



THE HAPPY HIKER

The Official Newsletter of the Allentown Hiking Club

MEMBER OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY AND THE KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflections of Winter

I cannot help it that I love winter. By the time this edition of the club newsletter is issued, the winter of 2014 which hit us so hard will be just a memory. This will probably go in the record books as one of the toughest winters ever in our area, but for me it was an opportunity to reconnect with some of the most sublime memories of winters past, and to experience some of the best of what Mother Nature has to offer.

Various factors have contributed to the severity of the winter of '14. One prominent feature of the weather maps has been the errant "polar vortex" which descended upon the Lower 48 this year. Who knew that the upper atmosphere could become so cockeyed that it would swerve around the planet and park its arctic butt several degrees of latitude askew of where it rightfully belongs? And that this would happen not once but twice within a few weeks, wreaking havoc even on our southern states who unfortunately lack the resources to deal with it? One thing can surely be said: Mother Nature knows no favorites – we are all in this together.

While I acknowledge the downside of the inclement weather (shoveling snow, power outages, etc.), I have to say that I greatly prefer to emphasize the positive aspects of winter: skiing, snowshoeing, winter hikes, cozy fires, warm mittens, and the list could go on. But my personal favorite is definitely "l'heure bleu" (the blue hour), that magical time at twilight when the sun has set but the sky hasn't darkened and the stars haven't yet come out. The crispness of a clear cold sky and the reflection of waning light on the snow make the entire landscape veritably pulsate in shades of blue. And the bonus of this extraordinary display is that it can be seen anywhere, town, country, wilderness, even out of the kitchen window! More than once I've come in from the trails or the slopes at this bewitching time of day, and had to turn around for one last glance of the striking beauty. But now, sadly, the winter of '14 is over and we move on - spring is here, and there is much to do, see, and experience before the flurries (fingers crossed!) arrive again!

On that note, let me give a plug for a major highlight of the spring calendar, our annual AT maintenance hike. This is always a well-attended event where many hands pitch in to clear away blowdowns, trim vegetation, pick up trash, and do whatever is needed to prepare the trail for the upcoming hiking season. This year we are privileged to have Marian Orlousky of the ATC join us and direct the group in the identification and removal of invasive (non-native) plant species from the trail. The focus of this effort will be the removal of stiltgrass, Japanese barberry, and garlic mustard from areas near the trail from the Bake Oven Road parking area heading south on the trail. See the write-up in the hiking schedule for further information. You won't want to miss this opportunity to support our club, and the AT itself, in a very worthy endeavor.

Lucy Cantwell
AHC President

Allentown Hiking Club

P.O.Box 1542 — Allentown, Pa 18105-1542

Sponsored by City of Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation

www.allentownhikingclub.org

President.....	Lucy Cantwell – (267) 664-3550 president@allentownhikingclub.org	Outerbridge Shelter Chair.....	Carl Griffin - (610) 760-0479 griffins2@verizon.net
Vice-President.....	Karen Gradel - (215) 536-5857 kjgradel@gmail.com	KTA Representative.....	Ed Ritter - (610) 261-1847 critter888@verizon.net
Secretary.....	Dick Fink - (610) 865-3925	Program Committee Chair.....	Jim Gabovitz - (610) 262-3578 gabby@enter.net
Treasurer.....	Carl Griffin - (610) 760-0479 griffins2@verizon.net	Publicity	Gene Scharle - (610) 432-5652 Karen Gradel - (215) 536-5857
Membership.....	Paula Uhrin membership@allentownhikingclub.org	facebook.....	Karen Gradel - (215) 536-5857 kjgradel@gmail.com
New Member Greeter.....	Jim Gabovitz - (610) 262-3578 gabby@enter.net	Webmaster.....	Hal Wright - (215) 630-2008 webmaster@allentownhikingclub.org
Appalachian Trail Chair.....	Ed Ritter - (610) 261-1847 critter888@verizon.net	Newsletter Editor.....	Marty Larson - (610) 967-1389 larsonew@ptd.net
A.T. Monitor Coordinator.....	Barbara Wiemann - (610) 262-6977 blwiemann@gmail.com	Hiking Schedule Coordinator...	Edna Himmler - (610) 797-5182 ehimmler@ptd.net
Library.....	Holly Vogler - (610) 820-0162		

Deadlines for the Summer 2014 Newsletter & Schedule

Happy Hiker Newsletter Wednesday May 28, 2014

Activity Schedule Wednesday June 4, 2014

Please forward all club related articles, thoughts, and items to the Newsletter Editor by mail or, preferably, by email. Send all hiking schedule activities to the Hiking Schedule Coordinator.

Upcoming Programs at the AHC Meetings

In addition to the normal business meeting there is also generally a presentation which is related in some way to the club's activities. Following the presentation there will be a break for refreshments.

April 2nd Greg Huber will give a presentation on Big Trees of the Lehigh Valley.

May 7th Paula Uhrin will give a presentation on her recent trip to Morocco.

June 4th Business meeting and scheduling night for July, August & September activities for the Summer Happy Hiker.

