



Moshannon Group News

Moshannon Group of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club

Fall 2001

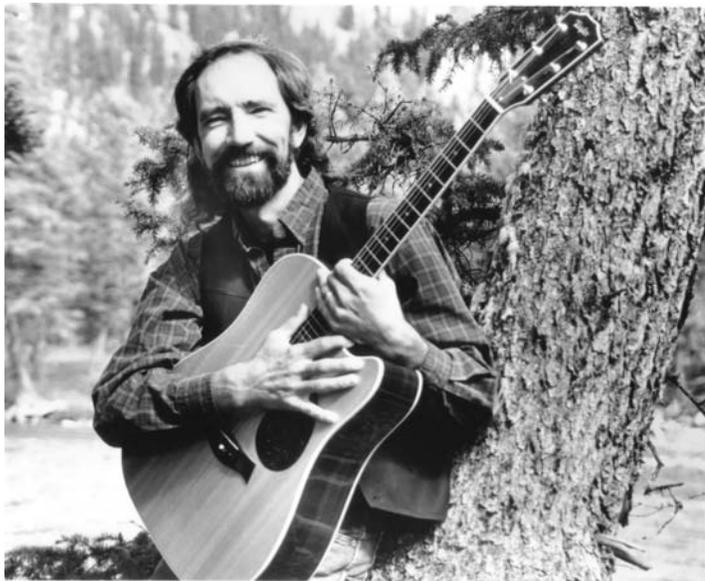


October 24th Moshannon Group Sponsors Walkin' Jim Stoltz's "Forever Wild" In State College

By Gary Thornbloom

The Moshannon Group is pleased to sponsor Walkin' Jim Stoltz's multimedia show, "Forever Wild" on October 24th, 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Church in State College, PA.

Jim Stoltz's walking is legendary. This summer he passed the 25,000 mile mark in his 28-year long-distance hiking career. At the beginning of July Jim began this summer's trek at Mount Robson and continued walking until the end of August when he had reached the Peace River. In 1996 the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) trek was just an idea. In 1997 Jim began in Yellowstone and finished walking that summer 600 miles later. In 1998 Jim spent the summer hiking 600



miles further on the Y2Y quest. After being slowed by an injury Jim continued this summer. Next summer Jim plans to reach the Yukon. On his website Jim describes having to cross a stream running high after days of rain. Days from any road and with only a limited amount of food, Jim and his companion exercise the resourcefulness wilderness can demand of you. They build a raft to float their gear across, they get themselves across, and then try to float their gear across on the raft. The raft gets away and Jim ends the narrative having rescued the raft, shivering,

and wearing only his hiking boots. They both realize how close they have come to the edge. They build a fire, and the rains begin again. This is where Jim's music comes from: the wild and its edge.

(Continued on page 4)

November General Meeting: PA Wild Area Protection Campaign

Dave Coleman will be the featured speaker at the November 20, 2001 Moshannon Group General Meeting at Schlow library. Dave will discuss the current Wild Area Protection Campaign, present a slide show highlighting Wild Area outings, flora and fauna and have materials

to distribute including free state forest public use maps.

Dave has written extensively about this subject in both the Moshannon Group Newsletter and

(Continued on page 5)

EVENTS CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS

Note: our General Meetings will now start at 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, **November 20**, 7:00 PM: Schlow Library, Guest speaker: Dave Coleman will present slides and speak about the PA Wild Area Protection Campaign (See the article on page 1.)

OUTINGS

Saturday, **November 3**: Hiking: Tionesta Scenic Area, Allegheny National Forest. Contact the Allegheny Defense Project at (814) 223-4996 or info@alleghenydefense.org.

Sunday, **November 4** - Climb the '1000 STEPS'. Then enjoy a cook-out (Or cook in) at Judy & Bill Tanner's farm 7 miles below Mapleton Depot. Details and directions on page 2.

Sunday, **November 18**: Hiking on the Chuck Keiper trail in the Burns Run Wild Area, Sproul State Forest. Moderate hiking - 5-6 miles. Contact Dave Coleman at 234-0839.

