



FWCCSP RECORD

October 2023

A Note from Our Superintendent

Why Does Your Friends Support Matter So Much?

We have reached the end of a busy concert season, and it's a good time to reflect on the partnership between the park and the Friends of WCC. Often, I'm filling the newsletter with history stories or new discoveries at the park; this fall I am reflecting on gratitude. Gratitude to what I know is one of THE best 'Friends' groups in Delaware State Parks. In my 33-year career in parks and nonprofit management, one consistent is relying on the community to help make each a better place. Why are you the best?

Every Friends' group/nonprofit has 110% great intentions in supporting their cause. Truth be told, sometimes individual hobbies or initiatives will cause 'the tail to wag the dog' a bit and not always take into consideration the site's most pressing needs. Friends of WCC respect our park management wealth of knowledge and include our actual identified needs in the conversation. They do more than that, they push us to also look at 'blind spots' that we may have overlooked. Together we are better.

State budgets only go so far, and Friends support has been absolutely critical in helping us fund or purchase things that improve the experience for all visitors. The beer you purchased at the beer garden, the volunteer time you donated, or the 50/50 raffle tickets you nabbed help us fund field trips for schools that cannot afford them. For many staff trainings, we are not allowed to use state dollars to feed people lunch. Friends support enabled to improve these training experiences for park staff as well as Certified Interpretive Guide training held at the park. It's those little things that contribute to employee morale that we can't do on our own. In addition, they funded wonderful "thank-you" picnic lunches for the Healing Waters veteran fishing program again making it an even better day for the vets.

Here we see one of our happiest visitors ready to launch his glider- a special needs Mount Pleasant group was one of several that enjoyed field trips at the park supported by Friends contributions. The Silent Knights Soaring Society graciously hosted them after hearing how obsessed they were with the Tuskegee Airman. Their trail walk was something the teacher stated they talked about the rest of the school year, and they're already booked for the nature center again this year.

Membership dues and other thoughtful donations to the Friends have made some critical contributions to park operations and visitor safety and security. Those extra dollars make us a better park. In response to the continued battle against parking lot break-ins (an issue not limited to White Clay), the Friends provided a critical donation to contribute to a large

security camera purchase. These quality cameras are in action and finally provide us a security upgrade over the old cameras that provided little investigative data when an incident occurred. Your dues, your beer, your donation made that happen.

The other huge recent donation helped bring back bike patrols to the park! A generous donation enabled us to outfit new patrol bikes and officer equipment. With 3,800 acres of park and nearly 40 miles of trails - it was a no-brainer that we should be able to patrol the largest trail system in all of Delaware State Parks (yes!) We look forward to the program growing in the future as Parks is focused on enhanced Enforcement hiring initiatives.

Finally, a very critical role the Friends provide is a non-profit support status for applying for grants to benefit the park. Through their support we received numerous grants for native plantings to enhance the park, as well as the ability to apply to the National Trust for Historic Preservation (to fund cultural resource protection). A Friends grant provided \$40,000 towards the Judge Morris Estate roof replacement, and another \$30,000 for historic ruins stabilization. Many granting agencies will only fund to non-profit groups, of which the State is not. As a state agency we can apply for certain limited grants, but the cumbersome process of getting approved at the Dover level results in a 30 day + delay for approval which isn't sufficient to make deadlines. Friends support is absolutely essential to obtaining grant funding for our park.

It is an absolute pleasure to work with you, the Friends of WCC, as part of this team. When I looked up the qualities of good teamwork, it exemplifies our relationship. Shared goals and an ability to cooperate on a personal and professional level are what makes this work. Thank you for helping to make this park a place where everyone can enjoy 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.



Come out and help the park! Volunteer Program News

WCCSP is looking for volunteers, especially teams, to sign up for the following volunteer opportunities. Choose your preferred date and time and bring your friends, family, corporate group, etc., to help the park.

- David English Trail – Clear vegetation for bluebird habitat. Signup link: https://destateparks.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=839600
- Maintain native plantings at Nine Foot Road. Signup link: https://destateparks.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=839607
- Millstone Pond Trail - Invasive shrub removal. Signup link: https://destateparks.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=839597
- Perilla pull at Wells Road. Signup link: https://destateparks.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=845124

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.

October Recurring Volunteer Events

- Wednesday October 11 & Wednesday Oct 25, 9:00am-11:00am, De-vine intervention (TBA)
- Every Thursday, 9:00am-11:00am, Forest Restoration (JME)
- Friday October 6 & Friday Oct 20, 9:00am-11:00am, Barberryans (Kranz farm)
- Saturday October 14, Weekend Weed Warriors, 9:00am-11:00am, (Nine Foot Rd)
- Every Saturday, 9:00am-11:00am, Pollinator Garden Saturdays, (TBA)
- Every Sunday, 1:00pm-3:00pm, Forest Restoration (JME)

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!



The 'Barberryans' are a new event to remove invasive Japanese barberry from a beautiful forest called Fall Spring Woods, not generally open to the public. Cindy Kranz Greene is co-leading this effort. Barberry is shallow rooted and can often be hand pulled and piled to decompose, allowing the native plants still found there to thrive.



The Weekend Weed Warriors will work on removing invasive multiflora rose from along the Whitely Farms cut through trail (aka Lover's Lane). With invasives gone, the native turtlehead plants (*Chelone glabra*) should be encouraged to raise their pretty heads.

Members of Friends of White Clay Creek State Park currently volunteer for many activities that are of tremendous benefit to the park. Friends work with Allen Sievert to staff the Nature Center on weekends, with George Probst to monitor bluebirds, with Mike Czupryna to keep trail edges mowed and weeds whacked. And of course, the Friends board and a small army of concert volunteers work the 50-50 raffle, and the drinks tent to make concerts extra fun!

