



The Happy Hiker

The Official Newsletter of the Allentown Hiking Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim's Spring -Summer Journal

- April 15 - cancelled hike due to very heavy rain.
- April 21 - Posted photos of fire near Outerbridge Shelter. Hard to believe fire conditions exist when April 16, 4 inches of rain were indicated by my rain gauge.
- April 22 - Had a hike on the AT and 25 people showed up. We divided the group and did a key swap. Janet led other group. Very sore next day. So easy to get out of shape so hard to get into shape.
- April 24 - Hiked past Outerbridge Shelter to see if there was any fire damage. None!
- May 2 - Hiking Club Meeting. Good meeting with 2 new members in attendance. Nice presentation by Tim from L.L.Bean.
- May 6 - Maintenance Hike and picnic. Barb and I cleaned the fire pit at Outerbridge shelter. Nice picnic about 15-16 people.
- May 12 - Lehigh and Delaware Heritage work on lock 29 near White Haven. We had a very interesting presentation on the local canal history after lunch.
- May 19 - Again the club worked on lock 29. We had another presentation with new insights on the canal, lumbering, coal and John James Audubon.
- May 20 - Janet led my hike so I could attend a family function. She reported a good hike with 9 hikers.
- June 6 - Hiking Club meeting. Small group - could really use more young people.
- June 9 - Whip-Poor-Will hike. Weather cooperated so did the Whip-Poor-Wills. A nice turnout and a great hike.
- June 17 - Hike from Ashfield road to Lehigh Gap. The plan was to see the Laurel in bloom but a heavy rain the night before washed most of it away. Had a lot of new people and the weather was nice so it was a great hike.
- June 24 - Thunder Swamp Trail a new trail for me-led by Janet. I was very discouraged to see Gypsy Moth damage. Hopefully I will get to do the rest of this trail.
- June 28 - Lehigh Gap Nature Center trail work cancelled due to rain. Shucks we had to sit on the porch of Osprey House with Dan, Jack, Carl, Anne and a through hiker from Georgia, eating Cherry Pie, Ice Cream, raspberries and cool-whip. It's a tough job but somebody has to do it.
- June 30 - Went with club members and Michele Miller from Mid-Atlantic Office to inventory a portion of our section of the AT. I only went about a third of the way as it was very time consuming and other commitments beckoned.
- July 14 - Arrived at Ramapo, registered and attended welcome meeting. Maryann Wagner And Ed Ritter received awards for 25 years of maintaining the AT.
- July 15 - Hiked from NY Route 22 to NY Route 55 on the AT. Saw and photographed (Page 2) the largest Oak on the AT.
- July 16 - Attended a corridor monitoring and boundary maintenance program. Good entertainment choices tonight. I choose Mc-Mule they did Folk, Bluegrass, Jazz plus. I was ENTERTAINED.
- July 17 - Hiked from Leather hill road to Route 55 in Connecticut. Was shuttled by a delightful 84 year old lady (June) with a recent knee replacement.
- July 18 - Arrived home. Reflected on the larger number of young people and kids attending the conference. I was happy to see that.
- July 26 - Went with the club to Lehigh Gap Nature Center for trail Lehigh Gap Nature Center for trail maintenance. We tried scouting out a new trail to the top of the Mountain. More scouting required.

Happy Hiking
Jim Gabovitz



Allentown Hiking Club

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The Happy Hiker is published quarterly by the Allentown Hiking Club, Inc. The opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the AHC, but of the authors.

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Deadlines for the Winter 2008 Newsletter-Schedule

Happy Hiker Newsletter
Activity Schedule

Wednesday, November 28, 2007
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Please forward all Club related articles, thoughts, and items to the editor by mail or, preferably, by email or disk using MS Word. Send all hiking schedule activities to the schedule coordinator. You do not have to use the hike schedule form found on the club web site and in this newsletter, but if you choose not to, please include all the listed fields in your description of the activity.



Largest Oak on the AT

HONORARY MEMBERS

It is the time of the year that the Allentown Hiking Club is open to nominations of Honorary members. Some basic criteria for Honorary membership are as follows.

1. Must have been an active member for the past 10 years.
2. Held a position as club officer.
3. Took the lead in planning club hikes or other activities.
4. Constructed and maintained hiking trails, and or monitored trail corridors.
5. Interacted and cooperated with other clubs.

Recommendations must be submitted in writing to the club secretary.

James A. Gabovitz
AHC President



Allentown Hiking Club History

The 1990s, Part 1: Appalachian Trail

By Barbara L. Wiemann

During the 1990s, as stewards of the Appalachian Trail, the Allentown Hiking Club improved and protected the Appalachian Trail experience for hikers by constructing trail relocations, installing a gate to prevent vehicular access to the trail, and constructing a privy and new shelter.

