



Salt
Springs

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Winter 2013

Nature Detectives Wanted at Salt Springs Park

By Concetta Schirra
Environmental Education Coordinator

Did you ever notice tracks in the snow and have an urge to follow them? You hear a mysterious howl at night and wonder . . . what's that? Curiosity is one of the best motivators for learning, so if you have questions, we can look for answers. The Friends of Salt Springs Park are offering exciting and educational public programs on a variety of nature-related topics and geared to all ages to help you hone your outdoor skills.



Scouts on a geology hike at the park last fall.

Several programs throughout the spring and summer will focus on bees and pollinators, amphibians, and bird counting. "Honey, Where Are All the Bees?" on March 9 and The Important Role of Pollinators on May 5 take a look at our interdependence with these wonderful creatures.

Children and adults alike can experience a Full Moon Hike on March 27, participate in a different kind of Egg Hunt on April 27, and take a walk through the park to look for birds and collect data for the North American Bird Migration Count on May 11.

Other environmentally focused events will provide opportunities to learn and lend a helping hand as spring approaches in April and May. We're holding an early Spring Pruning Workshop on March 23 and two trail day cleanups, on April 13 and 20, with food, fun, and camaraderie for all volunteers.

Come celebrate Earth Day on April 21, or join our team for the Great American Roadside Cleanup in Pennsylvania on May 4. In addition, hikes and other recreational opportunities will be offered throughout the summer starting on May 18.

So, what does one need to be a nature detective? Ahh, here is the easy part: a willingness to explore and to learn, an attention to details in your surroundings, an appreciation of nature, and a desire to experience the outdoors in all its beauty.

What are you waiting for?

Friends of Salt Springs Park

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

2013 Board of Directors

Stephen Spero, President
Susan English, Vice President
Bette Brown, Treasurer
George Schreck, Secretary
Dave Clemens
Robert Fearnley
Mike Hornak
Jim Kessler
Jack Maynard
Tom Norville

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 to Our New Board Member

Welcome, Jack Maynard, to the board of directors.

Jack recently started his "encore career" as a Lecturer and Capstone Program Manager at Binghamton University. In his aerospace career at Link, Ensco, Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, and others, he developed flight simulators and aircraft computers, working on airplanes, helicopters, and the space shuttle. Now he's an engineering educator using his industrial experience to guide and instruct engineering seniors in their senior design projects. He also coordinates the projects with the industry contacts, local non-profits, and academic colleagues who sponsor them.

Jack is married to Peggy Maynard, who recently started her own encore career as the GlobalFingerprints Liberia Coordinator, establishing a support network in the United States and in Liberia to provide educational and healthcare support for children in that war-torn country.

Jack and Peggy are both life-long residents of Susquehanna County, each a descendant of one of the Nine Partners who settled Harford Township in 1790. Jack also supports the Harford Fair, Susquehanna County Interfaith, Montrose E Free church, and Carenet in technical and business issues.

Jack has long enjoyed the beauty of Salt Springs Park and looks forward to helping ensure future generations can also enjoy it.

Barn Stabilization Project Underway

With a 2012 Growing Greener grant the Friends hired John McNamara Construction, of Brackney, PA, to do some vital stabilization work on the historic dairy barn.

Work began this January. The stone foundation will be rebuilt where needed, and rotten sill beams will be replaced. The area south of the barn will be excavated to drain water away from the barn. Another important component is to straighten the leaning posts and raise the sagging roof.



Light comes through where the stone foundation has crumbled.

2012 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,

A few of us were sitting around a table in the old Wheaton dance room the other day, talking about what makes a park a park. In a way, we were speaking about the soul of Salt Springs.

Is it the land, the water and the animal and plant life? Is it the trails, the campgrounds, the hunting and fishing and picnicking? Is it the historic buildings, the educational displays or programs?

We could look for answers in the sheaves of paper that explain the state's long-range plan for the half of the park it owns. We could look in our management agreement. We could recall our mission statement.

Although those words are important, the answer isn't there. It's inside every person who visits the 842-acre refuge from the cares of the world. Who are we to tell the people who met and fell in love at the park that fishing is more important? Who are we to tell the birders, hikers, bathers and campers that preserving the old buildings takes top priority?

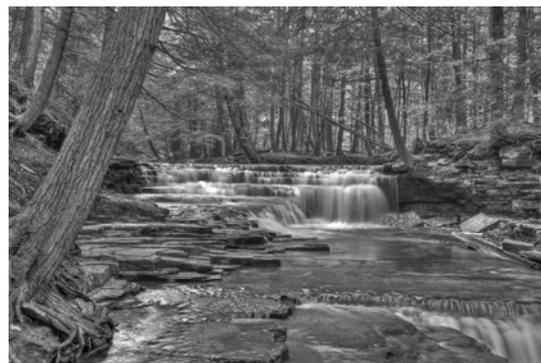
The Friends recognize the park means many things to many people. We are committed to keeping the park a place where you can enjoy your experience, however you define it.

As an organization, the Friends had a good year in 2012. We are stabilizing the old dairy barn, expanding our environmental education program, and making the trails easier to use. Come help us keep the park vibrant for decades to come.

Stephen Spero
President
Friends of Salt Springs Park



Shelley Lay and Jacques Kaufman inaugurating the bench they donated in 2012. They met 17 years ago on this spot.



First Place winner in the 2011-2012 photo contest, by Robert Nagy.



Charlotte Remakus teaching Elk Lake fourth graders about aquatic life in Fall Brook.

