
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Emily Hare

Hello Alumni!

No matter how many times I have been told that there is never as much free time as when you are in college, I still do not believe it. With papers and tests coming up, I have also had to figure out when to put out an alumni newsletter and, I will admit it, fit in another work outing to stay active. Do you remember those days? When nothing in life could ever be as hard as college and you wished you had written your paper last week and not procrastinated. How about the times when you chose to push off homework for another day, instead spending your evening out at the cabin, hanging out with friends?

Yet another semester has passed. While trips to the cabin have been many, trips that took us beyond our back yard were also plentiful. None of these would have been possible without the legacy left by all of you, our alumni. Next October, there will be a celebration of that legacy. The Outing Club is having its 75th anniversary. There will be a party the first weekend in October. Put the date on your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

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Letter from the President

Greetings Alumni and Friends,
When I was told during my first semester that each following semester would go by more quickly, I was skeptical; however, as I finish my seventh semester at Grove City College, as well as in the Outing Club, I'm a believer. There have been many opportunities to reflect upon both this semester and my collegiate career at GCC, and I never cease to be surprised that it is coming to a close. Looking back, many of the things I'm most grateful for have, for the most part, been a result of the club - friends & fellowship, exercise, and a greater admiration for God's creation being a few.

This fall semester has been a successful one for the club, with growth from 16 to 46 members, due in large part to the active members who shared their love of the club with the many perspective members visiting our table at the organization fair (over 100, in fact). It's great to see many students of varying majors, interests and backgrounds come together enjoy and each other's company. As has been the tradition, we hosted an outing to the cabin for perspective members - I knew it would be a good group of new members based on the great time they seemed to be having at the cabin. While I've seen the club change in a number of ways throughout the short

time I've been involved, the having of good times at the cabin remains constant. The cabin itself has been well used this year – possibly rivaled only in frequency of use since I've been a member by my freshman year – with groups routinely going out to hike and study throughout the week. While it seems studies have kept members from hitting the trails as often as last semester, I assure you the trails are still well-worn. As expected, the cabin has been well maintained during the semester by cabin manager Jed Seltzer ('14) and by the alumni cabin team that was assisted at the summer work outing by students Jed, Doug Wallace (SRU '14) and myself. The football season has come to a close, but the club's concession stand at the five home games, managed by co-vice-presidents Casey Trexler ('14) and Zack Delduco ('13), has left the club able to continue supporting trips, and allowed many students to be involved in ways they wouldn't be otherwise.

This semester has had a lighter load than past semesters for me and, to my great pleasure, I've been able to participate in many of the excellent trips the club has sponsored. A traditional trip to ZEC Kipawa was the perfect transition from summer to semester, and I know many new members are looking forward to the next ZEC trip as a result of the actives' wonderful reports.

Western Pennsylvania has been graced by fabulous weather this fall – at least for the majority of Outing Club events. What a miracle! One such event with beautiful weather was the canoe trip on the Allegheny River, paddling from Franklin to Kennerdell, led by alumnus Josh Butler ('02) and enjoyed by twenty students, two of whom will be remembered by their overzealous paddling and exploration of the river far past the intended take-out point.

Despite a cool start to the weekend, the skies were beautiful for the Pig Roast, as well. As the pinnacle event for the semester, it was wonderful to see roughly 150 guests enjoy a filling meal under blue skies. The student club was very active and without their support, as president, I would not have been able to host such a successful event. I'm particularly thankful for the help of my committee leaders Mary Chehi ('13), Zack DelDuco ('13), Anna O'Neil ('15), Jed Seltzer ('14), Tommy Sites ('14), Grace Watson ('13) and Cindy Zohoranacky ('15). Not surprisingly, a variety of 'toys' were brought by Major Tom Morris III ('77), as well as breakfast, which were enjoyed by students and alumni alike along with a number of hikes. Three backpacking trips took place this fall, including trips to Dolly Sods in West Virginia, Red River Gorge in Kentucky and Oil Creek in Pennsylvania. While I wasn't able to make the trip to Dolly Sods, from all reports it appears to have been excellent. Thanks to Adam Neff ('06) and Jed Seltzer ('14) who organized the trip. The three day trip to Red River Gorge was amazing, due in large part to both the terrain and the weather – at least three students were introduced to backpacking on this trip as well, with the majority enjoying it. As with the Dolly Sods trip, it's encouraging to see the alumni involvement with active students – in the case of the Kentucky trip, it was Helene Royster ('12) who selected the excellent course and provided repelling gear, with Jed Seltzer ('14) assisting with meals and logistics. Having just returned from the final backpacking trip of the semester, which I led, I can't claim the same excellent weather – though the majority of the trip did have great weather and I have no complaints about being able to hike in a T-shirt in December! All-in-all, I believe

five students participated in their first backpacking trip this semester. Other notable events this semester included the first annual Outing Club Olympics and the Fall Party – I'll let others explain these events in more detail. The Christmas Party lies ahead this coming weekend, and will be last Outing Club group gathering of the semester – here's to hoping that snow will be better represented this winter and there will be snow on the ground for the party! Based on the list of those who have RSVPed, there looks to be a good group in attendance.