Gates and Relocations

Illegal vehicular traffic used the AT footpath east of PA 309 to access the ATT service road and drive to the power line near the New Tripoli campsite. As a result, that section of the AT was deeply rutted and extremely muddy, and large quantities of trash accumulated at the campsite. In 1990, Frank Bertalan led the effort to install a locked gate between the AT and the service road, blocking this route to vehicles.

To finish the job, Bertalan and Ed Ritter directed a crew of 39 AHC volunteers who relocated the AT away from the muddy, rutted woods road and built a new access trail to the New Tripoli campsite. The old campsite side trail had descended straight down the ridge using the power line; the new trail, located in the woods east of the power line, switchbacks down to the campsite. The crew also re-piped the spring at the campsite.

In October, 1993, Mike and Bev Wuerstle and Bertalan laid out a blue blazed trail skirting the restaurant parking lot at PA 309. This was planned as a "fall back" location for the AT in case any future owner of the restaurant did not want the trail on his or her property. (This section of trail crossing the parking lot was the only piece of AT that AHC maintained that was not within the National Park Service protected corridor). In 1996 this new trail became the official AT route and club members constructed 15 steps to connect the trail to PA 309; the old route to the restaurant became the side trail.

In July, 1994, in response to a request from an adjacent landowner, three-quarters of a mile of AT footpath east of Jacksonville-Snyders Road was moved south, away from the NPS boundary closer to the center of the corridor. Under the leadership of Bertalan, Ritter, and Harold Croxton, the trail was built from "scratch to finish" in 4½ hours. And that included blacking out the old blazes and closing the trail.

Privy and New Allentown Shelter

After completing these projects, the club turned its attention to the Allentown Shelter area. Years of increasingly heavy usage at the site pointed to the need for a privy, and the 60-year old Allentown Shelter was showing its age, requiring more repairs and hours to maintain. The August, 1995 club meeting was devoted to a discussion of the future of the shelter and the need for a privy. Key points were the costs (of maintaining vs. building), demands that expected future usage would place on the structure and area, and the aesthetics of any projects.

Since sanitation was a major concern, the club moved forward immediately with plans for a clevis multtrum privy. Permits from Lynn Township and the Game Commission were secured, as well a \$1000 grant from LL Bean through the ATC Grants to Clubs program. Under the direction of Paul Shellenberger, club volunteers prefabricated the privy off site, dismantled it, and then reassembled it in June, 1996. Twelve club volunteers contributed about 500 hours to the effort. Total cost was just over \$1400.00.

With the new privy in place, club leadership turned full attention to replacing the Allentown Shelter. To fund this more expensive construction project, the club again applied for an LL Bean Grant through ATC (receiving \$2800). Other major contributors were Pete Nestor, owner of Nestor's Sporting Goods (\$2000) and club member Earl Raub (\$1000). These contributions covered the cost of the materials.

After securing this funding and the needed permits and approvals, work began in the winter of 1997. Mike Benyo led the March 9 work trip that dismantled the old shelter and prepared the site for the new structure. Ed Ritter directed the crew that cut the logs and pre-built the new milled log shelter at Resurrection Cemetery in Wescosville. Every piece was numbered and driven to the shelter site. On the weekend of April 19-20, 34 club volunteers assembled the 8-foot by 14-foot shelter and secured the dark green metal roof. Finishing touches, such as the front steps, were added in May. In all, over 1000 hours of labor were contributed. On National Trails Day (June 7), AHC formally dedicated the shelter, concluding a very active decade of volunteer effort on behalf of the Appalachian Trail.

Last installment of this AHC history: The 1990s, Part 2: Non-AT Club Activities



Allentown Hiking Club Caucus

It's not only in Iowa that the future leadership candidates are being picked, it also right here at the Allentown Hiking Club. Election of the 2008 hiking club officers will take place at the December 2007 AHC meeting. To propose a slate of candidates for these positions, a nominating committee will be created at the October AHC meeting. This is a significant opportunity to be part of the future of the Allentown Hiking Club. All members interested in participating in this important committee should contact Jim Gabovitz prior to October 3, 2007.

In addition, all members who are interested in being a club officer should also contact Jim Gabovitz. Once the nominating committee is formed, Jim will pass on the names of those interested in the club leadership positions to the committee.

AT Corridor Monitors Needed

Barb Wiemann

In 1979, the National Parks Service Appalachian Trail Project Office acquired four tracts of land near Fort Franklin Rd. to protect the Appalachian Trail. Since these first acquisitions, the NPS has acquired rights to 31 more parcels of land along the 10.3 miles of trail managed by the Allentown Hiking Club. These parcels are located in five distinct areas – Bear Rocks, PA 309, Fort Franklin Rd., the lower spring at the Allentown Shelter, and the ridge west of the Allentown shelter.

