



Salt
Springs

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Fall 2008



Stewardship Campaign —

Salt Springs Park Needs You!

Salt Springs State Park receives almost no state support — and because it is a state park it is not permitted to charge fees for admission. The Friends of Salt Springs Park have relied on membership dues and donations to finance the maintenance of the 842 acres and 12 buildings that make up the Park. HOWEVER, there are not enough members (at least not yet), and the dues go only so far. We are now faced with a looming

deficit and are embarked on an **emergency campaign** to raise **\$25,000**. **That is why we are turning to you for help.**

Our costs are outstripping our revenue. Attendance has more than doubled since 2005 — we estimate that almost 20,000 people will visit this year. Our website has received almost as many hits since the beginning of April as it did during all of 2007. And our growth in campers is off the charts. Something is happening here. The Park has become a significant Susquehanna County destination, for county residents and for many people from outside the area as well. But, thrilled though we are with our booming popularity, we also must sadly acknowledge that this is too much to manage with just volunteers. We have turned to a handful of part-time staffers, but they cost money — not a lot, but more than our current income can sustain.

WHAT YOU MAY KNOW

Salt Springs has waterfalls, impressive stands of old-growth hemlock trees, and facilities for tenting or camping in one of our rustic cottages. We also have an extensive agenda of education programs in nature studies and regional history for students, educators, and the public.

BUT, YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

- Even though Salt Springs is a state park, it is the only state park not managed by the PA Bureau of State Parks.
- Instead, the park is managed and supported by the Friends of Salt Springs Park—a non-profit organization—in accordance with the state park management plan.
- Of the 842 acres, the State owns 405 acres, less than half of the park's land. The remainder is owned by the Friends for the exclusive use of our visitors.

To donate by credit card:

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org/donate

To donate by check, mail to:

Friends, PO Box 541, Montrose, PA 18801

Friends of Salt Springs Park

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

2008 Board of Directors

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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.

Plantings Enhance Picnic Areas and Overlook Trail

Toby Anderson

In a major project to expand our public facilities, a large number of trees and shrubs were planted last fall and this spring in several new areas of the park. This was made possible by a 50% funding grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Northeast PA Urban & Community Forestry Program."

Our main picnic area, on the south side of the stream and around the salt spring, was heavily damaged in the flood of June '06. Although we've been able to do some cleanup and repair of the damaged area, it remains vulnerable to repeat flooding because the streambed changed. Shrubs were planted along the north bank of Fall Brook near the older picnic area, hoping to help hold the bank against future erosion.

In addition, increased use of the park requires more picnic and play space. We therefore designated the land west of the parking lot (beyond the barn and the llamas) as the "West Meadow Picnic Area." We arranged with our neighbor, Phil Depue, to have his cows, which formerly grazed here, use a different field. Starting last fall, volunteers and Board members cleared parts of the new West Meadow area. Cooper Van Cott, of Van Cott's Nursery & Landscaping in New Milford, then planted a number of trees, in attractive groups which will permit mowing the grass around them. This spring, Van Cott finished the job with groups of shrub plantings near the bank of Silver Creek.

On the south side of the park, where the new handicap accessible Overlook Trail comes in from Buckley Road, Van Cott created three "nodes" of small cleared areas with attractive plantings and rugged benches where one can rest along the walk from the parking lot to the gorge. The Overlook Trail is becoming a popular resource for visitors who may find the steep trail up from the salt spring a little too challenging.

Included among the new plantings are black walnut, tulip, sycamore, cherry, and a large number of shrubs including red twig dogwood, serviceberry, forsythia, common ninebark, snowberry and viburnum. Cooper Van Cott has long been a supporter of Salt Springs and its improvements; we are grateful to him for contributing a large part of his work and materials free of charge. His contribution and the U.S.D.A. grant made this important project possible.



