

**Friends of Codorus
Winter 2022 Newsletter**

**Outpost (Camp Store)
Codorus Campground
Submitted by Keith Taylor**

The 2021 camping season, at the Outpost, was a busy year. Over the past couple of years, we have seen business triple at the store. In 2019, we normally were fine having two volunteers working on Friday and one on Saturday. However, in 2021, we ended up needing three or four volunteers on both nights due increased demand, while not overwhelming the volunteers. As wood sales have quadrupled, we had to switch to selling a combination of both volunteer-split and purchased prepackaged wood. For the 2021 camping season, the crews cut and split approximately 75 cords of hardwood. Regretfully, we also had to say goodbye to our oldest splitter, Bix, who turned ninety-three this year.

A positive change, that was a long time coming and contributed to helping increase store sales, was the option to pay using credit cards: Apple, Samsung, and Google pay. With the gift store closed, merchandise was moved over for sale at the campground, as space allowed. The team introduced a new logo for t-shirts and sweatshirts, which has received positive reviews from customers. In addition, we have

increased the souvenirs and clothing sales by expanding availability at the park office for visitors to buy. We also introduced the campers to our mascot, Lexi, who helped out a lot in the evenings.

With the need for more volunteers, the team started having picnics together while volunteering. This made the evenings more enjoyable. Ironically, it never failed that as soon as we started eating, the business rush happened. We kindly ask you to please consider volunteering at the outpost. Even one shift a month helps and it is greatly appreciated by the ones that are working all the weekends.

Working Picnics



Outpost Supplies



Trail of Treats

Submitted by Kathy Bealing



The 1st Annual Codorus Trail of Treats, which is FOCSP's new downsized version of the former "Halloween in the Park" fundraiser, was held Friday and Saturday, October 22 and 23, 2021. Unlike HITP, this new Halloween event did not offer hayrides and required tickets (per car) available for purchase online only. Happily, event goers still responded overwhelmingly and tickets sold out Thursday evening before the event!

Our volunteer's creative efforts made things festive in the event areas with a

variety of displays including a "Halloween Gala Celebration," pirate scene, alien spaceship landing and pumpkin patch. In the campground, there were over 90 campsites with over-the-top Halloween displays for the kids and their families to look at while they went trick or treating. Campers estimated they each handed out about 3,000 treats over the weekend. Many campers and visitors commented on how much they enjoyed the smaller crowd size. It gave them a better opportunity to enjoy the displays without feeling rushed. Visitors also enjoyed hot food sold at the vendor area and lively music. Attendance was estimated to be around 7,000 for the weekend.

The weekend also included a variety of nature programs offered by the park EES. There was also a "Find Your Boo" scavenger hunt for the campers which ended with two drawings each for a donated gift card and a commemorative CTOT mug. Mugs were also given to campers via random drawings on Saturday night. The Annual Halloween Pet Parade was held on Saturday morning which registered about 40+ entrants. Doggie treats were given out and there were drawings to win prizes. Proceeds raised during this event benefited Animal Rescue, Inc. in New Freedom, PA.

We would like to sincerely thank all the volunteers who helped this year, as well as the park staff, local businesses and organizations who provided a wide range of support. Please visit the "Codorus Trail of Treats" webpage for this year's event photos

and updated 2022 camping and event information at:
<https://friendsofcodorus.org/home/trail-of-treats>. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's CTOT fundraiser to be held on Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, 2022.

Thank you for helping us, help the park! Brad and Kathy Bealing



Jessica Laucks, Editor of the newsletter



Friends of Codorus volunteers working at the "Coffee and Smores" refreshments booth

Teaching Stations

Submitted by Dwight Myers

Friends of Codorus State Park was one of forty-two out of over two hundred organizations across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia to receive a grant from The Giant Company and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Healing the Planet grant program.

The grant covers the material costs for building 3 teaching stations of 6 benches each at different locations in the Park, and for renovations and restoration at the Landis Education Area Barn. FOCP provides project management and volunteer labor to go along with the skilled labor and support provided by the Park to complete these projects.



