

Hershey, PA 17033-1466
New Cumberland, PA 17070-1145
Millerstown, PA 17062-9713
Wormleysburg, PA 17043-1011
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3657

Ralph Kissel
John B. & Patricia A. Lampi
Nancy J. Landis
Peter Lynch
Jeffrey D. Mc Partland

Gettysburg, PA 17325-2615
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-7331
Ronks, PA 17572-9522
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6516
Camp Hill, PA 17011-1343

Mitesh Mehta
Angela K. Miller
G. Carl Muller
Jerry & Wendy Oberdorf
Elizabeth Ortiz

0 Harrisburg, PA 17109-2433
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-9197
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-5455
Carlisle, PA 17013-9035
-D Harrisburg, PA 17111-1739

Pamela J. Pasi
Summer Red
Kathy Reynolds
Renee Roy & Dave Kaplewicz
Walter P. Scott

Boiling Springs, PA 17007-0341
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5404
Etters, PA 17319-9384
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3657
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6041

Mark Seidel & Diane Warriner
Nancy A. & Richard Shertzer
Anna C. Smith
Bonnie & Bob Teske
Becky Thoroughgood

Camp Hill, PA 17011-3606
Hummelstown, PA 17036-9536
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-5817
Harrisburg, PA 17112-0593
Harrisburg, PA 17110-0334

Beth A. Thomlinson
Harold Wetzler, Jr.
Mary Wirick
Patricia A. Wright
Joanne D. Zanger

New Cumberland, PA 17070-1942
Liverpool, PA 17045
Carlisle, PA 17013-8765
Hershey, PA 17033-8908
Camp Hill, PA 17011-5427

Outreach Program in Action

by Jane Greber

On July 21, Lisa, Randy and I led a hike with 11 children from the Steelton Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Don Hill (the club's director) and Diane, mother of one of the children, came with us. We met them at the club at 9:00 AM and they were ready to go. The hike we had planned was Pole Steeple in Pine Grove Furnace State Park. We got the usual comments that they didn't think they'd be able to climb it and the usual feeling of pride when they did (which we knew they would!). We had a real nice day and the lookout from the rocks was really grand. We then hiked to the Appalachian Trail and Randy went ahead and brought the van to the trailhead so we didn't have the long road walk. After the hike we had about an hour left to swim in Laurel Lake and a sleepy ride back to Harrisburg.

Last weekend, July 28 and 29, we took the Harrisburg Trailblazers on an overnight. We went tent camping at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. O'Danny (Barbie), Marcus (Hero Mach 5), William (Tony the Tiger), Julius (Hershey Kiss), Tony (Tiger), Terrell (Twin Bone), and Loretta (Tweety) came with us. True to the Appalachian Hiker tradition the kids have adopted the trail names in parenthesis. Gary (Cherokee), Randy (Fretless) and I (Trailbuster) were along the whole weekend. Maura, Max, and Becky joined us for Saturday's activities and JoAnne (Muffin) joined us on Sunday.

Our first activity was a short hike to Tom's Run Shelters for lunch, and back. We drove a short distance and parked at the Michaux Rd trailhead, which shortened the hike quite a bit. On the way back Gary got out the magnifying glasses and plastic bags for their treasures. These two ideas went over very well. Marcus and William in particular were finding all sorts of different colors of slag leftover from the iron furnaces. Pretty leaves and butterfly wings were added to the baggies and, of course,

everyone contributed to a bag for Max (Maura's baby). We then returned to the group camping parking lot and decided that we should swim before setting up camp. The Fuller Lake beach is a short, but beautiful hike along a fern-covered forest trail. I personally like this beach better than Laurel Lake. It is smaller, a little less populated, and the water seems warmer. The kids really enjoyed swimming!

We then returned to the campsite. Everyone helped unload the camping gear and brought it to the site. We were very busy for the next hour setting up tents, unrolling sleeping bags and building the fire. Then we dined elegantly on hot dogs, pizza mountain pies, ham and cheese mountain pies, carrots and grapes. For dessert we had cherry and apple dessert mountain pies sprinkled with powdered sugar and s'mores.

