



Salt Springs

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Spring 2015

The Recent Past

Memorial

Susan Newhart dedicated a hemlock tree in the old-growth forest to the memory of her parents. Family members gathered at the site in October. All felt the peaceful grove was a place Jerome and Dorothy Getty would have appreciated.



2014 Volunteer of the Year

Greg Liggett organized both the work and the workers (members of his LDS church) to build the new Williams Pavilion. *Thank you, Greg!*



Wedding in the Wheaton House

Although Emily Novitski and Greg Steinberg live in Brooklyn, NY, she wanted to get married at one of her favorite childhood places, Salt Springs. She got her wish on November 19th.



The Near Future

Build Your Own Bird Box Sunday, March 22, 1 pm

Come celebrate spring with a family-friendly activity. Patterns for bluebird and American kestrel boxes will be pre-cut and all materials provided to build your own bird box. Local birding experts will also be on hand to answer your questions. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Fee. Please pre-register by March 20.**



Courtesy of George Schreck.

Chainsaw Day: Saturday, April 18 Trail Day: Saturday, April 25

On Chainsaw Day we turn downed trees into firewood for campers. On Trail Day, we clear the campgrounds and trails of winter debris, rake out the lawn and flowerbeds, clean the buildings, attack invasives like Japanese knotweed, and more! **We provide free T-shirts, hot food, and beverages to all volunteers. Let us know if you can help out on one or both days.**

Wheaton House Opens

The Wheaton House opens for the season on Saturday, May 2. Check out the new environmental and historical displays.

Friends of Salt Springs Park

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

2015 Board of Directors

Stephen Spero, President
Susan English, Vice President
Jack Maynard, Treasurer
Mary Butler, Secretary
Robert Fearnley
Mike Hornak
Richard Jordan
Jim Kessler
Barbara Merritt
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.

2015 Board of Directors

Three board members were up for re-election at the end of 2014. Sandra Rosencrance, we regret, stepped down because she will be traveling even more this year. Richard Jordan and Mary Butler were re-elected.

We're pleased to announce the election of Barbara Merritt. Barbara lives in Brackney with her husband Mike. They have two sons and daughters-in-law and four grandsons. Barbara is originally from Vestal, NY. She retired in 2010 from Lockheed Martin, where she was a Systems Engineering Director. Since then she's been active in several local groups and organizations, including the Friends. Barbara is a member of the Historical Committee and participates in our clean-up days and Celebration.

Officers were elected at the December board meeting. They are Stephen Spero, president; Susan English, vice president; Jack Maynard, treasurer; Mary Butler, secretary. Directors are Robert Fearnley, Mike Hornak, Richard Jordan, Jim Kessler, Barbara Merritt, and Tom Norville.

Weekend Hosts

Our Weekend Hosts are a dedicated group of volunteers. They are welcoming and friendly people who answer questions and provide directions to park guests. They sit on the Wheaton House front porch, or at a picnic table in the sun, for a couple hours each month, catching up with a friend or reading a good book when not busy with visitors. Please consider becoming a Weekend Host too and joining this special group of people: Libby & Toby Anderson, Paul DeSera, Mary Lou Fahs & Butch Rosencrans, Donna Foster, Charis Frisbee, Sandy & Doug Graver, Betty Marshall, Kenna Lou Mills, Susan Newhart, Barb Scott & John Hotvedt, and Jane and Dave Wilson.

Summer Festivals in Salt Springs Park

The Endless Mountains Farm Fest is organized by Jennifer Sartell of Thompson and features local cultural- and agricultural-related businesses and organizations. It will be held Saturday, May 30.

True Friends Animal Welfare Center is a nonprofit shelter serving the local community. Their annual fundraiser, Woofstock, is Saturday, August 15.

Bookmark It!

m.friendsofsaltsprings.mobi is our new mobile website address.

News & Notes

Field, Forest and Falls Trail Race — Registration Is Open

The trails may still be knee-deep in snow—or ankle-deep in mud—but we're already planning this year's third annual Field, Forest and Falls Trail Race for September 5 as part of the Celebration. New T-shirts are in the works. And, like last year, we'll keep the race at \$10 (pre-registered) and let people choose to buy a T-shirt if they want one. A change this year is that we'll start the race a half hour later, at 9 a.m.

Choose the 2.5-mile course, perfect for new trail racers or kids, or the 5.5-mile course. Both will take you through meadows and old-growth forests, past the park's namesake salt spring, and along the gorge overlooking the iconic waterfalls.

We've heard many good things about the race—and the park—from local trail runners. If you'd like to be part of the action, it's not too early to volunteer. E-mail race director Diana Bean at dbean0120@gmail.com. Full details and registration form are available on our homepage.

Annual Membership Change

The Friends' annual membership year has been June 1 through May 31. Beginning in 2015, a membership will now run for one year from receipt of the membership fee.