October was the start of construction on the new teaching stations. These are in

addition to the one already in place at the Rummel Farm on Black Rock Road. Currently benches have been constructed at two of the sites, next to the day use parking in Sailboat cove, and at the trailhead of the red disk golf course at the Marina. The third site, already prepared, will be completed in early December and is next to the first parking lot as you enter the main boat launch off Sinsheim Road. When the benches are all completed, a base of stone will be spread as well as a fence added around the teaching station.

The aim for the teaching stations is for them to become an integral part of the environmental and educational programs presented by the Park overseen by Renae Weidner, Environmental Education Specialist. The teaching stations are designed so they can be used for unlimited topics such as bird watching, history, plant identification, stream studies and star gazing to name a few and will help the Park reach more individuals with additional programs.



Renovations and restoration at the Landis Education Area Barn are scheduled to start in the December / January time period and will run through to spring. Look for the e-blast announcement soliciting volunteer help, especially help with some construction / building expertise.

Please check out and participate in some of the many educational environmental programs offered by the Park by attending. They are listed on both the Codorus State Park and the Friends of Codorus web sites.



Use your Smartphone to access the Friends of Codorus website

Lexi – Official Mascot

Submitted by Suzanne Gambler

This is Lexi and she is the official mascot for the wood-crew and the Outpost. She is the 2 ½ year old

grand-dog of Keith Taylor and visits with us on Monday and Wednesdays when we are working. She is wonderfully entertaining to all of us but is known to be a glove stealer and a squirrel, chipmunk and cat chaser. Lexi is also the best greeter you could ever ask for at the Outpost. She is most interested when kids are involved, especially. She says “hello” to everyone who comes to visit and thoroughly investigates all newcomers (while getting pets at the same time).

In her spare-time she loves to swim and hike in the park with her mom Holly and/or Keith. She recently made a trip to Fulton County with Keith and Glenn Bankert to pick-up some firewood. From the sounds of it I’m not sure who had more fun...Lexi or Glenn!

Lexi brings a smile to everyone she touches. And by the way...her favorite treats are Nudges.





Volunteers, Shirley and Glenn Bankert



Thanksgiving/Appreciation dinner and updates

Submitted by Keith Taylor

The 2021 Thanksgiving/Appreciation dinner was held on November 18, 2021, with 71 members and guests attending. (Regretfully there were 13 no shows that the group still had to pay for, so we need to ask everyone to please be diligent next year about notifying us if they plan not to attend.) Everyone enjoyed catching up with each other and enjoying the fabulous food.

After dinner Renae Weidner, Environmental Education Specialist, provided an update on the Black Rock Lodge project and advised of a new

program for 2022 with maple syruping. This program will be done during February and March. The maple syrup that is produced then will be sold at the outpost at the campground. Volunteers will be needed for all areas of the process. She also introduced Angela, the new EIT for the park, and 3 rangers that have been hired.

A short membership meeting was conducted as required by laws. The following events/projects were updated for everyone.

- The Outpost had a highly successful year and has seen a tripling of business in the past couple of years. Where in 2019 the group was able to run the store with 1 or 2 people, now in 2021 the staffing required 3 to 4 on both nights. Demand is requesting being open during the week, but without volunteers that can't happen.
- The woodcutting and splitting crew had another extremely busy year and some members are realizing they can no longer keep up the pace. In addition, the park staff advised that the park will not be able to provide the number of trees that they have in the past. Therefore, the group will be purchasing wood to help reduce the workload by cutting the amount of wood from 75 cords a year to 30 -40 cords.
- The Halloween Committee presented the board with a

revised/rebranding of the October event to reduce the amount of work and volunteers needed. The new event called Codorus Trail of Treats was decided on using just the bus parking lot and campground and eliminating the hayride and everything on that side of the swimming pool road. The event was restricted to 750 tickets, which sold out and was extraordinarily successful.

