



Salt
Springs

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

winter 2011

Celebrating Women, Celebrating Anna Foote An historical program



Based on this remarkable woman's diaries about life in Susquehanna County in the Depression.

Sunday, March 20, 2011
2 pm

United Methodist Church
Silver Creek Rd.
Franklin Forks, PA

Light refreshments. No admission fee, but we pass the hat.

Anna Stockholm was born on August 14, 1881, at the family homestead in Liberty Township and lived the first 65 years of her life in Susquehanna County. She married Frank Foote in 1901, and they lived on various farms before buying one on Silver Creek Road, just west of Franklin Forks. Anna bore nine children, four of whom predeceased her.

This winter, members of the Friends' Historical Committee came to know and admire Anna by reading her diaries from 1936 to 1944. The diaries were donated to the Friends by her grand-daughter, Mildred Warner Latini.

Anna writes about life on a small farm in rural Pennsylvania. The diaries were written during the Depression, when jobs were hard to get and hard to keep and staples like butter and milk were scarce. She records the activities of her family and community and the rhythms of their lives. She details the spring plantings, summer berrying and canning, fall harvesting and preserving, and winter priorities like cutting enough wood to keep the home warm.

Mildred remembers her grandmother as "a jovial happy person with a positive attitude and a friendly manner. She was kind, loving, caring and sharing. She always gave a helping hand to people who needed assistance, food or clothing." This is the woman we came to know, too. Join us for a special program to share the life and local times of this amazing woman.

Friends of Salt Springs Park

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

2011 Board of Directors

Stephen W. Spero, President
Hedi Randall, Vice-President
Susan Newhart, Treasurer
Kathy Blaisure, Secretary
Libby Anderson
Peter Bouman
Dave Clemens
Jack Davis
Colleen Kane
Jim Kessler
George Schreck

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

Join us in welcoming Kathy Blaisure, Peter Bouman, and Colleen Kane to the Friends' board of directors.

Kathy lives with her family in Hallstead. Kathy recently resigned from her position as Watershed Specialist with the Susquehanna County Conservation District, where she worked for nearly 5 years, to spend more time with her family. Kathy has been a long-time environmental educator for the Friends and has joined our Environmental Education Committee.

Peter lives with his family in Brackney. He joined Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP, in 1975 and is currently Of Counsel with the firm. He handles lawsuits in both Pennsylvania and New York, including securities fraud, antitrust, and environmental and constitutional law cases. Peter is a long-standing supporter of the Friends. He has spent many hours with his sons at Salt Springs and will work with the Stewardship Committee to help keep our trails safe and enjoyable.

Although Colleen was raised in the Binghamton area, she also "grew up at Salt Springs." Family trips here were a tradition, which she has carried on with her own children, Max and Sam. Colleen moved to Quaker Lake in 1984 and is the owner of Sea Hag Soaps and Art Mercantile on McCormick Road, Brackney. Always a donor to our Celebration's Silent Auction, Colleen will now be helping to organize it. She has also joined our Program and Administrative Committees.

Because of new responsibilities at their respective jobs, board members Sandy Babuka, Susan Gesford, Richard Jordan, and Kathy Tuttle have resigned from the board. Although we are disappointed to lose their talents, we take this as a good sign of some local economic recovery. We wish them well and thank them for their commitment to staying involved.

Memorial Donation

To honor the memory of Thomas, who passed away on February 7, 2010, the Butler family gave a donation to the Friends for restoration work on the Carriage Barn. Our heartfelt sympathy and gratitude to brother James and parents Anne and Lindsay Butler.



This issue of the *Salt Springs Messenger* is courtesy of Peoples Neighborhood Bank, Grow Avenue, Montrose (570-278-4100).

News & Notes

Join Us on Facebook

We've created another way to keep you in touch with Salt Springs and the Friends — a page on Facebook. For those who have heard about Facebook but never looked into it, use our page to explore what it's all about. For those of you on Facebook, we hope you'll "Like" us. Here's the link:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Salt-Springs-Park/180680705296465>

Website

We've also added about 50 new pictures to the Photo Album on our website. For our members too far away to visit us often, the Photo Album is a relaxing way to take a mini-vacation to Salt Springs.

