



Salt
Springs

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Spring 2019

Flood Restoration Update

As you know, the central area of Salt Springs Park was devastated by flooding in August 2018. Repairs began immediately and have been ongoing over the fall, winter, and spring. The Friends and the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks have accomplished the following:

- The electric line to the Williams Pavilion was repaired, bringing the solar power installation back on-line.
- The electric panel and heating system in the John Calvin House were replaced.
- The septic system that serves the Wheaton House and the John Calvin House is being repaired; work is expected to be complete by June 1.
- A new footbridge over Fall Brook is being installed and is expected to be complete by the end of May.

As we move forward with repairs, one of our driving principles is to carefully consider how to prevent or minimize future flood damage. This is influencing our plans to address these additional areas of concern:

- The Barn Pavilion needs to be restored in a way that will make it less susceptible to flood damage. Options under consideration include raising it or moving it to a new location out of the flood plain.
- New campsites need to be created to replace the ones washed away. Camper safety is a key consideration here.
- Electric power to the campground restrooms and camping cottages needs to be restored and preferably relocated out of the flood plain.
- Camping Cottage 2 needs to be moved back onto its foundation piers, and the washouts underneath need to be backfilled.
- The Bureau has plans to stabilize the banks of Fall Brook and Silver Creek to prevent further

flood damage.

- The East Meadow and salt spring area need to be cleaned up and restored as much as feasible.

Your support has been critical during the restoration process. We reached out to the Friends' membership and to the public for aid to repair the damage, and you responded with overwhelming generosity. To date we have received almost \$26,000 in donations designated for flood restoration, and we thank you very much! Your gifts are being put to good use; so far we have spent about \$7,500 on the following:

- About 20% of the total cost to replace the heating system in the John Calvin House since it generates rental income for the Friends.
- Heat in the Calvin House over the winter because it was not rentable.
- Part of the cost to replace the septic system that serves the Wheaton House and John Calvin House, again because the Calvin House generates income.
- Materials such as gravel, cleaning supplies, trash cans, a new gate, and much more.

We anticipate these additional expenditures that the Bureau of State Parks cannot fund:

- Up to \$3,000 to repair the partial washout in the Overlook Trail.
- Approximately \$6,000 to repair Camping Cottage 2.
- Several thousand dollars to repair the electrical feed to the campground restrooms and the camping cottages.
- Upwards of \$25,000 to restore the Barn Pavilion.

If you do the arithmetic, you will see that the funds we have are not sufficient to get all this done. We are starting to look into grants from both private and government sources but will continue to look to you, our loyal base of supporters, to get us through.

Thank you again for your help!

Friends of Salt Springs Park

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

2019 Board of Directors

Thomas Stoll, President
Tami Noonan, Vice President
Scott Heckman, Treasurer
Mary Butler, Secretary
Lisa Bistocchi
Diane Hawley-Wurth
James Hinds
Richard Jordan
Tanya Korutz
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.

Board Changes

Our treasurer for the past 5 years, **Jack Maynard**, went off the board at the end of 2018, having reached his term limit. **Hedi Randall**, who had agreed to serve 1 year on the board, has also stepped down. We are grateful for their service. Jack implemented many new policies and procedures during his tenure, and Hedi helped energize our Marketing and Membership committee. Both Jack and Hedi continue to serve on committees and help organize events. And we are pleased to welcome two new members to the board, **Tami Noonan** and **Lisa Bistocchi**.

Tami began visiting Salt Springs in 1979, eventually bringing her children, friends, and girl scouts here as well. In 2009, she remarried, at Salt Springs, and her love for the place grew even more. In 2014 she moved nearby into a house she built with her husband, Kevin, and began venturing into parts of Salt Springs she hadn't hiked before and pitching in on our volunteer clean-up days. When she was asked to join the board she figured this was her chance to do more. She hopes to spend many more years helping the Friends maintain the beauty and serenity of her "happy place."

Lisa was born and raised in Bethlehem, PA, and moved to Montrose in 1983 after she got married. Lisa raised two children, her daughter, Geena, who lives in Silver Lake Twp., and her son, Tony, who, tragically, was killed in a car accident while in college. Lisa began her career in the mortgage department at County National Bank. After 11 years she changed directions and is now a second grade teacher at Choconut Valley Elementary School, and she feels blessed to have a job that she loves so much. Lisa has always had a passion for the woods and nature as well. After seeing the devastation at Salt Springs last year caused by the flooding, she was inspired to take action to help in the restoration efforts.

We, too, are inspired—by Tami and Lisa. The eagerness with which these women have pitched in to revamp trails and work with us on our volunteer work days has already made a difference at Salt Springs Park.

