



Salt
Springs

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Spring 2020

Impacts of COVID-19; and “Spread Out”

On March 16, to help curb the spread of the coronavirus, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) closed the facilities at all state parks and forests. Therefore, the restrooms, Wheaton House (office and welcome center), campgrounds, and pavilion are currently closed, and all programs and events have been cancelled through April 30th, 2020. The trails and parking lots remain open.

Because parks are one of the few sanctioned places Pennsylvanians can still go to, people are going to them in record numbers, and some parks are experiencing overcrowding. Visitation at Salt Springs has increased over the past several weeks, and will continue to do so as spring unfolds, but we have fortunately not experienced the difficulties some other parks have.

The physical and mental health benefits of being outdoors are well documented. Walking, hiking, and running are excellent ways to exercise and relieve stress, but at this time they're healthy only if you follow the social distancing guidelines.

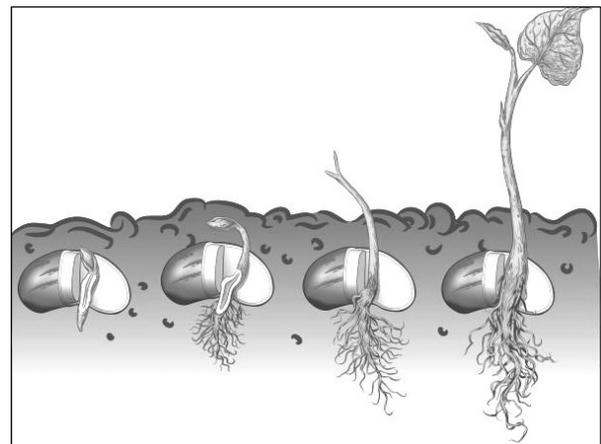
When you come, please do your part to keep Salt Springs the clean and safe place we all love. Only come with members of your household; avoid other people, even if you know them; maintain a 6-foot distance between yourself and anyone you may encounter—if a parking lot or trailhead is crowded, go to another one or come back at a later time.

Heed the advice of DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn in her April 2 press release: “Outdoor activities are a great idea to relieve stress and as immunity boosters, but they should not include exposure to high-touch surfaces or other groups of people—we need to *spread out*.”

Learning Activities

With schools closed and public programs and functions cancelled at this time, families now more than ever are looking for fun and creative things to do together. The environmental educators at Salt Springs Park, organized by Concetta Schirra, put together a series of learning activities to help families make the most of these hours.

Each Monday morning in April, at 8 am, they are posting a themed narrative, with hands-on activities and resource links, on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/friendsofsaltsprings](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsaltsprings)). For those who aren't on Facebook, these lessons are also accessible from the homepage of the Friends' website ([friendsofsaltspringspark.org](https://www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org)). The posts will remain indefinitely, so check them out at your convenience.



The topics covered are vernal pools and what you can find in them; seed starting and watching one sprout; getting outdoors and exploring; and identifying trees.

Contact Ms. Schirra (EEC@saltspringspark.org) for further information. You can also request specialized lessons for your family or lessons at the park once normal activities have resumed.

Friends of Salt Springs Park

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

2020 Board of Directors

Thomas Stoll, President
Tami Noonan, Vice President
Scott Heckman, Treasurer
Diane Wurth, Secretary
Lisa Bistocchi
James Hinds
Tanya Korutz
Barbara McNamara
Debra Nagle
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 Member

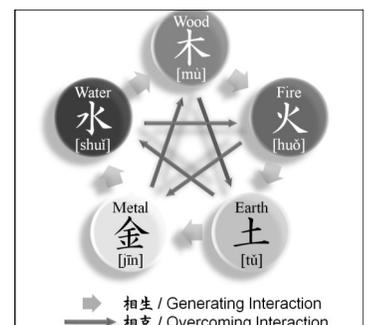
We're pleased to announce that Debra Nagle has joined the Friends' board of directors. Deb is a long-time member of the Friends and a resident of Susquehanna County since 1996. In the mid-1990s, Deb and her husband Jim decided to retire, he from teaching genetics and she from managing accounting software development projects for insurance companies, and move from their urban New Jersey home. After scouring the northeast from Maine to North Carolina, they choose Susquehanna County and bought land in Dimock. Not ready to retire for good, Deb was the Executive Director of the Montrose Restoration Committee during some of their most productive years (2002–2010, when they re-roofed the theatre, established the Montrose Country Store, upgraded the facades of many downtown buildings, added new sidewalks and lighting, and much more).

Deb and Jim turned their 60 acres into their own personal park, complete with 3 miles of nature trails. Since Jim's death in 2011, Deb has continued to maintain her park, as, she describes, an "unpaid field hand who gets to labor with tractor, mower, chainsaw, shovel, and sweat for the benefit of the deer and other animals who live here!"

