



Friends of Salt Springs Park October 2021

www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

570-967-7275



Out and About in the Park

There is so much to see and do at Salt Springs Park that the lack of a showy display of autumn-colored leaves this year is no reason to stay away. Enjoy these few October scenes and make plans to come on out for an hour or a day or a weekend to see what you can see.

When you do—speaking of autumn colors—be sure to wear some orange. Although the park is not heavily, or even modestly, hunted, 'tis the hunting season for, among other things, squirrel, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, pheasant, bobwhite quail, woodchucks, as well as deer. And please be mindful of the extended seasons this year. If in doubt, check the PA Game Commission's website.



Red efts playing hide and seek. By Tami Noonan.



Making apple cider the old-fashioned way, with fresh apples and muscle power.



Broomcorn, in the 1850s Kitchen Garden behind the Wheaton House. This garden mirrors what the Wheatons might have grown for themselves. It is planned and maintained by volunteer Bruce Baessler and is different each year. See left for Bruce's plant description and a close-up of the seeds. It is harvest time in the garden.



Broomcorn (*Sorghum vulgare*) is not actually corn, but is related to sorghums used for feed and grain and syrup. Broomcorn has a coarse, fibrous seed head that has been used to make brooms and brushes for several hundred years. Cultivation of broomcorn is similar to that of field corn. Harvesting happens prior to seed maturity when the stem turns completely from yellow to pale green. Thrashing is done to remove the seeds. Then the heads are cured or dried for two to three weeks. They can then be made into brooms or brushes. Source University of Kentucky cooperative extension service
Master Gardener
PennState Extension

Upcoming Programs Full Details on Our Website

Halloween Fest. Saturday, October 30, 4 p.m. Our popular fall family event is back, with lots of pumpkins, activities, and sweets. We begin at **4 pm** with pumpkin carving, games and treats. From **6 to 6:30 p.m.** we'll gather



around the campfire for some tantalizing ghost stories. All of these activities are outside, so dress for the weather. **Fee: \$5; \$20 for families; members, 50% discount.**

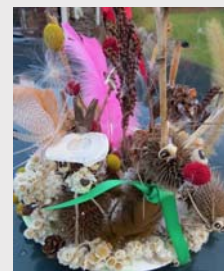
The **Haunted House** will be held in the Dairy Barn. **Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$5/person; registrants from the Halloween Fest get in without an additional fee.**

How Do Deer Affect the Forest? The Cornell AVID Project at Salt Springs. Saturday, November 6, 9 a.m. Jim Kessler will



discuss the effects deer are having on PA's woodlands and share clues to use to determine the degree to which deer are affecting a particular forest. Learn how AVID, a citizen science method to Assess Vegetation Impacts from Deer (aviddeer.com), is being used to assess deer impacts at Salt Springs and how you can use the method in your own woodlands. Deer browse is heavy at Salt Springs and affects habitat negatively, so we're taking this first step in studying the impacts in hopes of implementing a plan to slow down this phenomenon and protect the biodiversity of our lands. This project was funded in part by the Actus Foundation in conjunction with Cornell University.

Meet at the Friends Parking Lot on Buckley Road for this presentation and walk to the site via the Cliff and Bunny Trails. Fee: Free-will donation.



Holiday Centerpiece and Nature Crafts. Two Sundays, November 14 and December 5, 1 p.m. Let's take a walk to gather some of nature's treasures and create a piece of art—maybe a wreath, ornament, or centerpiece. Bring your

creativity, a container for your artwork (like a shadow box or a picture frame) and any accessories you might want to add. Bring your own tools—scissors, glue, glue gun—if you have them; we'll have a limited supply available to share. Children 3 to 103 welcome! **Fee: \$5; members, free.**

Full Moon Hike. Friday, Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m.

And this image carries us forward into November, Friday the 26th, specifically.

A portion of the entrance fees to the Forest of Lights at Tall Pines Players Club, in Friendsville, gathered on this date will be donated to the Friends. The more people who go to the light show on **Friday, November 26**, the larger the donation. So, please help spread the word and plan to attend!