Your annual membership will begin on the date your check is written or cash is received. We'll send you a renewal reminder one month before your membership is set to expire.



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!

Check out more Programs & Events on the website.

“Take a Break” Hike. Sunday, April 12, 1-3 p.m. Take a break from your taxes and head for the hills of Salt Springs. The hiking loop is 3 miles, with easy to moderate hiking. Meet at the Wheaton House. **Program fee: one or more nonperishable items for the local food bank.**

Celebrate Earth and Arbor Days - Scavenger Hunt & Tree ID Walk. Sunday, April 19, 1 p.m. Celebrate nature on a scavenger hunt through the forest to find clues and learn about trees. Prizes for young participants. Meet at the Bunny Trail trailhead, in the parking lot off Buckley Rd. **Program fee: \$10; \$5, members—for one or both events this day.**

Celebrate Earth and Arbor Days - Tree Planting and Earth-Friendly Landscape Design. Sunday, April 19, 3:30 p.m. Learn some basics of landscape design and tree planting. Participants will receive a strawberry starter plant. Meet at the Wheaton House. **Program fee: \$10; \$5, members—for one or both events this day.**

Egg Hunt. Sunday, April 26, 1 p.m. Program fee: \$5; members, free.

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2014 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,

Last year was another year that the generosity of our friends allowed us to make improvements to Salt Springs Park. We remain amazed at these neighborly gestures, big and small, that our hard work and dedication to the Wheaton family spirit is greatly appreciated.

We opened a new pavilion thanks to financial support of the Williams Companies and the hard work of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This year we plan on bringing electricity to the Williams Pavilion, which will help us open the western part of the park to greater use.

Thanks to the help of volunteers, we were able to spruce up the basement of the old dairy barn so we could display our extensive historical collection of old farm tools.

Chris Ricci completed his Eagle Scout project, and we opened the new picnic area he created just south of the Wheaton House and right near Fall Brook. You can see the first waterfall, and it is becoming one of our most popular spots.

There is much to do and money remains tight so if you agree with us that Salt Springs Park is a special place, come on down and pound a hammer, push a broom, scrape some loose paint, or clear a trail.

This place remains special because volunteers make it so. Won't you join us in keeping its spirit alive?

Stephen Spero
President
Friends of Salt Springs



The new pavilion. Imagine yourself, 50 of your closest friends and family members and dozens of your favorite foods under this roof on a hot summer's day!



The McKeage Collection exhibit debuted at the Celebration. It is a permanent display that can be seen upon request or during special events.



In the new picnic area, kids in a library program netted insects from the creek. Jay Harter is helping them distinguish caddisflies from crayfish.

Financial Statement

End of Year 2014

Highlights

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$ 34,391
Fixed Assets	\$ 17,420
Other Assets	\$1,287,097
Total Assets	\$1,338,908
Liabilities	\$ 1,885
Equity	\$1,337,023
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,338,908

Statement of Income & Expenses

Income

Direct Public Support	\$ 118,738
Government Grants	\$ 5,000
Indirect Support	\$ 2,157
Other Income	\$ 47
Program Income	\$ 22,070
Rentals	\$ 13,370
Sales	\$ 1,690

Total Support & Revenue	\$ 163,071
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 765
Gross Profit	\$ 162,306

Expenses

Business Expenses	\$ 100
Park Facilities Operations	\$ 7,787
Other Expenses	\$ 1,846
Program Expenses	\$ 23,989
Payroll & Taxes	\$ 47,175
Total Expenses	\$ 95,921

Net Income \$ 66,385

Major Donors

David and Priscilla Andre
 Jean Blaisure
 Broadline Construction
 Donald and Christine Burton
 Will Chamberlin and Kathryn LeSoine
 Comey-Fitzgerald Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crowley
 Charles and Patricia Ingraham
 Lars Issa
 Richard and Maureen Jordan
 Susan G. Newhart
 Resource Environmental Management
 Stephen Spero and Diana Bean
 Scott Spicer
 Visions FCU
 John and Joy Wheaton
 John and Barbara Wilkerson
 Williams Companies

Other Sources

- United Way—\$2,157 in designated donations.
- Toby and Libby Anderson —\$65,000 for Loch House renovation

Accomplishments

- Pavilion rentals increased 6%.
- Cabin rentals increased 9.5%.
- Camping rentals increased 18.5%.
- Participation in the second annual Trail Race nearly doubled, from 51 the first year to 93 the second.
- We provided 47 programs with 541 participants.
- We built a new pavilion, with all labor and materials donated (by Williams Companies and members of local LDS churches).
- We celebrated 20 years of managing Salt Springs and published a book on our experiences.

EMVB Grant for 2015

Looking forward—a \$5,000 grant awarded by the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau for publicity in 2015 will surely help our bottom line!



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

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