Quilt Raffle

The "Kaleidoscope of Many Hands" quilt we sold tickets for this spring was raffled off on Sunday, April 29. It was designed and sewn by the **Common Threads Quilters Guild** with the purpose of being raffled to raise funds for two area nonprofit organizations. Board member and FSSP Artist in Residence **Barb Merritt** presented the quilt to **Pam Secrist** (of Sayre, PA), who had purchased the winning ticket. A guild picnic will be held at Salt Springs on June 6 at which time a check for over \$2,000 will be presented to the Friends.



News & Notes

Flood History and Geology—Special Presentation

Evidence that water is a powerful force is littered all over our former picnic area. It can also be found in the bedrock and sandstone and shale lining the gorge walls. Join **Jim Kessler** on **Sunday, June 23, 1 pm, at the Williams Pavilion** for a discussion of the most recent damage from a historical perspective. This will be followed by a short walking tour in the gorge, looking for historical evidence of past floods.

Trails Committee News

Tami Noonan recently stepped up from Trails Committee member to chairperson. This spring, she and **Scott Heckman**, another committee member, began re-marking the trails. This involves replacing the faded arrow blazes with painted ones. Eventually, more trail signs will be placed where needed at trailheads and junctions. For his Eagle Scout project, Montrose high school student **George Thompson** is helping with the trail signs. If you'd like to become involved, or have any questions or concerns about the trails you'd like to discuss, please contact Tami at tamismassageworks@gmail.com.

Rental Apartment and House Available Soon

With the new septic system to be in place by the end of May, we are looking forward to renting out the Wheaton House apartment and the Calvin House as soon thereafter as possible.

The apartment is small and suitable for one person. It has one bedroom, a living room, a galley-style kitchen, and a bathroom with a shower. It is a second floor walk-up and bright and cheery when the sun shines—and not so bad even when it doesn't!

The two-story house has three bedrooms, a bath and a half, a large kitchen with eating nook and laundry room, a large dining room/living room, and a small den.

We require a deposit (equal to one month's rent) and work and landlord references, and we don't allow pets or smoking. If interested, or know someone who is, please call the office (570-967-7275) for further details and to get an application.



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!

Full details are on the website.

Star Party. Saturday, June 1, 8:30 p.m. **Mike and Mary Sinkovich** host our spring stargazing event. **Fee.**

Confetti Quilt. Sunday, June 2, 1 p.m. Artists in Residence **Jayne Stoll** and **Barbara Merritt** assist us in creating our own unique quilt. Materials supplied. No sewing. **No fee.**

Archery for Beginners. Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. Taught by a certified instructor; equipment provided. **Fee.**

Full Moon Hike. Saturday, June 15, 8:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share around a campfire afterwards. **Free-will donation.**

Celebrate the Summer Solstice. Saturday, June 22 (rain date, June 23). Fee.

- **Noon: Summer Sun**, all about the sun; make a food model
- **1 p.m.: Bees & Honey with Jim Perkins**, discussions, demos, honey samples, Q&A
- **3 p.m.: Stream Stomp**, cool off in the creek looking for critters
- **Evening campfire**, story-telling around a campfire at dusk

Flood History and Geology in the Gorge. Sunday, June 23, 1 p.m. Discussion and short walking tour in the gorge, led by **Jim Kessler**. **Free.**

All-American Music. Wednesday, July 3, 7 p.m. Join us and the **Brackney String Band** at the Williams Pavilion for our annual evening of music and toasted marshmallows under the stars. **Free, but we pass the hat!**

2018 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,

Looking back, 2018 was a real roller-coaster ride for the Friends of Salt Springs Park. Here are highlights of what we accomplished on the plus side:

- The Friends' Board of Directors developed a new Strategic Plan with long-term goals to guide us over the next three to five years.
- We opened our new Memorial Garden off the Overlook Trail, built with donations received in memory of **Rusty Ely**.
- We held almost 80 environmental and historical programs of all types, hosted by our staff and volunteers, which drew almost 800 participants. This is a 33% increase from 2017!
- Our two regular volunteer work days in April were a big success, drawing well over 100 energetic workers to clean up after winter and prep the site for the season.
- The 2018 Artist in Residence, **Earl W. Lehman**, was an active presence around the park and displayed his work in the Wheaton House.
- Historical displays in the Wheaton House illustrated the Wheaton family's lives on the farm.
- The annual Salt Springs Celebration over Labor Day weekend was a tremendous success, drawing hundreds of visitors to enjoy food, music, activities, and company.
- And more generally, thousands of visitors hiked the trails, picnicked, climbed the waterfalls, camped out for the weekend, relaxed in the solitude of the hemlock grove, and enjoyed the out-of-doors.

