



## Salt Springs

# Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Winter 2009

## MAPLE SYRUP MAKING: PAST AND PRESENT

Maple sugar making, also called "sugaring," has been a tradition in the northeastern United States since at least the late 1600s. Timing spans from late winter into early spring. This year, we offer a three-part program examining the many aspects of making maple syrup.

**Saturday, February 21, 2 pm – Part One:** Participants will learn about the origins and traditional methods of sugaring; hear about how the process and machinery have changed over time; and view the equipment used at Salt Springs. Come dressed for the weather, because we will then go tap some maple trees near the dairy barn.

**When the Sap Flows – Part Two:** Part two involves hands-on syrup making. When the weather begins to alternate between freezing and thawing, the sap will begin to flow. Participants will be notified at this time and invited to gather sap, tend the fire, and monitor the process. Because sugaring takes place over several days to several weeks, participants are encouraged to drop around as often as they can, at their convenience, during this time to help.

**Saturday, March 21, 2 pm – Part Three:** Sampling the syrup! Celebrate the new spring season with vanilla ice cream smothered in maple syrup. Participants will also be given a small bottle of the freshly made Salt Springs maple syrup.

**Pre-registration is required. You can register by phone (570-967-7275) or by e-mail (info@friendsofsaltspringspark.org. Program Fee: \$15 per person; \$10 for children 12 or younger.**

Sugaring time is when . . . “the nights are cold enough to freeze sharply and the days warm enough to thaw freely. . . . The thermometer must not rise above forty degrees by day, nor sink below twenty-four degrees at night. It is this magic see-sawing between winter and spring that decides the sugaring season. The sun seems almost to draw the sap up and the frost to draw it down, for an excess of either stops the flow, as if by magic.”

—Eric Sloane, *Seasons of America Past*,

“The trick of successful sugaring is to have everything ready for the very short season. . . . On winter nights before sugar time, the men would whittle sumac spiles at the fireplace; metal rods were heated in the coals to be used for burning through the pithy centers to complete the spout. Preparing four or five hundred spiles was ample work for any junior craftsman.”

—Eric Sloane, *Seasons of America Past*, p. 36



## Friends of Salt Springs Park

P.O. Box 541  
Montrose, PA 18801  
570-967-7275  
www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

### 2009 Board of Directors

John Miskell, President  
Lillian Theophanis, Vice President  
Susan Newhart, Treasurer  
Walt Kostyk, Secretary  
Libby Anderson  
Dave Clemens  
Jack Davis  
Dick Jordan  
Hedi Randall  
George Schreck  
Michaela Steele

#### Friends' Mission

*The Friends of Salt Springs Park will maintain the unspoiled, rural character of the park created by the Wheaton family. The Friends will provide opportunities to enjoy healthy outdoor recreation and education, while conserving the natural, scenic, aesthetic and historical values of the park.*

The Friends of Salt Springs Park is a private 501(c)3, non-profit organization. Support for the Friends' work at the park comes from memberships, public and private agency grants, business donations, in-kind donations of materials and services, special events, and program fees for educational services. Contributions are tax deductible.

## Board Changes in 2009

### Thank You for Serving

With regret, we must say good-bye to two board members. Both **Sandy Babuka** and **Dennis Wilson** have served their term limits. They will remain involved with the Friends, however. Sandy chairs the Education Committee and helps coordinate the Triathlon and the Celebration. Dennis is an active member of the Historical Committee and, as a resident at the park, he is a key person who interacts with the public on the Friends' behalf.

### Welcome

With pleasure, we announce the appointment of two new board members, **Jack Davis** and **Dick Jordan**.

Jack first got to know Salt Springs Park while hiking there as a member of the Triple Cities (NY) Hiking Club and living in Endwell, NY. The club comes to Salt Springs at least once a year for a Sunday hike. Jack and his wife Judy moved to Choconut from Endwell in 1999 and started coming to Salt Springs more often. They became members of the Friends soon after moving to PA. They have especially enjoyed sharing Salt Springs with their grandchildren. Jack's particular favorites are the waterfall trails and the viewing area from above. He is eager to explore the new trails and to help maintain them.

