



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

SUMMER 2023

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

MOUNTAIN CREEK PROJECT

You may have noticed the new native plantings along Mountain Creek in the Fuller Lake picnic area. Non-native invasive plants had become so thick that you could not even see the stream. Tom Reidenbaugh of the Michaux Forest Association is leading an ongoing project to improve 900 feet of Mountain Creek and its streambank by applying for grant funds and organizing volunteers. Over the last year, 58 volunteers contributed more than 640 hours to clearing out invasives and replacing them with native plantings. Park staff contributed by hauling 30 truckloads of invasive non-native plants that the volunteers removed. The problem plants included privet, barberry, multiflora rose, bush honeysuckle, and bittersweet.

Funds from Giant Foods (\$2,500), the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park (\$2,250), and the Cumberland County Conservation District (\$1,000) were used to purchase native trees, shrubs, herbs, and wildflowers to plant along the stream bank. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Millport Conservancy, the Michaux Forest Association, and Shippensburg Township Parks also contributed by donating tree seedlings, plants, and seeds.

Long term, the goal is to improve the riparian buffer of the stream. As native plants take hold and grow they will shade and cool the stream, stabilize the streambank to prevent erosion, slow runoff into the stream, and filter pollutants and excess nutrients. The native plants will also support native insects, birds, small mammals, fish, and reptiles.

This summer volunteers worked to be sure the newly planted natives will survive and grow by watering the young plants and continuing to remove invasive plants when they reappear.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this important project!



Volunteers removing invasives and planting natives along Mountain Creek, and Project leader Tom Reidenbaugh of the Michaux Forest Association

NEW EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS AT THE OLD FURNACE

If you have not stopped recently at our park's core feature, the old stone furnace stack, you really should.

In June, DCNR installed three new "wayside" displays about the ironmaking process, the workers, and the source of raw materials. The last topic includes a photo of what is now Fuller Lake when it was an active iron ore quarry.



Three new educational displays were added this summer to the Furnace Stack Day Use Area



The see-through display is located at the edge of the parking area near the furnace stack

These new displays will be used not only here at Pine Grove Furnace, but also in the other State Parks connected to Pennsylvania's 18th-19th century iron industry—which means a photo of Fuller Lake (before it was a lake) is spreading across Pennsylvania...we are expanding! Friends Chairman Andre assisted DCNR as a technical expert on the early iron industry.

Another not-to-be-missed display near the furnace is a "Then and Now" transparent photo that allows you to visualize what the area looked like more than a century ago. A similar see-through display showing Fuller Lake when it was an open pit mine is located at the outlet end of the lake past the beach.

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.

2024 STATE PARKS CALENDAR

Next year's calendar is now available for sale for \$15 in the State Park Office. In addition to calendars, the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace sell a variety of souvenirs including T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, magnets, stickers, local history books, and handmade Pine Grove mugs. All proceeds support recreation, education, and conservation at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Unfortunately, we are not set up to accept credit cards, so be prepared to pay by cash or check. Our "store" is open whenever the Park Office is open.



FALL FEST VOLUNTEERS

The success of our annual Fall Furnace Fest is largely dependent on the many volunteers who donate their time and energy to make it all happen. We can always use more help with everything from candle making, pumpkin carving, and handing out programs, to being a guide for Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear. *If you are interested in volunteering*, please email Diane at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com.



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 2023-24—

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 9 A.M.–NOON: A volunteer morning of giving back to the park. Bring work gloves and be prepared to get dirty! After a morning of volunteering, we will provide hamburgers and hot dogs – you are welcome to bring a covered dish to share. Meet at the Furnace Stack Pavilion.

WALK IN PENN'S WOODS, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1: Participate in a statewide program to encourage enjoyment of the outdoors. Watch for details on park kiosks and on Facebook!

FALL FURNACE FEST, WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 21–22: A fun weekend with food and craft vendors, pumpkin carving, hayrides, live music, Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl, and history demonstrations. Saturday evening features the pumpkin parade and Legend of the Hairy Hand.

FIRST DAY HIKE 2024: We are already looking forward to another First Day Hike on January 1, 2024.

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