



# FWCCSP RECORD

April 2024

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## Friends Annual Meeting - March 26, 2024

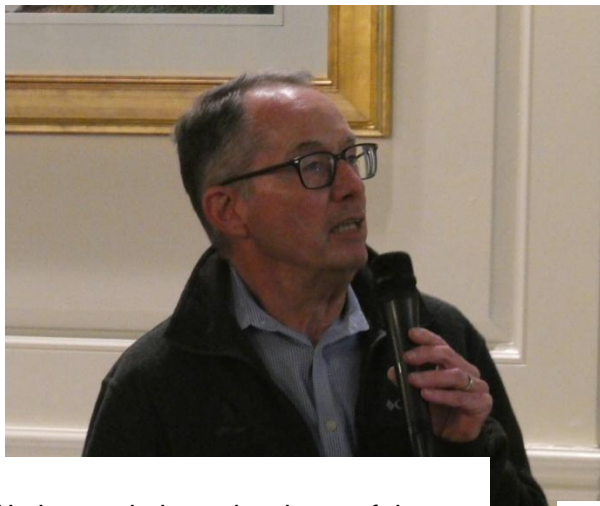
Thank you to all the members and guests who attended the Friends Annual meeting! It was a great success with over 100 people in attendance.



Our fearless leader Dave Koppeser provided an update on the Friends activities:



Park Superintendent Laura Lee and Planning and Development Mgr Brooks Cahall presented the major issues affecting the Park



We learned about the dams of the White Clay from Kevin Donnelly, NC County Conservation District



And Prof. Jay Custer from the University of Delaware presented on archaeological research and the Lenape and their ancestors.



Mike Ott presented the nomination of officers, and in another squeaker they were all elected by members present at the annual meeting.

President - David Koppeser

Treasurer - Joe Calabretta

Secretary - Lori Hans

Other Executive Committee members are

Membership - Kris Kuss

Trails - Mike Czupryna

This leaves the following **VACANCIES!!**

Vice President

Volunteer Coordinator

Publicity

Curious about the **VACANCIES** on our Exec. Comm.? Contact [presidentfwccsp@gmail.com](mailto:presidentfwccsp@gmail.com)

## A Note from our Superintendent

Goodbye Winter!

Things are popping at the park! There's nothing quite like that first hike when you start to see the plants emerging. Hiking the Bryan's Field trail (at Possum Hill Area) is my favorite, as the grandkids can handle the terrain, there's an amazing pond with handicapped accessible docks, and a lot of nature discoveries to be had. Their quest included finding 'signs of an animal' (they found a plethora of chewed nuts and some deer fur), and my favorite spring native Bloodroot. Of course, they took only pictures, and left only footprints. Seeing the park through their eyes was a great start to the season for me.

On the cultural resources front there is great news- three barns are about to receive some much-needed TLC. The Eastburn Barn (on Pleasant Hill Road) was the barn we thought was in great shape- until one day when the Clover Hill Farm 4H group discovered the interior masonry wall of one side had a blowout. This beautiful barn is on the National Register of Historic Places and home to the 4H's goat program. The repair is pressing as a delay could result in more rock falling and an increased cost. The Wells Barn (off of Wedgewood Road) is about to receive a much-needed new roof which will protect the framing repairs done last year. The Niven Barn (at Nine Foot Road) is about to receive critical framing and stabilization repairs, with a roof to follow.

Nature Center project planning continues; unfortunately, the projected cost of the build exceeds the amount of funding allotted by the Legislature. There have been a few 'engineering diet' meetings to take a hard look at the space planned and how to make money-saving cuts. We expect to see a proposed design in the coming weeks. The Big Pond project had a public meeting explaining that the size of the proposed pond triggers issues including removal of 5 acres of trees and a much larger dam than previously envisioned. As a result, the cost escalated significantly over what was expected. We look forward to updates from our Planning, Preservation, and Development section on the future path of the project.

It's finally here- four of our properties should soon be posted as partnership opportunities, to help us maintain and improve them. The Judge Morris Estate is back out for a Request for Proposals, along with the Niven property, Lamborn Estate, and the Krapf house. These properties will greatly benefit from a partner that can help share the cost of repairs/maintenance while turning them into places the public can enjoy.

Everyone needs to check out the White Clay programs at [destateparks.com](http://destateparks.com)- Claire and the interpretive staff have some very cool new programs including Intro to Biomimicry. Got kids or grandkids? Check out our National Kids to Parks Day event- the White Clay Creek Flotilla on Saturday May 18th. Let your creative juices flow by making and decorating a vessel to sail in the creek. Using recyclable materials and the laws of physics, make a boat and test it before our grand parade of ships in the creek. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Check them all out! Let your creative juices flow by making and decorating a vessel to sail in the creek. Using recyclable materials and the laws of physics, make a boat and test it before our grand parade of ships in the creek. All children must be accompanied by an adult. We are looking forward to our Children with Challenges fishing programs in May, giving kids with disabilities an opportunity to get hooked on fishing. Consider stopping by for my Stroll with the Superintendent program as well on Sunday April 28. Lots going on!

## **Save the date for White Clay Creek Fest!**

Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 12:00 PM

Join Delaware State Parks, White Clay Wild and Scenic Program, National Park Service, Veolia Water and other organizations to celebrate the White Clay Creek.

