



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

FALL 2019

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

Fall Furnace Fest

Our two-day fall festival seems to get better every year! This past October, more than 7,000 people visited the park on Saturday to enjoy food, crafts, demonstrations, and hayrides. The highlight of the day



was the Pumpkin Parade and a retelling of the Legend of the Hairy Hand at Fuller Lake Beach. Unfortunately, rain put a damper on Sunday's events, but the picture-perfect Saturday more than made up for a soggy second day of the festival.

Penn's Parks for All—Preliminary Report

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) conducted a series of surveys in 2017 and 2018 to learn how Pennsylvanians feel about their 121 state parks and what changes the public recommends. The resulting list of 47 recommendations was grouped into five categories:

- *Improving Outdoor Recreation Opportunities in State Parks*
- *Expanding Overnight Accommodations*
- *Protecting the Parks' Natural and Cultural Resources*
- *Paying for State Parks*
- *Improving Services and Facilities*

The complete Penn's Parks for All—Preliminary Report can be viewed online at www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/PennsParksforAll.

DCNR is conducting a series of public meetings in late 2019 to encourage public input. Comments can be submitted online and are due by December 31, 2019. After the public comment period, DCNR will use the information to develop a strategic plan for the next 25 years for the Pennsylvania State Park system.

Grants for Second Trail Bridge

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park have been awarded two grants totaling \$70,000 to install a hiking bridge in Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The grants are from the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation for \$40,000 and the Cumberland County Land Partnerships Grant Program for \$30,000. These grants will help pay for a new sixty-foot bridge connecting Koppenhaver and Mountain Creek Trails. Total costs will be about \$120,000, with the remainder to be paid by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

Once completed, the bridge across Mountain Creek will allow improved recreational access between the Laurel Lake and Fuller Lake Day Use Areas of the park. Connecting the two trails will also allow for new loops incorporating trails and roads in the State Park, the surrounding Michaux State Forest, and the Appalachian Trail. Building this bridge across Mountain Creek will create a true trail system to increase day hike options.

The new bridge near Old Railroad Bed Road complements a bridge along Mountain Creek Trail that the Friends group paid for and installed in 2016.



Mountain Creek Trail Bridge built by the Friends in 2016

Engineering will be handled by Gannett Fleming of Camp Hill, with on-site participation by maintenance workers from the DCNR Bureau of State Parks to install a pre-fabricated steel bridge made by Contech Engineered Solutions.

The exact timing of installation is dependent on approval of required permits and the engineering process; we hope to have the bridge installed before the end of 2020.

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.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)

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.

First Day Hike

Join us for the fourth annual First Day Hike at Pine Grove Furnace State Park on Wednesday, January 1. We will meet at the Fuller Lake Bath House at 1 p.m. The exact route of the hike will be dependent on weather conditions.

This is a fun and healthy way to kick off the new year, so come out and join us. Hot beverages and cookies will be served.

If you are traveling over the New Year's holiday, you can find hikes scheduled in all 50 states. According to the National Association of State Park Directors, in 2019 nearly 55,000 people rang in the New Year by collectively hiking over 133,000 miles throughout the country on guided hikes. This does not include the many people who hiked on New Year's Day but did not participate in an organized hike.

Meet at Fuller Lake Bath House at 1 p.m. on January 1, 2020. See you there!



More than 250 people participated in the 2019 First Day Hike at Pine Grove Furnace State Park



John Norbeck, DCNR Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry, led the 2019 First Day 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 2020—

JANUARY

- 1 First Day Hike—meet at the Fuller Lake Bath House at 1 p.m., and be sure to dress for weather.

APRIL

- 25 Earth Day—9 to 12: celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day with a morning of volunteering.

MAY

- 16-17 Woodsy Owl Weekend—a weekend of camping and Saturday morning volunteering for your family.

JUNE

- 13 Annual Friends fundraiser trail races—Iron Run and Charcoal Challenge. Registration starts early 2020.

SEPTEMBER

- 26 National Public Lands Day—9 to 12: a morning of volunteering and giving back to the Park.

OCTOBER

- 17-18 Fall Furnace Fest—a family weekend with food and craft vendors, entertainment, and much more.

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

More of Fall Furnace Fest



Here comes the ever popular hayride back from another loop in the Park



Claire Jantz, Chair of the Friends of Michaux State Forest, led the annual pumpkin parade



Buff and Cindy with their buddy Smokey



The pumpkin float is ready for the telling of the Legend of the Hairy Hand



Junction 114 was one of five bands at Fall Fest



Volunteers managed the Fall Fest raffle table