



Spring 2016
Volume 19

Friends of Oil Creek State Park

Third Annual Chicks-in-the-Sticks June 18th

Third Annual Chicks- in- the Sticks

Saturday June 18th.

This day was designed to acquaint women with outdoor activities where they will be introduced to a skill and (in most cases) produce an item to take home. This year's classes will be comprised of events from the past as well as a few new classes. As usual, Ed's Smokn' BBQ will provide the lunch. Registration begins on April 1, 2016. Registration is on line, and information to register by mail is also available. For problems or questions please email or call *Christine Owens* at- cowens8284@gmail.com 814-677-0050

Registration information and more information in general can be found by following the link:

friendsocsp.org/events/chicks/cns.html

2016 Chicks-in-the-Sticks Classes

Classic Classes

- Basic kayaking
- Bee keeping
- Bike Maintenance
- Bird identification
- Build Your Own Alcohol Micro Stove
- Dutch Oven Cooking
- Fly Casting/Fly Fishing
- Geocaching
- Herb Walk
- Medicinal Uses of Herbs
- Nature Linoleum Printing
- Outdoor Photography
- Pack It-Introduction to Backpacking
- Secrets of the Indian Medicine Man
- Self Defense
- Tree ID
- Yoga
- Water Bug- Macroinvertebrates



New Classes

- Introduction to trail running-
- Primitive Fire making
- Terrarium building
- Wisdom in the Wild
- Wood Burning

www.friendsocsp.org

“Is the Spring coming?” he said. “What is it like?”
... “It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine.”...

... “Things are crowding up out of the earth,” she ran on in a hurry. “And there are flowers uncurling and buds on everything and the green veil has covered nearly all the gray and the birds are in such a hurry about their nest...” (Colin and Mary)

The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett



PARK MANGER'S REPORT

I am very pleased to announce that the Friends of Oil Creek State Park has won the *Group Volunteer Award* for their efforts in 2015! This is a HUGE honor! Not only were The Oil Creek Friends going up against other friends groups, but they also were in competition with all volunteer groups throughout the state of PA. In addition to hosting several events such as Chicks -in-the -Sticks, the Biathlon, and by supporting multiple other events, they also found the time to secure nearly \$60k in grant funding for a new playground. Due to these efforts, they have earned this award. Several members of the group attended and accepted the award at the Statewide Park Mangers Conference in State College on the 23rd of March.

I have worked for state parks for nearly nine years. In those nine years, I have worked at seven different state parks, all of which had volunteer groups in some form or fashion. I must say, I will put Oil Creek’s volunteers up against anyone in the State. And when I say volunteer group, I mean all of our volunteers, not just the Friends. This award is testament to the respect and love that all of Oil Creek’s volunteers have for this wonderful park. It is your passion that helps guide my decision making when it comes to the park and the resources within. Keep up the good work!

See you on the trails,
David Hallman





**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 Friends
of
Oil Creek State Park
are a chapter of the
Pennsylvania Parks and
Forest Foundation



OC100 Race Date-- October 8, 2016

Oil Creek 100 Race registration has begun:

- The 50K has sold out. There is a wait list
- The 100K sold out on March 21st. There is a wait list
- The 100 mile race usually is sold out by June.

For more information:

<http://www.oilcreek100.org/>



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)

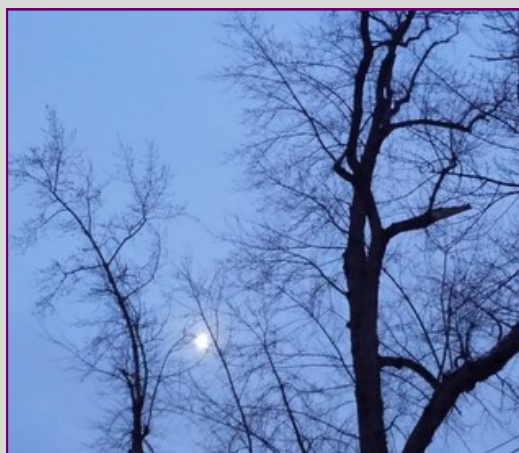
This race series will be available to the first 100 registrants. Participants **MUST** complete each event to earn the award at the end of the series. There will be an additional registration fee for the series on top of the registration for each event.

Night Ski February 20th

The February night ski turned out to be more of a night hike, but still totally worth coming out. We had a low number due to the warm temperatures. However, the good food, great conversation, and the magnificent full moon made it well worth taking the time to come out and spend some time away from the everyday hustle and bustle. The atmosphere around Oil Creek State Park created such a calming affect on us.

I would like to remind everyone not to forget to make time for yourself and to come on out for a hike (or ski) in Oil Creek State Park. Being in this beautiful park is one of the most amazing things anyone can experience.

