



FRIENDS OF

Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

FALL 2020

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Koppenhaver/Mountain Creek Trails Connector Bridge

In January, the Friends began working with park staff, DCNR engineers, and Gannett Fleming engineers to prepare for the new trail bridge to connect the midsection of Koppenhaver Trail to the western trail head of Mountain Creek Trail. The goal is to create a trail system out of the existing network of relatively short and unconnected trails in the park.

Toward that end, the Friends were awarded a grant from the Cumberland County Land Partnerships Grant Program for \$30,000 and a grant for \$40,000 from the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau of the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation. These funds were matched with Friends' funds and the in-kind work provided by park staff to grade the site and prepare the foundations for the bridge.

After months of planning, surveying, and obtaining the necessary permits, the new trail bridge finally became a reality near the end of October. In spite of heavy rain throughout the day, the installation went smoothly. Park staff working alongside the Eisenhart Crane crew and the engineers from Gannett Fleming and DCNR finished the bridge installation in less than one day.



The new connector bridge in early November

The remaining tasks include handrails for the short steps at each end of the bridge, some landscaping, and signage. Meanwhile, people have begun using the bridge to experience the new hiking options created by the bridge which not only connects the Mountain Creek and Koppenhaver Trails, but also increases access to the Appalachian Trail and the Biker-Hiker Trail.

Photos of the bridge installation are on the third page.

National Public Lands Day

Originally, we had planned to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day by planting trees in April. That effort had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, and instead we used National Public Lands Day in September as an opportunity for volunteers to plant native trees in the Fuller Day Use Area. Most of the seventeen trees were planted along Mountain Creek.

Funding for the trees was provided by the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and a generous donation by John Lyons in memory of Vicki Rish. As a child, Vicki spent many summers with her family at the park. These trees will ensure that Pine Grove Furnace remains a shady, welcoming place for generations of future families.



Halloween 🎃🎃🎃🎃

Celebrating Halloween has become a favorite tradition at the park campground. Every year, campers compete with each other by decorating their campsites and dressing up. To add to the festivities, the park educator creates games for the kids, and Friends volunteers act as judges and provide prizes for the best costume and decorations. This year, the campground was full and the weather was beautiful which made for a fun weekend for all!



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.

New Fleecees and Sweatshirts

One of the ways that the Friends raise money is through the sale of merchandise in the Park Office. This fall we stocked up on fleeces—in both men's and women's sizes—and hooded sweatshirts with zippers. Both the fleeces and sweatshirts are priced at \$30 and make nice souvenirs of your visit to the park or perhaps a gift for the holidays. And, while you are there, check out our other items including the Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests Passports and a number of books about the history of Pine Grove Furnace. *Unfortunately, we are not set up to accept credit cards, so please be prepared to pay with cash.*



Available in sizes Small through 2X-Large



Women's fleeces come in four colors

ALL PROCEEDS FROM MERCHANDISE SALES ARE USED TO BENEFIT THE PARK.

Some of our larger investments in the park include two trail bridges, paving a new entrance to the campground, two playgrounds, and a standardized lock and key system for all of the buildings and gates in the entire park. We also help out with smaller expenditures like educational supplies and hanging baskets for the Park Office. ❖



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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 2021—

During this very unusual year, we have had to cancel many of our activities including our Iron Run and Charcoal Challenge Trail Races, Fall Furnace Fest, and most history tours and volunteer days. Hopefully, we will be able to resume some of our normal activities in 2021. Please check future newsletters, Facebook, and DCNR's online Calendar of Events for updates.

FIRST DAY HIKE—JANUARY 1, 2021: There is no organized First Day Hike scheduled for this coming year. Instead, we encourage you to use the new bridge to explore the Koppenhaver Trail, the Mountain Creek Trail, the Biker-Hiker Trail, and maybe even the Appalachian Trail. Set your own schedule, and choose your own route! Just be sure to dress for the weather and bring your own water.

EARTH DAY AND WOODSY OWL WEEKEND: Two of our primary volunteer work days, Earth Day and Woodsy Owl, have been tentatively scheduled for next spring. Earth Day is planned for April 24, and Woodsy Owl Weekend is tentative for the weekend of May 15 and 16. As the dates get closer, we should have more specific information.

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

INSTALLATION OF THE KOPPENHAVER/MOUNTAIN CREEK TRAILS CONNECTOR BRIDGE



The 50-foot, 5-ton bridge arrived on a flatbed tractor trailer



Crane lifting a concrete abutment across Mountain Creek



Positioning the abutment for the Koppenhaver Trail side



A 115-ton crane was used to position the bridge across Mountain Creek



Bolting the bridge into place on the abutments



The trailers that carried in the abutments and the bridge were lifted into the air using the crane and turned around for the trip back down the narrow Old Railroad Bed Road