

FWCCSP RECORD

Newsletter of the Friends of White Clay Creek State Park

Friends of White Clay Creek State Park
P.O. Box 9734
Newark, DE 19714-9734
www.whiteclayfriends.org

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November 2011

Fall membership Meeting on December 7th Features “Restoring Shad to the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River”

Join water resources expert Jerry Kauffman to learn about a project to remove old mill dams along White Clay Creek to restore American shad to their ancient spawning grounds on the creek. The current focus of efforts is Dam No. 1, constructed just above the head of tide near Stanton, Delaware. The dam was built in 1777 in the weeks before George Washington visited the nearby Hale Byrnes House Mill after the Revolutionary War Battle of Cooch’s Bridge. When this dam is removed during the winter of 2011/2012, over 5 miles of stream habitat will be reopened to shad spawning and passage for the first time in over two centuries. The presentation will also cover current plans for other dams farther upstream on the creek.

Jerry Kauffman is Project Director (Water Resources Agency) in the University of Delaware’s Institute for Public Administration. The shad restoration project is a joint effort of the University of Delaware, Delaware Park, Duffield Associates, Fish America Foundation, and the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River Watershed Committee.

The evening will begin with social time and beverage service at 6:30 pm followed by the meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at the Deerfield Golf and Tennis Club, 507 Thompson Station Road, Newark. It is free and open to the general public. No reservations are required. For further information, call 302-239-2471.

New Officer and Executive Committee Members Elected

We are very pleased to announce the elections of E.J. Gallagher as Treasurer and Elaine Burg as Chair of our new Media and Communications Committee.

Elaine was elected by the Officers of the Friends on October 12 to the position of Chair, Media and Communications Committee. This is a new standing committee of the Friends, established to strengthen our communications with our members and with the outside world. Elaine has held a number of marketing-related positions in her professional career and is an active user of the park. Anyone interested in working with her on this new committee is invited to contact her at elaine.burg215@gmail.com.

E.J. was elected by the Executive Committee on November 9 to fill the unexpired term of Ken Daws, our Treasurer, who plans to resign effective January 1, 2012. E.J. is

an experienced accounting, finance, and operations professional, who often hikes in the park with his two sons.

Ken has done an outstanding job as our Treasurer since 2002. Under his leadership we always passed our audits with flying colors. We have also very much appreciated his many contributions to our organization as a highly valued Executive Committee member and as a volunteer in our Nature Center Staffing and Water Ice Sales projects. Ken is resigning because of increased time demands of his work as a tax accountant. We thank him for his years of excellent service to our organization.

Jim Ries Has Resigned as Projects Coordinator

We are sorry to report that Jim Ries, our Projects Coordinator since 2004, has decided to resign from our Executive Committee due to ongoing serious health problems.

For more than 8 years, Jim has been one of the stalwart leaders of our group. He did a great job of finding project leaders and helping them get going, and he was an excellent leader for the projects he chose to lead himself. He has also been a highly valued member of our Executive Committee, providing updates on our projects and our volunteers, as well as giving sound advice on directions for the organization. For all of these reasons, he will be sorely missed, and we thank him for all his good work.

Anyone interested in following in Jim's footsteps as our Projects Coordinator is invited to contact Andy Urquhart at 302-239-2471.

New Citizens Advisory Council for WCCSP is Up and Running

The new Citizens Advisory Council for White Clay Creek State Park held its first meeting on October 11, 2011. The purpose of the council is to provide citizens with a better opportunity to advise the Division of Parks and Recreation on the development and operation of the park. The council consists of representatives of 12 different user groups of the park, including the Friends.

All meetings of the Council are open, and the public is encouraged to attend. Meeting announcements (including agendas) and minutes will be posted on the web site of the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Future meetings are scheduled for January 24, April 24, and July 24, 2012.

Bluebird Box Monitors Record a Large Number of Fledglings

From April to September this year, 17 volunteers monitored 83 bluebird boxes located in White Clay Creek State Park. For an hour or two weekly, the volunteers visited the boxes and recorded information such as the species, number of eggs, nestlings and how many successfully fledged. Preliminary figures are 193 eastern bluebird fledglings, 74 tree swallows, and 22 house wrens.

The rewards of volunteering for bluebird monitoring include the thrill of discovering bluebird eggs in the nest, seeing the nestlings, and watching them develop and finally leave the nest. Of course, additional benefits include walking the trails and enjoying nature and being outdoors in our beautiful park.

To become a volunteer you don't need experience, just a Phillips screw driver and a mirror. If you would like to become a bluebird monitor kindly contact our project leader Debra Chiczewski Price at dprice@ppg.com.

