



Friends of Salt Springs Park

December 2011

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275

Looking Ahead

As the year ends and a new one begins, we at Salt Springs Park are thinking about all the good that happened in 2011 and the great things we can do in 2012.

The rains from Irene and Lee caused terrible damage to the land, but the storms showed us that there are many, many Friends of Salt Springs.

The work of the 170 volunteers who showed up on a beautiful October day is well known in the community. What is not so well known is the joy that effort brought to our most dedicated members.

The actress Sally Field once exclaimed in her Oscar acceptance speech that she "can't deny the fact that you like me, right now, you like me!" That's how we felt, seeing all those people giving their precious time repairing and improving the park.

Thousands of people use the 842-acre park. They camp with their friends and families (many following the honor system) and hold their special events in the Pavilion. They come here for our public programs, to hear the bands, or to celebrate all the good that happens here.

The reputation of our Historical and Environmental Education programs grows. People donate old tools and documents, recognizing Salt Springs as a safe place where they can be shared for generations. School districts bring fourth graders to our Environmental Education E3 program, a program so strong that Talisman Energy USA has agreed to underwrite transportation costs.

Our New Year's resolution is to build on this reservoir of good will.

There are many things to be done here. We need to improve our damaged campgrounds, perhaps even build new ones elsewhere in the park. We need to improve our financial condition, as we expect we will have an operating deficit this year. The Friends will cover this from our reserves, but we need to match revenues with expenses. Over the winter, we'll be making plans for clearing trails, pruning trees, cleaning bird houses, fixing the barn, reviewing programs and much, much more.

If you examine Field's heartfelt statement, you see that she wasn't so sure how you were going to feel about her tomorrow.

This year, we know you really like us. We promise we will do our best so we can say the same next year, because we really like you and all you do for the park.

Stephen Spero
President, Friends of Salt Springs Park

Mark These Dates!

We're still working on upcoming programs and events for 2012. Here are some dates that have been set.

March 24, Saturday, 9 a.m. Pruning apple trees with Jim Kessler. March is the perfect time in the north to prune your apple trees. Snow cover has lessened, but it's still cold enough to deter bugs and disease from infecting the cut wound. Join us for many more guidelines and hands-on examples to increase your harvest.

April 14, Saturday, 7 a.m. First day of trout season! Again this year we'll offer coffee and hot food for sale.

April 14, Saturday, 7 a.m. Rather spend your time in the woods than in the water? Join us for another Chainsaw Day work session. We need volunteers with chainsaws to cut and clear up winter debris. Food and t-shirts provided.

April 21, Saturday, 7 a.m. After the trails have been cleared of major obstructions, it's time to remove the lesser debris, pick up garbage, and make note of any remaining problems. Food and t-shirts provided.

Park-Inspired Works of Art

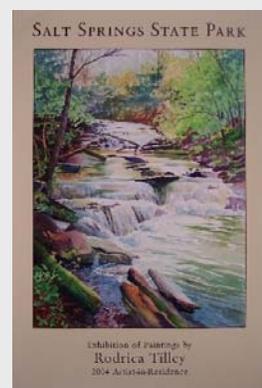
Although our Gift Shop is no rival for the Butternut Gallery or the Montrose Country Store, we do offer a select few works of art created at or inspired by Salt Springs. Buying local is a meaningful way to support your community and share a bit of it with your loved ones.

And, the short trip here may be just that perfect gift to give yourself if you're finding the approaching holidays a bit stressful.

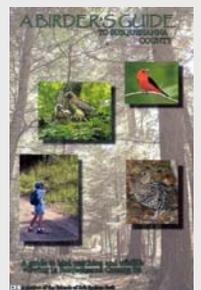
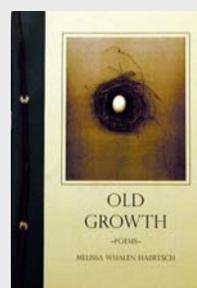
Here are a few samples. Donations and memberships make special gifts too.



Two of four new winter scene notecards featuring George Schreck's views of Salt Springs.



The last copy of a limited-run printing of this poster created by Rodrica Tilley commemorating her year as Artist in Residence at Salt Springs in 2004.



Two booklets inspired by the natural beauty of the park. "Old Growth" is by local poetess Melissa Whalen Haertsch, our 2006 Specialist in Residence. "Birders Guide" was written by Nancy Wottrich when she was the Friends' Environmental Education Coordinator.