
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Taylor Knight

Letter from the President

Hello to all for my final hoorah. I'd like you all to know first that it has been my great privilege to man the helm of this club for a year. I only wish I'd had more time to do so. This club has been much of my livelihood here at Grove City College from my sophomore year on, and I regret the fact that I did not have knowledge of the club my freshman year—I really missed out in a matter of only one year. Some of my best friendships have been made through this club, and I appreciate each and every member, past and present that makes this club what it is today. It's a true and honest blessing that Grove City College, of all institutions, has an organization devoted solely to enjoying the great outdoors and all it has to offer. As I approach graduation in May, I rest assured that the club is going to thrive in years to come, foreshadowed by the large influx of active members this past year. Club membership climbed from about 40 active members to close to 70 this past fall semester. Each member of the club is an intricate part to what we know as the Outing Club. It's difficult to imagine what would be done without everyone who has helped with anything and everything in my past year, especially my fellow student officers. I would like to thank both the active and alumni officers for all you've done to better this club. Your gestures and provisions for this club are countless and underappreciated. Thank you for your willingness to give time and effort to the cause of the Grove City College Outing Club. To every alum, I hope that you've shared some great times like I, have, and that as you read this newsletter, you would stop and reflect on your time spent at the cabin and as an active member. I know that this coming year will run like clockwork as Keegan Hange

takes the reigns of the club as President, and that each other officer is going to do a phenomenal job. Thanks again to all of you for all you've done—for your physical help, for your organizational skills, for guidance and wisdom, and most of all, for the friendships, both student and alumni, that you've all shared with me as President.

Ryan Castor '07
President 2006



New Member Perspective

I never knew that a club like the Outing Club could exist. Last year I was ignorant to the fact that there was a club of people who shared a love for the outdoors, not to mention a club that had a cabin in the woods that its

members could go to whenever they wanted. Last year, I have to say I missed out. I spent my time in a world of campus life – computers, textbooks, papers, homework, classes, and showers. This year I finally saw the light of the Outing Club, and I am so happy that I joined.

The cabin is definitely one of the main highlights of the club. It is amazing. It is so close to campus, but the stillness and peacefulness make it feel like you are a world away. I love how the cabin is large so that it can sleep a lot of people, but it is cozy at the same time. The fire places are inviting with the chairs gathered around them, and the long table in the dining room is perfect for fellowshipping during a meal. I have enjoyed going to the cabin and taking a break from the stress that is such a constant part of college life.

It's refreshing to get away from all the distractions of campus and enjoy the simple pleasures of life such as talking with people, looking up at the stars, reading a book, playing a game, enjoying a meal with friends, even singing Christmas carols. The environment of the cabin invites fellowship that is so often stifled by modern distractions.

I already have such fond memories of my short time as a member of the Outing Club. Never before had I roasted a pig, cut down a Christmas tree, or baked a homemade apple pie until this year. I have enjoyed the amazing food, the friends, the good conversations, and the great beauty surrounding the cabin. I'm looking forward to getting to know the active members and alumni better in the coming years.

Maria Watson '09

One Small Step for the Outing Club, One Giant Leap for the New Members

The new member outing started out as I imagine many new member outings have started out before ours. We arrived at the cabin and milled about admiring the bunks, the kitchen pump, the gas lights, and the ever-lovely bathroom accommodations. Everyone

was filled with a vague sense of excitement as we started to realize what an amazing group we had joined.

Once everyone finished the tour of the cabin, we split into two hiking groups. Ryan Castor led the more adventurous new members on a hike advertised as the slightly harder one of the two. They set off for the natural bridge, and later stopped by the overlook and old iron furnace. Laura Mark was the fearless leader of the more conservative hikers. This group ventured first to the old chimney and then headed on to the overlook. The hikes were a total success although we slogged through mud most of the way.