His background includes Sierra Club, Susquehanna Group chair, Choconut Creek Watershed Association chair, Choconut Planning Commission chair, Democratic Committee person and precinct captain, Ahwaga Canoe & Kayak Club trip leader, and board member of Central United Methodist Church. He is a retired IBM engineer.

Jack has been a frequent participant in the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Susquehanna Sojourn, paddling his canoe from Cooperstown, NY, to the Chesapeake Bay over a period of 7 years. He is a former chair and longtime member of the Sojourn planning committee. In 2005 the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay awarded Jack its Spirit of the Sojourn award "for exemplary dedication to the stewardship of the Susquehanna River and passionate commitment to fostering a conservation ethic in others." He plans to bring to Salt Springs Park a similar dedication and commitment.

Dick Jordan recently retired from a 30-plus year career as a partner in the Philadelphia law firm White and Williams. White and Williams is now a Mid-Atlantic firm based in Philadelphia, with offices throughout the region, including New York, Pittsburgh, Wilmington, and Allentown. Dick specialized in business trial law and was recognized yearly from 2004 to 2008 in *Law and Politics* as a Pennsylvania "super lawyer" in commercial litigation.

*continued on p. 3*

### Board Changes

Dick obtained his JD from Notre Dame and has served on the Notre Dame Law Association Board. He received a Certificate in English and American Law from University College, University of London. He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and various federal and state courts in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Dick has a strong interest in historic preservation. In Philadelphia, he was a director and then a president of both Elfreth's Alley Association (dedicated to the preservation of the oldest continuously residential street in America) and the Awbury Arboretum (a 55-acre public garden in a depressed area of Philadelphia, which conducts an environmental education program for grades K-12 and an adult job training program).

Since coming to the area, Dick has served on the school board advisory group. His two sons, Christopher and Thomas, attend Montrose Area High School. Dick's wife, Maureen Brown Jordan, practices law from her office on Church Street in Montrose. Dick is particularly interested in both the education component of Salt Springs and the Friends' long range planning.

### Boardwalk Funding Obtained

We have been awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation for completion of the boardwalk between the existing boardwalk and the Overlook Trail. The grant is for \$2,283, which is half of the estimated cost of \$4,565. The grant is contingent upon our raising the other 50% from an outside source. We are still investigating other sources.

The membership year begins on June 1st.



## Friends of Salt Springs Park, Inc.

P.O. Box 541 • Montrose, PA 18801

### Membership Categories

Individual	\$20
Family	\$40
Organization	\$50
Sponsor	\$100
Corporation	\$250
Patron	\$500
Other (any amount)	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: FRIENDS OF SALT SPRINGS (Your cancelled check is your receipt)

## Planning Ahead

Save these dates!

### Three-Part Program on Maple Syrup Making

Full program description on page 1. Fee and Registration for the series.

### Saturday, February 21, 2 PM Maple Syrup Making —

Past and Present: Discussion, including a look at the Friends' set up, followed by a short walk up Salt Springs Road to tap some trees.

**To be announced:** You'll be notified when the sap begins to run. Come at your convenience to help in the making.

### Saturday, March 21, 2 PM Maple Syrup Tasting —

Reminiscent of an old-fashioned social, we will gather for ice cream topped with our newly made Salt Springs maple syrup.

### Also this year:

\*Wine making (dandelion, depending on the "crop")

\*Memory Writing Contest

\*Patriotic songs around an evening campfire

\*Historical games and toys

Next program brochure will be available in March.

## Stewardship Campaign

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who have donated to our Stewardship Campaign. We are grateful for the strong community support we have received.

