



Fall 2015
Volume 17

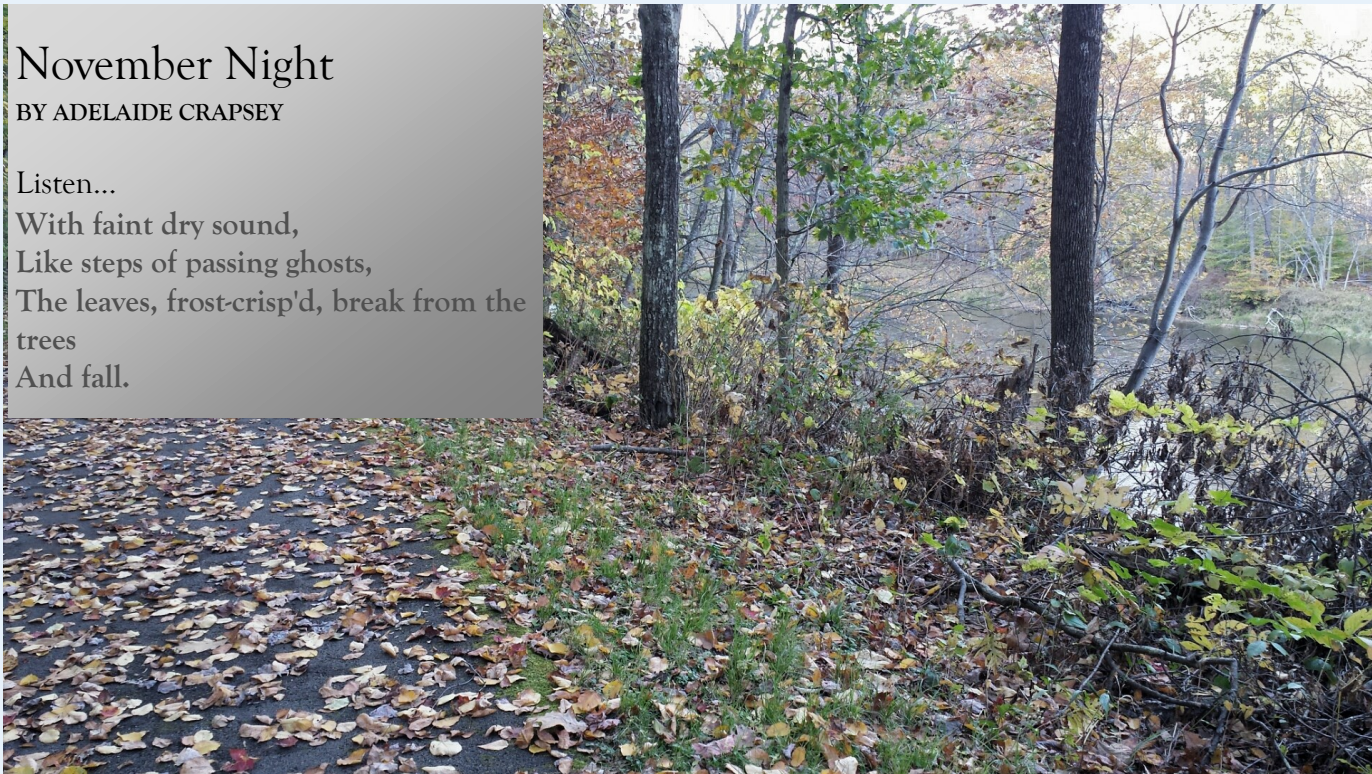
Friends of Oil Creek State Park

November Night

BY ADELAIDE CRAPSEY

Listen...

With faint dry sound,
Like steps of passing ghosts,
The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the
trees
And fall.



Despite not having a budget to work with, we have been able to keep ourselves very busy here at the park. Most recently, and with help from Pymatuning and the Fish and Boat Commission, we were able to install Log and Stone deflectors along the southern portion of our bike trail. The deflectors are designed to direct the water away from the bike trail, thus slowing down erosion. This is only the first phase of the project, and we hope to complete the next phase by the fall of 2016.

Some other projects that we have planned for the remainder of 2015 are to start building our sledding hill and begin removing the dead ash trees throughout our picnic areas. The sledding hill will not be completed this year, but we are hopeful that it will be operational for the winter of 2016. The ash trees we will be removing have been killed by an invasive insect called the Emerald Ash Borer. We will be removing over 200 trees throughout our two picnic areas over the next year.

In addition to our projects, and as 2015 starts to wind down, I would first like to take time and thank all of our volunteers. Your efforts continue to amaze me. I am truly grateful for all that you do for this park and the surrounding communities. It is the volunteers at this park that continue to redefine the definition of Volunteer.

