

FRIENDS OF OIL CREEK STATE PARK



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FRIENDS OF OIL CREEK STATE PARK



Winter Trees

by William Carlos Williams

All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon
moves gently among
the long branches.
Thus having prepared their buds
against a sure winter.
the wise trees
stand sleeping in the cold.

Park Manager's Report

I often find myself in awe of this park and the beauty within it. On a recent grouse hunting trip I found myself in amazement once again. I was traveling north from Benninghoff, heading towards Pioneer when I stopped at the overlook and couldn't help but be amazed. We had just received 4 inches of fresh snow the night before and it was hanging on all the trees. It made for one heck of a sight! As I continued to gaze up the valley it was in that moment that I took time to be thankful for all the blessings in my life, including my career. I am truly lucky and this park reminds me of that on a regular basis.

This day and age it is so easy to get caught up in all the negativity in the world that we can forget about all of the positives. I encourage all of you to take some time out of your hectic lives and reflect on the blessings that we have. Who knows, it might even be Oil Creek SP were you decided to reflect just as I have.

Dave Hallman
Park Manager



Overlook at
Benninghoff



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.”



Anticipation is growing as this year’s race date has not been released. The race date depends on the Titusville School District’s football schedule. Since Titusville Middle School is the main site of the race--- the start- the finish- the hub---- congestion in the parking lots makes the two events not compatible. The race date is expected within the next few weeks. Registration typically opens around St. Patrick’s Day weekend.

This year will mark the 6th year for OC100. There have been five runners who have completed the 100 mile race each year. They, like all the veteran runners, come back every year because they truly enjoy the event and the volunteers, however—now it is believed they come back because they do not want to be the first **not** to complete the race!

Results from the past year’s Oil Creek 100 appeared in the December *Ultrarunning Magazine*. The race featured an article written by Tom Jennings as well as results from the 100k and 100 mile. There were quite a few great race pictures included in the article. It is well worth looking into.

Volunteer Highlight: *Jim Fitch*

Jim is a volunteer who is not seen by the participants, but his role in the race is essential. Jim’s role involves driving through Oil Creek State Park during the race resupplying unmanned aid stations. By doing this, the runners have available water through the longer sections of the race. In addition, Jim also helps drive back the runners who have dropped from the race, he returns drop bags from aid station 2, he assists in bringing supplies to the aid stations, and he does many more unseen essential tasks. The Oil Creek 100 Race has been fortunate to have Jim help in this capacity since its inception six years ago. The race would not be possible without his dedication. ***Thank you Jim!!***

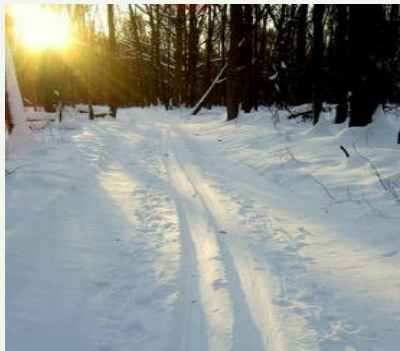
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING IS POPULAR IN OIL CREEK

The Friends of OCSP sponsored a Cross Country Skiing and Waxing Clinic on November 16, 2013. Russ Myer from Albany, NY was the presenter. He is a Physical Therapist and a certified Nordic Ski Instructor and ToKo Wax Technician with many years of experience in Nordic Skiing and Biathlon. He discussed topics such as pre-season training, ski techniques, safety, and ski preparation and waxing. Participants enjoyed a catered lunch and then after lunch could have their skis prepared and waxed professionally. There were 25 people in attendance and 24 pairs of skis waxed.

The Friends Group has also supported the volunteers in much trail work this past year in supplying equipment and pipes for the installation of over 20 culverts on the ski trails. Volunteers also cut trees and brush and dug trenches in preparation for the ski season.

The work has paid off. With the early snow that came around Thanksgiving and since, the ski area has already received over 200 skier visits. Skiers are coming from all over the area and as far away as WV and NY. Many comments have been made about the excellent condition of the trails. Many areas that were wet in the past were corrected by the culverts and skiing has been good when there is snow. Three additional trails have been added on the power line, a gas lease road, and a connector from the power line to the red trail. These trails are not marked but are easy to follow. This adds over 3/4 mile more to the trail system allowing for more options.

Much work has been done and much time and money is spent in grooming and tracking the ski trails during ski season. We ask that park users respect the ski trails during our short season by choosing to hike, run, walk dogs, and snow shoe elsewhere on the many other wonderful trails in the park. Here's to an enjoyable winter for all in beautiful Oil Creek State Park.



