
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Taylor Knight

Letter from the President

My first semester as President of the Outing Club here at Grove City College has proven to be an extremely fulfilling one. I am looking forward to my second semester as President next Fall, as many new members (namely the Freshman class of 2006) will be visiting the cabin and joining the current club members and alumni on our various outings. I'd like to take this time to thank the Class of 2006 for their warm hearts and good times shared at the cabin. We wish all of you the best of luck in all your endeavors after your time here. God will bless you all, I am sure of that. I would also like to thank the new officers for the 2006-2007 term—you guys are doing great jobs with your positions, and the club would not run without each of you doing your part. Thank you. Lastly, but certainly not least, to the alumni, on behalf of the entire active body of the club, thank you for your constant support in providing an escape from this campus, and for your commitment and help with our numerous excursions into the wild. Each trip to the cabin offers a peace that brings you right back down to earth, even when the work back at school continues to pile up, and each outing shows us the work of God's hands. Thanks to everyone for all you've done in helping the Outing Club continue to operate smoothly. See you in the fall!

Ryan Castor '07
President 2006-2007

Ski Trip

On February 10th a group of us took a trip up to Holiday Valley in NY. We left from school around 3:00 on Friday afternoon and after a rather uneventful 2.5-hour car ride, we were finally ready to hit the slopes. The two more eclectic fellows in our group decided that the regular trails were not interesting enough and even though it was only their first run, soon found themselves having a nice chat with the ski patrol about the dangers of skiing through the woods. They wore the bright orange lift tickets they were issued soon afterwards proudly for the rest of the night. We had a great time skiing and even though there were a rookies on snowboards we all managed to make it through without any injuries besides a couple rather untimely face plants. We left around 11:00 and stopped by Burger King for a quick bite before making the long trip home. Altogether, it was a terrific trip, and I am sure I can speak for all of us when I say we had a great time.

Corey Pickering '07

The Phantom of the Opera

As is our tradition two days after school started we skipped classes and headed down to the burgh for what was to be one of the greatest shows on earth... The Phantom of the Opera. (who is inside your mind). Our army of 38 people stormed the nosebleed section, sucking up the cheapest tickets money can buy. From the moment the chandelier crashed to the stage until the final



notes reverberated through the hall, we sat with knuckles white, enthralled with the melodious sounds of theatre (note the alternate English spelling, which shows how much class we have). The outing clubbers never looked so good, and contrary to popular opinion they clean up pretty fine. The show was a success as much applause and cheering could give credit. Everyone made it home safely through the snares of the golden arches and eventually recovered from their sore throats due to enthusiastic audience participation. Sing my angel, Sing for me...

Tyler Garman '06 (and Janelle Wilkie '06)

Roaring Run

The first weekend back to school after break, on Saturday, January 28th, several members of the outing club embarked on an adventure to the Roaring Run Natural Area in Southwest Pennsylvania. Those on the hike included Steve Dunbar, Tyler Garman, Chris Mercurio, Abby Barr, Val Nyhuis, and me. Even though there was snow on the ground, it was reasonably warm, probably in the high 30s

or low 40s. Our hike began with snowball throwing, followed by tree jumping, the general excitement of jumping over the thirty-something stream crossings. While Val and I looked for “short-people crossings” (as we called them), Tyler and Steve would run straight through them, following Tyler’s motto: “If you run fast enough, you won’t get wet!!” However, I don’t think that Tyler’s theory worked, because both Steve and he were quite wet by the end of the hike.

Overall, the hike was really beautiful. Over the course of about eight miles, the trail took us along the stream that we crossed oh-so-many times, then we climbed up to the top of a ridge, followed the ridge for a while, and then came down to the stream and the



trailhead. At the top of the ridge, Steve, Tyler, Chris, and Val decided to explore some “caves”, a.k.a cracks between the rocks. At the end of the hike we were cold, wet, dirty, and so happy!!