Financial Statements

End of Year 2012

Highlights

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$70,204
Other Assets	\$1,081,045
Total Assets	\$1,151,249
Liabilities	\$3,230
Equity	\$1,148,019
Total Liability & Equity	\$1,151,249

Statement of Income & Expense

Income

Direct Public Support	\$22,781
Indirect Support	\$2,198
Program Income	\$16,419
Government Grants	\$10,000
Rentals	\$20,405
Sales	<u>\$1,362</u>
Total Support & Revenue	\$73,165
Cost of Goods Sold	\$754
Gross Profit	\$72,411

Expenses

Support of Park Facility	\$10,175
Operations	\$11,367
Other Expenses	\$2,575
Contract Services	\$11,481
Program Expenses	\$11,064
Payroll & Tax Expenses	<u>\$48,741</u>
Total Expenses	\$95,403

Net Income (\$22,992)

Volunteer Support

2,562 hours \$53,443

According to Independent Sector, \$20.86 is the dollar value, as of December 1, 2012, of a Pennsylvania volunteer hour (http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time?s=dollar%20value%20volunteer).

Major Donors

Jean Blaisure
 Mr. and Mrs. Buglione
 Donald and Christine Burton
 Will Chamberlin and Kathryn LeSoine
 Coughlin & Gerhardt
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crowley
 Earth Farm Studios, John Puzo
 Endless Brewing, Jonathan Winans and
 Morgan Kelly
 Heavenly Angels Store & Deli
 Charles and Patricia Ingraham
 Richard and Maureen Jordan
 Carol Korutz
 Lake Montrose Power Equipment
 Shelley Lay and Jacques Kaufman
 Tom and Sharon Norville
 Original Italian Pizza
 Pennstar Bank
 Peoples Neighborhood Bank
 Resource Environmental Management,
 Dawn and Jerry Washo
 George and Dede Shafer
 Frank Shaw
 Snake Creek Marine
 Stephen Spero and Diana Bean
 Micheleen Wheaton
 Bertram and Lorle Wolfson

Other Sources

- United Way—\$2,107 in designated donations.
- Growing Greener grant—\$10,000 for barn stabilization.
- PA Department of Environmental Protection—\$7,500 for the E3 program.

Accomplishments

- Cottage rentals increased 17%.
- Pavilion rentals increased 26%.
- We offered 30 public programs.
- E3 Environmental Education class was taught to 188 fourth grade students in three school districts.
- Volunteers logged 2,562 hours.

News & Notes

Many Thanks

Please join us in thanking our outgoing board members, Libby Anderson and Susan Newhart. Without them we would not be where we are now. Libby has served in many capacities since the Friends began in 1994. Most recently, she was vice-president and chair of the personnel committee. Susan served us well as the treasurer. Together Libby and Susan helped guide us through some of our toughest growing pains.

E3 Offered Free in Spring 2013

Thanks to grants from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, the Susquehanna County Conservation District and Talisman Energy USA, the Friends are offering the Earth, Ecology, and the Environment (E3) program to all county fourth graders in the 2012-2013 school year. The Friends will reimburse districts to bus children to the park in Franklin Forks and pay qualified instructors to visit classrooms twice before providing a day's educational experience at the park. We invite any fourth grade teacher in Susquehanna County who wants to take advantage of this offer to contact Schirra at 570-967-7275.

Boy Scouts Provide Picnic Tables

We now have three new picnic tables, thanks to Ben Maitland, Harford Troop 89. For his Eagle Scout project, Ben solicited all the materials and help to make them for us. They worked in the unheated dairy barn on a frosty Sunday afternoon and evening in February. Helpers included Jacob Baranski, Keith Maitland, Izaak Cook, Ben Galvin, Ben Maitland, Jamie Galvin, Bill Maitland, and Carol Hartley.

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!

March

“Honey, Have You Seen the Bees?” Saturday, March 9, 1-3 pm. Join us in welcoming Ginny and James Wood, Officers of the Susquehanna Beekeepers Association, to Salt Springs. Beekeepers for 10 years, the Woods will bring a hive display and talk about honeybees and beekeeping. They'll also bring some honey to sample. Meet at the Carriage Barn. **Program fee: \$5, members; \$10, nonmembers; kids are free.**

Spring Pruning. Saturday, March 23, 9 am to Noon.

March is the perfect time in the north to certain trees. It's still cold enough to deter bugs and disease from infecting the cut wound. Forester **Jim Kessler** will discuss and demonstrate the why, where, how, what, and when to cut. He'll focus on pruning several different species, from trees to shrubs. **Program fee: \$5, members; \$15, nonmembers.**

Full Moon Hike. Wednesday, March 27, time tba.

Come and explore Salt Springs Park in the dark. The full moon sheds a new light on the hiking experience. **Free.**

One name Native Americans gave to the full moon in March is Full Worm Moon. Earthworm casts begin to appear, heralding the return of the robins.



**Friends of Salt
Springs Park, Inc.**

P.O. Box 541
Montrose, PA 18801

T & S Tax

We're here when you need us,
any day, any time!

Sherry Frederici St. Clair
Registered Tax Return Preparer

Now Open at
222 Church Street, Montrose PA 18801

24 years of experience in the tax industry.



We professionally prepare all returns—income, payroll, corporation, farm, small business, partnership, LLC, LLP, estate, gift, estimated payments & inheritance tax returns, and any state return.

We offer all the services of big name corporations at small town prices.

Call 570-278-0330 for an appointment. Walk Ins Welcome!