Toby and Libby Anderson  
Bob Babcock  
Alan and Rebecca Bennett  
Wm. Chamberlin & Catherine Lesoine  
Dale Crumb  
Paul DeSera  
Gene and Nancy Famolari  
Mary Felley  
Peter Fennell  
Martha Franklin  
Richard Harrington  
Jean and Lon Homeier  
Juanita Homer  
Lew and Pat Hunsicker  
Mildred Latini  
Lee's Furniture  
Benjamin and Elizabeth Levy  
Mary McKecknie  
Meoni's Auto Service  
John and Marian Miskell  
Peoples National Bank  
Matthew Perlick  
Joan Peters  
Hedi and Charles Randall  
John Reynolds  
Silver Lake Ladies' Club  
Mary Sipple  
Stephen Terry  
John Wheaton  
David Wilcox  
Bert and Lorie Wolfson

We also thank **Dave Clemens and family**, the **Comey-Fitzgerald family**, and **Frank Shaw** for their generous donations to the general fund in 2008.

## Winter Fun at Home

by Michaela Steele

Got the winter blues? Here are some ways to keep your children happy and active during the snowy winter months:

- **Animal Smorgasbord**—Use up food scraps by feeding the animals. Scatter bread crumbs, fruit/veggie peels, nuts, cereal, etc. under a tree for them to scavenge. Designate a tree for each child and have them draw the animals that eat at their “tree restaurant.” Draw menus for the animals, too!
- **Winter Olympics**—Create your own competition. Award new hats, gloves, scarves, etc. to the winners. Try sledding, speed boot skating, snowman building, snowball target practice, match and hang the mittens race, and penguin races (waddle and slide on bottom or belly down the hill).
- **Snow painting**—Fill a squirt bottle or squirt gun with food-coloring water and spray designs and words on the snow. Practice spelling words and solving math problems!
- **Have a beach party!** Sit outside on towels, wear sunglasses, and eat snacks. Play beach ball toss, Marco polo, hula hoop, bury and find seashells, and sled on water tubes.
- **Snow Fishing**—Bury several plastic fish in the snow. Have the kids find them and count who has collected the most.

Too cold outside? Try these inside:

- **Pen pals**—Write a letter to friends and family who live in other states. Enclose a photo or draw a picture of yourself. Ask them to send you a postcard with fun facts about their state. Mark a U.S. map with the places you have “traveled” to and learned about.
- **Mailman**—Make mailboxes out of tissue boxes. Write letters, encouraging notes, or nice thoughts to each other in your family and place them in their mailbox.
- **Creative Recycling**—Set out clean recyclables (bottle tops, oatmeal containers, etc.), tape, and glue. Have kids create robots, bird feeders, puzzles—whatever their brains come up with! Then, draw advertisements for their product and share them with the family.

# Winter Fun at Salt Springs

**Snow Skiing** ... looks like at the top of the world. Which is more challenging, going up, or going down?



Saturday, January 17, 2009, with temps hovering near zero. Members of Boy Scout Troup 4010 from East Smithfield, Bradford Co., PA (ages 11-16) spent the day snow skiing in partial fulfillment of a Snow Sports Merit Badge.



Frosted flakes for breakfast.



The salt spring in winter.

## Celebrating the Winter Solstice — December 12 and 13, 2008

Xplore Adventurs is a Philadelphia-based hiking group. They spent Friday and Saturday nights in Cabin 1 and Saturday and Sunday hiking. Organizer Kimsan Ting posted his review of the weekend at Salt Springs:

“This was the bomb diggity! Everyone froze their — off and was warmed by Roc's great fire, wonderful cooking, and awesome hike leadership. The rustic cabin was colder than cold but somehow we all managed to stay super warm. From scrapple to angelhair noodles to frozen water, we all had a blast. Our hike was amazing, especially at the very icy end! I'd totally do this again! and again! and again!”



Hiking sometimes involves sliding, as Jenny can attest.

For more photos, visit their website: <http://www.meetup.com/letsxplore/calendar/9254553/>



**Friends of Salt  
Springs Park, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 541  
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## **United Way Designation**

We are pleased to announce that the Friends of Salt Springs Park has been selected as a **United Way Participating Organization for 2009**. We will receive a percentage of the available undesignated funds for Direct Services to the Environmental Education and the Historic Preservation and Education Programs within Susquehanna County.

The **Susquehanna County United Way** collects funds through charitable contributions through workplace programs and disburses funds to county nonprofit organizations. Contributors can designate a specific nonprofit group, such as the Friends of Salt Springs park, to receive a percentage of their donation.