



Salt
Springs

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Winter 2012

Meet Concetta Schirra

We are pleased to announce that Concetta Schirra is the new Environmental Education Coordinator at Salt Springs. We can only hit the highlights here of her experiences, interests, and enthusiasm for her new position. Read Concetta's introduction in her own words on our website (friendsofsaltspringspark.org/html/concetta.html).

Concetta lives in Hallstead, has attended programs at the park, and has hiked all the trails here numerous times. She grew up just outside Philadelphia with Italian-born parents and moved to Susquehanna County in 2006. She describes herself as "a city girl with country blood."

Concetta applied for the position because she was looking for alternatives in her career as an educator. She wants to combine her love of the outdoors and respect for the environment with her teaching skills.

Concetta has a B.S. degree (summa cum laude) in Mathematics and Chemistry from Alvernia College (Reading, PA) and an M.S. degree (cum laude) in Mathematics from Wilkes University. Although most of her teaching has been at the college level (including Wilkes University and Kings College), she has taught students from young adults to older adults. In her classes, she integrated hands-on approaches, discovery and inquiry methods, and technology into the coursework. At Salt Springs, she envisions using field guides, workbooks, cameras, natural samples and models, and other appropriate teaching aides.

Her experience in the outdoors is just as extensive. In addition to hiking, she enjoys camping, caving, and backpacking. She's camped in over 30 PA state parks and in many more in New York, Virginia, California, and Alaska. She's led groups along the Loyalsock Trail, kayaked a number of PA waterways, and trekked through the local game lands and nature preserves.

Concetta is excited that her new position will allow her to apply another of her skills as well, her creativity. "My mind is already dancing with ideas to complement the existing programs at Salt Springs."



An avid hiker, Concetta has hiked all the trails at Salt Springs. Here she tackles Fall Brook.

Friends of Salt Springs Park

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www.friendsofsaltsspringspark.org

2012 Board of Directors

Stephen Spero, President
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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.

Welcome Our New Board Members

Join us in welcoming Bette Brown, Susan English, Robert Fearnley, Kevin Gates, Mike Hornak, and Tom Norville.

Bette Brown is an Associate Controller at Security Mutual Life Insurance in Binghamton, NY. After 36 years of service, she will be retiring in May. "Because of my work," says Bette, "I have gained knowledge about financial reporting, investments, taxes, etc., and hope that I can add value to the financial decisions that the Friends must make." Bette has lived in Susquehanna County since she was 2 years old and has been married for 38 years.

Susan English is a Partner in the law firm Coughlin & Gerhard, L.L.C. Susan represents clients, exclusively landowners, on issues of oil and gas drilling. Susan grew up on a farm just a few miles from Salt Springs and still lives close by. Her husband and son enjoy trout fishing in the park, and her daughter brings her college friends here when they come to visit. Says Susan, "I am very interested and concerned obviously about the gas drilling in the area and how it will affect the park. I see these issues as my primary mission as a board member."

Robert Fearnley has worked with the Education Committee since 2008, when he began working for the Susquehanna County Conservation District. Currently he is the Watershed Specialist. Robert is a life-long resident of the family farm in Forest Lake Township, which he now shares with his wife, Dawn, and two sons, Jeremiah and Mathew. Robert will now be an even more active participant in the Friends' education efforts.

Kevin Gates is an accountant, currently with Automecha in Oxford, NY, and has spent several years working for nonprofit organizations. He was raised in rural Upstate New York and has enjoyed hiking and hanging out in the woods all his life. "Just recently I fell in love with a beautiful lady, who happened to know people on the Salt Springs Board. It seemed like an ideal opportunity for me to give something back to the local community which I now consider home."

Mike Hornak is an officer of the Silver Lake Township Police and has a strong managerial background in the manufacturing, engineering, and law enforcement fields. A lifelong resident of Susquehanna County, Mike was introduced to the park 55 years ago when his father brought him here to fish. Among other organizations, Mike belongs to the American Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Turkey Federation. With his love of hunting, fishing, and camping, Mike will bring a lot of expertise to our Stewardship Committee.