While it's sad to be composing this letter knowing that I won't be an officer in the club next semester, it's exciting to see the next group of officers in and I'll be eager to see how the club grows and changes in the spring. It has been a privilege to serve the student club over the last six semesters as Cabin Manager, Vice President and President, and I look forward to joining the ranks as an Outing Club alumnus. It's great to be stepping down with such a large and involved club, but there is so much left that I'd love to do for the club as a student – I guess I've got one more semester for that! The time I've spent in the club has left me with so many stories, memories and friends that I'll never forget.

Sincerely,
Andrew Baur '13
GCCOC President

Journal Entries from the ZEC Trip

8/22/2012

I had to ask someone what the date was, that is the kind of trip the ZEC has been. Today we built the "hobo lodge." This structure has a stone base and a teepee structure covered with bows of spruce and cedar. The roof was designed by Zach Delduco and the rock base was designed by Jed Seltzer (who moved at least 250 rocks

weighing an average of 50 pounds). The lodge is complemented by a large stone fireplace (also supplied by Jed) located at the lodge's entrance and flanked by two benches (one of stone and one of birch). All in all, the shelter is pretty awesome and smells like Christmas because of the spruce boughs lining the floor (I should know, I slept in it).

8/23/2012

I got up before dawn this morning because I was cold and wet from sleeping in the hobo lodge that Jed, Baur, Zach and I had made the day before. If I was a hobo, after sleeping in the lodge I would definitely try to find a new line of work. I read today in Psalm 148 that everything in creation proclaims God's handiwork. This fact is certainly easier to see out here. When I was star gazing on Tuesday night, I couldn't help but proclaim how great God must be to make so many stars. Out here I find it hard to imagine that a person couldn't feel God's presence.

Tommy Sites '14

Fall Break

Fall Break on campus is normally pretty quiet. This year, I had the opportunity to go where it's even quieter. Thursday night, Andrew Baur '13, Jed Seltzer '14 and my roommate Melisa Sanchez headed out to the cabin. Andrew and Jed went off for a hike and Melisa and I planned to soak up the silence and the fire.

Our serenity was rudely interrupted by the multitude of flies that had taken up residence in the cabin. They seemed to be the multiplying descendants of those attracted to the Pig Roast the weekend before. The unwelcome colony had to go.

Arming ourselves with a pair of slippers we discovered, we went on a fly hunt. Whack, splat! We honed our fly-whacking skills and soon had a count of over 30 flies exterminated. Having successfully asserted our authority over our dominion of the kitchen and dining

room, we were finally able to settle down in undisturbed peace.

When Andrew and Jed got back, we set about making dinner. Jed had brought pork chops and potatoes. We supplemented our meal by quickly throwing together biscuits off of Jed's recipe. It was my first time to bake at the cabin. I have always been intimidated by the big black oven but the biscuits turned out great. Andrew produced a jar of honey and those biscuits were gone quick!

That evening we just talked and read. Andrew set about to write a rambling log entry that set a personal-best record for length. I enjoyed adding some little illustrations to my entry before turning into bed.

The next morning we made more biscuits and by the time we left, we had made a large dent in our honey supply-yum! I learned a new recipe, introduced a friend to the cabin, wreaked havoc on the fly community, and had a great time resting up during our short break.

Grace Watson '13

Thanksgiving Break Backpacking Trip to Red River Gorge KY

It was an exciting adventure planning a backpacking trip to Red River Gorge over the start of Thanksgiving break. Friday afternoon Cory Kirchhofer '15, Andrew Baur '13 and I filled our cars with people and gear and began the 7 hour drive to KY at around 3 p.m. and arrived at around 10. Saturday morning we were treated to a scrumptious breakfast and then drove the 1 1/2 hour to the Red River Gorge. We started the day off with a 4 mile ridge hike and left the packs in the car. This was a fantastic hike for views, climbing rocks and losing phones, Ok Rob McKnight '15 lost his phone. Because of the lost phone 4 people went back and looked for it while the other 8 of use headed back to the cars. They didn't find the phone but Andrew found these dorky

glasses and gave them to Rob to replace the phone that they couldn't find.



