



The rain to the wind said,
'You push and I'll pelt.'
They so smote the garden bed
That the flowers actually knelt,
And lay lodged--though not dead.
I know how the flowers felt.

Lodged by Robert Frost

Bike trail with Oil Creek almost reaching its surface during recent rains.

Park Manager's Report

The summer season is in full swing here at Oil Creek State Park. Our staff is extremely busy with improvements to the park and our facilities. Besides routine mowing and cleaning we are busy replacing shelter roofs, several pavilion roofs, bike trail, removing hazardous trees, sign painting and replacement, and much more. Our dedicated volunteers are busy with trails, wildflower gardens, bluebirds, abandoned wells and the train station to mention a few. Oil Creek's volunteers have already logged hundreds of hours and will continue to log hundreds more before the end of the season.

Oil Creek's staff and volunteers are truly amazing! This park is extremely blessed to have such a dedicated group of individuals that care so much about the park and its history. I know that sometimes our work seems to go unnoticed. However, this year as in past years, I have continued to receive numerous compliments from the general public on the appearance of our trails, day-use areas, and the park in general. People are thrilled that we keep this park in such pristine condition, and a lot of them are surprised to find out how much of the work is from the result of volunteers. The point that I am trying to make is that our hard work does make a difference. So, keep up the good work everyone and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Thank you all,
Dave Hallman

PARK Page-1

Man-
ager's
Report

OC-100 Page-2-
Run

Oil Page-3
Creek
Events

Presi- Page-4
dent's
Report

OC Page-5
Bike
Trail

Biath- Page-6
lon

Thank Page-7
you...

FOCSP Page-8
Support



State Parks
Best in the Nation

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.”



The fifth Oil Creek 100 is off to an exciting start. The three races (50k, 100k, and 100mile) will be held October 5th 2013. Although, all the races are filled, there are occasional cancellations which are filled from the wait lists. General race information can be found at <http://oc100.org/>. The following is a link to the race participants: <http://www.runrace.net/findarace.php?id=13278PA>

Each year the race is unique and has excellent participants. All runners are remarkable. This year in the 50K , four corrections officers from New Mexico are coming together to do the race. These may be the first New Mexico entrants. Another race first is an entrant in the 100 from Puerto Rico.

Tom Jennings , the race director, and *The Over the Hill Gang* have been on the trails constantly removing fallen trees, trimming , doing curb work, and fixing foot bridges in preparation for the race. *The Over The Hill Gang*’s significant efforts have been invaluable to Tom. *The Friends Group* have been doing their fair share of preparation by adding culverts to the wet areas, trimming, and basic trail maintenance to the shared trails. In addition, they have contributed to *The Over the Hill Gang* by purchasing chain saws for them.

Find Us on the Web

Keep in up to date with Oil Creek activities by visiting our new website at:
www.friendsocsp.org

Also find us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/pages/Oil-Creek-State-Park/293530447356844

Oil Creek Activities

Robin Baker the Park's Naturalist has been very busy this season...

"My focus this year is trying to channel people to different areas of the park, so that they realize what Oil Creek has to offer them.

I have met them at different locations, and I am trying to scatter programs throughout the park. I created a new series of programs entitled, "Meet me at the Pond", because I wanted people to see the brick pond area that the park



Mushroom Identification



Join guest presenter, Karen Croyle, member of the Central PA

Mushroom Club, for a discussion about mushrooms and other fungi.

Then, go on a short Mushroom ID Hike around Petroleum Centre.

**Saturday August 10th
Meet in Amphitheater**

adjacent to Park Office

~Free Event~

305 State Park Road Oil City,
PA 16301 (814) 676-5915

www.visitPAparks.com

Questions?

Contact: Oil Creek State Park
Office at 814-676-5915

305 State Park Road Oil City, PA, 16301 (814)676-5915

Night Glow:

**A Firefly Experience
at Oil Creek State Park**

Friday, August 02, 2013 from 8-9:30 PM

Location: Amphitheater

Join the park naturalist as we discover the world of luminous lightning bugs. Find out about their unique lives and how you can help scientists by counting and observing fireflies in your own backyard.

Program starts in the Amphitheater at Petroleum Centre (next to the office); continues with a craft and ends with the capture and release of fireflies in the field.

Program is suitable for ages 5 and up. Bring a flashlight and butterfly net if you have one. We hope to see



President's Column

One-hundred fifty years ago the Oil Creek Valley was far different than what it is today. The mountainsides were stripped bare of trees and there was almost as much oil in the creek as water. At that time Pennsylvania's natural resources were so vast and diverse that no thought was given to the fact that they could indeed be destroyed. So the exploitation went on unchecked and a number of species of plants and wildlife was lost. Fortunately though, through time and conservation practices the valley and creek has been restored and many of those species have been reintroduced and recovered.

