



# Scioto Valley News



A Publication of Hostelling International-Central & Southern Ohio Council, Inc.  
Summer 2000 Volume 4 Issue 2

## COSI TRIP A SUCCESS

What awaited 31 determined people on a cool, cloudy day on April 6th was an adventure at the new Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in Columbus. With the kept promise of half priced admission to the center and the movie theaters (group rate), 31 AYHers entered the recently opened center.

What we encountered after we received our "tech passes" were spacious halls for the renovated exhibits. We were given maps to navigate through the 12 major areas of displays.

We saw an exhibit on how buildings are built and torn down. There was a life sized dwelling that Mongolians live in, similar to a yurt, complete with traditional furnishings.

In a far end of the building, a time lapse sequence of the building of COSI was available to viewers who wanted to "leaf" through the seasons and the process of the metamorphosis of former Central High School into COSI.

A walk through the Progress area showed us life in Yesteryear (1800) and subsequently the 1950's. The 50's display was enough to make some of us feel old. We had several of the display products in our homes and were familiar with several of the "new" brand names.

The Under Water World was a surprising new addition to COSI. It offers a view of the real and imaginary exploration of the ocean.

The Adventure area will satisfy the Indiana Jones in all of us. It simulates an archeological dig with clues to lead you to the next treasure.

There is a large game room for those that didn't find enough excitement in the Adventure area.

Several members of our group took their excitement sitting down, in front of the Extreme screen that is. The 3-D imagery is impressive.

After a full day at COSI, 16 of our group returned to the hostel for a family style spaghetti dinner. We dined on fresh salad, garlic bread, and your choice of sauces over pasta. We shared the cooking and the clean up and gave small donations to cover the cost of the meal. The work seemed effortless due to the group cooperation. During dinner we were able to discuss what each person was able to enjoy at COSI since not one of us was able to see it all. The relaxed atmosphere was an excellent way to end a day filled with an adventure.

The group deemed the entire day a success and agreed to strongly recommend visiting the new COSI to other family and friends. We will not wait as long to have another dinner at the hostel either!

## Maple Syrup Days HI-Malabar Farm Hostel Open House

It was a cold and rainy day at the farm. The weather didn't dampen the spirits of the bundled crowds. Horse drawn wagons transported visitors to the Sugar Shack. The aroma of boiling maple syrup filled the air. Samples of the finished product were eagerly tasted. A short walk through the forest brought visitors to several displays of pioneer life.

Meanwhile back at the hostel, Board Members greeted visitors who were dropped off by the horse drawn wagons. Guided tours of the hostel were given. All were impressed by how neat and clean the hostel is maintained by manager Betsy Rush. The brisk spring day was completed by a pause in the kitchen for a mug of hot cider before facing the elements again.

### Mission Statement

**"To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling."**

## Board of Directors

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The Scioto Valley News is the official newsletter of Hostelling International, American Youth Hostels, Central & Southern Ohio Council which is located at:  
**95 East 12th Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43201  
614-470-4276 (voice mail)**

The Scioto Valley News has a circulation of approximately 2,000 members.

## Getting the Most From Your Membership

On the road—Stay in touch and get a \$10.00 bonus!

Hostelling International members get complete worldwide communications services through e-kit, an all in one communications card. e-kit provides low cost long distance calling within the United States and overseas, a free voice mail system, free Web based e-mail, a secure on-line "travel vault" where you can store copies of important documents, and other travel information services.

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HI-AYH members who activate their e-kit card with a minimum of \$20.00 will receive an extra \$10 in their account.

To activate your e-kit card account or for more information go to <http://www.hiayh.ekit.com>

## World Travel 101

This spring we made presentations in Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati. If the interest is there, we would like to make presentations in smaller communities. If you would like one in your area e-mail Dale Lofland at [D-E-L@juno.com](mailto:D-E-L@juno.com) or phone (614) 263-4904. You may also write to the local council. Having a local contact is very helpful to our representatives for making arrangements.

These cost effective presentations take approximately one and a half hours. They are primers for first time or at length travel, oriented to the use of hostels. They cover such things as how to get a passport, visas, where to find out about immunizations, packing for travel, deals on transportation, personal safety, and finances while abroad.

The council is devoted to spreading the word of what a memorable experience hostelling is.

## Scioto Valley News????

The Board has questioned the name of our newsletter. Why "Scioto Valley" when we have members living in the Miami Valley, the Muskingum, Mohican, Clear Fork, and many other areas. Each of the 2000 plus members who receives our newsletter should feel it is for them.

There are three other councils in Ohio, all in northern Ohio. The map to the right details the area included in the Central and Southern Ohio Council.

What would be a good name for our Newsletter? The editor would like to hear your suggestions for a more appropriate name. Comments on articles or information would also be very welcome. The newsletter is to keep you informed. What would you like to see in it? E-mail the editor at [jmraven@hotmail.com](mailto:jmraven@hotmail.com) or call the voice mail number listed above.

Possible names will be previewed in the fall issue of the newsletter.



## Executive Director Resigns

The longtime Executive Director of AYH, Richard Martyr, has resigned his position effective at the end of August. He will remain with AYH managing a hostel in Colorado.

After a lengthy interviewing process, Russ Hedge has been named to become the new Executive Director. Welcome to your new position Russ!

## *Hostelling in the Whites*

by Jen Marie Raven

The White Mountains in New Hampshire have been the topic of discussion in many recent adventure magazines. Having many relatives in New England it perplexed me to have missed the phenomena of the Whites. I decided to go north as soon as possible.

