



Bike trail

Snow Toward Evening
by Melville Cane
*Suddenly the sky turned gray,
The day,
Which had been bitter and chill,
Grew soft and still.
Quietly
From some invisible blossoming
tree
Millions of petals cool and white
Drifted and blew
Lifted and flew,
Feel into the night.*

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Park Manager's Report

With an abundant food supply throughout OCSP hunters have had plenty of opportunity to fill their tags. Bear season seemed to be very active. I have heard of approx. 9 bear being taken within the park boundaries, and those are only the ones that I know of. Even with that many being taken we are still having bear sightings and are seeing bear signs. PA's overall harvest numbers are expected to be lower than numbers from previous years. The 2012 bear season was predicted to possibly be the best harvest year ever in PA. However, the lack of snow and warm temperatures seemed to have kept numbers on the low side.

For those of you that may not know, PA has an estimated black bear population of 18,000 statewide. Hunters harvest between 2,500 and 4,000 bear each year. PA's bear population is alive and well.

I have not heard how our deer hunters are doing?? I have only heard of several bucks being taken and a few doe. Judging by the numbers of shots I was hearing, I would say that the harvest numbers are higher than what I think. You still have time to fill the freezer, second season muzzleloader and archery came in the day after Christmas. So, good luck to anyone that is planning on braving January temperatures during the late deer season. I know I will be out there freezing, trying to fill my last doe tag. For anyone that is not interested in deer hunting, or has tagged out, you might want to try for late season grouse or rabbit. Numbers from both species seem to be up throughout the park. Even if you are unsuccessful you will at least get some much needed exercise after all the Holiday food we will be eating. I wish all of you the best in the upcoming year.

Dave Hallman
Park Manager



Joe Smith and Tom Depriest-muzzleloader hunting



...Ascending the switchback after aid station 1 for the third time...



The 4th Annual OC 100 race was held October 6th. It was a great success with 380 starters and 302 who finished. The race consists of three races -- 50K, 100K, and the main race-100 miles. The 100 mile race is a - “National Ultra Championship” race - noted with *Road Runners Club Of America*..

The day was beautiful with temperatures starting out in the low twenties and rising to comfortable running conditions. Everyone involved in the race was delighted with the smoothness and professionalism in which the race was run. All this can be attributed to Tom Jennings, the race director. Tom does an amazing job getting all the components in order. His job involves so many facets. Tom is often cited as giving much credit to the volunteers who he believes make the event possible. The volunteers do things such as setting up and running the aid stations, placing flags throughout the course, running water and supplies between the aid stations , time checking, food preparation, and...the list goes on. Also, at the end of the race Jeff Nelson, who had already run the 50k, Mike Stimac, Jeff Singleton, and Scott Shaw ran the course as “sweepers” to ensure that all the participants were off the course and safe. (Jeff Nelson came in second in the 50k...He and Lonnie Heeter, the winner, were close the entire race. Jeff was a second behind. Jeff and his wife Heather are major volunteers with the race. Other main volunteers are Katie and Adam Peterson (who ran the 100 miler), Tom Lane (another 100miler), Shelly Sampson, and Julie Brown.

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.”

Race participants and volunteers enjoying the pasta dinner the night before the race.



Karen Roofner, Ray Gerard’s daughter , came to the pasta dinner and was recognized during the race meeting. Karen shared many interesting stories about her father’s making of the Gerard Hiking Trail. She is seen here reunited with a past teacher of hers Carl Meinsterifel. (Karl is a member of the FOOC and the Over the Hill Gang.)

Cross Country Skiing



NIGHT SKIING AT OIL CREEK STATE PARK

January 12th and February 9th

Come and enjoy night skiing on the groomed x-country ski trails at Oil Creek State Park.

We will gather at ski warming hut and leave promptly at 7PM.

Please bring skis, flashlight, and a snack.

These events are **free** to the public.

January 26th is the make-up date if skiing conditions are poor on the 12th.

