



# BUSHWACK BULLETIN

**OUR OBJECTIVES: GROUP HIKING + TRAIL MAINTENANCE + OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**SEE PAGE 4 FOR GENERAL HIKE INFORMATION and CODES FOR HIKES**

<b><u>December 7</u></b> Saturday 7:00 PM	<b>HOLIDAY PARTY</b>	<b><u>Annual Holiday Party</u></b> Get together with new and old hiking friends. Fast pace to the buffet line, easy terrain. See article on page 7 for details.
<b><u>December 8</u></b> Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>C+</b> 8 miles 10 hwy miles	<b><u>Horse Shoe Trail Loop</u></b> Moderate pace, some climbs, bring lunch and water. Leader: John W. Stein, 533-3679, johnwstein@cs.com
<b><u>December 11</u></b> Wednesday 5:45 PM	<b>A</b> 5 miles 0 hwy miles	<b><u>Hershey Christmas Candylane</u></b> Pavement walking amid the twinkling lights and sweet smells of Hershey. Meet at Hershey Outlet Center at the gazebo in the MIDDLE of the parking lot. Bring water and buy snacks! Optional rides, buy tickets night of event. For event details, see <a href="http://www.hersheypark.com/christmas_hershey/christmas_hershey2.html">http://www.hersheypark.com/christmas_hershey/christmas_hershey2.html</a> Leaders: Krista Cessna, 534-5046 work, kcessna@epix.net, and Peter Fleszar
<b><u>December 12</u></b> Thursday 10:00 AM	<b>A</b> <b>4 miles</b> <b>0 hwy miles</b>	<b><u>Harrisburg Greenbelt</u></b> Meet at Greenbelt parking lot on Rt. 441 behind the East Mall. Hike to Reservoir Park and return. Optional lunch at local restaurant. Leader: Susanne Donmoyer, 545-5308
<b><u>December 14</u></b> Saturday 9:30 AM	<b>B+</b> 5 miles 46 hwy miles	<b><u>Lickdale/Appalachian Trail</u></b> Moderate pace, a few climbs. Wear sturdy boots for some rocky terrain. Bring lunch and water with snacks to share. Meet <b>only</b> at Dress Barn in the Hershey Outlets . Leader: Sylvia Miller, 533-5422, hiker@paonline.com
<b><u>December 15</u></b> Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>A+</b> 4 miles 60 hwy miles	<b><u>Little Buffalo State Park</u></b> Easy hike in state park with one moderate climb. Bring snacks and water. Leader: Frank Bohn, 234-5169
<b><u>December 17</u></b> Tuesday 9:00 AM	<b>B</b> 3-4 miles 20 hwy miles	<b><u>Stony Creek</u></b> Moderate pace, flat terrain. Bring lunch and water. Lunch at local restaurant. Meet at Wildwood Pavilion. Leader: Janet Eshleman, 774-1318