There will have displays and exhibits related to the healthy water, healthy people, energy, recycling and our natural world.

Also enjoy games, hikes, live music, a live bird show, kid's activities and more! For more info visit [www.whiteclay.org](http://www.whiteclay.org). Free to attend!

## **Celebration of Major Park Expansion**

Gov. John Carney and Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Secretary Shawn M. Garvin on April 3 celebrated newly acquired land that adds 275 acres, or the equivalent to 7.5% of White Clay Creek State Park land holdings. The acquisition of properties is progressing in three phases:

Phase 1: about 90 acres – Acquisition completed in September 2023.

Phase 2: about 97 acres – Acquisition completed in January 2024

Phase 3: about 88 acres – Acquisition anticipated mid-2024

The \$26 million in acquisitions is being funded by multiple sources, including:

The Open Space Program – \$20 million from Fiscal Year 2023; the usual annual allocation to the program is \$10 million.

Mt. Cuba Center with The Conservation Fund – \$6 million

The Acres for America Program – \$500,000





DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation Open Space Program Planner Kerri Batrowny, Open Space Program Council member Lorraine Fleming, Division Director Ray Bivens, DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin, President of Friends of White Clay Creek State Park David Koppeser and Gov. John Carney celebrate the addition of 275 acres to White Clay Creek State Park./DNREC photo.

## [Upcoming Park Activities](#)

[Register online at https://destateparks.com/whiteclaycreek](https://destateparks.com/whiteclaycreek)

### **Nature Babies Session 2**

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 2 1/2. Bring your little ones out for their first nature programs at the park! Cost includes one parent /guardian with child. \$30 per child for the series. Register online. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900

### **Solar Eclipse Viewing**

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Join the naturalists for the partial solar eclipse viewing. Delaware will experience a partial solar eclipse (close to 85%) with the peak occurring at about 3:15 p.m. The eclipse is not something to watch with the naked eye. We will have a LIMITED number of eclipse viewing glasses available. Call to register, 302-368-6900. FREE

### **Nature Nuggets**

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM

For ages 2-5, we'll spend about 45 minutes with the preschoolers and their adults investigating a variety of nature topics(register child/adult is free). Join our naturalists for a weekday morning program series. Each Month we will explore something that is happening seasonally in our park with songs, a story and an outdoor adventure! Must pre-register by calling 302-368-6900. \$5 per child

### **Nature Babies Session 2**

Monday, April 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 2 1/2. Bring your little ones out for their first nature programs at the park! Cost includes one parent /guardian with child. \$30 per child for the series. Register online. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900

### **Hiking Series**

Monday, April 15, 2024 at 2:00 PM

New to the park? Ready to find a new favorite trail? Join our naturalist to explore our trails and learn a bit about the park while you're out. Dress for the weather, bring bottled water and come ready for adventure! Registration required by calling 302-368-6900; meeting location provided upon registration.

### **Stroller Ramblers**

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Do you want to hike stroller friendly paths with a Naturalist? Come explore our parks, learn about and share the nature we encounter with your little ones, and meet other caregivers and parents. Free Program, pre-register and get meeting location by calling 302-368-6900 by the day before.

### **Full Moon Friday**

Friday, April 19, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Join our park naturalist for an evening hike near the full moon. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900 prior to 3 p.m. Meeting location provided upon registration. \$6 per person

### **How Healthy is the Creek?**

Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM

In addition to being picturesque features in our parks, streams and ponds play an important part in the local ecosystem. This Earth Day join one of our programs to explore how the health of these waterways are monitored. Come discover some living indicators of water quality in the White Clay Creek. Be prepared to get your feet wet. Pre-registration required, call 302-368-6900. Free Program.

### **Mason and Dixon's Post Mark'd West History Hike**

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Join guest speaker Mike Ott for this exciting program. The Mason Dixon Line often cited in reference to the Civil War was really a survey to mark two large land holder's properties. The east-west boundary line began its history right here in the park. Join us on a moderate hike to this historic marker. Bring plenty of water. Space is limited, pre-registration is required by noon, Friday, April 19. Call 302-368-6900 to register and for meeting location.

### **Nature Babies Session 2**

Monday, April 22, 2024 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 2 1/2. Bring your little ones out for their first nature programs at the park! Cost includes one parent /guardian with child. \$30 per child for the series. Register online. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900

### **Orienteering Adventure**

Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Join volunteer Mary Frank from the Delaware Valley Orienteering Association for an intro to orienteering. This is a fun sport that involves navigational skills. Call to register by April 25. 302-368-6900. Free program. Appropriate for ages 5 and up with an adult partner.

### **Stroll with the Superintendent**

Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Hike with Park Superintendent Laura Lee along one of her favorite trails. Dress for the weather; bring plenty of water, and plan about 1 ½ hours of hiking and chatting. Call for meeting location, pre-registration required by noon on April 26. Free.

### **Nature Babies Session 2**

Monday, April 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 2 1/2. Bring your little ones out for their first nature programs at the park! Cost includes one parent /guardian with child. \$30 per child for the series. Register online. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900

## **Support the White Clay Creek State Park** **by Renewing your Membership!**

The more members we have, the more our voice is heard when we seek to preserve and enhance our Park. Please go to our [website](#) and click on the purple button.

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