



Salt
Springs

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Friends of Salt Springs Park

Fall 2010

2010-2011 Specialist in the Park



Brent Pennington's term as the Friends' Specialist in the Park begins this month and will run through the Celebration in September 2011.

Brent is a photographer and teacher in Scranton. He describes his photography experience as "varied."

"At present I pursue stories, but I also wander the wilds of PA, making a record of nature as I experience it. I have worked as a university photographer and as a photojournalist, pursued fine art gallery exhibits, and produced and sold stock images. And in the future, I expect I'll continue to sample different aspects of the art. What I do know for sure is, I'll still have a camera in hand."

For more about Brent's background and interests, as well as a sampling of his work, visit his website at brentpennington.com.

Here's a schedule of workshops Brent is planning (all on Saturdays and all with a \$5 per person fee):

October 9, 2010, 12-3 pm - Photography for the Beginner: "I bought a camera . . . now what?" Learn how to get more out of your point & shoot camera! What are those funny symbols? What is "Face Detection" anyway? When should I use the flash? This workshop is designed for beginning photographers who are still trying to feel comfortable using their camera for basic "snapshot" photography.

January 22, 2011, 1-4 pm - Snowbound: Wintertime Photography at Salt Springs Park. Just because there's snow on the ground (hopefully!) doesn't mean you need to put your camera away until spring. Winter is a season with a photographic character all its own - snow piled on pine boughs, cold blue vistas, individual snowflakes. . . . This workshop is designed for participants who know some basics and who are willing to bundle up and step out into the snow.

March 19, 2011, 1-4 pm - Moving Beyond Auto Mode: An Intro to Advanced Camera Techniques. Do you enjoy taking photos but feel frustrated with the results of the Auto modes? Wish you had more control over the final look of your images? This workshop is designed for owners of advanced point & shoot cameras or DSLRs (cameras with interchangeable lenses) who want to learn how to use manual camera settings for complete control over their photography.

Cont'd on page three

Friends of Salt Springs Park

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

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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.

Native Plants at Salt Springs — Goldenrod

By Matt Purdy

One of the native plants you'll find hiking around at Salt Springs Park, especially along sections of the Friends Trail, is goldenrod. The bright, golden yellow flower heads start blooming in mid-August and continue to flower and produce nectar until the first heavy frost, usually in late September. Goldenrod nectar contributes significantly to the survival of many bee colonies that would not otherwise be able to gather enough honey to survive the winter.

Probably because of its bright, showy yellow flowers, goldenrod is often unfairly blamed for causing hay fever in humans. The pollen responsible for these allergy problems is mainly produced by ragweed, which blooms at the same time as the goldenrod. Goldenrod pollen is too heavy and sticky, however, to be blown far from the flowers and is thus mainly pollinated by insects. Ragweed pollen is lighter and is dispersed by the wind.

Over the centuries, goldenrod has been used in both common and uncommon ways. Parts of some goldenrods are edible when cooked and are used to make tea. It is also used in decorations. Goldenrod was introduced to Europe about 250 years ago from its native North America. British gardeners cultivated goldenrod long before Americans. Goldenrod began to gain some acceptance in American gardening (other than wildflower gardening) only during the 1980s. *Solidago canadensis* was introduced as a garden plant in Central Europe and is now common in the wild. In Germany, it is considered an invasive species that displaces native vegetation from its natural habitat. Goldenrod is useful as a companion plant, playing host to some beneficial insects and repelling some pests.

One of goldenrod's most interesting uses was investigated by Thomas Edison. Edison experimented with goldenrod to produce rubber, which it contains naturally. Edison created a fertilization and cultivation process to maximize the rubber content in each plant. His experiments produced a 12 foot tall plant that yielded as much as 12 percent rubber. The tires on the Model T given to him by his friend Henry Ford were made from goldenrod. Edison's goldenrod rubber product was resilient and long lasting. Examples of the rubber can still be found in his laboratory, elastic and rot free after all these years. Edison turned his research over to the U.S. government a year before his death, but it never went beyond the experimental stage.

This issue of the *Salt Springs Messenger* is courtesy of the Law Office of Richard Jordan, Church Street, Montrose (570-278-4660).

