



Friends of Salt Springs Park

April 2009

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275

Hello, Friends of Salt Springs,

This is the first issue of our new e-letter. It will be sent to you in the months that you do not receive a printed newsletter to keep you better informed about what goes on at your park. Spring is all around - it's exciting to watch the robins return and the llamas prancing and shaking the winter hay from their coats. The falls are impressive right now, with the year's snow melt tumbling down the gorge, the roar mingling once again with the sound of laughing hikers, who have also begun to return.

Your membership helps sustain Salt Springs Park. Because of you, the Friends are able to maintain a local family recreation area in a beautiful, natural setting and to offer low cost educational programs for varied interests and ages. There is never a fee to come to the park.

There are many ways you can continue to support the Friends. As a weekend volunteer host, you have the opportunity to spend a few hours sharing this special place with others. Browse our gift shop and "buy local."

We hope you like this way of keeping you posted on our programs, recent wildlife sightings, and of course our needs. Did you remember that Salt Springs Park is the ONLY state park to be managed and supported by volunteers? We hope you will help with one or both: become a volunteer and/or make as generous a donation in your membership renewal as you can. And by all means, if this e-letter is an intrusion, please let us know and we will take you off the list.

Salt Springs Maple Syrup

New this year was a three-part program on how to make maple syrup. We made 12 gallons! We still have a few pints left, so call to get yours today. It's a delicious way to support the Friends.

Sweet amber, batch 3.



New Photos from George Schreck Now for Sale!

We welcome the return of songbirds after the stillness of winter. You can bring some of these birds home with you thanks to our nature photographer George Schreck, who has captured them on film. These photos have been made into delightful cards, complete with matching envelopes. Each card is blank inside for you to add your message. Sets of four cards (each card with a different photo) are available for purchase at the Wheaton House. The songbird set includes the goldfinch shown, a pair of bluebirds, a blue jay, and a rose-breasted grosbeak. Cost per set is \$10.



Courtesy of George Schreck

Other groupings of photos include winter scenes, the falls, game birds, and more. You can soon view them on our website. The gift packs make unusual hostess gifts, shower gifts, remembrances for a shut-in - and that's just a start of the many ways they will bring pleasure.

All profits are used to maintain this special jewel in the heart of the Endless Mountains.

April Programs

Basic Birding—Tuesdays April 14 - May 5, 7-9 pm; and Saturdays May 2 & 9, 8-11 am. Learn how to identify birds by sight, song, and habitat and how to buy/use binoculars and field guides. Includes two field trips. Program fee: \$30. Offered by the Montrose Area Adult School; call 570-278-2006 to register. Instructor: Nancy Wottrich, FSSP Education Coordinator.

Nature Photography for Amateurs—

Thursdays April 16-May 7, 7-9 pm; plus two Saturdays to be arranged. For the beginning digital photographer who wants to learn about composition and basic photo techniques. Program fee: \$30. Offered by the Montrose Area Adult School; call 570-278-2006 to register. Instructor: George Schreck, Photographer and FSSP board member.



Courtesy of George Schreck

Also in April

Saturday, April 25: Volunteer Service Project. Youth group, Coming of Age (Universalist Unitarian Church of Binghamton), will scrape and stain picnic tables.

Sunday, April 26, 2 pm. Volunteer weekend host orientation. Looking for a serene place to spend a few hours some weekends and help your Friends at the same time? Call for details.

Fall Brook and Silver Creek will be stocked with trout on 4/13, 4/28, and 5/13.

May!

Our annual roadside clean up is Sunday, May 3, at 10 am. We rely on you every year to help keep your park clean. This is a great family project. All ages are welcome, though parents are responsible for their children's safety.