
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Maria Watson

Letter From the President

Greetings Friends!

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying this festive season. I am looking forward to a chilly traditional Christmas morning dip in the Pacific as my family is traveling from Ohio to visit our California relatives for the holidays.

There have been many fun times for the Outing Club actives this school year. Before returning to the world of Academia, 20 alumni and students ventured together into the wilds of Canada with Josh Butler '02 at the helm, canoeing in ZEC Kipawa and taking in the striking scenery of clear, deep lake-water and rocky, evergreen-covered islands. The semester commenced with a get-together on Labor Day and where we mostly just relaxed. Shortly thereafter, we had the new member outing, which was well attended. Our Annual Pig Roast was a pleasant affair with the addition of GCC faculty and employees to the usual mix of students and alumni. Other opportunities to enjoy each other's companionship came with the Harvest-time and Christmas parties where pumpkin carving and tree liberating provided much merriment. Work outings this semester tended to have few attendees, but those who came worked diligently.

My heart holds gratitude for all the students and alumni who made my term in office so delightful, for both your help in caring for the cabin and your camaraderie. My time as president of the Outing Club presented me with various unexpected excitements, one never know what may come up, and was filled with many joyous moments. I would like to extend my thanks to the other officers of '07 for their efforts in creating life-enriching experiences. I am sure that this coming year's

offices will continue to build up our organization that takes the task of enjoying the outdoors very seriously.

While I am anticipating my graduation in May with great joy, I shall certainly miss this club. I feel so fortunate that I discovered the Outing Club the first weekend of my college career and have had many opportunities since to enjoy the cabin and all those who cross its threshold.

Warm Regards,
Keegan Hange '08, Pres. '07



A Message from the VP

This year was an extremely successful year in the concession stand. The students of the club really did their part to volunteer. We were able to raise a lot of money to further club activities and hopefully have a little left over. It was truly a blessing to work with different members and to meet and know more of them. The football season, though it seemed never ending, was a blast; it was an experience and opportunity to serve my fellow members that I will never forget. There are two memories from working the concession

stand that I want to tell you about. The first memory was the first day working the stand. I thought it was never going to end. I never saw so many people eat hot dogs, nachos, and tons of popcorn. Giving people the right change was crazy, but needless to say we got through the day. Soon after the first day of concessions we changed all of our prices to \$.50 and \$1 increments. The second memory that I will never forget was the weekend of homecoming, which was an unusually warm weekend. A faculty GCCOC member drove up with 30 cases of water in her car, and in literally 10 seconds, right before half time started, we were able to place all the water in the stand. Just to give you an idea of how warm it was that day we sold almost 1400 bottles of water. The experience of working the concession stand, as I said before, is something that I will never forget, but a love for the club, its members, and all that it represents is something that will stay with me for a lifetime.

Jason Johansen '10, Vice Pres. '07

Fall Hiking Adventures

Over Fall Break Dale McCarthy, Laura Mark and myself drove over 1,000 miles roundtrip to the High Peaks Wilderness Region where we spent the next three days hiking approximately 25 miles. During those three days we climbed Algonquin peak the 2nd highest in New York state (5115 feet), Mt. Colden (4714 feet), and Mt. Phelps (4161). The trip was spent in good company with lots of jokes including the dam dinner, killing a mouse because it was on the freakin' spoon, doing Yoga on the summit, circular conversations, as well as Laura and I pumping water one night during hurricane-like wind and rain. The time spent away from campus was relaxing and I greatly enjoyed stepping back from my stressful life to enjoy the quiet of God's creation and marvel at his greatness. We all agreed that hiking up mountains was just as much of a mental feat as a physical one but even a bad day of hiking is better than a good day in class or at work!



Sarah Lake '09

“Another Semester Waning”

Another semester waning,
And I can't help but cry.
There are only a few days remaining;
The weeks have flown right by.

Looking back on all the days
That I didn't spend “out there”
Amid the pines that portray
A calming place, a cleaner air.

Instead I wasted hours
With books I “had” to read,
Subjugated to the powers
Of the Crimson shield and creed.

But now I see the shame
In staying locked away
With books of long dead fame
and no appeal today.

So where ought I to be,
When the schoolwork piles high?
Certainly not in the library
But under the open sky.

Oh yes, I see it now,
Neglected papers, exams and degree,
But oh won't I be loud
Prancing through the cabin with glee.