Trail Construction Volunteers Repair Storm-Damaged Trail

Both Hurricane Irene followed ten days later, by Tropical Storm Lee overflowed the banks of White Clay Creek causing severe erosion of segments of the Nature Preserve Trail along the creek, put major portions of the trail underwater, and resulted in many fallen trees blocking the trail. Trail construction work parties quickly corrected the most serious damage after both storms by replacing lost trail segments and removing fallen trees so the trail could continue to be used. Subsequent work focused on correcting the more minor trail damage. One small bridge ramp that was swept downstream had to be replaced. After over 200 volunteer hours by the Friends, along with assistance from the Wilmington Trail Club and some U of D students, the trail is now in excellent shape.

With winter approaching, the final trail construction session will occur on 12/11 and then pick back up in the spring. Volunteers are always welcome, even if it's just to see if you might like working on the trails or just want to give it a try. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Mike Ott at mikeott52@aol.com.

Adopt-A Trail Could Use More Volunteers

Participants in Adopt-A Trail take responsibility for a specific trail or trail section. This involves walking the trail on a monthly basis. Along with doing a general inspection and reporting problems, volunteers also perform trail trimming and removal of downed branches on the trail surface. This usually takes only 2-3 hours every month. It can be done by a single person, a few friends, or a small group. There are still many trails that are available for adoption if you would like to participate in this program. Training is provided for all new participants. If you are interested, please e-mail Mike Ott at mikeott52@aol.com

Friends' Scholarship Program Continues Strong

The Friends are continuing to offer scholarships to disadvantaged children in local schools attending programs at the park. So far, 2011 has been an active year, as we have spent \$1,777 in scholarships helping 615 children who receive free or reduced price lunches at their schools.

This program began in 2007 with a donation from the Bolocan family and has continued more recently with unrestricted funds from the Friends treasury. That first year we had three schools apply for the scholarships. Now in its fifth year we have had 13 schools apply and more may still come in. Our goal is to see that no disadvantaged children are denied the opportunity to participate in these programs because they cannot afford it.

Calendar of Scheduled Activities

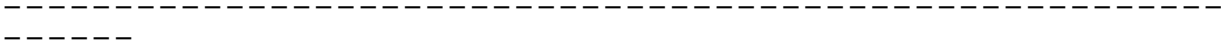
December 7, 2011	Fall Membership Meeting
December 11	Trail Work
December 14	Executive Committee Meeting
January 11, 2012	Executive Committee Meeting
February 8	Executive Committee Meeting
March 14	Executive Committee Meeting
Late March	Annual Membership Meeting
April 11	Executive Committee Meeting
April 21	Trail Work – Christina River Cleanup
May 5	Trail Work
May 9	Executive Committee Meeting
June 2	Trail Work
June 13	Executive Committee Meeting
July 4	Trail Work
August 4	Trail Work
August 8	Executive Committee Meeting
September 8	Trail Work
September 12	Executive Committee Meeting
October 6	Trail Work
October 10	Executive Committee Meeting
November 4	Trail Work
November 14	Executive Committee Meeting
December 2	Trail Work
December 12	Executive Committee Meeting

Projects and Project Leaders

Adopt-a-Trail: Mike Ott, 738-6652	Nature Center Exhibits: Angel Burns, 368-6560
Advocacy: Andy Urquhart, 239-2471	Nature Center Staffing: Open
Birders Guide: Andy Urquhart, 239-2471	Newark Community Day: Open
Bluebird Boxes: Debra Chiczewski Price, 234-0919	Oral Histories: Fraser Russell, 731-4293
Conservation: Andy Urquhart, 239-2471	Park Office Plantings: Carolyn Stoner and Jayne Fernsler, 453-8440
Historical Publications: Fraser Russell, 731-4293	Reforestation: Christa Stefanisko, 369-1933
Judge Morris Support Group: Cathy Duffus, 731-9794	Scholarship Funds: Angel Burns, 368-6560
Kestrel Boxes: Andy Urquhart, 239-2471	Trail Benches: Andy Urquhart, 239-2471
Light Construction: Nick McFadden, 368-6900	Trail Improvement Work: Mike Ott, 738-6652, and Joe Castagnola, 610-255-0365
Member-led Park Programs: Angel Burns, 368-6560	Water Ice Sales: Joe Calabretta, 610-869-8358
	Website: Rick Hall

Executive Committee

President: Andy Urquhart, 239-2471, aurqu@aol.com
Vice-president: Debbie Chiczewski Price, 234-0919, dprice@ppg.com
Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Dick Benson, 610-869-2819, rbenson6@comcast.net
Treasurer: Ken Daws, 737-8120, wahkegan@hotmail.com
Media and Communications Chair: Elaine Burg, 562-5657, elaine.burg215@gmail.com
Membership Chair: Lisa Wool, 562-9788, lwool@delawareestuary.org
Projects Committee Chair: Open
Trails Committee Chair: Mike Ott, 738-6652, mikeott52@aol.com



Membership Application

Join us! If you are not already a member and would like to join, please return this form with your check made payable to Friends of White Clay Creek State Park. Annual dues are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, and \$15.00 for families. Any extra donation with your dues would be appreciated and put to good use.

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone (____)_____ E-mail _____

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