
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

Erin Lyon and Matthew Myer



A Letter from the President

Each semester, it is the duty of the President to write a sentimental letter about all the good times had in the Outing Club and about the bond that all Outing Club members share – I know because last semester I wrote such a letter myself. But this semester I will spare you the recounting of my fond memories (though we all know how much an Outing Club-er loves to tell a good story). Instead I will send my thanks to all those who have made my job so easy this past year. Mike McElhaney, VP, did an excellent job running the concession stands – which were extremely successful this semester – and organizing a great Pig Roast. The success of the concession stands is also due to the support of Tom Gregg of the operations department here at Grove City. Tim Archer, Cabin Manager, as well as Mark Place and Henry Limmer, Alumni Cabin Managers, dealt with a million-and-one problems of the cabin, including new keys, a broken pump, and many fridge difficulties. They also organized very productive work outings. Sarah Ristow, who has now been Treasurer for a year and a half, reorganized the entire bookkeeping system of the club to better keep track of our expenses, and now knows the ladies at County Market and in the Bursar's Office by name. Kaitlin Domanoski, Secretary, has moved the club into the communication age by organizing a member e-mail list to keep us all informed. Erin Lyon and Matt Myer, Alumni Secretaries, have the very fun job of getting on

everyone's case during finals to submit their articles for this news letter and then designing and printing it. Bethany Cauvel and Chrissie Scott, Historians, have documented events – and though Chrissie lost her camera on the canoe-trip god in Canada this summer, she has become our unofficial club T-shirt designer. Josh Poulette, Chaplain, has faithfully begun (most) every meeting in prayer. Finally, I would like to extend an extra special thanks to Alumni President Lee McCoy for being with us at each meeting to share words of inspiration and encouragement.

Amanda Adams, '01
President, '00



Senior Dinner 2000

Late last spring (I don't remember the date, it was awhile ago) the Outing Club headed out to the cabin for the annual senior dinner. Upon arriving at the cabin, most left to go to the swimming hole. The few, the proud, the lucky, stayed behind to cook. I'm guessing that good times were had by all at the swimming hole - they all came back with smiles - but I don't know because I was one of the few, the proud, the lucky. Everyone devoured the dinner of lasagna, garlic bread, veggies, and, of course, dirt cake for desert. We took a lot of pictures, as we do at all outing club events, and said good-bye to all of our seniors. Brian Vare, Josh Chapman, Alison Hertal, Stef Bubeck, and Megan Arzt, may you never loose your love of the outdoors.

Sarah Ristow '01
Treasurer, '00



Summer Work Outing, 2000

Once again this summer, alumni traveled from all corners of the globe (or at least all corners of Pennsylvania and New Jersey) to participate in this year's fun-filled summer cabin project. Several projects were completed by these devoted alumni, including a major renovation of the road from the parking lot to the cabin, which was transformed into a grassy footpath and separated from the now more non-4-wheel-drive-vehicle friendly road. Drainage ditches were added to this road both on the hill and at the base in order to keep the road and the yard drier and to help prevent erosion of the hill into the yard. Both the front and back porch roofs were re-shingled, and a new roof was put on the girl's outhouse. The woodsheds were filled and the back yard was cleaned out. A new ditch was dug between the cabin and the old wood shed to drain the swampy area of the back yard, and a well-drained dirt path replaced the piece of plywood that had served as a bridge. Evenings that week were spent re-telling old stories and taking dips in the Allegheny River (oh, just drive around that "Road Closed" sign where they're rebuilding the Kennerdale bridge... no problems there).

Many thanks to all those who participated - your continual hard work and support are very much appreciated by the actives.