We arrived back at the cabin, happy and hungry, just in time for a wonderful meal. Keegan Hange had given up her place on the hike in order to prepare a spaghetti dinner for all of us. We spread throughout the cabin and yard, eating, talking, and combating the bees. Some members started a pick-up Frisbee game while others chopped wood or planned the next outing. The new members relaxed in the peaceful cabin atmosphere and played cards or flipped through the photo albums depicting



earlier club days. It was fascinating to find out how much tradition and history lay behind this club.

While the few and the brave stayed at the cabin overnight, the rest of us returned to campus greatly anticipating our next Outing Club event. We are very excited to add our own photos to the collection of albums in the cabin library.

Anonymous

Pig Roast 06

This year's annual Outing Club Pig Roast was grand. Alumni, current members, and visitors alike congregated at the cabin to partake in the well-loved bucolic festivities. Beginning as early as Friday evening, the food was bought or prepared by members in mass quantities to feed the forthcoming horde. In the late afternoon on Saturday the 120lb. pig was greased and speared, the roasting begun, and there was much rejoicing. For the next twenty-four hours, volunteers watched the pig with the care usually reserved for mischievous toddlers, and merriment carried on into and through the night. Even into the tranquil hours of the morning, when most were asleep with visions of heaping helpings of pork dancing in their heads, the hog was attended to with devotion.

I, with mixed emotions, was one of the night watchmen. Assigned the dawn patrol, I arose at five and took my post dutifully, prepared to stoke the coals, revolve the swine quarter-hourly, and wait for my surrogate shift to arrive. When first light came, I was relieved to see that the pig was roasted to a golden precision, starkly contrasting the condition of the 2005 pig I might say, which was a charred, yet somehow delicious, catastrophe due to overnight neglect.

The feast commenced Sunday at 2 o'clock after the pork and poultry had been de-spitted and carved – or perhaps massacred would be more apt. The spread was copious and diverse, and it filled approximately 145 people to the brim and beyond, fulfilling the gustatory

anticipations of all, and making the 2006 Pig Roast another winning Outing Club event.

W. A. Ross '09

The Making of the Pie

Pie making is always one of the most delicious events in the pre-pig roast festivities, and this year was no exception. Under the fearless leadership of now-president Keegan Hange, around a dozen actives and Reverend Dunbar invaded the Gordon's kitchen for twelve intense hours of apple slicing, dough mixing, and long shifts of pie baking. With her usual organizational aptitude, Keegan took on an ambitious project this year: making a record number of sixty pies, while still getting out of the Gordon's house by midnight. And even though she introduced the wildly popular oatmeal pie to the traditional flavors of cherry, apple, pumpkin, and pecan, she managed to skillfully pull it off. With the help of actives such as Jess Dimit, Amanda Snead, #11 Laura Mark, myself, and new members Brittany, Ashley, and some others whose names I sadly



can't remember, the pie assembly line became a well-oiled machine that would make Henry Ford green with jealousy. Sadly, the pies themselves did not appreciate our efficiency, and several had to be taken back to campus for further baking after the stroke of midnight threatened to end tranquility in the Gordon home. Nevertheless, the girls had fun taste-testing, powdering ourselves with flour, and playing in Crisco, while the menfolk enjoyed cigars and classical music on the back porch.

At the end of the night, pies were everywhere, including about two dozen stacked in the cab of my very small truck. Our deepest thanks to the Mrs. Gordon, who demonstrated saintly calm as these messy college students dismantled her kitchen with unparalleled agility.

Val Nyhuis '07
Cabin Manager 2006



Another New Member Perspective

If you put fun, adventure and the outdoors into a blender, the end result would most probably be the Grove City College Outing Club. How one would go about doing this? I have no idea. But I do know that the Outing Club is an ingenious combination of the three.

I first heard of the Outing Club at the organizational fair, oh so long ago, and signed up right away. I mean, a club that sponsors concerts, hiking *and* river rafting? How could I not sign up? I was psyched before I even knew about the cabin, and hearing of it at the first meeting only redoubled my awe for the club.

