



Friends of Salt Springs Park

April 2011

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275

Volunteers Needed: Help Fix the Trails

Saturday, April 23, 1 to 4 pm

We are trying to get our 12 miles of trails in shape for the season and are seeking 75 volunteers to help clear brush, smooth walkways and more. Most of the heavy equipment work will be done earlier, so this will be just slightly more strenuous than the fabled walk in a park.

In return, we will provide refreshments and a T-shirt to the first 75 volunteers. Sign up by joining the event through our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Salt-Springs-Park/180680705296465) or send us an e-mail (friends@epix.net).

Deer Damage and Hunting at the Park

Hunting has always been allowed at Salt Springs Park, and we are considering joining a deer management program that will allow hunters to take more deer.

We have a forest management plan that says we should consider protecting part of the forest by reducing the number of deer that browse on young growth. The issue prompted considerable debate among directors of the Friends of Salt Springs Park, which manages the 842-acre park.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania controls any decisions about hunting on the 405-acre part of the park it owns. It allows hunting and deer-management permits at many of its other state parks.

The forest management plan we have concerns a section of a 137-acre parcel, although it is probable there is deer damage throughout the entire park. There is some sentiment that an increased deer kill would not actually protect the young growth, because hunting is prohibited in nearby lands and that deer from those lands would just replace those taken from park land. On the other hand, there is evidence of a reduction in deer damage when hunting was allowed in some non-park areas that were formerly islands of deer safety.

While the board will make the final decision, directors are interested in the opinions of members. Please send your comments to friends@epix.net.

News & Notes

Join us in welcoming **Brian Baker** to the Friends' board of directors. Mr. Baker is the Regional Planning Program Manager for the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission, based in Towanda. A lifelong resident of Susquehanna County, he lives in Montrose. Mr. Baker is also president of the Wilson F. Moore Memorial Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in Susquehanna County. Given his deep interest in wildlife, he has joined the Friends' Stewardship Committee.

Sunday, May 1, at 9 am, we're taking to the roads at Salt Springs for our annual spring roadside clean up. Gloves, vests, water, garbage bags . . . all supplies provided. All we need it you! Meet at the Wheaton House and we'll divide up the territory — Silver Creek Road from Rt. 29 to the park and Salt Springs and Buckley Roads within the park.

Want a more relaxing way to spend some time at Salt Springs and help us out? We're looking for a few more volunteers to join our **weekend host program**. This involves spending a few hours in the park, in the sun or shade, take your pick, and greet park visitors. Call 570-967-7275 for full details.

TROUT SEASON OPENING DAY

Saturday, April 16

Hot Food for Sale at the Park

11 am—5 pm

Mark Your Calendars

GREEN GARDENING—SOIL SCIENCE, SEED STARTING, AND SEASON EXTENSION. Saturday, April 16, 11 am—2 pm. Learn how to promote the health of your garden by understanding the relationship between soil ecology and plant needs. **No fee.**

EARTH DAY HIKE AND TREE PLANTING. Saturday, April 23, 1 pm. Appropriate for all ages. Come join us in a spring hike and learn ways to help the Earth get greener by planting seeds. **No fee.**

ETA AQUARIDS METEOR SHOWER NIGHT WALK. Friday, May 6, 8 pm. Catch a glimpse of fire in the night sky, listen for nocturnal animals, and learn about night senses. **No fee.**

WILDFLOWER WALK. Saturday, May 7, 10 am. Robert Fearnley, Watershed Coordinator for the Susquehanna Co. Conservation District, will lead a walk through the park focusing on the wildflowers in bloom and the botany of spring. **No fee.**



FOREST GARDENING. Saturday, May 14, 11 am. Learn techniques of growing food sustainably by mimicking forest environments to grow perennials that live in the forest or by creating self-maintaining forest garden ecosystems within your forest. **Program fee: \$10.**

SPRING BIRDING HIKE. SUNDAY, MAY 15, 7:30-10 am.

Join Dr. Jerry Skinner, Prof. of Biology and Naturalist, on a morning hike observing birds during the height of migration, breeding, plumage, and singing. **No fee.**



Wheaton House Opening Day

Sunday, May 1, 12:30 pm. Beginning May 1, the Wheaton House will be open to the public on weekends through September. Come get the feel of a mid-1800s farmhouse, explore hands-on environmental and historical displays, and browse the Gift Shop for neat items.

Saturdays, 9:30 am to 4 pm

Sundays, 12:30 to 4 pm