



June 2023 Newsletter

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Wonderful News!

The Friends of Codorus State Park (FOCSP) has been awarded twice by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

- The FOCSP was recognized with the Group Volunteer Award.
- Brad and Kathy Bealing were recognized with the Individual Volunteer Award.

The Group Volunteer Award and Individual Volunteer Award are given, respectively, to the most deserving group and individuals each year. Only one of each award is given yearly, which is a feat considering the many, many groups of volunteers across the 124 state parks. And it is atypical for both awards to be given within the same friend's group. Kudos to all the members that volunteered their time for the park!

The nominations for the awards were submitted by Mathias Weizen, Assistant Park Manager. Many thanks are due to Mathias for his thoughtfulness and time in preparing the nominations.

Keith Taylor, Mike Rottmund, Frank Kozak, and Brad and Kathy attended the award ceremony in the Poconos on May 3rd.

The award speeches and the photos from the event are presented later in this newsletter.

Cool Stuff Happening Soon

Experience Codorus Outdoors (ECO)

The 2nd Annual Experience Codorus Outdoors (ECO) event will be held Friday, June 9th from 4 pm to 8 pm and Saturday, June 10th from 11 am to 8 pm. This event highlights the outdoor recreational opportunities offered at Codorus State Park, such as boating, fishing, kayaking, camping, birding, disc golf, and mountain biking.



Many new activities this year are targeted at families with children. The Kid's Zone will include puzzles, toss games, bubbles, water balloon volleyball, and more. For families with older kids, a treasure hunt with clues, a wildlife photo scavenger hunt, and an introduction to geocaching will be held.

The new Family Fun Area will allow families to fly kites, play badminton, cornhole, and croquet, and climb a rock wall! The water activities are guaranteed to get everyone wet.

Live local music, over 40 craft vendors, and food trucks will offer something for everyone. All these activities are included in the \$10 per car admission fee. The fee excludes vendor purchases.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Archaeological Camp

The FOCSP, with Codorus State Park, will host its first Youth Archaeology Camp for ages 9–12 from Monday, June 19th to Friday, June 23rd, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm daily. Students will conduct real archaeology under local archaeologist Jeri Jones at the former Mary Ann Furnace site. Students will learn procedures for conducting an archaeological excavation and how to clean and prepare artifacts for identification and report writing. The York County History Center will conduct a short program daily on a topic themed to the furnace and mining. Click [here](#) for more information.

Paddle in the Park

This fun, on-the-lake event, is planned for September 16th with an anticipated rain date of September 30th. Dianna Stremmel and Emily Gronski are leading the event. The fee to participate in the paddle is \$20.00. Click [here](#) for more information.

Codorus Trick or Treat

Too early to be thinking of Halloween? Not for us! Campsites in the trick-or-treating area (C and D loops) will be open for reservations on Thursday, June 15 at 9 am sharp! Call Kathy at 717-476-1630. First come, first served. If no one answers, leave a message and someone will get back to you as quickly as possible. All calls are returned in the order they are received. For all the campsite details click [here](#). Please share with friends and family!

Event Dates: Fri and Sat, Oct 20 and 21 -6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Mark your calendars to volunteer!

Tickets are on sale now [here](#). The last two years this event sold out, so be sure to buy early. Online sales only. Limited supply.

Keep up to date on all the Halloween fun for this event [here](#) or contact us at: codorustreats@gmail.com. Thank you!

Cool Things That Have Happened

Maple Sugaring Program

The program started sooner than expected due to the warm weather. FOCSP volunteers collected over 427 gallons of sap and 164 bottles of maple syrup were sold as of mid-February. Due to the success of the program, it will be expanded in 2024. A donation was made to allow for an additional purchase of a gas fired ½ pint evaporator that will be easier on our volunteers and reduce the amount of wood that is being burned.

Easter egg Hunt

The hunt went off without a hitch and was enjoyed by 100s of children and their parents, due to the planning and organization skills of Alice Myers. Alice collected 366 bags of candy and trinkets for the kids. Don Eichelberger arranged for the volunteers and helped Ray Weleski and Bob Larsen set up the event.

Park Cleanup

The cleanup, held on Earth Day (April 22) had 67 volunteers pitching in. Thanks to Scott Taylor and Renae for coordinating the event.

Website/Social Media

We have a new website due to the challenging work of Kathy Bealing, with support from other members. The site provides both information on our group and a way for members to volunteer their time. Click [here](#) to go to the new website.



Give York Annual Day

The FOCSP had more than \$5,000 donated to the group!! The monies will go into our general fund for use within the park.

Builder's Show

The FOCSP participated in the Exchange Club's Annual Builders and Garden Show. This year it was held at the North Hanover Mall on March 25th and allowed contractors, real estate agents, community services, and other non-profits to take advantage of a new audience of folks. Approximately 12 members helped with set-up and tear down and talked to others in the community about our great organization!



Park Manager's Update

The Summer season is in full swing. We have welcomed back all our seasonal employees and are as ready as we are going to be for the summer crowds! Although it is not summer yet, the park staff have been remarkably busy with preparations and projects.

Our Maintenance staff has been busy getting the park ready for the season. The pool area opened this weekend, splash pad only due to the hair and lint strainer for the main filter breaking while preparing the pool for the season. The replacement parts have been ordered. We are hoping to have the pool open by the 10th of June but that will be dependent on when the parts are received and installed, and provided the rest of the process goes smoothly. We also had a hydrant break in the C loop of the campground; the replacement part is ordered, but until it arrives, 10 full-hookup sites are without water.

