

February 2026 Newsletter

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we move through another season at Codorus State Park, I'm reminded how fortunate we are to have such a special place and dedicated community to support it. The Friends of Codorus State Park exists because people like you care deeply about protecting, improving and enjoying this remarkable natural resource.

Over the years, our volunteers and supporters have made a real impact! From trail maintenance, and clean-up days to educational programs and special events, your time, energy, and generosity help ensure that Codorus remains welcoming and healthy for everyone. Whether you've



volunteered for a single afternoon, attended an event or contributed financially, please know that your involvement truly matters!

One of our greatest strengths is collaboration. We work closely with park staff to identify needs and opportunities where Friends of Codorus can make a difference. These partnerships allow us to stretch every dollar and every volunteer hour as far as possible.

I also want to take a moment to recognize our volunteers. Your willingness to show up, pitch in, and share your passion for Codorus is inspiring. You are the heart of our organization. If you are new to the FOCSP, I encourage you to get involved. Opportunities are available for all interests and ability levels, and we'd love to welcome you!

As your new president, it is my honor to serve an organization that brings together people who believe in stewardship, community and value our public lands. Together, we are making a lasting difference!

With gratitude,

Mindy Rottmund

Important Information for Volunteers

New PA DCNR Requirement for Volunteering

Anyone who volunteers at Codorus State Park, whether or not they are members of the FOCSP, needs to register with Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

To register, go to [Here](#) and click the Sign Up button at the top, right corner of the page. Proceed as follows.

1. Step 1 - Complete all the required fields on the form and select Create Your Account at the bottom of the page.
2. Step 2 – Additional Questions
Background Checks, including PA Criminal History Record and Child Abuse History Clearance, are needed from adults who interact with children out of the presence of another adult. Clearance is a pre-requisite to volunteer approval. *
 - a. Check the box: I have read and agree to this statement.
 - b. Check the box: I give consent to DCNR employees/volunteers/contractors to capture my image in photos, videos, recordings, or other media. I grant permission to copyright, display, publish, distribute, use, modify, and publish such images. *
 - c. Check the box: I have read and agree to this statement.
 - d. Check if you have any of the following qualifications (not required).
 - i. Chainsaw Certifications (USFS's DTS, NWCG S-212, NATS, Game of Logging, or other
 - ii. Pesticide Applicators License (public or commercial)
 - iii. Master Gardeners Certification
 - iv. CPR/First Aid
 - v. EMT
 - e. Click on Continue to the Next Step
3. Step 3: Qualifications
 - a. Electronically sign the Conservation Volunteer, Workers' Compensation, and Rights and Duties Agreements. This must be completed each calendar year. More information can be found on the left side menu .

4. After creating a volunteer profile, agree to the Conservation Volunteer agreement terms (Waiver and Rights and Duties). You are now part of the DCNR.
5. Click Continue to start exploring. Scroll to Codorus State Park and select it to become a "fan" of the park. Select any other state parks where you'd like to volunteer.

More information on the new website can be found at the links below.

- [PA DCNR Volunteer FAQs](#)
- [Quick Start Guide for Volunteers](#)

How to Report Your Volunteer Hours

- To log your volunteer hours, go to [Here](#)
- This applies to volunteering with FOCSP as well as with the park proper.
- Volunteers can earn free camping days at PA state parks and forests as they accrue hours. The hour benchmarks are described in the [PA DCNR Volunteer FAQs](#) link.

If you have any questions, contact the staff at Codorus State Park at 717-637-2816.

How to Sign Up to Volunteer at FOCSP Events

To volunteer to help at any of these events, please complete the new DCNR volunteer signup requirement described above. Then, you have two options:

1. Signup [Here](#) or
2. Send an email to: contact@codorusfriends.org.

Reminder - Your Volunteer Hours Count

FOCSP volunteer hours are reported to DCNR headquarters and impact the park's budget. Please record and report all hours, including time spent volunteering, working on projects at home, and traveling for park activities. A form is available to track your time—submit it monthly or when complete. The form is available by clicking [here](#). Forms can be dropped off at the park office, emailed to mike@codorusfriends.org, or mailed to Friends of Codorus State Park, Attn: Mike Rottmund, 1066 Blooming Grove Road, Hanover, PA 17331.