After dinner there was some free time and then we took the Creek Trail to the amphitheater. There was an astronomy program that night. Although the kids became a bit antsy during the show, we had an exciting night hike back to the tents. After a treat it was time for bed. Well, at least the adults thought so! Naturally, it took a little time getting everyone settled down.

Sunday we got up and ate the delicious breakfast that Jo Anne is famous for. Ham and cheese rolled up in soft tortillas, fruit salad, muffins (hence her trail name - which the kids thought up for her), orange juice and hot chocolate. We then quickly took the tents down and loaded the truck because it was starting to drizzle. And after another short hike and lunch we headed for home.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Finding A Tree

By Karen Lutz, Mid-Atlantic ATC Rep

It was probably 5:30 in the afternoon and a fellow came in looking for some information. He looked to be about my age (let's just leave it as "the back side of 40...") By his dress and demeanor, I judged him to be a professional fellow. He announced his arrival by saying, "You're probably going to think I'm crazy!" I liked him immediately and quipped back, "Well you won't be the first person to walk through that door today that I've thought that about. What's up?"

He proceeded to tell me the story. "You won't believe this, but 33 years ago my Boy Scout troop completed a backpacking trip from PenMar to Boiling Springs. My father was the troop leader." I said, "So far so good, you don't sound crazy." He went on, "I now live in California" at which point I stopped him and said, "Now wait a minute, you live in sunny California and you come to central Pennsylvania during the spring rainy season, you must be nuts!" He grinned and explained that he was here on business, then went on with his request.

He explained, "My father has Alzheimer's and I'm looking for a tree." (Now at this point, maybe I needed my head examined. Here's a guy looking for a tree on the A.T. and I didn't even blink. May I recommend a needle in a haystack?) He told me that his father could remember very little about anything, but that he always has clear memories of that hiking trip completed more than three decades ago, and that both he and his father remember a big beech tree at a spot where there was a sharp bend in the creek. I nodded.

He told me that he had been driving around for hours and that he knew he was close but just couldn't find the old tree. He said he'd called his father in California several times from his cell phone and his father had gotten out their old maps and atlas, but lacked the cognitive and communicative ability to be of any help. I had begun to sense a real connection between this fellow and his father. He wanted to find the tree and take a picture of it home to his dad.

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

I said, "I know where your tree is, but it's a sycamore, not a beech." (It's an impressive tree with significant girth and an imminently huggable specimen.) He did not seem bothered by the fact that his family's dendrological skills left a little to be desired, and was visibly jazzed about the fact that I might be able to help. I told him that, based on what he described to me about where he had driven, he was indeed quite close. I pulled out a map and made a photocopy, highlighting the route and marking an "X" where he would find his tree.

He stood there in the office staring down at the "X" on the map and then began to thank me for enabling him to take a photo of this meaningful memory back to his failing father. As he spoke his voice began to waver and he tried to apologize for being so choked up. He looked up at me and, with tears streaming down both cheeks, he said, "That trip on the A.T. was the best week of my life."

I put a consoling arm on his shoulder and told him that the A.T. has a way of affecting people in powerful ways. I walked him over to the door and told him to go find his tree.

It occurred to me that I was very proud to be a part of the community that cares for this silly little footpath. I don't think we often realize how many lives we have profoundly affected. Nice job folks, and as my colleague, Senior Field Rep Morgan Sommerville would say, "Thank you for everything you do for the A.T."

Karen

Some of you know where that tree is - I see it every day when I drive down my mountain. It's at the stop sign at Creek Road. I think I'll recall this story every time I drive by.

Wilderness First Aid

March 2-3 and June 15-16: An eighteen-hour, two-day class in Wilderness First Aid will be conducted in Harrisburg, PA. The course includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$140. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. For additional information phone (703) 836-8905 or visit <http://wfa.net>.

