

# THE AXE AND SAW

Volume 81, Issue 1

Fall 2019

Grove City College Outing Club

[www.gccoc.org](http://www.gccoc.org)

Trevor Iltis and Grace Shook

## *A Message From the Secretaries*

Greetings all! The fall semester is drawing to a close, so it's time for another issue of The Axe and Saw! Grace Shook and I (Trevor Iltis) are the current alumni secretaries, although we will be passing the torch off to new blood in a few short weeks. Change has also come to the alumni association, as we direct your attention to the new Alumni Treasurer, Laura Bush. Much thanks to Tom Ronksley who served in the position for 39 years! Over the fall semester, the club has gone on many adventures, which have made for fun and memorable experiences. We started off strong with the new member outing at the very beginning of the school year and enjoyed the pig roast in October. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Axe and Saw!

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### *A Message From the President*

*Megan Lawson*

Hello alumni and actives alike,

We have had quite a busy semester here in Grove City, with welcoming new members, working football games, and adventuring into the woods. We started the semester with the new member outing. We were able to enjoy some good food, good company, and as always some good hiking. The semester soon became busy with work outings, hiking, and the concession stand. We had one of the biggest seasons at the concession stands this year - people do show up to more games when you win! This semester was also filled with fun, laughter and time spent at the cabin.

I want to thank all the alumni who made it out to the rather muddy Pig Roast. It was great to hang out and get to know many of you better. Thanks to the rain, the fire and pig pit area received some beautiful trenches to help ensure the fire would burn and the pig could keep cooking. The rain may have lasted all through the night, but we were very lucky to see a clear sky to enjoy the roasted pig and chickens.

Many a story comes from the time spent in the woods and in the cabin. As this semester comes to a close, I am looking forward to many a new adventure but am excited to reflect upon all the things we as a club were able to experience this semester. With that please enjoy The Axe and Saw of Fall 2019!

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### *Fun in The River*

*John Brezinski*

During the first few weeks of September, I joined a few other people to explore the Allegheny River. We hiked a couple miles there and walked across the water to get to the island. When we first arrived on the island, everyone dropped their bags and went into the water. We brought some bags of chips with us into the water and floated around while stuffing our faces. After socializing in the waist deep water, we decided to head back to the island to travel upstream. After walking about a quarter of a mile up the island, we hopped back into the water, lazily floating down the river as the current carried us.

After floating for a while, we headed back to the beach which was practically quicksand. A couple of us decided so see who could get stuck enough to not be able to get out of the

sand. After planting myself in the sand, one person decided to tackle me into the water. I landed in the water with my feet still stuck in the sand.

Later, we all decided to hang out on some large rocks by the mainland. Some of us ate, some of us slept, and one of us got a leech attached to their finger. All was good in the end until we had to hike back up the monstrous hill after our busy and lazy day on the Allegheny. We all hiked back to the cabin and got only a little lost on the way, but all was good because we had Josh to lead us home.

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### *The New Member Outing*

*Abigail Treusch*

Outing club (Noun): a collection of exceptionally welcoming and kind individuals who also happen to enjoy spending time together outside. I first learned of the truly genuine nature of those in the Outing Club during my first encounter with them at the Freshman Outing. From the moment I arrived at the cabin, or rather, stepped foot in the car with the club member that drove me, I immediately felt welcomed and experienced a sense that I had known them all for many years. These feelings continued throughout the evening, as we bonded over a

delicious spaghetti dinner, a campfire, and a night hike to the overlook.

The short jaunt to the bluffs certainly proved to be worthwhile, despite my slight apprehensiveness about night hiking through forest that was, at the time, unknown to me. Once there, the beauty of the overlook's scenery exceeded my expectations, especially because it included a magnificent portrait of the night sky. I clearly remember being inundated by an overwhelming feeling of wonder, as all I could do was stare up at the exquisite painting above. The stars were on display that night and so we remained at the overlook for quite some time. On the way back to the cabin, we didn't see any wildlife, likely because the group was laughing at the many jokes and ridiculous stories that were being told.

After ensuring that everyone's "exit buddy" had successfully made it out of the woods, the crew gathered around the campfire for some smores and conversation. There's just something about the nature of a campfire that brings people together, and this was certainly the case for the Freshman Outing. I will forever cherish the memories and friendships that began that night, and I hope that future Outing Club members have similar wonderful experiences in the years to come!

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## ***A Remarkable Fall Break***

*Josh Bauder*

The fall break trip this year was a remarkable one. We had remarkably well-marked trails splattered with remarkable glowing autumn oranges and brilliant fall yellows. The food was remarkably flavorsome: starting out very pretentious with fresh fruits and meats and ending with good old Jambalaya. The camp sites were remarkably well placed: close to fresh flowing water, but not too close, and filled with ample flat ground with just enough slope to keep water from pooling but not enough to roll you across the tent at night. The weather worked out remarkably, ceasing to rain the day we left campus, staying comfortable during the day, and ending with crisp nights. Hiking out was filled with remarkable views of the encompassing mountains ablaze with autumn. The final dregs of the trip, which are usually the most bitter, were remarkably the most tantalizing. The trail switched from strolling stream side to winding and slithering between giant boulders the size of the dormitories. The drives and shuttles coming and going ran remarkably smooth, with no deer, gas shortages,

breakdowns, accidents, or unwanted mountain road meandering.

As remarkable as everything was, the most remarkable thing of all was how smooth it all ran. There was enough food for everyone, the weather was perfect, there were no car troubles, no one came ill prepared, no one got sick, no one got hurt, no one got lost, we had no trouble finding a campsite, and no one had a bad time. The trip is one for the record books, not because of the remarkable events but for the lack of them.

