



FWCCSP RECORD

September 2023

Memorial Benches

Along our beautiful park paths there are memorial benches. They play an important part in allowing park patrons to rest and enjoy the wildlife and these benches provide an opportunity for families and friends to honor the memory of their loved ones.

But we wouldn't have these benches without our amazing group of volunteers! Volunteers help by building new benches, positioning them in the park, and maintaining existing benches and need to be able to bend, lift more than 10 pounds, and use tools such as hammers and drills.

Volunteers participate in work days doing woodworking tasks using hand tools and power sanders and installing benches along the trails in White Clay Creek State Park. Those wishing to learn are welcome! Please visit our website's volunteer section <https://www.whiteclayfriends.org/volunteer#volunteer-form>.

When: Work days are scheduled on specific dates and times.

Who: Adult individuals or small groups who like to use hand tools and power sanders or want to learn.

Wear: long pants, closed toed shoes and layered clothing that can get dirty and is suitable for the weather.

Bring: work gloves if you have them and a personal water bottle. Other tools will be provided.

Parking: J Cloud Barn at 103 Smith Mill Road

NOTE: Ticks are active in the park and poison ivy may be present. Please use caution and do a tick check on returning home.

If you're interested in purchasing a memorial bench, please contact the Friends for more information. <https://www.whiteclayfriends.org/contact-partner-with-us>



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 Fundraising, 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

A hint of autumn is in the air and the state park volunteer program is getting ready for the surge of volunteers that the fall weather brings. This article shares some news about White Clay Creek State Park's volunteer program.

In February 2023, the volunteer program main office rolled out a new volunteer management software program called Galaxy Digital. Many volunteers are using it to record their volunteer hours. Visitors to the state parks webpage can find a calendar with many opportunities to volunteer shown by date at this link <https://destateparks.galaxydigital.com/calendar>. If interested in trying out a volunteer opportunity, create an account at this link <https://destateparks.galaxydigital.com> and respond to any upcoming event. On the volunteer calendar you will see that White Clay Creek State Park events are well-represented!

Recurring events WEEKLY:

- Thursdays – Forest Restoration, 9am-11am, Judge Morris parking lot
- Sundays – Forest Restoration, 1pm-3pm, Judge Morris parking lot

Recurring events BI-WEEKLY:

- 1st and 3rd Mondays – De-Vine Intervention, 9am-11am, Nature Center parking lot
- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays – Barberryans, 9am-11am, Kranz Farm (616 New London Rd)

Recurring events MONTHLY:

- 2nd Saturdays – Weekend Weed Warriors, 9am-11am, Nine Foot Rd parking lot

Terri Tipping, leader of the Forest Restoration events, won the first ever Delaware State Parks Distinguished Service Award in 2023 for her leadership of a years-long effort to remove invasive vegetation and plant native species of trees and shrubs at the Judge Morris Estate area. Volunteers do a variety of tasks from hand pulling small plants to lopping or sawing down large shrubs and piling them neatly to decompose. The cumulative impact is impressive.

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 'Barberrians' 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 newest event has an inaugural meeting on Saturday, August 12. Master Naturalist Mary Osman, will be co-leading this event. 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

Concerts are still going on!!!

- 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
(Mon 3pm) 9/4/23	The LAUNCH	Tribute to Boston, Styx and Queen	Hangman Brewing
9/6/23 (6:15pm)	Acoustically Sound	Rock and Country with Strings	TBD

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

Girl Scouts Love State Parks- All About Plants

Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 2:30 PM

Enjoy a day with the naturalists to learn about local plant and tree life. We will dissect a plant and share how we keep our native plants healthy at the park. Call 302-368-6900 to register your scout or your troop. Park entrance fee in effect. \$5 per scout.

Stroller Ramblers

Tuesday, September 12, 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.

Ethnobotany: People and Plants

Saturday, September 16, 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.

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Signs of Fall Hike

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Join the naturalist on a hike to look for signs of fall on this Autumnal Equinox. 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.

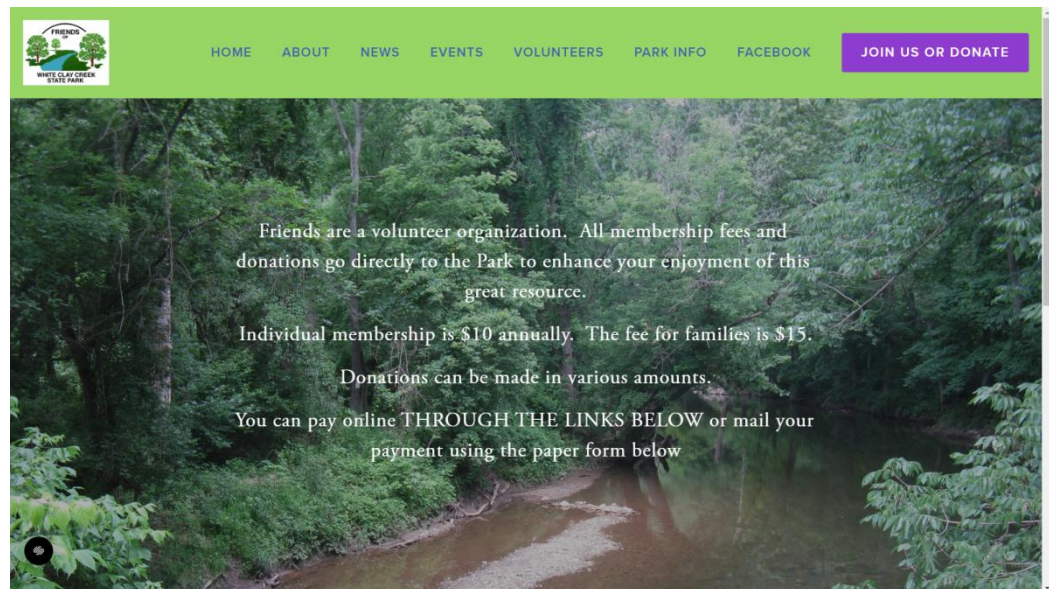
Private Group Wagon Rides (Straw)

Saturday, September 30, 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 Call 302-368-6900 for available dates and times and to register. \$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.



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 contains the following text:

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