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<b><u>December 29</u></b> Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>D+</b> 11 miles 0 hwy miles	<b><u>Appalachian Trail (Rt. 850) to Darlington Trail (New Valley Road)</u></b> 2 to 2.5 mile per hour pace. Ascend Little Mountain (300 ft) and Blue Mountain (450 ft). Ridge walking. Bring lunch and water. Dress warmly. Meet <b>only</b> at Game Lands Parking Lot (.6 miles east of Rt. 850 AT lot). Leader: Karen Balaban, 234-3357, <a href="mailto:KMBalaban@BalabanLLC.com">KMBalaban@BalabanLLC.com</a>
<b><u>January 1</u></b> Wednesday 10:00 AM	<b>B+</b> 5 miles 46 hwy miles	<b><u>Lickdale/Appalachian Trail</u></b> Start the New Year right. Moderate pace, a few climbs. Wear sturdy boots for some rocky terrain. Bring lunch and water with snacks to share. Meet only at the Dress Barn in the Hershey Outlets . Leader: Sylvia Miller, 533-5422, <a href="mailto:hiker@paonline.com">hiker@paonline.com</a>
<b><u>January 5</u></b> Sunday 8:00 AM	<b>D+</b> 10 miles 50 hwy miles	<b><u>State Game Lands 84 Loop</u></b> Moderate pace. Bring lunch, water, and warm clothes. <b>Only</b> Meeting Place: Shell Station, I-81 at Rt. 39 Leader: John Stein, 533-3679, <a href="mailto:johnwstein@cs.com">johnwstein@cs.com</a>
<b><u>January 6</u></b> Monday 6:30 PM	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	<b><u>Board of Directors Meeting</u></b> Members are welcome to attend. Location: East Shore Library, meeting room A, near the Colonial Park Mall, 4501 Ethel Street, Harrisburg Contact: Katie Barker, 249-6727
<b><u>January 12</u></b> Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>A</b> 5 miles 90 hwy miles	<b><u>Box Car Rocks</u></b> In and out 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 Barker, 249-6727
<b><u>January 14</u></b> Tuesday 7:00 PM	<b>MEMBERS AND GUESTS MEETING</b>	<b><u>Winter Meeting for All Members and Guests</u></b> Following refreshments for new, prospective and current members, hike scheduling for the March, April, May quarter will take place. The evening program will feature a representative from Three Mile Island speaking on the topic " <b>The Environmental Impact of Nuclear Energy</b> ". <u>In addition, there will be a display of Club Newsletters from the early days of the Club obtained from Ralph Kinter's collection.</u>  Location: West Shore Senior Citizens Center, 122 Geary Avenue, New Cumberland
<b><u>January 16</u></b> Thursday 10:00 AM	<b>A</b> 3-4 miles 0 hwy miles	<b><u>Bull Frog Valley/Shanks Park</u></b> Meet at Bull Frog Valley parking lot. Leader: Susanne Donmoyer, 545-5308
<b><u>January 17</u></b> Friday 9:00 AM	<b>B</b> 6 miles 0 hwy miles	<b><u>Messiah College Hike</u></b> Hike on trails and visit several college facilities. Bring money for lunch in the cafeteria. Meet at the Starry Field parking lot near the covered bridge. Leaders: Melanie DeMartyn, 795-8209 and Louise Sis, 774-0196.
<b><u>January 19</u></b> Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>B</b> 6 miles 30 hwy miles	<b><u>Mt Gretna—Governor Dick's Trail</u></b> Moderate pace, one climb to observation tower. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Richard Green, 671-8744
<b><u>January 25</u></b> Saturday 8:30 AM	<b>D+</b> 12 miles 0 hwy miles	<b><u>Appalachian Trail: Caledonia to Chimney Rocks</u></b> 2 to 2.5 mile pace. Long, steady 1,000 foot gain. Rocky, rough trail. Bring lunch and water. Dress warmly. Meet at I-81 Exit 57 (PA Rte 114) only. Leader: Karen Balaban, 234-3357, <a href="mailto:KMBalaban@BalabanLLC.com">KMBalaban@BalabanLLC.com</a>
<b><u>January 26</u></b> Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>B</b> 3-4 miles 0 hwy miles	<b><u>Beacon Hill, Soup &amp; Pinochle</u></b> Gentle terrain, 2 climbs, reasonable pace. Bring water for the hike. Meet at 1481 Simpson Ferry Road, New Cumberland, PA. Leaders: Janet Eshleman, 774-1318 and Louise Sis, 774-1318



## GENERAL HIKE INFORMATION

### **1. MEETING LOCATION**

**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, all hikes on WEEKENDS and HOLIDAYS 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 7<sup>th</sup> St. opposite the Herr St. underpass. Five additional minutes will be allowed at the alternate site.

### **2. TRANSPORTATION**

If you ride with someone, you should give the driver **5 cents** times the hwy (highway) mileage shown in the hike schedule to help defray the cost of transportation. (Bring the correct amount).

### **3. REGISTER WITH HIKE LEADER FOR "D" AND "E" HIKES**

For safety reasons, please register with the hike leader before showing up for D or E hikes unless the leader has hiked with you previously and knows your abilities.

### **4. NO PETS ALLOWED**

### **5. PACK IN, PACK OUT (LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND)**

### **6. 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.

## 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	Very little
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.