But now, one-hundred fifty years later, the valley is faced with more destruction, but this time there are no known cures in sight.

The park's new problems are known as invasive species. Plants like purple loosestrife and mile-a-minute weed crowd out desirable native plants species, eventually taking over altogether. Emerald ash borer, gypsy moth and wooly adelgid are a major threat to ash trees, oak trees and our official state tree the hemlock. Some sprays can be effective, but over 7,000 acres of state park is too costly to protect in such a way. Deer ticks which were relatively unknown just a few years ago have become a prominent problem now, carrying at least four serious diseases to humans.

There's also a new danger to one of the park's mammals this year. Some of our bats have been found to be infected with a disease called white-nose syndrome. A white powdery substance forms on the bats' nose which gives it its name. When the bats hibernate in the wintertime the disease wakes them up when it's still cold outside. They leave to find food but none is available so they end up starving to death. Little is known about the disease and no cure has been found.

Some people who don't care for bats might think this is a good thing, but instead it can be very detrimental to everyone. Bats eat an enormous amount of insects in the course of a year. Without this service of nature, farmers will have to spend more money on insecticides which means higher prices at the grocery store. The risk for human diseases carried by mosquitoes could become much higher too.

However, the Friends of Oil Creek State Park are playing an important part in researching this problem and you can help. Twice a year we have a bat count in the park and record the number of bats seen during an evening. This information is forwarded to the biologist at the Game Commission's regional office in Franklin. The first bat count for this year was conducted on Friday evening, June 14th. Although the count was down a little bit in some places, overall the count was much higher than expected since over 90% of the state's cave bats have been wiped out already.

Our second bat count will take place on July 12th from 8:00 till 9:30 PM. Bring a comfortable lawn chair and some bug repellent. The park will supply a counter and a place to watch. Robin Baker the park's naturalist will have a short program about bats prior to the actual count.

The causes of the valley's destruction was easy to see as was the solution for solving it way back when. But today's problems aren't so easy. However, counting bats, pulling weeds by hand and other volunteer projects can go a long way towards finding ways to combat these invasive species. Please do what you can to help so you and your descendants have a healthy park to enjoy for many years to come.

Kirby F. Neubert - President FOCSP



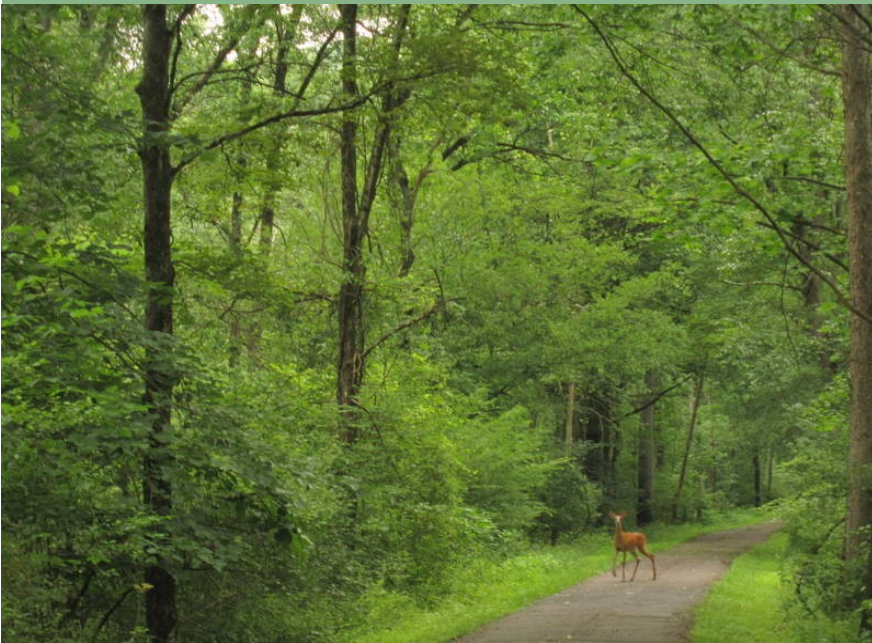


Oil Creek Bike Trail

The Oil Creek bike trail is 9.7 miles. What makes this trail so unique, besides the amazing sights along the way, is that it is built along an historic railroad grade. Along the way bikers are able to stop and read interpretative signs depicting the oil industry's activities in the 1800's. The various locations of pipelines, oil explorations, boom towns, as well as many other oil related places are denoted on these signs. The trail, which follows Oil Creek, is bordered by flowers in both the spring and summer. In addition to the beautiful woods and the woodland plants, wildlife is often seen... deer, porcupines, eagles, blue herons, as well as many other woodland animals and water fowl. Because of the canopy covering most of the trail, even on the hottest days, the trail seems cool. Well experienced to beginner bikers will find this a trail well worth riding. There are small rain shelters, picnic tables, benches, and cleared areas for views along the way.