A lot has changed since I started school, but my admiration of the outing club will

never cease. I'll admit, I was a little apprehensive the first time I went out to the cabin, but as we left the main road and traveled further and further into the middle of somewhere, my excitement only grew. And my excitement has yet to be disappointed. My days at the cabin have been the most relaxing days I've had since starting college. The late nights beside a fire, the scrumptious food, the hikes, the good friends, the long card games (learning that I don't play rummy very well) and all the other good times I have had at the cabin all confirm that I will be a part of the Outing Club for many years to come.

Robert O'Neil '10

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

A group went to hear the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and guest artist Joshua Bell. We had nose-bleedish type seats, but the experience was still wonderful! There were four pieces played. The first was Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture* and was followed by *Feast During a Plague* by modern composer Sofia Gubaidulina. According to some it is one of the best modern pieces, being about how people engage in frivolity in times of social disintegration. Some of us thought it was rather bizarre as techno music intruded on the orchestral performance.



After the intermission came one of the highlights of the evening. Hearing Joshua Bell play Brahms' *Violin Concerto in D major* was marvelous. His expressiveness and passion

visible even from our crow's nest vantage point. The final piece played was *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks* by Richard Strauss, which follows the character of German folklore through some amusing escapades.

Following the concert several of us booked it down to the lobby where Joshua Bell was signing autographs. Meeting this man who has earned the name of classical music superstar was an honor. Personally, it was an amazing experience as Joshua Bell is one of my favorite artists. All in all it was a delightful evening.

Keegan Hange '08

A New Outlook

When I went home over Thanksgiving break, I printed out a couple of pictures to show off the highlights of life at Grove City: my friends, the Ket Rec ping pong tables, campus scenery, and, of course, the cabin. Oh, the satisfaction of describing this rustic chalet with no plumbing, no electricity, and seclusion that makes even the Grove City campus seem teeming with exhausting commotion. I won't deny getting a few strange looks. But those who know me best instantly understood why I love this club so much. Scrambling through the trees, muddy hikes, rock climbing, and camping? I'm your girl.

I knew this was truly my type of club after the very first outing. First of all, the participation by alumni astounds me. This club must be doing something right if so many people refuse to leave it alone, even after graduating. But the moment I knew I would join the ranks of these stubborn alumni was when, standing on the Stone Bridge, someone asked to borrow a pocket knife to fix his walking stick. No less than six hands shot straight to their pockets and whipped out knives of all sizes and styles. Ah, my type of people.

So, whether it's roasting large animals, mooching rides off of upperclassmen when desperate to avoid another weekend of cramming, liberating the tree, sleeping with the dogs, or wandering in the woods, the Outing Club offers the chance to connect with

the environment, other nature-lovers, and God in way only the quirkiness of the GCCOC can.

Brandy Tillow '10

A Tall Tale

For fall break 2006, five actives, including Val Nyhuis, Dale McCarthy, Laura Mark, Renee Erbrecht, and myself went to visit alumni Steve Dunbar at his new apartment in Schenectady, NY. We also took the opportunity to go camping in the Adirondacks, since they are pretty close to Steve's house, and he is an expert on the trails. He chose a route that would take us to a base camp from which we could explore the surrounding peaks on day trips, including Mt. Marcy, the highest mountain in New York. After arriving at his house and sleeping a few hours on his floor, we loaded up our gear and drove to the trailhead. The trip ended up being nothing like any of us could have predicted.

We hiked in, about 8 miles, with our loaded packs, up a very wet trail that resembled a creek or bog most of the time. During the last hour, when we were the most tired and desperate to find the campsite, and while the trail was all uphill next to a sheer drop-off, it started raining. This was really discouraging, and I began to wish I had never come on the trip. I even tried to be mad at Steve... but I couldn't quite bring myself to do that since it wasn't really his fault. We



finally found the campsite, and it had a lean-to, and there was MUCH rejoicing.

