



# Friends of Salt Springs Park

June 2009

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275

## Hello, Friends of Salt Springs,

By now most of you have heard or read that Salt Springs Park will be closing. This is not true, as Toby explains below. We will, however, lose the few dollars in goods and services (like cleaning supplies and garbage removal) that we do receive from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. We will have to absorb these costs. Now, more than ever, we need your support.

## Salt Springs Park to Continue Operations Toby Anderson

Because of the economic downturn and the extreme budget shortfall in Harrisburg, the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources has published a list of state parks that may, or probably will, be "closed" for the summer. This list includes Salt Springs.

However, "closed" does not mean that visitors will be barred from the park. The Friends organization, which operates the park under contract with the PA Bureau of State Parks, will continue operations in as normal a manner as possible.

Salt Springs is unique in Pennsylvania in that it is the only state park being operated by a local non-profit volunteer organization. We receive no operational funding from the state. Our work is made possible by memberships, donations, volunteers, and, when possible, grants.

Thus, Salt Springs will remain a local destination for your summer enjoyment. During the "closure," the state will be unable to offer certain support services that are ordinarily available, such as rangers who would be sent from Lackawanna State Park in the event of an emergency. We will rely on the State Police and local emergency services, if needed.

We are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable 2009 season, full of projects — educational, historical, and recreational — to enrich the lives of our people. Our website provides updates, schedules, and current events.

Salt Springs is a community resource whose importance is greater than ever in these times.

## Angels Return to Salt Springs

Each spring, along with the wildflowers and bluebirds, the Angels return to Salt Springs. This time, the End of the Year Picnic was combined with their Recognition Program. Each child received a hand decorated T shirt as their "certificate." After the program, the children and parents enjoyed activity stations at the Pavilion — including rock painting, making bird feeders, Deerie the Clown, and hoola hoops. Twenty-three of the 42 children will go on to kindergarten next year.



Friday, May 29, was a special day for the 42 members of the Angel Beginnings Christian Learning Center (a ministry of Montrose United Methodist Church).

## All American Patriotic Music

Friday, July 3, 7 pm

Come raise your voice in song and don't worry about how you sound. Singers Charlene Thomson (member of *Fine Companions*) and Rob Siegers (*Grassanova*) will lead us in singing old-time favorites, including, of course, When "Johnnie Comes Marching Home" and "America the Beautiful." We will gather around a campfire near the pavilion. Bring chairs or blankets for your comfort and marshmallows for toasting. Rain or shine.



Rob Siegers, banjo; Charlene Thomson, autoharp.

## Memory Writing Contest

"Any age, any era" — No matter what age you are, the Friends of Salt Springs Park invite you to write about your memories of Salt Springs and enter them in our contest. Perhaps you were married there or worked on the Wheaton Farm when you were a kid. Perhaps you heard a ghost story about the deep woodlands, went to school with one of the Wheaton children, or went on your first camping trip there. Write about your memories and experiences at Salt Springs and share them with others.

Outside of personal writings, where else will future generations encounter the intimate stories of the special events and people who shaped a community? Who took care of the sick and taught the young? Gave the best or worst advice? Salt Springs has always been a unique place in Susquehanna County. One of the Missions of the Friends is to preserve Salt Springs' history, and we invite you to help us do this. Visit the Events Calendar page on our website to access full details.

**Members** — Thank you for your recent renewals. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so soon. We want to keep sending you our newsletters, and your membership dollars are vital to our success!

**Special Thanks** — To Dave and Carol Clemens and to People's National Bank for their recent, very generous donations to the Friends' Stewardship Campaign.

## Investing in the Future

The **Friends of Salt Springs Fund** is an endowment fund managed by the **Community Foundation of Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties**. The fund is invested and grows from its own earnings but grows even faster when donors add a tax-deductible gift of any amount. The principal remains intact, earning interest that is reinvested. A portion can be accessed by the Friends for certain needs. There are two ways to contribute:

1. Cash or an investment can be donated at any time.
2. A planned gift can be arranged in your will. Gifts are usually bequests, but they can also be a retirement plan, insurance policy, or charitable trust.

Contributors of \$2,500 or more in cash donations or planned gifts earn membership in the **Salt Springs Chapter of the Community Foundation's Legacy Society**.