WHEN a HIKE GOES BAD

From The Register Summer 2001 Article by Randy Wendell, President Old Dominion A.T. Club

Last September at Multiclub, an annual meeting that is somewhat like a jamboree for A.T. club members in the southern region, an unfortunate incident occurred on a seven mile hike. The trail itself wasn't steep and was in pretty good shape, but, at certain parts, it dropped off sharply at the edges. After hiking for a few miles, Charlie, our leader, slipped on a wet rock and fell completely off the trail. I saw his silhouette as he fell, tumbling approximately ten feet before colliding with a tree. Charlie was briefly unconscious from the blow and his face was covered with so much blood that we couldn't see the actual cuts. Charlie lightly moaned and was conscious but somewhat incoherent. We tried to stop the bleeding. But, guess what? None of us in the group had bothered to bring a first-aid kit. Fortunately, like any self-respecting hike leader, Charlie had brought one. We quickly ran out of gauze and then used toilet paper. It dawned on us that we needed to go for help. However, other than our semiconscious leader, none of us knew where we were. We didn't even have maps. Fortunately, one of us thought she had some idea of the area, so we all agreed to let her go for help. Hey, wait a minute! Wasn't there something about never leaving or sending someone alone down the trail? So two went for help.

In the meantime, we continued working on Charlie's injuries. To help ease his pain, we gave Charlie ibuprofen. Another mistake. We later learned that ibuprofen, like aspirin, thins the blood making it all the more difficult to control bleeding. Also, we later learned that, with head injuries, you shouldn't give the victim anything—not even a glass of water. Was Charlie cold? We didn't think to cover him, and we didn't even ask. In fact, no one in the group seemed to have any extra water, food or clothing. Those are all essentials on any outing.

Luckily, down the trail, the two women who had gone in search of help met some folks who drove them to a telephone. Three-and-a-half hours after the accident, a group of emergency medical technicians and rescue workers were at Charlie's side. They put Charlie on a one wheeled stretcher and hauled him down the trail to a waiting ambulance. A few weeks later, I received a warm letter from Charlie saying he had received more than fifty stitches in his head and about twenty in his knee..

As a whole, our group did a decent job, but we were very ill-prepared. If each of us had been carrying a small first-aid kit, we could have done much better. Likewise, we should have had more food, water, and clothing and maps, flashlights and a fire starter. I'm now convinced that this kind of accident could happen to anyone, anywhere. Even in our semitame mountains, it can take hours to get proper help. It's so easy and tempting to let the hike leader take care of our every need, but ultimately we're responsible for ourselves, and, while in a group, we're responsible for each other.

My recommendation? Be thoroughly prepared for every outing and don't make any assumptions about what the day holds. Carry the extra weight of that first-aid kit It could save your life or someone else's. Oh, and remember the maps.

THE SUSQUEHANNA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB, INC.

<u>OFFICERS 2001 - 2002</u>			<u>DIRECTORS</u>		
PRESIDENT	Kathryn H. Jones 504 Highland Ct. Carlisle, PA 17013-3923	249-6727	CLASS OF 2002	Kristen A. Kyler [REDACTED] Harrisburg, PA 17111-1100	558-8417
VICE PRESIDENT	Barbara Harvey 19 Hemlock Dr. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-4712	766-7868		Peter Fleszar [REDACTED] Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-2100	583-2093
SECRETARY	Richard A. Martin 740 Oak Hill Dr. Boiling Springs, PA 17007-4413	258-5261		John W. Stein [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	533-3679
TREASURER	Clarence V. Fredlund 7901 Chambers Hill Rd. Harrisburg, PA 17111-5409	564-1447	CLASS OF 2003	Karen M. Balaban [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	234-3357
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Jane E. Greber 124 Brindle Rd. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-9780	766-1913		E. Sam Barker [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	761-8177
<u>DELEGATES TO AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS</u>					
APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE, INC.	Jeffrey R. Buehler Barbara Harvey Kathryn H. Jones Richard A. Martin		<u>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</u>		
KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.	Clarence V. Fredlund		AUDIT	Sandra Bohner	
<u>THE BUSHWACK BULLETIN</u>			BUSHWACK BULLETIN	J. Frederic Cox	
EDITOR	J. Frederic Cox 610 Gale Rd. Camp Hill, PA 17011-2031	731-9348	COMMUNICATIONS SITES	Peter Fleszar	
			CONSERVATION	Richard A. Martin	
			HIKE LEADERSHIP	Susanne Donmoyer	
			MEMBERSHIP	Kris Kyler	
			PROGRAM	Barbara Harvey	
			PUBLIC RELATIONS	William B. Webster	
			TRAILMASTER	Jeffrey R. Buehler	
			WILDERNESS EMERGENCY	Dr. Randolph Greber	