Deb and her new partner Dan enjoy hiking in Salt Springs, and Deb wants to "give back to this place that has given me pleasure every time I've visited." Her love and knowledge of nature, both flora and fauna, her expert organizational and computer skills, and her appreciation of Salt Springs and the Friends' role and work here will help keep the organization strong and steady.

New Program Series: The Five Elements

According to Chinese philosophy, the five elements of wood, fire, earth, metal, and water are the fundamental elements of everything in the universe. Each element has its own connections with different aspects of nature, including season, color, and weather. **Tami Noonan's** workshops will explore these relationships and interactions and how they might influence you, with hands-on experiences as well as reflection and discussion. Dress for the weather, as part of each workshop will be held outside. Workshops are held on Sundays, begin at 1 p.m., and are free (although donations are welcome):



On *May 3*, we will explore Wood, which is associated with spring, the color green, and windy weather. On *June 28*, we'll explore Fire, associated with summer, the color red, and hot weather. On *August 23*, we will explore Earth, associated with the changing of the seasons, the color yellow, and dampness. The focus on *October 25* will be Metal, associated with autumn, the color white, and dry weather. On *November 22* we come full circle with Water, associated with winter, the color black, and coldness.

News & Notes

Riparian Buffer Project

In 2019 the Friends entered into a three-year project with the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation & Development Council to plant hundreds of trees and shrubs along a section of Silver Creek. Key Friends participants are environmental education committee members Concetta Schirra, Lillian Theophanis, Jim Kessler, and Robert Fearnley; and board members Tom Stoll and Joe Toman (also an EE committee member).

Now, in April 2020, delivery of 600 trees and 100 shrubs is imminent. They were obtained by Robert Fearnley for free from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (along with protection tubes, netting, and stakes), and planting will begin in early May. We had anticipated the planting phase to include dozens of volunteers, but given the present need to not foster or participate in group gatherings, this element has been scrapped. They will still be planted, but by far fewer individuals working at appropriate distances from each other.

But the benefits of the project will still be gained. Once established, the new plantings will help stabilize the streambank and foster new wildlife habitats, both in and out of the stream.

Project Updates

Several projects are in the works, and some were slated to begin soon. One was completed in March. Benedict Antique Lumber and Stone (Susquehanna, PA) dismantled the Barn Pavilion, stacked the lumber onsite, and palletized some of the stone. The pavilion will be reconstructed when a better location has been selected.

Four other projects are being managed and funded by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Again because of the coronavirus pandemic, two that were scheduled to begin in May are now on hold: replacing the dairy barn roof and building a stacked stone wall in Fall Brook for streambank stabilization. The third, restoring electricity to the campground, is awaiting a new right-of-way; and the fourth, replacing the footbridge across Fall Brook, is back in the planning stage. After consideration of several types of structures, DCNR now anticipates installing another fiberglass model as before.



Friends of Salt Springs Park, Inc.

P.O. Box 541 • Montrose, PA 18801
www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

Membership Categories

Individual	\$30
Family	\$50
Sponsor	\$100
Patron / Corp.	\$250
Best Friend	\$500
Other (any amount)	_____

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

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!

As of this printing, programs are set to resume on May 1. Because this may change at any time, please check the website or call or email the office for confirmation. Full program details, including cancellation updates, are on the website.

First Day Hike—Go Wild for Wildflowers. Friday, May 1, 6:30 p.m. We'll identify as many wildflowers as we can along a 1.5-mile easy to moderate hike. \$5; members, free.

The Five Elements—Wood. Sunday, May 3, 1 p.m. See *Messenger* page 2 (opposite) for description. Free.

Full Moon Hike. Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. We'll explore the park by the light of the moon. \$5; \$15/family; members, free.

Archery for Beginners. Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. Taught by a certified instructor; equipment provided. \$5; \$15/family.

Spring Bird Walk. Saturday, May 23, 7:30 a.m. We expect to see or hear 60+ species in a variety of habitats. Free-will donation.

First Day Hike. Monday, June 1, 6:30 p.m. Get outdoors, enjoy nature, and make new friends while getting some exercise. \$5; members, free.

Full Moon Hike. Friday, June 5, 8:30 p.m. We'll explore the park by the light of the moon. \$5; \$15/family; members, free.

Archery for Beginners. Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. Taught by a certified instructor; equipment provided. \$5; \$15/family.