Secondly, I would like to thank all the Sponsors that organize and hold such wonderful and unique events at the park. Your hard work, planning, and dedication to your event help attract people from around not only the U.S. but from around the world. My hat is off to you.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my humble and extremely hard working staff. Most of the time, they are tasked with completing duties around the park that aren't very glamorous or attractive. These are jobs that the public may not necessarily see or even notice. However, they are often the most important jobs that need to be completed. They don't work here because they want to become millionaires, or drive fancy cars. They work here because they enjoy and take pride in what they do. Without my staff, I am nothing.

Thank you all again and see you on the trails, *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 Friends
of
Oil Creek State Park
are a chapter of the
Pennsylvania Parks and
Forest Foundation



With near perfect weather conditions, even at night, many local trail runners were able to reach their 100 mile goals. These runners live near the Gerard Hiking Trail and take full advantage of it by training on it continually. They also happen to be my dear friends. It is an amazing feeling to witness and be a part of something that seems so far out of reach, but in the end, the goal is not only reached but surpassed as well. These men and women (all race finishers) of course beat the clock, but more importantly broke through their personal barriers of stress, lack of confidence, negative thoughts, etc. to complete this mountainous goal of 100 miles. If you have always thought, "I could never do that!" Then I urge you to stop thinking so much and start with a hike and just see what happens...

Congratulations to all the runners and volunteers of the 2015 Oil Creek 100 Trail Runs!!

See you next year! *Adam Peterson*
OC 100 runner and Volunteer

It was an excellent year for Oil Creek 100. The race was held on October 9. Conditions were perfect. The weather was beautiful and the temperature was great. Tom Jennings, the director, did another amazing job coordinating all the facets of the races.

There are three races: 100 mile, 100k, and 50k. This year a course record in the 100 mile was set by Nicholas Kopp of Puyallup, Washington. He set a time of 17 hours and 50 seconds! Nicholas Hanson of Kalamazoo, Michigan won the 100k for the 4th straight year with a time of 10 hours, 9 minutes, and 45 seconds. Brian Frank of Clarion Pa won the 50k with a time of 4 hours, 35 minutes, and 14 seconds.

Some Local runners:

Oil City- John Warner, Paul Shecock, Kevin James, Suzanne Hoeman, Jeff Singleton, Jason Woolcock, Jill Harry, and Luke Ochs

Franklin- Melissa Goodman, Anthony Sakalousky, Randy Powell, Mick Quen, and Matt Diven

Titusville- Keith Cubbon, Nate Kerr, Joe Covell, Heather Nelson, and Scott McCray, Tandra Sabatini

Knox- Michael Eiseman, Ryan Leahy

Clarion- Mike Stimac and Brian Frank

Cochran- Gary Groshner-

Seneca- Brian Ishman and Jacob Kosker

Emlenton- Matt Hepler

Polk- Tami Sari



Tandra Sabatini receiving her belt buckle from Tom Jennings after completing the 100k.

The Show Must Go On!

... This saying originated in the 1800s with the circus. But it carries on today with the people who make the Chicks-in-the-Sticks happen. This past year's event was an excellent example.

A lot of work goes into putting on this event. The instructors who put on the classes do a lot of preparation well in advance of the program itself. They have to put together some form of lesson plan just as a school teacher does. Many of them have to gather together equipment and other materials that they will use, and that are used by the students.

The park staff puts a lot of effort and work into the event also. They help with the advertising and administration part of it. The maintenance crew does an excellent job of making sure that the grass is cut, not only in the usual areas, but in the places that used only for this particular day. Areas like the archery backstop and the trail down to the creek for kayaking, etc. They take the picnic tables to where they're needed. And the park naturalist was one of the instructors this past year too.

Many members of the Friends group help in a variety of ways to make this show happen. They line up the instructors, contact sponsors, arrange for the food, set up the canopies, and put the whole program together in general along with a host of other behind the scenes necessities.

Then there are the participants themselves. Without them the whole show would be pointless. They come out regardless of the weather, rain or shine. This past year only three participants weren't able to attend because of illness. Although it rained a bit in the morning, everyone else not only showed up, but had a great time while they were there!

Last year the weather did its best to put the kibosh on the whole thing. Friday morning was spent setting up the canopies, tables and chairs, and getting everything ready for the next day's events. Rain was in the forecast, but it was decided to set up anyway and take a chance. That was a mistake!

About 5 o'clock Friday afternoon a strong storm came through the park and the wind literally destroyed three small canopies and one large one. One of the small ones wasn't found at first because it had been blown up into a tree.

Since rain was still being forecasted for the next day, the shelters were a necessity and had to be replaced. So Friday evening was spent scrambling to Dunham's and The Home Depot to get replacements. Saturday morning was spent putting on the final touches *and* setting up the four new canopies. The help was spread thin, but all was ready just in time for the first activities. The show indeed did go on!

Because of the rain, Oil Creek was at an unsafe level to allow kayaking and water bugs investigation. However, those two shows also went on. Verbal instruction filled in for much of the hands-on parts of the courses.

