

# Friends of Springton Manor Farm

## Accomplishments and History thru early 2025

### Contributions to the Farm:

The Friends is an energetic and passionate group of talented volunteers have made numerous and ongoing contributions to the farm...

- Blue bird box monitoring, fledgling reports issued 2014-2018, 2020-2025
- Pollinator meadow milkweed, wild flower seeds and drill seeding, 2015, additional seeding in 2022.
- Two pasture run-in sheds – in upper east & lower west pastures, 2015-2016
- 14-room purple martin houses, 2017,2024
- Jack the donkey obedience training, 2016; Henry the donkey animal rescue purchase, 2017
- Medicine for Hickory the horse, 2017
- Trail & visitor benches w/Boy Scout N. Scheidel, incl. plaques, 2017-2018
- Deer Tick Treatment System for the park, 2017
- Abraham McIlvaine letters (1836 - 1857) to CC Archive for scanning, 2018
- Parks Archery Program bows and arrows, 2018
- Working with County on pond restoration incl. pond aerator, 2018-2021
- Paid for a third of electrical line run out to the pond for aerator, 2019
- 15 trees for shading animals in upper east / west & north pastures, 2019, 2020; 5 carriage house parking lot trees 2023, 2 chicken coop trees 2024
- New Gazebo for Butterfly Garden 2021; Butterfly Garden bench 2022
- Worked with Eagle Scout, Jared Surette, and PA Master Naturalist, Karen Owens, to install two native bee houses and a native bee garden, 2021
- Friends assisted in bottle feeding young lambs and kids 2021-2023
- Donkey Muzzles and Chicken Coop Peacock Door, 2024
- *Over \$33,000 spent by the Friends for park improvements, 2015-2024*
- Gardening team: planting and weeding in butterfly garden
- Historical committee: original on-site files have been organized
- Volunteering team: works with County to organize and direct volunteers at the farm



## Friends of SMF History:

- Old Friends group operated from ~1981 to ~2002
- New Friends group restarted July 2012
- First provisional Executive Board Nov. 2012
- Friends received official 501(c)(3) status from IRS Mar. 2013
- First official Friends event, Open House at the manor house Apr. 2013
- First garden cleanup gathering Aug. 2013
- Trail and Animal Care teams, and Historical committee formed late 2013
- Park 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary member and park staff dinner Oct. 2013
- Gardening and Membership teams form late 2014
- First official Executive Board Jan. 2015
- Received PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations nonprofit certification May 2015
- Friends website online 2017
- Chester County Commissioners Citation recognizing the Friends 2019
- Bluebird House building events 2015, 2024; Bluebird program 2023
- Members & park staff chili dinners 2015, 2017, 2018; picnics 2019, 2021
- Purple Martin programs 2017, 2021 (w/Chesco Library), 2022 - 2024
- Ice Cream Socials: 2014 - 2019, 2023 - 2024
- Ladies Teas: 2015 - 2018
- Railroads of Chester County program 2018
- Story Telling and Manor House Tour 2019
- Holidays at the Great Barn with Wagon Rides 2019, 2021 - 2024
- 'Meet the King and Queen Oaks' educational tree event partnering with Longwood Gardens 2022
- Goats + Kids and event partnering with 4H 2022
- Friends Pollinator programs 2022, 2023
- Earth Day tree planting with the Chester County Commissioners 2023
- Raptor & Barn Owl programs w/Echo Dell Conservancy 2023
- PA Predators, Native Trees, Wildlife Encounter & Bats programs w/Echo Dell Conservancy 2024
- Bird Migration programs w/Echo Dell Conservancy 2025
- Helped lead Civicrec (public), and CPI & Nilfisk company volunteers on weeding, mulching, tree planting 2021 - 2025