Amanda Adams, '01
President, '00

Wedding Announcement

On July 29th, this past summer, 2 Outing Club Alumni were married here in GCC's own Harbison Chapel. Sarah Otto (1997) and Ron

Lang (1996) had known each other since their Freshman year of college, but did not become engaged until a few years after they had both graduated. It was a wonderful ceremony complete with a Bag piper, graciously supplied by a few of the Outing Club alumni. The reception that followed was in Old MAP dining hall and South Lobby. It was complete with swing dancing (thank you Jason Richwine) and tons of food. Sarah and Ron proceeded on to Canada for their honeymoon. Their trip included a stop to Pringrove, where they had both gone on the Outing Club January trips while they were in college. Following the reception, and seeing the couple on their way, many Alumni and active members went out to the cabin and enjoyed some good fellowship together (along with Tom's spectacular blending creations). Overall, it was a truly memorable weekend for all of us.

Jeremiah Otto, '02



Row, Row, Row your...Canoe

On August 26, 2000, twenty-one former and current (and future?) Outing Club members, plus one furry friend, departed for the annual canoe trip. Our destination was, once again, Kipewa, Canada. The adventurers included: Tom and Andrew Morris, Tom Rongsley, Mike and Kati McCarty, Andy and Laura Geydos, Ron and Sarah Lang, Betsy Pluss, Cory Gibson, Jason Richwine, Brian Vare, Megan Artz, Mike McElhaney, Erin Lyon, Megan Foley, Josh Butler, Tim Archer, Bob Scott, Chrissie Scott, and Denver. The week started out COLD. In fact, it ended up cold, too. In between, though, a good time was had by all. We paddled, we ate, we slept, it rained, we swam, we paddled some more, we portaged, we played card games (just a tip - don't play B.S. with Andrew), and we enjoyed the peace and quiet of the backcountry. We discovered that melted MRE

plastic makes a pretty good fill for a large hole in a boat. Some of us also found out that if you mix a sinking canoe and a lawn chair, you are going to end up swimming (by the way, if anyone comes across that lawn chair next year, Butler would probably like it back). We did not get to see the Northern Lights this time, and the moose seem to be alluding us as well. But, there is always next year. The experience can most accurately be summed up by the immortal words of Tom Morris, "life was good."

Chrissie Scott, '02
Historian, '00



Weekend at Outdoor Odyssey

I don't remember too many details of the weekend, but I do remember that I had a great time. I also know it was first weekend of the fall semester, and we spent it at Outdoor Odyssey – a camp designed to help at risk kids by helping them grow through adventure. Brian Vare, Chrissie Scott and Sarah Ristow led the trip back to the camp where they had been counselors this past summer. They showed us to a good time. We went caving in Bear Cave (I'll never forget sliding on my side in 2" of water through a tiny hole down by my feet). We went climbing (thanks to the Navy Seals the camp has a 50' Climbing Tower that provided many hours of climbing). We also went repelling (Be careful that first steps a big one). And we ate well (except for those boxed brownies – I think we'll leave them out next time). Anyway, it was a great weekend and a fun time was had by all.

Erin Lyon, '02
Alumni Secretary, '00

New Member Outing

On September 10, 2000 approximately twenty Outing Club active and prospective members headed out to the cabin for the annual New Member Outing. Arriving at the cabin around 2:45, and having planned to spend the rest of the afternoon hiking, debate was begun to determine the destination of those hikes. A small number of people wanted to go the natural bridge, but the majority (myself included) eventually won out and our course was set for the river. After spotting a small deer, garden snake, and a few mysterious oranges on the trail (I guess someone dropped them?), we returned to the cabin to feast on spaghetti, garlic bread, and veggies. After stuffing ourselves with all the food, we returned to campus and prepared to face another at week at GCC.

Matthew Myer, '03
Alumni Secretary, '00



White Water Rafting

In the jovial month of September we outing club swabies decided to try out our sea legs. Okay, so it was just a river, but we had a boat and a captain so pirate language still applies here. Oh, and also, I lied about the month being jovial—the weather was downright evil. Anyway, the rain poured and the wind howled as we parked our cars and then remained huddled inside them shivering and hugging each other for warmth. Eventually we mustered the courage to get out and brave the cold in our shorts and Teva sandals. Once we got moving things were much better. We got our rafts and headed for the river just as the sun was beginning to peek through the clouds. With spirits heightened we ran the first rapid successfully. Unfortunately this did not last long. Our boat (whose crew consisted of Noelle, Regan, Andrew, Nick, Byron, and myself) was horribly cursed to