After the hike we drove to Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania, to partake at the annual game feast at Renee’s church. There was goose, pheasant, venison, moose, and much more. Steve and Tyler forced me to eat a frog leg, and Chris talked about his excitement of getting married to Faith. We ate, we were full, and of course, happy!!

Laura Mark ‘09



The Black Watch

The Black Watch was a super cool event that a handful of us Clubbers went to this year in January. After a harrowing drive into the city of Pittsburgh, a difficult feat for our country boys, we all piled onto the balcony in Heinz Hall waiting for the show to begin. As we looked around we noticed that there were some people in the audience showing off their Welsh or Scottish heritage by wearing traditional kilts and their tartans. Then the lights dimmed and the announcer’s voice came on (a British voice of course) announcing the Welsh Guards starting with the national anthems. Throughout the evening the Welsh Guards and the Black Watch would alternate about every 3 or so

songs. The Black Watch was my favorite because they had the bagpipe players and they had dancers that would dance with their swords. Their jig was inspiring to say the least. Something that we all found fascinating about the Black Watch was, as you looked through the program, each player had spent time in combat! Each one of them was an outstanding musician and a soldier too. All in all the night was a lot of fun and the entertainment was great. Something else to note: Lee bought a video of the night so if people want to see it you can contact Ryan Castor to get a hold of it.

Spring Work Outing

On April 1, 2006 a small but hardy band of members rose early on the Saturday morning for the Spring Work Outing. Led by the indefatigable Ryan Castor, the crew of about 10 mostly worked outside. At the end of the day, the accomplishments included the cleaning of the gutters by some of the women and a massive amount of raking by some of the men. The brute strength of about 6 men also removed a somewhat unstable porch addition. After the gutters had been cleaned, the yard raked, and the various and sundry other tasks accomplished, the crew gathered for the delicious lunch of marinated chicken and steak shish-kabobs on the grill and grilled pineapple dipped in warm chocolate, which easily compensated for the hours of work.

Bill Robinson ‘09

Winter Camping

It was February when we faced the mild weather and went into the wilderness to do some “winter” camping along the creek past the quarry. Arriving in the dark, everyone spread out to pitch their tents in the best spots. It was Cory’s dogs first time winter

camping as well as mine. I just so happened to be the only girl surrounded by seven guys. Fortunately the rest of the girls showed up at midnight to rescue me. It was forecasted to rain that night so we set up a tarp among the trees and set up camp. Steve Dunbar took the privilege of being the mom that night and cooked dinner for everyone. There is nothing better than sitting around the fire eating Kielbasa, Oodles of Noodles, or Smores while reading and telling stories. A few of the guys went out hiking while the rest of us stayed back. Steve was in his



glory as usual when he beat me three times playing the card game "Spit." As the night went on, it got colder than before but not enough to justify it being "winter" camping. For the most part it was a quiet night until we heard a call from the darkness. It was the girls yelling for someone to come and show them the way. The giggling and stories commenced. It was great. However, we had a dilemma. There was only one tent left and 4 girls. Therefore, when it was time to go to bed, we all piled into a two man tent. It was a nice restful night. When we packed up in the morning and headed back to the cabin, we were greeted by the smell of Tom's omelets. It was a great way to start the day.

Renee Erbrecht '08

2nd Annual OC Wild Game Feast

Saturday, February 25 was a mild late winter day in Western Pennsylvania, and nearly fifty actives, alumni, and guests crowded into the cabin for the club's second annual Wild Game Feast. After slaving away on a French paper Friday night I left for the cabin early the next morning and took a brief detour to Bilo for a ten pound sack of potatoes. Having delivered this contribution to the impending repast, I spent the next few hours bushwhacking through the woods with a half dozen other clubbers. Upon our return the fabulous feast was almost ready.

The Wild Game Feast stands second only to the Pig Roast in terms of amount and quality of food and the number of people there to eat it. Kristen Fritz '08 procured two excellent moose roasts, which Josh and Erin Butler marinated in barbeque, and there were two venison roasts as well. For lighter fare we had grilled pheasant and baked, bacon wrapped pheasant, Brunswick stew, wild turkey gumbo, and rabbit stew.

