



Friends of Salt Springs Park

October 2011

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275

Please Join Us for the Friends Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at 6 PM

Dinner served at 6:30 PM
Dreyer Lodge, Montrose Bible Conference
5 Locust Street, Montrose PA

Dinner is a full buffet with ginger peach chicken and a vegetarian entree for \$24 per person. Please make your reservation by **October 15** by calling 570-967-7275 or e-mail info@friendsofsaltspringspark.org.

Community Service Project & Flood Repair Work Day

We are stunned and humbled by the community's response to our call for volunteers to help repair the extensive flood damage Salt Springs suffered in August and September.

A few months ago, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints contacted us, said they were looking for a service project, and asked if we had enough work to do to keep 50-75 people busy. We immediately said yes and settled on October 8 as a work day.

Then the floods happened, and we got the idea to ask for volunteers to repair as much of that damage as possible on the same day. As is our practice for these projects, the Friends of Salt Springs agreed to feed them and provide t-shirts to the volunteers.

We think we had around 170 or 175 helpers, about 70 from the LDS church. In addition, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Williams Co. employees, Triple Cities Hiking Club members, Binghamton University students, and many other groups and individuals showed up. They brought hand tools, chain saws, wheelbarrows, tractors, paint sprayers, cleaning supplies and more.

Church members painted the Red Shed (an historic building, formerly a summer kitchen), painted the rest rooms, cleaned the dairy barn, cleaned the Wheaton House, pulled Japanese knotweed, relocated and rebuilt a fence, cleaned cabins, cleaned up the campsites and their fire rings, and rebuilt parking areas and the roadway near the campgrounds. When they finished their tasks, many joined up with the flood crews.

To address the flood damage, volunteers moved about 20 tons of dirt by wheelbarrow across a pedestrian bridge and rebuilt a pathway to Fall Brook trail. It looks better now than it ever did. They dismantled a stone wall to use the stones for the rebuilt pathway. All told, we used about 50 tons of material around the park.

We pulled loose wood from stream banks and separated it into potential firewood and scrub wood. Firewood logs, some of them a couple of feet thick, were sawn and transported to the dairy barn. There it was split and stacked in the barn. We have about four cords of wood, probably enough for two years at our normal pace of use.

We reinstalled a washed out pedestrian bridge on the Wetlands trail. This was a major effort. Our first attempt resulted in a stuck tractor. We had to send a second unit there to pull the tractor out of the mud and retrieve the bridge.

We also cleared the Buckley Rd portion of Fall Brook trail, repaired a stone stairway to our trails, and dismantled a stone wall to use the stones for the rebuilt pathway.

All of this work returned the park to its former peaceful state. Before the work, the place was out of kilter. It just didn't look right and it felt wrong. Now, it is close to being the peaceful retreat it has always been.

This is what community is all about.

Stephen W. Spero
President, Friends of Salt Springs Park

Mark Your Calendars

PUMPKIN DAY. Saturday, October 15, 11 am to 4 pm. Join us for a day of fun with pumpkin carving, cider, games, costumes, and storytelling. Children must be supervised by an adult. **Pumpkins are \$5 each.**

Highlights from Last Year



Three-legged races



Storytelling with the Baesslers



Pumpkin carving, of course!

With Much Gratitude to Our October 8 Work Day Sponsors:

First Liberty Bank and Trust
Heavenly Angels convenience store
High-Tech Collision
Fairway Pharmacy
The Corner Café
Rhiney Creek Construction
Choconut Market
Montrose Sporting Goods
Tall Pines Farm Stoves & Fireplaces
Montrose Produce
Fowler Oil