Tom Norville, born in Elk Lake, is another lifelong resident of Susquehanna County. Tom works and lives, with his wife Sharon and son Colt, in Montrose. Tom is a board member of several local community organizations and a National Turkey Federation Sponsor and committee member of the Wilson Moore Chapter in Montrose. Tom has been coming to Salt Springs since he was a teenager and, as a board member, wants to "help ensure that future generations can continue to get the same enjoyment out of this park that I have for the past 34 years."

2011 Annual Report

Mission Statement: *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.*

Dear Friends,

On a beautiful mid-Spring day in 2011, about a dozen Cub Scouts made the drive from Binghamton to put up blue-bird houses on park land surrounding Buckley Road. The scouts worked hard. They got dirty. They had fun. They got the job done.

Again and again, individuals and groups came to the 842-acre park, rolled back their sleeves and went to work. We had a bumper crop of volunteers.

Whether it was the dozens of people who cleared trails in April or the scores who restored the park after two floods, the hills echoed with the joyful noise of good people doing good work. All wasn't perfect, of course. The Friends ran a deficit of \$24,000 and we had to dip into our resources to stay afloat. We're fortunate to have those resources, but deficit spending is not a successful long-term strategy and it limits what we can do.

So we'll be looking for more help in 2012 as we expand our programs and rebuild our campsites. Can you clear a trail? Can you tend a garden or prune a tree? Can you donate time and money?

I was going to end this note with a reflection on the Cub Scouts, but I've been interrupted by another group offering to help. It's going to be another good year.

Stephen Spero
President
Friends of Salt Springs



The Abel family of Honesdale, PA, helped clean up trails on April 23.



The UUCB church's Youth Group painted picnic tables on April 30.



Nearly 170 volunteers worked on October 8 to spruce up buildings and clean up grounds.

Financial Statements

End of Year 2011

Highlights

Statement of Financial Position

Total Current Assets	\$91,628
Other Assets	\$1,076,594
Total Assets	\$1,168,222
Liabilities	\$1,651
Equity	\$1,166,571
Total Liability & Equity	\$1,168,222

Statement of Income & Expense

Income	
Direct Public Support	\$30,485.00
Indirect Support	\$3,493.00
Program Income	\$19,275.00
Rentals	\$18,800.00
Sales	\$1,939.00
Total Support & Revenue	\$73,992.00
Cost of Goods Sold	\$847.00
Gross Profit	\$73,145.00
Expenses	
Support of Park Facility	\$7,965.00
Operations	\$12,056.00
Other Expenses	\$6,886.00
Program Expenses	\$31,435.00
Payroll & Tax Expenses	\$39,279.00
Total Expenses	\$97,621.00
Net Income	-\$24,476.00

Major Donors

Mr. Nick Brewster
 Donald and Christine Burton
 Will Chamberlin and Kathryn LeSoine
 Clemens Donor Advised Fund
 Comey-Fitzgerald Family Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crowley
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Davis
 First Liberty Bank
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 Robert Neigh
 Susan Newhart
 People's Neighborhood Bank
 Mr. and Mrs. George Shafer
 Stephen Spero and Diana Bean
 Susquehanna Co. Conservation District
 Nan and George Conner, Tall Pines
 Talisman Energy
 John and Barbara Wilkerson

Other Sources

- United Way—\$1,429 in designated donations.
- Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau—\$2,000 grant for publicity.

Accomplishments

- Tent site rentals increased 75%.
- Pavilion rentals increased 35%.
- Public programs drew 580 people.
- E3 Environmental Education class was taught to 147 fourth grade students in two school districts.
- Class field trips were attended by 153 students from three school districts.
- Memberships increased 2.5%; donations accompanying memberships increased 12.5%.
- Volunteers logged 2,260 hours; 700 were on a single day in October.

