

FRIENDS OF WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK, INC.

P.O. Box 9734, Newark, DE 19714-9734; www.WhiteClayFriends.org

2017 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

This year, we contributed 1,700+ hours of volunteer time in support of the park. In addition, we provided important financial support for the park and its programs.

Our 2017 work involved several different activities:

Mike Ott - Trail Construction/Repair: 45 hours of work by 10 volunteers. Work included repairs on Nature Preserve Trail and installing two benches on Delaware section of new TriState Marker Trail.

Mike Ott - Adopt-a-trail program provided regular monitoring and maintenance of trails. 90 hours of work by 9 volunteers. Provided regular monitoring, trimming and maintenance of trails

Allen Sievert, Kathleen Sullivan - The White Clay Creek State Park Nature Center was open on forty-four Saturday and Sunday afternoons during May through October in 2017. Our staff of 23 volunteers provided 292 hours of service by greeting visitors, providing maps, and answering questions.

Kathleen Sullivan, Barbara Woodford - Nature Center enhancements: Friends' volunteers (most often Bill Walsh) devoted many hundreds of hours to maintenance and improvements at the Nature Center including scraping and painting the front porch (with assistance from our maintenance team), maintenance of wood piles at nature center and Robinson house, maintaining 'fairy trail' used by preschoolers during summer camp, updating road signs and banner placement throughout the year, brainstorming ideas for placement of pfd's during summer camp on the outside of shed, advocating for improvements to the Nature Center and Robinson's education area. Other Support to Programming: Addition of bike stand at Nature Center Parking Lot, pizza for the Counselor in Training (CIT) training in June, White Clay Creek Fest Funding of the presentation by the Brandywine Zoo and Sponsorship for the Labor Day Concert performance, Boy In Black: A Johnny Cash Tribute

Susie Lloyd - Park Bench Program: In the spring of 2016 we started working with enthusiasm on the Park Bench Program. We have placed three new benches and a fourth has been rehabilitated and replaced. Two of the new benches are on the Tri-State Marker trail placed by Mike Ott and his trail maintenance crew. Mike, Susie and Doug Lloyd placed a third new bench on the David English trail north of the park office and replaced a fourth bench on the Charles Bailey trail. Mike made repairs to four other benches during 2016, and in June he walked the entire park to evaluate the condition of all the benches. We have a working spreadsheet to keep all our benches organized.

We have approval for placement of a new bench in Carpenter Area on a relocated trail near Millstone Pond. We have found a local source for the wood to make some new benches and a dear friend (Bill) has agreed to build them for us. The wood will be drying during the winter and spring months but once dried we can start working on the new benches. Winter will keep us out of the woods for now but when spring 2017 arrives we will be out working on the bench program again.

It is a long wait (years) for those who would like to dedicate benches, but we also have a tree dedication program in the park should you wish to choose this alternative. You can reach Susie Lloyd at fwccsp@gmail.com for more information.

Amy Reed - Nest Box Monitoring: The birds had a good breeding season! The ones using our boxes brought 413 new birds into the world! However, this number is down 8% from last year.

Barbara Woodford - Scholarship funding helped more than 1,380 children for a total of just under \$4,200. The students participated in environmental educational programs such as Geology, Sand and Soil and Life, Land and Water. Students from 1st to 5th grade attended programs given by the Nature Center staff. Those children, often having their first real experience in nature, benefited from the Friends additional scholarship funding requests to meet the needs from additional Title I schools. Education-related expenditures of approximately \$4,263 constituted 30% of our total expenditures.

Kathleen Sullivan - Nest Cameras at the Nature Center: The Phoebes settled in and began building their nest above the outside corner of the Nature Center all under the watchful camera placed by John Thomas. She arrived on May 10 and began sitting on the nest on April 15, hatching began on May 5 and 5 new phoebes fledged by May 24. She had such success with the first clutch, she laid a second starting on June 1, having all four hatching and fledged by July 6. Meanwhile in the Bluebird Box the Carolina Wren began to lay eggs in the box. Just one week later, we noticed that a new nest was being built right on top of the wrens eggs. The aggressive tree swallow family set up shop, laying 6 eggs. The eggs all hatched, but one of the fledglings did not make it out of the box and expired in the nest. Because of the cameras, we later saw the circle of life, when carrion beetles 'cleaned up' the expired fledgling. So once again many hundreds of school children were able to watch the nesting process. Summer camp children got to watch them fledge!!