## *From the President*

### *Remembering Ralph Kinter. . .*

*SATC board members voted to pursue naming one of the overlooks on our section of the Appalachian Trail in honor of Ralph Kinter, recently deceased founder of SATC and trail volunteer extraordinaire. (See article on page 9.) The choice of this overlook, near the top of the Shikellimy Trail, is especially appropriate since it provides a view of the lands that Ralph worked so hard to protect.*

### *Volunteers make this Club great! Many thanks to. . .*

*Jane Greber for volunteering to chair the Awards Committee. The committee will coordinate both the new NPS hours of service program awards and the hike leader and the Giant Boot awards given each year at the annual banquet.*

*Sylvia Miller for volunteering to coordinate refreshments at our quarterly meeting and to chair the Nominating Committee that will choose next year's director nominees.*

*Anna Pruett for chairing the Holiday Party committee, with many enjoyable activities already planned. See page 7 for details.*

*Fred Cox and Rob Shaw for sending out 117 reminder letters to Club members whose membership had expired. Renewals received to date have more than covered the cost of the mailing and we retain our valuable members (36 renewed).*

*Jeff Buehler and our trail crews for running several successful work trips this past quarter.*

*So many others who keep this club going!*

### *Fire Towers . . .*

*The SATC board voted to support a moratorium on the sale, removal and destruction of fire towers on public lands. This moratorium would allow the feasibility of protecting and restoring existing fire towers, and opening the tops of fire towers to public access to be studied.*

### *Endangered Trails . . .*

*SATC and Horse-Shoe Trail Club member John Stein's proposal to designate certain PA hiking trails as "endangered" gained unanimous support at the Fall meeting of the Keystone Trails Association. We hope to see increased action and publicity that will help protect the foot paths for these four trails from becoming merely "road walks": the Horse-Shoe Trail, the Baker Trail, the Mid State Trail and the Conestoga Trail. SATC maintains a section of the Horse-Shoe Trail.*

*(Continued next page)*

( Continued from page 5 )

### ***Trails Book Deeply Discounted . . .***

*Due to overstocking, the book Pennsylvania Hiking Trails, 12<sup>th</sup> edition (1998), has been offered by the publisher, the Keystone Trails Association, to member clubs at a dramatic discount. This book was previously sold through this newsletter for \$12. It will now be offered for only \$5, which includes shipping. If any are left, they will be offered at SATC program meetings for \$3 (saves \$2 shipping fee), but there are only about 24 copies remaining. (Sixteen copies were snatched up at the October program meeting.) This book contains 254 pages stuffed with data and maps for trails throughout Pennsylvania. Be sure to get a copy for yourself. They make great Christmas presents for hikers too.*

### ***T-shirts by Mail . . .***

*Now, for the first time, you can order an attractive SATC T-shirt by mail. The shirt features the view of the Susquehanna River as seen from SATC's section of the Appalachian Trail. See page 11 for ordering information.*

### ***Save July 20<sup>th</sup> . . .***

*SATC's next picnic will be July 20<sup>th</sup> at Pinchot Park's Pavilion A. We'll enjoy the nearby lake and the Mason-Dixon Trail.*

***Happy Hiking!***

***Your President,***

***Katie Barker***

### **Above the Tree Line In Memory of Gunther Van Elden**

The husband of SATC member Thelma (Bolla) Van Elden has passed away. Gunther Van Elden died Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at home in his sleep. Thelma is the daughter of Ruth and Elmer Bolla, two of the original 18 members of SATC who met for our Club's first hike on Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1954. Ruth was SATC's second president and she and Elmer led many hikes in the early days of the Club. Gunther is also survived by two daughters and six grandchildren.

A gift will be made to the Appalachian Trail Conference in memory of all the SATC members who have died this year, including Gunther Van Elden.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: **Saturday, December 7, 2002 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 Barker (249-6727) and  
Anna Pruet (561-1968)

### Please Note:

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Anyone wishing to help with the decorations etc. for the party please be there about 5:30 PM.
- (4) Anyone with greens or holly that they are willing to share please bring them along.