And remember, when your volunteer hours reach a reward "milestone", you get an earned reward.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✓ 50 hours - Tee shirt | ✓ 1500 - Name on plaque |
| ✓ 100 - Hat or visor | ✓ 1750 - Tote |
| ✓ 250 - Golf shirt | ✓ 2000 - Blanket |
| ✓ 500 - Jacket | ✓ 2250 - Can Cooler |
| ✓ 750 - Sweatshirt | ✓ 2500 - Jacket |
| ✓ 1000 - Wind shirt | |

Friends of Codorus State Park Calendar – 2026

Event*	Dates and Times	Location
1 st Day Hikes	January 1, TBD	Various hikes throughout the park
Maple Sugaring Program	January – March (weather dependent)	Friends of Codorus State Park Office
Builder's Home and Garden Show	March 12, 13, and 14	TBD
Wood Cutting, Splitting and Restocking Firewood	April to Oct., Monday and Wednesday. 7:30 to 11:30 am	Monday - Meet behind the Maintenance Area. Wednesday - Wood restocking at the Outpost.
Egg Stuffing for the Scramble	March 31, 8:30 to 11:00 am	Friends of Codorus State Park Office
Easter Egg Scramble	April 3, 5:00 pm	Pavilions 1 and 2, Swimming Pool Area
Outpost Camp Store opens	April 10 - Open Fri and Sat, 2:00 to 8:30 pm	Campground Entrance
Park Clean-up Day	April 4, 9:00 am to noon	TBD
Art in the Park	May 9	TBD
Experience Codorus Outdoors Setup	June 11 & 12, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Main Launch/Bandshell Area
Experience Codorus Outdoors	Jun 13, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Jun 14, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm	Main Launch/Bandshell Area
Paddle for the Park	July 18, 9:00 am to noon, rain date July 19	Main Launch
Night Out	August 4, 6:00 pm	Emory H. Markle Middle School, 225 Bowman Road
Duck Blind Drawing	August 15, 8:00 to 11:00 am	Main Launch
Hanover Chili Cook-off Clean-up	September 6, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm	Moul Field, Hanover
Park Clean-up Day	October 10, 9:00 am to noon	TBD
Codorus Trick or Treat Set up	October 17 to 23, 8:00 am	Campground and Bus Parking Area
Codorus Trick or Treat	October 23 and 24, 6:30 to 9:00 pm	Campground and Bus Parking Area
Halloween Pet Prowl	October 24, 11:00 am, Registration starts at 10:00 am	Pavilion 1
CTOT Tear Down	October 25, 8:00 am	Campground and Bus Parking Area
Outpost Camp Store Closes	October 31, 8:30 pm	Campground Entrance
Member's Appreciation Dinner and Annual Meeting	November 12, 5:30 pm	Dub's Church Annex

Cool Stuff Happening Soon or Going on Now

Maple Sugaring Program

The FOCSP volunteer team got the maple sugaring process on December 30th, with tree tapping continuing over the next five days. In total, 57 trees were tapped using 105 taps. A few additional trees near the office will be tapped during upcoming programs. Twenty-one volunteers signed up to assist with the process.

Sap collection began on January 6th, and approximately 350 gallons of sap were frozen for use in end-of-season programs. However, mid-January brought a drop in temperatures, halting sap flow and allowing for only one cooking day—January 16th.



During January, Renae conducted two backyard sugaring programs, sharing her knowledge and engaging the community in this seasonal tradition. This month, we will be having weekend programs. The schedule is:

- ✓ February 7th at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm
- ✓ February 21st at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm
- ✓ March 3rd at 11:00 am for home school kids
- ✓ March 5th at 11:00 for home school kids
- ✓ March 7th at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm
- ✓ March 8th at 11:00 am



If members are interested, you are welcome to stop by during the cooking and program days as the Friends sell the maple syrup after the programs. Eight-ounce bottles are sold for \$12.00, and three-ounce maple leaf bottles are sold for \$7.00. Also, you can observe the cooking process.

Wood Cutting and Splitting

The wood crew is gearing up for another season starting on Monday, March 30th. The team cuts and splits firewood on Monday and Wednesday from 7:30 to 11:30.

Keith Taylor leads the weekday crew. If you are unable to help during the week and want to help, Don Eichelberger runs a Saturday morning crew from 7:30 to 11:30.

