



Winter 2016
Volume 18

Friends of Oil Creek State Park

We certainly are missing our snow this year. We all need to do a snow dance and hope our request is heard.



All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.

J.R.R. Tolkien
Fellowship of the Ring

Park Manger's report

2016 is well underway; park staff, as well as volunteers are busy preparing for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. I would like to take this time to update all of you on the status of projects in the park and what to expect for the 2016 season.

Ash Tree Removal – Staff and volunteers have been busy felling and cutting up the dead ash trees throughout the Egbert and Blood Farm picnic areas. Currently we have taken down over 130 hazardous ash trees in Egbert alone. We have approximately 20 or 30 more at Egbert before we move to Blood Farm. I am hopeful that we will be able to start replanting these areas this spring and fall. The park has also requested the help from our Regional Resource Specialist to assist in determining what types of trees will be appropriate for this area.

Sledding Hill – Last fall we began shaping the slope for our future sledding hill. Budget, time, personnel, and materials have slowed this project down. We will continue this effort as time and priorities permit.

Playground – Thanks to the Friends Group and Deb Frawley, (Former Greenway Coordinator) we have purchased a new playground for the Egbert picnic area. Our goal is to have this installed in the spring of 2016. A grand opening and dedication ceremony will take place prior to its unveiling.

Bike Trail – Funds have been allocated for the stabilization of a section of bike trail located at its southern end. Last fall, park staff and PA Fish and Boat installed two log and stone deflectors in an effort to reduce erosion. The second phase of this project is in the design phase and will hopefully take place during the fall of 2016.

If anyone has questions about the park or some of the projects described above, please call me at the park. If not, enjoy the cold, and I will see you on the trail.

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



An email from Tom Jennings:

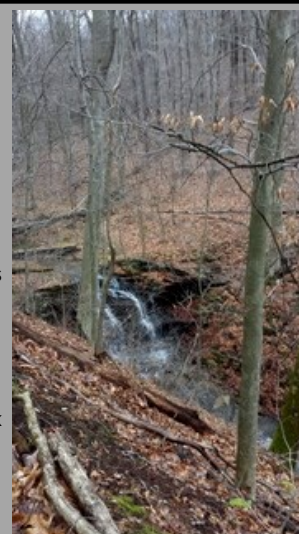
This is a copy of an email Tom sent to the OC100 racers and volunteers..

The 2016 Titusville football schedule is being worked - which will dictate the weekend in October that we can hold the race. Stay tuned by keeping tabs on the race website, Facebook and twitter.

** Reminder - stay up to date on park and race happenings - just \$10 to join

Friends of Oil Creek State Park (FOCSP) for 2016! The Friends group funds the Over the Hill Gang's efforts (trail maintenance team) and the FOCSP do trail work as well. Or join for \$25 at the "family" option. Here is the link to join online:

<https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/ppff/donation.jsp?campaign=55&test=true>



Other races in the works for Oil Creek:

Duathlon: (Profits are split between FOCSP and RWB)

The race *will* be on September 17, 2016. It will be a run-bike-run event. It will take place on the 5 mile loop of the Gerard Hiking on the North (Titusville) side. Participants will then jump on their bicycles after the first 5 mile portion and travel south on the Oil Creek Bike Trail down to Petroleum Center and back. From there the participants will run the 5 mile loop again but in the opposite direction.

Oil Valley Race Series: -(Profits are split between FOCSP and Drake Well Museum)

The series will include 4 events:

Meet U in 1/2 Trail Race - May 14, 2016- (profits to MEET-U program)

Hundred Acre Wood 10 Miler - July 9, 2016-(profits to FOCSP)

Drake Well Marathon - August 7, 2016- (profits to Drake Well Museum)

Queen City Duathlon - September 17, 2016- (Profits split between RWB and FOCSP)

This race series will be available to the first 100 registrants. Participants **MUST** complete each event to earn the award at the end of the series. There will be an additional registration fee for the series on top of the registration for each event.