Gas Lease

We announced in August 2010 that we signed a no-drill, nonsurface access gas lease on just over one-fourth of the land that the Friends of Salt Springs Park owns. Based on the feedback we received, which we appreciate people taking the time to give us, we realized that there are some aspects we didn't fully explain. In response, we added a page to our website to provide all the facts and include it in this newsletter.

Rate Changes

On March 1, some membership category fees and the pavilion rental fee will be raised. A Individual membership will be \$25, a Family membership will be \$45, and an Organization membership will be \$75. For members of the Friends, the daily pavilion fee will be \$80; for nonmembers, it will be \$100.

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!

Full details of these and other programs are on our website.

Celebrating Women, Celebrating Anna Foote. Sunday, March 20, 2 pm. Location: United Methodist Church, Silver Creek Rd., Franklin Forks, PA. Call 570-967-7275 for directions. No fee, but we pass the hat.

Fundamentals of Drawing: Sketching People and Nature. Sunday, April 3, 11 am to 3 pm. Drawing kits for sale. Program fee: \$10. Call 570-833-4034 to register.

Pysanka, AKA, "Ukrainian Eggs." Sunday, April 10, 11 am to 3 pm. Kit for sale. Program fee: \$5. Call 570-833-4034 to register.

Green Gardening—Soil Science, Seed Starting, and Season Extension. Saturday, April 16, 11 am to 2 pm. No fee.

Earth Day Hike and Tree Planting. Saturday, April 23, 1 pm. No fee.

Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower Night Walk. Friday, May 6, 8 pm. No fee.

Wildflower Walk. Saturday, May 7, 10 am. No fee.

Forest Gardening. Saturday, May 14, 11 am. Fee: \$10.

Spring Birding Hike. Sunday, May 15, 7:30 to 10 am. No fee.

Forestry Hike with a Focus on Deer Damage. Saturday, May 21, 10 am. No fee.

Inside Our Gas Lease: Your Questions Answered

The Friends' Board of Directors signed a nonsurface, no-access lease with Fortuna Energy, now Talisman, for 137 acres under what we call the "**Friends Land.**" That land is not part of the 405-acre state park. The lease specifies that Talisman "will not drill, lay pipeline, store materials, conduct surface operations, or enter for any purpose whatsoever upon the surface of the premise."

Before making the decision, the Board spent two years researching and debating the pros and cons of signing a lease. The first concern was what the effect on the land might be if we signed. The second was how we could continue to fund our mission if we didn't.

The lease allows no gas company access to the 137 acres. No roads will be built. No pads, no drilling, no traversing. We did not allow seismic testing. These acres will remain open and accessible to all, seamlessly, with the other 300-acre parcel the Friends own and the 405 acres the Friends manage for the state of Pennsylvania. The lease we signed will not harm the land.

We've had to face some hard financial realities in the past couple of years. Our main sources of income are grants, donations, memberships, and camping fees. The grants and donations allowed us to restore and enhance the buildings and grounds and to purchase 437 acres for conservation. We've been so successful at transforming Salt Springs that year-round park usage has dramatically increased and continues to do so. This is our "new reality." Our needs have shifted significantly from restoring and enhancing to providing sufficient administration and maintenance to support the result. Our other two categories of income, memberships and camping fees, do not fulfill these needs.

We've been asked a number of questions since we announced our gas lease. We'd like to share them with you, too, in case they've crossed your mind. We also encourage you to contact us if this doesn't cover your concerns.

Q: Didn't you violate your mission by signing a gas lease?

A: No. Our mission is to maintain the park, keep it open 365 days per year, free, welcoming one and all. It is not our mission to conserve land undisturbed or unused. See our Mission Statement on page 2 of this newsletter.

Q: How much did you make?

A: We received \$5,500 per acre for 136.82 acres, equaling a one-time payment of \$752,510. If gas is ever taken from underneath our property, we will be getting royalties, as well.

