

Chicks-In-The-Sticks

The Friends of Oil Creek State Park are planning their Fourth Annual Chicks-in-the-Sticks event to be held on Saturday, June 17th. The premise for Chicks-in-the-Sticks is to introduce women to unfamiliar, high-interest, outdoor skills. It is a full day of hands on outdoor workshops for women ages 18 and over.

Registration is open. Participants may either register online and pay with a credit card at <http://friendsocsp.org/events/chicks/cns.html> or fill out the registration form (found online) and pay with a check. The cost is \$45 which includes lunch, a tee shirt (for early registration), a goody bag with many items, and all materials for the classes.

This year's classes include: archery, basic kayaking, bike maintenance

and riding skills, bird ID, fly casting, outdoor photography, use of herbs, yoga, Secrets of Indian Medicine Man, trail trekking, self-defense, nature pottery, nature-inspired jewelry making, outdoor survival hacks, and weaving with fibers and outdoor materials. Each participant can choose up to four different activities. Scheduling is done on a first come-first served basis. A catered lunch will be provided. There will be an auction and 50/50 drawing.

For questions, contact Christine Owens at cows8284@gmail.com or (814) 677-0050, or call the park office at (814) 676-5915.



Kayaking



Archery



Herb walk

Park Manager's Report

Growing up as someone that loved the outdoors and spent most of my summers fishing, I never considered trying fly-fishing. To be honest, I thought that it looked boring and never thought I would have the patience for it. So, I stuck to my lures and live bait. After I got hired at Oil Creek and began talking to the many fly fishermen that hold Oil Creek in high regard, I decided to give it a try. I borrowed an old dusty rod from my father, spoke to Mike at Oil Creek Outfitters, and set out. To my surprise, I found it to be extremely relaxing and more enjoyable than I ever imagined. Even when I wasn't catching anything, I was always focused on my casting and fly presentation. Three hours would go by as if it they were one. I have found that it is the one sport where I can totally disconnect from everything going on around me. The example I often use when describing fly fishing is a comparison I make with my true passion archery. Archery is my first love; it is the one sport that I would choose over everything else. However, as I sit in my stand, I still think about the work and other stresses that may be on my mind. With fly fishing, this is not the case. I can escape from everything.



This is my fourth-year fly fishing. I am not nor am I even close to being an expert. To be an "expert" would take a lifetime. So much goes into being a successful fly fisherman: bug identification, casting techniques, rod weight and size, different types of fly line, knowledge of various types of knots, and on and on. When I know I am going fishing, I talk to Mike at the fly shop and ask him what the fish are eating that week and make my purchase. It works for me, and I can catch enough fish to keep me happy.



If you enjoy fishing or just want to try a new and relaxing hobby, I strongly suggest giving fly fishing a shot. Various parks offer beginner classes including Oil Creek. I would also recommend visiting Oil Creek Outfitters. Mike is a wealth of knowledge and is more than willing to help you out. If you do stop by and see Mike don't call it a fly pole. It is a fly rod.

See you on the trail or maybe the creek,

Dave Hallman

Pictures were taken of fishermen just beyond Miller Run.

Upcoming Events:

Races:

- Strike Oil 5k/Kids Fun Run :July 15, 2017
- Drake Well Marathon/Half Marathon: August 6, 2017
- Biathlon: August 12, 2017
- Oil Creek100: October 14-15, 2017–
- An interesting note: Karl Meltzer who is recognized as the “Winningest 100 Mile Runner On Earth” is slated to run this year. He has been unable to attend in the past so it would be great for him to participate this year in the 100 mile trail run

Events

- Chicks-in –the Sticks: June 17, 2017
- Other Park events will be listed on our web site and in future newsletters as they become official.
www.friendsocsp.org .



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



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.”



The Meet –U Half Marathon/5 Mile race was held May 20th. It was a great race and a great day. All the runners were thrilled with the trails and the management of the race. Here is race director Adam Peterson handing the award to the overall female half marathon winner. The half marathon awards were wooden buckets hand coopered by William Stumpf, and the 5Mile overall awards were walking sticks made by Roger Loker from old well rods.

