



FWCCSP RECORD

July 2023

Superintendent's Note

Invaders Requiring Barberry Control and De-Vine Intervention: June 2023

Plant natives! This cry is heard far and wide, but what do you do when you have a 3,800 acre 'garden' that's already full of invasives? The 'preserves' of old were designated with the thought that if we just isolate an area and don't allow activity, it will stay 'preserved'. But such is not the case, as invasive plants know no boundaries. No longer can you designate a 'special area' and just walk away expecting botanical magic.

Our amazing forest restoration team (made up of both volunteers and staff) at the Judge Morris Estate is a shining example of success with a large tract of the park's land, with a challenging historic twist. Early 20th century garden practices promoted disastrous planting of species that we now battle with, 100 years later. Here are some of the alternative facts that Hugh Morris probably was reading in his Morning News, as he stoked his pipe on the patio:

Vines are the draperies which add the final touch of completeness to the costume of the 1931 garden. They clothe unsightly buildings and objects in foliage and flowers, they soften rigid lines, cover bare spaces of ground in the shrub borders, and transform an arbor or pergola into a bower of loveliness.

A good porch vine, and one which has no equal for rapidity of growth, is the Kudzu Vine. It bears a plentiful supply of rosy-purple, pea-shaped flowers in August, and its large foliage makes dense shade.

We are smarter and wiser now, making better planting choices and prioritizing removal of the most aggressive plants. Our De-Vine Intervention team was formed by a park patron (Bill Slater) that came in, asked what he can do to help solve the problem, received ESP training, and off he went to help lead the new group. You may see them through the park, trained at cutting the vines and allowing gradual death en masse.

This article ended with "... By planting vines, you can ensure the final touch of their magic completeness for many years"

Our Barberryans are another group that formed to solve a problem. We are thrilled that the Fall-Spring Woods were recently designated a Preserve but distressed when parks ESP leader Ben let us know it was full of barberry. Flash forward and another park patron (Cindy Kranz Greene) organized an army to attack this nasty stuff on a regular basis.

Meanwhile, the park maintenance staff is taking a greater role in supporting the ESP employee-volunteer team by helping to address the high priority areas. This includes getting a handle on the poison hemlock in areas adjacent to where people frequent such as trail heads and parking lots (hint- it's not as dangerous as social media makes it out to be- just don't eat it!). Cutting the heck out of Canada Thistle prior to it going to seed (repeatedly each season) is an alternative that eventually causes slowing of the spread when spraying is not feasible. The same can be said for Poison Hemlock control, and fortunately it does not spread quite as aggressively as Canada Thistle.

Control of invasives in the agriculturally leased land is a high priority with area for improvement. While **control is the lessor's responsibility** we have not been satisfied with their response, particularly regarding the legally noxious ones such as Johnson Grass and Canada Thistle. A new lease initiating in 2024 places greater emphasis on the lessor being part of this solution.

I will still get numerous phone calls about poison hemlock here and there, and yes, we know the fields are full of it. But we will keep educating the public and focus on prioritized areas as we continue to chip away at the problem. Kudos to our leaders of this initiative and to those of you who come out to fight this war weekly or even monthly. We welcome more volunteers- give it a try, you'll make some new friends and encounter more than a few laughs!



Me on vacation in a park of course, pictured with Giant Hogweed in Amsterdam, NL. Just seconds after I snapped this photo of the 8-foot beast, my cousin playfully grabbed the plant with her hands. I told her she'd better set down her Merlot and google it.

Friends Leadership Opportunities

The Friends Executive Committee (EC) positions of Vice President and Volunteer Coordinator are in need of new leadership. Both positions meet with other EC members monthly, usually in person at Judge Morris mansion or by zoom. These meetings are attended by the Park Superintendent who provides an in-depth review of what is happening in the Park. The EC manages and sets priorities in the areas of Fund Raising, Financial Support of the Park, Volunteer Activity, and Advocacy.

Vice President - has the primary responsibility for our Events. These include the summer concerts where Friends manage the fundraising raffle, the beer garden, and food vendors. The other big event is our annual general meeting.

Volunteer Coordinator - has an overview of all our volunteer activities, and manages the teams that do our memorial bench program and pollinator garden. The other major volunteer activities are summer concerts, bird boxes, Nature Center staffing, and trail maintenance.

These are great opportunities to help the Park and get an inside view of the many exciting initiatives in the Park. Please let us know if you are interested, and we can provide more details on these positions. Contact us at whiteclaycreekfriends@gmail.com.



Local Support

Cabela's provided a donation to the Friends and the Park, to support outdoor education programs!



Photo with Laura Lee, Park Superintendent: Erin, Cabela's: Dave Koppeser, Friends President

Mark your Calendar for concert time!

- Summer Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the band stage in Carpenter Recreation Area
- Bring your blanket or lawn chairs
- Free with paid admission to the park
- For weather updates call 302-368-6560 or visit the park Facebook page
- <https://destateparks.com/concerts/whiteclaycreek>





- Ole Tapas and Rita's food trucks will be onsite as well as the return of our beer garden and 50/50 raffle!



