



# Friends of Salt Springs Park

May 2011

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275

## Membership Renewal Time

Dear Supporters,

The Friends are responsible for keeping Salt Springs Park as a welcoming place to learn about the history and ecology of the area. We offer hiking, camping, and pleasant times, no matter the season. There are no grants for operating expenses, and we manage the park without state support, which is why we depend on your generosity.

The membership year begins on June 1st. Current members will receive a notice in the mail soon. If you're not a member, this is the perfect time to join. You can download an application form from our website or call 570-967-7275 to purchase a membership with a credit card.

Thank you.

### Where does the money go?

\$696 for 1 month maintenance and repair

\$550 for 1 semi-annual newsletter

\$532 for 1 month insurance

\$492 for 1 month utilities

## Youth Groups Volunteer

We've reported on a number of youth groups that volunteered at Salt Springs in March and April. On April 30 and March 7, we were pleased to have many more helping hands.

On the 30th, Pat Acker's Girl Scout Troop 281 and Donna Conklin's Troop 159 performed their third service project at the park this year. This time, they scoured the roads and parking lots for garbage.



Also on the 30th, the Coming of Age Youth Group of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Binghamton, returned for the third spring in a row to help us out maintaining our picnic tables (left). The CAY program is a mentoring program for youth transitioning from middle school to high school. Among other values, it

emphasizes the importance of volunteering in the community, and they've been a great help to us.

On Saturday, May 7th, Cub Scout pack 5 helped us place eight new bluebird boxes along the Friends Trail. Leaders Carman Garufi and John Diehl, along with nine scouts and four adults, dug holes, mounted the boxes, and set the poles. Said Dave Clemens, chair of the Friends' property committee, "They are the best planted boxes in the park!"



## Herbs From Mary Wheaton's Homestead Garden: 1850-1870

Sunday, June 5, 2 pm, at the park



Horehound

Mary Wheaton planted the first garden at Salt Springs, including a vast array of herbs for cooking, cleaning, doctoring, cloth making, and more. Vesta Adriance will discuss what Mrs. Wheaton would have included in her garden and gathered in the surrounding woods and fields.

## Mark Your Calendars

**FOREST GARDENING. Saturday, May 14, 11 am.** Learn techniques of growing food sustainably by mimicking forest environments to grow perennials that live in the forest or by creating self-maintaining forest garden ecosystems within your forest. **Program fee: \$10.**

**SPRING BIRDING HIKE. Sunday, MAY 15, 7:30-10 am.** Join Dr. Jerry Skinner, Prof. of Biology and Naturalist, on a morning hike observing birds during the height of migration, breeding, plumage, and singing. **No fee.**

**FORESTRY HIKE WITH A FOCUS ON DEER DAMAGE. Saturday, May 21, 10 am.** Local Forester Jim Kessler will lead a hike through the woods examining the effects of deer browse on vegetation and discussing strategies for protecting tree saplings. **No fee.**

**MUSHROOM FORAY, Sunday, May 22, 2-4 pm.** Learn about the essential roles that fungi play in the ecological balance while hiking through various ecosystems. Instructors: Matt Purdy, FSSP Environmental Education Coordinator, and mycologist to be announced. **Program fee: \$10.**

## INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING Sundays, 2-4 pm

May 29—Fly Casting and Rigging

June 19—Reading the Water and Hatches

June 26—Introduction to Fly Tying

This series is for those who have always wanted to try but didn't know how to get started. Instructor Ron Kozlowski has many years of experience and owns Ron's Flies in Nicholson. \$15 per class or \$35 by pre-registering (570-833-4034) for all three.