CONCERT

Wednesday, **October 24**, 7:30 PM: Walkin' Jim Stoltz, "Forever Wild," a multi-media show at the Unitarian Church, 780 Waupalani Extension, State College. Tickets \$9—proceeds benefit the Moshannon Group.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

These meetings are held on the **first Tuesday** of the month and they are open to all members. Call an Executive Committee Member for the next meeting location.

From The Editor

By Gary Thornbloom, Newsletter Editor

"...wilderness can be appreciated only by contrast, and solitude understood only when we have been without it. We cannot separate ourselves from society, comradeship, sharing and love. Unless we can contribute something from wilderness experience, derive some solace or peace to share with others then the real purpose is defeated."

Sigurd F. Olson, Reflections from the North Country

I have just returned from three weeks of canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area and Quetico, the land and lakes out of which Sig Olson drew much of his inspiration. Journeying into wilderness, spending some time as a visitor, and then returning is a pattern I am familiar with. Many of the strongest advocates of wilderness have been quite clear that the journey into a wilderness always involves a return. Even Thoreau did not remain at Walden Pond, or upon Mount Katahdin, perhaps the wildest place he ever visited.

Wilderness can take us back to the source of what it is to be alive. Wilderness can challenge and push us to our limits. Wilderness can renew our sense of what it is to be alive. Wilderness also offers a chance for other life, both plant and animal, to continue in the multitude of directions that life has been traveling for millennia.

Wilderness can only be if we will let it be. To paraphrase another voice from the wilderness, yes we have the right to be here, but not everywhere all of the time.

We need voices to be raised in support of wilderness, in support of the wild. Walkin' Jim Stoltz is one of those voices. The State Forest Wild Area Protection Campaign has its strongest voice in Dave Coleman. The Allegheny Defense Project is another voice for the protection of our public forests.

These voices are crying out in the wilderness unless you take the time to hear them.

Running Out Of Water?

From a League of Women Voters of Centre County News Release

The League of Women Voters of Centre County is holding a Public Forum on "Are We Running Out Of Water?" This will be held at the College Township Building on Wednesday, November 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Water experts will discuss the issue and answer questions from the audience. This is a unique opportunity to gain a real understanding of our current and future water supply and what we must do to preserve it.

Elizabeth Goreham, Spring Creek Watershed Commissioner and State College Borough Councilman will moderate the panel that will include: Max Gill, Exec. Director, State College Boro. Water authority; Rob Cooper, Mgr. Engineering Services, PSU; Mike Welch, Reg. Manager, DEP; Todd Giddings, Ph.D., P.G., Hydrogeologist.

This event is co-sponsored by the Spring Creek Watershed Commission, the Spring Creek Watershed Community, and the Clearwater Conservancy.

Call For Nominations

An election to choose members of the Executive Committee of the Moshannon Group is held annually at the end of the calendar year. Three of the seven positions on the committee are up for election.

Members of the executive committee meet up to 11 times per year - now on the first Tuesday of the month. The committee manages the affairs and activities of the Group. Terms are two years and staggered. Ballots will be mailed to all group members within the November newsletter. Ballots will be opened at the January Ex-Com meeting. New members will be seated and officers selected by the new committee.

Until November 16, 2000 nominations can be submitted to the Nomination Committee chair, Elisa Beshero-Bondar, c/o Sierra Club Moshannon Group, PO Box 513, State College, PA 16804. Nominations should include a brief narrative describing the background and/or qualifications of the nominee.

Any questions? Contact a current ex-com member.

1000 Steps Climb & Cookout

Climb the '1000 STEPS'. Then enjoy a cookout (or cook in) at Judy & Bill Tanner's farm 7 miles below Mapleton Depot. Hot tub on the deck (suit required).

From the late 1800's thru the 1950's Mount Union was a 'Brickyard town', employing 1200 - 2000 workers by the mid 40's. In order for the workers to start their shift digging out the 'ganister' rocks, they had to climb up the '1000 Steps' to the top of Jacks Mountain. See interesting remnants of 'dinky' tracks, a repair shop for the small engines and beautiful views, all at the top.

