

Friends of Codorus
Spring Newsletter 2022

President's Address:

The first quarter of the year saw the FOCSP having another successful Winterfest Event despite the cold temperatures and high winds. The Easter Egg hunt followed with an outstanding attendance of over 400 children. The Landis barn windows have been replaced due to some extremely helpful volunteers. The teaching stations are almost completed with some minor finish work to be completed. Invasive species control has begun for the year along with the wood crews splitting work beginning. The campground is open and taking reservations.

Looking Forward:

We have our summer event Experiencing Codorus Outdoors in the works. ECO is scheduled for June 17th from 4 until 9 PM and continuing onto June 18th from 10AM until 9 PM. This year's theme featuring outdoor activities at the park. This planning and work have been going on since the beginning of the year. Our next meeting for ECO is scheduled for June 9th, 2022, at the park office at 6PM. Volunteers are encouraged to attend. There will be a wrap-up meeting on June 30th at 6pm at the park office.

We are looking forward to another busy and productive year.

Scott Taylor

President FOCSP

Use your smart phone or device to access the Friends of Codorus State Park Website:





New Assistant Park Manager

Hello everyone, my name is Mathias Weizen, and I am the new Assistant Park Manager, here at Codorus State Park. I look forward to working with you all, and I am excited to have this opportunity. I started with the Bureau of State Parks in 2020 as a Manager Trainee in our Central Office Location in Harrisburg. I then took over as the Bureaus Infrastructure, Safety, and Program Services Specialist in 2021 before accepting this position. Prior to my time with the Bureau, I received Masters in Recreation, Sport, and Tourism from the University of Illinois and a Bachelors in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management from Penn State. Before attending college, I served four years in the United States Navy. I enjoy spending my free time in the outdoors, most of the time accompanied by my dog. My favorite activity to do in the outdoors is hiking, however, I also enjoy hunting, fishing, kayaking, quad riding, and playing sports of any kind. In addition to spending time outdoors, I also enjoy traveling and spending time with friends and family. Again, I look forward to working with and meeting everyone in the future.

Sincerely,
Mathias Weizen
Assistant Park Manager



WINTERFEST 2022
Submitted by Keith
Taylor

Winterfest was a success despite Mother Nature making the day a rough one for everyone. With the air temperature in the 20's and wind gusts up to 40 miles an hour through the day. There were 39 brave souls that did the Eagle Plunge once the dive team push the ice out of the way in 15 degree water. Just before noon a large chunk of ice came across the lake to block the plunge area. The committee decided to change the 1K Frozen Run to a 3K run this year. It was well received even with us having to modify the course to use the parking lot/road edge instead of the trails and field due to the weather, 28 runners participated. Bricker Fries and Skip & Penny's catering provided food for the 400 people that showed and braved the weather conditions. In addition to the plunge and run participants enjoyed children crafts and drawings for gift baskets. Due to the weather the horse drawn wagon rides were not available and the wood craver had to cancel at the last minute.

Winterfest is the only event put on be a cooperative effort between the Friends and Spring Grove Parks and Recreation. The 2023 Winterfest event will be held on January 28, 2023. Make sure to save the date and we hope to see you there!



Invasive Plant Species Project
Submitted by Frank Kozak

Codorus State Park has large populations of invasive plant species. An invasive species is defined as a species that is non-native to an ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.



Invasive plants are prolific for several reasons:

- Many species produce large quantities of seed.
- Some invasives have aggressive root systems that spread long distances from a single plant and often grow so densely that they smother the root systems of surrounding vegetation.
- Some plant species produce chemicals in their leaves or root systems that inhibit the growth of other plants around them.

Invasive species contribute to the decline of many endangered and threatened species because they compete directly with native species for moisture, sunlight, nutrients, and space. The establishment and spread of invasive species can degrade wildlife habitat, decrease overall plant diversity, increase soil erosion, and decrease recreation opportunities.