2019 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,

2019 was a busy year at Salt Springs Park, highlighted by lots of programs hosted by the Friends and by ongoing recovery from the August 2018 flood. Here are some of our accomplishments:

- The Friends held 53 environmental education and historical programs on many topics, hosted by our staff and volunteers. They drew more than 630 participants.
- We continued our Artists in Residence program, sponsoring two fabric artists who presented programs, displayed their work in the Wheaton House throughout the year, and participated in the annual Susquehanna County Artists Open House Weekend in October.
- The annual Salt Springs Celebration over Labor Day weekend was a tremendous success - our biggest ever - drawing more than a thousand visitors to enjoy food, music, activities, and company.
- Funding from a local benefactor allowed us to start an ongoing cooperative initiative with the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources to provide expert input and support on environmental projects. During this first year, a member of the faculty and several interns spent time at the park gathering information and developing ideas for possible future projects which the Friends' Board of Directors is now evaluating.
- With much help from the PA Bureau of State Parks and your donations, we made huge progress on continued recovery from the flood:
 - A new heating boiler was installed at the Calvin House along with a new septic system which is shared with the Wheaton House. We were then able to re-open both buildings to new rental tenants.
 - A large washout on the Overlook Trail was repaired.
 - Restoration of the iconic salt spring was completed.
 - Planning continued on what to do about the severely damaged Barn Pavilion. It has now been dismantled and is being stored for future use in a new activity area out of the floodplain.
 - The foundations under Cabins 2 and 3 were repaired, and they are once again usable.
 - Flooded campgrounds and day use areas were cleared of trash, debris, and downed trees.
 - The Organic Garden was cleared and rebuilt.
- Our Trails Committee completely re-marked all trails, with painted symbols replacing faded plastic arrows.
- One local Eagle Scout candidate created and installed directional signs on several trails, and another built and installed six bat boxes.
- The Friends contributed to a project by neighboring landowners to repair a washed-out section of Buckley Road.
- We installed new signs provided by the Bureau of State Parks at the park entrance on Silver Creek Road.
- A group of volunteers from Southwestern Energy completed ongoing repairs to the Boardwalk, replacing rotted wood and raising the lowest rung of the railing for better drainage. The work was funded by a donor.
- We started our riparian buffer along Silver Creek with the planting of 60 trees and shrubs donated by the Penn State Master Gardeners. The work was done by the Environmental Ed Committee and volunteers.

We are looking forward to a great 2020, which will include:

- More great programs once the Covid-19 pandemic has eased and activities resume.
- Completion of the riparian buffer along Silver Creek with 700 additional trees and shrubs donated by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.
- Flood cleanup along Silver Creek and construction of a stone wall along Fall Brook to prevent future flood damage.
- Installation of a new roof on the Dairy Barn.
- Construction of a new footbridge over Fall Brook.
- Restoration of power to the campground restrooms and cabins.

We need your ongoing help as members now more than ever. Please renew your membership when it comes due, call the office to volunteer your help, take part in our wonderful programs, and just find time to visit the park again and "Come to your senses!"

Tom Stoll
President, Friends of Salt Springs Park, Inc.

**Financial Statement
End of Year 2019**

Major Donors

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$ 51,408
Fixed Assets	\$ 17,420
Other Assets	\$1,360,432
Total Assets	\$1,429,260
Liabilities	\$ 4,771
Equity	\$1,424,489
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,429,260

Statement of Investment Results

Opening Balance	\$ 638,426
Total Return	\$ 119,310
Transfer to Operations	\$ (15,000)
Closing Balance	\$ 742,736

Statement of Income & Expenses

Income

Direct Public Support	\$ 52,665
Government Grants	\$ 7,000
Indirect Support	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 33
Program Income	\$ 27,032
Rentals	\$ 5,650
Sales	\$ 2,127
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 94,507
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 1,270
Gross Profit	\$ 93,237

Expenses

Business Expenses	\$ 100
Park Facilities	\$ 8,583
Operations	\$ 11,918
Other Expenses	\$ 2,472
Program Expenses	\$ 24,590
Payroll & Taxes	\$ 64,524
Total Expenses	\$ 112,187

Net Income	\$ (18,950)
Transfer from Investments	\$ 15,000
Net Result	\$ (3,950)

Toby and Libby Anderson
David and Priscilla Andre
Artists Open House Weekend Artists
R.A. and Linda Baroni
Don and Chris Burton
Anne Butler
William Chamberlin and Kathryn LeSoine
Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative
Common Threads Quilters Guild
Community Bank
Coughlin & Gerhart
Patrick Davis
Amy DeShong
Endless Mountains Health Systems
Donna Fassler
Thomas Ferme
Carlo and Tammy Ferri
Donald and Kathryn Gitto
Charles Grimes
William and Elsie Hackbart
Dr. James Hayes
Richard and Maureen Jordan
Kerr Orthodontics
Carol and Bill Korutz
Magic Needles Quilt Group
Sandra J. Major
Jack Maynard
Penn State Master Gardeners
Hedi Randall
Resource Environmental Management
Louise Shafer
Stephen Spero and Diana Bean
Diantha Spicer
Scott Spicer
Thomas and Jayne Stoll
Mary Torney
Zimmerman Fund

Grants

Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau
Endless Mountains Resource Conservation & Development Council
Susquehanna County Conservation District



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

P.O. Box 541
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