



Friends of Salt Springs Park

April 2023

www.friendsofsaltsspringspark.org

570-967-7275



Membership Survey—Deadline Looming

We are sometimes asked, “What do I get for my membership fee?” In addition to program and pavilion discounts, newsletters, and the satisfaction of helping us defray the costs to keep this park safe and open to all, you also get a say in the future of the park. Thank you to all who have returned your survey. Another copy accompanies this newsletter, just in case you misplaced yours or changed your mind about participating. There’s still time to share your thoughts, and we hope you will.

Spring Cleanup Day Saturday, April 22

It’s April, so it must be time for Spring Cleaning at the park. Volunteers, please register *today*—friends@saltsspringspark.org or 570-967-7275. As always, to show our appreciation, we will give you a free lunch and a T-shirt.

Here’s a partial to-do list:

- Restore the picnic area between Fall Brook and the salt spring, including cleaning out the spring itself
- Remove straw insulation around the Wheaton and Calvin Houses
- Clean up campsites
- Rake leaves and pick up sticks and branches from picnic areas, parking lots, and the West Meadow
- Walk trails to pick up trash, clear off debris, and identify downed trees and branches to be removed
- Clean out the flower beds around the Wheaton House
- Spruce up the Memorial Garden
- Clean off the boardwalk through the hemlock grove
- Clean the Carriage Barn and the cabins
- Clean interpretive signs throughout the park
- Work with Master Gardeners to prep the organic garden for the season



Stacking freshly split logs in the barn, to be sold as firewood.



Painting new picnic tables.



Raking leaves and digging out campfire rings.



Pulling the invasive Japanese knotweed.

Upcoming Programs Full Details on Our Website

Discovery Trail: A Is for Amphibian.

Wednesday, April 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Explore and learn by discovery. A series of monthly sessions will be offered to experience our environment through various habitats and hands-on activities. **To give input on series days and times, email EEC@saltsspringspark.org.**

This month we will focus on amphibians and go on an egg hunt. Have you heard any peepers yet? This egg hunt will get you out to one of our vernal pools to see what we can find. After the first warm rain (above 60 degrees), amphibians start their treks to vernal pools to mate. Egg clusters and tadpoles can be seen from March through late April. You will experience first hand how vernal pools are critical to the amphibian life cycle. Bring waterproof footwear. **\$5; \$15/family; members, free.**



Annual Roadside Clean-Up. Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. Help us clean the roadsides in and around the park. We work in teams. Bring a truck if you can. We provide bags, safety vests, and gloves. **No fee.**

Discussion Series: Climate Change. Friday, May 12, 6:30 p.m. A new series of monthly discussions will be held on the second Friday evening of the month at 6:30 p.m. Bring your questions and an open mind.

This month we will explore climate change, one of the most controversial issues of concern for the environment. Politicians and scientists alike have varying, often conflicting, opinions on just how detrimental global warming is. The actual science surrounding the topic is seldom understood by the average person. **Ed Price**, Envirothon educator and Susquehanna Co. Conservation District board member, will lead a discussion to help clear up some of the confusion so you can form your own opinion about global warming. **Free-will donation.**

Annual Spring Bird Walk. Saturday, May 13, 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. We expect to detect 60 different ones. We’ll meet in the Wheaton House parking lot and leave from there. **Free-will donation.**



Photo courtesy of Evan Mann.