I want to smell the trees,
And scuffle over flame,

I want to eat just meat and cheese,
And listen to Tom complain.

I want a simpler place,
Free of trays and acronyms,
With not a single trace
Of the proper or the prim.

I think I ought to take an oath,
And set it all in stone,
In the interest of my personal growth,
I shall stay away from home.

So next year you will find me,
Without a book or text,
Lounging at the cabin, carefree
In the bunk room I'll have annexed.

Esther Harclerode '09

A New Member Perspective

Camping, hiking, a cabin, food, and friends. I heard about the Outing Club from my now-roommate Brandy Tillow about this time last year, and it sounded like heaven. Then this year I went to a couple of outings. Yep, pretty close. A greasing-a-pig, pigging-on-pie, washing-greasy-dishes-while-you-sing kind of heaven.

Minus the dirt, and the lack of [hem] amenities, this might be what God has in mind for the New Jerusalem. "Let's remake the earth," God will say to His angels. "Anything particular you got in mind?" At first the angels shake their heads, and then they point down at our cabin bashfully. "Hmm," God says a little suspiciously. "Looks a little like that Eden place we made back in the beginning. Still, it's pretty close to perfect."

In fact, the lack of amenities might be part of its charm. It harkens back to the American Romantics, even the Pilgrims. Eking out a bare existence close to nature, we can say, as Thoreau did, that at least on Outing weekends we "live deliberately." Though we did not (fortunately) make the cabin with our own hands, still we enjoy the fruits of our labors, cleaning up, making our own food, pumping our own water. Even in

that simple action of pumping our water, or of striking a match instead of simply flipping a switch, we think about it--we grow close to the things we consume, and are involved in the process to a greater extent. Technology tends to separate us from the concrete. Email eliminates the need to write with a pencil on a piece of paper, nor do we have to understand the inner workings of the (I'll admit, overly complicated) postal system. Cars take away our need to walk, as Thoreau himself noted. And when we buy things at a supermarket, we hardly think about the farm--or in most cases, the many, widely spread farms--where its ingredients were grown.

For me, the Outing Club is a small taste of what it might be like to live life in this way--to live deliberately, and escape the smothering influence of unnecessary technology. As I sit and type this on a computer, I am aware of the irony, but I long for the day when I can get back to the cabin and write, or play cards, or have a good conversation, by the light of its dingy oil lamps, and wash dishes in hand-pumped, stove-heated water. Even walking to the outhouse might be a pleasure, until I get close enough to it to wish that we were allowed to dispense with that technological advance as well, and simply use the woods, as God intended.

When God made Eden, he must have wished that he could put our Cabin in it. Perhaps he did, and now we are the possessors of Eden. Shh...don't tell anyone.

Katie McIntyre '10

Pig Roast 2007

The trees were colorful, the guns were loud, and the friends were plentiful. Life at the Pig Roast was good. I arrived at my second Pig Roast just in time to witness the greasing of the pig. Unfortunately this pig was rather stubborn... and small. The greasing was not an easy task, the "gross factor" aside, but a harder task soon presented itself: getting the small pig onto a not-so-small spit. After many minutes of attempting to manhandle the spit through the pig, we decided to use the power of nature

that was at our disposal. We rammed the spit against a tree, pushing the pig onto it as we did so. A few stomach-turning crunches later we had ourselves a dinner in the making.



The cabin was quite full when I got there on Saturday afternoon, and only got fuller as the day went on. The racket of Alums, actives, dogs, and various infants in the cabin was only outdone by the automatic weapons going off out front.

The noise gradually died as the sun went down, and the pig-turners shivered through the night.

Doctor Gordon gave a mini-sermon on Sunday morning and the busy-ness quickly began as people rushed about setting up tables, organizing the 70-some pies, and put the finishing touches on the feast. A good turnout of faculty and various college personnel soon showed up and the massive dinner was served. The food was delicious, the trees were colorful and after two trips through the food line I was excruciatingly full. Life at the pig roast was good.