This is a somewhat demanding climb. We can have several short stops on the way up. Bring water & wear good hiking shoes.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE STATE COLLEGE AREA:

Take Rt.26 or Rt.45 to Rt.22 thru Huntingdon. Stay on Rt.22. Just east of Huntingdon there is a Dairy Queen. From that point to the '1000 Steps' is approximately 8 miles (still on Rt.22 & 1/4 mile past Martin's gas store) to an area on the left for parking. Park as far beyond the flea market stands (assuming they are still there) as you can. Wait at the parking area for the group. We will leave as close as possible to 12:00 noon. Allow 60 - 70 minutes driving time from the Pine Grove Mills area.

PLEASE call Judy/Bill with the number of participants. (814-542-8519).

A Walk Through The Big Hemlocks

By Dave Coleman

This was another of the Wild Area outings of the summer, slightly different than previous outings this year, in that the intended destination was actually a Natural Area. We wanted to see the large trees of the Forest H. Dutlinger Natural Area, the main attraction is the stand of old growth hemlock on 158 of it's 1500 acres. The natural area is named after a long deceased state forester who served the state for over 50 years. Ironically, Mr. Dutlinger was given his first name - Forest - in 1908 - when Pennsylvania had very little forests left after the lumbering heyday of the latter nineteenth century.

The natural area is on the southern end of the Hammersley Wild Area and not far from the access from Route 144. The big trees are about 1100 feet vertical above the Hammersley Fork - necessitating a long climb up Beech Bottom Trail and then back down the same trail. Instead, we decided to make a one-way trip (since we had two car-loads of hikers) with a car shuttle. We started up in the Hammersley Wild Area and hiked in on the Trout Run Ridge Trail. This made the hike a couple of miles longer, but allowed the majority of the climb to be by auto and the hiking to be on relatively flat grade for the first 4 miles, and then 2 miles downhill.

The forest surrounding Trout Run Ridge Trail was not old growth but was interesting in its own way. A mixed forest of birch, oak and small pines made pleasant walking on the old logging, gas line access road that was the major length of the trail. This trail is not used that much and the intersection with Beech Bottom Trail was not obvious, making our hike another three-quarters of a mile long until we figured out the trail connection.

We started getting concerned about a mile later that the birch and small hemlock we were now passing was the natural area. Then, as we started down the mountain we knew we were in the Dutlinger Natural Area with hundreds, maybe thousands, of large hemlocks surrounding the trail as far as we could see in the hollow. The vast majority of the trees were well over two feet in diameter and maybe 10 percent were just about four feet in diameter. There were some other tree species in the grove - notably birch and a few oak, but they were dwarfed by the hemlocks. The canopy was very high and extensive. The large hemlocks were not just limited to the bottom of the hollow; they extended way up the hillsides on both sides creating a cathedral like manifestation.

We broke for lunch halfway through the old growth stand next to a trail registry mailbox. Inside were two notebooks containing names, hometowns and comments from hikers from the past year. To my surprise, this area turns out to be quite popular. From spring through the fall, hikers frequent the area at least weekly, with each weekend seeing maybe a dozen parties during

the summer. Quite a few of the written entries contained comments of the arduous climb endured to arrive at the old growth—but how it was absolutely worth it. We were even happier with our chosen route. It was a joy to descend the mountain through the big trees.

The trees we saw were old, some approaching three hundred years. The grove is relatively small. At 158 acres, it represents just a portion of the Natural Area, a very small fraction of the surrounding Wild area and a pittance compared to the Old Growth forests that stood before the end of the Nineteenth Century. The only reason that this grove exists today is that two competing logging companies had a boundary dispute and the companies demobilized from the area before the dispute was settled. If the dispute had not occurred, there would be no big Hemlocks, no old growth remnant, no Forest H. Dutlinger Natural Area.

Fortunately, we have a system of forest preservation that protects the few remnants of old growth we have left, but it is too small to last in perpetuity. Eventually the trees will outgrow their life expectancy and die-off in relatively quick

succession. A natural disturbance such as a windstorm or wild-fire could destroy the majority of the grove in a single event, or a biological blight could occur affecting the entire stand before a natural or man-assisted resistance could be developed.