The Cross Country ski season has gotten off to a great start. The ski trails opened on December 26th and the trails have been opened ever since. Conditions are excellent with grooming having been done several times.

Passes are available M-F at the park office; they are available on weekends at the trail head.

(The park office is open 8-330.)

For daily ski conditions check out the Friend's website: <http://www.orgsites.com/pa/focsp/index.html>

Also check out the following Facebook sites:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/121268010190/?fref=ts> and

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oil-Creek-State-Park/293530447356844>

It's Starting Again

Once again we're at the beginning of a new year. At least that's what the calendar tells us. But nature has no such calendar, so it goes merrily on its way regardless of what men have put down on paper. Nonetheless, we still look forward towards all of the things that a new year might have to offer.

This is also the time of year when we resolve to do things differently than we did in the past, or to try something new. Nature provides an endless number of things to do or try, and Oil Creek State Park offers quite a few of them, and in good variety.

One hope for this New Year is that we get more snow than last year so we can use the cross country ski trails to full advantage. John and Peg Sims are doing a great job making sure that the trails are ready and in good shape as soon as the snow is deep enough for skiing. If you haven't tried this sport yet, this might be the year to give it a shot.

Usually our resolutions and efforts don't last as long as the snow does, but the activities here at Oil Creek keep on going. And this year we're making plans to provide introductory instruction for some of them. Here are a few that we're working on.

Fishing season is open all year long in the Delayed Harvest portions of the creek, and the season opener for trout will be April 13th. If you've never tried fly fishing but would like to, an introductory course will be offered. We may also have a hands-on program for tying flies. These were a big success last year.

If outdoor photography is more to your liking, a program on that is going to be offered. O.C.S.P. has an endless amount of scenes and subjects just waiting for the camera.

If you're of the female gender, we have big plans for you. This year we want to begin an all day seminar on various outdoor skills that more and more women are taking advantage of all across America. It's called Women in the Wilds. Some of the other state parks have already offered this and they've been very well attended. We will offer a number of different activities and the ladies can choose which one(s) they want to participate in. These may include, but are not limited to, things like fly fishing and tying, cooking over an open fire, outdoor photography, learning to use a GPS unit, archery, canoeing, shooting firearms, etc. We're going to start off with a one day show, but would like to extend it to a three day weekend from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon once we get our feet wet.

Maybe this year you'd like to join the Friends of Oil Creek S.P. and help out with some of the projects. Or maybe you'd like to help with some of the maintenance of the trails and other things that need tending to.

The point is, now is the perfect time to get outdoors and enjoy the things the park has to offer.

And it's a good time to give a little bit back to the land. I hope to see you out there somewhere having the time of your life. Before you know it, it'll be January 2014. What will you be able to say you did "last year"?



Kirby F. Neubert North Country Creations

Kirby F. Neubert
President

Oil Creek Eagle Pictures by Dot Monahan



Dot Monahan is a local amateur photographer who can be seen all around Oil Creek taking pictures. She has a huge interest in the Oil Creek eagles. These are some of her amazing photos. Dot has won a few deserving photography awards.

Support Your Friends and Community



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

Park Office Hours:

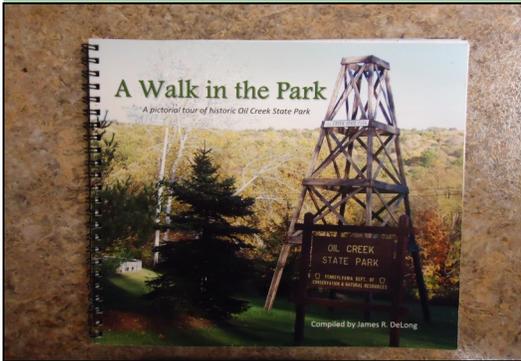
Monday through Friday 8 AM to 4 PM
Saturday and Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM

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
\$ 15.00 + Tax



Oil Creek State Park Pin
\$ 5.00



Friends of Oil Creek Patch
\$ 3.00



**Friends of
Oil Creek State Park**

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