



FWCCSP RECORD

March 2024

Friends Annual Meeting - March 26, 2024

Deerfield Golf Club, Newark

Doors open at 6:30 pm, with presentations at 7 pm. **Non-Members are welcome!**

The Friends will provide an update, followed by the Park. Topics will include the recent land acquisition and the status of the new Nature Center.

We will also have a presentation by Professor Jay Custer from the University of Delaware.

What Does Recent Archaeological Research Tell Us About the Lenape and Their Ancestors?



Dam removal - Public Hearing

Join staff from DNREC and the New Castle Conservation District for a public hearing on Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30 pm at Deerfield Golf Club to learn about proposed plans for the removal of Dam 7 (aka--Pumphouse or Amphibolite Dam) on White Clay Creek.

Dam 7 is located upstream of the White Clay Creek State Park Wedgewood Road parking area. For more information about this meeting, please contact Kevin Donnelly, by email or at 302-632-1202.

<https://dnrec.delaware.gov/.../white-clay-creek-dam-7.../>



It's almost Fishing Time!

Wondering where you can catch a fish in White Clay?

- The Smith Mill Pond offers accessible docks for bluegill fishing,
- Judge Morris Estate offers a catch-and-release program for largemouth bass
- Anywhere along the White Clay Creek offers anglers the opportunity to fish for stocked rainbow and brown trout.
- Trout fishing opens the first Saturday in April.
- A fishing license is required at all times when fishing.
- A trout stamp is required April through June 30th and again in October through November.
- Fly-fishing is only allowed north of the Chambers Rock Bridge up to the Pennsylvania border.
- The creek closes to all fishing two weeks prior to the opening day of trout season.
- Get information on fishing permits at <https://dnrec.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/licenses/>

In celebration of National Fishing and Boating Week, June 1-9, 2024, the Division has designated June 1 and 2 as free fishing days when anyone may fish in Delaware's waters without a fishing license.

Anglers age 16 and older must still obtain a free FIN number to participate in the free fishing days. Delaware's freshwater trout program is a self-supporting put-and-take fishery in selected New Castle County streams and Kent and Sussex County ponds. Revenue generated from the sales of trout stamps is used to purchase rainbow, brook and/or brown trout for stocking. Summer water temperatures limit trout survival and reproduction in Delaware waters, so stocked fish are meant to be taken, but may be released at the angler's discretion.

Trout season begins the first Saturday in April. The 2024 freshwater trout season in New Castle County opens at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday April 6, 2024, for youth under the age of 16, and one-half hour before sunrise for all anglers on Sunday April 7, 2024. No fishing is allowed in designated trout streams or designated trout ponds (Tidbury & Newton Ponds) two weeks (14 days) prior to the scheduled opening of the trout season. It is unlawful to fish for trout in designated trout streams or designated trout ponds between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

White Clay Creek State Park is a great place to fish for trout in the White Clay Creek we also have ponds that have great fishing opportunities at Cattail Pond at Carpenter Recreation area, Possum Hill pond, Judge Morris pond, Millstone Pond near Carpenter Recreation area.



Come out and help the park!

Volunteer Program News

WCCSP is looking for volunteers for Forest Restoration at Judge Morris Estate and near UD, as well as de-vining! Choose your preferred date and time and bring your friends, family, corporate group, etc., to help the park.

De-vine Intervention is just that – intervening by cutting vines using a curtain technique (try it and learn) so invasive vines such as oriental bittersweet don't overtop or strangle trees. This new event is led by Bill Slater, who you may find out in the park working on vines on any other day!

To sign up for any volunteer opportunity create a Galaxy Digital account at this link <https://destateparks.galaxydigital.com/> and search for opportunities at White Clay Creek State Park OR go to our website <https://www.whiteclayfriends.org/volunteer>, and fill out the Volunteer form.

Upcoming Park Activities

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

Nature Babies Session 1

Monday, March 4, 2024 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 2 1/2 years. 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

Intro to Fly Tying

Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Bring any equipment you have and join Ed O'Donnell and Sam Palermo of the Friends of White Clay Creek State Park and learn the basics of fly fishing on day one and fly tying on day two. Must pre-register by the Friday before the program by calling the park office (302)368-6900. Free.

Day Off Scout Program

Friday, March 8, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Join our naturalist each month to work on various Girl Scout badges, this month we'll be working on Math in Nature. Scouts may be dropped off with signed permission slip. Badges will be mailed after the program. \$10/scout, register online.

Moss Hike

Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Have you ever noticed a moss at your feet and wondered what kind it was? Join us on a short hike where we'll look for moss and lichens, talk about what makes them different, and see if we can identify some native to the White Clay area! Program meets at the nature center. Pre-registration required. Call 302-368-6900 to register. Free.

Nature Babies

Monday, March 11, 18 and 25, at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 2 1/2 years. 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

Intro to Biomimicry: Inspiration from Nature

Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Join Master Naturalist Mary Osman on a hike to learn about ways nature inspires innovative solutions to everyday problems. Please call 302-368-6900 to register. Free.

Hiking Series

Monday, March 18, 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.

Full Moon Friday

Friday, March 22, 2024 at 7:00 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.

Tracking

Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Learn how to identify animals by their tracks. This program starts indoors and includes a short hike to look for tracks around the Nature Center. Call 302-368-6900 to register, free program.

The Wedge, the Arc and the Horn

Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 1:00 PM

The Arc Corner Monument signifies an interesting land swap between Pennsylvania and Delaware. Join local historian Mike Ott for a hike to the Arc Corner Monument and to another marker on the DE Arc for some interesting history of these boundaries. Degree of Difficulty: Moderate to difficult. Space is limited, pre-registration is required by noon, Thursday, March 26. Free Program. Meet at the Chambers House Nature Center. Free.

Orienteering Adventure

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 1:00 PM

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 March 29. 302-368-6900. Free program. Appropriate for ages 5 and up with an adult partner.

[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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