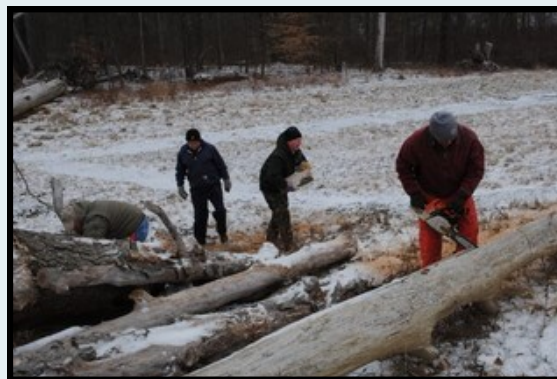
Adam Peterson



Over-The-Hill-Gang

The Ash tree removal has been completed. The Gang worked diligently through the winter cutting and removing the trees. At the beginning of March, The Gang went back on the trails. They began their trail work on March 7th which is one of the earliest dates they have ever been able to begin trail work. They have been concentrating on cutting trees that have fallen this past winter as well as doing general trail maintenance. In addition, they are in the process of placing anti-skid (roof shingles) and bumpers on the bridges. Slippery bridges on the Gerard Trail are becoming a thing of the past, and this effort is much appreciated by runners and hikers.

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



Pictures of the Ash Tree removal– Thanks to-
Over the-Hill-Gang member—*Dennis Hartle*



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

Full Moon Family Nature Hike

- April 22, 2016

Outdoor Photography

- April 23, 2016

Making Fly Lures

- May 3, 2016

Chicks in the Sticks

- June 18th

Biathlon-

- August 13, 2016

Oil Valley Race

- The series will include 4 events:

Meet U in 1/2 Trail Race - May 14, 2016

Hundred Acre Wood 10 Miler - July 9, 2016

Drake Well Marathon - August 7, 2016

Queen City Duathlon - September 17, 2016

Duathlon:

- September 17, 2016



For more information on these activities follow the Park's and Friends' links:

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

www.friendsocsp.org

[http://dcnr.state.pa.us/
stateparks/findapark/oilcreek/
index.htm](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/oilcreek/index.htm)

President's Report

HOW DO I LOVE THEE, LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

Why do I love Oil Creek? What's not to like? First, it is close to home and easily accessible. For most of us, the park is in our back yards with in only about a 10 or 20 minute drive ,but even city slickers from places like Cleveland and Pittsburgh can get here in less than two hours. Even though Oil Creek is close by, it is a pure get-away. It is a place to find beauty, peace, and relaxation. If you want solitude , there are so many spots to either bike, hike, or ski where you may not see another person for hours. Fly fishing is another opportunity to enjoy solo, or you can just sit on one of the many benches throughout the park and listen to the quiet sounds of nature. If you enjoy companionship, there are many activities and events offered throughout the year where you can meet people. Most of these opportunities are free or of a minimal cost for participation. Volunteering is another great way to meet and get to know people.

Oil Creek offers something for every season. Spring offers great fishing and kayaking on the creek. The woods, meadows , and trails offer new life with spring flowers and plants. Animals are coming out of hibernation , and wild life becomes active. Flora and fauna are abundant and varied. Summer offers fabulous biking, running, and hiking. Summer activities can continue well into Fall with the addition of beautiful colors and hunting. Winter offers cross country skiing and snow shoeing. By this summer there will be a new playground by the Egbert pavilion with added places to picnic. Then there are also things like geo-caching, a train ride, orphan well hunting, nature photography, bird watching, and educational clinics to complete your list.

But what I love most is getting outside in the fresh air and weather, away from the hustle and bustle, away from technology, away from the cares of life , and getting into the wonder and beauty of the Pennsylvania woods. Oil Creek State Park is just such a place , and I encourage you to seek out an adventure within the park. Spring is a great time to start . Check our website for upcoming opportunities and events throughout the year.

Happy Trails,
Peg Sims
FOCSP President



Dave Hallman – Oil Creek Park Manager with Friends members Joe Smith, Rebecca Beach, and Peg Sims accepting the *Group Volunteer Award* at the Statewide Park Mangers Conference in State College on the 23rd of March.

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.

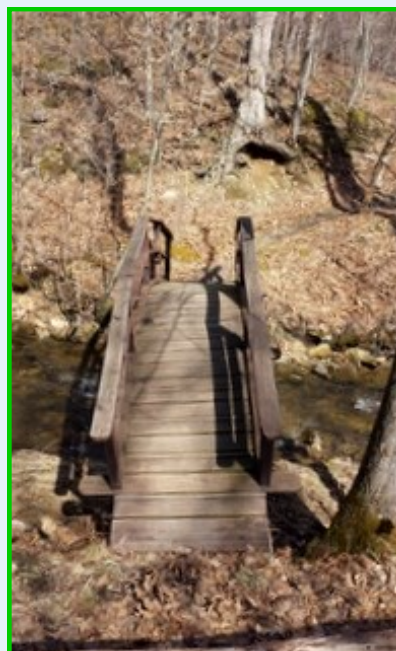
You can become a member or renew your membership by contacting the FOCSP in one of the ways listed below. Our web site has a direct link.

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



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

www.friendsocsp.org



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