Sheila Smith - Native plant gardens at the Park Office continue to be well maintained by Friends members.

Debbie Chiczewski and Dave Koppeser - Friends' Members both led and staffed numerous Park programs serving many participants. Friends' volunteers donated their time on behalf of the Park for Creek Fest, the First Day hike, summer concert series 50/50 sales and parking help, building props for the Mystery at the Mansion, the White Clay Walking Club, Fly Fishing programs, and the ever important White Clay Cleanup. At the Judge Morris Estate Friends supported Murder Mystery Nights both on stage and behind the scenes, and helped write the play. Friends' volunteers also helped with holiday wreath making and the Veterans Day apple pie social. Our summer concert series drew more than 15,000 people to the park, and with their high visibility at those events, the Friends were able to reach and serve a remarkable number of visitors.

Joe Calabretta and Debbie Chiczewski - Water ice was sold at summer concerts primarily as a service to concertgoers. This service has been in operation for the past 18 years and is a source of revenue in support of our mission. This year 50/50 ticket raffles were held at concerts throughout the season and we will continue in 2018. **We also worked to sustain our organization and its ability to support the park, including:** sponsorship of summer concerts and increase to scholarship funds.

Joe Calabretta - Raising funds by selling woodcrafts and hats at the park office for a total of \$1,053.

Debbie Chiczewski, Dave Koppeser, Joe Calabretta - Funding and volunteer efforts provided by FWCCSP enabled additional enhancements to the Park, including: sponsorship of the summer concerts, support for programs like Animal Connection during Creek Fest and the installation of Dero Bike Racks in the Park

Joe Calabretta - Maintaining a strong financial position—total revenue in 2017 was relatively in line with budgeted amounts while expenses were higher than budget based on increased scholarship funding requested by the Park.

Debbie Chiczewski - The Friends strive to communicate regularly with our members and the general public through our [website, www.WhiteClayFriends.org](http://www.WhiteClayFriends.org), newsletters, and membership meetings which are a priority. Our Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteClayFriends> and we mainly post things pertaining to the FWCCSP and WCCSP. This includes program updates, hunting announcements, and sharing posts from our park partners such as The Wilmington Trail Club, Deerfield and other Citizens Advisory Council Member Groups. We also share posts from local neighbors such as the City of Newark, PA Preserve and Friends of the PA Preserve, and the WC Wild and Scenic Rivers program, as well as sharing announcements about nature and other parks. Our page has grown in 2016, with an increase in our "likes" and we are fast approaching 1,500. We thank all of our members for making these activities possible through their leadership, dedication, volunteer hours, and generous financial support.

**2016 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
AND 2017 BUDGET**

	2016	2017
Unrestricted Support and Revenues		
Contributions REI	12,500.00	10,000.00
Membership Dues	2,022.94	1,940.00
Water Ice Sales	744.00	750.00
Bowl, Stick and Hat Sales	1,053.00	750.00
Fundraising Events	2,940.01	1,800.00
Interest Income	10.35	10.00
Total	22,200.95	20,250.00
Expenses		
Projects		
Creek Fest & Concerts	3,654.00	5,600.00
Park Support	4,451.24	6,805.00
REI Projects	1,200.00	12,313.12
Scholarship Funding	4,363.00	4,200.00
Fundraising Events Expense	0.00	100.00
Filing Fee & Insurance	388.23	425.00
Brochures & Publicity	48.28	400.00
Membership Meetings	0	200.00
Office Expense & Postage	432.75	625.00
Total	14,537.50	30,668.12
Net Revenue/Revenue less Expenses	7,663.45	(10,418.12)
Net Assets		
Beginning for Period	35,446.35	43,109.80
End of Period	43,109.80	32,691.68

Executive Committee

**Debra Chiczewski Price
President**

**Art Sullivan
Vice President**

**Dave Koppeser
Secretary**

**Edward J. Gallagher/Joe Calabretta
Treasurer**

**Art Sullivan
Media & Communications Chair**

**Susie Lloyd
Membership Chair**

**Michael W. Ott
Trail Work Coordinator**

**Stefan Chiczewski
Projects Coordinator**

Financial Review – On February 25, 2017 we, the Financial Review Committee appointed by the President, reviewed the financial records of the Friends of White Clay Creek State Park. We determined that the above statement fairly represents the financial activities and net assets of the organization for the year ended December 31, 2016. All financial records are open for review by members at any time upon request. Jeannette Schuler, Fletcher Partridge, Sherri Haller and Steve Sheft.