Cooper O'Neil '10

ZEC 2007 (August 18 - 25 2007)

The ZEC Kipawa trip this past summer was certainly an *interesting* experience. But then, what Outing Club trip isn't? By interesting I mean a 15 hour car ride topped off with tenting, canoe-tipping, adventuring, campfires, dried fruit, peanut butter, Nalgene's, fun, and

friends. We started out on a Saturday night a week before the beginning of classes, and drove all night, successfully crossing the border into Canada (yes, leaving all manner of guns behind, to Tom Morris's disappointment), and going through the beautiful region of Quebec. That drive was the beginning of a week in which we all got to know each other better in the beauty of God's creation. It's hard to convey everything which transpired during that week. However, one thing I definitely want to talk about is our unique alumni. I know we all appreciated their presence, even though they are getting old and rickety (Wait! Did I say that?). I am obviously kidding...the alumni who went, including Tom Morris, Josh Butler, Cory Gibson, Adam Bush, Steve Dunbar, and Mike McElhaney, often out-paddled our younger and supposedly much-fitter selves. They also shared their wisdom and experiences with us. Josh shared a story about leeches and made us all remember not to pull off a leech if it is attached! From that point on whenever someone saw a leech they started calling "Salt! Salt!" because that is what you put on leeches to make them fall off. We also enjoyed their three dogs which rode in the canoes right along with everyone else!! Philosophies were challenged as well, with statements such as Tom's "Women may come and go, but machine guns are forever!" The ZEC trip certainly would not have been the same without them.



Other unforgettable experiences include: Jumping out of canoes into the lakes

and swimming. Beautiful weather. Cool evenings around the campfire. Hammocks slung between the trees right by the lake, with everyone napping. Amazing dried bananas, apples, bagels, PB and honey for lunch every day. The amazing stars as seen without light pollution. Washing off with Dr. Bronner's peppermint soap. Exploring an abandoned ghost town on one of the islands. Ballbuster Falls...a series of beautiful waterfalls which we slid down. Diving for Mussels (and then cooking and eating them). Keegan (our faithful president) teaching us all about Hymenopterans and Ichneumons. Mikka (Cory Gibson's husky) chasing chipmunks all over the islands. MREs (meals ready to eat). Hot soup on the rainy day. Amazing sunsets on the lake. Tom's poetry about the Cremation of Sam McGee. Glow sticks attached to our canoes on the night paddle. Skipping rocks in the twilight. Spending time with friends and relaxing so far away from civilization.

Like I said, SO much happened on the ZEC trip this summer, and it's hard to share all of the memories. However, I hope you got a glimpse of the fun we had! Hopefully you will be able to join us next summer!

Amanda Snead '09, Historian '06/07

OC Halloween Festivities

One dark and stormy October night, a group of college students gather in a secluded cabin deep in the woods...sounds like the perfect setting for a horror movie, doesn't it? Well, sorry to disappoint - nothing very horrific happened, but it did make the perfect setting for the Outing Club Halloween party! The party was held at the cabin on the Saturday before Halloween, which made for a relaxing break after that morning's work outing. We began around seven with a tasty dinner of hamburgers and pumpkin bread made by Sarah Lake, and afterwards those of us who had brought costumes changed into them. There were several creative costumes, but I thought that Keegan's was the best; she went as a newspaper.



We had been hoping to go on a hayride, but it was cancelled due to rain. Luckily, there was plenty else to do. We carved jack-o'-lanterns and ate roasted pumpkin seeds as we sat by a crackling fire. Around ten, the rain cleared up long enough for us to go on a night hike to the Overlook. It was moonless and misty, a night worthy of a Halloween weekend. After the hike, most of us spent the night at the cabin. This was my favorite part - as a new member, I had never slept at the cabin before. (That night I learned an important lesson: extra blankets are a good thing.) The next morning, we held a brief church service outside, after which we packed up and returned to Grove City. The jack-o'-lanterns we left on the front porch, a Halloween display for passers-by.

Theresa Schneider '11

Memories of an Avid Oven Cleaner

It was a brisk morning in Western PA on October 27, 2007. A bunch of us were headed to the cabin for what would prove to be an excellent work outing. We met in our usual spot behind the Physical Learning Center and drove out together, after stopping to purchase lunch for everyone. We bought cold cuts, bread, cheese, and mayonnaise (essential). When we arrived at the cabin the leaves were bright fall colors and the sky was clear and bright, a perfect day. Several actives and non-actives were already diligently working

chopping wood, cleaning gutters, burning leftover pig bones, and shooting pheasants. The dogs were busy eating leftover pheasant parts and were enjoying themselves thoroughly.

