



Salt
Springs

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Spring 2016

Grow Up Wild!

It's nearly spring, and our March through May program schedule is set. A number of them feature the animals and birds that inhabit the park.

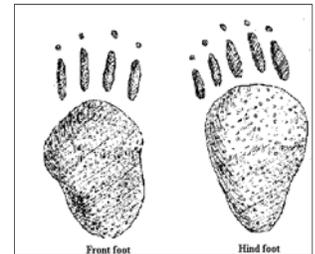
One of our aims is to help foster an awareness of and appreciation for the diversity of the wildlife we live among. This can lead to a lifelong interest in wildlife, conservation, and environmental protection. We encourage you to bring your children to these programs. They will develop positive impressions of the natural world and grow up with a healthy respect for the wild!

Join us on **Sunday, March 6, at 1 pm**, for Oh! The Many Feet We Meet! We'll be amateur detectives and follow the tracks of the animals that roam our woods and fields. You'll learn which animals are common to the park, like the porcupine.



As spring approaches, your backyard birds will be thinking about building a home and raising a family. On **Saturday, March 19, 1 p.m.**, local birder Evan Mann will give a presentation on attracting birds by offering them nest box homes. Learn which birds will use these boxes (featuring Dr. Scott Shalaway's design specifically for bluebirds), where best to place them in your landscape, and how to be a "good landlord."

After the A/V presentation, we'll move to the Carriage Barn to assemble pre-cut nest boxes, which come with class registration. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please PRE-register by March 5 (570-967-7275; friends@epix.net).



Prints of the porcupine.

Whoooo Gives a Hoot? We do! Find out why on **Friday, April 22, 7 p.m.** In honor of Earth Day, Nancy Wottrich will give a short presentation on our native owls as we wait for the full moon to rise. Then we'll wander the woods "calling in" some owls common to the forest habitat.

In other programs this spring we'll hunt for amphibian eggs (**Sunday, April 24, 1 p.m.**), take a leisurely walk to identify as many birds as we can by sight or sound (**Saturday, May 14, 7 a.m.**), and learn to identify some of our native birds by their songs (**Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m.**). Visit our website for full program details, or pick up a schedule next time you visit the park.



Friends of Salt Springs Park

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

2016 Board of Directors

Evan Mann, President
Thomas Stoll, Vice President
Jack Maynard, Treasurer
Mary Butler, Secretary
Susan English
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.

2016 Board of Directors

Stephen Spero's terms on the board and as president ended on December 31, 2015. We are pleased that he will continue to serve on the Finance Committee, organize the annual Celebration, and fundraise for us.

Evan Mann and Tom Stoll were elected president and vice president, respectively, at the December 2015 board meeting.

Evan is an avid outdoors person and an amateur naturalist and birder. He has led a number of birding walks for us, conducted workshops on hawks and winter bird feeding, and participated in our early spring bird box building program. In June he's increasing his offerings to include a presentation on learning to identify the "whimsical sounds of our native songbirds" (Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m.; mark your calendar!).

Tom has played an integral role during our April workdays the past several years. He has variously helped find and drag out fallen trees, sawn them into logs, and fed the logs through his log splitter (another key volunteer he brings along every year) to make firewood. In addition to being chair of the Buildings and Grounds committee, Tom will now be organizing the April workdays.

April Workdays

Chainsaw Day
Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.

Trail Day
Saturday, April 23, 11 a.m.

We need help all year long. Cut out, fill out, and send us the form below to match your interest with our needs!

2016 Sponsors

**Community Bank
Endless Brewing
Johnson, Lauder & Savidge
Dr. Brian Kerr, DMD
Montrose Beverage
New Shoe Store
Original Italian Pizza
Snake Creek Marine
Tall Pines Farm
Wildlife Management News**



Friends of Salt Springs Park, Inc.

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Volunteers are the backbone of this organization. We invite you to join in the fun and upkeep at Salt Springs Park. Check all that interest you and send the card to the above address. Or: 570-967-7275; friends@epix.net.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> April trail days | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt a trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Celebration | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical programs/displays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend Hosting | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handyman | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

News & Notes

2016 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 21. Email Jen (wolfcreeklive stock@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

True Friends' annual fundraiser, **Woofstock**, will be held Saturday, August 20. True Friends Animal Welfare Center is a nonprofit no-kill shelter serving the local community.

Field, Forest & Falls Trail Race

Registration is open for the fourth annual Salt Springs Field, Forest & Falls Trail Race on September 3. This year you can register online at RunSignUp.com or download the paper version from our website homepage. Registration is still just \$10, and you have the option to purchase a T-shirt—with an all new design this year. If you have any questions, or would like to help out on the day of the race, email race director Diana Bean at dbean0120@gmail.com.

Wheaton House Opens

The Wheaton House opens for the season on Saturday, April 30. It is open Saturdays and Sundays through September. Check out the new environmental and historical displays.

Boardwalk Maintenance Project

Leatherstocking Gas has committed \$1,000 to maintenance work on the Hemlock Trail boardwalk. Julie Lewis and Marina King, students at Lackawanna College and members of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, solicited the funding, and they are organizing volunteers to do the work in April. We'll keep you posted on the date and invite you to join in.



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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 are on the website.

