



FRIENDS OF

# Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

WINTER 2024

[www.FriendsofPineGrove.org](http://www.FriendsofPineGrove.org) • 1100 Pine Grove Road, Gardners, PA 17324 • [pinegrovefriends@gmail.com](mailto:pinegrovefriends@gmail.com)

## VOLUNTEERING AT PINE GROVE FURNACE

Last year, 75 volunteers contributed 1,851 hours for numerous events, projects, and improvements around our State Park. From helping at Fall Furnace Fest and the annual Iron Run races to splitting and stacking firewood and removing invasive plants, our volunteers truly do it all. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time in 2023!

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace welcomes two new Board members in 2024, Lyle Herr and Tyler Staley. Here is a personal view on volunteering by Tyler:

As a life-long southcentral Pennsylvania resident, I have known Pine Grove Furnace for many years. By the time I went away to college, I had gone on many bike rides and hikes around the park. After meeting my wife in college and moving to Carlisle, we started hiking at local parks, especially Pine Grove Furnace.

Fast forward to 2024 and my wife and I have an even deeper connection with PGF than we ever expected. My wife started a homemade soap business and became a new vendor at Fall Furnace Fest in 2022. We had enjoyed the October festival in the past, so I figured, why not become a volunteer?

When family visits from out of town, Pine Grove Furnace is always on the list, including a hike up to Pole Steeple. Besides the amazing views over Laurel Lake, friends and family comment on how nicely the park is maintained as well as the rich history of the furnace. I always mention the hard work of volunteers and how Fall Furnace Fest and other events help the Friends raise funds and support park improvements.

Volunteering with the Friends beginning in 2022 demonstrated to me the importance of volunteerism and how we can all play a role in preserving and improving such an incredible place for future generations to enjoy. If you have not already volunteered at a Friends event, what is stopping you? Sign up for a shift during Fall Furnace Fest or help during a park cleanup day like Earth Day. Odds are, the experience will be more rewarding than you could imagine!



Volunteers repairing Creek Trail (Tyler is third from right)    Volunteers regularly split firewood that the Friends sell in the Campground

## IRON RUN HALF-MARATHON AND CHARCOAL CHALLENGE 5K TRAIL RACES

The 12th annual Iron Run Half-Marathon and Charcoal Challenge 5K Run/Walk return to Pine Grove Furnace on Saturday, June 8. Runner fees directly support the Friends' work at our State Park. Register by May 15 for the Early Bird discount and to guarantee a race shirt.

For more info and to register:

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

Volunteers are needed – please email

[PGFvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:PGFvolunteers@gmail.com)

Thank you to all of our sponsors, especially our top sponsor Purple Lizard Maps.



## LEADERSHIP

Andre Weltman, *Chair*  
Mary Soderberg, *Vice Chair*  
Josh Burleigh, *Treasurer*  
Diane Velozo, *Secretary*  
Lyle Herr  
Crystal Hunt  
Rob Shaw  
Tyler Staley  
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](mailto:pinegrovefriends@gmail.com)

Visit us online at:

[www.FriendsofPineGrove.org](http://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.

## NEW GEAR FOR 2024

The Friends sell a variety of merchandise in the State Park Office including clothing, maps, history books, and park mementos. New items now in stock include nature mini-guides, new magnets, hats in many colors, and the recently released Purple Lizard statewide recreation map. Cash or check only, please.



*The 2024 annual patch is now available! Thank you to supporter Fran K. for the use of her photo of a heron at Laurel Lake.*

*Shirts and magnets are some of the many other items for sale in the State Park Office*



Scan QR code for more information on park events

– or go to –

[https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/pine\\_grove\\_furnace\\_state\\_park](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 2024—

**EARTH DAY, APRIL 27:** Celebrate Earth Day with a morning of volunteering followed by a grilled lunch.

**CONCERT, MAY 18, 5 PM:** An hour of original music and Pennsylvania history by Van Wagner.

**IRON RUN AND CHARCOAL CHALLENGE, JUNE 8:** Watch for details in early 2024 on registration for our annual fundraiser half-marathon race and 5K run/walk.

**SUMMER VOLUNTEER CLEANUP, JUNE 15:** Join us for a morning of volunteering around the park.

**NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY, SEPTEMBER 28:** A morning of volunteering followed by a grilled lunch.

**FALL FURNACE FEST, WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 19–20:** A family weekend with food and craft vendors, hayrides, live music, and historical demonstrations.

• For more information and updates, go to [www.FriendsofPineGrove.org](http://www.FriendsofPineGrove.org). •



# ★ ATTENTION SHUTTERBUGS ★

## **THE PENNSYLVANIA PARKS AND FORESTS FOUNDATION (PPFF) ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST IS OPEN!**

The 2024 contest titled "Through the Seasons" revolves around celebrating the Leap Year, so keep an eye out for photo opportunities that fit with these themes:

- ❖ *Awe*
- ❖ *'Leap In' to New Experiences*
- ❖ *'Leap In' to Volunteerism*
- ❖ *'Leap In' to the Lesser Known*
- ❖ *Beyond the Edge*
- ❖ *Young Photographers (ages 12 to 17)*



Contestants have until September 30 to submit photos.

For more information visit <https://paparksandforests.org/our-work/recreation/photo-contest>

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**Friends of Pine Grove Furnace is proud to be one of the roughly 40 chapters of PPFF in State Parks and State Forests all across Pennsylvania.**



***The First Day Hike on January 1, 2024 was a success (despite a little rain!) with 120 people and 11 dogs***