## Blaze Orange Required For Hikers

The new Pennsylvania Game Commission regulations will require hikers to wear fluorescent orange. The last sentence of the new PGC Regulations that take effect in February, 2003 reads, ". . . those not engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing on State Game Lands from Nov. 15 through Dec. 15, inclusive, except for Sundays, must wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on head, chest or back combined, or, in lieu thereof, a hat."

The best solution is not to hike in areas where hunting is allowed during any hunting seasons. Our Club's tradition of offering many hikes on Sundays helps keep us safe since most hunting is not allowed on Sundays in Pennsylvania.

If you do hike in Game Lands Monday through Saturday, SATC recommends that you wear orange whenever hunting is allowed. You can check out [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us) and find out what's in season. Various seasons begin as early as October 5 this year and continue through February 22. In addition, be aware that there is no closed season on some birds and mammals.

In the rare case that a Club sponsored hike crosses Game Lands between November 15<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>, hike leaders must require that hikers have and wear sufficient orange. Violators of the regulation can be fined, would reflect badly on SATC, and, of course, risk being shot.

SATC has five fluorescent orange vests (purchased for the parking lot attendants at the 2001 Appalachian Trail Conference) available for Club members to borrow. Contact Katie Barker at 249-6727 or [barkerk@dickinson.edu](mailto:barkerk@dickinson.edu) if you have a use for them.

# **NEW MEMBERS**

*Please join us in welcoming these new members*

Lisa Becker	321 Union Road	Lebanon, PA 17046-7821	507-0205
Ronald W. Blough	2124 Saint Clair Court	Harrisburg, PA 17110-9286	652-0875
Emily Caldwell	316 East Cherry St.	Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2705	367-4919
Cindy & Chris Champion	6334 Darlington Dr.	Harrisburg, PA 17112-2393	541-0498
Mark Cummins	25 Aspen Dr.	Dillsburg, PA 17019-9593	432-5329
Robert Doren & Cindy Cancel	4833 Charles Rd.	Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3076	763-0667
Linda Hockenberry	110 Walnut St.	Marysville, PA 17053-1538	957-2472
Stacey Houck	610 Mallard Dr.	Etters, PA 17319-8845	932-1605
Dr. John & Ann Marie Judson	512 Bridgeview Drive	Lemoyne, PA 17043-1379	737-7211
Jason Jumper	P.O. Box 235	Etters, PA 17319-0235	421-1710
Sandy Kittle	59 Regency Woods N.	Carlisle, PA 17013-9064	697-5672
Anthony P. La Scola, Jr.	758 Bobwhite Dr.	Hermitage, PA 16148-3262	346-1821
Steven H. Martin	851 Fairhaven Road	Hummelstown, PA 17036-9755	583-1964
Elizabeth G. Pellegrini	1724 Susquehanna St., Apt . 1	Harrisburg, PA 17102-2332	608-2976
Linda Surak	935 Sunny Hill Lane	Harrisburg, PA 17111-4664	541-0379
Tami Thoman	246 North Enola Drive, 1st Fl.	Enola, PA 17025-2247	732-2109
Tamara Tosto	28 West Main St.	Hershey, PA 17033-2442	583-0696
Kathi Turski	4249 Roundtop Rd.	Elizabethtown, PA 17022-8604	520-9589
Kim Wright	57 Runyon Rd.	Hummelstown, PA 17036-2503	566-1024
John E. Zerphey	174 Walnut St.	Highspire, PA 17034-1125	939-9082

## **HELP WANTED**

SATC needs volunteers for these positions. If you're able to help or have questions about these jobs, please contact Katie Barker at 249-6727 or at [barkerk@dickinson.edu](mailto:barkerk@dickinson.edu).

### **Bushwack Bulletin Editor**

Current editor Fred Cox has asked us to find a replacement. The editor compiles and edits the Bushwack Bulletin. Must be able to send and receive e-mail attachments. Microsoft Word and Publisher software helpful.

### **Membership Development Chair**

This is a new position to help us serve new and old members more fully.