Cleanup went smoothly and several of the actives and alums spent a quiet Saturday night at the cabin and went to Kings for a very late ice cream run. Special thanks are in order for current president Ryan Castor '07 for his hard work in planning the feast and also to Tom Morris '77 and Josh and Erin Butler '02 for their cooking expertise. Hopefully the Wild Game Feast will become a spring semester tradition in the coming years.

Adam Neff '06, President '04-05



Hill Cleanup

The hill cleanup this year was well attended, and successful. Some people like Dave Hathaway and Renee Erbrecht had to leave early, and others like Dunbar and Bush came late, but all put in much work and sweat. Our newly elected cabin manager—who I think is supposed to run such events?, was missing at the beginning...so Keegan ran it instead. Lending muscles and zeal were Corey Pickering, Doug Haus, Megan Smith and Natalie Zesiger, Janelle Wilkie and Tyler Garman, Rachel Lloyd, Lucy Rogers, Nikki Neitzke, and Laura Mark. (If I left any out, I apologize.) This year the work was done on a portion of the hill a bit downstream from the flagpole section where we normally have been. We exerted our domination over nature by chopping down everything that wasn't flowering—just as the maintenance people had instructed. Though some questioned what this would mean for erosion of the hill, all obeyed energetically. The biggest obstacles were mud (which sucked Janelle and Rachel down—almost up to their knees), trees (which had Corey and Tyler “stumped”) and briars (which required shears, lobbers, rakes, shovels, and even machetes...and still gave us plenty of scratches). Corey and Tyler did do an excellent job of chopping down three trees with the extremely dull tools provided. The first two fell with resounding and

satisfying crashes, but the third got stuck on the top of another tree as it fell. I think it is still in its precarious teetering angled position even now...one end on the ground, the other stuck in a neighboring tree.

The briars were finally conquered after *much* chopping(they were entwined on everything and stuck to each other too!) and rolled in one big tangle down to the creek with everything else. We discussed whether the pile we'd produced would just sit there forever, or whether maintenance had a secret raft which they'd use to ride down the shallow Wolf Creek to pick up the debris... who knows!

Natalie Zesiger '07

Feasting Seniors

Before I go into detail I just wanted to make a note that the annual feast provided in the honor of our esteemed seniors is open to all Outing Clubbers. Some misinformed misfits were deprived of some prime sustenance thinking that it was closed to others. “Dear Misinformed, Do we really think those seniors are capable of cooking for themselves?” Many underclassmen were



out in force and succeeded wonderfully in preparing a meal fit for those more worthy than ourselves. In style, Dr. Gordon arrived in his off-roading beast and created the best Caesar salad I have ever eaten in my

life...and I have eaten many salads. (Motion to use the remainder of Club funds to bribe Dr. Gordon into giving us the recipe?) President Castor had the amazing foresight of buying 25lbs of steak and marinating it overnight. He and Steve Dunbar manned grills full of steak and salmon for several hours. Inside, little girls made corn bread, baked potatoes, and apple cobbler. (Unfortunately, I was too slow eating my three steaks, one slab of salmon,



cornbread, and potato to wolf any cobbler.) Little girls are people too...thanks to Valerie Nyhuis and Keegan Hange for planning the dinner and doing the prep. That said, I still don't regret stealing all that cornbread before dinner. In conclusion, Devin Stauff (if you are reading this) following you as GCCOC glutton has been an arduous task, but with such fantastic food, is there any better job in the world? I suggest there is not.

Dave Hathaway '06
Historian '04-'05 (and Chief Glutton)

Canoe Trip

On Friday, May 5th, I was sitting in my room thinking, "What should I bring for the 2006 Spring Canoe trip?" Of course my pack was already filled with the essentials-sleeping bag, head lamp, and chapstick, but I knew something was missing. After a few minutes, I realized what I was forgetting. I

rummaged through the mountains of heaping clothes, foraged under the bed, searched the darkest corners of my room until I found it: a super secret vial of testosterone. Why? Well, as the only member of the female persuasion on the Spring 2006 Canoe Trip, I knew I needed to pack a little heat. Turned out to be pretty useful too. After loading up the canoes and running the shuttle, I carried Tom's kayak across the bridge (with my pinky finger, balancing it above my head) plopped it in the water and paddled circles around the men in the canoes. I circled Cory and Adam roughly 6 times, Dale and Dave 5 times, Tom and Trent too many times, and Steve and Tyler only once.



