



FRIENDS OF

# Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

FALL 2021

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

## Trail Updates

It has been just over one year since the Friends installed a trail bridge to connect Mountain Creek Trail and Koppenhaver Trail. Our goal was to create more trail combinations for park visitors to enjoy. We opened the bridge at the end of October 2020, and a trail counter installed in July 2021 recorded more than 18,000 bridge crossings through November!

In 2021, the State Park continued to make trail improvements. Most recently the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps helped park staff extend Creek Trail by connecting it to the Family Campground entrance. The gravel extension completes a safe off-road loop, making it a perfect hike for families staying in the campground. The long-term goal is to eventually add another short connector trail parallel to Bendersville Road so that campers will not have to walk in the roadway to access the General Store and Furnace Stack areas.



*A recent extension to Creek Trail allows you to begin (or end) your hike near the campground entrance*

## Coming Soon!

The Friends coordinate with park staff to provide “value added” to Pine Grove Furnace State Park. To help tell the park’s history, we have been working with DCNR to create or replace “wayside” displays in the Furnace Stack area, at the original Pine Grove Park (19th century amusement park) and former Girl Scout Camp along the Koppenhaver Trail, and at the Girl Scout swimming pool ruins next to the Hiker-Biker path.

And, for all bicyclists, we purchased a bike repair station with an air pump which park staff will install in 2022.

## Forest Renewal at the Group Campground

We were all saddened when the large evergreens that shaded the Organized Group Tenting Area (group campground) along Bendersville Road were cut down this year. Although these trees created a beautiful camping area, they were over 80 years old and increasingly dangerous: several large trees had already fallen, so the decision was made to harvest the site.

Money from the timber sale is funding restoration. Park staff are working with natural resource specialists to create a more diverse habitat using native plant species to better support a variety of animals.

We expect the campground will be landscaped and ready for use by next summer.

## Fall Furnace Fest

We were thrilled to once again host Fall Furnace Fest in October. Right until a few weeks beforehand, we were unsure whether COVID-19 concerns would allow us to resume the annual festival, but it all came together. Over 5,500 visitors, volunteers, and vendors attended.

Though Saturday was so rainy that Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear were not allowed to come out and get their fur/feathers wet, the weather improved in time for the Legend of the Hairy Hand. Sunday was beautiful and more than made up for the rain on Saturday.

Many of the photos below and on the third page were taken by Lisa Shoap of the park staff.



*Staff and volunteers loaded the pumpkins onto floats on Fuller Lake as part of the Legend of the Hairy Hand*

## 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](mailto:pinegrovefriends@gmail.com)

Visit us online at:

[www.pinegrovefriends.org](http://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 2022

Join the Friends and staff of Pine Grove Furnace State Park in celebrating the New Year in the great outdoors! The hike will be appropriate for all ages, but we will not finalize the route(s) until we are closer to January 1 so we can adjust for weather and trail conditions.

This event will include some uneven terrain, so baby strollers are not appropriate for the full hike (a shorter walk on the park's flat and smooth Hiker-Biker pathway will also be offered).

*Please dress for the weather, bring water, and wear sturdy shoes.* The Friends group will serve light refreshments.

**Meet at the Fuller Lake Bathhouse at 1 p.m. on New Year's Day. 📍**



**Come on out to Pine Grove Furnace State Park for a fun start to 2022**



**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 2022—

**FIRST DAY HIKE, JANUARY 1, 2022, 1 P.M.:** Start the New Year with a hike in Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Please check the DCNR calendar and Friends website and Facebook page in late December for this year's plans.

**EARTH DAY, APRIL 23, 9 A.M. TO NOON:** Celebrate Earth Day with a morning of volunteering and giving back to the park.

**IRON RUN AND CHARCOAL CHALLENGE, JUNE 11:** The annual Friends fundraiser trail races are scheduled for June 11, 2022. Watch for more details regarding online registration for the half-marathon run and 5K walk/run.

**FALL FURNACE FEST, OCTOBER 15 AND 16:** A family weekend with food and craft vendors, entertainment, and historical demonstrations. Saturday night features the annual pumpkin parade and Legend of the Hairy Hand.

• For more information and updates, go to [www.pinegrovefriends.org/home/upcoming\\_events](http://www.pinegrovefriends.org/home/upcoming_events). •

# FALL FURNACE FEST IN PHOTOS



*Claire Jantz, chair of the Friends of Michaux State Forest, led the parade of families carrying carved pumpkins to Fuller Beach*



*The Food Court always offers lots of delicious options for lunch*



*Free hayrides on a loop through the park are a fun tradition at Fall Furnace Fest. Many thanks to State Park and State Forest staff who drove the tractors.*



*Many thanks to Cumberland Water Conditioning Co., E.L. Heim Co., the Michaux Forest Association, Pecks' Septic Service, Twirly Top, and Rikore, Inc. for sponsoring live music on both days of the festival*



*Volunteers donated well over 600 hours to the success of Fall Fest!*



*Miller's Wildlife brought some of their raptors for educational sessions on Birds of Prey*