

THE



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

NEWS

May 2016

EARTH DAY

Every year, Pine Grove Furnace State Park and the Friends host a volunteer work day on Earth Day. This year, 77 people of all ages came out for Earth Day on April 23. Volunteers included Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, a local church group, cabin owners, trail club members, and of course members of the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The park staff divided the group into four teams to plant trees, work on the Brickyard Trail, weed and mulch the flowerbeds or begin work on the improvements to Mountain Creek Trail.

It was pretty amazing to see the immediate results of so many willing hands. After a morning of hard work, the Friends provided hamburgers and hot dogs for the potluck lunch.



Freshly Mulched Flower Beds in Park



Volunteers on Mountain Creek Trail



The combined work effort of the 77 volunteers on Earth Day equates to about six weeks' worth of work by one person!

Our Board:

Andre Weltman, Chair
Mary Soderberg, Vice-Chair
William Breen, Treasurer
Diane Velozo, Secretary
Josh Burleigh
Sue Breen
Steve Dodd
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:

<http://www.pinegrovefriends.org/>

Follow us on Facebook at:

[Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park](#)

*The **Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park** (FOPGF) was formed in August 2010 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). PPFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to PPFF are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

SPRING UPDATES

Mountain Creek Trail Update: The Friends have received two grants totaling \$36,730 from the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau (\$21,730) and the South Mountain Partnership (\$15,000) to purchase a 55-foot trail bridge for the Mountain Creek Trail. On Earth Day, volunteers led by members of the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club began to make trail improvements in preparation for the new bridge. The work included a reroute around low wet areas and improving minor stream crossings.

Meanwhile, the regional engineering staff of DCNR has drawn up blueprints for the bridge and has submitted the paperwork to the Dept. of Environmental Protection for the necessary permits for work along Mountain Creek, a protected Class B trout stream. The plan is to install the bridge in the autumn of 2016 when water levels are low and park

staff is available to coordinate and lead the bridge installation. The proposed bridge is a prefab fiberglass structure designed for simple installation, durability and easy maintenance. Similar bridges have been installed in other state parks as well as in national parks around the country.

Notifications about additional work days will be posted on our public Facebook page or you can email us at: Pinegrovefriends@gmail.com

Hammonds Rocks: The PA Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF), the parent organization of the Friends, has spearheaded a new program called the Stewards of Penn's Woods. The program is designed to assist parks and forests with short term volunteer efforts. The kickoff project is the cleanup of Hammonds Rocks, Buzzard's Rock and Spruce Run Vistas in the Michaux Forest. These beautiful

rock outcroppings are covered in graffiti and they have become a dumping ground for trash. To take on this challenge, forty volunteers joined forces on April 16 to pick up litter. The final trash tally for the day was 80 bags of trash, 7 boxes of trash, 2 televisions, 3 fire rings, 18 tires, 1 swing set and a crockpot. Forestry and PPFF along with volunteers will begin removing the graffiti on May 21. The long term plan to discourage future graffiti includes community education, enforcement and signage.

To volunteer, visit the PPFF website at: <http://paparksandforests.org/event/hammonds-rocks-clean-up-part-ii/>



UPCOMING 2016 EVENTS

6th Annual Iron Run and Charcoal Challenge - June 11: A half-marathon trail race and a 5k run/walk. These are fundraisers for the park by the Friends Group. Register online at: <https://www.runreg.com/6245> (half) <https://www.runreg.com/6246> (5K)

Fall Furnace Fest – October 15-16: A family event with food and craft vendors, musical entertainment, hay rides, and the legend of the Hairy Hand.

National Public Lands Day – September 24: Celebrate our public lands by volunteering for a morning at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

2016 Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Your membership helps us to ensure that Pine Grove Furnace State Park continues to be one of the best parks in all of Pennsylvania. The cost of an individual membership is \$10; a family membership is only \$15 for a year.

Mail membership form and payment to:

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park
1100 Pine Grove Road
Gardners, PA 17324

Please make checks payable to "PPFF" (the PA Parks and Forests Foundation) and write "FOPGF" on the memo line to make sure the check is credited to the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park.