## **Above the Tree Line In Memory of Ralph H. Kinter**

It is with sadness that we announce that Ralph H. Kinter, 87, died Wednesday, September 18th after being hospitalized for a short time.

In 1954, Ralph Kinter co-founded the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club with George Gruber and Earl Shaffer, legendary first solo through-hiker. Ralph and George outvoted Earl, allowing women to participate. This decision proved positive for Ralph: He met Anna, his wife-to-be on the Club's first hike. Ralph served as the Club's first president and worked hard at the group's first task, the relocation of 69 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Earl scouted the new route and Ralph mapped it.

Ralph helped build the first trail shelter in the area, the Clarks Valley Shelter. He was SATC's Trailmaster for eight years, Conservation Chair for three years and Editor of the Bushwack Bulletin for 16 years, only recently stepping down. He also maintained a part of the AT for 29 years.

Ralph worked to protect the AT on Stony and Sharpe Mountains in a protracted battle with PP&L, beginning in 1970s and not really ending until 1981. He helped protect AT again by testifying at the Trail Bill hearings and lobbied for 7 years for their passage, until they were signed into law in 1978. Seeing the need to unite the various trail clubs in PA, he co-founded the Keystone Trails Association in 1957, serving as its first president. At KTA's request, Ralph helped to form and serve as secretary of Pro-Trail, a group that helped to move the Appalachian Trail off the roadways through the Cumberland Valley and onto now-protected land.

Ralph's trail work has not gone unrecognized. A few years ago, he received a special award and plaque from SATC honoring his years of commitment to the club. In 2000 he was one of only 75 AT volunteers nationwide elected to the Appalachian Trail Conference 75th Anniversary Honor Roll, and received a wristwatch featuring the AT diamond. Last year the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, another organization that he co-founded, named Ralph "Conservationist of the Year". He and Anna both received the Silver Volunteer Award that year from ATC, being recognized as having served the Appalachian Trail for more than 25 years. Just a week before he died, Ralph's name was submitted for a special award that honors those who have donated more than 4000 hours to the Appalachian Trail in their lifetime.

Ralph will be remembered for other accomplishments as well: His research and preservation of wetlands at Wildwood Lake, his many years with the Appalachian Audubon Society, his skill as a chess player, his detailed knowledge of bulk mail procedures, and his ability to get those who procrastinate to submit newsletter articles on time.

Ralph is no longer with us, but the organizations he parented still bring like-minded men and women together, still protect nature and trails, and still serve to share the beauty of the outdoors with others. Thanks, Ralph, for your legacy of wonderful friendships and of beautiful, protected trails in Pennsylvania.

Ralph is survived by his wife Anna and their son Russell. Anna's memory is poor and her understanding of Ralph's death uncertain, but she enjoys visitors. She is living at Grayson View, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

## **Appalachian Trail Notes The Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting**

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, representative of the clubs that maintain the Appalachian Trail in the middle third of the trail, including SATC, met in Boiling Springs. We discussed trail issues with Appalachian Trail Conference staff, volunteers and agency partners. Here's a sampling:

Archeological study continues at Fox Gap. The Civil War battle of South Mountain was fought here and 85 dead confederates were found in a farmer's well near the Trail.

The swamp at Pochuck is now crossed by a suspension bridge and a mile of specially constructed boardwalk, thanks to many thousands of volunteer hours.

AT clubs north of here in Pennsylvania have their hands full fighting a proposed driving range for high-end autos within "sound" of the AT.

The 'Presidential Ranger Corps Award' for 4000 hours of lifetime service will be going to 257 National Park Service Volunteers. 168 of them were volunteers just for the Appalachian Trail. Several were members of SATC.

Sewer construction at Pine Grove Furnace may re-route the AT in that park.

DCNR is seeking to protect the AT from ATV's by closing the top part of Swamp Road (Victoria Trail on north side of Peters Mountain) to motor vehicles.

park and forest rangers report trouble with a few "lost souls" or "walking homeless" on the AT.

ATV's are a problem for many AT Clubs, state parks and state forests.

The Tumbling Run section of the AT has been successfully acquired.