Night Skiing Dates

January 25th

February 15th

March 1st

- ◆ **Meet at the ski lodge at 7PM**
- ◆ **Bring your own equipment– including headlamps**
- ◆ **There will be guides for various levels of skiing**

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

NEW CROSS COUNTRY SKIING TRAIL SIGNS

Some time back in 2012, the Friends of OCSP purchased wood for the making of new ski trail map signs. The wood was then given to Brian Reed, Industrial Arts Teacher, at Oil City High School. With the help of his student, Dan Stoltenberg, the wood was cut, sanded and engraved with the ski trails map and "you are here" stars. Next, Joe Guthrie, Park Maintenance Supervisor, coated the signs with polyurethane. The signs then sat in storage waiting for some one with the time and energy to install them at their respective places on the trails.

When Peg Sims (Friends Board Member) learned that one of her students, Clinton Ames, was looking to do an Eagle Scout project she new just the right idea for his project. So in September of 2013, Clinton met with Peg and John Sims, ski trail volunteers, to get started planning the project. Clinton then got permission from his Troop 11 Leaders and met with Dave Hallman, Park Manager.

Clinton's Eagle Scout project involved removing all the old trail signs. He then had to replace 5 new posts and painted all the posts for a total of 18 signs. With the help of his Troop 11 leaders, his Dad, and fellow scouts, they then installed all 18 signs at each of the designated intersections on the ski trail system and the project was completed by October 22, 2013. Clinton said that the project went smoothly due to "the cooperation with the Park Staff and the help of his Troop". Those who helped Clinton with the project include his Leaders; Tom Freeman, Jim Amero, Mr. Lamberton, and his Father, Jeffrey Ames. His fellow scouts were Ryan Ames, Jim Amero, Josh McClellan, Barry Hagan, and Nathan Groeczney. The total time commitment for the project was 65 hours and 45 minutes.

Clinton Ames is a Senior at Oil City High School. Besides scouting, he participates in Cross Country, Track, Band, and A Capella. He plans to attend Indiana University of PA .



Good Luck Carolyn



We say a fond farewell to Carolyn Worley who worked in the Pennsylvania State Park system for 25 years. She was a shining light at Oil Creek State Park working in the Park Office. Her beautiful smile and demeanor made all guests feel welcome.

Carolyn started at Cook Forest State Park as an Environmental Interpretive Technician; she came to Oil Creek in the same position, before transferring into the office as a Clerk Typist 2.

Her major projects at Oil Creek, and the ones closest to her heart, were the butterfly garden and the native plant garden both of which can be seen around the park office. She also spent a good deal of time compiling the history of the different areas of the park. The result of these efforts can be seen upon request at the park office.

Carolyn continues to work at OCSP as a volunteer. She loves birds, plants, flowers, mushrooms, and researching history- especially park history.

Carolyn is also happily spending time with her new great-grandson. She is anticipating the upcoming Spring and getting back into the garden.

Thank you Carolyn! Good luck with all your future endeavors!

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

The Friends of Oil Creek State Park's board would like to welcome our new president Rob McCall. Rob has been a board member for many years. He is retired from the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville. Rob is a very active member of The Over-the-Hill Gang.

We would also like to say goodbye and thanks to Art Cubbon and Keith Cubbon who recently resigned from the FOCSP board. Both have been long term active members. Keith served as treasurer for many years. Art represented the FOCSP on the Greenways board.. Thank you and best wishes.

President's Report

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

What makes for me a Happy New Year.

1. Skiing over snow covered Russell Corners road anticipating the downhill challenge on the Red ski trail.
2. Sitting quietly at Wild Cat hollow in early spring, listening to turkey call their mates.
3. Wading into Oil Creek at Blood Farm, dropping a bucket of trout into Oil Creek with visions of the battle catching them on opening day.
4. A bicycle ride on the cool shaded trail from Petroleum Centre to Drake Well and back on a hot July day.
5. A leisure hike on the Gerard Hiking trail and spending a night at Cow Run shelter listening to a hoot owl.
7. Tracking the wily white tail through multi-flora rose thorns along Shaffer Run.

These are just a few of the year round things I can experience at Oil Creek State Park. Come on out and fill up your life with nature, no battery required. While you're here stop in the Park Office and join the Friends of Oil Creek. It is a big park and volunteers are always needed.

See you at our Park.

Robert McCall

President— FOCSP