(Left to Right: Jedediah Seltzer, Tommy Sites, Michael Giammaria, Andrew Baur, Cory Kirchhofer, Helene Royster, Daniel Royster, Rob McKnight, Josh Glessner, Jared Matthews, Anna, O'Neil, and Cindy Zoranacky.)

Gray's arch was the next adventure after losing the phone. At the arch we goofed off climber along the rim and climbed up the arch Tommy Site '14 Daniel Royster and Michael Giammaria '13 were climbing monsters. We continued backpacking to our campsite going up multiple hills and finally making it to the ridge top rather tired. We set up camp, Josh Glessner '15, Jared Matthews '15, and Rob were sent to get water (the three Amigo's), and I started to cook a dinner of rice and chicken but it turns out I didn't get instant rice and we ended up with a pot full of 60 servings of semi cooked rice. After dinner a large group of use went star gazing on Hanson's point, a large crop outcropping. Sunday morning several of use got up for the sunrise. We continued the trek Sunday morning enjoying the scenery along the way. We stopped at a few cool rock formations and climber around and then ate lunch. After a hazardous hike on a narrow trail, along the edge of a cliff we made it to Indian stair case at around 3 pm. People milled about, set up camp, got fire wood, or just sat on the stair case enjoying the sun. After an exciting dinner of Raman we star gazed for a while and listened to the backwoods KY locals who were camped by the stair case. From said locals, we found out there was supposed to be a meteor shower at 3 am and decided to get up for it.



(Grays Arch)

I of course had no watch and left the tent when I thought it was three, later I found out at 1:30 a.m., and watched stars for 1.5 hour until Helene Royster '12 and Cindy Zoranacky '15 got up at 3. We watched for about ½ an hour but there was not meteor shower so we did not wake up the rest of the group. Supposedly it was actually at 4 am and we just missed it. Andrew, Michael and I watched the sunrise from the stairs. We then proceeded to get water for breakfast and headed back to camp. After Breakfast we packed up camp and spent two hour lowering the gear and people down the cliff. It was so awesome! Andrew, Cory, and Anna O'Neil '15, left after Cory repelled and got the cars so once we hiked the mile out of the parking lot we did not have to wait long for the cars. After lunch we drove to Sinks of the Round Stone cave! The cave was awesome, and everyone had a blast. We got back to the Royster's and were treated to a scrumptious dinner. Tuesday morning we bid farewell the Royster's and had an uneventful travel back to our homes ready for Thanksgiving. There was no better way to start thanksgiving break then backpacking with friends through God's amazing creation! I would also just like to say thanks to Helene Royster '12 for all her help in arranging this trip!

Jedediah Seltzer '14

Concession Stand and Other Stories

“What happened?!” say most people when I show them the scar on my arm. I then begin to tell them the long and involved story of my battle with the popcorn kettle

at the concession stand. Okay, actually all that happened was that I was scooping popcorn and bumped the kettle as I was putting the popcorn into the bag. But it's always more fun to make up a long story for entertainment purposes. As a new member of the GCCOC, I have been experiencing all of the regular events for the first time: concession stands and work outings, most notably. I worked the night game for the concession stand and had a great time with other members of the club filling nacho and popcorn orders. I also helped to make hot chocolates one at a time when the thermoses ran out in the first half and stopped the coffee thermos from continuing to dispense coffee and overflowing the cup after I accidentally left the tab open! We all worked really well together to make sure that all of the customers got their orders on that very cold October night. We could not have done it without Casey Trexler's amazing direction – thank you, Casey!

I've also worked two work outings and will be attending one more this coming Saturday. Both times I raked leaves in the front yard – the first time was on a rainy October day and the second on a warm November day! Others were cleaning out the chimney and gutters, cleaning the kitchen, chopping firewood and many other maintenance tasks. I had a great time getting to know the other members and upperclassmen in the club! They were both great days to see the cabin and spend time with others who share my love for the outdoors and adventure!

Rachel Lapp '16

What I Learned from Roasting Wilbur

Lesson One: How to properly extinguish a fire. The first thing Pig Roast Veterans tell you about your pig shift is to spray water on the pig if it starts burning. In this the

Veterans conveniently forget to mention that doing so has the same effect as tossing water on a grease fire. Thus I found myself five minutes into my pig shift fighting a fire that just kept getting larger. Onlookers pushed me out of their way and beat the fire back with shovels, which was, they informed Cory Kirchhofer '15 (my pig shift partner) and me, the proper way to put out a pig fire. Why didn't I think of that?