The next day we woke up to see that it was still raining. With varying amounts of enthusiasm, we decided to try and hike up to some higher peaks anyway... but after just a mile on the now even wetter trail, (including crossing a swollen creek on two fallen trees) we came to part of the trail that was absolutely impassable--the log planks put down to help you see where to go at that point were covered in a foot of running water, and there was a 5 ft deep "pond" before it with only one floating log in the middle that you were somehow supposed to cross on (?)... three people fell in (including, not surprisingly, Dale "the Swampmonster" McCarthy), and with the dropping temperatures and increasing risk of hypothermia, we decided to turn back. Back at the lean-to, in warm clothes, (with our soaking ones hung up all around), we had nothing to do but eagerly jump into our sleeping bags and spend the rest of the afternoon huddled in a pile watching the rain. As we laid there dozing, talking, singing, etc., the rain turned to hail... and then snow. It didn't stop snowing till the next morning. Overnight it dipped below 20 degrees, and since we hadn't brought the proper gear to deal with ice on the slopes, we decided we should hike out... so that morning we got out of our sleeping bags, with much groaning and squealing at the cold. We had to jam our feet into frozen boots—which was like forcing your foot into a metal block, and then hiking in it. I even got some mild frostbite on parts of my feet! As we hiked out through the winter wonderland, morale rose, and since we were on our way to a house, we could get wet and not be worried (and we did get wet)... It was surreal to change from winter scenery to brightly colored leaves within a half an hour as we got to lower elevations.

We finally got back to the car, and then back to Steve's warm, dry, apartment, where we took hot showers and ate Man Burgers for dinner.

The trip was an exciting adventure that pushed many of us to the limits of our mental, physical and emotional toughness. But it

seemed that whenever one of us was about to lose it, the others would be strong and right there to encourage... and then the roles would reverse later on. Overall, it was a memorable, bonding experience!

Abby Barr '07
Chaplain 2006



A Climbing Extravaganza

On a dark and ominous morning in October, three actives and a dog set out for the woodland bowels of West Virginia. We intended to arrive at Cooper's Rock State Forest around noon, but gloomy shadows of rainfall came o'er all the land. In an effort to preserve the sanctity of a climbing trip, climbing captain, Cory Gibson, set a new course toward New River gorge. After several more hours with a husky beast and various unforgettable landmarks (Mount Morris), the three sojourners descended upon the Gorge. As did the rain. Despite the foul conditions, the Gorge was resplendent in all its glory only a day before Bridge Day. In the drizzle, Cory Gibson, Kathryn Fritz, and I hiked down a quaint trail to the river, spotting boulders all the way. Atop an unclimbable boulder, we surveyed the damage of a recent flood, while breaking out the bread, meat, and cheese. Needless to say, day one of the climbing trip was void of climbing...but the adventure continued as we toured West Virginia for a free camping area on a suspicious tip from one Josh Butler. We arrived at our hallowed

camping ground, and had within the hour shelters constructed and food in our bowls. Around 8 pm, the weariness from the drive and thrice time disappointment set in as each climbed into a sleeping bag with a headlamp and a novel. (That's what you get with two English majors and a science fiction nerd.) On day two, we rose with the sun and excitedly tore down camp and loaded into the truck for the next segment of the trip: the long awaited and anticipated climbing. We arrived at Cooper's Rock around noon and by one had battered but thankful hands. Until dusk, we three adventurers clambered about the rocks, forgetting the let downs and trials of the day before. We retired at the local forest campground, again with headlamps and books to lull us to sweet slumber after several hours of challenging acrobatics. We awoke Sunday morning, wary of a looming storm, but proceeded to the boulders of the day before. The weather stayed true, as did the tape over the blisters and tears on our hands from the day before. Around 2 pm, the sky darkened and the moment of our departure was upon us. Fully satisfied with the successes of the weekend we left Cooper's Rock with a solemn vow to return in the spring. Sometime later that day, we arrived back at Grove City with stories to tell, wounds to heal, and promises to keep. Fall break turned out to be an adventure packed with plenty of driving, a fair amount of climbing (there could never be enough), and of course, the opportunity to be outside, among rocks and trees. Clearly- an exceptional trip.