These are “old growth” trees, but not necessarily an “old growth” forest. Missing is the complete web of biota that requires an extensive region of undisturbed ecosystem. A buffer of well-managed forest surrounding the grove is necessary to protect it from major disturbance and enough natural forest (a forest free from disturbance) in the vicinity to provide a natural succession of the forest type. Converting the entire Hammersley Wild Area into a natural area – free from timber exploitation would go a long way to promoting this stand of old-growth well into the future. This is what the Wild Area Protection campaign is all about.

We exited the natural area at the confluence of Beech Bottom Hollow and the Hammersley fork and hiked another mile to the parking spot. A total of 7 miles hiked to observe about a half mile of trail surrounded by old growth. It would be a real treasure if our descendents 100 years from now could make the same hike and experience 7 miles of varying old growth forest of not just big hemlocks, not just big trees, but a true Old Growth forest.

This is what the Wild Area Protection campaign is all about:

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Walkin' Jim Stoltz's "Forever Wild" (Continued from page 1)

*The last star is fading from the morning sky. The night is turning on to grey,
There's a glow in the east, and it looks alright to me. The start of a brand new day.*

*Grey jay is a squawkin' to her neighbor, A coyotes yippin' in the hills
Each in his way is there to greet the day, A-creeping on this world so soft and still*

*So live each day like you mean it,
Grab hold of each dawn that comes your way
And if its blessings you're a-countin',
Try a morning in the mountains,
There ain't no better way to start the day.
—from Morning In The Mountains*

"Forever Wild" is an evening that celebrates wilderness. Jim's songs speak of grizzly bears, mountain lions, the howl of a wolf, the cry of coyotes, the northern lights, desert clarity, the spirit of the mountain, in short, of all that is best, free and wild. Most of Jim's music written while in the wildlands of America, springs naturally from this wildness.

While the mountains of Montana are home for Jim, he spends part of the year on the trail, and for the past several years he has spent the fall taking his "Forever Wild" show on the road. This fall one stop will be in State College. That will be your chance to see Jim perform. The multimedia show is Jim singing and playing guitar, backed by a 10'x10' screen where two projectors project dual images that blend and dissolve. Jim's deep bass voice with his acoustic guitar and occasional harmonica carry the sincerity of the "Forever Wild" message. The affect is a moving tribute to the wildlands where Jim has roamed.

Moshannon Creek Watershed Meeting

By Gary Thornbloom

On September 25th there was a second meeting for those interested in the future of the Moshannon Creek watershed. Michelle Barr presented slides illustrating her collegiate water quality investigation and an analysis of Moshannon Creek. The presentation provided an overview of the concerns facing the watershed as well as portraying the polluted and unpolluted sections of the stream. Members from the Wood Duck Chapter of Trout Unlimited spoke about their work on Cold Stream Dam, which drains into Moshannon Creek.

The group identified its primary goal as cleaning up Moshannon Creek, and then identified ways to go about this. Along with getting organized and gathering information, holding stream walks and canoe trips were listed as steps toward reaching the overall goal. A Steering Committee was formed. It was determined that the improvement of the watershed will take much resources and time. Many volun-

teers of varying abilities and commitment will be required.

The next meeting of the Moshannon Creek Watershed Interest Group is on Tuesday, October 23 at the Rush Township building at 7 p.m. For more information contact Donna Carnahan, at the Clearfield County Conservation District, 814-765-8130, or Ann Donovan at the Centre County Conservation District, 814-355-6817.

ECO-TIPS: Carry a tote bag or bags to the grocery store. Who needs a hundred plastic or paper bags at home? Some stores will give you 3-5 cents for each bag you do not use. And—a tote bag is a lot easier on the fingers while carrying it. Try it, you

The images in the multi-media presentation come primarily from undesignated wilderness areas. Jim's commitment to the earth, its creatures, and to a clean healthy environment with space left for wildness shines through in the images he has chosen to accompany his music. The music and the images are a journey into the backcountry, into the pristine, beautiful and wild places not only of the land, but of the heart.

