



Salt  
Springs

# Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Spring 2017

## Solar Power Comes to Salt Springs

An early goal of the Friends was to bring solar power to Salt Springs. Given the daunting amount of work and money needed at that time to rehabilitate and then enhance the existing buildings and grounds, coupled with the very high price of installing solar power, that goal ended up at the lower end of the list. But it was never removed or forgotten.

In 2014 we received a generous donation from Williams Companies to build a new pavilion. Even though we still had no funds with which to install solar power, the dream inched a bit closer to reality. We solicited the advice of several solar companies during the design phase so that the pavilion could accommodate solar panels at some point in the future. Next time you are in the park, note the south-facing roof. It is angled to collect the most solar energy possible. The trusses are enhanced as well to handle the weight of solar panels.

The next step was to begin fund-raising. When discussing this project with DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) personnel, imagine our surprise and delight when they responded by saying they would pay for the rest of the project, namely, electrifying the pavilion (with Claverack) and purchasing and installing the solar panels. They had some funds left over from another project that they could apply to ours.

Please join us in thanking DCNR for helping us to achieve one of our longest held goals. Work is scheduled to begin this year sometime after Labor Day.

## April Volunteer Workdays

Saturdays, April 15 & 22, 9 am

This is year number 7 that we are soliciting volunteers to help us get the park ready for the season. From year 1 our workdays have been a success on all levels. Hundreds of volunteers have given a couple thousand hours over six Aprils, and visitors are not shy about their appreciation of our clean and pleasing buildings and grounds.

As most human endeavors tend to do over time—our April workdays have evolved. What began as one day devoted to cutting up trees into firewood (Chainsaw Day) followed by one day to spruce up the trails, campgrounds, gardens, and buildings (Trail Day) are now two days during which we tackle all our needs at once.

It is impossible to measure all the good work that gets done on our volunteer workdays, but here's one statistic. In 2016, we sold 299 bundles of firewood at \$5 a bundle. That is \$1,495 dollars that we deposited in the bank. (For 2011 through 2015 combined, we made \$3905!)

Thanks to these sponsors, we can again provide a free lunch and T-shirt to all volunteers:

Broadline Construction  
Butler Land Surveying  
Edi Window Systems  
Kerr Orthodontics  
Kickstart Café  
Levene Gouldin & Thompson  
Little & Nelson  
Montrose Auto Parts NAPA  
Park's Garage  
Rovendale Ag & Barn  
Snake Creek Marine

## Friends of Salt Springs Park

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

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### 2017 Board of Directors

Thomas Stoll, President  
Thomas Norville, Vice President  
Jack Maynard, Treasurer  
Mary Butler, Secretary  
Susan English  
Robert Fearnley  
Diane Hawley-Wurth  
Scott Heckman  
Mike Hornak  
Richard Jordan  
Jim Kessler  
Barbara McNamara  
Barbara Merritt  
Joe Toman

### 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.

## New Board Members

We are doubly please this year—not only did we not lose any board members at the end of 2016 but we also gained four new talented, dedicated people who have jumped right in.

**Diane Hawley-Wurth** has been coming to Salt Springs since she was 8 years old. It was a great place to explore, and the price was right for hard-working parents raising nine kids. Diane is a substitute teacher in the Montrose Area School District and coaches archery for the school district and at Camp Arrowhead. Diane began running at age 49 and has completed 3 marathons in the past 3 years—“the healthiest midlife crisis I could come up with and so much fun!” As a member of the environmental education committee, she looks forward to helping others find health and happiness in the great outdoors as well.

**Scott Heckman** is a recently retired Foreign Services Officer. Born in Schenectady, New York, he grew up in Morrison, Illinois and Louisville, Kentucky. Scott served as a Peace Corp volunteer in Korea, spent 10 years as a social worker (specializing in child welfare), and then worked for the State Department, serving a total of thirty years in the U.S. diplomatic corps. During those years he lived in, among other countries, Swaziland and Qatar. We are fortunate that he and his wife Lois chose to settle down here. With past domestic assignments including economic and business affairs, Scott will bring a wealth of experience to the finance committee.

