

FRIENDS OF OIL CREEK STATE PARK



Inside this issue:

Park Manger's Report	1
OC 100	2
9th Annual Biathlon	3
Chicks-in-the-Sticks	4
Code Orange	5
Membership	6
President's Report	7

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"In two weeks it'll be the longest day in the year." She looked at us all radiantly. "Do you always watch for the longest day of the year and then miss it? I always watch for the longest day in the year and then miss it."

"We ought to plan something," yawned Miss Baker, sitting down at the table as if she were getting into bed.

"All right," said Daisy. "What'll we plan?" She turned to me helplessly: "What do people plan?"

The Great Gatsby- F. Scott Fitzgerald

Park Manger's Report

Recent rains have caused many challenges for our staff and volunteers. Most of the damage created by the recent storms came in the form of down trees, washouts and flooding. As a manager I expect these types of challenges, and I would like to commend the efforts of the staff and volunteers for their timely response to hazards created by the rains. Despite the extra work that all the rain has created, it does have its advantages. We have had excellent creek levels for kayaking and canoeing, the fruit trees throughout the park look plentiful, and larger volumes of water will also keep the trout around longer.

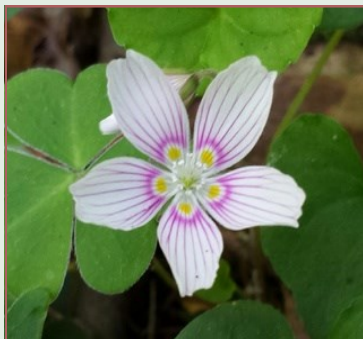
I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Robin Baker well as she moves on from State Park employment. Robin has been the Environmental Education Specialist here at the park for nearly four years. Robin had made many connections throughout that community and provided excellent programming here at the park. She leaves huge shoes to fill. Despite the absence of an educator, the park and other educators are trying to fill most of the programs that Robin had planned for the 2014 summer. If interested in programming you can check out the calendar of events via our website for call the park office.

Have a great summer,
Dave Hallman— Park Manager



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.”



Preparations for the 6th annual Oil Creek 100 Trail Runs continue as it is less than 3 months away - on Oct 11th weekend! Volunteers are always needed for this weekend-long trail race - if interested, see the VOLUNTEERS page on the oc100.org race website.

The 100 miler sold out on June 20th so hopeful participants are submitting their names for it and all three distance's wait lists - 31, 62 and 100 mile events. We encourage participants that cannot attend to email me so we can open up spots to wait listers.

The severe rainstorms have kept the park's outstanding volunteers busy. The Over the Hill Gang has been busy removing trees from the Gerard Hiking Trail, building bridges over bad washout areas, trimming and curb work along the sides of the trail. OC100 sponsored the Council on Greenways & Trails "Partner of the Year" award to the OTHG - nominated and [presented by](#) Park Manager Dave Hallman at the June 5th ceremony in Clarion.

Tom Jennings, race director
oc100.org



9TH SUMMER BIATHLON

Chi-ching

On Saturday, August 9, 2014 the repetitive sounds of chi-ching will echo through the valley that changed the world as the 9th Annual Friends Summer Biathlon takes place at the ski area in Oil Creek State Park. Chi-ing is the satisfying sound of a target being hit by a shot from a 22 rifle from 33 meters away. Chi-ching means one less penalty lap that needs to be run. Chi-ching means a volunteer on the shooting range marks down "hit" on there score sheet. Chi-ching is a sweet sound to the Biathlete's ears!

The Summer Biathlon is a truly unique event that combines the skills of target shooting and running and is a summer version of the winter Olympic sport of Nordic skiing and shooting. Oil Creek is the only state park in Pennsylvania to hold such an event. The Summer Biathlon is also the one of the major fund raisers for the Friends of Oil Creek with all proceeds coming directly back into the park. Come on out on August 9th to observe, participate, or volunteer. There is more information and photos of the event

on our website.



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

For Ladies Only!

If you're a female 14 years of age or older, and have been wanting to try your hand at a different outdoor activity or two but have been reluctant to do so for any number of reasons, the Friends of Oil Creek State Park have just the thing for you! September 20th is going to be a day-long event that is packed full of 21 different outdoor activities for you to try and we're calling it *Chicks-in-the-Sticks*.

These activities will range in scope from archery to Dutch oven cooking. From outdoor photography to learning how to tie flies for fly fishing. Although most of the activities are geared directly towards the outdoors, things like yoga have also been added to the mix.