Esther Harclerode '09

Work Outing

We all arrived at the work outing early on Saturday morning. Since Meghan thought it was important for us guys to have a "man job" we were promptly sent out to clean the gutters and dig out the drainage trenches on the driveway, while the ladies, with the utmost level of sophistication got to work cleaning the inside of the cabin. The few stragglers that



showed up were sent out back to clean the shed, which proceeded without incidence until the fearless gentlemen had trouble dealing with a mouse nest in the corner. If I remember correctly, I think I was approached and asked if I had a gun on me so that they could shoot some rats, the nest ironically enough was empty. The situation was diffused with a shovel and some well deserved harassment. The girls got the inside of the cabin all cleaned up nicely and we were all finished up by noon.

Corey Pickering '07

Gettysburg OC Style

Over fall break I had the opportunity to camp out in Michaux State Forrest in the Gettysburg area. Although I am the only OC member that went on this trip, it was still pretty sweet and rugged. I went with a couple of guys in my fraternity (BΣ) and two from AEX. While there we bought kepis (the hats that the soldiers wore), three of us were Rebs and the two AEX guys were Yankees and then we toured the battlefields. While camping, we

enjoyed cooking our bacon on hot rocks in the fire, farting, not showering the whole time nor shaving, and enjoyed being men. We climbed Big Round Top (by way of our own sweet trail, not the stilly trail they provide you with), hung out in Devil's Den, and enjoyed the marvelous colors of the fall on the trees. All in all the trip only cost us \$35 a peace since we did almost all of our shopping at Aldi's and took only 1 vehicle (it was packed tight) plus a automobile guided tour of the battlefields that cost us \$12 in all. We learned a little history, got some good grub cooked in the fire, and enjoyed fellowship in the forest. In the end, it was a really sweet trip - we all still have our kepis to remind us.

Doug Haus '07

Alumni News & Views Winter 2006

Mark Place '77 Alumni Cabin Manager

The Summer of 2006 joint student, alumni and friends marked the 30th such event since moving from several years when the alumni meeting was held over Memorial Day



weekend.

This year was more focused than many years with the construction of a new storage shed to the rear of the cabin and an overhaul of the front steps and railing after Lee McCoy proved the need for a railing last Spring. The old shed was extremely unstable and pushing 25 years old. The Cabin Team was also very concerned about storing mowers and other

flammables under the cabin. Input was solicited from the membership and the decision was made to construct a shed to store the scaffolding, mowers, ladders, and all flammables. Wood would be stacked off the



ground and covered to dry as done at PrinGrove. A shed kit from an Amish saw mill was sourced by Dan Young and picked up North of Warren PA. In little more than two full days the new shed was ready to continue the drying process prior to being stained in the spring of 2007 by the active club.

We had a great group as is the norm, but a bit smaller than some years averaging about 12 per meal. John McMillan '50 again won honors for longest distance, traveling all the way from California with Rick Givens '65 driving down from Maine taking second place. This year we managed to drag out three past presidents in addition to Lee McCoy; Mike McCarty, Mark Fair and Dan Young. Thanks to all who participate in the summer outings!

Reflections on 30 years of Summer Outings.....

When I realized that this year marked the 30th year of uninterrupted outings dedicated to preserving the cabin and property while building traditions and friendships, I had the silly idea of listing all of the fairly major projects that the Alumni Association had undertaken during those years. Do these projects ring a bell?

- replaced kitchen floor, replace kitchen appliances, repair Women's wing floor and outside walls, replace foundation

under the Men's wing, install footer drains, reroute footer drains, install piers under the dining room, upper and lower yard drains #1 and #2, road repairs and drainage et al, roof replacement #1 and #2, front porch, back porch, window and door replacement, gas light replacement #1 and #2, wood sheds #1 and #2, storage shed, reattach kitchen wall, emergency joist replacements and repairs, gas line replacements, bunk room heaters #1 and #2, new water line and kitchen pump(s), new gas line through the yard



These are just the more major projects completed over the years in addition to the regular wear and tear stuff like caulking, painting, sealing washing, drain cleaning, wood cutting etc. Just making this list also reminded me of the significant dollars donated by generous alumni over the years. While I am sure our Treasurer Tom Ronksley can provide a total in a matter of minutes, I am certain that the total is well in excess of \$75,000.