The wood processor was cutting and rough splitting 16 cords of wood at

the end of September. From that wood, the crew has approximately eight cords of wood to split.

Additionally, it appears the park will be providing another 120 to 138 logs to be cut and split from the winter

cleanup of hazardous trees and from trees needing to be removed for electric lines that we to be installed in loop A.

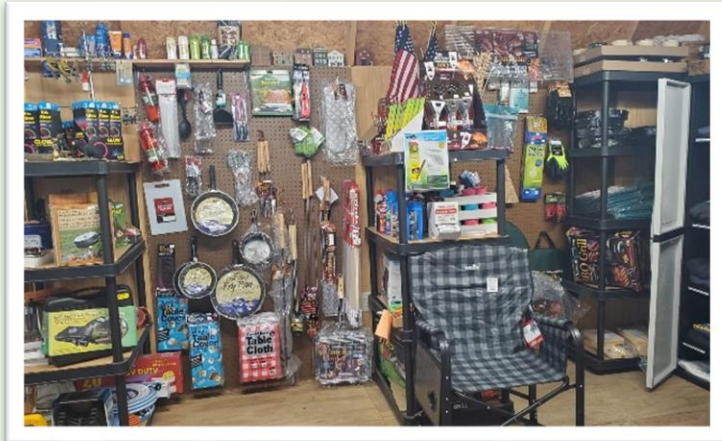
The team would like to thank Glenn and Shirley Bankert as well as Gene Bixler for their ten plus years of splitting wood. They will be missed. The loss of these three will reduce our splitting capability. While the team has gotten a new member for 2026, Jay Little, we sure could use some others. If you are interested in helping, reach out to Keith at (717) 688-2826 for the weekdays and Don at (717) 578-6579 for the Saturday mornings.



Firewood sales are one of the best fund raisers the group has. On average over the past five years, the profit margin was 310%. Last year, 2025, was our best year at 350% profit margin on sales of \$25,100. As we had almost run out of firewood after Covid the group started purchasing kiln dried firewood to help. The profit for the kiln dried wood is around 100% so definitely not as good.

Retail Sales Program

The 2025 season was the best so far in Friends history. Sales were 14% higher than any other year. The top three areas of sales included split firewood at \$25,036, Kiln dried bags of firewood that the group purchases amounted to \$14,084, and clothing amounted to \$11,612 out of the gross sales of \$77,216.



Weekend daily sales saw a low of \$285 and a high of \$1,450, which makes it tough at times to schedule the required people. Back in 2015, a single volunteer would suffice to staff the store, while busy nights now need three volunteers.

The addition of accepting credit cards in 2023 has also made a big difference in the operation and sales. The team welcomed five new volunteers last year: Mandi Smith, Cynthia Covino, Shell Bethas, Denise Markle, and Cherly Warner. Any questions/concerns, please feel free to contact

Keith Taylor at Keith@codorusfriends.org.

We are using SignUp to organize our upcoming camping season weekend help. It would be very helpful to have more volunteers even if they can only volunteer a day or two a season. Help will be needed on the weekend of April 24th as Keith will be out of town.

The campstore is open on Friday and Saturday from 2:00 pm to 8:30 pm with two full shifts and a shift from around 4:30 to 8:30 to accommodate volunteers that have job commitments.

Here is how it works in three easy steps to register for a shift:

- 1) Click this link to see Outpost Schedule: <https://signup.com/go/HKxZBOp>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It is Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.

Note: SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.



The group enjoys meeting the various campers from around the state and occasionally, from a foreign country as well as having a picnic dinner. Volunteers take turns bringing dinner for the picnic. Depending on the weather and conditions we have a campfire and our mascots are there on Friday. Kids stop by just to see the pups. Depending on schedules and what is going on in the park, staff will stop by to join us for dinner.

A change this year will be Renae periodically doing a Dutch Oven Cooking program. **TA** schedule is not yet available for the program, but we feel this would be a great additional program that will bring people in that we can talk with about joining the Friends of Codorus State Park and help retail sales that we can beat last year's record sales.

Spring Clean-Up Save the Date!

The FOCSP spring clean-up will take place on Saturday, April 18th, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We are looking for volunteers! Check the Codorus State Park calendar of events and FOCSP's social media for more information in the coming months.