Date	Band	Music Type	Brewery
6/14/23	Newark Community Band	Marches, Broadway, Showtunes	Cans and Wine
6/21/23	Acoustically Sounds	Rock and Country with Strings	TBD
6/28/23	Brittney Traunbaugh	Americana/Folk	TBD
7/5/23	Exit 93	Classic Rock, Blues, R&B	Twisted Irons
7/12/23	De Tierra Caliente	Latin Roots Fusion	Cans and Wine
7/19/23	Dukes of Destiny	Blues and Soul	Autumn Arch
7/26/23	Magical Mystery Tour	Beatles Tribute	Twisted Irons
8/2/23	3 Hour Tour	Yacht Rock	Cans and Wine
8/9/23	Spokey Speaky	Reggae	Wilmington Brew Works
8/16/23	BLEECH	Modern Alternative, Indie and Classic Rock	Autumn Arch
8/23/23	Rain Date		
8/30/23	US Naval Academy Band	Variety of band tunes	NO BEER GARDEN
(Mon 3pm) 9/4/23	The LAUNCH	Tribute to Boston, Styx and Queen	Hangman Brewing

[Upcoming Park Activities](#)

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

Panning for Creek Gems

Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Pan the creek for garnets, magnetite, and other shiny treasures! We will provide pie plates with holes in them for advanced registered participants. Water shoes and towel recommended. Cost is \$6 per person

Hiking Series

Saturday, July 22, 2023 at 9:00 AM

New to the park? Ready to find a new favorite trail? Join our naturalist on this series to explore our trails. Dress for the weather, bring bottled water and come ready for adventure! Drop-Ins Welcome, registration suggested in case of weather cancellation. Call 302-368-6900 by noon on Friday to Register. Free

Panning for Creek Gems

Saturday, July 23, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Pan the creek for garnets, magnetite, and other shiny treasures! We will provide pie plates with holes in them for advanced registered participants. Water shoes and towel recommended. Cost is \$6 per person

Sunset Hike

Friday, July 28, 2023 at 8:00 PM

Join the park naturalist for an evening hike near the full moon and enjoy the sunset as well as talk about the month's full moon. Meeting location provided upon registration. \$6 per person.

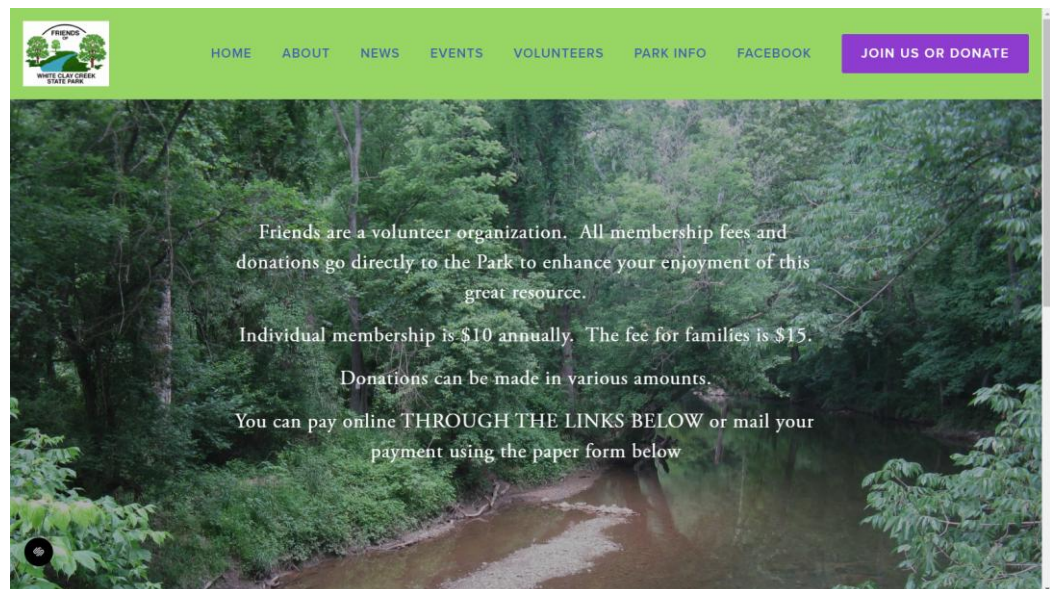
Harmony Hike

Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Join us for silent hike just before sunset, as we listen to the sounds of nature with our heightened senses. This is designated as a meditation hike to enjoy the forest and fields in quiet contemplation. Free, pre-registration is required by calling 302-368-6900 by August 11.

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.



The screenshot shows the website for Friends of White Clay Creek State Park. The header is green with a logo on the left and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, NEWS, EVENTS, VOLUNTEERS, PARK INFO, FACEBOOK, and a purple button labeled JOIN US OR DONATE. The main content area features a background image of a forest stream and text explaining that Friends is a volunteer organization, membership fees and donations go to the Park, individual membership is \$10 annually (families \$15), and donations can be made in various amounts. It also states that payments can be made online through the links below or via paper form.