Lesson Two: Timing. Specifically, the time slot you sign up for will determine the atmosphere of your shift. For instance, if you want a peaceful solitary shift, you should sign up for something after 1 am. If you desire to have people just being active around your fire, you should try for an afternoon shift. I had an early evening shift that consisted of multiple conversations going as alumni and active members shared stories around the fire. Also with the early evening comes a multitude of people who are more than willing to step in and assist in your fun endeavors.

Lesson Three: Have fun!

Emily Hare '14

Work Outings

One wouldn't think that standing in cold, drizzling rain, scrubbing ashes and grease off of a grill would be fun. But somehow it managed to be. As a busy new

member of the Outing Club I've only ever been on work outings, but fun as those have been, I'm eager to participate in "real" outings next semester. At work outings I've mostly swept and mopped floors but that basic physical labor was a welcome change from hunching over textbooks and staring at computer screens with bleary eyes. The cabin nestled in the woods reminds me of the hills and forests I grew up around and which I seldom get to see as a college student. There is something extremely refreshing about hanging out with people who insist on having fun while mopping floors with crusty old mops, and splitting wood and cleaning out rain gutters. The lack of electricity sometimes makes it hard to see the floors I sweep but it helps me be all the more thorough as I sweep out shadows and appreciate the light I have most of the time. Sweeping floors and pumping water into buckets, scrubbing grills in the rain, and laughing with friends is a wonderful tonic for study blues.

Rachel Pullen '15

Summer Outing 2012 Mark Place '77 Alumni Cabin Manager

Once again a great deal of work was done at the cabin while still allowing plenty of time for food, fun and fellowship. 18 alumni, family and students put in over 300 hours for this four day outing! Thanks to Glenn McMunn, we are still able to enjoy a swim at the river each night even though he has sold his cottage in Kennerdale.

We tackled all the usual Summer crew responsibilities like decontaminating the kitchen and pantry, tool room sort, gutters, road drains, outhouse service, spring house and pump service, mower and saw repair and service, deep sweep of all the rooms with the shop-vac, re-critter proofed the basement vents, mowed and trimmed, cut wind damaged trees, split a pile or two to get the kinks out, and the all-important annual structural and insect damage inspection.

This year we also removed the two damaged and very tired gas grills that we acquired over the years and replaced them with a larger multi-burner unit that can be fueled by either propane or NG in the future. A small platform was constructed to get it off the ground and to facilitate mowing and trimming around it. Chef and active club President Andrew Bauer is rumored to be the primary user of this new addition.



A total of 14 more temporary floor joists we also installed allowing continued use of the cabin while we move toward the major construction project a few more years down the line.

With many hands, a Bobcat and the human excavator Jedediah Seltzer we also excavated one of the large pine tree stumps that defeated the stump grinder last Spring. The area was graded and seeded.

To improve range safety we also used the Bobcat to add a significant earth berm behind the log backstop. Thanks to Andrew for again securing the Bobcat for only the cost of the fuel.

Once gain Sue Knechtel did a great job coordinating the kitchen and cleaning crew, Henry Limmer and Cory Gibson lead the small engine and carpentry shop and Keegan Hange coordinated the critical work under the cabin documenting the insect damage and structural faults with our ongoing template.

Continued thanks to our loyal Summer Outing crew!



75th Reunion - You May Need to Take Action Now

Plans for the Outing Club's 75th Reunion are underway - more details will be forthcoming - **but we have an accommodations issue that you may want to deal with right now.**

Our banquet will once again be at the Quality Inn & Conference Center in Franklin. We have reserved blocks of rooms there for Friday and Saturday night. However, since Franklin's Applefest is the same weekend as our Homecoming, rooms at the Quality Inn will be \$149.99 if we reserve 10 rooms or more. That may be too steep for some folks.

If you want less expensive accommodations, **you may want to book them now on your own.** A check of Orbitz in early December showed the following motels available in the area:

Motel 6 Barkeyville - \$65 - 17 miles/20 minutes from Franklin
America's Best Value Inn Oil City - \$79 - 8 miles/13 minutes from Franklin
Comfort Inn Titusville - \$87 - 20 miles/30 minutes from Franklin

We have NOT reserved blocks of rooms in ANY of these 3 motels - we just offer them as possibilities. Rooms at the Quality Inn Franklin are reserved under the name "Outing Club" and, given the accommodations issue, you may want to reserve your room there as soon as possible, too.

Your 75th Reunion team
Susan Kidd Knechtel
Mark Place
Tom Ronksley