Jim's journey began in 1974 when he hiked the Appalachian Trail. Since then, 25,000 miles have taken him from the Atlantic to the Pacific, Mexico to Canada (three times), across many of America's long trails, out into deserts, along mountain ranges, and up into Canada. Through his multimedia show Walkin' Jim shares a part of his life with audiences all across America. His stories, his music, his images have captivated audiences and cultivated the wildness in us all. In 1991 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Outstanding Achievement award was presented to Jim: For Sharing Nature and Wilderness with Others Across America Through Your Extraordinary Words, Images, and Music.

*It's in all that is not tame, and some that can't be named,
It's in the mist upon the mountain, and the scent of summer rain,
It's in the scream of a lion when she's soundin' like a child,
It's in the song of the river, let it stay forever wild.*

*Forever wild, forever wild,
Let it stay, forever wild.
—from Forever Wild*

Walkin' Jim Tickets:

Wednesday October 24th at 7:30 PM Walkin' Jim Stoltz will be appearing at the Unitarian Church in State College PA. (780 Waupelani Drive Extension—across from the YMCA). Doors open at 7:00PM. Any profits will benefit the Moshannon Group.

Tickets are \$9.00 per person.

By Mail: Make checks payable to Sierra Club Moshannon Group and mail to Bill Tanner, Rte. 1 Box 1265, Mapleton Depot, PA 17052.

Outlets: Appalachian Ski & Outdoors; Penn State Outing Club; Sunshine Imports; Tussey Mountain Outfitters; Webster's Bookstore Café.

The Night of the Show: Any remaining tickets will be available at the door.

This is a great show!

SIERRA CLUB

Wilderness Calendar
2002



Sierra Club 2002 Wilderness Wall Calendar

majestic natural landscapes of North America.
Spiral bound

November General Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

the chapter's Sylvaniaian, has been involved at the state level with the chapter and DCNR, and has led many outings in state forest wild areas including eight different outings in five separate wild areas this year.

This program will allow you to view the sights of these wild areas, to learn about and to discuss the wild area issue and other related state forest issues.

Editor's note: Please note the 7 PM start time of this program.

SIERRA CLUB

Engagement Calendar
2002



Sierra Club 2002 Engagement Calendar—stunning images of flora and fauna, from panoramas to close-ups.

Buy from us and support local conservation work!

ECO-TIPS: Turn off your car engine at drive-in windows at banks, fast food restaurants, etc. Saves gas and pollution—think of the person exposed to your fumes. —Submitted by Joe Banks, State College.

Submit your eco-tips. By mail: Moshannon Group, Sierra Club, PO Box 513, State College, PA 16804; By e-mail: Newsletter Editor,

Order Form

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Wilderness Calendar	\$11.40	_____	_____
		Subtotal	_____
		Shipping	\$3.00
		Sales tax	_____
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[http://pennsylvania.
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New Liability Waiver Policy
Current Carpooling Policy

“In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club’s outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630.”

them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.”

From a letter by Dave Simon, Director, Outdoor Activities, Sierra Club.

“In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for

Locally, you may also contact the outing leader or a member of the Executive Committee to answer your questions or concerns.

Moshannon Group Directory

*members of the Executive Committee

Chair & Conservation	*Dave Coleman	234-0839	dyatesc@aol.com
Vice Chair	*Hilary Vida	371-3277	
Treasurer	*Bill Tanner	542-8519	billtann@penn.com
Secretary	*Judy Tanner	542-8519	billtann@penn.com
Ex-Com Member	*Joe Banks		
Web Editor	Elisa Beshero-Bondar	237-3983	eeb4@psu.edu
Membership, Newsletter Consultant	*Jan Filiaggi	466-7362	rjf21@home.com
Newsletter Editor, Outings & Transportation	*Gary Thornbloom	353-3466	bearknob@msn.com
Program Director	Jason Saltman	234-3824	JTS166@aol.com
Intern	Available position.		

Membership

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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