



Friends of Salt Springs Park

January 2014

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275

Happy Birthday to Us!

In 2014, we, the Friends, will begin our 20th year of stewardship at Salt Springs Park.

Although our bureaucratic date of birth is December 23, 1994 (the date of incorporation; what a Christmas gift!), we held our first meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 1994, in the County Commissioners' Office.

We named ourselves the Salt Springs State Park Citizens' Committee; that title didn't last too long!

Throughout the year I'll share bits of our history with you. Although some of our members are "lifers" — those who attended the first meeting and who were among the first to join when we established a membership — most are not aware of our historic beginnings.

I say historic because they truly were. No other group of concerned citizens in Pennsylvania ever took over the financial and physical responsibilities of rehabilitating, maintaining, and sustaining a state park. This is still true today. We are unique.

And we, and the park, are thriving, thanks to the steady dedication and support of hundreds and hundreds of volunteers and members over the past two decades.

Mark Your Calendars

We're still putting together a full season of programs, events, and other such goings on. Here's a sampling:

Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. Chainsaw Day. We start with the heaviest projects, like cutting up downed trees and hauling rocks, if needed. **Free food, drinks, and t-shirts provided to all volunteers. Pre-register** (info@friendsofsaltspringspark.org; 570-967-7275) **so we have sufficient supplies on hand.**

Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m. Trail Day. A dozen different projects get done on this day to clean up the park after its winter interlude. We're sometimes surprised at what is revealed when the snow melts. **Free food, drinks, and t-shirts provided to all volunteers. Pre-register** (info@friendsofsaltspringspark.org; 570-967-7275) **so we have sufficient supplies on hand.**

Thursday, July 3, 7 pm. All-American Music. Join us for another evening of great music in several styles. This year Ellen Mulligan and Lonnie Griffis will play. One or more of their friends may join in too. As usual, we'll have a bonfire and roast marshmallows afterward. Bring a chair. Free, but we pass the hat.



This is one of my favorite photos not because it commemorates a significant achievement in 1995 (a \$75,000 grant in June 1995), but because it is the only one we have of Warren Williams and Ron Boyd. Warren, a county commissioner, provided his hefty weight and support with the state and local politicians. Ron was the citizen who spread the word about the possible demolition of the park buildings, gathered us together, and enthusiastically guided us through the first difficult months. Each person shown was instrumental, as you will learn throughout the year. L to R: Lloyd Stevens, John McNamara, Rep. Scot Chadwick, Ron Boyd, Toby Anderson, Warren Williams, and Charles Randall.



Strong supporters of the community, Lonnie and Ellen also play at the annual Montrose Chocolate and Wine Festival, which benefit the local library and hospital.

Saturday, July 19, 2 pm, in the Carriage Barn. George Cummings, an 18th century history enthusiast, will tell us about the daily lives of women and children in that era. He will display items from his extensive collection to illustrate how things have changed, or not, over the past couple of hundred years.

Saturday, October 4, 2 pm, in the Carriage Barn. Although Americans have embraced the apple as their own (after all, it's not "American as 'pumpkin' pie"), apples have been part of human culture since 3,000 BC. For centuries they've been significant parts of diets, religions, witchcraft, and lore. Join us for an afternoon of "all things apple" and help us turn fresh apples into a delightful treat.

Excerpts from the first issue of the Friends' Newsletter, December 6, 1994:

From the Buildings Committee: "Winterization work was done at the two farmhouses. . . . Windows were boarded up, bathrooms were cleaned, and the grounds were raked, cleared of glass and other trash, and mowed."

Finance Committee: "Twenty-seven dollars were collected at the end of the November monthly meeting . . . to get a post office box."

Other: "Bob Smith is designing a logo for the Friends of Salt Springs Park."