



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

SPRING 2023

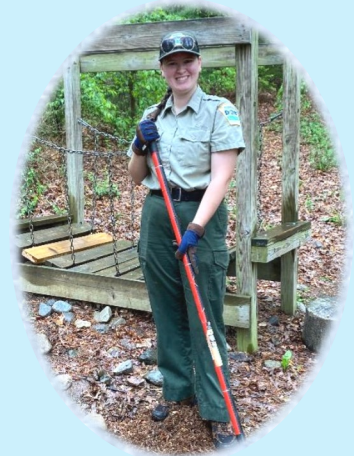
www.FriendsofPineGrove.org • 1100 Pine Grove Road, Gardners, PA 17324 • pinegrovefriends@gmail.com

NEW PARK EDUCATOR

Please welcome our new Environmental Education Specialist (EES), **Angela McCarty**. Angela started with DCNR in 2019 as an intern and then worked as an Environmental Interpretive Technician at Codorus State Park. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology from Susquehanna University.

As an EES, Angela coordinates educational and interpretive programs for park visitors of all ages. This involves explaining the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources and advocating for their conservation. Angela is enthusiastic to offer a variety of programming, including activities and crafts for young people, environmental programs suitable for all ages, and kayaking and biking. Angela says that she is "super eager to teach others what I know and continue to learn as well."

Originally from the Chesapeake Bay area of Virginia, Angela used to visit Pine Grove Furnace with her family and had attended some educational programs in the park. Angela's early visits here helped shape her interest in educating and inspiring others to protect and maintain our environment. Thirteen years in the Girl Scouts and being a camp counselor provided a strong foundation for her eventual career path. She further developed skills by working as a teaching assistant for college-level ecology courses. Angela continues to grow as a DCNR employee, and is now a Certified Interpretive Guide.



Angela McCarty at the Natural Playground at Laurel Lake

When asked about her first impressions of our park, Angela replied "Since Pine Grove is smaller than Codorus, I expected it to be less busy; that is not the case. It is so exciting here, in the best way possible!"

Angela posts a monthly activity schedule on park kiosks and on DCNR's online Calendar of Events https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/pine_grove_furnace_state_park. You can also find it on the Facebook pages for the State Park and for our Friends group.

REPLACEMENT PUMP



Man-made marsh at Campground

You may have noticed cattails growing in the large grassy field just inside the Family Campground entrance along Bendersville Road. This marsh is a "Constructed Treatment Wetland" built in 2007. An integral part of the park's wastewater treatment system, a constructed wetland uses natural processes to purify the effluent that flows into it. A similarly constructed wetland was installed near the Laurel Lake bathrooms, too.

According to Chris Houck, our State Park Manager, "this style of wastewater treatment complements the mission of DCNR by replicating a natural ecosystem and providing a habitat that is not found in the immediate area."

Shortly before the Campground opened this year, a pump for the wastewater treatment system started to malfunction. To avoid potentially shutting down the Campground due to a lack of working bathrooms, the Park Manager asked the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace if we could purchase a new pump — rather than risk delays using the state government purchasing process.

As Chris explained, "While searching for a replacement pump we learned this specialized equipment typically has a wait time of 6-8 weeks before delivery. The required state procurement approval process would have further delayed delivery and put us into the summer season. By working with the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace we were able to ensure the pump would be delivered in time for staff to install it before Memorial Day weekend. This also allowed the park to continue with other planned purchases and projects despite the unanticipated large purchase."

The cost of this commercial-grade infrastructure was nearly \$16,000, no small matter for a small volunteer group. The Friends Board unanimously approved the emergency purchase, and the replacement pump was installed just before the Campground's busy season. Not everything our Friends group does for our park is visible to the general public!

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.FriendsofPineGrove.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.

FRIENDS STORE

Next time you visit the State Park Office, check out our merchandise area including youth-sized T-shirts, stickers, local history books, mugs, water bottles, and much more! The store is open whenever the office is open.

We are not set up to accept credit cards, so be prepared to use our self-serve payment system and pay with cash or check.



FRIENDS PURCHASES



In addition to the new Campground pump, this year the Friends paid for replacement water fountains for the two lake bathhouses. These fountains make it easy to fill your water bottle or give your dog a drink. A bonus is that they are simpler to maintain than the old installations.

We also bought 14 metal maps to replace laminated paper stapled to each park kiosk. Like the new fountains, the metal State Park maps will be much easier for park staff to maintain.



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—

IRON RUN HALF-MARATHON AND CHARCOAL CHALLENGE 5K RUN/WALK, SATURDAY, JUNE 10: All proceeds from our annual fundraiser support recreation, education, and conservation.

For more info: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Gardners/IronRunandCharcoalChallenge>

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: A volunteer morning to remove invasive plants and maintain trails and structures. Bring work gloves and be prepared to get dirty! Afterwards, join the Friends for a potluck lunch.

FALL FURNACE FEST, WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 21–22: Two-day festival with food, crafts, entertainment, and history demos. The highlight is the Pumpkin Parade and Legend of the Hairy Hand on Saturday evening.

To volunteer, email Diane at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com.

• For more information and updates, go to www.FriendsofPineGrove.org. •