Welcome to Our New Members! - Spring 2014

Kevin Williams-Southampton, PA	Tom & Lee Ann Phillips-Andreas, PA	Priscilla Kistler-Zionsville, PA
Lorraine Pasquali-Bethlehem, PA	Eugenio Schuster & Family- Breinigsville, PA	Susan Gardner-Schnecksville, PA
Michael Ouellette-Tannersville, PA	Glen Neelson-Allentown, PA	Susan Korzeniowski-Nazareth PA
John & Patricia Kennedy-Easton, PA	Tim Concannon-East Stroudsburg, PA	Michael Serfes-Bethlehem, PA
	John & Eileen Catino-Riegelsville, PA	

Note of Thanks to Allentown Hiking Club

Many thanks for my friends in AHC who remembered me with cards and well wishes following my fall in Cowans Gap State Park on 11/09/13 while working with the KTA TrailCare. After 3 days in Chambersburg Hospital I was transferred to Healthcare at the retirement community where I live. The 2 months in the nursing home were quite a challenge for this woman who "paddles her own canoe" and doesn't like depending on other people to assist her with care. However, given the extent of my injuries (broken leg and badly broken humerus) I had only 2 good extremities to work with. As of 01/07/14 I am back in my apartment and still getting therapy 3x week. Hopefully by the time you read this I will be driving again and maybe even walking without the cane. I do hope I can get on my section of A.T. this spring. Happy Hiking! Ginny Musser



The Adventures of Mary Ann and Janet on the MidState Trail*

(*Continuation of story from Winter 2014 Happy Hiker)

By Janet Goloub

In the Fall Happy Hiker, MA & I were a week into our hike together (2 1/2 more days for MA before we finally met up). It was Sunday, and we'd left the church parking lot outside of Wellsboro, more or less knowing how we'd get to our trailheads.

Part of the problem of finding trailheads was finding the several roads this trail uses. Looking at the map, we could sort of find some, and we drove down one that was named in the guidebook. That ended after awhile, and we drove onto another, finally ending up where we wanted to be.

Then we went south to Morris and several miles on a 1-lane gravel road to the ghost village of Landrus, where we'd walk north to Babb Creek, another of the large creeks MA didn't want to ford because of high water. Earlier it had rained a lot, almost daily, although it didn't rain on our hikes. We found the trail site but only yellow or red blazes. We walked down the yellow blazed trail for awhile, which turned into a pond-sized puddle. That ended that. I don't know how close we got to Babb Creek.

We drove the many additional miles to Antrim, where we'd hike south to Babb Creek; not crossing creeks means a lot of extra road miles. On the highway in Antrim, we learned that the yellow blazes there meant trail relocation around gas drilling. So we were on the MST, whatever it looked like. A couple of miles along the highway, the trail turned into woods and we walked as far as it seemed sensible, given the time we had before dark. I think we got within 1/2 mile of Babb Creek.

Now we were far enough south that our final overnights were in Blackwell's parking lot. This one has a lot of amenities: beautiful creekside view, picnic table, darkness, quiet, a port-o-pot! And the hotel dining room, where we were able to plot out the final 2 days of hiking, one of which was long and went to the final not-to-be-crossed creek, and the other with LOTS of miles to get to.

Monday. We needed to get to Tannery Hill Rd. for the trailhead, marked on map and in guidebook, and drove miles on a wide gravel road not finding it. Backtracking (we're good at that, on foot or in cars), there was a small, unnamed gravel road, so we drove into it. A sign suggested it could be what we wanted, so we drove the couple miles to the end, and there was our trailhead. MA gleefully said, "Janet, we're good!" My response, not so certain, "No, MA, we're incompetent; we're just good at getting out of jams!" This was a pleasant hike to Stoney Fork, a creek we could have crossed; it was wide, but not so deep. In any case, it provided a fine pause before we backtracked to our cars. This stretch was long because of the need to backtrack, which is why we were happy to have found Tannery Hill Rd.

The 2nd leg of this hike was to go to the highway near Antrim and hike to Tannery Hill Rd. The start was up a steep-ish road, then off it, passing a sign for a view; no time or energy for it. Several minutes later, a backtrack to the view sign. It was the trail, and led us to a fine view out over the valley where the highway cut through. A huge pile of mining leavings was leaching into the soil, and a sign there said, "Haunted Vista. No fires!!!" The trail goes along huge rocks, some of which have large gaps between them that give one pause before crossing. At their end a sign for the other direction says, "Watch your step." There was a fine remnant of a road built "by 125 Polish immigrants in 1903" (Guidebook) and other historic industrial remnants. It was a nice trail, until the end ascent for 1/2-mile+ - a plodder. Plod, stop, breathe, plod. But eventually the car turned up where we'd left it.

Tuesday. Nights had been from warmish to cold; this morning my car thermometer said 37 degrees. I drove to Clay Mine Rd., 25 miles for a 5.5-mile hike back to the Blackwell parking lot. The plan was to hike the couple miles to Stoney Fork, backtrack to the road and continue to Blackwell. 5 miles of the shuttle were on gravel road; I don't think my car ever dreamed of going on the number of gravel miles it did that week. Most of the roads were pretty good, though; they know how to do gravel roads up there.



