



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

FALL 2017

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

Annual Fall Furnace Fest

Many thanks to the staff, vendors, local businesses, musicians, and volunteers who worked to make Fall Fest a success. The primary goal is always to have a fun and safe family event, and based on the number of smiling faces, we definitely succeeded. This year we were fortunate to have two beautiful, sunny days for Fall Fest which brought out about 8,500 people.

The park provides the beautiful venue, parking, and the hayrides, but most of the rest is on the Friends. The entertainment, the vendors, the pumpkin parade, the scare crows, the silent auction, and the historical demonstrations are all organized and managed by volunteers wearing the Friends' signature orange t-shirts.

One of the most popular attractions was the hayride. In an effort to reduce the waiting lines, the park added a third hay wagon this year. Park and forestry staff teamed up to carry over 2,000 people during the two-day event!

In addition to craft and food vendors, we had a number of demonstrations. A crew of volunteer colliers recreated how charcoal was made to fuel the furnace to make iron. Other demonstrations included Civilian Conservation Corps reenactors, blacksmithing, bee keeping, pottery making, candle dipping, and cider making.

The highlight of the weekend was the Legend of the Hairy Hand. On Saturday, about 250 pumpkins were carved during the day. Later that evening, Cindy Dunn, Secretary of DCNR, led hundreds of children and adults carrying their lit pumpkins down to Fuller Lake to offer up to the Hairy Hand. The jack-o'-lanterns floating on a raft on the lake is one of the favorite memories of Fall Fest.



Glowing pumpkins on Fuller Lake keep away the Hairy Hand

Next year's Fall Fest will be on October 20 and 21, the third weekend of the month. Food and craft vendors have already begun to sign up, and people are beginning to make campground reservations. If you want to help us at next year's event, email Diane Velozo at pgfvolunteers@gmail.com.

Volunteers in Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Volunteers make a *big* difference at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. From trail maintenance to planting trees to being a campground host to helping out at Fall Fest, it all makes a difference. Overall, our park benefited from 5,560 volunteer hours between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017, including by 70 special groups or family efforts. Thanks to all for making Pine Grove Furnace such a wonderful place!

To become a member of the Friends, visit our website at: <http://www.pinegrovefriends.org/>



Building a natural playground at Laurel Lake



Splitting firewood for the Family Campground

LEADERSHIP

Andre Weltman, *Chair*
Mary Soderberg, *Vice Chair*
Josh Burleigh, *Treasurer*
Diane Velozo, *Secretary*
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:

www.pinegrovefriends.org

Follow us on Facebook at:

[Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park](https://www.facebook.com/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.

First Day Hike in the Park

The second annual "First Day Hike" will be on the Mountain Creek Trail. More than one hundred park enthusiasts showed up for this past year's inaugural New Year's Day hike.

The 2018 hike will be similar, but will begin at 1 p.m. at the Fuller Lake Bath House and head down the Old Railroad Bed Road to the Mountain Creek Trail then return on Old Railroad Bed Road to Fuller Lake Bath House. Total distance is approximately 4 miles. Homemade cookies and mulled cider will be served again!

Meet at Fuller Bath House at 1 p.m. on January 1, 2018. See you there!



January 1, 2017 – hikers gathered at Laurel Lake for the beginning of the 2017 hike



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 2018—

JANUARY

- 1 First Day Hike—meet at the Fuller Lake Bath House at 1p.m.

APRIL

- 21 Earth Day—a day for volunteers to help the park prepare for the season.

MAY

- 19 Woodsy Owl Weekend—free camping in exchange for a morning of volunteering.

JUNE

- 9 8th annual fundraiser trail races—Iron Run Half Marathon and Charcoal Challenge 5k run/walk.

SEPTEMBER

- 29 National Public Lands Volunteer Work Day.

OCTOBER

- 20-21 10th Annual Fall Furnace Fest—two-day family event in the park.

• For more information and updates, go to www.pinegrovefriends.org/home/upcoming_events. •

More of Fall Furnace Fest



20 people or so filled each hay wagon for a fun ride



About 100 smiling volunteers made it all happen!



Smokey the Bear with Buff and Cindy Carlson



The Rough Edges String Band played on Sunday afternoon



Hundreds of pumpkins floating on Fuller Lake are an impressive sight and will assuredly keep the Hairy Hand away for another year