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## ***Pies So Good Even the Dogs Want a Slice***

*Rebecca Jones*

Every upperclassman active knows the signs when the pig roast is approaching. First, the weather gets chillier, second, the Outing Club president is trying to transport slab wood to the cabin without a truck or trailer, and finally, one active member is frantically trying to figure out how many apples one needs to bake 25 apple pies.

This year that final job fell to Angelina Donatelli and Jantzen Hose. This committee is one of the most time intensive of any the pig roast committees, and it is very important to get the underclassmen involved so

that they know how to run it for next year. We hoped to get freshmen Eli, Abby, Estelle, and Ambria involved early by having them peel 50 pounds of apples. They did such an amazing job and continued preparing pie filling for most of the night. The dough team, Grace, Natalie, Adam, and Jeffrey, did an excellent job rolling dough for all 65 pies. They even made a dough-man, similar to a snowman but forced to deal with the heat of an oven rather than the cold outdoors. Rachel singlehandedly made all of the pumpkin and pecan pies in the second smaller kitchen.

All of the pie baking was accompanied by a healthy dose of singing and shenanigans. After cleaning, the night ended by packing three cars to the brim with pies to be brought to the cabin the next day. This was all completed at the early hour of 11:30 pm! We made four different types of pies this year: pumpkin, pecan, apple, and mixed berry. They were delicious (even the dogs thought so). The whole pig roast was very fun and a great time for both the actives and alumni.

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### ***Pig Roast Reflection***

*Benjamin Cooley*

I'd be lying if I said that question didn't haunt me on my way

back to campus Sunday evening. It wasn't mere surprise; there was a hidden streak of despair in the thought - not just "woah, what happened?" but also a small "was that worth it?" My feet dragged with the weight of mud caked on my tennis shoes, and my knees knew their answer to the question.

Ketler dorm comes into view around Hoyt Hall, and the tall third floor looks down on me like a disappointed father figure - "did you really think that was a good idea?" A weekend working in the woods, in the rain, in the fire... I try to intentionally manage my sleeping hours, and the 4 or 5 I scavenged during the Pig Roast weekend would certainly upset the routine.

But then, a few highlights come to mind like lightning bolts in a dream. First, there's the heavy chainsaw in the rain, Rachel and Robin clearing cut wood pieces from the area, racing the setting sun and the falling rain. Then, darkness and the cave hike. Shelley and Adam actually found the cave (an unexpected outcome), and after a few dozen yards of tight rock, navigated by LED, made slick by the rain drops caught on our coats, we turned back to find our way through the woods to the cabin (didn't lose a single Butler child). We get there, and the silent

Josh Bauder is swinging a rusty pickaxe into puddles of dirt, which spurt at each strike of his, jumping high into the air in protest for their treatment. There's the chilling scene of trench-digging at midnight, the chicken pit filled with rain run-off; digging dirt, bailing water, at each moment earning to a greater degree our place in this crazy thing called Outing Club. There's the cabin fireplace, and my soggy socks drying off for the third time that day.

I remember the musical sound of Tom-lettes in the morning and the sweet first bite of pulled pork in the afternoon. I get the door open to Ketler's East Terrace, and the taste of gravy reaches my tongue from the exhausted part of my brain in charge of memories. It was a good week, I conclude, starting the 40 stairs up my dorm tower. Sure, it wasn't a *comfortable* weekend the way I thought it would be, and though I was tired, I was tired from too much of life, not too little, and that was something to celebrate and not regret. To the papers and homework I had to do now, with less time and energy than before, I had only Tom's adage to say: I hadn't let my college get in the way of my education. And to myself, I felt a residing optimism for the next Pig Roast, but not the folly to wish it sooner than next year.

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## *Cabin Update*

*Mark Place '77*

*Alumni Cabin Manager*

This past Summer the annual outing returned to July after our early event in 2018. After an extremely wet year, the yard fortunately had firmed up, and we had a bit more "essence of grass" growing. Two weeks before the outing it was pushing 12" tall! Thanks to Mark Fair who tackled the savanna prior to the outing despite mower and tractor issues.

A small but mighty crew put both a new self-propelled push mower and a new propane grill in service as well as serving the other mowers and the tractor, which is done on a yearly basis. A new tire and battery were installed on the tractor also. The spring box was cleaned as was debris around the spring box. Several gas lights were serviced, and a hang bar was installed in the basement for the life jackets. The annual fire extinguisher service, which we are now responsible to arrange and pay for, was completed, and two additional fire extinguishers were installed in the basement along with appropriate signage. The windbreak wall and door in the Girl's Wing were reinstalled after being removed as part of an earlier repair project.

When visiting the cabin, please remember that the road drains are aggressive to protect the yard from run-off, and please do not drive past the gravel at the top of the yard. The yard is still settling, and the grass cover is still limited.

Please also make sure the basement door is closed and locked if you are the last one at the cabin to leave. With the easy-to-use keypad like the front door, more folks have access than before. The person who opened the basement may have left before you.

A last note regarding the gas lights. Please remember that the valves require a push to turn the flow of gas on and a gentle turn the opposite way to turn them off. We have had several valves damaged from turning the handle without pushing in, and that can result in an out of control lamp. If there are flames coming up around the mantle, the lamp needs repaired.

Also, the gas lights are configured for use with preformed mantles. Coleman “tie on” mantles are designed for much higher gas pressure and will not provide nearly as much light. The preformed mantles do cost more, but with a little care should last several semesters.

Happy Holidays!