News & Notes

MASD Summer Camp

In early 2008 we received a \$4,000 grant to conduct the Montrose Area School District Camp in the summers of 2008 and 2009. Each camp is to consist of two days at the park and one at a location determined by the school. The grant is restricted to program-related expenses. This summer, the curriculum included tree identification, mammal skins, skulls and tracks identification, and sensory awareness and nature haiku for 60 kids, grades 1-6. Coordinated by Nancy Wottrich, other instructors included Jay Harter, Sandy Babuka, and Michaela Steele.

Friends' Trail

George Schreck reports: "The new Friends' Trail on the old Fogler property [acquired by the Friends in 2006, made possible by grants and donations] has come a long way. Currently, 5950 feet have been completed. We need two small foot bridges, not much more than a few pallets to cross a small creek run (nothing you can't jump over) so our maintenance equipment can do additional mowing when needed. We still have to layout and complete about 1700 feet so we can connect to the Summit Trail. This will most likely require some "chain saw" work and strong backs. I've GPS-mapped the completed portion. Thanks to Dennis Wilson, Dave Clemens, and Jim Kessler for the fine brush-hogging of the trail through the overgrown fields on both sides of Buckley road. The trail starts in the parking area next to the Loch House. Get out of the house and office and take a nice hike while this beautiful weather lasts."

Membership

We send a big *thank you* to all new and renewing members of the Friends. Your continued support is essential to Salt Springs.

The membership year begins on June 1st.



Friends of Salt Springs Park, Inc.

P.O. Box 541 • Montrose, PA 18801

Membership Categories

Individual	\$20
Family	\$40
Organization	\$50
Sponsor	\$100
Corporation	\$250
Patron	\$500
Other (any amount)	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Make check payable to: FRIENDS OF SALT SPRINGS (Your cancelled check is your receipt)

Save These Dates!

1940s HISTORY IN STORIES OF LIFE AND FARMING

Thursday, October 16, 7 pm

The lively and entertaining memories of Stephen Depue will be read by local performers. Mr. Depue has written short, interesting memoirs about growing up in Franklin Forks, Salt Springs and thereabouts. He will be present to answer questions and expand on his stories. Refreshments will be served. **No fee or pre-registration.**

HISTORIC RE-CREATION OF A 19TH CENTURY SÉANCE

Sunday, October 19, 7 pm

The Friends' Specialist in Residence, historian Sara Doane, will host an evening re-creation of a 19th Century séance. The evening will include a short talk on the link between feminism and spiritualism followed by an authentic Spiritualist séance circle in the historic Wheaton House. Participants will have the opportunity to inquire of individuals beyond the grave and witness a 19th Century phenomenon by candlelight. **Fee: \$10. Limited enrollment. Pre-registration required. 570-967-7275.**

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING AND PROGRAM

Tuesday, October 28, 6 pm

Buffet Dinner at 6:30, followed by WONDERS NEVER CEASE: A Salt Springs Year in Pictures. **\$23 per person. Reservations required. Call 570-967-7275.**

Triathlon '08

Walt Kostyk
USAT Certified Race Director

The final results of the 2008 Salt Springs Triathlon are posted on the Friends website. I wish to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the triathlon happen this year, especially the professional safety volunteers from Montrose, Silver Lake, and Snake Creek who presided over the race course. It is no accident that for the third year running, we have had no safety incidents, despite increasing our athlete count by 15 this year. Every year, our safety planning gets more precise, and each year, we will seek to improve once again.

Many thanks also to the "civilian" volunteers who timed the race, passed out water, shuttled athletes, guarded the bikes, patrolled the course, directed the racers, prepared meals, and performed the countless other duties that had to coalesce to make the race happen.

Two of our goals were to attract first-timers to the sport of triathlon, and to attract local participants to the race. On both of these counts, the race was a great success. (And it was great to see that some local racers did quite well indeed!) We also had participants come from far and wide, from Maine to Georgia.