The Rangers have had many incidents over the past few months, including multiple vehicle accidents, some of which resulted in vehicles entering the lake. Before the green-up this spring, the crew worked on maintaining park boundaries, signage, and overall law enforcement duties.

We welcomed a new EIT this season, Amber Fogelsanger, so Renae has been busy welcoming her. They have also been teaching school groups but are now in transition for the summer season including preparation for ECO and the Archeology camp! They have also been joined at times by our summer intern Taylor Cromer! If you see Amber or Taylor around, please give them a warm welcome!

Our clerical and administrative staff have been taking care of multiple items including the annual marina/sailboat/kayak rack slips, yearly agreements, pool season passes, preparing for our multiple park inspections this year, and preparing boundary letters.

Overall staffing update, as it stands, we only have four vacancies in the entire staff which are in the maintenance department as there are four open semi-skilled laborers (SSL). The job posting will be available from 5/30 until 6/13 if anyone knows someone looking for a job! In addition to the EIT and Intern, we welcomed three SSLs, one Laborer, one Clerical Assistant, and promoted two prior SSLs

to the positions of Maintenance Repairman 1 and 2. Also, it is expected that all 16 lifeguard positions and two lifeguard supervisors will be full this summer!

We would also like to thank the Friends of Codorus for all that you do. Over the past few months, the Maple Sugaring programs were held, the Easter Egg Hunt went well despite the dreary weather, the outpost was prepared for opening, and the ECO event preparations continued. We would not be able to do all that we do without the help of all of you, Thank you!

Deanna & Mathias

Deanna Schall, Park Manager

Mathias Weizen, Assistant Park Manager

Your Volunteer Hours Count

As you may know, the total hours that the FOCSP reports are submitted to the DCNR's headquarters. Importantly, the reported hours directly impact the budget that the park managers receive from the DCNR. Reporting your hours, then, benefits the park. So, please be diligent in recording and reporting your hours. Volunteer hours include all the hours spent volunteering in the park, at home working on FOCSP projects, and travel time to and from the Park for a volunteer activity. A form is available to make it easy for you to record your time. The form is available by clicking [here](#).



Turning your form in monthly is helpful, as the request for the hours from DCNR headquarters may come at any point throughout the year. If submitting monthly is not possible, please send the form when it is full. Hand in the form either at the Park Office; email it to john@codorusfriends.org; or mail it to Friends of Codorus State Park, Attn: John Kelley, 1066 Blooming Grove Road, Hanover, PA 17331.

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

- 50 hours (about 2 days) - Tee shirt
- 100 - Hat or visor
- 250 - Golf shirt
- 500 - Jacket
- 750 - Sweatshirt
- 1000 - Wind shirt
- 1500 - Name on plaque
- 1750 - Tote
- 2000 - Blanket
- 2250 - Can Cooler
- 2500 - Jacket with name

Outpost (Camp Store)

The outpost opened on April 14 to a cool and damp April. Things have dried out and the store is starting to get busier. To make it easier for people to sign up and see what shifts are open, an online sign-up sheet that requires no log or password on is available. Just follow these easy steps.

- 1) Click this link to see the outpost calendar: <https://signup.com/go/yzYBEvn>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

Note: Sign Up does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Keith Taylor at keith@codorusfriends.org. Keith will sign you up manually. Thank you.

DCNR Award Speeches

Group Volunteer Award: Friends of Codorus State Park – Deanna Schall

The Friends of Codorus State Park is a dedicated group of local citizens that care about the park and the surrounding communities. They give countless hours of their time and efforts to ensure they are helping the park provide the much-needed natural space enjoyed by over 1 million visitors each year. They also provide stewardship opportunities throughout the year, ensuring the park is here for all to enjoy for generations to come.

Our Friends group holds over 10 events in the park throughout the year and participates in events throughout the community, accumulating over 4000 volunteer hours annually. They hold two major annual events that are well attended by the community and raise thousands of dollars to be put back into the park. One of the largest and most expensive projects our Friends group has tackled is our Black Rock Lodge. Through their fundraising efforts and a \$60k grant from the Wareheim Foundation, the Friends were able to contribute over \$200K towards the Lodge rehab. With additional support from the park and Director's Office, the project was completed in 2022 and opened for reservations in September.

Please join me in a round of applause as I present the group volunteer award to the Friends of Codorus for their outstanding service to our park and the surrounding community.



Individual Volunteer Award: Brad and Kathy Bealing – Mathias Weizen

Brad and Kathy Bealing have been a part of the Friends of Codorus since the early 2000s. With each passing year, their involvement has resulted in the growth and success of two large annual park events.

Brad and Kathy have coordinated the park's Halloween Event for the past 10+ years, building upon and elevating its success year after year. In 2022, the event sold out resulting in 7,153 visitors and bringing in over \$30,000. Their unbridled dedication and commitment to the park and Friends group continues to remain strong as they recently stepped up to be the coordinators for the Experience Codorus Outdoors event which replaced the Codorus Blast.



In addition to both events, the couple also manages the Friends webpage, Facebook Page, and online ticket sales. The exact amount of time these two dedicate to the park each year is difficult to determine as they are constantly working on something. But one thing is for sure, the amount of time is staggering and truly a huge part of their life. Their volunteer service has resulted in an accumulation of friendships, stories, and experiences. The leadership, experience, and continuity provided have been outstanding while providing the utmost level of dedication and service to the park, its visitors, and the surrounding community. Please join me in a round of applause as I present the Bureau of State Parks 2022 individual volunteer award to Brad and Kathy Bealing.

