



# FOCSP Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JUNE 20, 2011

## EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND WORK DATES

**Annual Biathlon:**  
Saturday, August 13, 2011

**Oil Creek 100 Trail Run:**  
Friday, October 7, 2011 –  
Pre-pasta dinner at Titusville  
Middle School  
Saturday, October 8  
through Sunday, October 9,  
2011 – Eastern National  
Trail Run.

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## Oil Creek State Park Summer Biathlon

The 6th annual Oil Creek Summer Biathlon will be held at the cross country ski area on **Saturday, August 13, 2011**. The 6k race consists of both running and shooting a .22 caliber rifle. This is a unique event and Oil Creek is the first and only state park to sponsor a biathlon. The biathlon is well attended by men and women from ages 12 - 76 and from Ohio, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, as well as Pennsylvania. US National Champion, Doug Hoover of Williamsburg, PA, will be competing at this year's event. The biathlon is a major fund raiser for the

Friends of Oil Creek State Park and the monies raised is used to improve our trail network through volunteer projects. If you are interested in learning more, want to compete, or volunteer to help, or sponsor this successful event contact John Sims, Race Director, at (814) 354-2802 or email [pjam@venustel.com](mailto:pjam@venustel.com). The entry form can be downloaded from the Friends website: [www.orgsites.com/pa/focsp](http://www.orgsites.com/pa/focsp).



**Mary Mehlburger at the .22 Range in prone position.**  
Photo by Kirby F. Neubert.

## National Trails Work Day

**Saturday, June 5, 2011**—  
The Friends of Oil Creek State Park held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual National Trails day event. This year twelve participants volunteered to dig-in on the Boughton connector's east side, the infamous switchbacks. As a result of the efforts, eleven water bars and multiple drainage ditches

were installed. The group also removed two trees and exposed piping that presented safety hazards to the trail users. If you get a chance take a hike and check it out! We greatly appreciate all the hard work and we will collectively continue to improve our trails.





## FOCSP Message

The Friends of Oil Creek State park, a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, is a non-profit volunteer organization composed of members who share a love for the parks and are motivated to share their time and talent. Being a volunteer is much more than picking up litter, we contribute to the park in many meaningful ways including maintenance on trails and assisting in special projects to raise money for improving the park's recreational, environmental and interpretational programs.

Working to make a positive contribution to meet the needs of the visitors, we have formed a focus to build sustainable recreational opportunities. The three primary focal areas are the bike trail, hiking trail and cross country skiing trail. Tied to each recreational focus is a purpose, short term goals, long term goals, areas for development, a stewardship message, and an action plan. This past year, the FOCSP activated the first of three focal points and purchased two bike sheds to house the park's bike fleet from the elements and weathering. Many thanks to the Over the Hill Gang for their many hours and commitment to build these valuable sheds to improve the park's operations! The sheds are located near the park office in Petroleum Centre. The FOCSP, working with the park staff, have been discussing the need to purchase a new bike fleet to improve our visitors' experience. Stay tuned for further details on the bike fleet improvements!

### FRIENDS OF OIL CREEK

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

*"The Friends of Oil Creek State Park support the park's mission to preserve, protect and interpret our natural environment while providing recreational and educational opportunities for residents and visitors to the Region."*

If you and your family are interested in becoming a conservation volunteer or becoming a Friends of Oil Creek State Park member, contact the park office at 814-676-5915, or visit the Friend's website at

## Park Managers Report

Oil Creek State Park is proud to be a part of the 2009—2011 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management! We strive for excellence in visitor services and providing a safe and enjoyable experience. To meet the needs of our visitors, we have been getting out and feeling the pulse of the park. As a result of the increased visitor contact, we have gained valuable feedback, and a majority of the visitors have expressed an interest in our recreational re-

sources and accommodations, particularly the bike trail, hiking trail (Adirondack Shelter sites), cross country skiing opportunities and paddling Oil Creek. With the addition of a new park naturalist, park ranger and intern, we fully intend on working with the Friends of Oil Creek's Focus to increase the awareness of the opportunities present in the park. Focusing on the hiking, CC skiing and the nationally recognized recreational multi-use trail. Currently we are designing loop trail brochures along the Gerard Hiking Trail and Skiing Network. We are also looking to expand our Organized Group Tenting area to Boy Scout Troops and other community groups.

Miller Farm Falls.  
Photo compliments  
of Mike Henderson



# Oil Creek 100 Trail Run - Eastern Championship Race



Oil Creek State Park is a runner's paradise and trail running and a great way to showcase our beautiful PA State Parks!

The Friends of Oil Creek's annual biathlon, Titusville Leisure Services Drake Well Marathon, and the Oil Creek 100 Trail are all great events that really help put Titusville & Oil City on the map for runners throughout the country. With the park located between Titusville and Oil City, it is a great opportunity for the surrounding communities to support these events and the park by volunteering to help out with the races, and with the maintenance of the park itself. Many of these small communities that host trail ultras become household names among

trail ultramarathoners.

An ultramarathon is any foot race beyond the 26.2 mile marathon distance. The Oil Creek 100 is comprised of three distances, 50K (31 miles), 100K (62 miles) and 100 miles.

According to Tom Jennings, Race Director of the Oil Creek 100, Creating the OC 100 event let people know that nothing is impossible - if they put in the hours of preparation necessary. Cutoff times are generous so that hikers and the "average" person might give it a try - anyone that is looking for a reason to lose weight, reduce stress, get in better shape, or to simply enjoy nature and get away from the hustle & bustle of hectic life. Crossing the finish line of an ultra is an incredible experience - and it is the months leading up to it that make it truly special. For many it is a very emotional event because of the journey it took to get them to that point - especially sacrifice by family members so the participant can spend long hours hiking and running, preparing their body for the task. Or maybe the person is doing it to honor a deceased friend or relative, or to raise funds for a favorite charity. Or it is to scream "I DID IT!" to all of the naysayers that try limiting the person, telling them they can't do this and asking if they are crazy to even attempt it. And it is about the new friends they made while spending hours on the trail. The ultra community is a very supportive group since it is less about competition against one another and it is more about all of them overcoming joint adversaries in the trail, the miles / hours, the terrain, and the weather. Simply finishing is the prime objective... because finishing an ultra is not a given.