The next Chicks-in-the-Sticks event is scheduled for June 18th 2016. The Friends group is trying to keep the event as close to a consistent date as possible every year. There will always be something else going on somewhere that will conflict with the Chicks event. Last year was a popular foot race in the area so the Friends have moved the Chicks' date back one week. It is expected that the third Saturday in June will be the standard date for the event. With your help, the show *will* go on!

Kirby Newbert



Kayak techniques ... Despite the weather of the night before and the resulting rise in the creek, the clinic was very successful .

Oil Creek State Park's Upcoming Events



The Friends of Oil Creek State Park Annual Cross Country Ski Clinic Sunday -December 6th -Starting at noon.

Ski Clinic Details:

- xc ski equipment swap,
- a lecture on several topics with question and answer,
- ski waxing and preparation,
- and a chance to try Skiking (sort of like roller skiing)

The instructors will be Russ Meyer from Albany, NY who is a certified ski Instructor and wax technician with Toko and Alan Hough, who is a certified Skike Instructor

Check out www.skikepa.com.

- The cost will be \$20 for the clinic and Skiking and an extra fee of \$10 for each pair of skis waxed.
- Registration is limited to the first 30 applicants.

Register by Dec. 1st

Register on line at www.friendsocsp.org

Bike Trail this Fall.

Friends of Oil Creek State Park's monthly meetings...

- Meetings are at the Park's Office Amphitheater
- The first Thursday of the month -starting at 6 pm

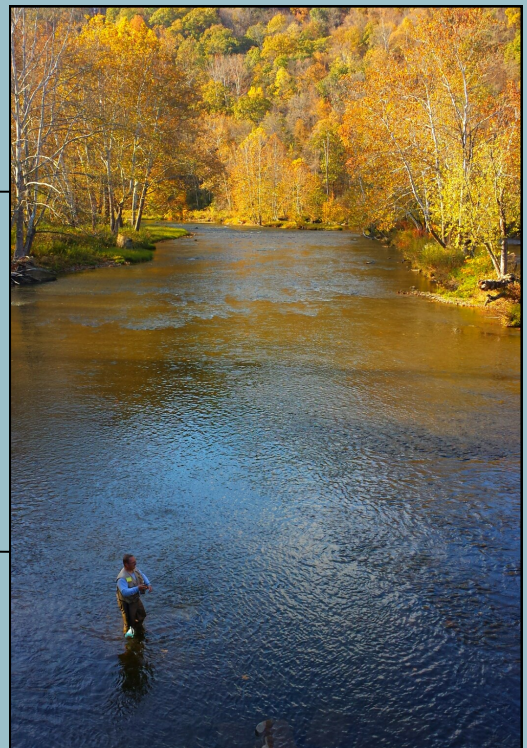
Ski trail Maintenance-

- The ski trails are in good shape, but there is still some maintenance to be done.
- The trail dates are Sundays starting at 1:00 PM
- Nov.8 and 22
- meet at Ski Hut, 1PM

Chicks in the Sticks

June 18, 2016

View from bike bridge



Over the Hill Gang



The Over the Hill Gang is responsible for maintaining the forty plus miles of the Gerard Hiking Trail in Oil Creek State Park. It is made up of senior guys in their sixties to early eighties. The oldest member is 84. The GANG is always looking for new “young” members in their early sixties.

Present emphasis of the GANG has been on doing fender work to prevent erosion on the trails along sides of hills and switchbacks.

Two recent projects paid for by The Friends of Oil Creek State Park are the picnic tables built by the GANG member Randy Bean commemorating deceased member Bruce Kline (located at the east end of the swinging bridge) and Ed McMullen (to be located at the south end of the bike bridge across Oil Creek).

After the Oil Creek 100 Race, October 9th, many racers complimented the GANG for the good conditions of the trail for the race.

Carl Meinstereifel Gang and Friends member

The picture is off the bike trail on a white trail leading to the swinging bridge. It is on of the many bridges designed, made, and placed by the Over the Hill Gang.

President's Report

Autumn into Winter President's Report Fall Newsletter 2015

The transition from fall to winter is an interesting time in the park. We get to watch as the trees change to glorious colors and leaves fall to carpet the forest floor and trails. I love the sound and smell the dried leaves make as my feet shuffle along while hiking or running. The crispness in the air is energizing. We get in as many more bike rides as we can.

The woods open up to reveal secrets we sometimes miss when the trees are full of leaves. We see small animals scurrying to find food to store for winter. Others are on the move or fattening up for hibernation. We might find a geo-cache box or an orphan well we missed in summer. Views change and we can see further into the woods. There is the perfect leaf or acorn to treasure.

The trail groups are busy getting projects done and preparing the trails for winter fun. Hunters are gearing up for the season and the first light snow reminds skiers to get their skis out and waxed up ready to go. The Friends are getting ready for their annual meeting and election, membership drive, and winter events. Its a great time to get involved and enjoy and support our beautiful park. Check out our website often for updates. As summer becomes memory and fall fades to winter let us look forward to new adventures in the park.

Peg Sims, President FOCSP



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

www.friendsocsp.org

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: oilcreekfriends@gmail.com**



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