Mary Ann continued from p.3

We found the trailhead without much trouble. MA is an excellent blaze spotter. However, this week had been hard on her, and because we didn't really know how far it would be to the creek we bagged that part. After the hike we still had to bring her car back to pick up mine, and then each had several hours of driving back home.

The hike was through Tioga State Forest and lovely. It ended in a long descent we were both happy not to be climbing up, then a mile of rail trail into Blackwell. We had lunch on some rocks just before dropping onto the rail trail, and we finished our MST section, MA completing the trail.

During the week, she commented frequently about how hard the MST had been. MA has hiked a lot of long distance trails, the whole A.T. twice, for example. She always called Vermont's Long Trail the worst. Today the MidState Trail overtook it for 1st place.



Mary Ann Nissley takes a photo break on the Mid-State Trail

2013 Corridor Monitoring Report

Every Appalachian Trail maintaining club is responsible for monitoring the boundaries of National Park Service owned land that was purchased to protect the Appalachian Trail. The Allentown Hiking Club is responsible for 34 tracts of land, containing about 600 acres, with over 15¼ miles of exterior boundary line and 105 surveyors' monuments.

Club volunteers walk the boundary lines of these tracts, checking that there are no encroachments (such as trees cut down, structures, litter, trespassers), clearing the boundary lines, maintaining the boundary paint blazing, checking the surveyors' monuments, and affixing signs to identify NPS land. This monitoring is performed in late October and November when the leaves are off the trees and visibility in the woods is good.

In 2013 we reported four encroachments to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service - the track loader and wood pile near Rt. 309 and two hunting stands near the Yellow Spring.

Thanks to club volunteers **Mike Benyo, Jim Gabovitz, Carl Griffin, John McCarty, Ed Ritter, Susan Ritter, Dave Rohlfing, Nick Rosato, and Barb Wiemann.**

Barb Wiemann
AHC Corridor Monitor Coordinator

Empty Boots

Ellen S. Smith, 57, of Allentown, passed away Wednesday, December 25, 2013, in the In-patient Hospice Unit of the L.V. Hospital, Allentown. Ellen was a bookkeeper at the Parkettes Gymnastic Center for many years. She enjoyed hiking, camping, fishing, and was an active hiker with AHC, participating in backpacking trips and the club's series hikes on the Horse-Shoe, Conestoga, and Mason Dixon Trails.

New Trails to Explore and New Leaders Sought

I announce with the deepest regret that I must leave this most enjoyable of responsibilities, that of being the editor of The Happy Hiker. My paid employment responsibilities are requiring that my wife, Jan, and I relocate to the Appleton/Neenah, Wisconsin area by the end of May. This marks yet another chapter of our ongoing 31 year marriage adventure. So while we look forward to what lies ahead we will deeply miss all our close friends and trail adventures with the Allentown Hiking Club. After two and a half years of service, I am looking for someone to take over editorial responsibilities. This includes all aspects of gathering club news, writing articles, set up in Microsoft Publisher, printing and mailing of The Happy Hiker four times a year. It's really fun and rewarding and keeps you in touch with all the members and events. Meanwhile I have other trails to explore in Wisconsin, including High Cliff State Park, Ice Age National Scenic Trail, John Muir Memorial Park as well as the shore of Lake Michigan. It has been a privilege and an honor to be your editor over the years.

-Marty Larson, Editor of The Happy Hiker





New Year's Eve Hike 2013

A hike to the Allentown Shelter on New Year's Eve has become a yearly tradition for the Allentown Hiking Club. The hike, once a yearly family trek that included an over-night stay in the shelter, has been carried over from Barbara Wiemann's family. She now leads this annual club hike that is becoming more popular with each year. Hikers each bring a fun food item that can be shared at a group smörgåsbord. Even this year's snow couldn't keep club members from taking part in the camaraderie. The hike is an out and back hike starting from Route 309 covering 8 miles in total.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$10.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, AND RENEWALS MUST BE MADE BEFORE JANUARY 31ST TO STAY ON THE CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP ROLLS. DUES CAN BE PAID AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OR MAILED TO THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. HOUSEHOLD DUES (MORE THAN ONE MEMBER PER ADDRESS) ARE \$15.00.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Paula Uhrin: 283 Ridgeview Drive, Alburtis Pa. 18011

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

—

PHONE:

RENEWAL

NEW

EMAIL:

_____ Dues @\$10.00 / \$15.00 Household

--	--	--	--

SML MED LRG XLG

--	--	--	--

SML MED LRG

XLG

--

_____ Club T-shirt @ \$6.00 + \$3.50 shipping ea.

_____ Club golf shirt @ \$12.00 + \$3.50 shipping ea.

_____ Club Embroidered patch @ \$1.50 + \$.75 shipping ea.

_____ Club window decal @ \$2.50 + \$.75 shipping ea

_____ Club window cling decal @ \$2.50 + \$.75 shipping ea

Checks payable to "Allentown hiking Club"

Total enclosed _____

☐ Yes - Please sign me up for the Allentown Hiking Club's email list --- the AHC Forum