**Barbara McNamara** grew up in South Montrose, graduated from Northeastern University in Boston, was a school nurse at Lathrop Street Elementary and the Blue Ridge School District, and is currently a family nurse practitioner in the Guthrie Health System. She and husband Charlie have two sons who grew up hiking and climbing with mom and dad at Salt Springs. She hopes to help introduce the park and all it has to offer to more people.

**Joe Toman** is a licensed psychotherapist working in private practice. He discovered Salt Springs in his youth and has devoted much of his free time to gardening, camping and hiking here and elsewhere. Joe is also a board member of Earth Day Southern Tier and a former board member and hike leader of the Triple Cities Hiking Club. He hopes to share his love of and appreciation for nature and Salt Springs by serving on the environmental education committee. “I intend to support the mission of the Friends in any way I can because I love this place.”

## News & Notes

### Publicity Grant

We were awarded a \$2,200 Room Tax Grant from the Endless Mountains Visitor's Bureau for publicity in 2017. Past Room Tax Grants have helped us draw more people to Salt Springs with a glossy full-color park brochure and to the Celebration with wider event publicity. Grants are an important source of funds. We have a number of applications pending, and we hope to have more such good news in the upcoming months.

### Please Patronize Our Sponsors!

Event sponsorships are another significant source of income for us. Please note this year's April Volunteer Workdays sponsors listed on page 1 and turn to them first next time you need their kind of service. Since he established our spring workdays, to defray their costs volunteer and past board president Steve Spero has solicited \$9,850 in sponsorships. Any money left over goes toward tools and materials for further park maintenance.

### Historical Items Needed for Temporary Display

This year's historical display will feature pre-WWII toys and games, and we are looking for a few more items to include. If you have something and would consider loaning it to us for the summer, please call the office at 570-967-7275.

### Field, Forest & Falls Trail Race

Registration is open for the fifth annual Salt Springs Field, Forest & Falls Trail Race on September 2. You can register online at [RunSignUp.com](http://RunSignUp.com) or download the form from our website homepage. Registration is \$15, and you have the option to purchase a T-shirt—featuring a new design each 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](mailto:dbean0120@gmail.com).



### Friends of Salt Springs Park, Inc.

P.O. Box 541 • Montrose, PA 18801  
[www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org](http://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 are on the website.

**Build Your Own Bird Box.** Saturday, April 1, 1 p.m. A/V presentation followed by assembling boxes ordered with registration. Please pre-register (570-967-7275). Fee.

**“Take a Break” Hike.** Saturday, April 8, 1 p.m. No fee.

**Egg Hunt.** Sunday, April 23, 1 p.m. Hike to collect amphibian eggs. \$5; members, free.

**Go Wild for Wildflowers.** Sunday, May 7, 1 p.m. Hike. \$5; members, free.

**North American Migration Count.** Saturday, May 13, 7 a.m. Birding walk to record sightings. No fee.

**Plan and Plant Your Garden, Part I: Native and Pollinator-Friendly Plants.** Saturday, May 27, 11 a.m. Bring lunch and tools; get free plant. \$5; members, free.

**Star Party.** Saturday, May 27 (rain date, 28th), 8:30 p.m. Star-gazing in the field. Fee; members, free.

**Bike the Border.** Sunday, May 28, 1:30 p.m. Biking in the park. No fee.

**Plan and Plant Your Garden, Part II: Organic Vegetable Gardening.** Sunday, June 4, 1 p.m. Bring lunch and tools; get free plant. \$5; members, free.

## 2016 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,

As I write this, a huge winter storm just dumped over two feet of snow on Susquehanna County. Friends of Salt Springs Park who enjoy the cold are likely cross-country skiing or hiking while most others (like me!) are hunkering down until it's melted. At least it's March and we know spring will be here soon.

