



# Friends of Salt Springs Park March 2019

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

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## Shout Out to Russell Farms of Brackney, PA



On Saturday, March 30, 8 am, Russell Farms is holding a fruit tree pruning class, and the Russells are donating 50% of the registration fees to the Friends. Participants will learn about fruit tree pruning and support two local resources - Russell Farms and the Friends.

Stop by from 11 to 1:30 to purchase your farm fresh herbs, vegetables, and baked good and chat with us about our organization and our plans and programs for this year.

## Upcoming Programs Full Details on Our Website

### Tree Pruning Class. Saturday, March 30, 1 p.m.

Retired forester **Jim Kessler** will discuss and demonstrate the why, where, how, what, and when to prune in this interactive class. **\$10; members, \$5.**



### "Take a Break" Hike. Saturday, April 6, 1 p.m.

We'll hike a 3-mile moderately difficult loop. **\$5; members, free.**

### Building Homes for Birds. Sunday, April 14, 1 p.m.

After a 45-minute A/V presentation by **Evan Mann** on attracting and caring for birds on your land, you'll assemble



the nest boxes you pre-ordered with your class registration (due by March 17). **\$5; members, free; PLUS \$20/nest box.**

### Celebrate Earth Day. Sunday, April 28, 1 p.m.

Enjoy the afternoon at Salt Springs Park participating in one or both of these activities—**Recycle Mania** scavenger hunt at 1 p.m. and **Tree Planting** at 2:30 p.m. **\$5; members and kids, free.**

### Annual Roadside Clean-Up. Sunday, May 5, 10 a.m.

Help us clean the roadsides in and around the park. We work in teams. Bring a truck if you can. We provide bags, safety vests, and gloves. **No fee.**

### Wild for Wildflowers! Sunday, May 5, 1 p.m.



Hepatica, native to eastern North America, has been found under the beeches along Buckley Road.

Let's see how many wildflowers we can find along our hike. Bring snacks and drinks, sturdy shoes, and appropriate lays for a 1.5-mile easy to moderate hike. **\$5; members, free.**

## Hellbenders!

### Sunday, March 31, 1 p.m.

Personally, I call them "snot otters" (others prefer "loungue lizards" and "mud devils") but technically they are *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*—a.k.a. hellbender salamanders. They are the largest salamander in the United States, and we have someone who will tell you much more about them. **Devin Welch** will present on his volunteer work with these water dogs and incorporate general information on many of our other local salamander species. Life spans and species identification will also be reviewed. The presentation will be followed by a salamander hunt and a vernal pool search for eggs and activity. **Fee: \$5; members and kids, free.**



## Trout Streams Are Stocked



Given the flood-related changes to Fall Brook and Silver Creek in the park last summer, we weren't sure if the creeks would be stocked for trout season this, or in upcoming years. Not only were the streams stocked yesterday but PA Fish & Boat Commission's Waterways Conservation

Officer David Ganeski reported that a new fishing hole was discovered during the stocking.

There were two stocking location changes: No fish were released at the base of Fall Brook gorge (where the banks are still roped off); and fish were released in the campgrounds where campsites 2 and 1 were (in addition to the usual spot further down the lane near campsite 5).

Trout season begins Saturday, April 13, at 8 a.m. Salt Springs is a popular place to be at that time, so we set up a food tent to offer food and drinks at reasonable prices for all fishers and visitors.

Not coincidentally, April 13th is also our Chainsaw Day. Those who come out to help us that day get their food free, as well as a T-shirt.

## Saturday Volunteer Clean-Up Days

### Chainsaw Day, April 13, 9 a.m.; Trail Day, April 27, 9 a.m.

Tom Stoll and Larry Holbrook are working on the task lists, Steve Spero is lining up our much valued sponsors, and Mary Butler, Susan English, and Paula Mack are planning out the food tent. All you need to do is mark the dates on your calendar, show up, and pitch in!