



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

WINTER 2023

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

FRIENDS OF PINE GROVE FURNACE STATE PARK – WHAT WE DO

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park is a non-profit chapter of the PA Parks & Forests Foundation, which has about four dozen chapters across the Commonwealth. We promote recreation, education, and conservation by working closely with State Park staff to maintain trails and offer public programs and improve the park's facilities. We also help organize volunteer days to pull invasive plants, plant trees, and much more. Friends volunteers contributed over 1,700 hours in 2022.

Every year the Friends host two fundraisers, Fall Furnace Fest in October and our foot races in June. Money to support our work also comes from selling firewood in the park campground and a wide variety of merchandise in the park office or at special events. We are also supported by memberships and donations.

In 2022 we paid for an invited speaker on birds, and we purchased hanging baskets for the park office and trees that were planted by volunteers at the Group Campground. For an ongoing Michaux Forest Association project we donated \$2,000 for native plantings along Mountain Creek. We tracked down a used telephone pole to replace a small footbridge on Koppenhaver Trail, bought a bicycle repair station installed at the General Store by park staff, and supported an Eagle Scout who restored the old log cabin on Fuller Field. The Friends also worked with the staff to design and install two "see-through" history panels at Fuller Lake and at the old stone furnace stack.



The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park bought shag bark hickory trees from Showers Tree Farm in Aspers for the Group Campground

🌿 We look forward to supporting many exciting park improvements in 2023! 🌿

IRON RUN HALF-MARATHON AND CHARCOAL CHALLENGE 5K

We are excited to hold the 11th annual Charcoal Challenge 5K run/walk and Iron Run half-marathon on Saturday morning, June 10. This fundraiser by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park supports recreation, education, and conservation in our park. Come support the park while enjoying some of the best trails (and a few roads) in Pine Grove Furnace and the Michaux State Forest. You can participate in the 5K as either a walker or a runner.

- ▶ For more info and to register: [Iron Run half-marathon and Charcoal Challenge 5K \(runsignup.com\)](https://runsignup.com).
- ▶ For course maps visit www.FriendsofPineGrove.org or email IronRunPGF@gmail.com.
- ▶ Register by May 18 for the Early Bird discount and to guarantee a race shirt.



[Runsignup.com](https://runsignup.com)

WEBSITE UPDATE

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace has a new web address! Visit www.FriendsofPineGrove.org for information on special events, to become a Friends member or donate, and for 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.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.

2023 ANNUAL PATCH

The Friends' first embroidered patch in 2013 celebrated the 100th anniversary of the park. We add a new patch to the series each year—for 2023 we recognize Laurel Lake and the Pole Steeple overlook.

Patches are sold in the State Park Office for \$5... collect them all!

You can also buy fleeces, sweatshirts, hats, local history books, magnets, mugs, and more. We are not set up to accept credit cards, so please bring cash.



2023 FIRST DAY HIKE



The First Day Hike has become a wonderful tradition in Pennsylvania. On January 1st, 36 State Parks hosted 55 hikes with 2,317 visitors. At Pine Grove Furnace, 132 hikers and 11 dogs hiked trails in the vicinity of Fuller Lake, the Furnace, and Campgrounds then enjoyed hot drinks and homemade cookies to usher in a brand new year.



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—

EARTH DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 22: Volunteers needed to help ready the park for the upcoming summer season. Watch the DCNR calendar and our Facebook page for information on this and other volunteer events too.

IRON RUN HALF-MARATHON AND CHARCOAL CHALLENGE 5K RUN/WALK, SATURDAY, JUNE 10:
Register at [Iron Run half-marathon and Charcoal Challenge 5K \(runsignup.com\)](http://runsignup.com).

FALL FURNACE FEST, WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 21–22: Join us for a weekend of food, crafts, entertainment and history demos, and the famous Pumpkin Parade and Legend of the Hairy Hand on Saturday evening.

ⓘ *Volunteers are needed for the races and fall festival: please email pgfvolunteers@gmail.com.*

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