Removing invasive plants gives native vegetation a better chance to flourish. The **Friends of Codorus State Park Invasives Species Removal Team** is in its sixth year of fieldwork to reduce the invasive plant populations in the park. Since the start of the project, the team has primarily removed Autumn Olive, Shrub Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, and Bradford Pear from the park. Our work involves cutting small trees and shrubs with a chain saw, hand saw, or loppers and then applying an herbicide to the cut. As there are so many invasive plants in the park, culling them will be an ongoing effort for the foreseeable future.

A FOCSPP volunteer removing invasives at the Black Rock Lodge. Note the large pile of invasives that were removed.

Areas of the park that have been the group's focus include:

- The campground.
- Bridge #1 causeway on Blooming Grove Road.
- The Black Rock Lodge.
- The Laho Trailhead parking area.
- Along Sinsheim Road at the intersection with Blooming Grove Road.

One of three trucks full of invasive plants that were removed from the Black Rock Lodge area.



Lion's Club Donation

On behalf of Friends of Codorus, Suzanne Gambler accepts a donation from the Hanover Lions Club. John Zinn of the Hanover Lions Club remarks, "All the best with upcoming and long-range planning for the park. Your group does amazing volunteer work. We are happy to be able to support your efforts."



Perfect weather brought out a great crowd for the Friends of Codorus Easter Egg Hunt on April 15th. It was held at Pavilions 1 and 2 at the Pool/Paddleboat area. Children were greeted by the Easter Bunny upon arrival. Photos could be taken with the big rabbit and many children were happy to see him.



Next, they moved to the line where they were handed a bag of goodies which contained snacks and coupons from area eateries.



Many arrived early and were entertained by DJ Chris. He played many old songs and even had the crowd do the Chicken Dance. Children worked on craft activities. Each child received 3 different crafts to complete.



Afterward, they relaxed on the grass as they waited for the egg hunt to begin. Participants were divided into 4 age groups. The eggs were grabbed up quickly and everyone headed for home. We hope they were all happy with the event.



The day would never be possible without the many volunteers who filled the 400 grab bags, stuffed thousands of plastic eggs with candy, and cut out and bagged the crafts.

Thanks to all of those who made it possible.

Outpost Open & Wood Splitting Updates

Submitted by Keith Taylor

April and came went with the campground opening with 75% occupancy over the weekends and the outpost right along with it. The team was busy but knowing as we go through May business will double at the store by Memorial Day weekend. The shelves have been stocked and items cleaned up by 6 volunteers. The team is looking for new volunteers to step up and help as the store is the groups largest fund raiser. Sparing one evening a month or every other month would help give the regulars a break.



Campers are asking for the store to be open more days, especially during the summer. Therefore, please consider coming out and helping while enjoying a day of fellowship and meeting campers from all over. In addition, wood splitting is busy as demand is high and we are looking at splitting over 50 cords this year to meet demand.



Outpost Hours

- Friday 2 pm to Sunset
- Saturday 1:30 pm to Sunset
- Summer hoping to open Thursday 4 – 7 pm

If interested reach out to Bob Larson at 717-965-3868

Splitting Wood Times



- **Monday and Wednesdays** from 7:30 to 11:30 April through September. Contact Ray Wileski at 717-479-6927
- **Saturday and Sunday mornings** year-round when enough people available. Contact Don Eichelberger at 717-578-6579 to get on his list and select dates.
- **Looking for a new leader to take over coordinating firewood splitting and outpost stocking for 2023.**



Window Installation Landis Woods
Environmental Center
Submitted by Dwight Myers

As part of the Healing the Planet Grant received from the Giant Corporation, the Friends of Codorus Group has committed to provide enhancements to the Landis Woods Environmental Center (the old Girl Scout camp) off Blue Hill Road. Specifically, these updates are improvements to the barn.



The Landis Woods Environmental Center is used by Codorus State Park for an array of programs for a multitude of organizations throughout the year with the barn currently in need of some TLC to better facilitate usage on a multi-seasonal basis.

Phase one was to install eight new double hung windows. Phase two and beyond will be to update the electrical service, wiring, lights, ceiling fans and chimney inspection and repair with studding the walls, insulating and paneling coming later.

The Friends Group was fortunate to have two master craftsmen volunteer to do the window installation, which turned out to be more than a simple window replacement. The installation required removal of storm windows nailed behind the aluminum siding, building a frame for the new windows and fabricate and install a "J" strip to seal the windows against the weather.