At the same time, we have certain areas that we need to improve, with the main concern this year being our manual timing procedure. One thing is sure to never change, and that is that each year will reveal weaknesses that we will have to correct for the following year.

Our sponsors also play a critical role in the success of the race. ALL proceeds of the race are used by the Friends of Salt Springs Park (a registered 501c3 non-profit organization) for the upkeep and



Designed by graphic artist Bridget Nowik. Formatted and printed by Mulligans.

improvement of Salt Springs Park and adjacent Friends lands. Our sponsors help defray the cost of producing the race, which results in a greater percentage of race revenue for the Friends organization. Accordingly, it is hoped that you will patronize our sponsors when you come to need the products and services they offer.

Triathlon Sponsors

Daniel R. Ricci, Jr. State Farm Insurance, Montrose (Primary Sponsor)

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Summerhouse Grill, Montrose

Montrose Beverage

Pump and Pantry, Montrose

WJ Logo Design, Tunkhannock

Jim & Jan Ely BBQ Chicken, Montrose

Trehab Renewable Energy, Montrose

Celebration

<p>AREA BUSINESSES</p> <p>Andre's Agway Arcadia Trees Carleton Country Homes Craig's Elk Mt. Ski Resort Endless Mts. Health System For Keeps Sake From the Heart Griffis Lumber Hawley Farm JDE Hair Salon Lee's Furniture Little Leaf Lily Pad Florist & Gifts Lucky Dog Health Spa Maddie Murray Herbal Teas Mary's Home Furnishings Medical Arts Pharmacy Montrose Theater Mountainside Fruit NAPA Montrose Auto Parts People's Nat'l. Bank Pure Pennsylvania Rosemont Inn Rusty's Treasures Ruthann's Sea Hag Soaps Snake Creek Marina Stables Restaurant Summerhouse Grill Taylor Rental The Book Shoppe The Butler's Pantry The Butternut Gallery The Sweet Spot Wild Birds Unlimited</p>	<p>MANY THANKS TO THE LOCAL BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DONATED TO OUR SILENT AUCTION!</p> <p>INDIVIDUALS</p> <p>Libby Anderson Cathy Barbaro Gladys Bennett Nancy & Bill Brown Anne Butler Arlene Cheselka Dave Clemens Beth & Reuben Everitt Kathleen & Kim Harwood Bill Kupiek Karen Leonard Bruce McNaught Mary Niederberger Hedi & Charles Randall Tom Richie William Rought, Jr. George Schreck Rodrica Tilley Barbara & John Wilkerson Dennis Wilson Nancy Wottrich</p>
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New This Year



Civil War Rifle Demonstration



Plant Sale



Dog-Powered Treadmill — this pup was more interested in playing!

Many Thanks to the *Montrose Independent* and our advertisers:

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Stables Restaurant

"As coordinator of this event, I am most grateful to the board, staff, and many volunteers who make the day actually happen." —Nancy

Wottrich

Debra Adleman
Mary Adleman
Charlie Anderson
Libby Anderson
Toby Anderson
Sandy Babuka
Amanda Baldwin
Kathy Blaisure
Carol Clemens
Dave Clemens
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Deb O'Hara
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Lillian Theophanis
Joan Webster
Dennis Wilson

&

Sara Doane, Specialist in Residence; members of the Tioga County Living History Club; Brian Swartz, and Eileen Patch

for their historical re-creations



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

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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

to

The Friends' Annual Dinner Meeting and Program
Tuesday, October 28, 2008
6:00 PM * Dinner served at 6:30 PM
Dreyer Lodge
Montrose Bible Conference
5 Locust Street, Montrose PA

It's been said that a picture is worth a thousand words and this year we will put that theory to the test. To delight and inform you about the work done at your park we present

***WONDERS NEVER CEASE: A Salt Springs Year
in Pictures***

We hope you and your friends will join us in a delightful review. Save the date!



White Coral. Courtesy of George Schreck.