

FRIENDS OF OIL CREEK STATE PARK



Park Manager's Report
Oil Creek Bat Observ-

OC-100 Trail Run
OC Biathlon

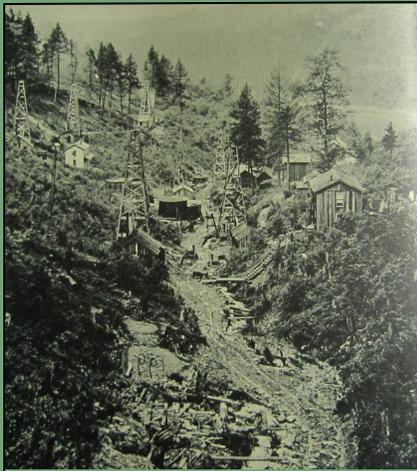
-Oil Creek Bios President's Report

-Fly Fishing on Oil Creek

Black Bear information

FOSP- I information

Supporting the FOCSP



Cow Run Wells in 1863

"I see you don't understand, and I must explain it to you. Well, very long ago, on the spot where the Wild Wood waves now, before ever it had planted itself and grown up to what it now is, there was a city—a city of people, you know. Here, where we are standing, they lived, and walked, and talked, and slept, and carried on their business. Here they stabled their horses and feasted, from here they rode out to fight or drove out to trade. They were a powerful people, and rich, and great builders. They built to last, for they thought their city would last for ever."— Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*, Ch. 4



Cow Run—This Spring

PARK MANGER'S REPORT

I have had the pleasure of working at Oil Creek State Park for nearly three months, and I am having a great time doing so. While I still have much to learn, I am looking forward to the task. This area and Oil Creek State Park in particular have a lot to offer. From Oil Creek's rich history to the abundance of recreational and environmental activities of the area I feel we are blessed with opportunities.

In addition to what the park has to offer, the FOCSP have a lot to offer as well. The Friends' group can play a pivotal role when it comes to the park's appearance and getting things done at a park, things that may take years to do if budget money was relied upon. Some of the biggest questions that arise from our Friends' meetings are how can we generate funds, and how can we get more people to join the group? I see a wealth of opportunities at the park, and I encourage all of you think of some ideas and to bring them up when we have our meetings. They can be as simple as organizing a volunteer day for a specific project or as involved as a larger event of some type to raise funds. If people see your dedication and efforts then they may be more likely to join us. The sky is the limit!

I also want to thank you all for the warm welcome to the area. It is never easy when you have to pack up the family and move. You have all helped make the transition a good one. It already feel like home.— Dave Hallman

OIL CREEK BATS



BATS IN THE OBSERVATION BOX

Hi all,

We now have a new bat observation box at OCSPP behind the Egbert House. It was mounted June 15th and a week later, June 22nd it had approximately 30 little brown bats using it! If you have an interest in bats and would like to view them up close behind plexi-glass, contact the staff at the visitors' center. The box can be lowered with a winch, and the doors open on both sides so the bats can be viewed. They are surprisingly tolerant of the box being lowered and having people looking at them. When viewed up close, they will remind you of cats or dogs the way they groom, stretch, and yawn! I have boxes like this at the Woodcock Creek Nature Center in Crawford County. Last summer we actually had between 70 and 80 bats roosting in 2 observation boxes mounted there.

There will be a bat count open to the public Friday July 13th. We always need volunteers to help count the bats as they emerge at dusk from our 6 boxes near the Egbert House. Contact Robin Baker at the visitor's center for more information.

Terry Lobdell



TERRY AT THE BAT OBSERVATION AREA

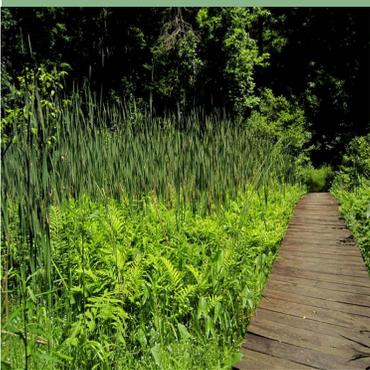


FRIENDS OF OIL CREEK MISSION

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."