Over-The-Hill-Gang

Washed out



The Gang has been very busy rebuilding the Chinese Bridge or Rainbow Bridge (as the runner call it) which was washed out during a strong spring storm. They were able to salvage most of the bridge. While rebuilding they decided on a

Rebuilt



few design changes to reinforce the structure and changes to make the railings more stable. They have been working on this for the past two weeks, and presently the bridge is fine to use although one railing side still needs to be replaced. Tom Jennings, OC 100 race director, provided all the necessary funds which is greatly appreciated by the Gang.

Another large project is rebuilding a section at the beginning of the Gerard trail -Drake Well area. The spot has deteriorated very badly. This section meets up with the biking trail, and is a popular spot for hikers ,runners, and is a favorite place for picnickers. The Gang expects this project to take a couple weeks. They also will be putting up new signage in this area.

A project recently completed is at the bottom of the "hill of truth" by the swinging bridge. This area had been severely washed out. The OTHG added and replaced steps , and they placed gravel at the bottom to ensure better drainage. (The gravel was provided by Drake Well.) They also dug deep ditches along the switch backs to help contain the run-off.



In addition to these major projects the Gang has kept the entire Gerard trail clear and in order. They have been over the entire Gerard trail one and half times so far this year.

Denny Pattison , who is the Gang's leader, is extremely grateful to Dave Hall-

Hill of Truth

man and the Oil Creek Sate Park staff for the amazing collaboration they have. He feels Dave Hallman and the staff are wonderful with their assistance and support. In addition, he also has expressed much gratitude to the Friends of Oil Creek for all their help –especially financially where they never hesitate to buy needed equipment for the OTHG.

Clearing the Trails



Oil Creek Hiking

Hiking in Oil Creek is an excellent experience. Hikers can pick from a range of hikes which include variability in length and difficulty. The Gerard Trail is a continuous loop around Oil Creek from the Oil Creek Park Office to Drake Well.



The loop is 36 miles long, but the hiker can make use of the various inner loops to make reasonable day hikes. Loops range from three miles to twelve miles. Just walking in on a trail and turning around is also very rewarding. The Gerard trail is blazed in yellow. White blazes signify intersecting trails, and red blazes mark the cross country ski area. The trails are marked in the park maps, but one can always check the Park Office for any needed clarification. Backpackers can camp at the Adirondacks located on the east and west sides of the park after making arrangements through the Park Office



Oil Creek hikes offer so much. The entire area is beautiful. There are excellent overlooks throughout, and there are many streams and runs to encounter. Wildflowers are abundant throughout the spring, summer, and into fall. Viewing old time oil drilling equipment is possible on all the trails. Seeing birds and other wildlife is a perk to the quiet hiker.

Regardless of ability, Oil Creek offers multiple types of hikes for the outdoor enthusiast.





Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!

Sitting Bull

President's Report

SPRING INTO SUMMER

Late spring and early summer is a great time to get out and enjoy Oil Creek State Park. There is a wide variety of flora and fauna to see. Everything is fresh and new. Oil Creek is well stocked with fish and the water level is often high enough for some kayaking or canoeing. The streams and water falls are flowing. The birds are singing and eagles soaring! The temperatures are perfect for hiking or doing trail maintenance. There are tons of photo opportunities. It's a great time for families to picnic and hang out at the playground, and the park offers a variety of educational/recreational programs as well.

The Friends are busy gearing up for their three major summer events starting with the "Chicks In The Sticks" summer workshop for women on June 17th. Then we have the "Strike Oil 5K" on July 15th followed by the "Oil Creek Summer Biathlon" on August 12th. Information and registration for these events can be found on our web site. The Friends rely on volunteers for our events to be successful so if you aren't participating in an event but are interested in helping out, contact us by email at friendsocsp@gmail.com. Any proceeds from our events go to support the park in many ways as does your annual membership donation. We love our volunteers and members and highly appreciate any support that you give.

Come take advantage of all that Oil Creek State Park has to offer.

Happy Trails,
Peg Sims, President

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**
- **Website: www.friendsocsp.org**



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