The new requirement for chainsaw certification prompted some to desire less frequent re-certification for experienced users. The requirement that saw users be First Aid and CPR certified still mystifies those who think that the person using the saw is most likely to be the victim.

Encroachment on boundaries of the Trail corridor is a big problem in many places including the Cumberland Valley. National Park lands of the AT have four times the boundary length of Yellowstone Park.

On holiday weekends, over 150 people camp at Annapolis Rocks near the AT in Maryland, without privies. The area is being rebuilt and will feature an on-site caretaker, John Wright.

A new funding process for all National Parks means that Club trail condition assessments will have to be updated in a new way.

The agreement that delegates responsibilities to the Appalachian Trail Conference and the maintaining Clubs is up for renewal and may be somewhat modified.

Rare, threatened and endangered plants have been surveyed along the entire AT. Trail maintainers have been notified about the locations of plants in their sections to prevent them from being damaged by trail maintenance activities like brush cutting. None of these plants were identified in SATC's section of the trail.

### **APPALACHIAN BIENNIAL TRAIL CONFERENCE**

**July 25 to August 1, 2003**

**WATERVILLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

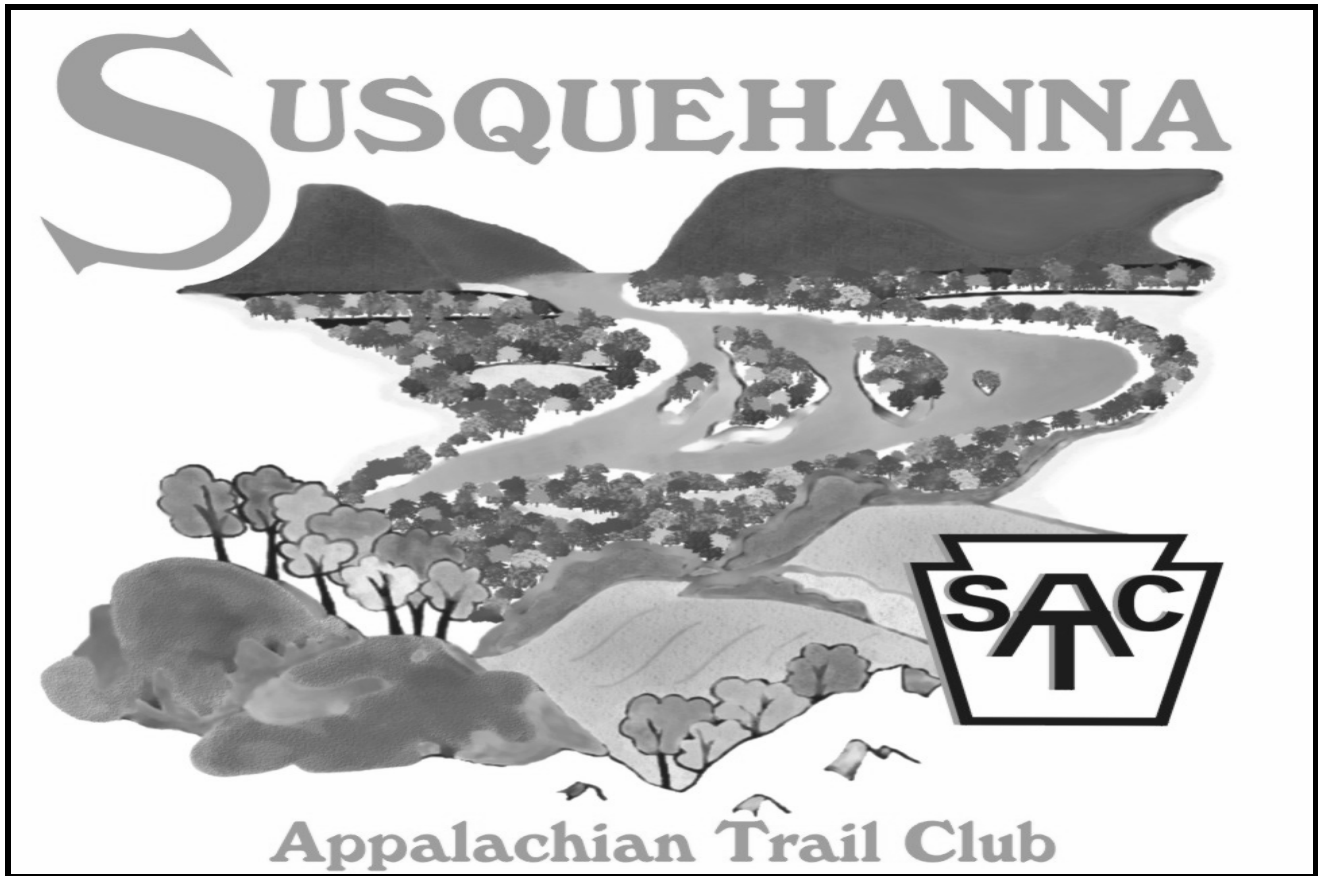
**WWW.ATC2003.ORG**

### **SATC NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2003**

**CHAIR: SYLVIA MILLER (533-5422)**

**PETER FLESZAR (583-2093), SAMUEL HARVEY (766-7868)**

# SUSQUEHANNA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB T-SHIRTS FOR SALE



**T-shirt, natural color 100% cotton with beautiful Club Logo;** Club name and river are blue, mountains are green; fields are tan, shore line is white; trees are green, red, yellow .

**Cost :** \$12.00 to pick up at a club meeting or event, otherwise include \$4.00 shipping/handling to cover cost of mailing and envelope. Available sizes S, M, L, XL.

**To order by mail,** contact Peter Fleszar or Krista Cessna, 717 583-2093, pfleszar@epix.net. They will tell you where to send a check payable to "S.A.T.C." to order shirts by mail.

# ATC AWARDS COMMITTEE

I have accepted the position of Awards Committee Chairperson. The awards committee has two main responsibilities. The first responsibility is providing recognition and appreciation to the tremendous number of SATC volunteers; hike leaders, trail maintainers, bulletin crew, social event organizers, board members, committee chairs, etc. Together we make up an absolutely amazing club with a multitude of committed volunteers.