Oil Creek State Park's Upcoming Events

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

Night Ski

- **February 20th– bring your skis , headlamp, and a snack to share**

Chicks in the Stick

- **June 18th–**

Biathlon-

- **August 13. 2016**

Oil Valley Race

- The series will include 4 events:

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Duathlon:

- **September 17, 2016**



**Keep up to date
with Oil Creek activities
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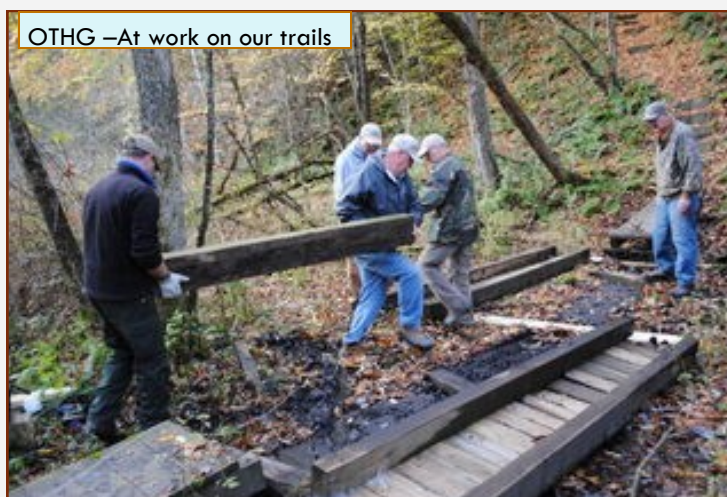
Night Ski January 23rd

Amazingly there was enough snow to ski with older already banged up -rock skis. for the sixteen skiers who participated in the January night ski. Those who only had new skies walked old lease roads. For both skiers and walkers, it was a beautiful full moon evening. The moon illuminated the woods so well headlamps were turned off. After the hike/ski the Friends' Group hosted a get together in the ski lodge with chili and bean wraps. Everyone brought snacks to share. It was a wonderful night. The next night ski is February 20, 2016- bring skis, headlamp, and a snack to share. 7pm-Ski Lodge-



Over the Hill Gang

The Over the Hill Gang has been very busy cutting all the dead ash trees at Petroleum Center (from the Emerald Ash Borer infestation). There are over 200 trees in the area that are a hazard to park visitors. The group is cutting up the trees and splitting the logs to use for fire wood in the Adirondack shelters around the park. Then the tree tops are gathered and burned. Once all the trees are cut, the stumps will be removed. This project will be going on well into March.



The OTHG meets at 7AM every Wednesdays Sam's in Titusville.

Chicks-in-the-Sticks

Preparation is well under way for the 2016 Chicks in the Sticks event. It will be held June 18th We are in the process of contacting presenters, organizers, and donators. We also hope to add a few more events such as: build- ing terrariums and wood burnings. Please keep up to date on all park activities www.friendsocsp.org at our website :



Nature printing and basic kayaking instruction from last year's workshops



President's Report

FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

Ask not what the Friends of Oil Creek can do for you but what YOU can do for the Friends and the park. Please consider this as we continue our annual membership campaign. The easiest thing to do is to join with a \$10 individual or \$25 family membership. Your donation is tax deductible through the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF).

So what might your monetary donation go for? Funds are used for in a variety of ways to support Oil Creek State Park. Start up and insurance costs for our special events such as the Summer Biathlon, Chicks In The Sticks, Cross Country Ski Clinic, Night Skis, and our new Duathlon event are funded by the Friends. We frequently purchase equipment and supplies needed for trail maintenance and to help the Over the Hill Gang in their work. The OTHG is instrumental in keeping the Girard trail in tip top shape for hikers and ultra runners. We have purchased bird seed and mulch for use in the park. We have supplied materials for memorial picnic tables and benches. We recently purchased four nice lanterns to be used for night events such as the Night skis. Funds were used to apply for a grant for our new playground equipment which will be installed this spring. We also support the Greenways and the Venango Chamber through membership in these organizations. These are just a few of the benefits the park receives because of your membership donation.

Another way to do for the Friends is to volunteer your time and talents. We are always appreciative of those who help on trail work days, show up to participate or volunteer at our events, split wood, pick up trash, count bats, search for orphan wells, or serve on the Board of Directors or a committee. Volunteerism is a strong tradition at Oil Creek. When you join the Friends of Oil Creek State Park, you can feel proud to be a part of a fine bunch of Friends dedicated to support our beautiful park. The park benefits and so will you. So please go to our website and send in your membership today. You can also find out about events and volunteer opportunities on our web site. Check it often!

With gratitude,

Peg Sims, President



**Keep up to date
with Oil Creek activities
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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 with the combined efforts of the Park Staff, The Friends Group, and The Over-The-Hill Gang.

Over the Hill Gang placing a park sign at the entrance to the park along