Previous spring clean-ups have involved picking up trash, raking leaves, and getting park equipment ready for the spring season. For more information, contact Angie Binick at angie@codorusfriends.org.



Easter Egg Scramble

Friday, April 3, 2026



Crafts - 4 pm to 5 pm **Egg Scramble - 5 pm**

AGES: 0-2, 3-4, 5-7, 8-10

Meet the Easter Bunny – 4 pm

Location: Pavilions 1 and 2, Codorus State Park. Take the road going to the Swimming Pool. (1699 Blooming Grove Rd. Hanover, PA.) Drive about ½ mi, look on the right for the pavilions.)

Parking: At the swimming pool parking lots.

EVENT INFO



- This event is **FREE!**
- Limited to 300 children this year so bring your kiddies early!
- All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- This event is **RAIN or SHINE.**



We're looking for volunteers! Use the QR code to sign up or email us at: contact@codorusfriends.org. Thank you!



Sponsored by: Friends of Codorus State Park
1066 Blooming Grove Rd, Hanover, PA – www.codorusfriends.org

Art in the Park

Saturday, May 9, 2026

(Additional dates pending.)

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Codorus State Park, Hanover, PA

(Exact location to be decided.)



Create your own landscape of the park to take home!

- A local artist will lead you through the process of painting your own acrylic masterpiece.
- COST: \$30 per person
- All materials are included in registration fee.
- No experience necessary, but must be 14 years or older to register.
- Space is limited to 20.
- No refunds or exchanges.



← Scan to register or get more details:

<https://www.codorusfriends.org/aip.html>

Sponsored by: Friends of Codorus State Park
1066 Blooming Grove Rd, Hanover, PA 17331
717-451-3635 - contact@codorusfriends.org



Sun, air, water and woods.... We all love the out-of-doors! Plan on coming out to Experience Codorus Outdoors (ECO) this summer! Mark your calendars **now** for June 13, 2025, 11:00am- 6:00pm and June 14, 2025, 11:00am- 5:00pm. Enjoy a celebration of environmental education, nature/animal exhibits and education, live music, food vendors and local craft artisans

overlooking our wonderful Lake Marburg at Codorus State Park.

In order to make this happen, we NEED YOUR HELP! Here's how:

***VOLUNTEER:** We have many "stations" that need volunteers. We have various areas to choose from and times according to your schedule. Please consider joining us and submit our online form: [Volunteer Form](#)

***SPONSORSHIPS:** Do you know any business or organization that would like to associate their name/company with an event that encourages families of all ages to get outside and have fun? PLEASE share our [Sponsorship Package](#) with them if you do!

***VENDORS:** We are also accepting craft vendors, or vendors who offer outdoor related products to exhibit. Email ecocodorus@gmail.com if you or someone you know is interested!

AND, come out and enjoy our jam-packed weekend of educational opportunities!!

NEW this year are:

- **Keys to Bees:** Promoting environmental sustainability with bees!
- **Shining Star Therapeutic Riding Program:** Provides therapeutic horsemanship programs to children, adults, and families with special needs in order to improve physical, mental, emotional, and social areas of their lives.
- **PA Game Commission:** Brings their virtual hunting trailer to allow new hunters to hone their shooting skills!

RAIN OR SHINE! **Environmental Exhibitors!**



Experience Codorus Outdoors

Saturday, June 13, 2026
11am - 6pm and
Sunday, June 14, 2026
11am - 5pm



A celebration of outdoor fun, environmental education, good food, live music and local craft artisans overlooking the beautiful Lake Marburg at Codorus State Park.

Friends OF CODORUS STATE PARK

\$15 Per Car Admission
Tickets available online and at the gate.
No refunds or exchanges. No re-entry. PLEASE PRINT YOUR TICKETS.
(Limited cell service at the park.)



ADMISSION INCLUDES EVERYTHING!
(Does not include food or craft vendor purchases.)



- Kid's Zone
- Local Musicians
- Axe Throwing
- Outdoor Games
- Obstacle Course



- Ryan the Bug Man
- Fun in the Dirt and Sand
- Nature Challenges
- Interactive Nature Exhibits



- Fishing
- Dunk Tank
- Local Craft Artisans
- Food Vendors
- AND SO MUCH MORE!