Q: What are you doing with the money?

A: For the short term, we set aside \$100,000 to address urgent maintenance needs. We had the two historic farmhouses stripped of lead paint,

replaced rotten sills and other boards, and repainted the houses. We also replaced the roof on one of the farmhouses, which had been leaking for several years. In addition, some of the gas lease funds will be used to match a 50/50 Growing Greener grant to stop water from getting into the ground floor of the hay barn, fixing the roof, restoring the stone foundation, and replacing rotten sill beams. It is our goal to restore this barn for use as a community space.

For the long term, we have invested the balance conservatively. This will provide a modest yearly income, perhaps \$10,000 to \$20,000, toward administration and maintenance expenses.

Cont'd on next page.

Inside Our Gas Lease, *cont'd.*

Q: So why do you still need my membership?

A: We cannot continue to manage Salt Springs without your support. Salt Springs is an increasingly desirable place to visit, and our management expenses increase as well. Because lands we manage are part of the state park system, we cannot charge admission. The small annual stipend we expect from our invested gas lease funds will support our current employees. It certainly could not replace our membership income.

Q: What are you doing to protect Fall Brook?

A: The state is responsible for the waterways. We will monitor activity and report any concerns to the state.

The E.L. Rose Conservancy is implementing a water monitoring program. Local residents will be trained to use basic testing equipment and taught how to accurately record and report the test results for local lakes and streams. These trained observers will serve as an early warning system should problems arise. We are looking for a member of the Friends to participate in this program.

Q: What about the roads and traffic through the park?

A: This is something out of our control, as roads are not within our purview. The two roads through the park, Buckley and Salt Springs, are public roads owned by Franklin Township. We can't block access to them in any way. If and when there is gas industry traffic through the park, it will not be because of our lease.

Q: I heard you are allowing gas drilling at Salt Springs. Doesn't this violate the reason you formed, to "save" Salt Springs?

A: The Friends manage 842 acres of which we own 437 acres. Three hundred of these are under a Conservation

Easement that prohibits drilling. The remaining 137 acres are under a "no drill" lease. We will not sign a lease that allows drilling. The Commonwealth owns the balance of 405 acres and allows no gas activity on its lands. State park officials have told us the state has no intentions of signing a lease covering their land.

Q: How is the state involved?

A: The grants that provided half of the purchase funds for the **Friends Land** included a requirement that any use of the land other than as a park would require the state's permission. After long deliberation, the Bureau of State Parks granted that permission, although they did not explain their reasoning. We had repeatedly made them aware of the problems of postponed maintenance at Salt Springs and of their obligation, under our contract with them, to pay for those projects. Because their funding had been cut more than once and they had no prospect of being able to live up to their contractual obligations to us, they probably felt that granting permission for the nonsurface gas lease would help us maintain the park at a high level of physical condition and proper operation.

Q: What do you mean by "**Friends Land**"?

A: In 2000, the Friends purchased a 300-acre tract adjacent to the park and placed it in a Conservation Easement held by the E.L. Rose Conservancy. In 2006, we purchased a 137-acre tract that increased the total acreage of the Friends Land to 437 acres. Both purchases were made possible by grants from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with matching funds donated by the public. Thus the total number of acres open for year-round public use is 842, including the 405 acres of state park land.



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

Community Stream Monitoring Workshop

The Friends are pleased to announce that the **E.L. Rose Conservancy** will be sponsoring a **Community Stream Monitoring Workshop** on Saturday April 30, 2011, from 9 am to 3 pm at Salt Springs Park. The training will be given by the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) based out of Dickinson College.

The Water Monitoring Workshop is the first step in forming a Community Stream Monitoring Team. The team will monitor local streams while the gas industry is active in the county. This requires a long-term commitment from the volunteer team members and a process for the team to gather and share information. We are looking for a volunteer to represent the Friends on this team.

Registration will start in March 2011. Participation in this first workshop will be limited to 30 people. Further details are available on our website's Events Calendar.