



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

FALL 2022

www.pinegrovefriends.org • 1100 Pine Grove Road, Gardners, PA 17324 • pinegrovefriends@gmail.com

NEW ITEMS IN PARK MUSEUM

The State Park Office and Visitors Center at 1100 Pine Grove Road includes a one-room museum, sometimes overlooked since it is “around the corner” past the public information desk and our merchandise sales area. We are grateful to recent donors for contributing multiple cast iron objects including two stoves, pots, and a teakettle that expand the collection and allow better interpretation of ironmaking at Pine Grove Furnace. Here are a few of the newly displayed artifacts.

♦ “Peter Ege Pine Grove” ten-plate wood-burning stove, cast at our furnace around 1836 ♦



This is one of a pair originally installed in Christ Church Episcopal Chapel on Main Street (Route 94) in York Springs in Adams County. It was donated in September to the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park by the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania (former owner of the chapel) and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in York Springs (new owner of the chapel in late 2022). Because it was intended to heat the congregation, not for cooking, the oven bake doors were never installed. The artwork is very similar but not identical to the large stove previously displayed in the center of the park museum. The theme is “Be Liberty Thine” with an angel, trumpet, and 13 stars representing the original U.S. states, a common motif in castings from Pine Grove Furnace well into the 19th century. Do not miss another, smaller Pine Grove stove from about 1810-1815 with a “sunburst” motif, also newly installed in the museum.

♦ Cast iron teakettle, probably made at Pine Grove Furnace ♦



This household item, rarely seen today, was likely made at our blast furnace, circa 1780-1810. This specific artifact is shown on page 102 of John Tyler's 2014 book, *Early American Cast Iron Holloware: Pots, Kettles, Teakettles, and Skillets 1645-1900* (sold by the Friends in the State Park Office) The teakettle was intended to boil water to pour over loose tea in a cup – it did not hold tea leaves directly.

Tyler observes that teakettles were difficult to make (due to the curving spout) and not cast in large numbers. For example, in 1786, Pine Grove's skilled molders cast 3,351 pots, 335 kettles, and 1,743 Dutch ovens, but only 109 teakettles.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace is migrating to a new web address www.FriendsofPineGrove.org – though we expect that our old site, www.PineGroveFriends.org, may continue to function for a little while.

In 2023 please go to FriendsofPineGrove.org for information on the Friends and special events, to donate/submit memberships, and for brochures and other documents about the State Park and local history. Our email remains PineGroveFriends@gmail.com.

LEADERSHIP

Andre Weltman, *Chair*
Mary Soderberg, *Vice Chair*
Josh Burleigh, *Treasurer*
Diane Velozo, *Secretary*
Crystal Hunt
Rob Shaw
Brett Weiser
Donna Weiser

OUR MISSION

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park (FOPGF) exists to keep history alive and promote educational and recreational programs at the park and surrounding areas through special events and trail development while protecting the park's natural resources.

Email us at:

pinegrovefriends@gmail.com

Visit us online at:

www.pinegrovefriends.org

Follow us on Facebook at:

[Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park)

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park formed in August 2010 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Official registration may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

IMPROVING MOUNTAIN CREEK IN THE PARK

Volunteers organized by the Michaux Forest Association (MFA) – an organization of cabin owners in our State Park and surrounding Michaux State Forest – have been working along Mountain Creek where it flows past Fuller Lake. This ongoing effort seeks to create a healthy “riparian buffer” from the beach upstream towards the furnace area. Volunteers have removed numerous invasive plants and planted native species including more than two dozen trees, while also picking up garbage. The MFA project is supported by a grant from Giant Foods and a \$2,000 donation from the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace. We are happy to use the money we raise from firewood and merchandise sales, public donations, and park special events to help our neighbors in this worthy cause! This year, in addition to supporting the MFA project, our Friends group also bought 15 hickory trees for \$990 that were planted in the park’s Organized Group Tenting Area during National Public Lands Day.

- ▷ To volunteer for the MFA project, please email tgreidenb@gmail.com.
- ▷ The MFA website is <https://www.michauxforestassociation.com>.

FIRST DAY HIKE 2023

We look forward to another First Day Hike on January 1, 2023 at 1 p.m. beginning at Fuller Bathhouse. At the time of writing we can only guess at the turnout, but we have been impressed in past years by so many people’s willingness to start the New Year “on the right foot” whether it is sunny, rainy, snowy, or just cold. The hike for 2023 will include the new Connector Trail which helps visitors stay off busy Bendersville Road as much as possible. It is now safer to walk from the furnace stack area to the campgrounds and Creek Trail. You may notice a trail counter along the new path, intended to give us an idea of how much use the connector gets—it is not a trail camera and does not take photos.



Scan QR code for more information on park events

– or go to –

https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/pine_grove_furnace_state_park



Scan QR code to join the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace and to help support our state park.



FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK

To keep up with the State Park and the Friends, follow us on Facebook. The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park Facebook page is a team effort of volunteers and park staff to provide you information about the park and the region.

—Activity Calendar 2023—

FIRST DAY HIKE, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 AT 1 P.M.: Take a mostly flat and easy hike, and enjoy light refreshments with the Friends starting at Fuller Bathhouse.

EARTH DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 22: Volunteers are needed to help ready the park for the upcoming summer season.

IRON RUN HALF-MARATHON AND CHARCOAL CHALLENGE 5K, SATURDAY, JUNE 10: Racers and volunteers are needed for our annual fundraiser races. See our website in early February for details.

FALL FURNACE FEST, WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 21–22: The popular two-day festival returns, including the Pumpkin Parade and Legend of the Hairy Hand on Saturday evening. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Diane at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com.

• For more information and updates, go to www.pinegrovefriends.org/home/upcoming_events. •