



Friends of Salt Springs Park

December 2012

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275

Happy Holidays

The holiday season is a time for, among other things, gathering together to listen to good stories. There are the classics, from how Uncle Harry flew around the world without an airplane to *The Night Before Christmas*. Each year we usually encounter a few new ones.

The Friends sometimes hear stories of visitors' personal experiences at Salt Springs. Sharing one with you that we heard recently, particularly this winter love story, seems like a good way to bring the year to a close.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays!

A Winter Love Story

On a sunny Sunday morning in February 1996—the day Shelley Lay and Jacques Kaufman met at Salt Springs Park—Shelley woke with a new resolve. Having been divorced for several years, she was ready to meet someone. She applied some makeup, piled her two Lhasa Apsos into her car, and headed for Salt Springs, one of her favorite places to walk.

Jacques was divorced and alone, as well. The warm winter day suggested a quiet walk in the country with his dogs. With his two Shetland Sheepdogs in the back seat, he too steered toward Salt Springs.

Early in his journey, however, he remembered a nice place that would do as well and was not as far to drive. But he missed the turn and ended up in Montrose, not too far from his brother's place—which had plenty of room for dogs to run—so he decided to go there instead. But he hadn't gotten far when he realized he would have to visit with his brother—which was fine, but not today. He just wanted a quiet walk with his dogs and decided to go to Salt Springs, after all.

So Jacques was sitting at a picnic table when Shelley came down the Hemlock Trail and across the lower foot bridge (the one that was swept away by the flood of 2006). Jacques saw Shelley on the bridge and can still remember seeing her for the first time. While he might not have approached a total stranger, the dogs were now all running toward each other, so he stood and headed to the bridge in case there should be trouble.

There was no trouble; but Jacques and Shelley began to talk, and soon Jacques invited Shelley to sit down at the picnic table with him. They talked for over an hour, and when Shelley had to leave, Jacques knew he would be a fool if he didn't ask to see her again. He did ask and Shelley said Yes, and a long and loving relationship was begun. In the spring of 2012, Shelley and Jacques donated a park bench to Salt Springs to celebrate their meeting there, over 16 years ago. The bench is installed at the place where they met.



Choosing the spot, March 2012.



Christening the bench, April 2012.

Board Changes

Libby Anderson and **Susan Newhart** will be leaving the board at the end of the year because they have served their maximum terms. We are pleased that they will remain actively involved with the Friends, Libby on the Historical Committee and Susan on the Finance Committee. **Kevin Gates**, who served one year, needs to step off the board for a time, but he will also remain involved and on the Finance Committee.

Join us in welcoming **Jack Maynard** onto the board. Jack has a B.S. in Engineering Science and a B.S. in Computer Science from Penn State and an M.S. in Computer Science from Binghamton University. Currently he's a Lecturer and Capstone Program Manager in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Watson School, Binghamton University.

Jack lives with his wife Peggy in Brackney. Jack and Peggy are both life-long residents of Susquehanna County, each a descendant of one of the Nine Partners who settled Harford Township in 1790. He has long enjoyed the beauty of Salt Springs Park and looks forward to helping ensure future generations can also enjoy it

2013 Volunteer Workdays Set

April 13, Saturday. First day of trout season! Again this year we'll offer coffee and hot food for sale.

April 13, Saturday. We're also holding our Chainsaw Day work session on this day. We need volunteers with chainsaws to cut and clear up winter debris. And we still have a fair amount of downed trees from a couple high-wind storms this fall. Food and t-shirts provided.

April 20, Saturday. 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.