Under our delegated management agreement with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, AHC has agreed to monitor the external boundaries of these tracts for signs of encroachment, such as refuse dumping, tree cutting, and vehicular entry. Each tract is monitored once a year in late fall, after the leaves are down and it is easiest to see problems and walk the boundary lines.

Corridor monitors walk along a tract boundary line (which is blazed with yellow paint) and report any signs of encroachment. The monitor clips excess vegetation to insure that the line is "walkable" and may refresh fading blazes (boundary paint is supplied). The monitor also verifies that the survey markers are in place and submits a simple report verifying that the tract was inspected.

To comply with national monitoring standards, ATC is requesting that we monitor every exterior boundary. (In past years, we did not monitor certain boundaries that adjoined other public land, such as Game Land). Therefore, **we have openings for more corridor monitors.**

Volunteers will be expected to devote one day to this effort, since tracts will be assigned so that each monitor can easily complete his or her assignment in less than a day. Field instruction and detailed maps will be supplied to all volunteers.

A JOB WELL DONE

Ed Ritter

I would like to THANK everyone for a "JOB WELL DONE" on the maintenance hike. Many bags were filled with garbage from the 309 State Game Lands and the restaurant parking areas.

We then proceeded to Fort Franklin Rd. to start the Trail Head Parking Lot Project. Many stones, logs and branches were placed on the south side of the lot to block unwanted parking spaces. Again "JOB WELL DONE". A great picnic followed.

On June 19th representatives from the NPS and ATC met at the parking lot to conduct environmental and cultural assessments. We passed with flying colors. Official permission to start the project is in the mail.

Now the work starts. About 6 trees and stumps need to be removed. The question is – do we use a bulldozer to remove the stumps? (Does anyone have or know where we can get a bulldozer?) Or do we grind down the stumps? (Does anyone have or know where we can get a grinder?) Then we need to fill a 20' x 30' area with dirt and stone. (Does anyone have or know where we can get a dump truck and #2 modified stone?)

The tree trunks will be used to make "tire bumper stops" to define the direction cars should park. Large stones and branches will be placed on the north side of the lot to block unwanted parking and access to the AT by ATV's.

We need to set a date when we will continue this project. If anyone has any other ideas and/or has access to some of the items needed to do the project, please let me know.

Again THANKS for all the help.

P.S. On June 30th and August 11th, ATC conducted a Trail Assessment on our section of the AT. Some suggestions were to install water check bars on the 309 north relocation section and the AT leading up to the Allentown Shelter from where the blue trail starts. This might be next year's maintenance hike project.



2007- 08 PA Hunting Seasons

Coyotes: No closed season

Starlings, sparrows: No closed season, except during the antlered and antlerless deer seasons and until noon daily during the spring gobbler season

Opossum, skunk, weasels: No closed season, except Sundays and prior to noon during the spring gobbler season

Woodchucks: No closed season, except: Sundays; during the antlered and antlerless deer seasons; and until noon daily during the spring gobbler turkey season

Crows: July 1-Nov. 24, Dec. 28-April 6, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only

Elk: Sep. 3-29, Nov. 5-10

Deer (Archery): Sept. 15-Nov. 10, Nov. 12-24, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Jan. 12

Pheasant: Oct. 6-12, Oct. 20-Nov. 24, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Feb. 9

Squirrels: Oct. 6-Nov. 24; Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Feb. 9

Deer: Oct. 13-20, Nov. 26-Dec. 8, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Jan 26

Ruffed Grouse: Oct. 13-Nov. 24, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Jan. 26

Quail: Oct. 20-Nov. 24

Rabbit: Oct. 20-Nov. 24, Dec. 10-22, Dec. 26-Feb. 9

Bobcat, foxes, & raccoon: Oct. 20-Feb. 16

Turkey: Oct. 27-Nov. 17,

Bear: Nov. 14-15, Nov. 19-21, Nov. 26-Dec. 1

Hares: Dec. 26-Jan. 1

Spring Gobbler: April 19, April 26-May 26

Note: Not all dates valid in all Wildlife Management Units and/or for all classes of hunters. For complete details, check the PA Game Commission web site www.pgc.state.pa.us.

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: Anne Griffin 4933 Washington St. Schnecksville, Pa 18078

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP: —

PHONE: ()

RENEWAL

NEW

EMAIL:

Dues @\$10.00 / \$15.00 Household _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SML	MED	LRG	XLG

CLUB T-SHIRTS @ \$6.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SML	MED	LRG	XLG

CLUB GOLF SHIRTS @ \$12.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA _____

<input type="checkbox"/>
QTY

CLUB PATCH @ \$1.50 + \$.75 SHIPPING EA _____

ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "ALLENTOWN HIKING CLUB" TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

