



# Friends of Salt Springs Park February 2017

[www.friendsofsaltsspringspark.org](http://www.friendsofsaltsspringspark.org)  
[m.saltsspringspark.mobi](http://m.saltsspringspark.mobi)

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## Birds, Birding, and Salt Springs



Salt Springs Park is a popular place for bird watching. Its old growth forest, meadows, grasslands, wetlands, and mixed hardwood stands offer a variety of habitats, and over 150 species have been recorded here. We are also fortunate that a number of our members are experienced birders and happy to share their knowledge. With

such an abundance of resources, we are able to provide many bird-related programs each year. We're pleased that some of our spring classics are now scheduled.

On March 11, Nancy Wottrich will tell us about the owls common to the park, and then we'll hike under a hopefully full moon to elicit some calls. A new program that will likely become a classic will be held on March 18. Evan Mann will demonstrate how to use eBird, an online database birders use to track their sightings. eBird is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, and research scientists use the data to further our understanding of bird distributions.

Join us on April 1 for an opportunity to build your own bird box. During Evan Mann's A/V presentation you'll learn which species use these boxes and where to place them on your property. Finally, we look forward to again participating in the North American Migration Count. Birders are asked to submit the species they identify during a hike on the second Saturday in May. Join us on May 13 for our hike. We recorded 57 species by sight or sound the past two years.

Full details on these and many other programs are now available on our website.

## Sandy Babuka Shares her Experiences at Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska

Part I, Sunday, February 26, 2 pm

Part II, Sunday, March 5, 2 pm

Sandy Babuka spent 5 months in Denali National Park last summer as a tour bus driver and guide. As much to satisfy her own curiosity and need to know about her world as to be able to perform her job well, Sandy absorbed much about the local wildlife, customs and culture, geography, environment, and the impacts of climate change on all. She will share with us some of what she learned and captured in photographs in a two-part slideshow presentation. There is no admission fee, but we will pass a hat for donations.



## Mark Your Calendar!

**Oh! The Many Feet We Meet! Saturday, March 4, 1 p.m.** Learn about the mammals in the park as we follow their tracks and look for other signs of activity. **Free-will donation.**

**Whoop Gives a Hoot? Full Moon Hike. Saturday, March 11, 7 p.m.** After a short presentation by Nancy Wottrich, we'll go into the woods and try to "call in" some owls. **\$5/person; members, free.**

**An eBird Primer. Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m.** Evan Mann will teach us how to use this online database. It is an easy way to record your birding experiences while helping to advance scientific research at the same time. **Free-will donation.**

**Tree Pruning Class. Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.** Retired forester Jim Kessler will discuss and demonstrate on several tree species the why, where, how, what, and when to cut. **\$10/person; members, \$5.**

**Build Your Own Bird Box. Saturday, April 1, 1 p.m.** After a 45-minute A/V presentation, we'll go to the Carriage Barn where you'll assemble the bird box you have pre-ordered with your class registration. Please pre-register by **March 17. \$15 per box; plus \$5/person or members, free.**

**"Take a Break" Hike. Saturday, April 8, 1 p.m.** Take a break from your taxes and come hike with us. **Free-will donation.**

**Chainsaw Day. Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m.** Help us turn downed trees into firewood to sell. Bring chainsaws and trucks if you can. **Free food, drinks, and T-shirt to all volunteers. Please pre-register so we have sufficient supplies on hand.**

**Trail Day. Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m.** On this second day of park cleaning in April, we tackle everything else! Buildings, trails, campgrounds—they all need your help. **Free food, drinks, and T-shirt to all volunteers. Please pre-register so we have sufficient supplies on hand.**

**Egg Hunt. Sunday, April 23, 1 p.m.** We'll take a short hike to collect amphibian eggs and set up a hatching system. **\$5/person; members, free.**

**Go Wild for Wildflowers! Sunday, May 7, 1 p.m.** Let's see how many wildflowers we can find during a Sunday afternoon walk in the park. **\$5/person; members, free.**

**North American Migration Count. Saturday, May 13, 7 a.m.** Birders are asked at this time to record and submit the number of species they ID during a hike. **Free.**