Actually, my secret vial of testosterone turned out to be a leftover container of bubble stuff. But I really didn't need it. The trip went well. We went from Bellmar to Rockland Tunnel, ate lunch on a dead deer infested island, ran into the boys from the other side of the river and battled the elements. Clyde and Mikka especially enjoyed the rotting carcass of the unfortunate deer. The rest of us though liked the beautiful weather, the sparkly green water, the unbeatable company and just the chance to be outside and away from approaching finals. Upstream winds and foul deer remains can't keep us back. After we pulled out around 4 and made it back to



the cabin, we were welcomed by the cardiac creations of our very own Tom. What a perfect way to end a day of paddling, splashing, and laughing. And like I said- turns out the only secret vial I needed was a vial of courage to withstand a day long combat of sexist jokes, red neck accents, and my new nickname- "Evil Esther." But I survived, and so did everyone else (except for the deer). Victory indeed.

Esther Harclerode '09

Summer Outing 2006:

Food/fun/friends/learn a trade!

This Summers joint student-Alumni-friends outing will be held July 13-16. We try to rotate months every few years to accommodate different folk's schedules but July seems to work out best for most folks and so July it is again this year.

Plans for the projects this year are as usual still in flux, but we will certainly be looking for any new structural problems and will probably start to address the drainage problems to the rear of the cabin. The drainage upgrades in the front yard and road improvements have made a great improvement there. We will also address the normal summer housekeeping projects. We

will plan on attitude adjustment and a swim down at the river each evening after dinner.

The Cabin Team is also considering erection of a new storage shed in the area of the badly deteriorated wood shed constructed in the early 80's. The general appearance being considered is generic "amish" barn and the size being considered is in the 8x10 range. The shed would accommodate the scaffolding, flammables, the mowers and the tractor. Firewood would be stored in rows on sleepers ala PrinGrove. Feed back a couple of years back indicated that earlier plans for a much larger shed (10x20) to accommodate 4+ cords of wood and the other material was not what folks wanted to see. The price of lumber also makes that size shed a major project. If you have any suggestions regarding this project, please contact me and we will add your feelings to the decision process.

Meals will start with a late lunch on Thursday and run to lunch on Sunday. If you have any menu requests or wish to contribute a favorite dish or dessert, please let me know. There is no charge for the meals.

If you are able to participate this year, even a day or an afternoon, please call or email me before July 11th with the number of adults and children under 10 so we can plan the meals. If there is enough interest, we will try to plan a separate children's program on Saturday. That will require more notice to coordinate volunteers.

See you soon!

Mark Place, Alumni Cabin Manager
mplace@johnplaceinc.com or 412-877-0050

Use of the cabin

As noted in past issues of the *Axe & Saw*, due to the work in progress we have been forced to curtail use of the cabin by school and alumni groups. Several groups are planning day hikes and other events in the yard, and that is great. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but until the floor, kitchen ceiling and gas line issues are resolved we must continue this policy.

Summer mowing and bug watch

We arranged to have the cabin retreated in 2004 for boring bugs after finding evidence that they had survived the first treatment. If you see any carpenter ants or signs of the boring beetles please let us know.

Making the cabin look well used is our best defense against vandals. If you can help with regular summer mowing, please let Cory Gibson or I know. We now have a choice of either the push mower or riding mower.

Email master

If you have a new email or are looking for a classmates email, please drop Cory Gibson or me a note so that I can update our records or see if we can help. We are running about 120 folks in the database.

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GCC Outing Club

The Axe and Saw Spring 2006



The Great Outdoors itself!

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