News & Notes

New Environmental Education Coordinator

Matt Purdy is the Friends' new Environmental Education Coordinator. "With such great natural and historic quality," Matt says, "Salt Springs Park provides a perfect setting for promoting appreciation for our environment and our dependence upon it." We agree and look forward to working with Matt.

Matt's education and experience are well rounded and range from Ecosystem Management to Soil Hydrology and Chemistry Analysis to Mycology. Matt comes to us from the Susquehanna County Conservation District, where he was the Dirt and Gravel Road Program Coordinator. Matt's plans for the Friends include extending our environmental education program, currently offered to 4th grade classes, into the high schools.

Listen to Matt's Environmental Education spot on WPEL, 96.5 FM, every Monday at 12:20 pm. For those who are closer to a computer at that time than to a radio, you can listen to it online at www.wpel.org. See also Matt's article on goldenrod on page two.

Support the Friends

With this newsletter we inaugurate a new source of support for the Friends, which we hope will be carried on semiannually with each issue of the *Salt Springs Messenger*. Specifically, we hope that one of our members or community businesses will donate the cost of bringing the newsletter to you. This issue is brought to you by the Law Office of Richard Jordan, Church Street, Montrose (570-278-4660). Thank you, Mr. Jordan. To sponsor our next issue in early 2011, please call the Friends at 570-967-7275.

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 _____

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Phone _____

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

Save These Dates!

Fall Foliage Hike. Saturday, October 2, 2-4 pm. Join us for an autumn hike to appreciate the changing foliage. Why do some trees lose their leaves? Why do leaves turn colors before they fall off? Bring a camera. Frequent stops to photograph the beautiful vistas will be encouraged!
Free.

Photography for the Beginner. Saturday, October 9, 12-3 pm. See details on page 1.

Annual Meeting of the Friends of Salt Springs Park. Tuesday, October 26, 6 pm. Dreyer Hall, Montrose Bible Conference. **Reservations required. \$23 per person.**

Cont'd from page one

May 21, 2011, 5-8 pm - Chasing the Light: Digital Landscape & Nature Photography. In photography, it's light that matters most - the way it falls on a subject, the color and character of it. But the best light is fleeting. This workshop will show you how to chase the perfect light. Participants should have a DSLR or an advanced point & shoot camera (with manual settings) and at least a basic knowledge of how to use it.

June 18, 2011, 3-6 pm - Outdoor Portraiture: People in Nature. This workshop covers the basic elements of portrait photography, including posing, composition, and lighting techniques, as well as how to use nature as a setting. It is designed for both point & shoot and DSLR users who have at least a basic knowledge of their camera.

Another Special Celebration in 2010

Our heartfelt thanks to all the businesses and individuals, especially Sandy Babuka, event coordinator, who helped in so many different ways to make it happen for us again! We also thank all who came out and spent some time at Salt Springs that day. Your support is essential to the Friends, and it is a continuing pleasure on Celebration days to see how much you enjoy your park.

Silent Auction Donors

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Exhibits & Activities

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Musicians

Lonnie Griffiths Band
Thom & Beth Ormsby
Kelly & Susan Pratt
Rob Siegers
Corky Staats
Charlene Thomson
Tom & Marie
Brian Wahl & the Ring of Fire

Others

Montrose Auto Parts
Montrose Beverage
Alan Coy, tent
Jerry & Bill Gere, tent
Peoples National Bank
Robinson's Market
Stables Restaurant
Susquehanna County Independent
Vickie Wooden
Zoomin Groomin Lucky Dog Pet Spa

Scenes from the Celebration



New this year, exotic birds from Feathered Kisses shelter and rescue.



John McNamara discussed our big plans for the big barn.



Also new this year, musicians Randy Smith, Beth Ormsby, Susan Pratt, Kelly Pratt, and Thom Ormsby jam together.



Tom Richie with wood-carved birds and decoys.



Water testing with Robert Fearnley.



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

**Please join us for the
Friends of Salt Springs Park
Annual Dinner Meeting**

Tuesday, October 26, 2010, at 6 PM
Dinner served at 6:30 PM
Dreyer Lodge
Montrose Bible Conference
5 Locust Street, Montrose PA

Dinner will be a full buffet with ginger peach chicken and a vegetarian selection for \$23 per person. Please make your reservation by **October 15th.**

After dinner there will be a brief meeting.

We look forward to seeing you.