The main idea behind this event is to give women exposure to various areas of outdoor activities without them having to invest a lot of time or money into equipment, etc. If you try an activity and find you don't like it, you're not out very much. But if you do like it, you'll be given guidance as to how you can pursue it further. All of the instructors are very knowledgeable about their particular skill and are very anxious to share that with you. Each class will last one hour and fifteen minutes. You'll get some basic instruction and also a chance for some hands-on experience.

This is Oil Creek's first year at doing this but, at least four other state parks hold these events across the state as well as a number of sportsmen's clubs. This past spring 196 women attended the one at Chapman SP. It's fast becoming a way for women to try new things without the pressure of having hubby looking over their shoulder.

The cost is \$40 per person. For that you get to choose up to 4 different activities to participate in, a delicious catered lunch Bar-B-Qed right on the grounds, a T-shirt, a goodie bag, and who knows what all else. Bring along a little extra spending money because there is going to be a Chinese auction and maybe a few other things you might like to purchase such as pins and stickers.

Registration starts at 8 AM and the day's events should be over by 5 PM. Bring appropriate clothing and footwear for any kind of weather because this event WIL BE HELD regardless of the weather. You can go to the Friend's website or Facebook page for more info or a registration form, or you can call Kirby Neubert at (814) 677-4633. Registration deadline is August 30th. It's first come first served for activity scheduling so sign up soon.

Anyone interested in helping or sponsoring this event is also welcome.



The pictures are from Chapman Dam's WOW (Women in the Wild) event held this past spring.



Code Orange

The Keystone Trails Association will be hosting a “Code Orange” trail work day at Oil Creek State Park on August 30th

The Keystone Trails Association is a group of volunteers from across the state that organizes trail work days in our state parks. The group will work with our local volunteer trail workers to do a major project on the ski and hiking trails. John Sims, coordinator of the local volunteer trail group, is working with the KTA and the Park Manager, Dave Hallman to plan and implement the projects. The amount of work that can be accomplished depends on the numbers of volunteers that show up on August 30. The more the merrier and anyone is welcome to come out and help. The Friends group will be providing lunch that day.

*Call the park office
or contact oilcreekfriends@gmail.com
for more information
or to sign up to help...
or*

*August 30: Code Orange
Oil Creek State Park
Leader: Ed Lawrence
cathyed@nationi.net
570-925-5285*

*Free tent camping is available for the night of the 29th and 30th.
Meet: 8:00 at Park Office*



Bee Balm along the bicycle trail

Membership

The Friends of Oil Creek would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership and to thank the many new members.

Your membership helps maintain existing projects in the Park. Your contributions also support new initiatives throughout the Park. 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 Friends of Oil Creek, follow the link on our web page ... www.friendsocsp.org . The membership prices are : single \$10, family \$25, and corporate/business/group \$100.

You can become a member or renew your membership by contacting the FOCSP in one of the ways listed below. Our web site has a direct link.

- **Oil Creek Office**
305 State Park Road
Oil City, PA 16301
Park Office Phone: 814-676-5915
- **E-Mail: friendsocsp@gmail.com**
- **Website: www.friendsocsp.org**



Bridges throughout the park are done through combined efforts of the Park Staff, The Friends Group, and The Over-The-Hill Gang

President's Report

Volunteers make Oil Creek State park what it is. Volunteers state wide have donated 44,420 hours and raised over \$200,000. And that was just from 2,600 volunteers!

One such group of volunteers, *The Over the Hill Gang*, around 20 strong are out weekly maintaining the Gerald Hiking Trail. They meet every Wednesday morning at Sam's in Titusville for breakfast before embarking on their weekly trail duties. The work on the trail can vary from week to week. In the spring and summer months, the weeds and bush need trimming... Park visitors know all about multi-flora rose! Also, trails need new blazing, trees are always down so clearing is needed, bridges and walkways need repaired, and signs need repainted. Many of the trails on the Gerald Trail are on the edge of hill sides so to prevent accidents; edges are built up to give hikers a firm footing. We call those "fenders". This spring and summer has been very wet, and the trail has had many gully wash-outs. On one such outing, our group rebuilt a bridge over such a wash out. This wasn't your normal wash out. The large amount of rain that fell that week had created a 6 foot wide- 5 foot deep dead end on the hiking trail. With early planning, we assembled the a span over this *new* valley, and in 4 hours the trail was made useable again.

The Over the Hill Gang is just one of the many volunteer opportunities at Oil Creek State Park. Stop in at the park office or go to *The Friends of Oil Creek* web page, <http://www.friendsofocsp.org/> to find out what is happening at your park and how You can become part of it.

Rob McCall- President