Thank you, Friends, for all you do to make this park a great place to work and play. If you have any questions about volunteering, please reach out by email to:

Ann Burruss

ann.burruss@delaware.gov

Manager of Volunteers WCCSP

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

Private Group Wagon Rides (Benches)

Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Nature Babies Session 1

Monday, October 2, 2023 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 23 months. Bring your little ones out for their first nature programs at the park! Cost includes one parent /guardian with child. \$30 per child. Register online. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900.

Private Group Wagon Rides (Straw)

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available

dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Private Group Wagon Rides (Benches)

Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Nature Babies Session 1

Monday, October 9, 2023 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 23 months. Bring your little ones out for their first nature programs at the park! Cost includes one parent /guardian with child. \$30 per child. Register online. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900.

Naturalist Led Hike

Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 9:00 AM

New to the park? Ready to find a new favorite trail? Join the naturalist to explore the trails and learn about the park while you're out. Dress for the weather, bring bottled water and come ready for adventure! Pre-registration is required by calling 302-368-6900. Meeting location provided upon registration. Free with paid park entry.

Private Group Wagon Rides (Straw)

Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Private Group Wagon Rides (Benches)

Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Day Off Girl Scout Program- Night Science

Monday, October 16, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Scouts will learn all about the science of night. We'll use telescopes and make a model solar system among other fun activities. Scouts may be dropped off for this program with completed parent release form. \$5/scout.

Nature Babies Session 2

Monday, October 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 23 months. Bring your little ones out for their first nature programs at the park! Cost includes one parent /guardian with child. \$30 per child. Register online. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900

Stroller Ramblers

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Do you want to hike stroller friendly paths with a naturalist? Come explore the park, learn about and share the nature we encounter with your little ones, and meet other caregivers and parents. Pre-registration is required by calling 302-368-6900. Meeting location provided upon registration. Free with paid park entry.

Owl Prowl

Friday, October 20, 2023 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. \$6 per person

Hayride with the Park Superintendent

Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 3:00 PM

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.

Private Group Wagon Rides (Straw)

Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available

dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Private Group Wagon Rides (Benches)

Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Nature Babies Session 2

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 23 months. Bring your little ones out for their first nature programs at the park! Cost includes one parent /guardian with child. \$30 per child. Register online. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900

Nature Nuggets

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 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 or going online. \$5 per child.

Full Moon Friday

Friday, October 27, 2023 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

Private Group Wagon Rides (Straw)

Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Private Group Wagon Rides (Benches)

Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Nature Babies Session 2

Monday, October 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM

For ages birth to 23 months. Bring your little ones out for their first nature programs at the park! Cost includes one parent /guardian with child. \$30 per child. Register online. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900

Private Group Wagon Rides (Straw)

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

Newark China Clay Company

Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 1:00 PM

This illustrated talk with local historian Scott Palmer will review the history of the kaolin clay industry in northern Delaware, from which the park gets its name. The talk will focus in on the Newark China Clay Company site here in the park, explaining the ruins that can be seen in the northern part of the Possum Hill area of the park. Call 302-368-6900 to register. Free.

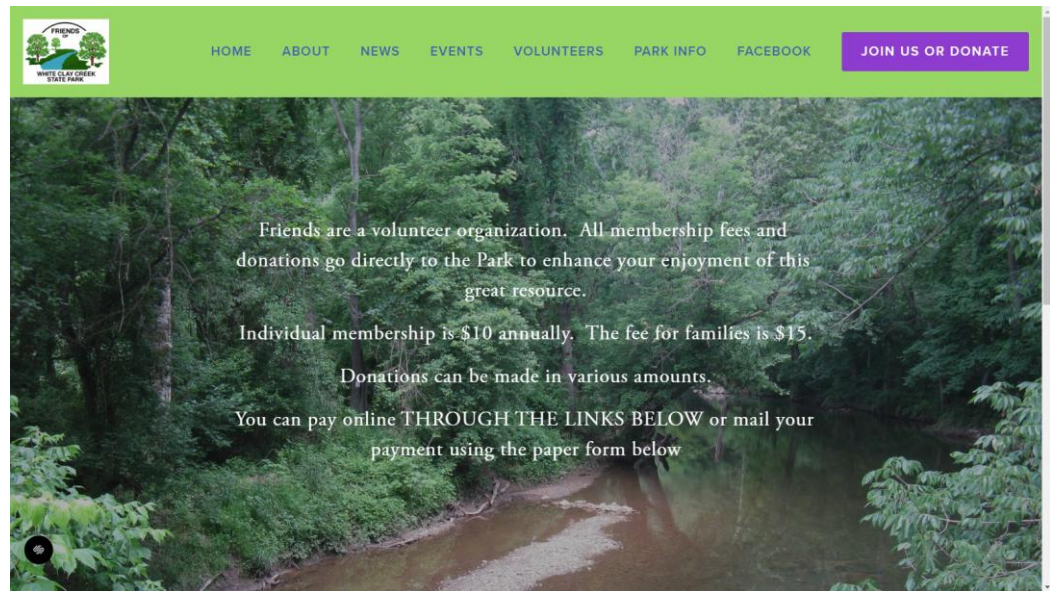
Private Group Wagon Rides (Benches)

Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Bundle up with your family group and enjoy an old-fashioned hayride, followed by 45-minutes around a blazing campfire. Refreshments are not provided (no alcohol permitted). Meet at Possum Hill Parking Lot, Nine Foot Road Entrance. Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. One wagon is available and can fit 20-25 people. \$130 per wagon.

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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WHITE CLAY CREEK
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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