Contact Katie Peterson, OC 100 Volunteer Coordinator at [katiepeterson15@yahoo.com](mailto:katiepeterson15@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring the 2011 Oil Creek 100 Trail Run.

The Friends of Oil Creek State Park assist with the race by providing a pasta dinner to the racing applicants on Friday night, before the event at the Titusville Middle School cafeteria. We would like to thank the OC 100 for their generous donation of \$750 dollars to help improve the trail network and their FOCSP corporate membership and commitment.

## Upcoming Programs with the Park Naturalist

### **Bat Count:**

July 1, 2011 from 8:00 to 10:00 PM  
Meet at the Park Office.

### **Nature Photography:**

July 2, 2011 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
Meet at the Park Office for a guided Nature walk along the Delzell Trail. (Please bring your own camera).

### **Creek Study:**

July 3, 2011 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM  
Meet at the Jersey Bridge. (Please wear proper clothing).

### **Bike and Bird:**

July 4, 2011 from 10:00 to Noon.  
Meet at the Jersey Lot. (Please bring your own bike and binoculars).

### **Geocaching for Beginners:**

July 16, 2011 from 2 to 4:00 PM  
Learn how to operate a GPS unit in order to find a cache.

For additional programming at Oil Creek State Park and details, contact the park naturalist at 814-676-5915 or e-mail [oilcreeks@state.pa.us](mailto:oilcreeks@state.pa.us) or [visitpaparks.com](http://visitpaparks.com) -Oil Creek - Calendar of Events. (Programs may be pre-registration).



Photo by  
Kirby F. Neubert



## Welcome Ranger Armstrong to Oil Creek State Park!



**Ranger Armstrong at the Gerard Trail Head, Petroleum Center/Park Office**

Ranger Armstrong recently joined the Oil Creek staff, transferring from Pymatuning State Park. Dave has a versed background in community service and visitor service practices and is looking forward to applying that experience at Oil Creek. He is an avid hunter and fisherman and appreciates Oil Creek for its rustic appeal.

## Welcome Robin Baker to Oil Creek State Park!



**Robin Baker at the Wildlife Sanctuary, Park Office.**

As a native to the Titusville area, I was raised to appreciate and enjoy the outdoors; riding on the bicycle trail, fishing Oil Creek and even kayaking portions of the creek when weather permitted.

I am a graduate of Clarion University of Pennsylvania and a certified Biology and Environmental Science Teacher. I have taught various science classes grades 6-12 for the past eight years. Most recently, I taught in Warren County at Youngsville Elementary/Middle School.

It is with great pleasure that I return to this region for employment purposes. I am looking forward to using more of the wonderful natural resources that Oil Creek State Park has to offer. Hiking some of the trails, birding, fishing, photography, and biking are a few of my most current plans. This area is truly rich in wildlife and fauna.

I live at Pymatuning State Park with my husband, Jason, and my two boys, Tristan (5 yrs. old) and Conlin (3 yrs. old).

## FOCSP Membership Opportunities!

Friends of Oil Creek State Park contribute in many ways to the community and our resource. Each member receives a quarterly newsletter that has details of park programs, volunteer dates, events that take place and more! With your annual membership, the FOCSP will draw names for opportunities to win a night in an Adirondack Shelter along the Gerard Hiking Trail or Family Value Bike Rental pack for our park's National Recreation Trail from Petroleum Centre to the Jersey Lot, near Drake Well. Annual memberships are due every January and continue through the month of December. Monies collected are used for programs, events and focus projects at the park. If you would enjoy being a part of the FOCSP community, application are available at the park office or by visiting the FOCSP website. (\$10 individual, \$25 Family and \$100 corporate).

# Support your Friends and Community



**Pennsylvania State Park Calendars \$8.49 + Tax**

All proceeds benefit the educational programs, events and focus projects within Oil Creek State Park.

**Park Office Hours:**  
Monday through Friday 8 AM to 4 PM  
Saturday and Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM

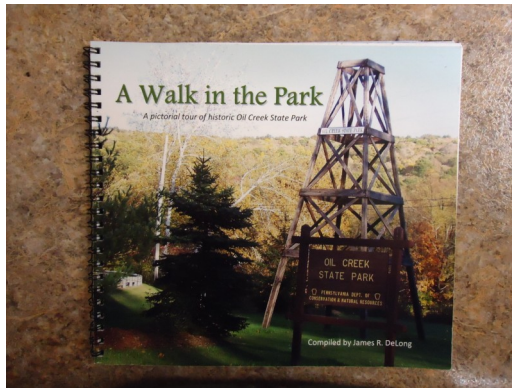
Contact the Park Office at 814-676-5915



**Friends of Oil Creek State Park T-Shirts \$ 15.00**



**Friends of Oil Creek Patch \$ 3.00 + Tax**



**A Walk in the Park Photo Guide to Oil Creek State Park \$ 15.00 + Tax**



**Oil Creek State Park Pin \$ 5.00 + Tax**

## Friends of Oil Creek State Park

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Oil City, PA 16301

Park Office Phone: 814-676-5915

E-Mail: friendsocsp@gmail.com

Website: [www.orgsites.com/pa/focst](http://www.orgsites.com/pa/focst)

