



# FWCCSP RECORD

October 2022

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## Park Musings (from the Super)

Another summer has ended, and we are pulling out the green fleece here at the park for the fall breezes. It's been a very productive summer! Some highlights include the major makeover at the Judge Morris Estate. A new cedar shake roof, and improvements to the stone masonry including the beautiful barn ruins, funded by Friends support via grant. This space will be a wonderful courtyard area for special events, weddings, or just a place to sit and enjoy the beautiful area. Terri Tipping's environmental stewardship team continues to battle the invasives and plant natives, and the pollinator garden is still teeming with insects (bird food!) and pollinators. Our own stewardship team has finally been fully staffed and are a support to our many weed warrior projects.

The Carpenter area is in full swing with cross country, and we are looking forward to hosting the Division One Colonial Athletic Association championships later in October. We've been told that our disc golf course is one of the busiest in the state, which made us take a close look and plan some improvements. Soon we will have leveled tee pads, new disc baskets, and better signage.

Possum Hill (on Smith Mill Road) is one of our most popular sites now, and we were pleased to host the Trail Etiquette tenting events where our partner user groups helped share info on how to be a responsible and safe trail user. Kudos to our assistant superintendent Alivia who helped build and grow the program through the summer. We had lots of interactions with the public and good ideas for growing the way we get the message out in 2023.

Our energies are focused on planning for the new Nature Center now that we received state funding. Currently our programming staff (including Friends representation) are discussing interpretive planning goals for the park and for the building. Our "PPD" group (planning, preservation, and development) are working with GWWO Architects on a vision for the new building. We are extremely excited for this project and are pleased to include the Friends in the planning. We also have plans for a big office move to the Maxwell property, located on Wedgewood Road adjacent to Carpenter. While this is not funded yet we are already working on exterior improvements as we continue to seek support.

Lastly, we are thrilled to have welcomed Ann Burruss as our new manager of volunteers. Ann has absolutely hit the ground running and I am still pinching myself that we got such a good hire. She has too much planned to list here!

Thank you to all of you who support this park- I've worked at four sites in my career, and I can tell you unequivocally that this park has the most motivated, friendly, and engaged volunteers and supporters of all. We cannot do it without you- THANK YOU!

Laura Lee, Park Superintendent

## Progress at Judge Morris Estate

Funding of grants and donations through the Friends has put a new cedar shingle roof on the mansion, preserving its historic character. Funding also allowed the rehabilitation of the barn foundation, allowing an expanded venue for events at the mansion. See the wedding photo below, courtesy of the concessionaire, at <http://emmaspond.net/>





## Volunteer effort at our summer concerts

Our army of volunteers made the concerts more enjoyable and successful. Over \$10,000 was raised for the Park through our raffles, beer garden, and a share from the food trucks and water ice. **Join the fun at <https://www.whiteclayfriends.org/lots-to-do>**





## 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](mailto:whiteclaycreekfriends@gmail.com).

## Quiz



I went for a walk to my favorite place. Can you tell me what trail I was on?

Of course there is a prize for the correct answer.....send to [whiteclaycreekfriends@gmail.com](mailto:whiteclaycreekfriends@gmail.com)

A mink! caught on a trail camera in September



## Upcoming Park Activities

### Private Group Hayrides

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride in the straw, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Bring your own refreshments and skewers (no alcohol permitted). Hayrides meet at Nine Foot Road parking lot. Call to register. Traditional Straw ride on Saturdays, accessible wagon available for Sundays - call to book this wagon with benches! Wagons run from 4 to 7 p.m.; call 302-368-6900 for all available dates and times. \$130 per wagon

### Hayride with the Park Superintendent

**Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 3:00 PM**



Hayride with former superintendent Vinny

Enjoy a short hayride with White Clay Creek State Park's Superintendent Laura Lee. Guests can then gather round for s'mores at the campfire after the ride. Register online at <https://destateparks.com/whiteclaycreek>

### Full Moon Friday

**Friday, October 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

Join our park naturalist for an evening hike near the full moon. We'll start the hike as the sun sets and then enjoy the moonrise as we return. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900. Meeting location provided upon registration. \$6 per person.



### **Tree Hugger Thursday (Forest Bathing)**

**Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 9:00 AM**

Join Certified Forest Therapy Guide and Master Naturalist, Shelli Smith, for a relaxing stroll through White Clay Creek. Awaken your senses and deepen your relationship with the natural world through sensory explorations that combine curiosity, wandering and rest. Inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin Yoku, nature therapy walks have proven health benefits including stress reduction, lower cortisol levels, reduced blood pressure and improved immunity. Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Call 302-368-6900 to register. Free Program.

### **Naturalist Led Hike**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022 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. Dress for the weather, bring bottled water and come ready for adventure! Registration required; meeting location provided upon registration. Call 302-368-6900. Free program.

### **Owl Prowl**

**Friday, October 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

White Clay Creek State Park is home to some very special owls. Learn about these night hunters, then hike along the creek to hear their calls. Pre-Registration is required, space is limited. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900. \$5 per person.

## **Deer Hunting Season**

Archery Deer Hunting Seasons  
September 10, 2022 – January 31, 2023

General Firearm Deer Hunting Seasons  
November 11 - November 29, 2022  
December 10 – December 17, 2022 – Special Antlerless Season  
January 14 - January 21, 2023

November 5, 2022 Shotgun Youth Hunt

**Check out this website for the full 2022-2023 Hunting Season rules: <https://destateparks.com/Adventures/Hunting>**



## 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.

