



FWCCSP RECORD

June 2023

From the Trailside...

Did you know that White Clay Creek State Park has the greatest trail mileage, 40+ miles, of any state park in Delaware? Did you also know that volunteers do the vast majority of trail maintenance (mowing, trimming and clearing of obstructions) in the park? Unfortunately, the state does not have staff to keep all the trails clear and that is where dedicated trail-loving volunteers come into play!

Firstly, we have the Trail Adopters. This is a longstanding group of volunteers who sign-on to take that extra step when they are out enjoying a hike by trimming back over-hanging vegetation, clearing debris, and reporting more significant issues to park leadership so that other skilled individuals can make things right. Typically, a Trail Adopter will agree to keep an eye on a defined piece of trail for the entire growing season while they are out enjoying the park, assuring that they inspect and work their section at least once a month. This group is coordinated by the park's Manager of Volunteers, Ann Burress, who makes sure they have the information and knowledge to keep things looking good for all other trail users.

Secondly, we have the Volunteer Trail Maintenance Crew (VTMC), a group of volunteers created through the efforts of the Friends of WCCSP. This group is now in its third year of effort to keep the trail edges clear by mowing, hedging, and weed whacking. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of WCCSP, the Wilmington Trail Club, and DNREC, this group is equipped with a Billy Goat self-propelled mower, 4 weed whackers/hedgers, safety equipment, and a trailer for getting the mower to any part of the park. Similar to the Trail Adopters, but a bit more focused on heavy-lifting efforts, volunteers agree to work a defined section of trail for the growing season, keeping trail edges clear so that users do not have to deal with significant overgrowth on the trail edges. This of course makes it easier for various trail users to share the trail without having to step into or ride through multi-flora rose, poison ivy, stinging nettle, etc. while enjoying the trails. Friends Board member Mike Czupryna coordinates the VTMC effort. A third group that does significant effort on the park's trails is the Trail Spinners. This group has been involved in designing, building and maintaining trails throughout the mid-Atlantic region for over 30 years. Though locally their focus is mostly on Middle Run, some Trail Spinner members are part of the VTMC for mowing and trimming, and they are also very knowledgeable in knicking and debarment trails to ensure proper drainage. The Trail Spinners are also closely aligned with local bike shops and other volunteers to manage work parties for focused group efforts throughout the year, assuring that trails are clear and well drained, often times within the state park.

So next time you see someone working hard along a trail clipping, trimming, mowing, knicking, debraming, clearing downfall or otherwise improving the experience for all trail users, don't forget to thank them as they are most likely a volunteer working on YOUR behalf! And remember, you can volunteer too! Contact the park or the Friends of WCCSP and signal your desire to help. If you're not able to make a formal commitment, please be the person who tosses the tree branch off the trail, grab that bit of trash, or remembers to report issues to the park office while out on a hike, walk or ride. Volunteers cannot keep track of everything in the park, so positive feedback on areas of concern is a big help.

We love our trails, but without the efforts of volunteers, our beloved trails would be overgrown and nearly impassable so do your best to support the Friends, volunteers, and park staff so that everyone has a great experience in the park!



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 food truck and Rita's Ice 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	TBD
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	TBD
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

Help WANTED

White Clay Creek State Park

Help WANTED

Nature Center Volunteers



We are seeking volunteers at the Chambers House Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays beginning in May through October.

There are two “shifts” to be covered each Saturday and Sunday: 11:00AM to 1:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:00PM. Volunteers can sign up for as many or as few shifts as their time permits. Volunteers make work individually or in pairs – great for friends, couples or for parent and child!

Your duties as a weekend Nature Center staffer may include: welcoming visitors, handing out maps and leaflets, answering questions about the Park, highlighting upcoming programs and concerts, performing simple tasks to help the Nature Center function smoothly, answering the phone, or helping someone on the naturalist staff get ready for a program.

What do volunteers enjoy about the weekend staffing of the Nature Center?