- Don advised that the Blast, if held, would have some changes as well. The event would be reduced to 2 days and there would be no fireworks for safety reasons. There is also a vacancy for a chairperson of the event. We will need to have someone step up if the event is to continue.
- Other projects involved building turtle platforms, working on teaching stations and insulating the barn at the Landis Camp EES, park clean up days, events, and Breakfast with Santa.
- A brief report on our membership was available that showed data as of October 1, 2021:
 - How many members - 254
 - Individuals – 243
 - Business/Organization – 11
 - How many members at what sponsorship level?
 - Life/Individual – 106
 - Life/Partial – 3
 - Hickory – 52
 - Pine – 75

- Sapling – 5
- Life/Business – 1
- Life/Organization – 7
- Organization – 2
- Organization /Life/Partial – 1

Volunteer Hours

Submitted by Dwight Myers

Friends of Codorus State Park is a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is: *“to improve the Park in order to provide recreational and educational opportunities for current and future generations”*.

As a volunteer organization, there are many ways members can help at the many activities held by the Friends group to benefit the Park and community.





Over the last three years, the FOCSPP have averaged close to 5000 hours a year in volunteer service with 2021 being the highest with 5518 volunteer hours. Winterfest, the Easter Egg hunt, the Codorus Blast, Codorus Trail of Treats, Breakfast with Santa, the Outpost in the camp ground are some of the opportunities to name a few.

While the hours result in recognition to the individual in the way of park logo items such as tee shirts, hats, sweatshirts etc. for the number of hours, more importantly Codorus State Park receives a financial benefit from the hours reported. The more volunteer hours completed and reported, the

better the financial benefit to the educational and environmental programs the park runs becomes.

As important as it is that we volunteer, it is equally important that we report those volunteer hours and they are counted. Reporting volunteer hours is easy.

Volunteers can keep a written record of their hours as they choose. There are also forms available at the brochure rack inside the Park Office front door or on-line. When your form is full, or at the end of each month you can submit the form in a number of ways:

- **Hand in the form at the Park Office**
- **E-mail the form to John Kelly (web Address is on the Friends web page)**
- **Mail the form to:**

**Friends of Codorus State Park
Attn John Kelly
1066 Blooming Grove Road
Hanover PA.17331**

If you have volunteered, thank you and be sure to report your volunteer hours.

If you haven't had the opportunity to volunteer yet, please consider it the next time there is an e-blast for an event or activity seeking help.

Lastly, if you have any difficulty reporting your volunteer hours or have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the FOCSPP Board members.

Responsibilities Structure

Submitted by Frank Kozak

1. Board

- a. Insurance
- b. Legal
- c. Meetings
- d. Members
- e. Policies and Procedures
- f. Strategic Planning
- g. Technology
- h. Archive

2. Events and Activities

- a. 1st Day Hike
- b. Experience Codorus
Outdoors (ECO) Event
- c. Breakfast with Santa
- d. Bridge Project
- e. Chili Cookoff
- f. Easter Egg Hunt
- g. Education Stations and
Landis Renovation
- h. Codorus Trail of Treats
- i. Invasives Species Project
- j. Outpost
- k. Park Cleanup
- l. Picnic
- m. Spring Fling
- n. Thanksgiving Dinner
- o. Trade Shows
- p. Veterans
- q. Winterfest
- r. Archive

3. Financial

- a. Accounts Payable
- b. Accounts Receivable
- c. Budgets
- d. Contributions to Codorus
State Park
- e. Sponsors
- f. Tax Filings

4. Marketing

- a. Brochures and Flyers
- b. Logos
- c. Photographs
- d. Social Media

5. Membership

- a. Database
- b. Drives
- c. MailChimp
- d. Meetings
- e. Member Cards and Letters
- f. Monthly Membership
Recap Reports
- g. Newsletter
- h. Received Applications
- i. Received Renewals
- j. Volunteer Recognition
Awards