You can look forward to more of the same in 2019!

On the minus side, the worst flood in memory washed through the central area of the park on August 14, rerouting Fall Brook and damaging the grounds and several buildings. The Friends and the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks responded immediately and the park was reopened to visitors within days. Since then we have partnered with the Bureau to continue to make repairs, and, although there is still a lot to do, we are making steady progress as detailed in a separate article. Parts of Salt Springs look different from what they did before

August 14, but if you put it in perspective, almost all of what we've come to love over the years is still here to be appreciated.

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

New Memorial Garden

A memorial garden was created along the Overlook Trail last summer. **Barb Merritt** coordinated the project, and much of the work was done by Barb and her husband, **Mike Merritt**. The garden is dedicated to the memory of **Rusty Ely**.



Rusty was a long-time supporter of the Friends. He fulfilled many roles on and off the board, and his stonework enhances many areas throughout the park. When he passed away unexpectedly in March 2018, we received so many donations in his honor that we were able to create this quiet, peaceful memorial garden.

In addition to the Merritts, we thank the **Marc Wadel family**, who spent an entire weekend digging the paths, laying the foundation, and spreading the stone; and volunteers **Peg Miller** and **Laura Clark**, who dug up roots and weeds and helped clear the area.

Call the office for details regarding ways to memorialize your loved ones at Salt Springs Park.

Financial Statement
End of Year 2018

Major Donors

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$ 51,540
Fixed Assets	\$ 17,420
Other Assets	\$1,256,122
Total Assets	\$1,325,082
Liabilities	\$ 952
Equity	\$1,324,130
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,325,082

Statement of Investment Results

Opening Balance	\$ 686,731
Total Return	\$ (51,805)
Transfer to Operations	\$ (25,000)
Closing Balance	\$ 609,926

Statement of Income & Expenses

Income

Direct Public Support	\$ 61,836
Government Grants	\$ 7,129
Indirect Support	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 28
Program Income	\$ 29,769
Rentals	\$ 9,967
Sales	\$ 1,822
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 110,551
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 18
Gross Profit	\$ 110,533

Expenses

Business Expenses	\$ 100
Park Facilities	\$ 6,704
Operations	\$ 13,302
Other Expenses	\$ 2,540
Program Expenses	\$ 22,863
Payroll & Taxes	\$ 61,659
Total Expenses	\$ 107,168

Net Income	\$ 3,365
Transfer from Investments	\$ 25,000
Net Result	\$ 28,365

David and Priscilla Andre
 Artists Open House Weekend
 Holly Bason
 Don and Chris Burton
 Mary Butler
 Erika and Tony Cook
 Jim and Kate Crowley
 Walton Dahlander
 Dairy Promotion Team of Susquehanna County
 Joan and Jeremiah Donovan
 John Farmer
 Donna Fassler
 Tom Ferme
 Garden Club of Montrose
 William and Elsie Hackbart
 Richard and Maureen Jordan
 Shirley Keller
 Lori King
 Carol and Bill Korutz
 Eloise Krogh
 Sandra Major
 Elizabeth Manlove
 John and Sally McGrath
 Mike and Barb Merritt
 Susan Newhart
 H. Chase and Cornelia Page
 Eva Patten
 Prudential Financial
 Hedi Randall
 Repsol Oil & Gas USA
 Arlene Rought
 Ann Scala
 George and Dede Shafer
 Silver Lake Ladies Community Service Club
 Larry and Patti Souder
 Stephen Spero and Diana Bean
 Scott Spicer
 Tom and Jayne Stoll
 Mary Torney
 Ann Vitale
 Jennifer and Jason Wheaton
 Jennifer Wilson
 Bertram and Lorle Wolfson
 Zimmerman Fund



**Friends of Salt
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Small Quilt Challenge

Artists in Residence **Jayne Stoll** and **Barb Merritt** challenge you to create a small quilt inspired by the beauty of Salt Springs Park: the waterfalls, the salt spring, wildlife, the old-growth hemlock forest, the gardens, the historical buildings, or your favorite spot in the spring, summer, fall, or winter.

Guidelines:

- The quilt may be any shape or size but not more than 144" total perimeter (equivalent of 36" x 36").
- The quilt may be pieced, appliqued, or created with any other technique. Embellishments can be added.
- Any type of hand or machine quilting, stitching, or tying may be used to hold the layers together.
- Quilts should have a name and be finished with a sleeve and a label.
- Challenge quilts will be displayed at the Salt Springs Celebration on Saturday, August 31, 2019.

For more information and to register, please contact:
Jayne Stoll quilterjayne@gmail.com or Barb Merritt bjmerritt2@gmail.com