While there are so many folks to thank and to remember since Bill Goucher and others pulled the alumni together in the late 1950's, as student and alumni cabin manager for the last 33 years I would like to award **GOLDEN HAMMERS** to the following folks that have in my mind made the difference year after year and certainly made my job easier.

Hammer #1 is really a joint award to Terry Clever '75 and Tom Ronksley '77 our Alumni

Treasurer. Back in the early 70's the Alumni Association and the active club had few members and even less money. The Class of '77 student members had grand visions for repairing the place but little alumni money was available. The active club however had latched on to running the concession stand at Thorn Field after years of more traditional fund raisers like cider pressing and was actually a little flush thanks in now small part to Treasurer Tom Ronksley keeping me out of the till. These funds helped with several critical projects in the late 70's.

In 1978 at the encouragement of Doc Case, the Goucher Memorial Fund was established to honor Bill and with the grand purpose of raising money on a yearly basis to support the cabin rather than just putting out fires. The man who nurtured my interest in taking care of the cabin Terry Clever, not only jump started the fund in early years but has been our financial foundation ever since. Taking care of the money for many years after Ralph Chilcott past the mantle, has been Tom Ronksley who still has to keep me out of the till on occasion. Tom has done an exceptional job of stewardship with our funds over the years while also maintaining the critical mailing list.

Hammer #2 is awarded to Associate Cabin Manager and past President Dan Young '83, wife and partner Linda, and their now young adults Chris, Tim and Ashley. For going on two decades since Dan finished his schooling and opened his practice in his hometown of Erie, he and Linda have been instrumental in not only supporting cabin projects financially but turning out family and friends to help with the projects. When the boys were young they started coming to Summer Outings about age 5 and Linda held down the fort at home. Now the boys are in college and they still come down to the cabin even though they do not attend GCC. One of the favorite Dan stories was a year we were dropping some trees that were overhanging the kitchen. Dan was give or take 80 feet up a tree, roped in and topping the thing a few feet at a time. During a quiet spell when the chain saws were not running, one of the boys looked high into the sky and a little voice called up to Dan,

Daddy...Mommy is going to kill you! Boy was he right!

Hammer #3 is another shared award going to Cabin Team members and brothers Chuck '97 and Henry Limmer '99. Few people have made the impact of Chuck and Henry in such a short time. With a family background that included considerable experience with construction of every kind, shape and size and a collection of tools that makes Chuck's truck and trailer look like a rolling Home Depot



when they roll in, they started contributing during their school years and were instrumental in helping me to plan and execute the last major roof project as well as every project since. Like Linda Young, special thanks goes to Henry's wife Kade for letting him come out to play every summer while she holds down the fort with two little ones.

We have many challenges yet to come as the cabin is not in great shape even after all of the projects listed. In coming years you will hear more about plans to return the cabin to better than new condition, and we hope that you will feel called to support that effort.

Alumni email list and web site: We have about 400 names on the email list. If you want to participate in the daily/weekly discussion group please log on to the club web site that Cory Gibson '99 manages for us at www.GCCOC.org. If you wish to just receive notices about the Summer Outing and key issues you can request that also. Simply email me at mpplace@johnplaceinc.com and note your preferences. Remember, **any Ax & Saw**

pictures that are short on detail are in full color on the web site achieve copy. Check them out!

Summer Outing 2007: We will firm the date up in time for the Spring *Ax & Saw* but best guess is either July 19-22 or July 26-29. As always whether for a short visit or all four days, alumni, actives, friends and family are all welcome.

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



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