



Friends of Salt Springs Park

May 2022

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275



Memorial Day

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it became popular in the years following the Civil War and was designated an official federal holiday in 1971.



Next time you visit the park, note the flag flying near the Wheaton House. The Hill and Stevens family (including a number of veterans) from Snow Hollow (just up Silver Creek Road from the park) donated the flagpole in the late 1990s and every flag we've flown since. Thank you to the Hills and Stevens and all the veterans who have served.

Seeking Donations

We're looking for good-condition, gently used items for our upcoming White Elephant Sale. Please, no clothing, exercise equipment, or electronics. Items can be dropped off on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in June (from the 7th through the 30th) between 2 and 4 p.m. or by appointment. Please call 570-278-5005 to make an appointment.

The sale will be held in the Mercantile Tent of Used but Useful Things (also known as the Williams Pavilion) on Saturday, July 2, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. It will be just one of several other fun and fundraising activities in the park that day. We're also hosting another fabulous Quilts in the Barn exhibit and Patriotic Pie Sale, along with 50/50 raffles, live music, and food trucks.

NEW: Discovery Trail:

A is for Amphibian, B is for Bluebird

Explore and learn by discovery. We offer a series of summer sessions, beginning **Wednesday, June 22, at 1 p.m.**, to experience our environment through various habitats and hands-on activities. In this session we focus on finding amphibians and listening for and learning about birds. As we plan our next sessions, we'd love to hear from you about good days and times for you. Please provide your thoughts via email to EEC@saltspringspark.org.



A Time to Sow



L-R: Bruce Baessler, with cabbage; Stacey Kalechitz, with 4 o'clocks; and Ruth Malenda, also with 4 o'clocks.

In 2016, a group of Master Gardeners, led by Bruce Baessler, established an 1850s kitchen garden behind the Wheaton House. Since then, Bruce has planned and planted the garden, with the help of other Master Gardeners.

Planting began this morning. 2022's offerings will include broom corn, sunflowers, borage, geraniums, garlic, and several

other vegetables that Bruce started from seed.

Mark Your Calendar! Full Details on Our Website

Spring Bird Walk. Saturday, May 28, 8 a.m. Local resident and past president of the PA Society for Ornithology **Evan Mann** will lead a walk to identify as many bird species as we can by sight and sound. Meet in the Wheaton House parking lot. **Free-will donation.**

Get the Garden Growing. Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. We plant herbs and vegetables in raised beds in an organic garden. Come with questions and gloves, as this is an interactive, hands-on program. All participants will receive some free seeds. **\$10/person; members, \$5; kids, free.**

Archery for Beginners. Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. This great family activity is taught by National Archery in Schools Program-certified instructor **Diane Hawley-Wurth**. **\$5/person; \$15/family.**

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## The Bats Are Back

After several years being threatened with the white-nose syndrome, bat populations are on the rise again and have even come back to roost in the Wheaton House. Come learn more about these vital animals; let's see what we might be able to do to help them thrive again.



### What Good Are Bats?

**Saturday, June 25, 7:30-8:20 p.m.**

Bats feel right at home in the nighttime skies, and you are invited to find out how vital bats are for the environment and for us. Join us for a presentation by Lackawanna State Park's Environmental Education Specialist **Tony DeSantis** to learn things you never knew about the only mammal capable of true flight. Stick around afterwards to take part in a population count of our resident bats. **No fee.**

### Bat Count

**Saturday, June 25, 8:30-9 p.m.**

Salt Springs Park is home to a colony of bats. To learn more about this population, we're taking our first bat count, and you're invited! We're joining the PA Game Commission's Appalachian Bat Count Initiative to monitor the health of our bats, and we'd like your help. After a brief introduction, we'll count our resident bats as they emerge from their maternal roost. Bring something to sit on and a flashlight. The count will be led by Lackawanna State Park's Environmental Education Specialist **Tony De Santis**. **No fee.**