- Satisfaction of doing something easy and enjoyable that directly benefits the Park and its visitors
- Learning more about the Park’s history, natural features and programs
- Spending a few hours in our beautiful Park

CONTACT: Allen Sievert PHONE: 302-545-6737 EMAIL: allen.sievert@yahoo.com



Join us!

The Friends have a governing body, the Executive Committee, with the President and six other members. We are in need of someone to handle **Publicity and Social Media**. This means helping, for example, with this newsletter, with Facebook, and connecting with people and organizations that use and support the Park. If you think this is of interest please send a note to whiteclaycreekfriends@gmail.com.

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

Ethnobotany: People and Plants

Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Come along on a guided 1.5 mile-hike through Judge Morris Estate as we learn about some of the many ways people utilize plants and discuss how our use of plants has shaped the modern landscape. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring plenty of water for a gentle 2-hour walk through the woods. This program is provided by Master Naturalist Mary Osman. Pre-registration is required by calling 302-368-6900. Free Program.

Panning for Creek Gems

Saturday, June 17, 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, June 24, 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 by noon on Friday to Register. Free

Panning for Creek Gems

Sunday, June 25, 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

Stroll with the Superintendent

Friday, June 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Join our park superintendent for a 1-hour stroll in the park. Degree of difficulty: Easy. Bring plenty of water and be prepared to hike! Pre-registration requested by Thursday, June 29 by calling 302-368-6900. Free Program.

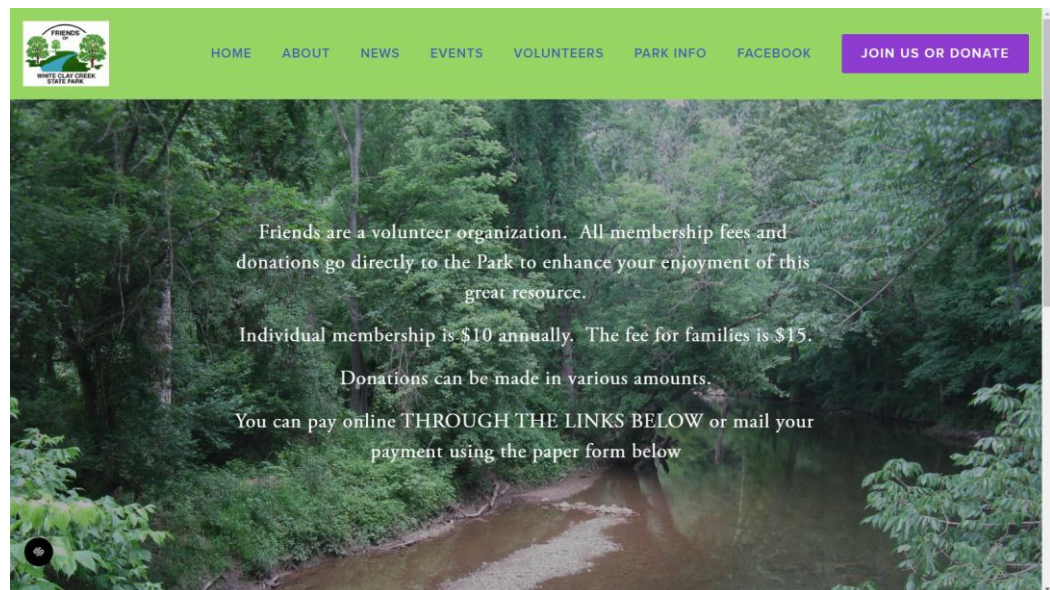
Sunset Hike

Friday, June 30, 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.

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 that reads: "Friends are a volunteer organization. All membership fees and donations go directly to the Park to enhance your enjoyment of this great resource. Individual membership is \$10 annually. The fee for families is \$15. Donations can be made in various amounts. You can pay online THROUGH THE LINKS BELOW or mail your payment using the paper form below".