The second responsibility is to implement the National Park Service Volunteer Recognition Program. SATC has made the decision to participate in this 4-tiered awards program that recognizes AT volunteers for the number of life hours that they have dedicated to oversight of the Appalachian Trail. The levels of awards are as follows:

- 8-99 hours – AT volunteer pin
- 100 – 499 hours – AT volunteer patch
- 500-999 hours – AT volunteer baseball cap
- 1000+ hours – AT volunteer fleece vest

**Whereas the SATC awards are for a variety of club activities, the National Park Service awards are only for those activities that are dedicated to oversight of the Appalachian Trail.**

Now for the hard part. How does SATC consistently track and document the number of hours that volunteers have dedicated to AT oversight? How does SATC do its best to recognize as many volunteers as possible – past and present? (The awards are for cumulative life hours).

In an attempt to answer both of these questions, I have developed a form for our AT volunteers to complete if they want to participate. The form, and directions for its use, is included in this quarter's bulletin. As forms are completed return them to me. They will be kept on file and you can update them as your hours increase. You may want to keep a copy of your form and as you enter another hour category make sure that you hand it to me.

Some items can only be ordered twice a year, on January 1 and June 1. If you qualify for an award I will need your completed form on or before December 20, 2002, for the first wave of awards that will be handed out at the spring banquet, and on or before May 1, 2003, for awards that will be handed out at the summer picnic.

Although much of the responsibility for applying for these awards will be on our individual volunteers, I will make every effort to recognize as many of our dedicated volunteers as possible. If you know of anyone who isn't reached by club efforts and is deserving of an award, please let me know.

If you are uncertain after reading the directions found in this bulletin whether or not your hours are eligible, please contact me at 766-1913 or [jghiker@aol.com](mailto:jghiker@aol.com).

If you are uncertain about your AT maintaining hours, contact Jeff Buehler at 657-8281 or [athikerJB@aol.com](mailto:athikerJB@aol.com). Jeff has kept records since becoming the SATC Trailmaster.

**Jane Greber, Awards Committee Chairperson**