PA State Flower- Mountain Laurel



For an interesting short hike try the Delzell Trail to the left of the Day Use Area across from the Park Office. It is a .7 mile interpretive trail that loops the cattail wetlands, with slightly rocky terrain. There are some small inclines on the east side of the loop and easy, level terrain along the creek on the west side.



On their weekly Blood Farm- Practice Loop- Jeff, Patty, Shannon, and Scott taking a moment...



"It is just over 3 months until hundreds of runners, pacers, their families and crew descend upon the Oil Region for the 4th annual Oil Creek 100 Trail Runs. Hundreds of volunteers make this event possible each year, hosted by Titusville Area School District, Oil Creek State Park and the City of Titusville. For the second straight year, participants will also get to run through Drake Well Museum and see where it all began. The distinctive sound of DWM's Olin hit-and-miss engine can be heard for a few miles away on the Gerard Hiking Trail, letting tired runners - especially those going through Saturday night - know they are nearing civilization. The next supported group hike and run will be this Saturday July 7th at 7 AM at Egbert Farm picnic area in Petroleum Center. Some beginners to the park and hiking will be exploring the northern 5 mile loop at the Jersey Bridge parking lot just before the one lane bridge and Drake Well Museum - join 40 to 50 other trail enthusiasts for a fun morning or day. See the TRAINING RUNS page on the race website oc100.org for more information."

Tom Jennings, Race Director

Friends of Oil Creek Summer Biathlon

Which state park is the only state park to host a summer biathlon? If you guessed Oil Creek State Park you are correct! On August 11, 2012 the Friends of Oil Creek State Park will host the 7th Annual Summer Biathlon. This unique and exciting event combines the skills of running a 6K and shooting a .22 caliber rifle.

Competitors will run a 1.2 mile loop, then shoot 5 shots prone at a 4.5" metal knock down target 33 meters away. For each missed target, a 70 meter penalty loop is run. Next, the 1.2 mile loop is repeated coming back in the range to shoot standing, run penalty loops if needed, and finish with another 1.2 mile loop. We welcome the inexperienced biathlete so come out and try it! No rifles needed, rifles and ammo are provided by the Pennsylvania Biathlon Club.

Over the years improvements have been made to the range by the park staff and volunteers have maintained the trails. The event highlights the beauty and diversity of the park. It draws people from New York, New Jersey, Ohio, West Virginia, and Maryland as well as all over Pennsylvania.

The Summer Biathlon is the major fund raiser for the Friends Group. The proceeds have contributed to many projects in the park over the last 6 years. For the biathlon to be a successful fund raiser it requires many volunteers as well as participants and sponsors. You can get involved by participating, volunteering, sponsoring, or just coming out to support the event. Entry forms can be found on our website at www.orgsites.com/PA/focsp or at the park office. For information or to volunteer or donate contact John Sims, Race Director at pjam@venustel.com or call (814)354-2802.



The Rifle Range



Running Penalty loops

Oil Creek Bios

Dave Hallman

Dave began his Bureau of State Parks career in 2007 as an environmental education specialist assigned to Kettle Creek State Park, Clinton County, and Ole Bull State Park, Potter County. For two years he was the Assistant Park Manger at Nockamixon State Park. He also worked as an education specialist at Sizerville State Park, Cameron County and as a park manager trainee with the bureau's Region 2 office at Moraine State Park, Butler County.

Dave is native of Dayton, Armstrong County. He has a bachelor's degree in *Parks and Resource Management* from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of the *Act 120 Police Academy* at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, National Park Service Ranger Academy and the PA Correctional Academy. Dave is married; he and his wife, Mindy, are the proud parents of a 2-year-old son.



Loren Holler

Loren has recently joined Oil Creek State Park as a Semi-skilled Laborer. Loren graduated from Lawrence County Vo-Tech's three year drafting program. He was in the U.S. Navy Seabees for four years. Loren and his wife, Debbie, have four children and seven grandchildren. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, and rebuilding old cars and bikes.



Chris Mertz

Chris started working at Oil Creek State Park as a Semi-skilled Laborer last fall for a few weeks before the end of the season and has returned for this season. He started with DCNR as an intern at Moraine State Park. He is 32 years old and is an Oil City Native. He lives in Prospect, PA with his wife of six years and their two children. He graduated from Slippery Rock University with a degree in Parks and Resource Management and Hotel/Resort management. His wife is a teacher at Longmore Academy. Chris enjoys camping and working in the yard. While at work Chris does mowing, painting, stocks and cleans the facilities around the park, and other light maintenance work. Welcome to Oil Creek Chris!