Ray Hayden, owner of Hayden Home Improvements and Mike Rottmund, retired home improvement business owner spent almost 30 volunteer man hours removing the old storm windows and installing the new double hung windows. Not only did Ray and Mike volunteer their skill and expertise, but they also donated some of the materials and supplied their own specialized equipment to complete a very professional job. Many thanks go to these two gentlemen.







EXPERIENCE CODORUS OUTDOORS

If you have heard the Friends in cooperation with Codorus State Park will be hosting a new environmental/recreational event called “**Experience Codorus Outdoors**” [ECO] on June 17 and 18. This event will be replacing the “**Codorus Blast**”. The Friends appreciate your support with our goal to care for and promote Codorus State Park while keeping it safe for everyone, so fireworks will not be offered. This event will highlight outdoor recreational opportunities and environmental topics within the park while bringing you good food, great music, and local craft vendors! This ECO event will be both park and family friendly.



The event will run on Friday the 17th from 4 pm to 9 pm and Saturday the 18th from 10 am to 9 pm with bands both nights. An entrance fee of \$5 per charge will be charged. Everyone will notice more environmental and recreational agencies/vendors with local craft vendors. The event area has a different layout and there will not be any vendor sales on Sunday. Sunday is for clean-up and tear down. The exception is the Keystone Dock Dogs that will be in the area for 5 days prior to ECO as well as wrapping up the competition on Sunday. The public is welcome to enjoy this activity on those days at no charge. In addition to all the vendors there will a continuous program that are included with the admission.

The tentative schedule of activities/programs are as follows:

Friday, June 17th

- 3:30 pm: Gates Open \$
- 4:00 pm: ECO event Kick off
- 4:00 pm: Dock Dogs BA Wave #1
- 4:30 pm: Story Time with Miss Kelly
- 4:30 pm: Creatures of Codorus
- 5:30 pm: Hanover Eagles
- 6:00 pm: Dock Dogs BA Wave #2
- 6:00 pm: Story Time with Miss Kelly
- 6:30 pm: Bats of Pennsylvania
- 6:30—8:45 pm Colt Wilbur Band
- 7:00 pm: Barre Yoga w/Elizabeth
- 7:30 pm: Learn How to be a SMART Angler
- 9:00 pm: Event Closes



Saturday, June 18th

9:00 am: Gates Open \$

9:00 am: Dock Dogs EV Finals

10:00 am: ECO event Kick off

10:30 am: Invasive species & you

11:00 am: Horse & Tack Question/Answer

11:00 am: Dock Dogs BA Wave #4

11:00 am: Story Time with Miss Kelly

11:30 am: Creatures of Codorus

12:30 pm: American Chestnuts

1:00 pm: Dock Dogs BA Wave #5

1:00 pm: Barre Yoga w/Erica

1:30 pm: Turtles of Lake Marburg

2:30 pm: Story Time with Miss Kelly

2:30 pm: Hanover Eagles

3:00 pm: Dock Dogs BA Wave #6

3:30 pm: Park History

4:00 pm: Yin Yoga w/Jeanine

5:00 pm: Dock Dogs BA Wave #7

5:30 pm: American Chestnuts

6:30—8:45 pm: Fabulous Hubcaps

6:30 pm: Bats of Pennsylvania

7:00 pm: Yoga w/Holly

7:30 pm: Learn How to be a SMART Angler

Recreation events users can participate in at no charge include Kayaking, Mountain Biking, Horse and Tack, Disc Golf, Geocaching, Orienteering, Hiking, Fishing, Fly Casting, Fossil Dig and Geology' Birding., Yoga, Nature Photography and BioBlitz .

Large events like this are not possible without the help of volunteers! If you are interested in helping with the event, please reach out to Meredith VP, Friends of Codorus at meredith@friendsofcodours.org to sign up. If you are a local craft vendor and are interested in having a spot at the ECO event, please contact the Friends of Codorus for more information. The Friends of Codorus can be reached at contact@friendsofcodorus.org.

