



# FOCSP

# Fall 2025

# Newsletter



*©Dot Monahan*

Dot Monahan captured this coyote in the Oil Creek Park area.

# Cemetery Cleanup Project

Do you know there are thought to be up to five cemeteries within Oil Creek State park? The Friends of Oil Creek State Park board noticed that the park's cemeteries needed some immediate attention.

With the help of Dave Hallman, park manager, we were able to arrange a training class with some hands on cemetery work.

Many of the board showed up early Friday morning, September 12th, and we all learned together the "dos" and "don'ts" of headstone care and cemetery maintenance. After the education, we got on our knees and got to work restoring headstones!

The educator was Brian Flores, Assistant Park Manager of Moraine State Parks, Bureau of State Parks | DCNR.

Now that the board has purchased the supplies and equipment, this will become an ongoing project. Over time, we will be able to restore and repair cemeteries with stones dated as far back as the 1800s.

Rebekah Deal

Brian Flores in the right foreground with Park Manager Dave Hallman. Anthony Lasher is the back left.

Friends board members –from left Rob McCall, Bruce Getsinger, and Scott Bailey



From left—Rebekah Deal a Friends board director with Jen McAlevy—board President





# OC100

## AS2

It was a privilege to help out at Aid Station 2 at Petroleum Center's Egbert Pavilion for the most recent OC 100, although "helping out" may be a bit of an exaggeration to describe a few hours spent mostly watching an experienced, well-oiled, volunteer machine at work. It was a lot of fun enjoying a beautiful day (albeit a bit warm for the actual participants!) cheering on the runners (including clanging the cow-bell welcome) and getting them what they needed, chatting with runners, their support teams and the complement of volunteers, and finding time for a stroll along Oil Creek.

The volunteer crew at AS-2 is spearheaded by Jamey Bush (since 2010, the year after the race started in 2009) and Raeann Rauch (first as a helper and as co-head since about 2019). To add to the fun, they pick a different theme every year – this year it was rubber duckies, past years have included alien invasion and casino themes.

The most important thing to remember if you find yourself at AS-2 on race day, whether as a runner, supporter, volunteer, or uninvited passerby, is to show up hungry. The food spread was unbelievable – all sorts of fresh fruit, nutella banana wraps, breakfast burritos (eggs, sausage, bacon), French toast, ramen noodles, grilled cheese sandwiches, potatoes, pizza, fried chicken, hamburgers, pierogis, pickles, and pickle juice ("pond scum" – helps with cramps), and an assortment of beverages. In addition, there were first aid supplies, frozen neck-wraps, ice and other supplies to help the runners on their way.

Some participants stop for a while to chat with friends, family and volunteers, while the more ambitious don't spend as long, trundling across the road and on up the steep hill behind the Park Office.

Jamey, Raeann and their crew spend countless hours setting up and running the station over the weekend (including through the night), staying on-site in camper trailers. They very much appreciate anyone who can donate some time on race days, and all of us very much appreciate the time and hard work that they and the other Aid Station volunteers contribute to make the OC 100 such a success.

Bruce Getsinger



Runners approaching AS2 – Note some of the provisions seen in the foreground... What is seen amounts to a small fraction of what is offered to the runners.



After successfully finishing the 100k race during the OC100 last year, I knew going into the 2025 year I would need something a little bit less challenging. So, when registration opened in March for the OC100 Trail Runs, I made sure to sign up for the 50k. Signing up for the 50k this year was a far cry from when I signed up for my first one back in 2021. Since my first ultra, I have successfully completed multiple 25ks, a 50-mile challenge, and the OC 100 50k in 2023. I should preface with I am by no means an athlete, let alone a runner. I'm just someone who likes the outdoors and has a knack for staying on the trails for hours at a time. My 1<sup>st</sup>

50k I had hoped to just finish within the cutoff time. My 2<sup>nd</sup> 50k, I was hoping to take 1.5 hours off my previous time. This year, I told myself I'd like to finish in 8hrs. Which, I knew I was really challenging myself this time around.

I do need to pause to give a shout out to all the volunteers that make this race the true experience it really is. Some of the volunteers would include those that help with the planning and coordination to get to the day of the race to those directing traffic, and also to those at the registration and merchandise tables. The photographers out on the trails getting all the great action shots, and all the people at each aid station absolutely help make the OC100 a special race. The aid station volunteers are a terrific support with their kindness and positive spirit which helps runners as they pass through. I have to say, if you leave an aid station hungry, that is on you. Top notch. And cheers to the sweepers who do not have an easy job, especially running through the woods in the dark and overnight. A huge thank-you is owed to Heather Nelson for carrying on the OC100 tradition after Tom Jennings retired as race director. It is essentially a year-round job with all the planning & co-ordinating the event takes. I know I am not alone in expressing appreciation.