It was time for us to get to work. I was assigned the task of cleaning the ovens, which excited an avid cleaner like me. I began by heating water on the stove and cleaning off the counter. When the water was hot, I scrubbed the white stove until it sparkled. It did not literally sparkle, but it did look much better when I was done with it. I scrubbed so hard that I even removed the range markings on the knobs. Sadly, my perfectionism only allowed me to finish one stove before I had to leave for the day. All in all, it was a great work outing, thanks to all of the actives and alumni who came out to help.

Heidi Bartel '09

Outing Club 70th Reunion Coming Up!

Save the date - **Saturday October 18, 2008!** We're making plans to celebrate 70 years of the Outing Club. Details are still being worked out, but we're considering Foxburg Inn (now Allegheny Grille - where we had our last reunion) and the Quality Inn in Franklin (used to be the Voyager - where we had our 40th reunion). You can send any input on the plans to Tom Ronksley - tironksley@yahoo.com or 4946 Simmons Circle, Export, PA, 15632.

Thanks!

Tom

Extra Information from Lee McCoy:

Our reunion will be at the same time as homecoming 2008. Be sure to save this date. More information will be in the Spring Axe & Saw and a mailing with all the details will be sent out in late summer or early fall. We have a reunion at five year intervals. The first was

the 40th in 1978 and the 70th will be number seven.

31st Annual Summer Work Outing

July 19-22 marked the 31st annual alumni, students and friends outing. This year 26 folks from Christian Meeder age 6 son of past President Josh Meeder '95 back to the Marshall Sanford '66 participated. Two other past presidents also attended this years outing Mike McElhaney '01 and Dr. Mark Fair '85 professor of engineering at the College. Joining this trio was Keegan Hanger '07 the current club president.

Terry Clever '75 edged out perennial longest distance traveled winner Marshall Sanford '66 coming all the way from Henderson, NC.



This was a year of many small projects as we tried to spend a bit less than usual to offset the cost of the new shed last year. Projects included the usual mowing and heavy trimming, staining of the new shed with a special insect retardant added to the stain, cleaned the roof and gutter screens, assisted Keegan with getting slab wood for the pig roast since we had a trailer, installed 36 new to us mattresses donated by the College (thanks to Tom Gregg and the maintenance staff who delivered them), reinforced 1/2 of the bunks with 3/4" OSB making sleeping much better for aging backs, cleaned the kitchen, serviced the outhouses and other basic every Summer projects. Fun stuff included a nightly swim

and servicing a mini-brush hog acquired by Assistant Cabin Manager Dan Young that was affectionately named the "ushit'nme mower". After some serious sheet metal work and a tune-up by Cory Gibson and Henry Limmer, this beast was ready to walk and roll. With repeat flat tires on the riding mower it turned out to be our workhorse mower this summer.



Summer Outing 2008

For all you Type A's out there in PDA land, mark your calendars now for the 2008 outing, - **July 24-27**. In addition to all the normal summer activities, weather permitting we will be tackling a critical project to remove several large pine trees that are causing the spring to flow at a greatly reduced rate due to roots blocking the collection pipes. If you happen to have a large backhoe or a boom truck in your garage, please let us know!

We will also be doing some planning and perhaps preliminary work to restore the outdoor memorial fireplace including possibly building a small pavilion at a later time that would aid in the annual pig roast preparations.

Cabin status report

The Cabin Team is pleased to report that things are pretty much status quo this year. We have not seen any additional powder post beetle damage since we stepped up the spraying. We have been checking for damaged floor joists and so far soft spots have not gotten worse.



The road is holding up great since our drainage and stone projects a few years ago. Continued care of the drains by the active club and alumni visitors should preserve that investment.

Groundwater around the cabin remains a concern with a new artesian spring in evidence on the path to the outhouses during wet weather. The root removal project next summer at the spring may help with that condition as flow will hopefully increase from the spring.

We continue to plan and gather details for the proposed cabin restoration work. One detail we need is a detailed survey of the yard area down to the three property lines so that we can get the drainage and grading right. If anyone with surveying skills is interested in helping to get that done, please let Mark Place (mplace@johnplaceinc.com) know. An accurate site plan is the first thing a restoration architect is going to ask for.

If you have not been back for a few years, here is a shot from this summer. Just a last note that if any of the cabin pictures are hard to see, each and every issue of the Ax & Saw ends up on the super Outing Club web site that Cory Gibson created and manages for us. See all of the pictures there as well as trip reports, new and current events. www.gccoc.org.

GCC Outing Club

The Axe and Saw Fall 2007

ZEC Canoe Trip 2007



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

"Friendship, Fellowship, Fun"

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