The White mountains are very rural which is why they a true backpackers paradise. I went in the first week of May. It was quite warm when I left Ohio and all of the spring flowers were in full bloom. The climate was quite different in northern New Hampshire. Its season is about six weeks behind central Ohio's. Fortunately, I was able to find warmth in a conveniently located hostel right in the heart of everything I wanted to see and do.

The Albert B. Lester Memorial Hostel in Conway, NH is a nicely refurbished New England farmhouse. There are four private rooms in addition to several dorm style rooms. In the "hot" months, they open up the screened in porch on the second floor. The porch offers an excellent viewpoint for the antics of the fireflies in the field in back of the hostel. The community room is complete with information of any possible activity within a day's drive of the hostel. The hostel is a self sustaining living center. The lighting has been adapted with sensors to turn on and off when there is activity. They recycle almost everything that can be recycled.

The staff at the Conway hostel is excellent. They were very knowledgeable about the area and polite. The staff have on line access and access it for the most current updates on weather in the region.

The White mountains and specifically Mt. Washington have some of the most severe weather conditions in the country. Mt. Washington is the highest peak in New Hampshire at just over 6000 feet. By west coast standards 6000 feet means a large hill. The staff at the hostel were quick to inform me otherwise. Although the temperature was in the low 70's in Conway, there was still 4 feet of snow on the top half of the mountain. The Forest Rangers had issued warnings of avalanches and falling ice with 70 mile per hour winds. The weather made any attempt at ascending Mt. Washington impossible.

The staff at the hostel easily thought of a half a dozen other things I could do in the area so my stay wouldn't be a waste. There is a plethora of fantastic hiking trails in close proximity. The AMC maintains several of them. There are hikes for different levels of ability. The terrain in New Hampshire is beyond rocky. Some of the trails are just below technical climbing while others are fairly flat and even.

## Regional Vision Statement

The Midwest Region spring meeting was held in Lincoln, Nebraska. At the meeting it was decided to form a vision statement for our region. The vision statement is to reflect who we want to be and where we want to take our hostels. A draft was presented for discussion.

We are dedicated, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, teachers, who are community oriented with a global vision. We encourage cultural exchange and adventure. Our practices are environmentally sensitive, peaceful and embrace differences. We implement the mission of HI-AYH by acting together in an organized and consistent manner to share information, experiences, and resources supporting regional development efforts.

As a region we will:

- \* promote hostelling at regional destinations
- \* develop regional partnerships
- \* develop regional programming
- \* hold regional training

If you would like to give input towards the fine tuning of the vision statement, e-mail your comments to [jmraven@hotmail.com](mailto:jmraven@hotmail.com)

## *Whites cont.*

There are many scenic drives around the area. The drive I chose took me past spectacular waterfalls, to the top of scenic vistas and through the thickly wooded birch forest. Wildlife were ever present. I was able to glimpse a bear from afar. Despite many Moose crossing signs, there were none to be seen. The hostel staff informed me that the moose come out in full force during mating season in November.

Since New Hampshire is the "Granite State" there is some easily accessible rock climbing. The Cathedral Cliffs is a nicely exposed granite wall that you can drive up to. Rock climbing is not highly advertised in the area so the good spots aren't mobbed.

There are several kayaking and canoe liveries in the area if the urge to play in the water strikes. If you want to relax your feet you can rent a bicycle from the hostel to tour the charming local villages.

Once the outdoor activities have worn you out, you can shop at the extensive outlet stores in North Conway. There is no sales tax in New Hampshire making a stop at the outlet stores worth your time. There are more tourist attractions in North Conway if you or your children need a change of pace or you are in demand of a meal cooked for you.

I chose to return to the hostel with some groceries. Other travelers had checked into the hostel and we shared our stories of what to hit and what to miss. The social exchange between the hostellers added the fine finish to an enjoyable adventure.

## Coming Events:

**Sailing Lake Michigan:** This trip is full. Eight people quickly signed up for this spectacular trip. What a great way to beat the heat of August!

**HI-Ohiopyle and "Fallingwater":** This trip is slated for Columbus Day weekend, October 6th, 7th, and 8th. The group will leave Friday night and return on Sunday. For those that have Columbus Day off, you will have a day to recoup from the drive.

It should be peak fall foliage. It will be a perfect time to hike through the Allegheny mountains, known for their splendor in autumn. Ohiopyle St. Park is literally just down the road from the hostel. There are two well known Frank Lloyd Wright homes within a few miles of the hostel, "Fallingwater" and "Kentuck Knob". There are several educational and historical museums in the area and several fall festivals are expected to be happening at that time.

Reservations are needed in advance. The trip will be limited to 16 people, because hostel space is limited. A Saturday evening spaghetti dinner and two continental breakfasts will be provided. The price per adult is expected to be \$85 including the cost of two overnight stays in the hostel, entrance to one of the Frank Lloyd Wright homes, fuel, and meals provided. For further information call Becky (614) 294-7157 or voice mail (614) 470-4276.

**HI-Country Grandma's Home Hostel:** There is no cozier place near Detroit to stay. It is strategically located in between Ann Arbor and Detroit. If you are interested in having the council pursue a trip into "blue country", call the voice mail number and leave a message.

**Central and Southern Ohio Council board meetings:** They are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. We meet in the recreation room of the Columbus Hostel on 95 E. 12th Ave. The meetings start at 7:15 PM. All interested parties are welcomed to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13th.

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Central & Southern Ohio Council  
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