



# Friends of Salt Springs Park

November 2014



[www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org](http://www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org)

570-967-7275

## Giving Thanks

To all our members, donors, and volunteers, thank you for your support. Your time, energy, enthusiasm, donations, and resources keep Salt Springs Park open. The board members guard your gifts and channel them where they're most needed but you make everything possible, and for this we are thankful.

## Gas Lease Update

Our gas lease expired November 19.

The Friends of Salt Springs Park agreed more than five years ago to give Fortuna Energy, now known as Talisman USA, the right to drill for gas under 137 acres we own as long as they did not disturb the surface. We will likely sign another lease, if one is offered. There does not seem to be any new activity in our neighborhood, so an offer may not come for years, if ever.

We set up a new nonprofit organization, the Friends of Salt Springs Park Supporting Group, to manage the lease, receive potential royalties, and act in a way to support the Friends' mission. The best legal advice we could get advised us to take this step to limit potential tax liabilities and to maintain our charitable status. We transferred the lease to the group on November 18, a day before it expired, just so we would have a precedent in case a new lease develops.

To us, the most important thing about the lease was that it shored up our precarious finances while allowing us to make needed repairs to the buildings we are required to maintain under our agreement with the state. We received \$750,000 upfront and removed lead paint from our historic buildings and repainted them, we repaired the old dairy barn, and we made other improvements. We still have more than \$630,000 left.

While that may seem like a lot of money, the board of directors is aware it will disappear quickly unless we are prudent. The board has agreed to withdraw \$25,000 a year to offset operating expenses, which should reach more than \$90,000 next year.

That means we need to raise \$65,000 in memberships, donations, grants, and sales. Help us if you can.

## A Natural Place to Wed

Couples have married in the pavilion, in the West Meadow, in the overlook on Fall Brook Trail, and at the salt spring. On November 19, for the first time, the Wheaton House was the setting.

People who have enjoyed Salt Springs all their lives find it the perfect place to begin a new life with someone else.



Emily Novitski and Greg Steinberg exchanged vows in front of the fireplace..

## Upcoming

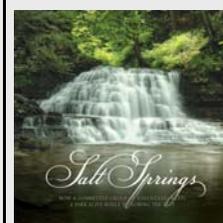
**Virtual Hike of the Appalachian Trail**  
**Saturday, November 22, 7 p.m.**



**Jim Yeich** is a long-time adventurer. Not only has he hiked the entire Appalachian Trail—the subject of this program, as described in stories and photos — but he's also cycled across the United States and around Ireland and taken a wooden boat down the Colorado River. He's inspired many others to get outdoors and pursue their own personal goals. Come enjoy his presentation Saturday evening in the Wheaton House. He just might inspire you, too!

**Saturday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. to Noon. Winter Snow Fun.** Let's explore some winter wonders - animal tracks, dazzling snow drifts, white landscapes. Bring your snowshoes, cross-country skis, or winter boots. Take pictures or gather some natural elements to make a festive winter centerpiece. Snow date: If no snow on the 6th, we'll gather the following Saturday, the 13th. Free.

**Friday, December 12, 7-8:30 p.m. - Game On!** What do you look forward to at the end of the week? How about some family fun and games in the Wheaton House? As we play we'll learn about our environment and what lives here. Activities include games like Animalopoly and Plants and Predators and orienteering. Fee. FSSP members, free.



*Salt Springs: How a Committed Group of Volunteers Keeps a Park Alive While Honoring the Past*

Consider giving a copy of this book to friends and family for Christmas. Our story is unique, and all proceeds (books are \$20 each) go toward fulfilling our mission.