Some
Summer
Sights



President's Column

Summer is in full swing, and this is the traditional time of the year when most people go to our state parks. As soon as Labor Day is over the numbers will drop off dramatically until the following Memorial Day weekend when they'll pick up again.

The same holds true here at Oil Creek State Park. But even at our peak times we still have plenty of room for more visitors without making anyone feel crowded. There are over 7,000 acres of the great outdoors to enjoy, and any number of ways to enjoy them.

Recently a new monitor has been added in the breeze-way of the park office. Its purpose is to present a short, continuous slideshow of various things pertaining to the park. These shows will be changed from time to time so be sure to take a look at it often. Some of the things we intend to present are features of the park such as particular places or landmarks as well as historical sites. There will also be photos of wildlife, plants and other subjects found in nature. You can expect to see pictures that were taken at special events like the nature activities or the Biathlon and Oil Creek 100 races.

As this is being written, we are just in the beginning stages of making use of this new facility. We want to be able to show through it many of the assets the park has to offer. Hopefully it will spark a desire for the viewer to go out and take a closer look for those things in real life on their own.

And finally, this monitor will be playing all year round. Even though the number of visitors may die down come fall, the park itself doesn't. It still has more things to do and see, fall through spring, than any one person could ever fit into their schedule.

So be sure to stop by the office and take a look at our new monitor. Maybe you'll see some things that you didn't even know were here. Then go out and experience them for yourself.

Herby F. Neubert



Herby F. Neubert North Country Creations

Who Are these guys and gals?

Who are those guys standing in the stream waving a stick? And why are they here in Oil Creek State Park? If you were in the park over the last few months, you no doubt saw a number of anglers in the stream with a fly rod. Just what are they doing and why are they doing it here? Fly fishing is a sport that is very connected with nature. It is centered around Aquatic Entomology. So why Oil Creek, a stream that many years ago ran nothing but oil? Today Oil Creek is a clean vibrant watershed. It is one of the richest streams in terms of Aquatic Insects in Western PA. That is why you see anglers from around the country waving a fly rod here.



Fly fishing is based on insects that live in the stream. They are the natural food for Trout and other species of fish. These insects live in the stream for most of their lives. When it is time, they crawl out from under the rocks and swim to the surface to “hatch”. That is when the insect changes from a nymph to a winged insect. They do this for mating purposes. The winged insect mates, deposits their eggs into the stream, and the life cycle continues. It is this hatching period that the fly fisherman lives for. As the insects live “under” the rocks, they are protected from a hungry fish. But when they come out of hiding to swim to the surface, they are an easy meal for the fish. Trout key in on these insects and will feed almost exclusively on them. A Trout has a natural instinct to feed on the most abundant food source that is easiest to obtain. A hatch triggers this instinct.

So, do these anglers come here because it is easy to catch Trout on Oil Creek? No Way! Fly anglers come here for a number of reasons beside the great insect hatches. The DHALO areas at the Drake Well and Petroleum Center are the heaviest fished areas of the stream. These areas are catch and release areas. After Trout are caught and released, they learn to be careful of what they eat. Their instincts that we use against them become even more acute. This makes the challenge of catching them more difficult. It is this challenge that drives us as fly anglers. We try to tie fur and feathers to a hook to look more like the insects the Trout are eating. We hone our fly casting skills to present this weightless fly to the Trout in a natural way. We study the insects to make sure we know what insect is going to hatch at what time and how to imitate it. We study the way the Trout eats the fly to give us a clue as to what insect they are eating when more than one insect is on the water. I can go on and on about the tactics a fly fisherman uses to catch this fish that will then be released to be challenged again another day. But I think you get the idea.

These anglers waving sticks at fish are anglers that are in touch with the natural world under the water, enjoy a challenge, appreciate the instincts of their quarry, and get to play in some of the most beautiful areas of the country. Oil Creek State Park meets all these requirements. Get out and enjoy them.