flip over without the least notice at all the easiest rapids. Dimple rock was executed beautifully while the tiniest dip in the calm between rapids sent us sprawling into the water. Our raft was quickly dubbed "Fatally Capsized" with the ever-popular motto of "NEVER fall out of the boat!!!" This motto was extremely helpful as we harangued our wet team members with it every time we had to pull them back into the raft. Unfortunately, we were informed by a kayaker that the river's seemingly warm water was "sucking the life out of us." This did not daunt us in the least, and we began falling out twice as often just to spite him. Alright, so maybe we had absolutely no control over how often we fell out, but we all made it back safe and sound nevertheless. The day's festivities also included multiple water fights (since water we had in abundance) and, of course, stopping to jump off some rocks into the water. After shivering in the parking lot for a while we got warm showers and changed into wonderfully warm clothes and went to Pizza hut for tastily warm pizza - noticing a theme here? All in all, it was a successful trip and a delightfully fun one.

Kaitlin Domanoski, '02
Secretary, '00



Camping Trip to Allegheny Forest

Six people set out early Saturday morning, Sept. 23, and drove toward the Allegheny National Forest. We were a little hesitant starting out since it had been pouring upon us the last half of the drive. The showers had toned down to sprinkling by the time we arrived, so we decided to begin our journey. After gathering all our supplies, we headed out on our 8 or so mile loop. We planned to hike 5 or 6 miles the first day to a spot to spend the night. Maintaining a good pace was fairly easy on the nice trail, even with the slippery mud. When we stopped by the river for lunch, we

realized we did not have to far to proceed before reaching our destination for that night. At first, upon arriving at the stopping point, we did not realize that we had reached it. After battling with a tarp for a bit, we set up camp and ate a delicious dinner. But we made way too much food! Tired from a long day of hiking, we went to bed early so that heading out the next day would not be a burden. The last stretch of the hike on Sunday was beautiful, and overall we were glad the trip was a success, despite some drizzling.

Jessica Dalzell, '04



October 6th Work Outing

On Saturday, October 6 a few outing club members took a trip out to the cabin for a little maintenance work around the cabin. Some of the basic 'fun chores' were completed inside and outside. We swept and mopped the floor, cleaned the fire pits, cleaned dirty dishes, cleaned the fireplace mantels, sorted the cupboards, killed flies, and attempted to beat the rug. Beating the rug was mostly unsuccessful because two inexperienced freshmen were left to the job. When the rug was taken halfway to the tree near the firepits the hail started. Luckily it wasn't a hard, but it was still there.

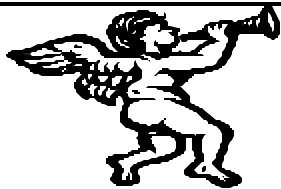
The fun part of the outing was making dinner. We ate pizza and brownies... very good brownies... they were made with a little too much oil. The instructions said to grease the pan before baking, so almost an entire bottle of oil was used. Unfortunately our uneven oven baked the brownies mostly on one side of the pan. The oil caused the normal baking time to be nearly tripled, but the result was nice. Everyone there agreed that those were the best brownies they had ever tasted. So today's advice is to add one bottle of oil for each brownie mix when baking.

Ben Grubb, '04

Pig Roast 2000

Well, yet another pig roast for the GCC OC. Friday night pie baking went well - who knew that Tim Archer could actually bake pies? Everyone thought that this year's VP, Mike McElhaney, had lucked out and the weather would actually cooperate. Saturday was beautiful and we were able to get the pig started early. Dan Wiley did his usual job of greasing the pig while the rest of us watched (he would be outdone by his brother Andrew who actually licked the spit after the pig was cooked). A few of us went to the swimming hole, although only two of the group of seven actually jumped off the rock (don't worry Josh, I got it on film). The rest of us waded around until we were numb. The shift sign-up sheet was passed 'round and met with groans by those who ended up with late night turning responsibilities. Sunday morning started out sunny, but soon turned cold and rainy. The tables were set up inside again and all the furniture had to be moved to accommodate the guests. Everything went pretty smoothly even though very few actives showed up. Thanks to all the alumni for helping out and making the weekend fun and successful. This year was the first time I was able to see what all happened on Saturday, and I was finally able to realize how much work goes into this event each year.

Bethany Cauvel, '02
Historian, '00



Angel Story published in *The Collegian*

The December 8th issue of the Grove City College Newspaper, *The Collegian*, contains an article about Fred Aiken's 1966 encounter with an angel near the GCCOC cabin. What follows is the text of that article, reprinted with the permission of the author, Anna Van Slembrouck.

Angel and the Outing Club – Alumni remember finding solace in nature

Majestic oaks and pines tower over countless trails. A mountainous bluff overlooks the Allegheny River. And a lone cabin nestled in a small clearing in the woods. Among the many clubs on campus, 20 students find their solace in Grove City College's Outing Club. The club began over 60 years ago in 1938 after prompting by Dr. Edmund Kase, Jr., Dean of the Chapel and Esther Post, Dean of Women. Kase and Post agreed students needed a recreational club especially since few students owned cars and the nation was battling the Great Depression.

The club initially headed out to Camp Frederick. A year later, however, the cabin, which is still used today, was built on the "old Kennerdale Road" and became headquarters for the club. The group later purchased a vehicle for transporting students to and from campus for club events. Various fund-raisers helped with cabin maintenance and outing costs. "Before my time, back when PEW was just a thick forest of trees," says Lynne Fogel the club's historian, "they used to chop down a tree, cut firewood and sell it in town for profit. It was a great source of income."

Fred Aiken, a 1967 Grove City graduate and alumnus of the Outing Club, recalls a fundraising event. "One year, the club decided to sell apple cider," Aiken says. "It was November time, and some cider was sitting in the truck. One of the girls, unaware that the cider was at its highest alcohol content level, sold some cider to the Dean of Women. The next day, the Dean of Women said, 'I don't know what was in that cider, but it sure cured my cold.'"

The Outing Club has become a sort of refuge for some over the years. Fogel, an '87 GCC graduate, remembers the comfort she took in stays at the cabin, especially during a bad student teaching experience. "I don't know what I would have done without the cabin senior year," Fogel says. "I spent a lot of time praying, and then there were

a lot of fun memories, too – Christmas parties, playing cards or people just hanging out and playing their guitars.”

For others, like Aiken, the Outing Club is a reminder of God’s faithfulness in times of need. He recalls getting lost on the trails during a December night in ’66 and the heavenly being or “shadowy figure” that led him safely to the cabin. Aiken had been on “a late-afternoon trek into unfamiliar territory. As he neared the bluff overlooking the Allegheny River, he spotted a hunter, around the age of 50, “sitting cross-legged on a boulder” and desperately lost. Aiken and the hunter continued on toward the bluff, but the man could not make the steep, vigorous climb. The two men decided to take another trail that would “add hours” to their trip. A blizzard blocked their view, and Aiken soon realized he was just as lost as the hunter. Aiken prayed to himself, and when he opened his eyes he noticed a “shadowy figure” 100 yards away. It then vanished only to reappear a short while later.

In his story published in “Angels on Earth,” a Guideposts Publication, Aiken describes the angel. “It was the strangest thing,” Aiken says. “It seemed to be a man, but I couldn’t make out what he looked like or what he was wearing. He was surrounded by a narrow band of light, but somehow remained covered in shadow. The figure turned and headed into the darkness. I followed, confident he would lead us back to the trail. I didn’t say anything to the hunter; I knew he couldn’t see him.” Aiken followed the shadowy figure until it stopped – only a few hundred yards from the Outing Club cabin. “To this day, if I’m ever lost I think of that shadowy figure,” Aiken says.

Lee McCoy, alumni president for the Outing Club, says, “I have no doubt in my mind that what Fred Aiken saw out there that winter’s day was an angel sent from God. It’s incredible.”

Anna Van Slembrouck (The Collegian 12/8/2000)

GCC Outing Club
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