Volunteer Support

2,260 hours \$46,353

According to Independent Sector, \$20.51 is the dollar value, as of December 1, 2011, of a Pennsylvania volunteer hour (http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time).

News & Notes

We've Been Blogged!

Question: How many grandkids does it take to encircle an old-growth hemlock tree at Salt Springs?

Answer: To find out, read the blog post, and enjoy the photographs, at Milliver's Travels (milliverstravels.com/2012/01/our-secret-garden/), written by park neighbor Betsy Villanella. Thanks, Betsy!

Historical Program Sunday April 29, 2 pm

A Stitch in Time — The Art and Tradition of Embroidery. Since the time humans stitched animal skins together for clothing, they have used fibers to embellish their works. Embroidery, the art of decorating fabric with needle and thread, is experiencing a revival. People are rediscovering this traditional way of adding personal touches to their homes and experiencing creative satisfaction in seeing a pattern grow.

In this workshop, we provide the supplies, and Anne Thompson provides the expert instruction to get you started on a basic project. You'll learn stitches you need to know like outline, back and running, and leave with instructions on how to turn your fabric into a finished product. Supply kits, light refreshments, and informative handouts provided. Appropriate for all, ages 12 through adult.

Program fee: \$15 (includes supplies). Space is limited; pre-registration and pre-payment are required. E-mail or call today to reserve your spot.

The membership year begins on June 1st.



Friends of Salt Springs Park, Inc.

P.O. Box 541 • Montrose, PA 18801
www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

Membership Categories

Individual	\$25
Family	\$45
Organization	\$75
Sponsor	\$100
Patron	\$250
Best Friend	\$500
Other (any amount)	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please make check payable to: FRIENDS OF SALT SPRINGS (Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

Your tax-deductible gift will support our mission.

Save These Dates!

Apple Tree Pruning. Saturday, March 24, 9 am to Noon. March is the perfect time in the north to prune your apple trees. Snow cover has lessened, but it's still cold enough to deter bugs and disease from infecting the cut wound. Jim Kessler will discuss and demonstrate the why, where, how, what, and when to cut. He'll focus on four apple trees, beginning in front of the Wheaton House and moving west through the fields. Other trees along the way may also be pruned. **Program fee: \$5, members; \$15, nonmembers.**

Chainsaw Day, Saturday, April 14, 7 am. Join us for another chainsaw work session. We need volunteers with chainsaws to move and cut up the heaviest of the winter debris from the park trails. We need a head count, so please sign up by phone, e-mail, or Facebook. **Food, beverages, and t-shirts will be provided**

Trail Day Cleanup, Saturday, April 21, Noon on. Now that the trails have been cleared of the major debris, it's time to remove the remaining sticks and stones, pick up garbage, and make note of any remaining problems. Come help us keep Salt Springs clean. It takes volunteers like you to maintain our park. Dress for the weather and bring gloves. So we can plan accordingly, sign up by phone, e-mail, or Facebook. **Food, beverages, and t-shirts will be provided.**



**Friends of Salt
Springs Park, Inc.**
P.O. Box 541
Montrose, PA 18801

In This Issue

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Welcome our new board members

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Learn about upcoming programs

March 24: Apple Tree Pruning

April 7: Chainsaw Day

April 21: Trail Cleanup Day

April 29: A Stitch in Time - The Art and Tradition of Embroidery



Baseline Water Sampling

Owned & operated in Montrose, PA since 2002 – fully insured
Environmental, Health, & Safety experience since 1987

- Independent sampling & comprehensive water quality report
- PADEP certified laboratory & NELAP accreditation
- PA Licensed Professional Geologist (PG) on staff
- Two staff members with Master of Science degrees in Geology
- Distributor of Oakton and LaMotte TDS meters
- Group presentations and scheduled appointments
- Visa / MC accepted

For more information:
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Thank you for sponsoring this issue.