With spring will come new opportunities to enjoy our beautiful park and more of the special activities made possible by the Friends. Based on what took place last year, you can look forward to the following in 2017:

- Almost 50 environmental and historical programs of all types, hosted by our staff and volunteers. Keep an eye on the Friends' website and Facebook page for details.
- Replanting of the historical garden between the Wheaton House and the barn. The Master Gardeners of Susquehanna County started this project last year and it was a great success.
- Volunteer workdays in April to help us clean up the park after winter and fix it up for the season.
- Renewal of the organic garden in the West Meadow, irrigated by the rainwater storage system the Friends upgraded last year.
- Musical events similar to the All-American Patriotic Music concert. Who knows . . . we may even find another group like the Celtic Martins!
- Another fantastic Celebration and Trail Race (the 5th annual) in September.
- Addition of an array of solar panels and interior lighting to the Williams Pavilion by the state. We anticipate the power generated by the solar panels year round will offset a large part of our electric bills.

- Special work projects like the boardwalk repairs and back parking lot enhancements undertaken last year by the Lackawanna College Society of Petroleum Engineers and Women in Shale Energy groups.

All this takes time and money and we need your help to make it happen. Renew your membership when it comes due, call the office to volunteer at one of our workdays, take part in our wonderful programs, and just find time to visit the park and "Come to your senses!"

Tom Stoll  
President  
Friends of Salt Springs Park



Boardwalk repair, April 30, 2016.



Celtic Martins, August 12, 2016.

## Financial Statement End of Year 2016

## Highlights

### Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$ 32,689
Fixed Assets	\$ 17,420
Other Assets	\$1,246,239
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,296,348</b>
Liabilities	\$ 2,145
Equity	\$1,294,203
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$1,296,348</b>

### Statement of Investment Results

Opening Balance	\$ 614,987
Total Return	\$ 35,468
Transfer to Operations	\$ (20,000)
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$ 630,454</b>

### Statement of Income & Expenses

#### Income

Direct Public Support	\$ 31,179
Government Grants	\$
Indirect Support	\$ 373
Other Income	\$ 14
Program Income	\$ 29,320
Rentals	\$ 13,600
Sales	\$ 2,413
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 76,898
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 869
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 76,029</b>

#### Expenses

Business Expenses	\$ 100
Park Facilities	\$ 6,112
Operations	\$ 12,461
Other Expenses	\$ 1,513
Program Expenses	\$ 12,659
Payroll & Taxes	\$ 60,725
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 93,569</b>

<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (17,540)</b>
Transfer from Investments	\$ 20,000
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>\$ 2,460</b>

### Major Donors

David and Priscilla Andre  
 Artists' Open House Weekend Artists  
 Don and Chris Burton  
 Dennis Carey, Choconut Market  
 Community Bank  
 Jim and Kate Crowley  
 Endless Brewing  
 Donna Fassler  
 Tom Ferme  
 Chas and JoAnn Grimes  
 Richard and Maureen Jordan  
 Carol and Bill Korutz  
 Leatherstocking Gas Company  
 Sandra Major  
 Montrose Feed & Supply  
 Montrose Lions Club  
 Musa-Stiles VFW, Great Bend  
 Popple Construction, Inc., Laflin  
 Eddie Smith, Body & Soul Massage  
 Stephen Spero and Diana Bean  
 Scott Spicer  
 Thomas and Jayne Stoll  
 Mary Torney  
 United Way donors  
 John and Joy Wheaton

### Other Sources

- Susquehanna County Conservation Grant—\$1,000 for environmental ed

### Accomplishments

- Membership income was the highest ever in 2016, at \$17,860—a 3.45% increase over 2015.
- Camping and Pavilion income was the highest ever in 2016, at \$18,220—a 27.26% increase over 2015.



**Friends of Salt  
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P.O. Box 541  
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## **2017 Volunteer Workdays**

**Saturdays, April 15 & 22**



**We need your help cutting, splitting, and hauling firewood; raking out flower beds; cleaning up garden beds; sweeping out the Wheaton House, cabins, and Carriage Barn; and much more!**