



My name is Eric Steinbring and I have been a volunteer trip leader for several years.

Living in Johnstown probably makes me the trip leader furthest from Pittsburgh.

In the summer, I enjoy bike riding on the many rails-to-trails in our area. But in the cooler months, I can be found with my trusty hiking hounds Maggie and Zoey here in the Laurel Highlands.

I will be posting a few of our adventures here for Venture Outdoors while we practice social distancing during these difficult times

If you would be interested in one of my excursions, contact the office and ask them to set up an event.

All of my events are family friendly and most are suitable for kids as young as 10-12.

See you out there!

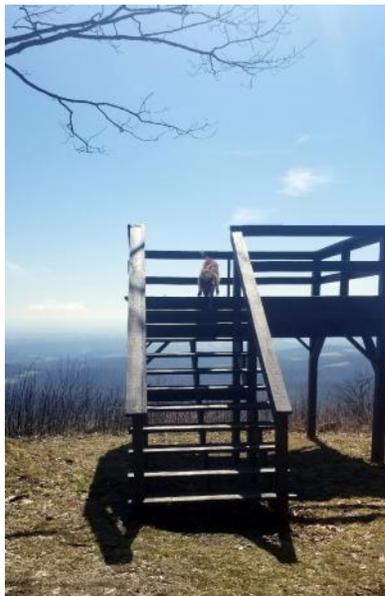
Tails from the Trails

Recently, Zoey and I visited the County Line Trail and Buffalo Road Loop located in Gallitzin State Forest just outside of Windber, PA.

The Gallitzin State Forest covers over 24,000 acres and consists of two separate areas of land. The Babcock Division in northern Somerset, Bedford and southern Cambria counties is the larger with 16,973 acres. The Rager Mountain Division contains 7,466 acres in Cambria and Indiana counties.

The forests of the Babcock Division were logged between 1897 and 1914 by the E.V. Babcock Lumber Company of Pittsburgh. The company sold a large tract to the Commonwealth in 1950.

The area offers over 10 miles of shared use trails. It is rated as an easy to moderate trek due to its length and elevation gain. The paths are fairly wide in many areas and are typical for Southwestern PA, meaning rocks and roots.



Zoey checking out the views.



A view of the valley below.



One of several fossils along the



If you don't know what this mark means, then you need to take one of my Day Hiking 101 classes.