By Mike Laskowski
Oil Creek Outfitters



Mayfly “Blue Quail” hatching

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY BEAR SIGHTINGS IN OIL CREEK THIS SEASON. ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN WITHOUT INCIDENT, AND A THRILL FOR THE OBSERVER. AS A REMINDER OF CORRECT AND SAFE BEHAVIOR WHEN ENCOUNTERING A BEAR, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING FROM THE PA GAME COMMISSION.



When afield in Penn's Woods:

1. Keep your camp clean and odor free. Wipe tables and clean eating utensils thoroughly after every meal. Burn all grease off grills and camp stoves.
 2. Store your food in safe or bear-proof places, in your car trunk, for example, or suspended from a tree branch. **Never have food in your tent.**
 3. Dispose of garbage properly. Use the camp receptacles if provided, or store trash in your vehicle. Pack out your garbage if you must, but never leave your garbage behind.
 4. If you hike at dawn or dusk, or where hearing or visibility is impaired (roar of fast moving water, thick vegetation), reduce your chances of surprising a bear by talking or making noise.
 5. Leave dogs at home or keep them on a leash.
- In short, keep your entire campsite free of all food smells.

What to do if you meet a bear

Bear attacks are extremely rare, especially considering how often people encounter them. In most cases, a bear will detect you first and leave the area long before you'll ever see it. However, if you do meet a bear before it's had time to leave, here are some suggestions. But remember, every bear encounter is different.

Stay calm — If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, leave the area calmly. While moving away, talk to help the bear discover your presence.

Get back — If you have a close encounter, back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact, which a bear may perceive as a threat. Give the bear plenty of room to escape.

Wild bears rarely attack people unless they feel threatened or provoked. If you're on a trail, step off on the downhill side and slowly leave the area.

Don't climb or run — If a cub is nearby, try to move away from it. But be alert, there could be other cubs. Never climb a tree to escape, because sows chase their cubs up trees when they detect danger. If you climb a tree, a sow may interpret that as an attempt to get her cubs. Stay on the ground and don't make any sudden movements. Running may prompt the bear to give chase; nobody can outrun a bear.

Pay attention — Bears will use all of their senses to figure out what you are. If they recognize you as a person, some may stand upright or move closer in their efforts to detect odors in the air currents. Don't consider this a sign of aggression. Once a bear identifies you, it will usually leave.

However, if the bear stays, it may pop its jaws as a warning sign that it's uncomfortable.

That's a sign for you to leave. Back away and slowly leave the area. If the jaw popping warning is ignored, some bears have been known to bluff charge to within a few feet. If this occurs, wave your arms wildly and shout at the bear.

Fight Back — Again, black bear attacks are extremely rare. However, they have occurred. If a bear attacks, fight back. Bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, binoculars and even their bare hands.



Support Your Friends and Community



All proceeds benefit the educational programs, events and focus projects within Oil Creek State Park.

Park Office Hours:

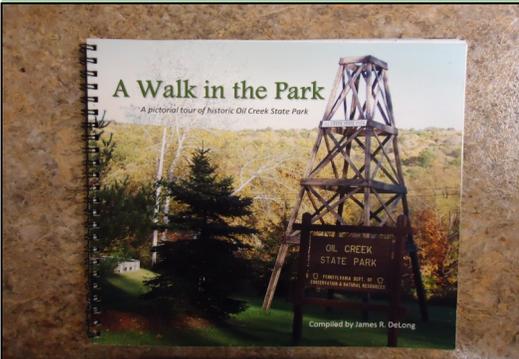
Monday through Friday 8 AM to 4 PM
Saturday and Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM

Contact the Park Office at 814-676-5915



Friends of Oil Creek State Park T-Shirts
\$ 15.00

Pennsylvania State Park Calendars
\$8.49 + Tax



A Walk in the Park Photo Guide to Oil Creek State Park



Oil Creek State Park Pin
\$ 5.00



Friends of Oil Creek Patch
\$ 3.00



Friends of Oil Creek State

305 State Park Road
Oil City, PA 16301
Park Office Phone: 814-676-5915
E-Mail: friendsocsp@gmail.com
Website: www.orgsites.com/pa/focsp

Friends of Oil Creek State Park contribute in many ways to the community and our resource. Each member receives a quarterly newsletter that has details of park programs, volunteer dates, events that take place and more!