Both Petroleum Center and Drake's Well have picnic areas and rest rooms. Petroleum Center has bike rentals... Drake's Well has the Drake's Well Museum which has great artifacts concerning the oil boom.

There are two trailheads with parking. One is located at Jersey Bridge next to Drake Well Museum which is near Titusville, and the other is near the Oil Creek park office in Petroleum Centre which is close to Oil City. Both trailheads have access to PA Route 8.



Wildlife is often sighted along the trail...

2013 Summer Biathlon

The 2013 summer biathlon will be held August 10th. It is a great event run by the Friends of Oil Creek, It is our largest money maker and helps us sustain various projects throughout the year.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter...The summer biathlon combines the skills of shooting a .22 caliber target rifle and trail running. A 6k race is divided into three parts. The timing starts with waves of one or two runners leaving every minute and running a 1.2 mile loop mostly on the ski trail. You come into the range (located behind the ski hut) and shoot 5 shots in the prone position at a 4.5 inch metal knock down target 33 meters away. For each missed target you run a 70 meter penalty loop. Next, you run the same 1.2 mi loop and return to shoot 5 shots from the standing position. You then run any penalty loops for targets missed and finish with one more 1.2 mile loop with your final time ending at the finish line.

There is a mandatory safety clinic for all first timers before the race. For those who don't have their own rifles, rifles are provided by the Pennsylvania Biathlon Club for use the day of the race. There are awards given in 6 age groups and a prize raffle for participants who run penalty loops. Many volunteers are also needed for the event to be a success.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering, more information can be found on our website www.friendsocsp.org or by emailing John Sims, Race Director, at pjam@venustel.com.





Thank YOU

The Friend's Group would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership and to thank the many new members (including the new corporations!).

The pictures around this article depict just a few of the projects your memberships have brought about . This assistance also helps with the endeavors to maintain what already exists. Your dues contribute to the trail maintenance of the Gerard trail, the bike trail, and the ski trails.

In addition, these resources help fund the "Over-The Hill Gang's" efforts to keep the trails clear and to erect and maintain the many bridges and benches along the Gerard trail.

If you haven't renewed your membership or would like to join the Friend's of Oil Creek follow the link on our web page ... www.friendsocsp.org . It is very easy and really quite affordable..single \$10, family \$25, and corporate/business/group \$100.



Support Your Friends and Community



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



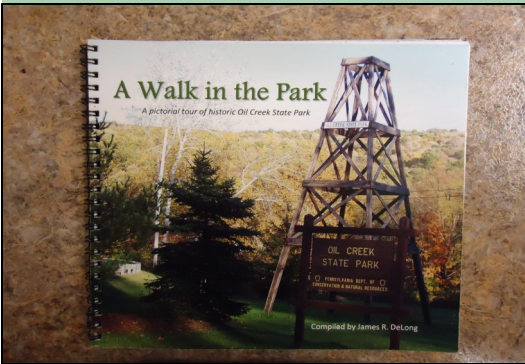
Friends of Oil Creek State Park T-Shirts
\$ 15.00

Park Office Hours:

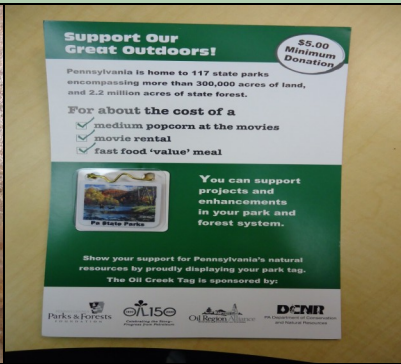
Monday through Friday 8 AM to 4 PM
Saturday and Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM

Contact the Park Office at 814-676-5915

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



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



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



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



**Friends of
Oil Creek State Park**

305 State Park Road
Oil City, PA 16301

Park Office Phone: 814-676-5915
E-Mail: friendsocsp@gmail.com
Website: www.friendsocsp.org