Scan for Ticket & Event Info 

Main Launch off Sinsheim Rd.
Codorus State Park
Scan for directions 

Have questions? Email us at:
ecocodorus@gmail.com
www.codorusfriends.org

Cool Things That Have Happened

Codorus Trick or Treat

Codorus Trick or Treat (CTOT) was held on Friday and Saturday, October 24 and 25, 2025 between 6:30 pm and 9:00 pm. Almost 100 sites in C and D loops in the campground, were reserved by campers and businesses who decorated with family-friendly Halloween decorations. Their creativity was over-the-top! Together with donations from local businesses, generously handed out a combined total of over 300,000 treats to the kids! Visitors also had the opportunity to buy hot food and drinks at the vendor area and at the Friend's very own "S'mores & Drinks" tent. Codorus Park educators provided a "witchy" Nature Tent for visitors and offered self-guided activities and craft programs each day for all the campers. The committee also arranged a "Find Your Boo" scavenger hunt as well as an "Eye Spy" game in the main display area challenging visitors to find something that begins with each letter of the alphabet. They did great!



In addition, the annual Halloween Pet Parade was held that Saturday at 11am. Families registered with their pets, most dressed up in cute costumes, to walk C and D loops collecting donations for Animal Rescue, Inc. Random prizes were awarded and treats given to all entrants.

On behalf of the CTOT committee, we would like to thank all those who participated, supported and most importantly, volunteered to help raise around \$30,000 for the Friends group! Without everyone's dedication to help behind the scenes, this would never be possible.

Photos for this year's event can be found at:

<https://www.codorusfriends.org/ctot.html>. Mark your calendars for the 2026 Codorus Trick or Treat to be held on Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24. Committee meetings begin on July 9 at 6:30 pm at the FOCSP boardroom/office, 1066 Blooming Grove Rd., Hanover. All are welcome!

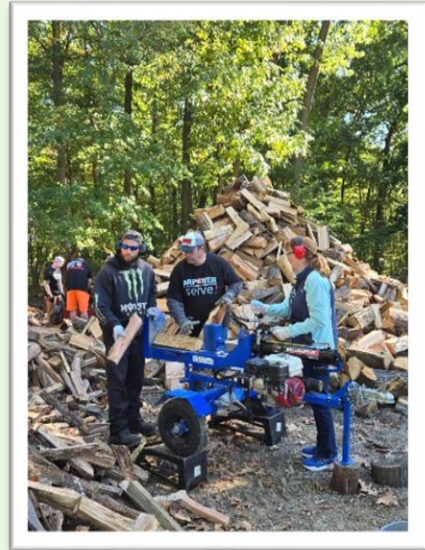
Brad and Kathy Bealing, Co-Chairs



Wood Cutting and Splitting with the Air-Pro Company Community Volunteer Day

On October 10th, employees from the company's location in New Freedom came out to help the wood crew as well as take care of the area around young maple sugar trees. The group was a big help to the firewood crew by splitting approximately four cords of firewood during the day. The team with the firewood crew switched jobs with the other teams that were removing invasives and weeds and reinstalling deer fencing and mulching around the young trees. They also worked on 23 of the 25 maples in the Amphitheater area.

Initially, 11 volunteers were to help but situations resulted in nine participating. They came from as close as Hanover and as far as the North Carolina operation. The group consisted of Matt Tuttle (team lead), Lori Hoke, Brian Gaddy, Ken Ensor, Eric Ross, Chris Nelson, John Sands, Connie Bonsiero and Riley Barber. We are looking forward to them returning in the fall of 2026 to help with firewood and other pending projects in the park.



Your FOCSP Leaders

- Mindy Rottmund, President
- Ellen Oaster, Vice President
- Denise Markle, Secretary
- Keith Taylor, Treasurer/Accounts Payable
- Shell Bethas, Account Receivable
- Cynthia Covino, Director
- Mike Rottmund, Director
- Mindy Rottmund, Director
- Mandi Smith, Director

Contact Mindy Rottmund at mindy@codorusfriends.org or (717) 451-3635 if you have any questions about the FOCSP or its activities.

This newsletter is a publication of the Friends of Codorus State Park. Questions or comments about the content of this newsletter can be sent via email to Frank Kozak at frank@codorusfriends.org.