Oh, that goal I set for myself this year's 50k, I beat it, but it would not have been possible without all the volunteers. The OC100 is much a group effort as it is an individual bid.

Rebecca Beach



Thanks Mike Henderson for the great photo!

# Over-The-Hill Gang



The replacement for Alfred's Bent Nail Bridge is completed.

The OTHG had the trails in excellent shape for OC100, including the replacement of Alfred's Bent Nail Bridge. They have been working throughout the fall keeping the trails in order before winter sets in. The gang encountered an incredibly difficult and dangerous situation with a huge dead beech tree which was threatening the new Alfred "Son-of-A-Bent Nail Bridge". A highly skilled logger Kevin Snyder came to their aid. With his uncanny skills he was able to fell the tree without endangering the bridge. The Gang is very appreciative for his expertise.

The Gang sent three of their members to Ohiopyle State Park for chain saw training. They enjoyed the training and are thankful for the opportunity. The Friends group funded their training, and are pleased the training went so well.



Some of the trail situations the Gang experiences during their weekly trail maintenance



# Cross Country Ski Trail Maintenance



Ski trail cleanup has begun. Throughout the summer and into the fall, the Park's crew has done some of the larger tree removal as part of their general maintenance. The Friends' group has been walking the trails and clearing small items. The Friends are also ascertaining the trails more extensive needs such as drainage, culverts, and removal of larger items.

Please check our web page- [friend-socsp.org](http://friend-socsp.org) or our Facebook page [facebook.com/friendsofoilcreekstatepark](http://facebook.com/friendsofoilcreekstatepark) for future cleanup dates.



Thanks Dot Monahan for sharing these great photos!

# President's Report

## **Gratitude to Our Members**

This past year the Friends of OCSP were able to financially support several projects due to the generosity of members. The larger programs were:

100% of the purchase price of an electric bicycle for the ranger station

100% of the cost of materials to replace the Bent Nail Bridge – which the OTHG rebuilt with heroic effort!

The cost of the PPFF Chainsaw class, room and board for the 3 members of the OTHG who attended the class

Thank you for your generosity that allows the Friends group to support these important projects!!!

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As the year closes, our group has had a change in the members of the Board of Directors.

After many years serving as President and Vice President, Rob McCall has stepped back. Fortunately, he is staying on the board so we can continue to rely on his knowledge and expertise.

Rebekah Deal has accepted the position of Vice President.

We welcomed new members, Holly Gibbons and Scott Bailey. Their insights and project assistance have already made positive impacts on our mission.

Kat Thompson, an active participant for many years, is leaving the board. While Kat will be greatly missed, we congratulate her on her recent promotion to be the Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce!

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Birds and animals are getting ready for winter. The leaves have lost their vibrant colors and are covering the paths and trails. Before the busyness of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, go for a walk, hike or bike ride to enjoy the beauty of the park and a deep breath of the cold fresh air!

A reminder for all park visitors. **Any day** you are in the park during hunting season, please wear your bright orange safety clothing. Of special note, this year Sunday hunting is permitted in the park November 16, 23, and 30.



Thanks once again to Dot Monahan for this great picture



# Membership

The Friends of Oil Creek would like to thank all the members who renewed their membership and to thank the many new members.

Your membership helps maintain existing projects in Oil Creek State Park. Your contributions also help maintain new initiatives in the Park. Your membership also helps to maintain the Gerard hiking trail, the bike trail, and the ski trails. In addition, these resources fund the "Over the Hill Gang".

If you haven't renewed your membership or would like to become a member, follow the link to become a friend of Oil Creek State Park: [www.friendsocsp.org](http://www.friendsocsp.org). The membership prices: single \$10, family \$25, and corporate/business/group \$100. You can also become a Friends member or renew your membership by contacting the FOCSP in one of the ways listed below:

- Write the Friends of Oil Creek  
PO Box# 1273 Oil City, Pa 16301
- E-Mail— [oilcreekfriends@gmail.com](mailto:oilcreekfriends@gmail.com)
- Website— [www.friendsocsp.org](http://www.friendsocsp.org)
- Call Park Office—814 676-5915



Thanks Dot Monahan for another amazing picture.

## 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 Friends of Oil Creek State Park is a Chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation

