



# Friends of Salt Springs Park October 2023

[www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org](http://www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org)

570-967-7275



## Spooktacular!

Our annual Halloween extravaganza is almost here. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 28**. The party begins at **4 pm**, with pumpkin carving, continues with a piñata and ghost stories at 6 pm, and moves to the “Haunted House” at dark.

All activities are outdoors, so dress for the weather. **\$5/person; \$20/family; members, 50% discount.**



## Upcoming Programs

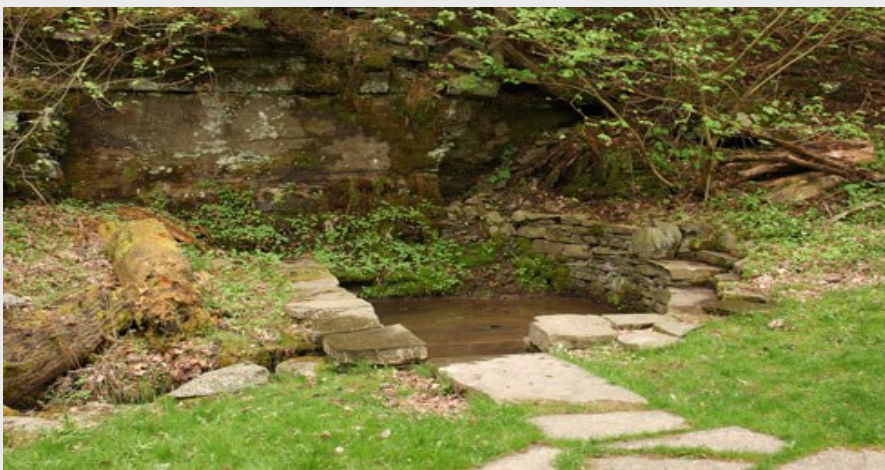
**Nutty About Trees Hike.** Saturday, November 11, 1 p.m. Are you nutty about trees or do you just like tree nuts? We'll meet at the Wheaton House and then go hike the Bunny Trail. We'll identify trees and which ones have edible nuts. **Fee: Free-will donation.**

**Holiday Centerpiece and Nature Craft**  
Sunday, November 12, 2 p.m.  
Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m.



Let's create some natural artwork with nature's materials. Bring your creativity, a container for your artwork (like a shoebox 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 from 3 to 103 welcome! **Fee: \$5; members, free.**

## The Park's Namesake Gets a New Sign



About 300 feet from the mouth of the gorge on the south side of Fall Brook, and easily reached from the picnic area, is a bubbling salt spring. It is the park's namesake. The interpretive sign placed here around 2008 was badly damaged in the 2018 flood. When funds from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region became available, members of the Historical Committee took the opportunity to replace the sign and update its content with information based on more current research. The new sign will be installed this fall.

Here groundwater seeps to the surface. Sodium, chloride, and various minerals locked in ocean floor sediments hundreds of millions of years ago have made their way to the surface through this groundwater.

Plant matter from those ancient times decomposed and formed methane, a combustible gas, that can be seen as bubbles rising through the water. When touched with fire, they will ignite.

The first people to extract salt from the spring water were Indigenous peoples who traveled through the area during hunting expeditions. The salt was an important food and trade resource for them and, eventually, the early settlers.

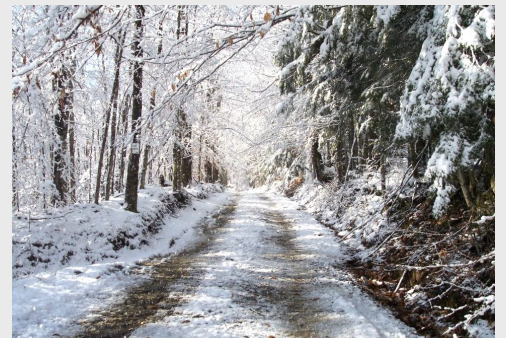
Indigenous hunters revealed the spring's location to Balthasar DeHaert in December 1795. From 1796 until 1824, DeHaert and hired men used a spring pole to drill the spring to a depth of 300 feet. They captured the brine and boiled it in large kettles over open fires. Although the salt was high in quality, it was low in quantity, and eventually DeHaert gave up.



Rudimentary spring pole system. From F. Gerali (2019). *Spring Poles*, Engineering and Technology History Wiki. [Online] Available: [https://ethw.org/Spring\\_Poles](https://ethw.org/Spring_Poles).

**Scavenger Hunt.** Saturday, November 18, 11 a.m. till 3 p.m. Are you ready for a challenge? Bring lunch, a camera, and a notebook. You will be given a map and a list of items to find in the park. Take a picture of the item and /or get a sample and document in your notebook. Gather back at the Carriage Barn at 3 p.m. Prizes will be given in different age categories. Have fun exploring the park and learning about our environment. Ages 3 to 103 welcome! **Fee: \$5; members, free.**

**Winter Snow Fun**  
Saturday, December 9, 1 p.m.  
Saturday, December 16, 1 p.m.



Get out to see some winter wonders—animal tracks, snow drifts, white landscapes.... We will provide snowshoes and ice cleats and poles; just wear your winter boots. Basic instruction will be given to those new to these winter sports. **In case of inappropriate weather conditions, the outing will be rescheduled. Check Facebook for updates. \$5; \$15 for families; members, free.**