Oh! The Many Feet We Meet! Sunday, March 6, 1 p.m. Find and follow mammal tracks. **No fee.**

Build Your Own Nesting Box. Saturday, March 19, 1 p.m. A/V presentation followed by assembling box pre-ordered with registration. **Please PRE-register by March 5. Fee.**

"Take a Break" Hike. Sunday, April 10, 1 p.m. **No fee.**

Whooo Gives a Hoot? Full Moon Hike. Friday, April 22, 7 p.m. Hike following presentation on owls. **Fee.**

Egg Hunt. Sunday, April 24, 1 p.m. Hike to collect amphibian eggs. **Members, free.**

Annual Roadside Clean-Up. Sunday, May 1, 10 a.m. Pick up roadside trash in and bordering park. **No fee.**

Go Wild for Wildflowers. Sunday, May 1, 1 p.m. Hike. **Members, free.**

North American Migration Count. Saturday, May 14, 7 a.m. Walk to count birds. **No fee.**

Endless Mountains Farm Fest. Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. Agriculture-related vendors. **Entrance fee.**

Full Moon Hike. Saturday, May 21, 8 p.m. **No fee.**

Bike the Border. Sunday, May 29, 1:30 p.m. Bike maintenance and tips before a bike ride. **No fee.**

2015 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.*

If this issue of *The Messenger* arrived in your mailbox, you are already a member of the Friends of Salt Springs Park. Thank you!

If you are a Friends member, then it is likely that at some point in 2015 you were here at the park lending a hand, volunteering your talents and abilities, and helping us make Salt Springs Park a safe, welcoming, and educational experience for our visitors. Thank you!

While Susquehanna County is 840 square miles in size, there are very few public places for outdoor recreation. And there are even fewer locations with both natural features and physical facilities suited to serving as environmental classrooms. Our park offers a glimpse into the past with its historic buildings and unique collection of artifacts. You recognize the park's intrinsic value and express your appreciation with program participation. Thank you!

You likely understand our unique relationship with the Commonwealth and its state park system. You know that our support comes from Friends like you and not from the state budget. We are the only state park for which this financial arrangement exists. And so you understand that without the financial support of the citizens of surrounding communities, we cannot survive. Thank you!

So Friends of Salt Springs Park, take a deep breath, relax, and feel good about a job well done! OK, time's up! We've so much more to do. There are so many people who have yet to discover this gem in the midst of our Endless Mountains Region. So here is another volunteer opportunity for you.

Will you help us get the word out about the best place around for "coming to your senses"? We have 405 current, active members. If

each of you would get one family member, friend, or coworker to visit the park, participate in one of our many programs, and, most importantly, join the Friends, we could double our membership, improve our financial position, and offer more of all the good things that Salt Springs means to each of us. And so, confident that you will meet this challenge, I again say, thank you!

Evan Mann
President
Friends of Salt Springs Park



April 14, 2015. Parents bring their kids to help the Fish and Boat Commission stock our two trout streams each spring.



June 6, 2015. The Common Threads Quilters Guild (Binghamton, NY) held their Barn Quilt Workshop in the Carriage Barn.

Financial Statement End of Year 2015

Highlights

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$ 31,104
Fixed Assets	\$ 17,420
Other Assets	\$1,248,538
Total Assets	\$1,297,063
Liabilities	\$ 2,976
Equity	\$1,294,087
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,297,063

Statement of Income & Expenses

Income

Direct Public Support	\$ 25,097
Government Grants	\$ 5,800
Indirect Support	\$ 738
Other Income	\$ 23
Program Income	\$ 24,573
Rentals	\$ 14,400
Sales	\$ 1,905
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 72,536
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 288
Gross Profit	\$ 72,248

Expenses

Business Expenses	\$ 175
Park Facilities	\$ 6,385
Operations	\$ 13,253
Other Expenses	\$ 3,820
Program Expenses	\$ 14,188
Payroll & Taxes	\$ 58,544
Total Expenses	\$ 96,365

Net Income \$ (24,117)

SCCD Grant for 2016

We are grateful for the continued support of the Susquehanna County Conservation District. They have awarded us \$1,000 for environmental ed expenses in 2016.

Major Donors

Ayers Stone Post 5642
 Richard Bulger
 Donald and Christine Burton
 Dennis Cary
 Will Chamberlin and Kathryn LeSoine
 Comey-Fitzgerald Foundation
 Coughlin & Gerhart
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crowley
 Earth Farm Studios
 Donna Fassler
 Thomas Ferme
 Mark Gallagher Insurance Agency
 William and Elsie Hackbart
 Richard and Maureen Jordan
 Carol and William Korutz
 Resource Environmental Management
 Michael Spero
 Stephen Spero and Diana Bean
 Scott Spicer
 Thomas and Jayne Stoll
 Brandon and Kellie Swope
 Mary Torney
 John and Joy Wheaton
 Micheleen Wheaton

Other Sources

- Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau — \$5,000 Advertising Grant
- Susquehanna County Conservation Grant—\$800 for environmental ed
- United Way—\$738 in designated donations

Accomplishments

- Pavilion usage increased 17.65%.
- Tent camping increased 33.33%.
- Camping & pavilion revenue increased 10.82%.
- We provided 47 public programs with 404 participants.



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

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